



MHEAC FALL NEWSLETTER

Connecting Alumnae Across Europe

Welcome Message

A Word from the European Council Chair

Dear all,

The crisp autumn air brings a renewed sense of connection within our community.

The recent Mountain Day gatherings across Europe brought together again alums and students celebrating one of our most cherished traditions. How wonderful to see more and more children joining in the fun and ...the ice cream! It is never too early to start instilling MHC love in future potential alums!

Our recent virtual sessions with President Holley sparked a new and more direct dialogue with the College, which we hope will continue to grow in the future.



The conversation must remain ongoing, and we are looking forward to meeting President Holley in person in Munich in 2024.

It will be exciting to approach the theme of the Symposium with her and members of the college faculty and of our global alum community. The event is shaping up to be a pivotal gathering, where we'll examine the role of the arts in sustaining cultural freedom. Details will follow as we approach the spring, and your involvement is eagerly awaited.

This year, the MHEAC is proud to have joined the International Students Pairing Project. Our participation, funded by the latest symposium's silent auction, has allowed us to extend a personal Mount Holyoke welcome to two European students, a wonderful way to showcase our international bonds.

Finally, I hope you will take a minute to peruse our newly created online International Alums Library. Our summer literary campaign spotlighted the diverse and rich voices of alums authors across the globe and we are looking forward to growing this collection with your suggestions.

Happy reading! I am confident that the energy and ideas that we share here are paramount to allow us to continue to embody the spirit of Mount Holyoke—ever evolving, always connected!

Warm regards,

Silvia Maulini '80
Chair, European Alumnae Council

P.S. Remember to mark your calendars for the newly French M&C sessions! A fantastic way to refresh your French and connect!

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In Conversation with President Holley



“The alums of Mount Holyoke have a profound impact on the lives of people around the world.”

DANIELLE R. HOLLEY
PRESIDENT, MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

In early November, Mount Holyoke’s twentieth president, Danielle R. Holley, joined international alums in online conversations hosted by the Alumnae Association, in partnership with the Global Alum Alliance and the European Alumnae Council. Following calls with alums in China and Southeast Asia, on November 8 and 9, President Holley virtually met with over 70 alums from across the European continent and beyond.

On both days, the conversations were lively and engaging. After a brief introduction by the Executive Director of the Alumnae Association, Trisha Tanner '00, MHEAC representatives introduced the European Council and the theme and plans for the upcoming Munich Symposium. President Holley then shared insights about her first months at MHC and her vision for the future of our alma mater. A lively Q&A session with alums followed the presentation.



The Arts and Socio-political Change: A powerful interplay at the heart of democracy

Munich: 1-3 November 2024

Save the Date!



17th European Alumnae Symposium

The Arts and Socio-political Change:

A powerful interplay at the heart of democracy

Munich, Germany

1-3 November 2024

The event will offer participants an exciting opportunity for social and intellectual interaction with Mount Holyoke alums and students from all over the world. Home to a wide array of museums, theatres, and other cultural institutions, the city of Munich sets the stage for an engaging discussion on the question of cultural freedom then and now, both locally and globally.

The arts are a powerful means of generating dialogue, raising awareness of issues, and driving change in the way we see the world. Yet time and time again, we observe how the arts can be squashed or used by dictatorships, religious fundamentalists, xenophobic individuals, and in movements, such as cancel culture and identity politics. Our democracy hinges on preserving our freedom of expression and giving society a voice in defining our culture. How the arts are

made accessible through various means will make for an engaging platform for this event.

Watch for the spring announcement of our inspiring speakers and panelists. For accommodation, the organizing committee will provide a list of nearby hotels and reserve blocks of rooms, for your convenience. Of course, you may choose other options, such as Airb&b. Registration will begin in early June. Financial support for alums of all generations may be available upon request.

For more information: mhc.munich.2024@gmail.com

Check out our website: [Mount Holyoke European Alumnae](https://www.mount-holyoke-college.edu/european-alumnae)

Follow us on Instagram: [@mhc.european.alumnae.council](https://www.instagram.com/mhc.european.alumnae.council)

MHC European Alumnae Symposium Organizing Committee



Catherine Jourdan '95, Ramona Marks '02, Pat Simon '68, Clara Faerber '17, Edith Puerschel '85, Nikola Gossel '87 (from left to right), with the support of many others, are busy planning and looking forward to welcoming you to Munich on November 1-3, 2024!

International Students Pairing Program

MHEAC supports the Mount Holyoke International Students Pairing Project

The **Mount Holyoke International Students Pairing Project**, initiated and managed by **Leslie Smith Green '94**, has been welcoming international students to campus at the beginning of their first semester since 2015. The program pairs students with alums, intending to provide practical and moral support to young people who might be arriving in the States for the first time. The alums who volunteer for the program present "their" student with a basic support package and often help them move into their dorms and deal with some of the challenges that moving to a new country can present. Following the first welcome gesture, alums continue to offer support and friendship throughout the year with additional love, care, and, whenever logistically possible, hospitality.



This year MHEAC is participating in the program, using funds raised during the silent auction at the The Hague symposium. Two of its country delegates, Ioli Christopoulou and Silvia Maulini, were paired with two European "firsties" who arrived on campus at the end of August. Thanks to Leslie's help, Delfina and

Olga from Italy and Greece, respectively, received cheery welcome packages upon arrival, as well as personalized notes sent by their European matches. Although not in the area, Ioli and Silvia continue to stay in contact with "their" students, exchanging pictures and stories about campus life.

Past and Upcoming Events

Austria

Warm Welcome to Zarina!

A very warm welcome to the newly appointed European Alumnae Council delegate for Austria: Zarina Dyussen FP'16! 🌸 🇺🇸

Zarina relocated to Vienna, Austria, in October 2021 to pursue her academic and professional aspirations while immersing herself in Europe's sustainability and green policies for development. Her passion lies in infrastructure, international cooperation, innovation, and technology. This fall, she commenced her Master's in Global Demography at UniWien, eagerly anticipating exciting years ahead and aspiring to establish a dynamic Mount Holyoke alums group in the country. Zarina was born and raised in Kazakhstan, and after emigrating to the United States, she attended Mount Holyoke, where she graduated in International Relations & Russian and Eurasian Studies as a Frances Perkins Scholar. You can contact her at zarina.dyussen@gmail.com.



October 2023

Mountain Day Celebration in Austria!

Zarina Dyussen FP '16 enjoyed a scrumptious ice cream at central Café Tichy in Vienna at exactly 18:37 local time. What a great way to celebrate one of our sweetest traditions! #mntdaymhc



Belgium



July 2023

Get-together

In July, local alums enjoyed a relaxed get-together and some al fresco M&Cs! Attendees included, from left to right, Elodie '16, Burcak '93, Nathalie '90, Erica '02, Susan '90, Ralitsa '05.

Bulgaria

Thank you to Guergana!

Guergana Gougoumanova '99, the MHEAC delegate for Bulgaria, recently left Europe to pursue new academic endeavors in Asia. Many thanks to Guergana



for all that she did for the Bulgarian alums groups and a warm welcome to her successor, Tzvetomira (Tessie) Laub' 05. 🌸

Warm Welcome to Tessie! 🌸 🎉

Tessie, based in Sofia, is the Executive Director for Programs and Strategy at the International Society for Paediatric Oncology, where she leads the implementation of SIOp's Strategy 2021-2025 in collaboration with the SIOp Board of Directors and manages the Society's programs. She is a seasoned programs leader who has worked on health, education, and child protection in both development and humanitarian contexts. Prior to SIOp, Tessie worked for the International Rescue Committee, responding to refugee crises and supporting humanitarian responses to situations of internal displacement globally. Previously, she worked as a Sr. Coordinator at the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies and as a Program Specialist at the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict. She holds a BA degree in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College and an MA in Politics from Brandeis University. She can be contacted at tzvetomira@gmail.com.





October 2023

Sofia Mountain Day

Sunny greetings from Bulgaria, where Tessie Laub '05 recently organized a great Mountain Day gathering at South Park in Sofia!

France



Passing on the Torch!

Barbara Greer '79 (left) and Geraldine Boucherat '99 (right)

Geraldine Boucherat '99 recently left the European Council to pursue new challenging professional and academic endeavors. Many thanks to Geraldine for all that she did for the alums groups in France! 🌸

Barbara Greer graduated from Mount Holyoke with a major in physics. She started working for Alcatel in the US, and in April 1987, she moved to France with a 2-year work contract. Thirty-six years later, she is still living in the Paris region and is now retired. She has been an active member of the Mount Holyoke alums group in France since 1988, attending and hosting events throughout the years. Her hobbies include hiking, biking, Tai Chi, and Qi Gong. In her new role as Council delegate, Barbara will work together with the other MHEAC delegate for France, Meryem Puill Chatillon '80. Warm welcome to Barbara! 🌸 🇫🇷

Germany



August 2023

Berlin get-together

Retired professor Karen Remmler visited Berlin and gathered local alumnae for an early dinner out on August 9.



October 2023

Munich Mountain Day

In Munich, Catherine Jourdan '95, Nikola Gossel '87, Danielle Crouch '12 and Erika Rautenfeld '92 came together for Mountain Day at Venchi at the Viktualienmarkt.



October 2023

Get-together

Edith Puerschel '85, who was visiting from the Frankfurt area for a conference, met up with Catherine for breakfast on a sunny fall morning at Gärtnerplatz. They both enjoyed finally meeting in person and shared many MHC stories and plans for the symposium.

November 2023

Get-together

There is no village like the MHC village! Wonderful meeting of two alums of the classes of '68 and '88 in a little cafe off Munich's Marienplatz yesterday! Brought together by a few lucky FB postings, they discovered they had a lot in common, including two MHC profs that they had during their undergrad days. They had a lot of fun — and they even remembered to take a selfie!



Other get-togethers in Germany...

Pat Simon '68 and Catherine met up for an afternoon coffee and catch-up on mid-September. Anke Ehlers '64 hosted a lovely dinner with Donna Schlimm '80 and Catherine at the end of August. Beate Renker '94 from Leipzig visited for a weekend in May and connected Catherine Jourdan '95 with an old and dear professor of hers and a longtime friend at the US Consulate to jointly explore speaker options for the upcoming symposium. In Leipzig, the local MHC alumnae are continuing the annual tradition of getting together for coffee, cake and catching up on Buss- und Bettag, on November 22.



Upcoming Event!

Thanksgiving Get-together in Berlin

In Berlin, Alice Fan is hosting a late Thanksgiving cooking party on November 25 for all local/regional alumnae.



Upcoming Events!

Christmas Market Get-togethers across Germany

Stay tuned on Facebook for Christmas Market gatherings across Germany in the weeks ahead!

Visit the [Berlin](#) Facebook

Visit the [Duesseldorf - Cologne](#) Facebook

Great Britain

The Great Britain club planned a picnic in Regent's Park to celebrate summer in July. Despite unseasonal wind and rain, three undaunted alums picnicked with their four guests. A planned trip to York was postponed, but Mountain Day brought out alums to celebrate with delicious ice creams and sorbets in London, St Andrews, and Oxford.



October 2023

Mountain Day in London



October 2023

Mountain Day in St. Andrews



October 2023

Mountain Day in Oxford

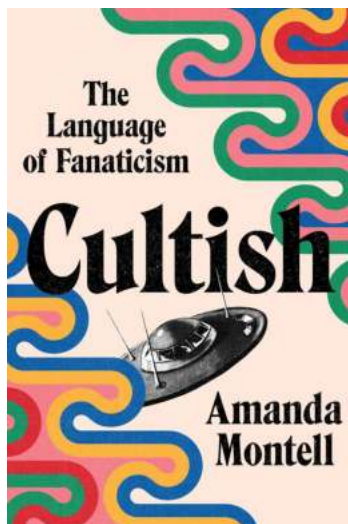
In early November the club held its Annual General Meeting in London, with 16 attending, half online and half in person. We talked about past and future events, newly updated club by-laws, and then elected new officers:

President Katya Korotaeva '16,
Vice President Chrissy Kleespies '09
Secretary Corinne Morgan '13

After the meeting, attendees enjoyed a talk by Natalie Sabanadze '97 entitled "How Not to End this War: Implication for European Security of Russo-Ukraine War". Natalie, recently the Cyrus Vance Vision Professor in International Relations at Mount Holyoke College, has just moved to the UK, where she is now a Senior Research Fellow at Chatham House.



Upcoming Event!



Book Club Event

The South East London Book Club will meet in the Crystal Palace area to discuss *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell.

Date: Sunday, December 3rd

Place: Crystal Palace

Time: 14:00

Greece

October 2023

Mountain Day in Athens!

Happy Mountain Day from Athens, Greece! No hikes, mountains, ice cream, or New England fall scenes were involved in our meeting, but it was a perfectly sunny fall day with a lot of fun and laughter.



Iberian Peninsula

[Lisbon get-together, September 2023](#)





Lovely Lebanese lunch in Lisbon, attended by ten alums from all over, plus two honorary alums (spouses!), coming from Portugal, Japan, the UK, and the US! There were so many wonderful, surprising connections too, learning of paths crossing or almost crossing over the past decades across multiple countries, and finding new links that will absolutely inspire future gatherings. Elisabeth Ta'eed's '09 MHC tiger joined as well (small, but front and center on the table in the first photo). Obrigada everyone, and até a próxima!

Ireland



October 2023

Mountain Day Ireland!

The Irish Alumnae had a Mountain Day visit to the Botanic Gardens in Dublin. It turned out to be a sunny, warm day, which was perfect. Seven alums spent a lovely afternoon, followed by lunch. Classes from '69 to '17 attended, with a guest alumna from Luxembourg joining in.

Italy



August 2023

Mini-reunion

A special mini-reunion of members of the class of 1975 in the sunny and warm Marche region!

The Netherlands



August 2023

Barbieland

In August, five Dutch alums went on a trip to Barbie land! They formed a very diverse group: some were born WAY before the launch of the (in)famous doll, some had owned MANY Barbies, and some had NEVER owned or wanted one. Still, all truly enjoyed watching the movie together, as well as sharing thoughts and some food afterward! With Tory DeBassio, Georgia Regnault Jacqueline Den Hollander, Claire Brouwer and Silvia Maulini.



October 2023

Mountain Day Utrecht!

The Dutch Mountain Day was a great success! Nine alums, three students, and a guest gathered at Slot Zuylen, right outside of Utrecht, for a visit to the castle and lunch at Bistrot Belle. It was fun to meet new and old friends and to listen to the students share their life and academic experiences in the Netherlands and on campus.

Norway

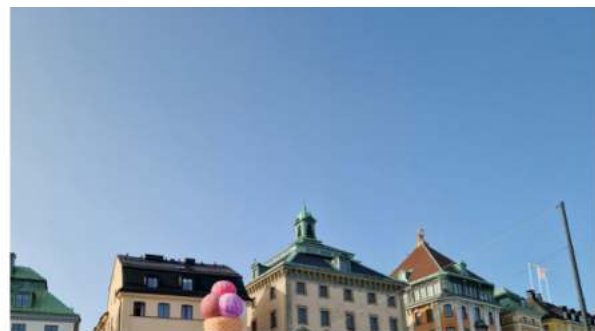


October 2023

Mountain Day Norway!

Mountain Day in Norway. A wonderful night with new friends and old!

Sweden



October 2023

Mountain Day Sweden!

The Sweden alums enjoyed their Mountain Day outing by the waterside at Skeppsbro Bageri in Stockholm on October 1st. Among them were three alums and a newborn little girl. Their animated chatter and shared experiences might have sown the seeds for her to consider MHC as a potential college choice in the future.

Switzerland



October 2023

Mountain Day

The Swiss Alumnae Group got together for a Mountain Day Brunch. As you can see, it was a perfect fall day, and all participants enjoyed a lovely get-together.

Books by International Alums

Over the summer months, the European Alumnae Council and the Global Alum Alliance launched a campaign on social media (FB and Instagram) with the objective of promoting literary works published by members of our international alumnae community. The organizers reached out to fellow alums all over the world, asking for recommendations, and were able to feature 15 books, all written by MHC alums who have African, Asian, or European roots. The list of books promoted is now also available on the MHEAC website at [International Alums Library](#). The list is by no means exhaustive, but it is very diverse, as it includes poetry, romantic fiction, memoirs, and even a children's book and a book on Korean herbalism. Take a look at the collection and help us add to it by mailing any suggestions to mhceuropean@gmail.com.

Enjoy the sneak peek below...

New French M&Cs with Méryem

French M&Cs

Parlez vous français ?

If you are eager to **practice your French** and connect with Francophile alums from all over the world, make sure you join **Méryem Puill-Châtillon '80 for her "French M&Cs,"** an hour of French conversation and fun. This new initiative, launched in early October, has already attracted a good number of participants from all over Europe and beyond.

The sessions are held **every other Thursday at 18:30 CET**. These are the next appointments until the end of this year:

Thursday 23 November

Thursday 7 December

Thursday 21 December

Make sure you join one of these sessions if you missed the first ones!

Bienvenue à toutes! À bientôt!

Zoom link: <https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/92564224779> - no code required!

Virtual M&Cs on Sunday Evenings

The well-established **Sunday evening virtual M&Cs** continue to be very popular with alums from all over the world. If you wish to connect and chat with other MHC alums from all generations please feel free to join every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM (CET) 7:00 (GMT) at <https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/99698796120>.

The link to the sessions is also pinned in our [Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Facebook](#) group page each Sunday morning, together with a yummy cookie recipe, courtesy of Corinne Morgan '12

Looking for a group near you?

European Council Country Delegates

[Click Here for Contact Details](#)

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Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Council

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