



## MHEAC SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

Connecting Alumnae Across Europe

### Welcome Message

## A Word from the European Council Chair

Dear all,

A month has gone by since our latest European Alumnae Symposium and the sounds, and images of our gathering are still very vivid in my memory. Getting together again after three years of virtual meetings was truly exhilarating. Alums and students from all over the world gathered in the City of Peace looking for intellectual stimulation, exciting and invigorating discussions and sheer fun, and I think they all found what they were seeking.

The last few years have taught us never to take anything for granted. Debating about building a better world while war and violence is still present so close to us in Europe certainly helped us to realize how privileged we are, and how we should treasure the unique bond that we share. I hope you will enjoy this special



edition of our newsletter, which includes a feature article by journalist Lily Reavis '21, one of the panelists at the Symposium, short reports on some of our activities, a special trivia section and the link to an amazing photo gallery.

I hope this will help you all to experience (or re-live) the excitement of this very special October weekend. Thanks again to Georgia Regnault '64 and her team for making this possible!

Happy reading and ... see you in Munich in 2024!  
Silvia Maulini '80 Chair – European Alumnae Council

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## Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Council hosts 16th Symposium in the Hague

by Lily Reavis '21

### **Building a More Just Society**

The Hague, the Netherlands

October 14–16, 2022



On October 14, the **Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Council** brought together over 145 alums, current students, and guests for its **16th symposium** in the City of International Justice and Peace. Mount Holyoke alums from the

classes of 1957 to 2024 gathered in the Hague, Netherlands, to attend **“Building a More Just Society,”** a two-day event organized by the Dutch alums group that courageously asked attendees to consider **what is required** – politically, educationally, socially, and otherwise – **in order to create a more just world.**

Participants came from far and wide to hear from an impressive roster of international speakers and once again to connect with fellow Mount Holyoke friends after the isolation of the pandemic. “It was great to see so many young alums that were able to attend,” Dorcy Erlandson ’62 said. “I recall attending one of the early events and enjoying meeting several older alums. It was a shock to see how high I was on the list in class order, but I had a wonderful time!”

Among the Symposium participants were Mount Holyoke alums living in the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, South Korea, Georgia, the U.S., and 17 other countries. Georgia Regnault ’64, Chair of the organizing team, in her introduction to the program mentioned her delight in welcoming all attendees, adding, “throughout the planning process we were afraid people would not be able or willing to travel, but we are now ready for a great weekend.”



The symposium featured four panel discussions, hosted at the Kunstmuseum Den Haag, as well as four facilitated discussion groups led by alums. Speakers included Mount Holyoke alums and invited guests, who led discussions that dissected the current landscapes of politics, education, journalism, and the environment in Europe and internationally. The panel discussions, held on the first day of the conference, offered attendees insight into some of the opportunities and challenges facing the world today, told in part through the experiences of Mount Holyoke alums in those fields. Videos of three of the panel discussions will be uploaded to the European Council’s website soon.



**“The Role of Intergovernmental Organizations” was moderated by Natalie Sabanadze ’97**

The first panel, “The Role of Intergovernmental Organizations,” was moderated by Natalie Sabanadze ’97, former Georgian Ambassador to the EU and current Cyrus Vance Visiting Professor in International Relations at Mount Holyoke, and featured panelists Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, former secretary general of NATO; Joseph Manso, the US Ambassador to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; Kathryn Bomberger, Director General of the International Commission on Missing Persons; and Antônia Pereira de Sousa, External Relations and Cooperation Officer at the International Criminal Court. The panelists, who all share years of experience, offered insight regarding the inner-workings of international debates, agreements, and treaties surrounding some of today’s most pressing political and human rights issues.

Another panel, “The Role of Business in Sustainability” was made up entirely of Mount Holyoke alums, including moderator Sofia Redford ’08, Partnership Manager at 5 Media, and panelists Evgenia Sokolova ’01, Program Manager at IDH Sustainable Trade, Ioli Christopoulou ’01, Partner and Policy Director at The Green Tank; and Marie-Laure Bazerolle ’02, Circular Economy Center Manager at Coca Cola Europacific Partners. As moderator of the third panel, “The Role of Information,” Faris Cassell ’68 asked Lily Reavis ’21, a political writer, as well as Dutch investigative journalist Luuk Mulder and historian Regina van der Hoeven about the current global news climate.

The final panel, “The Role of Education,” was moderated by April Stroud ’99, Associate Director of the McCulloch Center and Director of Study Abroad, and featured Marcia Schenck ’09, Professor of Global History at Potsdam University, Erica Lutes ’02, Executive Director of Fulbright Belgium and Luxembourg, and Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, interim president of Mount Holyoke College, who together discussed the importance of empowerment and critical thinking in education.



**"The Role of Education" Panel**



**"The Role of Business in Sustainability" Panel**

The first day of the symposium closed with a festive dinner and silent auction featuring goods and excursions donated by alums in support of student scholarships, as well as thanks and speeches in honor of the organizers and recent Alumni Association award winners. All attendees gathered around tables which were named after Mount Holyoke dorms and decorated with tulips and wooden shoes painted by Dutch alum Mieke Kamps '78. Applause and cheers echoed through the ballroom as speakers toasted the individuals responsible for throwing the event, including Regnault and Silvia Maulini '80, Chair of the European Alumnae Council and Delegate from the Netherlands.



Also recognized were Maya Mauroof '22, winner of this year's European Alumnae Council Award for Graduate Study in Europe, and Ina Dombrowski '24, Renee Russo '23, and Mickey Pope '23, winners of the Renee Scialom Cary Award for Study Abroad Students. "I'm really grateful to the Council to be here," Russo said, adding that the discussions had been "inspiring and insightful."

The following day, four alums hosted roundtable discussions about specific issues relating to bettering society in their fields. Sarah Carter '17, a scientist and ethicist, hosted "Privacy Is(n't) Dead: Reclaiming our Data in Today's Online World," during which she engaged attendees in a debate about the future of internet privacy rights. Komal Ali '15, a career and lifestyle blogger, asked participants to consider their own online presence and safety while leading "Social Media: Flattening or Enabling Patriarchal Colonial Structures?"

Faris Cassell '68, who had moderated the panel on media the previous day, questioned, "Does Media Build a Better World?" in her facilitated discussion, while Mary Lee Warren '64, retired Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Division, asked, "Is True Justice to Be Found?" Each session ended with loud applause and rushed efforts from audience members to exchange their information with discussion partners, promising that they would connect and talk more.

To Silvia Maulini '80, Chair of the European Alumnae Council and Delegate to the Netherlands, that moment is what the symposium is all about. "I think what it allowed all of us was a collective moment of gathering," she said after the event. "After so much time spent apart during the pandemic and other events over the past two years, I was very happy to see the community back together again and starting new conversations."

Tahrat Shahid '00 agrees. "I had a truly wonderful time reconnecting with the Mount Holyoke community after two decades away," she said. "Not only were the discussion panels thoroughly engaging, I also had the good fortune to say hello to my favourite professor from my years at MHC, Professor Kavita Khory!"

The event closed with the traditional announcement of the next symposium's location, which, after many drum rolls, was revealed to be Munich, Germany. The Council plans to review feedback from the 16th symposium and then to begin work with the team in Germany for 2024.



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## Mount Holyoke College European Council Meeting



The **European Alumnae Council** held its **first "in person" meeting** in three years the morning **before the start of the Symposium**. Delegates had the opportunity to review past activities and develop plans for new initiatives to be developed in the months to come. A strong delegation of representatives from the College and the Alumnae Association, including interim **President Dr. Beverly Tatum** and the **President of the Alumnae Association, Ellen Hyde Pace '81**, joined for the second part of the meeting. The conversations focused in particular on how to enhance the cooperation between MHEAC and the College and the AA to further strengthen the reach and effectiveness of our international alumni network.

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# Hague Symposium Impressions

The **full gallery** of pictures from the recent European Alumnae Symposium is now available on our **website**! What a great way to re-live the excitement and fun of the weekend or to **discover** what happened in The Hague if you were not able to attend!

## Full Gallery

Enjoy!



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## First Ever MHEAC Silent Auction is a Great Success

This year the organizing team introduced some extra fun and excitement to the Symposium and organized a **silent auction with the objective to gather funds** for the MHEAC scholarship and awards program.

Alums and students attending the event were asked to offer **unique, fun, and special items**, such as small products from their country of residence, personal artifacts or MHC memorabilia. The response was overwhelmingly **enthusiastic** and Georgia Regnault's team received **over 35 items to auction**. Some alums





offered a service they perform, such as personal coaching sessions, cooking workshops, or tailor-made knitting creations. Others offered a stay at their home or personalized travel advice to their home country. Jewelry, paintings, tea baskets, and autographed books were also up for bidding, as well as champagne and

wine.

Symposium attendees had the opportunity to view the items and make their bids prior to the festive dinner and the winners were announced at the end of the evening. The silent auction was a great success: all items were sold, generating over 3,000 Euros. These funds will be used by the European Alumnae Council to support scholarships and awards for Mount Holyoke alums and students.



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Symposium Trivia!



Highest number of attendees per class : 7 (class of 1991)

Second highest number of attendees per class: 6 (classes of 2016 and 2019)

Highest number of kms traveled to attend the Symposium: 8.772 (San Francisco - The Hague)

Second highest number of kms traveled to attend the Symposium: 8.603 (Seoul - The Hague)

Number of wooden clogs painted as table decoration : 20

Most frequent names amongst attendees: Emma and Jane (3!)

Number of alums contributing as speakers/panelists/discussion leaders: 14

Number of current students attending the Symposium: 6

Number of alums who brought a guest to the Symposium: 17

Number of items offered for the silent auction: over 35

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## Hague Symposium Impressions from Participants



"I truly had an incredible experience and left the weekend with renewed energy and passion. It was such a special experience and one that made me appreciate Mount Holyoke immensely"

"The theme was wonderful and it was great to see friends. Being with friends was my favorite thing."

"I loved the networking and sharing stories between alums of all ages. Reconnecting with old friends and making new ones and the education panels. I especially loved the one with the UN officials and Dr. Beverly Tatum."



"I loved that everything was close and that we had opportunities to chat with other attendees between panels and before dinner. All of the panels were absolutely great. And the Kunstmuseum den Haag was outstanding. I loved the talk on the architecture of the museum."

" 1) Great panel presentations 2) Kunstmuseum was a great venue 3) Interesting Sunday morning breakout topics"

"I deeply value the superb efforts of the Netherlands organizing team, the intense time commitment to make it happen, and even more with the genuine uncertainties of COVID and Ukraine."

See you in Munich in 2024! Catherine Jourdan '95 and her team are already at work to organize another very special event!!



If you did not receive this newsletter as an email directly to your email box, and you want to keep up with the latest from the Mount Holyoke Alumnae Community of Europe...

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*For more information, please contact the  
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