

MHEAC FALL NEWSLETTER

Connecting Alumnae Across Europe

Welcome Message

A Word from the European Council Chair

Dear All,

It was a summer of extremes: scorching heat and fires in the south of Europe contrasted with flood waters in the north; freedom was gained from Covid restrictions in countries where we live, while a loss of freedom looms for many people, especially women, in other parts of the world.



For our community of European and international alums, it was, in any case, a summer filled with colors and emotions. Thanks to the **Uncommon Cameras** competition, photographs from all over the world gave us a glimpse of the **life, dreams, and passions of alums around the globe**. What a joy to (re)connect with new and old friends and to marvel at the beauty of their photographs. How exciting now to wait for the decisions of our international jury!

With the colder months looming, many of us will soon find solace again in the kitchen. This transition makes the publication of our latest cookbook, **Uncommon Kitchens - Festive Edition**, very timely and appropriate, especially as the holiday season approaches. The Festive Edition is a collection of over 40 mouthwatering, “cosmopolitan recipes”, featuring exciting dishes for very special meals: a must-have for every kitchen.

As the world (slowly) starts to open again, it is a delight to present two new and exciting MHEAC events. In view of the uncertainties and challenges engendered by the pandemic, earlier this year the European Alumnae Council agreed to modify and enhance its Symposium plans. This means that we now have two amazing events ahead of us. This November we will be virtually welcomed in **Istanbul** by Zeynep Kurmuş Hürbaşı for an **online Symposium** and, if all proceeds according to plan, we will be able to meet again in person for our 16th Symposium in **October 2022 in The Hague!**

In this newsletter, find out more about these exciting plans, changes in our MHEAC team, award presentations, and past and future local activities. Then, get ready to learn more about Turkey!

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Update Uncommon Cameras

USA

Eleanor Chang '78

Reflection

Switzerland

Carolyn Geisler Hornfeld '63

The Dents du Midi - Am I dreaming?

What a wonderful world!

Uncommon Cameras, the photography competition run by the European Alumnae Council and the Mount Holyoke Global Alum Alliance, closed to entries in early August. The initiative, open to all international Mount Holyoke alums, was launched to bring together virtually our diverse global community and to celebrate joy, friendship, and creativity across cultures, geographical borders, and generations. The competition was an extraordinary success: 53 alums from **24 countries** and **five continents**, representing graduating classes from 1963 to 2021, answered the call to share recent, favourite pictures.

The quality and intensity of the photos are truly impressive. From views of stunning Alpine and Asian landscapes to intimate kitchen shots and evocative sunsets and

moonrises, the **122 photographs** submitted have the power to show us how excitingly diverse and yet similar our community is. Varied passions and interests, as well as different geographic and cultural backgrounds, are linked by the **same uncommon curiosity and love for life and for all that surrounds us.**

The photographs and their supporting backstories are now accessible on Instagram - **@mhcuncommoncameras** - and on the [MHEAC website](#).

Do take time to scroll through all the entries and to wonder at this unique, colourful tapestry of the lives and passions of MHC alums in all corners of the world: you will not be disappointed.

Thanks to all alums who participated in or promoted the competition. The **Uncommon Cameras** jury, which includes photography and art professionals Jennifer Ransom '65 - United Kingdom, Claudia Palmira '95 - Italy, Sonali Gulati '96 - US/India, Sylvia Xue Bai (白雪) '07 - China, and Christine Boehm '09 - Germany, is busy evaluating the entries. The winners will be announced in early October.

An ultimate "super winner" will be chosen from among the finalists by our international community through online voting, so stay tuned and get ready to participate in the next phase of Uncommon Cameras!

France

Cristina Gall '08

Strawberry Moon Over Bayonne

Brazil

Francesca Neroni '93

Sunset in the Guanabara Bay

Uncommon Kitchens – Festive Edition

Uncommon Kitchens - Festive Edition: a new must-have for your kitchen!

Following the success of the ***Uncommon Kitchens*** cookbook, which sold over 440 copies worldwide, the Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Council, cooperating with the Mount Holyoke Global Alum Alliance, reached out to our international network asking for festive recipes from all over the world. The objective was to create a new collection of mouthwatering culinary gems, gathering recipes and dear memories belonging to all the different seasonal and festive traditions cherished within our global community.

Alums and students from 15 countries in Europe, Asia, and North America enthusiastically reacted, and ***Uncommon Kitchens - Festive Edition***, a cookbook featuring 42 celebratory and special recipes, is now available to buy on Amazon. From traditional family dishes to extravagant culinary adventures and creative interpretations of old classics, this new cookbook offers a unique and wonderful way to celebrate our global network and to enrich our ***Uncommon Kitchens*** collection.

Make yourself a present and order soon: **Proceeds from the sales of the *Festive Edition* will support our MHEAC "Graduating Senior Award" fund. *Uncommon Kitchens - Festive Edition*** is attractive, unique and friendly priced, so you may wish to order extra copies for friends and family and surprise them with a special Mount Holyoke gift.

All recipes of our ***Uncommon Kitchens*** collection are available on the [MHEAC website](#). Digital copies of the cookbooks (E-pub and Kindle format) can be requested at mhceuropean@gmail.com

You can order printed copies of ***Uncommon Kitchens - Festive Edition*** using these links:

US: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09DJGQZRL/>

Germany <https://www.amazon.de/dp/B09DJGQZRL/>

UK <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09DJGQZRL/>

Italy: <https://www.amazon.it/dp/B09DJGQZRL/>

Spain: <https://www.amazon.es/dp/B09DJGQZRL/>

France: <https://www.amazon.fr/dp/B09DJGQZRL/>

Contragulations to the Winner of the Graduating Senior Award

Congratulations to **Yitongyue Lin (Lilian) '21**, the recipient of this year's European Alumnae Council Graduating Senior Award!

Lilian, from Urumqi, China, graduated with a double-major in International Relations and Spanish. The University of St Andrews accepted Lilian to study for an MS in Sustainable Development, beginning in September 2021.

Lilian received her award of \$500 in Corona-virus style earlier this summer. Representatives from the European Alumnae Council and the McCulloch Center, as well as Professor Kavita Khory, attended Lilian's virtual award ceremony. Lilian was a "study abroad student" in Spain. It will be great to have her back in Europe!

Save the date virtual Symposium 2021

Save the afternoon of **Saturday, November 6, 2021** in your diary and get ready for a

special, virtual trip to Istanbul!

We are truly saddened that we cannot hold the 2021 Symposium in Turkey, due to the uncertainties of the pandemic and other concerns. However, since Zeynep Kurmuş Hürbas '96 had great speakers lined up, and we truly want you all to learn more about Turkey, we decided to go ahead and hold an intimate and insightful half-day event online.

Please join us for a virtual European Alums Symposium on Saturday, November 6, 2021 focusing on **Turkey: Perception vs. Reality.**

Registration details will follow soon

2022 European Alumnae Symposium Update

European Alumnae Symposium 2022

The Hague

Save the weekend of **October 14-15-16, 2022** in your diary and get ready for a trip to **The Hague!**

In view of the uncertainties and the challenges offered by the pandemic, earlier this year the European Alumnae Council agreed to modify its Symposium plans and to hold the 16th European Alumnae Symposium in October 2022 in The Hague.

Alums in the Netherlands, led by Georgia Regnault '64, are already at work, and they look forward to welcoming you in person next year.

More information will come soon.

Upcoming Events

Europe

In late March 2020, when most European countries started to embrace more and more social distancing measures, Corinne Morgan '13, President of the Mount Holyoke Club of Britain, thought it would be nice to set up a weekly virtual Milk and Cookies to help stay connected to one another and share thoughts and experiences in these difficult times.

The sessions, originally promoted to the British Club, were soon advertised to all members of the **European Alumnae Community**.

If you would like to take the opportunity to connect with other MHC alumnae, please feel free to join every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM (CET) 7:00 (GMT) at <https://mtholyoke.zoom.us/j/99698796120> (please note new Zoom link!)

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.

Great Britain

Saturday 9th October

Mountain Day

The Club is asking alums across the UK to organise Mountain Day events in their part of the country. We already know of gatherings in Edinburgh, Oxford, London, and even in St Ives, Cornwall. Find an ice cream cafe, name a time, gather Mohos, and treat yourselves.

Date in November TBC

Literary Evening

Meet the author! Violet Kupersmith, MHC '11, recipient of the 2015 - 16 David

T K Wong Creative Writing Fellowship at the University of East Anglia, and author of *The Frangipani Hotel*, will be talking about her new novel, *Build Your House Around My Body*. A starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* enthused: "An exceptional debut...Magic can be both benevolent and monstrous in Kupersmith's work, and here she indelibly illustrates the ways in which Vietnam's legacies of colonialism, war, and violence against women continue to haunt...Surprising and satisfying".

For more details of our events, please check our [Facebook page](#) or email mhcbritain@gmail.com

France

The Mount Holyoke Club of France hopes to meet for **Mountain Day** at the Buttes Chaumont in the early days of October. Since the walk is entirely outdoors, it may be expected (and hoped) that no mask will be required. The walk takes about one hour and the last time I went to the park, the ice cream van was still parked at the bottom of the "Buttes"! Please follow our [Facebook group](#) for updates.
Geraldine Boucherat CG '99

The Netherlands

Sunday 3 October

Mountain Day 2021

On Sunday 3 October alums and students living in the Netherlands will gather in the famous beach resort of Scheveningen for lunch and, Dutch weather permitting 😊, an invigorating walk along the boulevards. It will be fun to meet new and old friends and to share plans and ideas for the 2022 Symposium!

"Cooking with Micha and Silvia" - Season Two

New sessions of the virtual culinary workshops with Micha Heilman '19 and Silvia Maulini '80 are planned for the fall. Participants will have the opportunity to cook alongside the "chefs", learning tips for finessing their skills, or simply to watch and get inspired for future culinary adventures. The recipes and the list of ingredients needed

for each workshop are shared prior to the session. The workshops take place on Sunday afternoon, and are open to all alums and students.

If you wish to join and to receive more information about the planning, please contact mhceuropean@gmail.com

Past Events

Resilient Networks & Bonds

Germany

On Sunday, September 12th, nine members from the Düsseldorf - Cologne Regional Group came together from six different cities in the region to meet for lunch in the trendy *MedienHafen* section of Düsseldorf. We enjoyed sitting outside in the late-summer sunshine in front of architect Frank Gehry's iconic "*Neuer Zollhof*" building complex, taking in the scenery of the harbor. After the meal, several stayed to go for a leisurely stroll past the architectural treasures of the district. Following a year of tedious on-again off-again lockdowns, it was wonderful to finally reunite and use the opportunity to say goodbye to group member Gergana Karadzhova (MHC 2012), who is leaving Germany to start a new chapter of life in Switzerland.

The European Alumnae Council knows Gergana as the enthusiastic and ambitious country delegate for Germany and before that as the creative editor of the Newsletter. As the founder of our regional group some four years ago, I have known Gergana from the get-go as an avid supporter of group activities, as a lively participant in all events, as a cheerful, engaging young woman and as a friend.

Gergana may be moving on, but she will always be an honorary member of "Düsseldorf - Cologne", and we wish her only the best for all her future endeavors!

Vanieta Canonico-Jahn (MHC 1977) Head, Mount Holyoke European Alumnae Regional Group „Duesseldorf - Cologne“

The Netherlands

Cooking with Micha and Silvia. In May and June alums gathered virtually for two sessions of “Cooking with Micha and Silvia”. Together we cooked delicious tagliatelle with mushrooms and a scrumptious fruit galette using different seasonal fruits. “Cooking with Micha and Silvia” will resume after the summer.

Thank you

Each year brings changes in a dynamic international group like the European Alumnae Council, and this year is no exception!

Kate McElwee '07 (Italy) and **Gergana Karadzhova '12 (Germany)** have moved onto new chapters in their lives. True to their commitment to Mount Holyoke European Alumni Council, they both successfully recruited two outstanding successors. We thank Kate and Gergana for their strong contributions to our team and welcome the new members to the Council!

Warm Welcome to ...

Our New Country Delegates

Germany

Catherine Jourdan '95

Catherine Jourdan graduated from MHC in 1995 with a double major in International Relations and German Studies. Born and raised in Paris, of French and German descent, she enjoyed a two-year chapter in Sarasota, FL at a young age, followed by summer travels back to the US, which spurred her interest in attending college in the US. She discovered MHC from afar through the accounts of a family friend who had recently graduated from the College. The Head of the MHC Club of France gave Catherine a warm welcome

and invited her to local gatherings of alumnae and JYA students, which enabled Catherine to learn more about the college and its wonderful community. As a result of the valuable insights gained and early friendships made, the decision to attend MHC was easy. As an alumna she enjoys opportunities to connect with fellow alumnae, students and prospects. After MHC, Catherine spent two years with a New York city law firm, leaving to take an MBA at McGill in Montreal. Next came a 15 year stint with PwC Consulting and work in York, Frankfurt and Paris. Allianz attracted Catherine to take on the roles of Chief Risk and Compliance Officer for several operating entities in

Paris, San Francisco, and Munich for the past seven years. With her husband and 12-year old daughter, Catherine enjoys life in Germany, as well as traveling at every opportunity, wine tasting, cooking, entertaining, running, skiing, and spending time with family and friends.

Italy

Claudia Palmira '95

Native New Yorker Claudia Palmira has run her design and art studio since she graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1995. Her international design clientele has included Bulgari Hotels, the United Nations Women for Peace, the Vatican Women's Association, Platinum Eye A & E television series, among others. She currently serves as brand director of Beacon Int'l Group. Also an exhibited artist, she has had several solo and group shows. In 2021, her signature line of art-as-objects launched under the label Clù. In Rome since 2006, Claudia lives with her husband, photographer Mauro Benedetti, and their son, Ludovico, a child actor in several feature films.

Website: www.claudiapalmira.com

Instagram: [@claudiapalmiraa](https://www.instagram.com/claudiapalmiraa)

PC @ Suzanne Preparata

Georgia and Armenia

Deborah Wild '97

Deborah Wild is a freelance German journalist who has been covering the Caucasus since 2002 for various German- and English-speaking media. She divides her time between Bucharest, Romania and Tbilisi, Georgia.

Looking for a group near you?

Get to know the European Council
Country Delegates

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**Mount Holyoke European Alumnae
Council**

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