

CLASS OF 1971 40TH REUNION SURVEY

MAY 2011

Thank you for completing the on-line class survey for the Mount Holyoke Class of 1971 profile. After a few fits and starts with the online tool, we had a strong response—**116 classmate from 3 countries and 33 states**. New York and Massachusetts had the highest number of respondents, 20 and 17 respectively, followed by California (8), Connecticut (5) and Pennsylvania.

The facts m'am; just the facts. This summary of the survey is intended to share highlights. I claim no statistical validity here—I picked interesting tidbits that caught my eye. (Responses to the open-ended questions can be found in Appendix 1.) But to start, **a few basic statistics:**

- 73.5% of 113 respondents are married; 5.3% single; 15% divorced or widowed; 1.8% are living with an unmarried partner (male); 1.8% living with an unmarried partner (female).
- Of 218 children reported in the survey, 27 are still living at home. And twenty-seven of us report we have grandchildren—a total of 92.
- 42.7% of 111 respondents own a second home.
- 48% of 114 respondents have moved fewer than seven times since graduation; slightly more (52%) have moved seven times or more; 20 of them have moved enough that they've lost count.
- 36.3% of 113 respondents report they are caregivers for aging parents or other relatives.
- 56.6% of 113 respondents are registered Democrats; 7.1% Republican; and 35.4% Independents. 87.5% voted for President Obama, although a few commented they would rather have voted for Hillary Clinton. As to political views, respondents are overwhelmingly moderate to liberal on social, economic and personal lifestyle issues.

Working? 75% of us (112 respondents) are. 30% are working less than 30 hours per week, yet a full 56% are working 40 hours/week or more. Most "like it a lot" or "most of the time." Sixty-one (61) responded to the question, "If not retired, what would you do? What are your plans?" Plans ranged from volunteering, traveling and spending time with grandchildren to keeping active, exercising more and learning something new. One classmate plans to write an historical novel while another reports that she was retired but "went back to work." Several classmates (~ 15) plan to keep working for several more years or "till 70 or more . . . as long as my body will hold out."

Retired? 30.8% of us are (107 respondents). Those that have retired, report different reactions. One classmate rates retirement "fabulous" while others have found it not quite as they expected. Several classmates retired to care for family members, and report they haven't had the opportunity to pursue some of the activities they had hoped to undertake once they stopped working full-time. Yet others have pursued new (or old) interests, including painting, gardening, learning a new language, traveling, crafts, exercising and reading. Others reported 'morphing' into volunteer work and being busy as ever. One classmate reported starting a new business. A couple with younger children at home mentioned they are not "working", but it's still full-time job.

Do you volunteer? 70.9% of 110 respondents said 'yes'. Volunteering for church or synagogue were mentioned most often (23). Our classmates are volunteering and volunteering and volunteering more. Whether it's engaging in programs to reach out to the homeless and hungry; working on political

campaigns and in local government; volunteering at cultural institutions like the library, museums, and arts groups; or serving on non-profit boards of directors, it is clear alumnae are giving back. A few report doing *pro bono* legal and child advocacy work; mentoring and tutoring; assisting the elderly. Special mentions? One classmate gives Reiki to hospital patients; another brings pets into nursing homes as therapy; and another participates in fund-raising triathlons.

Vacation? Most reported travel as a favorite vacation pursuit (57.8% of 102 respondents). Second favorite is to visit family (23%). 16.7% like to retreat to a vacation home or rental.

Reading? Our class are **avid readers** (no surprise—check out the great book list in Appendix 2). Fiction, mysteries, and biographies appear to be the most popular genres, although several added cooking/food, travel books and poetry as favorites. Most regularly use the public library or purchase our books although E-readers (like Nook or Kindle) are used at least occasionally. Musical tastes run to classical, oldies, Motown and jazz.

Exercise much? 73% of us (111 respondents) exercise at least 3 times a week (18 exercise daily). Walking is by far the most popular form of exercise – 73%, followed by working out at a gym (22.2%) and biking (14.1%) and swimming (13.1%). Other reported forms of exercise include kayaking, canoeing, hiking, tennis, snowshoeing, skiing, aerobics, Pilates, Zumba, jazzercise, yoga, gardening, dancing, and figure skating! Curiously, not one mention of golf.

Technology? EVERYBODY uses a computer and e-mail (no surprise here since we all responded to an on-line survey . . . this sample is probably a bit skewed, duh), but other forms of social media are not quite as popular. Only one respondent reports regularly using Twitter. We appear to be experimenting with Facebook and Linked In. In line with near ubiquitous computer use, 94% of respondents use the internet outside of our jobs; travel/ticketing, health and medical sites, and news and commentary sites are favorites (NYT, Huffington Post, Washington Post) as are Amazon, Google, Mapquest, NPR/PBS, and eBay. Specific mention was made of several websites including TripAdvisor, Imbd, Wikipedia, NOAA, Cornell birds, and UConn Plant database. Shopping sites: www.buy.com; www.zappos.com; www.llbean.com; and www.talbots.com. Financial websites: Fidelity.com; bankaholic.com; ratebrain.com; Yahoo finance; and reuters.com. Some specific mentions worth checking out? Perhaps www.notalwaysright.com; www.kiva.org; www.yournutritionista.com; www.faceyourrisk.org; www.spirituality.org; www.newsworks.org. And while you're sitting at your computer looking to kill time, search for "Three More Big Bites" (a blog written by a daughter of a classmate) "Diary of a Crossword Fiend" or live camera feeds from Iceland.

If life goes wonderfully for you, what will happen in the next 10 years? It's hard to find a major theme, but our hopes for the next 10 years for ourselves and our families are indicative. Responding to the question "If your life goes wonderfully in the next 10 years what will have happened?", we expressed a desire to be **in good health**, to **travel**, to **work less** and be **close to family**. The winner of our wishes of the future was to **see our children launched and secure**, happily married with children of their own, and pursuing work that is fulfilling.

What is one piece of advice for a young woman graduating today? Pursue your hopes and dreams. Take risk. Enjoy each day. Prepare for a range of careers. Politics (with a small p) do count; watch your back. Believe in the impossible. Your first job will not be your last—everything is an opportunity.

Dreams are good; GOALS are better. Be open to new things; follow your whims. Make the effort to stay in touch with college friends. Be on your own for a while before you make any big decisions. Give yourself time to find a direction and a community, including significant relationships. Start investing early. Show no fear; you can change paths. Keep your options open and remain financially independent (no debt). Enjoy life and give back. Respect yourself; make a difference in the world. Trust life and be open to possibilities. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! Exercise. Have your adventures while you can and don't waste time on 'dumb' stuff. Go for what you want. 401(k). Don't ever say "When I was young"! Stay true to yourself. Keep centered and peaceful. Experience the pleasures of everyday life. Choose well what you believe. Think for yourself and ignore most 'advice'.

Interested in more? See Responses to Open-Ended Questions, Appendix 1 below.

APPENDIX 1. REPONSES TO OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Have you retired? If yes, how has it affected what you do?

- Still have child at home, so only retired from "paid work"!
- Fabulous to retire. Started my own business. Loving every minute of it.
- Yes, I am caring for my ailing husband, Multiple Myeloma patient.
- I still work a lot, on issues I care about, just not for compensation.
- More time to travel, read, exercise. I suppose it's what I expected; I'm not as disciplined as I thought I'd be. I still procrastinate on tasks I dread.
- I have more time for projects of my choosing. Yes, retirement is what I expected.
- It's enabled me to actively assist with family members and to assume presidency of my synagogue.
- Still have kids at home..so only retired from "outside the home" work !
- More time to do arts and crafts, enjoy walks, work out
- I always worked part time so the transition pretty minimal.
- Bored
- Absolutely. I LOVE it. I make choices about what I do and I am also at liberty to express my opinions and about things about which I care deeply.
- It's wonderful
- I have a new career painting, taking French and getting healthy. Love it.
- Parents take up a huge amount of time. Never got around to pursuing painting.
- Work has morphed to board and other volunteer service
- I now think "retirement" means "buying more tires."
- No, even though 'retired' I still have work responsibilities; many other changes
- I love my part-time job, but the pay stinks. So I'm not travelling as I had hoped.
- Yes, it's wonderful.
- It provides schedule flexibility, but I still need (and want) to work.
- I retired early because of a family medical crisis and didn't really have an expectation. It's taken awhile to adjust to the reality and the question "what do you do".
- Moved to BC, gardening, traveling....dunno
- Life much circumscribed by family responsibilities, chiefly elderly parents
- Much less stress, enjoying life, time for exercise & more. Yes, it's what I expected. I was frustrated with teaching to high stakes tests, against my teaching philosophy.
- Not what I expected, but adjusted accordingly
- It is easy to adjust to the opportunity of a more balance life.

- Yes what I expected
- Difficult transition, not WHEN I expected
- Now free to volunteer

If not retired, what would you do? What are your plans?

- To volunteer to help those in need
- Retire in 2 years
- Work at least until age 70
- Practice law, paint, write, make a movie, submit screenplays
- No plan
- Traveling, sailing, spending time with our children
- Keep working as long as I can.
- Work another 3 years
- May retire within a year. Plan to focus on exercise, healing arts, urban farming
- I hope to work until I'm 70; current plan to pursue subsequent career
- Work as long as possible
- Work part-time for several years, travel, enjoy
- Will probably retire in 3 years. Will probably work part time, travel, volunteer more, spend time with family.
- Retire in 1 yr.
- The same as always, but move out of NYC
- Retire in a university town - THINK & READ & EXERCISE & BREATHE
- Am retiring August 31, 2011. Plan to enjoy home and hobbies, do more volunteer work, some travel, some consulting, and tackle my major life goal--clean out the basement!
- More time traveling, painting, gardening
- I do not expect to be able to retire
- Hope to work less, spend more time pursuing other interests
- Move
- Not ready to think about being retired. Love what I am doing.
- Hope to do some research, writing, and volunteer in museums
- Be available to my children & grandchildren, garden, hike, kayak, and teach part-time.
- teach high school English - plan to work 5-10 more years
- Keep working part time til it's not fun anymore.
- I am retiring this June
- Have not yet made plans. Some travel. More personal time. More exercise!
- More volunteer work, expand work in photography, travel, entertain more, get my house clean for the first time in 40 years.
- Will begin phased retirement in another year, plan to travel more
- Writing, reading, photography, ceramics, learning—learning—and learning
- Retire in 10 years
- Travel, Volunteer or part-time work
- Travel
- Keep working
- I am retiring within a few months.
- Plan to retire in a few years.
- Hoping to retire soon

- Keep working, just cut down and travel more
- Was retired. Went back to work
- Pottery, more hiking, study, read, write, more cooking
- I plan to retire as of June 30, 2011 and have no specific plans. Take some classes, travel, volunteer, enjoy the cultural advantages of NYC
- Pursue various hobbies, volunteer work and travel
- garden and write historical novel
- Keep working or consult; travel; achieve graduate degree
- Get back to artwork, write
- I'm going to work until I'm 65
- Maybe a different job after full Soc Security; Maybe roam the world!
- Watch birds
- I will move to Wash. state full time but am not sure how I will be filling my time, and I need to think about this...
- I'll work until I don't enjoy it anymore
- Scale down, travel
- Sleep, read books, eat, travel, sleep
- More travel, volunteer work
- To work until my mind goes or my body falls apart.
- To establish an international hospice program; learn to cook
- Travel, create photo albums, have fun
- Volunteer and play with grandchildren
- I don't want to think about it. I'm not ready. I like my work
- Currently independent investor. Plan more travel.
- I have free lanced and volunteered for 18 years.
- Travel; run for city council, have a Girl Scout Troop
- Travel, study photography
- No plans

Do you volunteer? If yes, where do you volunteer?

- The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley Academy, Center for Hope in Ambridge, PA
- Jewish Home (nursing home)
- Theatres
- Pro bono legal advice
- Homeless service Board of Directors
- Give out food; give Reiki to hospital patients; neighborhood/city tree planting and beautification
- Private club; family foundation
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Susanna DeLaurentis Charitable Foundation
- Returned Peace Corps
- Master Gardener
- Creation of a Woman's Fund; visit nursing homes with my cat.
- Women's prison, son's school, various local organizations
- A volunteer driving organization and a battered women's shelter.
- Library, town government
- Church committees, homeless shelter (meals)

- Habitat
- Organizations which reflect my investment and personal interests.
- Non-profit career counseling org, hospital chaplaincy education committee, synagogue governance
- Serve as the president of board of trustees of a colony for contemporary dance called The Yard.
- Symphony
- Fundraisers like Triathlons that raise money for the Y or cancer research
- National MS Society and local orgs.
- French school
- At the American Library in Paris
- I work, AND I volunteer. I volunteer in the community through my church, as well as through social organizations that I belong to. I also work for a GREATLY reduced rate for the county health department and conduct workshops on Health Inequities and Disparities
- Association for Corporate Growth; Dress for Success Hartford
- WI recall of governor and his evil minions
- Non-profit Foundation
- USO
- The Concord Museum
- Boston Museum of Fine Arts
- Various environmental clean-ups
- Food Pantry, women's organization
- Child Advocacy Center; bar associations
- Service organization
- Literacy and educational organizations
- Political issues--iLife in WI so we have to be involved, ESP now
- Obama Campaigns
- Feral Cat Sanctuary
- Aging Services Collaborative
- At about 70 performing arts venues around Chicago.
- Church Thrift Shop & Farmers' Market
- Investment committees of MHC
- Girl Scouts
- Church Thrift Shop & Farmers' Market
- CARE and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden
- Bonyo's Kenya Mission
- Several local non-profit societies
- Soup kitchen
- Boy Scouts
- Rides for elderly
- Food bank
- United Way
- Pro Musica AZ
- Rotacare Free clinic and Operation Interdependence
- MHC Alumnae Club
- BAARS (reptile club)
- Stanford Museum

- Country club
- Homeless shelter
- Quaker meeting
- Tutoring & mentoring
- Church and its Flower Guild, Garden Club, etc.

9. Outside of your job, what kinds of books do you read? (Check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fiction	88.4%	99
Romance	7.1%	8
Mysteries	50.0%	56
Biography	58.0%	65
History	49.1%	55
Self-Help	15.2%	17
Religion	17.0%	19
Travel	25.0%	28
Cooking	26.8%	30
Other (please specify)		35
<i>answered question</i>		112
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Reading Preferences:

Answer Options	Never	Occasionally	Always	Response Count
Do you use an e-reader?	74	31	8	113
Do you use audio books?	60	46	6	112
Do you use the local library	27	51	35	113
Do you buy your books?	4	69	40	113
<i>answered question</i>				113
<i>skipped question</i>				3

If your life goes wonderfully in the next 10 years, what will have happened?

- My husband's company, Clearwire, will be a financial success. My daughters will be launched in their medical and legal careers, happily married, and with children. They will live close enough that I can have a close relationship with my grandchildren. We will travel widely and I will write a book.
- I would retire, travel and my kids would get married, and have grand children
- Spend good times with family and friends with good health and some traveling.
- My children and all of family will be happy, healthy, and finding their ' passion' in life.
- Maybe a grandchild or two...."
- I and my husband will be healthy, my kids and their spouses will be healthy and settled in their lives, and grandchildren will be in our future.
- I will have remained steadily employed as a teacher and an actor. I will have made an positive impact on most of my students. I will have played several coveted roles magnificently. I will have maintained lasting, meaningful friendships, and been the doting mother of a succession of happy, friendly, and reasonably well-trained rescue dogs.
- I would get fit

- I will finally find the love of my life. I will continue working at my job (but maybe make a bit more money). I will stay healthy.
- I will have finished out my career and known when to leave gracefully. My husband and I will have gone on some great trips whether overseas, in a sailboat or an RV. Our three children will have established the relationships they want and be secure in their jobs and lives. Will see them often and enjoy each other's company.
- All members of my family will be well, and happy, I'll be a grandmother, and I will have traveled widely and often (and not all for work).
- My husband's health will improve and will be able to travel and do more things.
- I will have been healthy and able to enjoy my life fully.
- I will feel at peace, knowing that I have helped others, passed on some wisdom, seen my children grown into caring, healthy and self-supporting adults, and still have energy for new challenges.
- There will be a cure for cystic fibrosis so my daughter can survive; we will raise \$1MM from our Foundation honoring the life of our youngest daughter, who died of neuroblastoma at age 10, which will fund research for CF and pediatric cancer and scholarships; my son will be happy and healthy; my husband's and my health will be good.
- Maintain my health; develop a new social life (after divorce); travel; time for family, friends, gardening, theater
- Continue to have good health for myself and my loved-ones. Travel. Investment portfolio returns to pre-Great Recession value. The US will: have found its moral compass, be focused on investing in educating its population and investing in its infrastructure, and have found an alternative to fossil fuels.
- I will have helped make my community a better place to live.
- My husband and I (and other family members) will still be alive, and healthy.
- People will take Global Warming seriously.
- We'll be out of the Middle East and relying more on alternate sources of energy.
- I'll have a grandchild or two!
- Retirement, grandchildren, good health
- Lots of fun, some time with my kids, some travel, finish my PhD
- My kids will be married ; I will have a broker's license, (maybe go to law school-NAH), finish my Ph.D. - NAH NAH; MY husband will find a benefactor to fund his camp for Ventilator dependent children's CAMP (VACC CAMP at Miami Children's Hospital) in perpetuity
- I'll have enjoyed 10 years of good health, good times with family and friends, made a meaningful contribution to my community (through volunteerism), and remained financially secure.
- Spend more time on Cape Cod, while working from home and cutting back on work hours. Spend winter months with friends in warmer climates. Travel somewhere each year. Paint/draw regularly. Learn to sail. Restart my golf game.
- My children will be well and happy, my friends will be well and happy and I will be well and solvent
- I will be healthy and contributing to my communities of friends, family, and fellow citizens of the world.
- Shift in focus from work toward more time for family, friends, cultural events, and reading.
- More free time, but not retirement!
- I will have continued biking, exercising, and reading many books, as well as The New Yorker. I will still be gardening and cooking good food with my husband, and we will continue to be in good health. My children will be happy doing whatever they are doing. Barack Obama will have been reelected president, with another Democrat (hopefully a woman) following him.
- My husband and I will be in good health! That is the most important thing!
- My aging relatives will have had their best last years possible. My husband will have recovered from his chronic fatigue. My children will have the career positions they desire. My grandchild and her soon-to-arrive sibling (and future cousins) will be healthy and happy. I will figure out what I really want to do in retirement and get to do it!
- Jim and I will be well and our three daughters also will be well and will have jobs they love or other pursuits that they find more fulfilling than work.

- I will have one more great job, will retire around age 69, will pursue volunteer and writing interests, will travel extensively, will enjoy seeing my kids pursue their dreams, and will find someone to share life's pleasures
- It will just keep on the way it has been for the last five - wonderful relations with my boyfriend, children, grandchildren, my mom and sisters; excellent health that allows me to garden, kayak, hike, make love and do my own chores (mowing the lawn, cleaning the gutters, painting, etc) and financial investments that are diverse enough to take me through down cycles of the economy.
- Children graduated from college, find their 'passion' in a career,(we all) enjoy good health and happiness, ... perhaps a grandchild or two!
- My family will stay healthy, my husband and I will do a lot of traveling, our children will thrive, we'll have a few grandchildren and lovely in laws, snow fall and ice in my area of Maine will be minimal, we'll have universal health care of some ilk is this great country
- I will have stayed healthy, lived to retire, been able to afford to retire, seen my grandchildren born and my children happily married.
- Remain healthy, continue to travel. Get away in the winter! Kids healthy, productive and happy in what they are doing - maybe a wedding or two!
- Speak fluently French, Happy children
- My objectives: remain healthy mentally and physically, celebrate 48 years of marriage, create a strong relationship, grandchildren, keep my friends, and remain curious and caring.
- My son will be healthy, happy, and financially secure. I will continue to do the things that I feel compelled to do based on my interests and my convictions. I will be able to provide for myself the resources that I need, and I will be able to help others to the extent that I can -- either by serving their needs or advocating for their relief, or influencing their lives in a meaningful way. I will be closer to an understanding of God's purpose for me, but if not, I will know that I am at least on the path to discovery. And finally, I will continue to bring people together who seem to have little in common, to be in relationship with each other and learn to appreciate their differences.
- I will have remained in good health and been able to maintain my present standard of living.
- I will have paid off the second home, cared well for my mother and spent as much time as possible with grandchildren
- My children and grandchildren will be healthy and will have moved closer to us. My husband's health will still be decent. I will still be happy substituting at Harwich High School with my third generation (by then going-on-fourth?) of students.
- I will be as healthy as I am now then.
- I will continue to be healthy as will my husband, I will improve my painting, and I will see more of the world
- My children will be settled and have made appropriate career/lifestyle/partner choices. My husband and I will feel financially secure. We will spend more time in Italy.
- My husband and I will be retired, healthy, and financially secure; be able to travel as often as we like; remain close to and be able to spend lots of quality time with friends and family members; continue to find meaningful work/activities that contribute to the wellbeing of others and society; and we'll have gained critical acclaim as photographers. Oh, did I mention peace on earth . . . ?
- I will have grandchildren; I will have traveled to many new parts of the world with my husband, as well as spending a lot of time at our house in Italy.
- I'll be healthy, wealthy and wise.
- My husband and I will have enjoyed good health and continual new experiences. Our children will be well and happy.
- I will have stayed well and so will my family and friends
- My children will be happy, doing what they want to do and being with whom they want. My business will have been successful enough for me to have no worries about financial stability.
- I will have downsized.
- I'll have traveled more.

- Continuing good health for self/family, opportunities for adventures and projects with friends/family and to serve extended community, time/discipline to turn convert historical research into forms (book, blog, mini-documentary?) to share.
- I'll be a grandmother/grandparent.
- Will have renovated a derelict building I own, started a wine bar, sold my B&B, and while still working, not working so hard, more time to travel.
- My sons will feel secure in a changing world, my mother will have died peacefully in her sleep, my husband will have comfortably retired, and the Republican Party and its loudmouth hangers-on will have shut the heck up.
- I will have retired with time and money to travel. I plan to move into a smaller, one story home which is within walking distance to the beach, yet has a community swimming pool. I will have published those books I always said I would write.
- My child will ease into a responsible adulthood. My remaining parent will age gracefully. I'll stay healthy, and travel a bit.
- More grandchildren
- Trip to Europe
- Good mental and physical health
- I will have fixed up my home and travelled to several places around the world.
- Continued good health.
- My husband and I will have remained healthy; my husband will have retired and we will spend more time at our vacation house on Martha's Vineyard; our daughter and son-in-law will have had children; our son will have married and will have children; both children will be happy and doing satisfying work; my husband and I will have continued to travel to interesting places, and we will have continued to be fulfilled by our wonderful variety of meaningful volunteer work
- I will retire, be in a fulfilling relationship and have grandchildren with whom I will spend a lot of time.
- My health will remain good; my family will be doing better on their own; less care giving will be required; I will be able to re-engage in work projects and activities that I've put on hold; I'll be able to travel more, read more, get more involved in music and theater, and see friends more.
- Every day will be as good as the day before or better
- I will have had 10 years of a fulfilling, relaxing retirement and my family will be healthy and happy.
- I will retire within 3 years and fulfill my ambition to visit every National Park. I will garden, do yoga, volunteer in the health field, and enjoy my family (first grandchild on the way)
- retire comfortably and have happy family
- I will be taking my sister, recently diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, out for her 69th birthday.
- I will have transitioned from the work place to my studio and found my voice in art. I will have compiled and edited my writing over many years into well-crafted, inspiring pieces. I will have spent wonderful time with my husband and discovered new things about myself.
- I will feel confident I will have enough resources to retire and travel some. I'll start painting again. I'll go back to school.
- Younger daughter will have married...grandchildren...husband and i will still have been healthy...the living room will have been painted! The Democrats will have prevailed...
- I will be separated from my husband and find either a great job and/or a great place to live and or a great partner.
- I would continue doing what I am doing but see more birds and maybe start a Mount Holyoke Club in my area. Also, I would have gone to Kenya and be actively supporting Bonyo's Kenya Mission. Hopefully I would be able to continue to see my 2 sons often.
- My husband and daughter and I will have stayed healthy and I will have found a rewarding way to spend my time in retirement
- My family and I will have stayed healthy. I will be self-sufficient financially for retirement. I will have travelled extensively. My children will be gainfully employed with great partners. And I will have met a fabulous guy with whom I could share the rest of my life.

- Have lived to be 72 in good health
- How can I predict? Life throws good unexpected things our way. It would be nice if my arthritis cleared up and I had some grandchildren.
- "Time and freedom to travel before our health gives out!
- Children and grandchildren will be healthy and happy in their work/study lives--and surrounded by mentally healthy and kind people!"
- My mother and husband will still be alive and healthy; I will still be alive and healthy. All the children will be working at jobs they love and in healthy relationships.
- Both my children will be married and I will have at least one grandchild from each of them.
- My immediate family and I will be healthy.
- I will have started a long term romantic relationship with a compatible, smart, sexy man.
- My finances will be in great shape.
- My husband and I will have some grandchildren, we'll have continued to take some wonderful trips, some of them with family, and we'll still be healthy enough to play a lot of golf (and tennis for me).
- Stay healthy enough to continue to ski, bicycle, kayak, hike and sing.
- "I will get to travel a great deal including Nepal.
- My youngest son and his fiancé will marry and my youngest (dtr) will have a job she enjoys.
- I will have more grandchildren and the opportunity to spend time with them."
- "My kids will graduate from college, get jobs, buy a house, get married, have kids, and visit their parents regularly but not just for babysitting. I'll live vicariously through them :-)
- I will enjoy retirement by traveling, reading, sleeping, enjoying Scott's company."
- My family's health will be good, my children will be happy in their careers and personal lives, we will have healthy and happy grandchildren, my husband and I will still enjoy each other, travel and cultural opportunities.
- My family and I will stay healthy.
- Children and spouses will have moved to West Coast. We'll have grandchildren, no major health problems for me or spouse, we'll still feel we're making a contribution to society, and enjoy greater financial security.
- Spent time with grandchildren, traveled new places
- Retired, learned to cook, established my new enterprise, gotten in better shape, enlarged dept of and number of relationships
- My husband and I will have retired, gone on cruises to Alaska, South America, and a variety of other places, spent time with family and friends around the country, taken driving tours of places in the U.S. that we have never visited. I will have created numerous photo albums with the thousands of photos I have taken and collected over the past 40 years, and I will have taken advantage of whatever wonderful opportunities have presented themselves.
- Good health for our family, times together with family and close friends, our children to be happy with their personal and
- professional lives, new challenges, travels, discoveries, more and better artistic work, grandchildren"
- All three daughters will be happy in their careers and/or marriages and I'll have grandchildren! My husband and I will be in good health to enjoy each other and our family.
- Both my husband and I will have retired. We'll be healthy and happily engaged with life. Our children will be as happily married as they are now and following the careers they have prepared for. Congress will have actually accomplished something, the environment will be just a little bit cleaner, and there will be peace on Earth.
- Same good health; 50 trips of a lifetime; rewarding relationships; grandchildren.
- Husband still alive and healthy; son graduates from college and finds his destiny; will retire; travel; have a Girl Scout Troop; contribute more to my town; develop 2nd part time career.
- I will stay well (had a serious bout with ovarian cancer 17 years ago). My husband and I will continue to cherish each other and enjoy our shared lives. My children will find and commit to life partners and when appropriate have children. They will be in a secure, satisfying, and joyful place with their work (music). I

will be content that I have made a difference in people's lives through what I have written, said, and shown in my living.

- I will be financially secure and healthy

If you had one piece of advice for a young woman graduating today, what would it be?

- Always act with integrity and kindness to all you meet.
- Find something you enjoy doing, have your own money and bank account
- Find a field of work you're good at and enjoy. Have self-esteem. Form good relationships with family and friends. Exercise and eat well in moderation.
- Never hesitate to try something new.
- Remain open to possibilities, positive in attitude, and grateful for the gifts you have. Use those gifts to pursue paths you love; enjoy giving them your full effort, and always seek to learn more.
- Life is short--try it all
- Take care of your health, family and friends, everything else just works itself out/
- Be very flexible and remember that money and careers are not what will ultimately bring you the most joy. Your friends, families and own satisfaction with who you are will bring the most peace, joy and pride to your life. Stay in touch with all your wonderful Mount Holyoke friends, they will be there for you a long time!
- Do what you most want to do, and travel.
- Stay in the present. Each day of life is a gift.
- Follow your passion - money is simply a way of making sure you have what you need and not an end in itself
- Give thanks, be generous, and focus on love and forgiveness each day. Broaden your experiences and bring about peaceful change for a more just, healthy and peaceful world; learn to be as self sufficient as possible (learn to use tools, fix things, grow some of your food) and be conscious of how products you buy are made and under what working conditions. Be yourself, have a healthy life style and keep growing.
- Keep your options open; life will throw you a curve ball sooner or later
- Be "fascinated" by all the possibilities.
- Don't be afraid to depart from the conventional path - go into Peace Corps, take an overseas assignment, and leave unhappy relationships. Follow what appeals to you, not what is "safe" or "expected". Don't worry about how it will turn out - it is what you love/need, it will turn out wonderfully.
- Always work for someone with the following two qualities: someone you can learn from, and someone you would be proud to take home for your parents to meet.
- Don't stop searching until you find work you love and think about what you do have, not what you don't.
- Don't stress out over what your first job is; you don't have to have it all figured out right away, or ever, even.
- Find people, places and situations you are happy with (first by getting out of South Hadley!)
- "It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice....."
- Reach for the highest star and enjoy the journey no matter where it ends!"
- Keep balance in your life--work, leisure, fulfilling what you perceive as your obligations to your family and your community, while remaining aware of and attentive to your own personal goals and desires.
- Don't define yourself in the context of a job; you are so much more than a job. If you want a career, find a job that you love doing. Long hours are rewarding if they are also fun. Hire the smartest people you can (providing they are also fun). You have to like your boss; if you don't, either work on how to accomplish a change in your attitude or find another job. It's lonely at the top of your career; maintain a network of colleagues and friends outside of your immediate workplace.
- Make your own money and keep it, but take time to enjoy this day, this place.
- Be a multi-tasker: focus on career, family and other personal relationships, and invest well for your future.
- It is a global world. Embrace and explore it.

- Learn about your career choices early and plan in advance - don't just wait for something to develop.
- Although life's circumstances may be challenging with many difficult personal decisions to make, do not lose sight of what you value most.
- Don't get married in your 20's! Find out who you are!
- This is your time for new experiences and explorations, so avoid jobs requiring super long hours and other commitments (like babies) that will constrain your freedom. Be open to travel and relocation to new communities, and have a great time!
- Work a while before deciding on your graduate or professional field. I went straight to school, which was great for me. Our daughters have worked first, and they get different things from their professional and graduate training because they have more field experience. My own students who have never held full-time jobs find it harder to find jobs in law (yes, they do still exist!), and do not have the range of connections to help them once they do get jobs.
- You can't do it all at once, but why not try!
- Be prepared for a world with radically variable climate, have your own vegetable garden, be proficient in self-care and exercise every day, preferably outdoors!
- Pursue your hopes and dreams.
- Do not consider teaching in the public school system; start saving for your retirement now.
- Build exercise and healthy eating into your daily life now so you set yourself up for life.
- Take risk
- Enjoy each day
- Believe in the impossible.
- Be prepared for change.
- prepare for a range of careers
- Happiness is more important than "success." So define success for yourself as doing what makes you happy, not doing what other people expect.
- Be on your own for a while before you make any big decisions.
- Do what makes you happy.
- Always have the capability to be self-sufficient, even if you choose not to be for a period of time. Respect yourself and tolerate nothing less from others.
- It's good to have a goal and a plan to get there, but don't let them blind you to unexpected insights and opportunities along the way, which may, in fact, be more suited to you in the long run.
- Be open to new things. Follow your whims. Take a chance - there's almost nothing that can't be recovered from if you find you've made a mistake.
- Be aware, be awake, be grateful, love fully and well, find work you adore, pace yourself.
- Do what you want to do and be confident!
- Be your own person. Get to know yourself - embrace your strengths and seek opportunities for continued growth.
- Look your fear in the eye, and walk through.
- Embrace the unscheduled/unplanned (serendipity!) and "give back" each day in some concrete fashion.
- Do what you love, don't wait to start a family if you intend to do that
- Roll with the punches.
- Find your purpose in life and do it, no matter what anybody says or does to discourage you. It may change for you later on, but do what you want to do now while you're young and have drive and energy. Then, later in life, you'll have no regrets or unfulfilled dreams.
- You can't do it all. Don't be a perfectionist. Get enough sleep.
- Take care of your body and your mind so that they will remain healthy well into your senior years and start investing early for retirement.
- Politics (small p) do matter. Watch your back!
- Give yourself time to find a direction and a community, including significant relationships.
- Keep up your contacts, keep networking!

- Pay attention. Don't be afraid to go for it when you think you know what "it" is. Know that it's ok if "it" doesn't work out. Practice acceptance. Listen. Spend a lot of time outside. Devote yourself to relationships that nurture your soul. Secure your solitude.
- Make the effort to stay in touch with college friends -- and with friends she makes throughout her life.
- Make your own decisions. Be confident.
- Your first job will not be your last one - everything is an opportunity, take advantage and take risks and if you have the opportunity to work abroad, grab it.
- Show no fear. You can change paths. Find your own.
- find out you like to do and learn how to make that your career or volunteer opportunity
- Make certain that you have fun, try new things and have a wide portfolio of interests for the future. Stay interested and interesting.
- Trust life and be open to possibilities. So many things come about through chance encounters, coincidence and connections. Choose well what you believe.
- Take more risks than you are comfortable with. Be confident and proud of your achievements. Be adventuresome and explore international opportunities.
- experience the pleasures of day-to-day life
- TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF -- 401K, exercise, get your higher education, follow your passion.
- Don't amass more debt than you can reasonably pay off before you retire.
- this is a hard one...my daughter is graduating from college this year, and I'm not sure what ONE piece of advice I would want to give her...if I only got *one* this might not be it--but keep an eye on your weight--your metabolism will slow down and if you eat the way you are used to in your teens and 20's, the pounds can creep on and you either have to bit the bullet and shed them (as I did) or be stuck with them forever!
- Stay true to yourself. Keep centered and peaceful. Always plan your life as if you are going to be alone.
- Work for a couple of years before going to graduate school
- "Do what you have within you to do, while you can do it. If you miss the moment, it may not return.
- Oh, and "Go where no one else will go. Do what no one else will do." (Thanks, Mary Lyon!)
- Understand that you CANNOT do everything, simultaneously. It is not a betrayal of feminist principles to live your life sequentially--as in, work--then motherhood--then work. Someone has to raise the children. Your brain will not turn to oatmeal. You also will not be able to control everything, despite being a worthy and smart person.
- Respect yourself. Make a difference in the world.
- Prepare yourself (get credentials) to be employable. Start saving something regularly for retirement immediately, a little now and increase as you are able. Avoid debt--at most, only borrow for a mortgage on a house you can afford. Cultivate good friends who will be there for you. Balance work and home life; you can't have it "all" at the same time. It's better to be alone than with the wrong person. Don't be afraid to ask for help or to try something new.
- Don't be in too much of a hurry to figure out exactly what you want to end up doing for a career.
- Choose a career in which you can continue to work and have a family if you want one.
- Dreams are good, goals are better. SAVE for retirement no matter how young you are. It really does creep up on you. Stay healthy by eating well (with occasional splurges) and exercising. The older you are when you begin to exercise the harder it is. Laugh and enjoy your life. It is the only one you have
- Stay curious and optimistic.
- Don't let work take over your life; it won't be your only memories so make sure you have more than just work to remember. (And think about what you'd enjoy doing for a long time and set your work goals for that area, because people who enjoy their work do it much better and are happier spending so much time at it!)
- Work hard to develop a broad range of knowledge and skills so you will be prepared for a number of different jobs/careers over the next 40 to 50 years.
- Keep options open and stay financially independent (no debt)

- As much as you can, let go of expectations. If you get what you think you want, great, but be flexible enough to go in an unexpected direction. Be open enough to see the possibility in the unintended or unwanted result.
- Take time to smell the flowers.
- Before you marry reach an agreement about equally shared parenting and housework
- Be open to opportunities, treasure your family and friends, don't shield your heart, and have fun (and if you think that a job/earning a living shouldn't be fun, think again)! Enjoy your life and share your joy with those around you.
- Savor your experiences, treasure your family, look forward to what is ahead, continue to be curious
- Enjoy life. Be productive and give back.
- Don't ever say, "When I was young. . .!"
- Think for yourself and ignore most "advice."
- Have your adventures while you can and don't waste time on dumb stuff.
- If it's at all possible, don't wear yourself out in the years after college. There's a physical and mental toll to constant activity. It's OK to step back, rest a bit, contemplate, and see what the world has to offer. Regard everything around you with artist's eyes and naturalist's ears.
- Be sure you can support yourself
- Go for what you want

APPENDIX 2: CLASS OF 1971 RECOMMENDED READING LIST

MHC Class of 1971 Recommended Reading - Reunion 2011	
Author(s)	Title
Achebe, Chinua	Things Fall Apart
Adiga, Aravind	White Tiger
Akenson, Donald Harman	Surpassing Wonder: The Invention of the Bible and the Talmuds
Albee, Edward	A Delicate Balance (play)
Alter, Jonathan	The Promise: President Obama - Year One
Austin, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
Barberry, Muriel	Elegance of the Hedgehog
Barr, Nevada	(anything in her series)
Beah, Ishmael	Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier
Boorstein, Sylvia	Happiness in an Inside Job
Borg, Marcus	The Heart of Christianity
Boyden, Joseph	Three Day Road
Breathnach, S Ban	Simple Abundance
Brooks, Geraldine	People of the Book
Brown, Dan	The Da Vinci Code
Brown, Dan	Angels & Demons
Brown, Lester Russell	Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization
Bryson, Bill	At Home
Bryson, Bill	A Short History of Nearly Everything
Bush, Laura	Habits of the Heart
Campbell, T. Colin	The China Study
Canin, Ethan	America, America
Chabon, Michael	Amazing Adventures of Cavalier & Clay
Chang, Jung	The Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China
Clark, Arthur	Times Eye Trilogy
Clemons, Samuel	Autobiography of Mark Twain

Collins, Francis S.	The Language of God
Conroy, Frank	Body and Soul
Cordery, Stacy	Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker
Cox, Harvey	The Future of Faith
Dane Howe, Katherine	The Physick book of Deliverance
Daneshvar, Simin	A Persion Requiem (Savushun)
Darwin, John	After Tamerlane
de Waal, Edmund	The Hare with Amber Eyes
Demick, Barbara	Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea
Desai, Kiran	The Inheritance of Loss
di Lampedusa, Tomasi	The Leopard
Diamond, Jared	Guns, Germs and Steel
Diamond, Jared	Collapse
Didion, Joan	The Year of Magical Thinking (play)
Doig, Ivan	Dancing at the Rascal Fair
Doige, Norman	The Brain that Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science
Donoghue, Emma	Room
Downey, Kristin	The Woman Behind the New Deal (Frances Perkins)
Dumas, Alexandres	Count of Monte Christo
Edwards, Kim	Lake of Dreams
Eire, Carlos	Waiting for Snow in Havanna
El-Haddad, Laila	Gaza Mom
Eng, Tan Twan	The Gift of Rain
Enger, Leif	Peace Like a River
Eugenides, Jeffrey	Middlesex
Evans, Danielle	Before You Suffocate Your Fool Self
Evans, Richard	The Rise of the Third Reich
Evans, Richard	The Third Reich At War
Finlay, Victoria	Jewels: A Secret History
Flagg, Fannie	Can't Wait to Get to Heaven
Franzen, Jonathan	Feedom
Frazier, Charles	Thirteen Moons
Fromkin, David	A Peace to End All Peace
Gardam, Jane	Old Filth
Gardam, Jane	Man with the Wooden Hat
Gardner, Nuala	A Friend Like Henry
Genova, Lisa	Still Alice
Gilbert, Elizabeth	Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything
Godwin, Doris Kearns	Team of Rivals
Grann, David	Lost City of Z
Greene, Amy	Bloodroot
Gregory, Philippa	The Constant Princess
Grisham, John	A Painted House
Gruen, Sara	Water for Elephants
Harris, Sam	Letter to a Christian Nation
Hellemann, John & Halperin, Mark	Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin and the Race of a Lifetime
Hillenbrand, Laura	Unbroken

Hirsi Ali, Ayaa	Infidel
Holloway, Kris	Monique and the Mango Rains: Two Years with a Midwife in Mali
Holman, Sheri	The Dress Lodger
Horan, Nancy	Loving Frank
Hosseini, Khaled	A Thousand Splendid Suns
Hosseini, Khaled	The Kite Runner
Indraidson, Arnaldur	Jar City
Irving, John	Last Night in Twisted River
Johnson & Kwak	13 Bankers
Johnson, Chris	On Target Living: Nutrition
Johnston, David Cay	Free Lunch
Kaku, Michio	Physics of the Impossible
Karon, Jan	At Home in Mitford
Kay, Guy Gavriel	Under Heaven
Kelly, Jacqueline	Evolution of Calpurnia Tate
Kerr, Philip	A Quiet Flame
Kidd, Susan Monk	The Secret Life of Bees
Kidder, Tracy	Mountains Beyond Mountains
Kingsolver, Barbara	The Lacuna
Krauss, Nicole	History of Love
Kristof, Nicholas & WuDunn, Sheryl	Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide
Lackey, Mercedes	Anything
Lahiri, Jhumpa	Interpreter of Maladies
Lahiri, Jhumpa	Unaccustomed Earth
Landvik, Lorna	Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons
Larsson, Steig	Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
Larsson, Steig	The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest
Larsson, Steig	The Girl Who Played with Fire
Lee, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird
Leon, Donna	(any in her series)
Levy, Andrea	Small Island
Lewis, Michael	The Big Short
MacDonald, James	Lord, Change My Attitude
Mann, Charles	1491
Mantel, Hilary	Wolf Hall
Marshall, Megan	The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism
McCann, Colum	Let the World Spin
McCullough, David	Truman
McCullough, David	John Adams
McEwan, Ian	Solar
Menocal, Maria Rosa	Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain
Michaels, Anne	Fugitive Pieces
Millard, Candice	The River of Doubt
Mitchell, David	The Cloud Atlas
Morris, Edmund	Theodore Rex
Morrisett, Toni	A Mercy
Mortinson, Greg	Three Cups of Tea
Némirovsky, Irène	Suite Française

Newman, Sharan	Death Comes as an Epiphany
Obama, Barack	The Audacity of Hope
Obrecht, Tea	The Tiger's Wife
O'Faolain, Nuala	My Dream of You
Ogawa, Yoko	The Housekeeper and the Professor
Olson, Kate	Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood With Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour
O'Neill, Joseph	Netherland
Pachett, Ann	Bel Canto
Paulk, Randy	The Last Lecture
Payne, Ruby K.	A Framework for Understanding Poverty
Pearce, Fred	With Speed & Violence
Pedroia, Dustin	Born to Play
Picoult, Jodi	My Sister's Keeper
Pinker, Steven	The Stuff of Thought
Pollan, Michael	The Omnivore's Dilemma
Rendell, Ruth	(Anything)
Rosenberg, Deena	Fascinating Rhythm: The Collaboration of George & Ira Gershwin
Roth, Philip	Everyman
Roth, Philip	American Pastoral
Rozan, SJ	The Shanghai Moon
Ruiz-Zafron	Shadow of the Wind
Russell, Mary Doria	A Thread of Grace
Russo, Richard	Bridge of Sighs
Russo, Richard	Nobody's Fool
Ryan, William & Pitman Walter	Noah's Flood: The New Scientific Discoveries About the Event that Changed History
Salamon, Julie	Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God and Diversity on Steroids
Schaffer & Barrows	Guernsey Literay & Potato Peel Pie Society
Schiff, Stacy	Cleopatra
Schlosser, Eric	Fast Food Nation
See, Linda	Snow Flower and the Secret Fan
Seth, Vikram	A Suitable Boy
Shin, Kyung-Sook	Please Look After Mom
Skloot, Rebecca	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Smith, Hayward	The Red Hat Club Rides Again
Standage, Tom	A History of the World in Six Glasses
Standish, N. Graham	Discovering the Narrow Path
Stegner, Wallace	Angle of Repose
Stein, Garth	The Art of Racing in the Rain
Steinbeck, John	East of Eden
Stockett, Kathryn	The Help
Strout, Elizabeth	Olive Kitteridge
Thomason, Linda	Liberating Paris
Tolle, Eckhart	The Power of Now
Tolstoy, Leo	Anna Karenina
Toobin, Jeffrey	The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court
Vaillant, David	Golden Spruce
Verghese, Abraham	Cutting for Stone

Wallach, Janet	The Desert Queen
Wasserstein, Wendy	Elements of Style
Weiner, Jennifer	Good in Bed
Wharton, Edith	House of Mirth
Wilkerson, Isabel	The Warmth of Other Suns
Wise, Tim	Between Barack and a Hard Place
Wise, Tim	Color Blind
Woodruff, Lee & Bob	In an Instant: A Family's Journey of Love & Healing
Woolf, Virginia	To the Lighthouse
Wroblewski, David	The Story of Edgar Sawtelle
Yousef, Mosab Hasan	Son of Hamas
	Vampire Trilogy