

Back to Class – Reunion II



The Back-to-Class program is a series of lively presentations during reunion weekend that includes lectures, workshops, demonstrations, and discussions of interest to the alumnae community. The sessions are being continually updated as more sessions are confirmed.

Reunion II: Friday, May 20

Session I (1:00–1:45 p.m.)

Transforming Healthcare: Wearable and Mobile Options Enable Personalized Healthcare Anywhere

Candice M. Hughes '86, PhD, MBA, CEO, Hughes BioPharma and AdapTac Games

The healthcare tech revolution arrived! Use your iPhone or iPad to monitor blood glucose, steps walked, or train attention for kids with ADHD. With fitness watches, monitor heart rate and improve your exercise program. Health data and care is accessible without going to a doctor's office.

Are you ready?

Room: Clapp 127

Lessons from Caregiving: Living Life with Heart and Humor

Tinky Weisblat '76, food writer, historian, chanteuse, and local television personality

Taking care of my dying mother (also an alum!) and writing about our time together taught me a lot about how I wanted to live my own life. This discussion/workshop will recall our time together and lead participants through writing exercises designed to help minimize stress and maximize happiness.

Room: Clapp 203

Chapter One and the Road to Publication

Liz McMullen '98, author and publisher

Essentially, your first chapter will make or break your submission. Many editors don't go beyond the first page if it's crafted poorly. I can share the qualities of winning submissions and other steps on the road to publication.

Room: Clapp 225

How Fragile Is The International System?

Vincent Ferraro, Ruth Lawson professor of politics, Mount Holyoke College

The distribution of power in the world is changing rapidly with the growth of new powers such as China and India and the unsettling effects of technology and globalization. Are the current institutions and processes in world politics sufficiently robust to manage these conflicts? Or will the process of rapid change be accompanied by rising instability and violence?

Location: Hooker Auditorium, Clapp Building

Session II (2:00–2:45 p.m.)

Spring Wildflowers-Transforming Winter into Spring

Nancy V. Gmitro '61, master gardener and master naturalist

Color photographs explore the glories of wild flowers and their wonderful adaptations to the rigors of spring weather and reproduction. Indian and early settler folklore and medical and culinary uses are covered.

Room: Clapp 306

Drinks through the Decades: An introduction to craft cocktails

Radley Emes '00, guru mixologist

Join us for an interactive session on how to mix the perfect cocktail. From the manhattan in the 50s, made popular again by *Mad Men*, or the rise of the cosmopolitan in the 2000s, thanks to *Sex*

in the City, the craft cocktail is making a comeback in bars and restaurants across the globe. Radley will introduce you to the art of mixology as well as craft cocktails that draw on traditional recipes but utilize novel ingredients and complex flavors. Join in the fun and get introduced (or re-introduced) to some of your favorites.

Location: Kendade Atrium

Transform/Transcribe: A Mount Holyoke History Project

Leslie Fields, head of Archives and Special Collections, Mount Holyoke College

Can you read cursive? If your answer is YES, the College Archives needs you! Join us in transforming handwritten letters from the 1800s into searchable and machine-readable resources for classes and student researchers. Help make the Archives' unique collections in the history of women's higher education more accessible through our crowdsourced transcription website. Staff will work with alumnae volunteers to transcribe documents and excite learning in everyone!

Location: Archives and Special Collections, Dwight Hall

Session III (3:00–3:45 p.m.)

Philosophies of Happiness and Free Will

Laura McAlinden '86, associate professor of philosophy, Mount Holyoke College

Happiness and freedom are two topics central to philosophy. Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, Sartre, and de Beauvoir all contribute to these notions with interesting discussions of character, self-discovery, and existential freedom. In a short talk, these themes will be developed, based on brief explanations of some philosophical views. Open discussion will follow.

Room: Clapp 203

Evolving Payment Models in Healthcare

Nicolle K. Hamilton '01, director, inVentiv Health Consulting

The U.S. healthcare landscape is transforming as stakeholders other than insurance companies are required to shoulder cost and risk (e.g., increasing patient cost-sharing, provider financial risk based on patient outcomes, and pharma outcomes-based contracts). This interactive discussion will explore the impact across relevant stakeholders. Alumnae and family members who work in healthcare are especially invited to attend.

Room: Clapp 225

Visualize Your Dreams!

Ju Hong, assistant director of career advising, Career Development Center, Mount Holyoke College

Our guest speaker will be leading an interactive vision-boarding workshop. Join us in this engaging, hands-on exercise in self-discovery, and give your intuition a clear voice. Each participant will walk away with a visual representation of a fulfilling career/life path—one that can be reflected upon daily, as a powerful manifestation tool.

Hong notes that, “an hour and a half is the usual amount of time I host the workshop (students usually beg for more time after to continue creating their board)!”

Note: This class is one long session that runs from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Room: Clapp 126

Building a Community Center

Shannon D. Gurek, vice president for finance and administration and treasurer, Mount Holyoke College

The Board of Trustees recently approved plans for an expansion and enhancement to the Blanchard Campus Center. Students, faculty, and staff want more options for living, socializing, and dining. The most fiscally-sound approach is to repurpose Blanchard to house programming that supports community; to invest in new construction that improves dining; and to renovate the residential dining hall spaces to create flexible communal spaces. Other ideas include suite-style housing options, expanded living and learning communities, and health and wellness studios. [See more details on the project.](#)

Location: Tours of the new project will begin at 4:00 p.m. in Blanchard Campus Center Great Room.

Session IV (4:00–4:45 p.m.)

Researching History and Genealogy: Lessons from the Free Blacks of Virginia

Sherri Burr '81, Dickason Chair, University of New Mexico School of Law and 2015 Monticello Fellow

This lecture discusses the advantages and challenges of researching genealogy. Professor Burr began writing her forthcoming book *400 Years in History's Shadows: The Free Blacks of Virginia* after discovering she descended from African-Americans freed in the 1700s. She reveals resources available online, through the Family History Library and Centers, and in archives.

Room: Clapp 306

How to be an Effective Board Member

Radley Emes '00, board of directors, Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

Are you interested in elevating your volunteering to a place where you help decide strategy and direction? Do you want to connect with others around a common passion?

If so, join us for this forty-five minute workshop. There is no board experience required. However, if you currently sit on a board or a committee, I will help you take your work to the next level. We will share an interactive dialogue during which I will share insights and knowledge around my board and committee experiences and share best practices.

Room: Clapp 206

You're History! An Introduction to the Mount Holyoke College Archives

Leslie Fields, head of Archives and Special Collections, Mount Holyoke College

Deborah Richards, Special Collections Archivist, Mount Holyoke College

This will be a hands-on look at the fascinating artifacts in the Archives and an introduction to some of your fellow alums who made history over the past 175+ years. If you would like to sleuth the stories that scrapbooks can tell, read other people's mail, or consider the legacies of dedicated women who worked for social justice in many forms, then this class is for you. Plus we'll discuss how your own Mount Holyoke stories can be preserved and remembered in the Archives!

Location: Archives and Special Collections, Dwight Hall

Visualize Your Dreams!

Ju Hong, assistant director of career advising, Career Development Center, Mount Holyoke College

Our guest speaker will be leading an interactive vision-boarding workshop. Join us in this engaging, hands-on exercise in self-discovery, and give your intuition a clear voice. Each participant will walk away with a visual representation of a fulfilling career/life path—one that can be reflected upon daily, as a powerful manifestation tool.

Hong notes that, "an hour and a half is the usual amount of time I host the workshop (students usually beg for more time after to continue creating their board)!"

Note: This class is one long session that runs from 3:00 to 4:45 p.m. Room: Clapp 126