

LYON'S ROAR

Class of 2004 Newsletter, Winter 2009

THANK YOU to all of the former class board members who provided outstanding leadership over the last several years, and **WELCOME** to the new volunteers!

Flip to the next page to read more about your new Class Board.

Class Board (2009-2014)

President

Rebecca McNealy

Vice President & Co-Reunion Chair

Kristina Pueschel Smith

Treasurer

Chrysanthe Cournotes

Secretary

Julia Grist Vaughan

Co-Reunion Chair

Jen Pearsall

Head Class Agents

Anna Bennett Robertson
& Sophia Apostola

Class Co-Scribes

Diana Chaban Griffith
& Kelli Gavant York

Questions / Comments?

Drop us an email at
2004classboard@gmail.com

Mount Holyoke is much more than a college...

It is a diverse community of women with a common interest in academic excellence. Our Class of 2004 is an extension of this on-campus community with members scattered around the globe.

I am grateful to have been selected as Class President and am excited about the opportunity to serve such an amazing class of women. I welcome the shared responsibility of continuing to make our class a successful and vital part of the Mount Holyoke community.

It was great to see so many classmates at our 5th reunion in May. Thanks to our last class board and all of the volunteers who made the weekend a success.

Over the next 5 years, the class board and I will work on strengthening these bonds, as well as building new connections among our class and with the global community.

Please visit our new class website (details inside) and **take the survey** to provide feedback on our plans.

By now, you should have received a letter from Ana and Sophia regarding The Annual Fund. If you haven't given already, I encourage you to do so. Your gift supports many activities at the college, including funding for financial aid.

I am honored to serve as your Class President and be part of the leadership team that will continue to build our Mount Holyoke community even as we become part of the larger global community.

Best,

Becky

Becky McNealy
Class President

In This Newsletter...

- Get to know your **Class Board**
- Top 5 Ways to **Stay in the Lyon Loop**
- Sneak Peak at the **Revitalized Class Website**
- Dollars & \$ense: **Treasurer's Update** & Request for Fundraising Ideas
- Important **Survey** - Hurry! Ends 2/28/10
- Unique **MH Gifts** for your Friends
- **Class Notes** for the *Mount Holyoke Quarterly*
- **Good Books**: the MHC Common Read, plus other books worth reading

Introducing Your Class Board

Anna Bennett Robertson • Boston, MA Co-Head Class Agent

I am finishing up my certificate in graphic design and applying to Masters of Fine Arts programs for entry in the fall. I can't wait to go back to school, but in the meantime am doing freelance graphic design work and creating wares to sell on my Etsy site, mauvaiselephant.etsy.com, and blogging away at le-petit-elephant.com every chance I get. I also have been volunteering with the Mount Holyoke Club of Boston as a co-President and have really enjoyed connecting with alums, meeting new people, and planning events for folks in the Boston area. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with '04ers, and being more involved with the class.

Becky McNealy • Evanston, IL President

At MHC, I majored in both Art History and Studio Art. I also held leadership roles in several campus groups, including Residential Life, Yearbook, Squash, and the Newman Association. Through my MHC experience, I developed a strong commitment to improving the student experience, which I am now applying to my career as an educator. Since graduation, I have worked with students at both the Kindergarten and Elementary Levels, and recently graduated with a MA in Elementary Teaching and Art from Northwestern University.

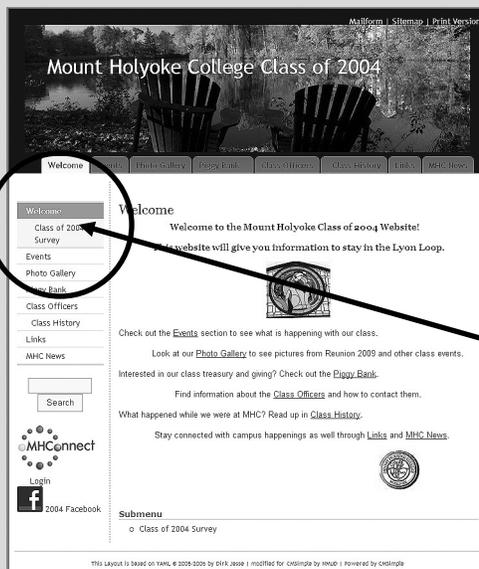
Chrysanthe Courniotes • Washington, DC Treasurer

I currently work as a Senior Health Consultant for the Global-Civil Health Team within Booz Allen in the Washington, D.C. area. Prior to joining Booz Allen, I was the project manager for the Afghanistan Medical Reconstruction Project for the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM), which is a Department of Defense (DoD) research center. I have served as a public health analyst for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, primarily focused on Iraq and Afghanistan healthcare reconstruction work. I have a B.A. in Critical Medical Anthropology and a Masters of Science in International Health Management, Economics and Policy from Bocconi University. My hobbies include being an active member of the D.C. Society of Young Health Policy Professionals, cooking and entertaining friends.

Diana Chaban Griffith • Hyde Park, MA Co-Scribe

I live in Hyde Park, Massachusetts with my partner and our pre-school-age son, who I hope will one day grow up and marry a MoHo. I work in communications and marketing for a commercial real estate trade association, and enjoy hearing from classmates and other alumnae.

The Lyon Loop: Top 5 Ways to Connect with Classmates



1. Revitalized Class Website

<http://alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/~classof2004/>

The site features information about our class, including photographs, a reunion countdown, links to the *Quarterly*, giving goals and more. Keep checking the site, as the Board will continue to add fresh content.

Take the 5-Minute Survey – Ends 2/2/8/10

Please provide your class board with feedback and direction. Tell us what you want to see from us in the next five years.

Share your Reunion Photos

Help us build an album of memories. Send photos to 2004classboard@gmail.com and we'll post them.

Continued...

Introducing Your Class Board

Kelli Gavant York • Washington, DC *Co-Scribe*

I have been living in the Washington, D.C., area since 2004 — interrupted by a brief stint in Chicago — and working in the journalism/publishing industry as a writer and editor. I received my master's in journalism from Northwestern University in 2006. I recently decided to return to my Montessori roots and am back in school to get my M.Ed. in Montessori Elementary Education with the hopes of becoming a teacher. Perhaps someday I will figure out a way to combine my interests in journalism and Montessori education!

Kristina Pueschel Smith • South Hadley, MA *Vice-President & Co-Reunion Chair*

I probably win the prize for being the classmate who lives closest to MHC. Though I live in South Hadley, I still feel nostalgic every time I step foot on campus. I live happily with my husband Dan who is fantastically supportive of his Type A spouse. I was a Psychology major at MHC and started working in the insurance industry after college. For the last three years, I have been pursuing an MBA part time. I'm excited to contribute to the class board and I look forward to our 2014 Reunion when you join me here in South Hadley!

Jen Pearsall • Houston, TX *Co-Reunion Chair*

I'm a senior account executive at Pierpont Communications in Houston, TX. Prior to moving to Houston, I was a consultant in Boston and roommates with '04ers Katherine Martin and Emily Snow. In my free time, I enjoy running long distances, road cycling, rock climbing, reading and traveling.

Julia Grist Vaughan • Chicago, IL *Secretary*

I recently had my 5-Yr Anniversary at Wolters Kluwer, a Dutch publishing company. Outside of work, I'm focused on my grad school goals, volunteer commitments and sailing adventures. Last year I boarded a 52' Beneteau and sailed through the British Virgin Islands; this year I plan to go sailing in Greece.

Sophia Apostola • Boston, MA *Co-Class Agent*

After graduating from Mount Holyoke, I worked for the Massachusetts Senate as the Committee Aide to the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business for three years. Currently, I am a third-year law student at Northeastern University, focusing on criminal law.

(Continued) The Lyon Loop: Top 5 Ways to Connect with Classmates

2. Facebook

Stay tuned to our official Facebook group, called "**Mount Holyoke College Class of 2004**". This is a great place to learn about class happenings, regional gatherings, volunteer opportunities and more.

3. Email Blasts

Look out during the year for updates on a variety of topics. We'll remind you about special traditions and events, like Mountain Day and Champagne & Strawberries.

4. Class Newsletters

Watch your mailbox for delivery of class newsletters! They're packed with a variety of updates—just like the one you're reading now! Older newsletters will be available on our class website in the near future.

5. Class Notes in the Quarterly

Have you relocated? Did you finish graduate school? Where have you traveled? Have you received a promotion? Were you recently married? Have a baby on the way?

Your classmates want to hear from you!

Send your news to 2004scribe@gmail.com.



Dollars and \$ense:

Updates on Fundraising, Giving & More

Treasurer's Update

by Chrysanthe Courniotes

The class treasury is very healthy and it allowed much of our 5-Year Reunion costs to be subsidized. As a class board, we are strategizing ways to maintain and grow our treasury in order to continue providing you with wonderful class reunions, mini-reunions and other programs and events. We continue to appreciate the support we receive from our classmates and are eager to hear your suggestions for fundraising opportunities.

Fundraising Ideas

The Class Board is looking for an item to offer to other classes and regional clubs. Would you buy a Monopoly game with a Mount Holyoke theme, or a cookbook with some of your favorite MH recipes? Share your ideas for fundraising when you complete the survey at...

www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/~classof2004

Shop and Support MHC

Demonstrate your pride in Mount Holyoke or send good MHC memories to a friend by purchasing items from other classes and regional clubs. A wide variety of items are available, including coffee, jewelry, art prints, pet leashes, pens, silk scarves, chairs, pens and more. Proceeds from the purchase of Association gifts benefit the Alumnae Scholar Fund.

www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/shop/alumgifts.php

Reunion Re-Cap:

The Laurel Parade & StoryCorps

Laurel Parade 2009

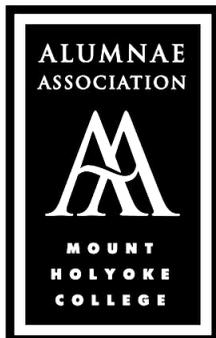
For those of you who couldn't attend our 5-Year Reunion, here's a list of the signs we carried. Thanks to Kate Grote's hard work, time and energy, our class held wonderful signs at this year's Laurel Parade:

- *We brought back matching class rings*
- *90% of us voted for Obama*
- *Since graduation 35% of us have lived, or still live, with a friend from MHC*
- *Napster was free and iPods were large*
- *Sober and clothed for convocation*
- *We survived the great Blanchard renovation*
- *Many of us voted for the first time in the controversial 2000 presidential election*
- *When we moved in smoking was allowed in dorms, when we left it was 20ft from the door*
- *We protested and watched the closing of the dining halls*
- *We were here and together for 9/11*
- *We fought for M&Cs and we won!*

Story Corps Interviews

A few of your 2004 classmates participated in the MHC Story Corps interviews taped during Reunion 2009. These are available on the Alumnae Association web site. Each clip is about three minutes long. Happy listening!

www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/go/MHCStoryCorps



Good Books for your Kindle, next book group or bookshelf

Bad Girls Go Everywhere: The Life of Helen Gurley Brown by Jennifer Scanlon

Caucasia by Danzy Senna (MHC Common Read 2008)

Commencement by J. Courtney Sullivan

The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and Friendship by Jeffrey Zaslow

How Remarkable Women Lead by Joanna Barsh

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman (MHC Common Read 2009)

The Last Empress: Madame Chiang Kai-shek and the Birth of Modern China by Hannah Pakula

Share your good books by sending suggestions to jgvaugha@mtholyoke.edu.

