

**Hester (Honey) Turner Lewellen**

Major: Mathematics.  
MHC influences: Helen Priest Rogers’ modern dance classes; academic classes where spreading my creative wings was welcomed.  
First job after MHC: Computer programmer for Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., NYC.  
Currently: Blissfully retired.  
Email: hlewelle@bw.edu

Career 1: Teaching math (37 years) in a public junior high in NJ, a private high school in Honolulu, a private girls’ school in Shaker Heights, a liberal arts college west of Cleveland. Favorite course taught: “Mathematics and the Humanities: A Liberal Arts Approach.”  
Career 2: Acting/singing/dancing (continues!), including an NBC sitcom with Brian Keith, a leading role in the national tour of Stephen Schwartz’s *The Magic Show*, and currently The Storyteller in the Cleveland Premiere of *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*.  
Private life: Three husbands, no kids. Married to number three for 35 years.  
Current locations: Living in Cleveland but spending two months every winter in Hawaii.  
Mental state: Basically an optimistic person, although have had my low periods. I recommend therapy for those times.  
Physical state: Pretty good, since I still dance on top of tables and desks (last year as Miss Hannigan in *Annie*).

**Judy Osborne**

Major: Religion  
MHC influences: Mr. Davol in the Psychology Department, choirs and glee club with Ruth Douglass, Gorse Child Study Center (see below), baby art classes.  
First job after MHC: Teaching fellow, Pacific Oaks College and Children’s School, Pasadena, CA.  
Currently: Author, *Wisdom for Separated Parents: Rearranging Around the Children to Keep Kinship Strong*; director, Stepfamily Associates, Brookline, MA.  
Email: judyosborne16@gmail.com.

Mount Holyoke is such a beautiful place to live for four years. I loved the beech tree near the art building and drifting in canoes on Upper Lake. Singing, especially rehearsals in the chapel just before dinner, gave me other ways to drift away.  
Psychology and sociology classes shaped my thinking. I was mentored and began my love of learning about children and families at the Gorse Child Study Center.  
Professionally, my path was fairly straight from Gorse—graduate study in child development and teaching first grade. Then having my own children and moving in the great wave of divorced during 20th C. I returned to graduate study in counseling psychology and gradually into private practice as a marriage and family therapist. For the past six years, writing my book, *Wisdom for Separated Parents*, helped me reflect on all of these experiences.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to Elaine Elliott and the 1962 Reunion Planning Committee, who embraced the idea of the panel from the very beginning, and to Dylan Boivin and the others of 2012 for their work, enthusiasm and follow-through. Organizing the panel became a true 1962-2012 partnership.

To Professor Townsley and our six intrepid panelists go both admiration and thanks for taking on this challenge of closing the 50-year gap between MHC graduates.

Special thanks to Chris Ward and the Media Services department of Mount Holyoke College for recording this session, and to Alaina Donohue at the Alumnae Office for her hard work.



**AFTERTHOUGHTS**

Any comments or afterthoughts about the subject of altered lives or about the panel are more than welcome and can be sent to constance.dilley@esuite.ca. They will be posted, with other reunions comments, at www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/~classof1962 sometime in June. May the panel start a lively discussion!

**THEN AND NOW:  
THE ALTERED LIVES  
OF WOMEN  
1962 TO 2012**

**Hooker Auditorium, South Hadley  
May 18, 2012**

**Moderated by Professor Eleanor Townsley**

CLASS OF 2012 PANELISTS

Lazora Jordan

Major: African/African American Studies major, Psych minor.  
MHC influences: The MHC community, going abroad, and the space that I’ve been given to explore my own voice.  
Plans after MHC: I’ll be working for Clean Water Action in Northampton for at least the summer. Eventually, I hope to do work in clinical psychology or peace and conflict resolution.  
Email: jorda22l@mtholyoke.edu. Hometown: Tampa, FL.

The people I have met at Mount Holyoke have enriched my life immeasurably. The MHC community has taught me so much about myself and about life, and I will always be grateful for that. I had the time of my life going abroad to Seville, Spain, junior year. Mount Holyoke was the first place where I really felt at home. It was also the first place where I had the space to learn who I really am without people having expectations of who and what I should be.

Fun fact: I got Reiki I certification at MHC a few months ago!

Emily Wazlak

Major: Politics with thematic minor in War and Society.  
MHC influences: Grappling with big questions in “The Great Books of Western Civilization” with Professor Hartley.  
Plans after MHC: Working for a campaign organization.  
Email: ewazlak@gmail.com. Hometown: Queens, NY.

Among the many inspiring people is a close friend and mentor with whom I co-founded the MHC chapter of the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network. Our chapter gained national recognition. I took on a regional leadership role last year. I had several valuable internships including at the White House.

I want to pursue a career in politics and public policy. These professions have not been particularly open to women. But while there may be institutions and traditions that continue to exclude, I know that Mount Holyoke has taught me the value of my voice. I now have the strength to speak up for myself and the issues I care about, no matter what the environment.

And here is something else. While I was studying in Shanghai, I went to a hair salon where I had a language issue over the heat of the water. The woman next to me translated. As she and I chatted, she mentioned that she went to school in America, to a small college in Western Massachusetts called Mount Holyoke. We spent the next hour exchanging stories and had dinner the week after. Mount Holyoke is truly an international community with connections in some of the most unexpected places.

THE EVENT

“Altered Lives,” a panel discussion, is an attempt to juxtapose the lives of women graduating from Mount Holyoke College in 2012 with the lives of women who graduated in 1962. Members of the class of 1962 are interested in finding out how the women of 2012 think and feel about themselves and the world. Women of 2012 are curious about the lives of their grandmother class, 50 years older.

As we celebrate the 50th reunion of the women of 1962 and the commencement of the women of 2012, we ask questions of each other. We hope to discover what we don’t know.

Members of the audience are invited to submit questions. Paper and pens are available from the ushers.



MODERATOR

Eleanor Townsley is Professor of Sociology and Professor of Gender Studies at Mount Holyoke College. She also chairs the Nexus Program in Journalism, Media and Public Discourse. Townsley’s research focuses on intellectuals and ideas in social change. She published *The Space of Opinion* (Oxford 2011) with Ronald Jacobs last fall, a book that analyzes the relationships between media, intellectuals, and the public sphere. She has published widely in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Theory & Society*, *Theory, Culture & Society*, *Gender and Society*, *Thesis Eleven*, and *New Left Review*. She is a contributor to *The Handbook of Economic Sociology* and *The Oxford Handbook of Cultural Sociology* and is also coauthor of *Making Capitalism without Capitalists* (Verso 1998).

Laine Winokur

Major: History/Education.  
MHC influences: Working new-student orientation and meeting every student who has come to MHC since August of 2009! Being chair of orientation board and working closely with Dean Rene Davis.  
Plans after MHC: Working towards my master of education at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.  
Email: winok22l@mtholyoke.edu. Hometown: Wayland, MA.

Mount Holyoke has been a life-changing endeavor. I have never worked or laughed harder in my life. I frequently tell people that the reason I chose MHC was that everyone I met when I visited as a prospective student was the nicest and most hardworking person I had ever met. That still holds true today. I know that the relationships I’ve formed with students, faculty, and staff will be life-long. I can only wait in anticipation to see what my classmates do next! I don’t think I’ll ever be able to adequately express just how much I love Mount Holyoke.

One hundred years ago, the president of Wesleyan University said this: “Mount Holyoke is no mere local school of learning.... It is one of the great everlasting forces for the upbuilding of civilization.... Mount Holyoke has been true to the spirit of Mary Lyon who maintained that learning is not for vocation’s sake but for life’s sake and hence, patently, is for women equally as for men, that they, in their completer view, shall better build the world.” I definitely agree.

CLASS OF 1962 PANELISTS

Susan Higenbotham Holcombe

Major: Political Science.  
MHC influences: Ruth Lawson, Elizabeth Green, *Mount Holyoke News*, friends, and an incredibly beautiful campus that still inspires me.  
First job after MHC: Teaching refugees from Southern Africa at a school in Dar-es-Salaam.  
Currently: Professor of the Practice, the Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.  
Email: shholc@brandeis.edu.

MHC gave me confidence that I could try new things and succeed—after all, what could be harder than facing Professor Lawson in political science class! My aim was a career in North Atlantic relations, but graduate school introduced my husband-to-be and off we set on a life that took us to East Africa, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Fiji, Sudan, and China, bracketed by stints in New York and enlivened by three children and five grandchildren. From teaching refugees from Southern Africa, I moved to work on public authorities in New York to international development. Along the way I learned I needed statistics. Despite my dreary performance in Mr. Durfee’s calculus decades earlier, it was GREs and a Ph.D. program at NYU. The degree and 17 years of field experience led to another career change when I started teaching at the Heller School at Brandeis University. Now, what next?