



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to

Merrill Wasserman Sherman '70



MERRILL WASSERMAN SHERMAN, class of 1970, we honor you today with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose achievements and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

After graduating from Mount Holyoke College with an AB in political science/government, you went on to the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. You earned a J.D. degree in 1974 and pursued a successful career in corporate law until banking called your name.

After serving as president and chief executive officer of two New England banks, you assumed leadership of Bancorp Rhode Island, Inc. and its subsidiary, Bank Rhode Island. Founded in 1996, the bank truly is your creation and stands as a testament to your vision, determination, and ingenuity. During your tenure as president and CEO, Bank Rhode Island grew to be a leading commercial bank with 16 branches and a lending capacity that rivals major national banks.

Your visibility, business acumen and leadership skills have made you a well-respected figure in Providence and throughout the region. You have been ranked among the banking and financial industry's top 50 women professionals nationwide by *U.S. Banker* magazine. In 2007, you were inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. The next year, Bryant University recognized you as New England Businesswoman of the Year citing your capacity for "balancing career success with tremendous volunteer involvement."

As a volunteer, you firmly believe in the importance of corporate social responsibility and are committed to projects that raise the standard of living for Rhode Island residents. Throughout the year, you can be found giving your time to the arts, economic development, education, health care, and social needs. In 2003, the National Jewish Medical and Research Center named you Humanitarian of the Year. In 2004, the March of Dimes honored you as Citizen of the Year. You also are chair of the board of trustees at the Rhode Island School of Design.

For your exceptional contributions to the world of finance and to your community, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you on your 40th reunion with the Achievement Award.

Cynthia L. Reed '80
President
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

Jane E. Zachary
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College