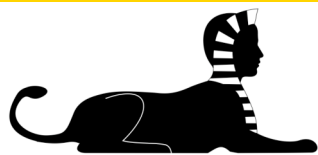


October 21, 2008



**Mount Holyoke College
Class of 1999**

President

Jen Giesecking

Vice-President

Kat Higgins

Secretary

Carrie Ruzicka

Treasurer

Kate Gordon

Head Class Agents

Heather Allison

Christina O'Connor

Class Scribes

Caroline Green

Mia Howard

Nominating Committee

Caron Gentry

Deanne Ochoa-Durrell

Mary Hidajat

Traditions Mistress

Emily D'Urso

2009 Reunion Chairs

Carrie Ruzicka

Damaris Rivera Woodbury

Greetings Fellow Sphinxes,

A note from our Class President:

I am looking forward to Valentine's Day this year. Usually not my favorite holiday, but this particular V-Day marks the 99 day countdown to reunion. I remember the fervor we shared for our graduation and that we share today for MHC. Reunion is an incredible time to return to campus and renew and/or rewrite that bond to the campus and the people that make it and made you so special. I know these are hard economic times but I assure you there are three things that are more priceless than a MasterCard commercial: friends, family, and the memories you hold close of them. I encourage and welcome you to make another slice of Mount Holyoke history for yourself this May. Get your white outfits ready and I'll see you in white with a dash of yellow soon, my friends. -*Jen Giesecking, President of the MHC Class of 1999*

May 2009 is the big celebration for our 10th Mount Holyoke Reunion, as you know! We are putting together programs where we will have a chance to reconnect, celebrate with each other, and have a marvelous time. The campus has grown and changed so much since we left in 1999—it is still beautiful and so well-equipped to meet the challenges of women's education now. Do come and see for yourself. The Alumnae Association's Web site, www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/go/reunion, is always being updated. Please visit this site often and/or the class's social networks; www.mhc199.com, and Mount Holyoke College Class of 1999 Facebook group page to get the latest information about our upcoming Reunion 2009. Please ensure your email information is up to date by emailing ais@mtholyoke.edu (Alumnae Information Systems).

The Reunion Planning Committee is putting together exciting, creative programs with time for activities and time to just "catch up." Make your plans now to join us on May 22th – May 24th. We encourage you to come for the entire weekend as we are developing unique programming to reconnect with one another starting Friday evening. Mark your calendar, check your airline miles, call, or send a yearbook e-card to a roommate or friend. COME!!!

Classmates have offered to be responsible for the many facets of the program. We thank them in advance for all their energy, and enthusiasm. Following is the Reunion Planning Committee:

Welcome/Hospitality Chair - Nicole Gilbert Cote nlgbpc@aol.com

Saturday Night Chairs – Fran Blanchard & Amanda Swanson

franny.blanchard@gmail.com & ajswans@gmail.com

Booklet Chair - Emily Graves Ekg77bills@gmail.com

Costume Chair - Katherine Higgins Katherine.higgins@gmail.com

Name Tag Chair - Lessa Millard lessa.millard@gmail.com

Sign Chair - Deanne Ochoa-Durrell deannecarlos@hotmail.com

Reunion Co-Chair - Carrie Ruzicka Cruzicka77@yahoo.com

Reunion Scribe - Amanda Salb amanda_salb@yahoo.com

Program Chair - Katie Seamans seamans@gmail.com

Reunion Co-Chair - Damaris Rivera Woodbury dsrivera@aol.com

If you would like to lend a hand please contact a committee member. We appreciate any time you can offer.

REUNION HOUSEKEEPING

Questionnaire (Due: March 2, 2009)

Please consider completing the 10-question survey which will be available online soon. The data will help us put together parade signs.

Here is the link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=IgiUimVhZx86cmUcKSzW8Q_3d_3d

Attendance Survey Postcard (Due: December 15, 2008)

We'd like to survey classmates on their intentions of attending reunion. Feel free to include any kind of activity or program you'd like to see take place in the comments/suggestions area.

Nominating Committee

Our class Nominating Committee is developing the slate of officers to be elected at the Class Meeting during the reunion weekend. We'll share the results in our March letter. Meanwhile, if you would like to nominate a classmate (or yourself) please contact Caron Gentry at caron.gentry@pols.acu.edu. Nominations can also be made from the floor at our class meeting.

Fundraising

Our Head Class Agents, Chrissy O'Connor and Heather Alison, have recruited a gift team dedicated to raising money for Mount Holyoke in honor of our reunion. These classmates will be reaching out to you over the coming months reminding us of the importance of annual giving. The strength of the Annual Fund keeps the doors of the College open. Our class has set a goal of \$25,000 and 40% participation (about 180 gifts). Please consider helping us to reach that goal!

Chrissy and Heather are excited to report that we've already received over \$6,000 in gifts and pledges from our classmates. This doesn't include the conversations we've had with four others who plan to give at the Cornerstone [\$1000] level, so this places us well on our way to achieving our goals.

Costs

Please know that we are working to keep costs as low as possible. The Alumnae Association advises us that reunions average \$350 for the entire weekend and \$250 for Saturday only. The official cost will be announced early next year. We are very conscious of financial crunches and limits so we will do our best to pare down costs as we plan. The Alumnae Association does provide a prepayment plan to help you with your reunion costs! Please go to www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/go/reunion for the details and the form to apply. There is no fee for this service and the money is refundable if you have to cancel your plans to attend reunion. Questions about the prepayment plan can be directed to Stephanie Ganthier, Director of Finance at 413-538-2736 or sgonthie@mtholyoke.edu. If you'd like to inquire about financial assistance, please contact a Reunion Co-Chair.

Registration

Registration will be in March and you will be able to register on-line or in paper form. On-line registration is behind authentication so you need to be a member of the on-line community so your information will be protected. If you are not currently a member, now would be a great time to register. You will need the 9-digit security ID code that is printed on the mailing label of the reunion mailing and go to: <http://www.alumnae.mtholyoke.edu/connect/index.php>. Here you can register to become a member and read about the options available to you once you join.

Family Programming

The Alumnae Association offers a children's program through the StonyBrook Children's Center for children ages 15 months through 12 years. This program is run by certified teachers and takes place on Saturday from 2-9:30pm. The Center offers age-specific activities for the children such as swimming, crafts, coloring, campus walks, and more. This program allows you to spend time with your classmates during Saturday night's dinner while your children are involved in their own group activities. Reservations are on a first-come, first – served basis. Please contact Julie Ogg at jogg@mtholyoke.edu for more information.

There will also be family – friendly program events including rides on the MHC antique fire truck, bounce houses, face painting, tattoos, spin art and more.

For teens, the Teen Scene Program is for all students entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school the fall following the reunion weekend. The participants will have the opportunity to learn about life at MHC and the Five Colleges Consortium. The program runs from 1-9pm on Saturday. Space is limited so early sign-up is encouraged. Please contact Julie Ogg at jogg@mtholyoke.edu for more information.

We are truly privileged to have a Mount Holyoke education, and we warmly encourage you to come back to your alma mater on May 22nd – May 24th

Warmly,
Carrie Ruzicka and Damaris Rivera Woodbury

P.S. *A note from our Welcome/Hospitality Chair, Nicole Gilbert Cote-*

Your Welcome Back experience to MHC will include a “welcome bag” filled with light refreshments and other fabulous things. I wanted to give you an opportunity to help me fill it with items from your own business or organization. Perhaps you work for a cosmetic company or maybe you can offer products or discounts on merchandise or services from your own company. If you have your own business or work for an organization that would like to donate items for the bag, please contact me at NLGBPC@aol.com. The sky is the limit and we want to make these bags as special as possible. We're expecting approximately 135 '99ers and want to include the same items so please keep this in mind, but know we will accept donations of any quantity. I look forward to hearing from you!

MAKE SURE TO MEASURE SO THESE THREE PARTS EVEN FOR FOLDING

The Class of 1999
Mount Holyoke College
50 College Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

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The class letter. Everything you would learn at a round table and more.

Mount Holyoke College
Class of 1999

