

***How much are we alike? How are we different? And what can we learn from each other?***

## **Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Survey Results**

Information for the following class profile was tabulated from 215 surveys (61% of those receiving surveys in the fall of 2013).

***Where are we now? We've spread out! Many migrated south and west.***

**How far is your *current* home from where you lived in 1960 during your high school graduation?**

5% 0-5 mi    42% 100-500 mi    13% 1,000-2,000 mi    **16% live 0 - 100 miles from their 1960 home (parents)**  
 11% 6-100 mi    12% 500-1000 mi    17% 2,000-3,000+mi    **84% live 100 - 3,000+ miles from their 1960 home**

**Where we live now compared to our 1964 homes (parents):** *(see map on page 2)*

	<u>West</u>	<u>Central Midwest</u>	<u>South /Mid-Atlantic</u>	<u>New England</u>	<u>Foreign</u>
<b>In 1964</b>	17 (13 states)	39 (12 northern states)	14 (14 states + WDC)	269 (11 states)	12
<b>Now</b>	67	28	55	186	27

**I live here because:** 44% the area suits my priorities    33% close to children    30% down-sizing    22% climate  
 17% spouse's job    12% just always have    13% my job    7% affordable    7% close to family other than children  
 Other reasons I live here: Mountains. Ocean. Natural environment. Comfortable retirement. Can't face moving.  
 It's home. Inheritance. Liberal environment. My activities/groups. No hurricanes. Close to friends. Close to NYC.  
 It's easiest. His preconceived idea of *comfortable* from growing up in severe snow. I compromised. Long story.  
 Do you **love** where you live now? 60% yes    35% mostly    3% no    2% looking for a change  
 Do you own vacation property? 37% yes    4% plan to move to their vacation property full-time.

### **You and Your Family:**

***We keep spreading out - we from our parents and our children from us.***

**Are your parents living?** 90% neither are living    0.5% both are still living    8% just Mother    1% just Dad

**How far are/were you from your parent(s) in their last six months?**

21% 0-5 miles	15% 251-500 mi	14% 2001-3000 mi	<b>Median distance: 350 miles</b>
14% 6-100 mi	8% 501-1000 mi	12% 3001+ mi	
13% 101-250 mi	12% 1001-2000 mi	(Total is over 100% due to separated parents.)	

***Our children have chosen homes farther from us than we ended up from our parents.***

**How far away from you does your closest child currently live?**

22% 0-5 mi	6% 251-500 mi	7% 2001-3000 mi	<b>Median distance: 85 miles</b>
26% 6-100 mi	10% 501-1000 mi	3% 3001+ mi	
4% 101-250 mi	7% 1001-2000 mi	85% have at least 1 child	

**It was 750 miles before  
33% of classmates moved  
to be close to their child.**

**How far away from you does your farthest child currently live?**

1% 0-5 mi	8% 251-500 mi	15% 2001-3000 mi	<b>Median distance from our farthest child: 1,000 miles</b>
10% 6-100 mi	10% 501-1000 mi	10% 3001+ mi	
8% 101-250 mi	12% 1001-2000 mi	74% of classmates have 2 or more children.	

*Italics, underlining, and bold are used to emphasize an interesting observation or statistical significance or for emphasis in a quote.*

Survey design/writing, results tabulation, and preparation of these survey results by Jane Shilling Emerson.

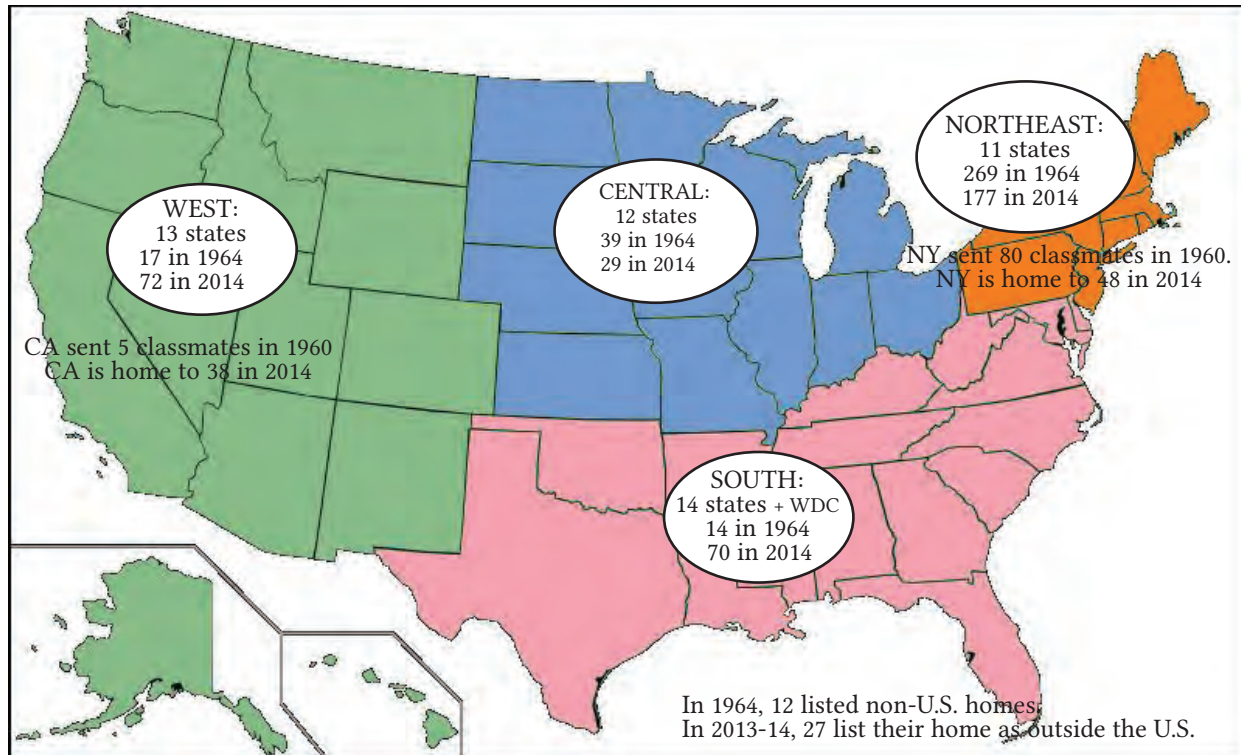
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*To all 215 classmates supporting this project by returning surveys, THANK YOU! And special thanks to those who wrote over-the-top responses in margins and on extra pages, and for the extra interest added by classmates whose names appear with their quotes.*

# Mount Holyoke Class of 1964

## Where We Live Now Compared to Where We Lived in 1964

*Many MHC '64 Classmates have migrated south and west in the last 50 years.*



Map by Wendy Lycan Jackson

*215 surveys from Class of '64 classmates indicate we live where do in 2013-14 because:*



- 44% the area suits my priorities
- 33% it's closer to my children
- 30% I moved to a down-sized home
- 22% climate
- 17% spouse's job
- 13% my job
- 12% just always have

Merely 6% are "great" at reducing household stuff.

Most (94%) of us seem to be effective at getting rid of stuff only when we move to a down-sized home.

How can we encourage each other to clean out stored excess?

### Marriage/Partnership and Family: Results are based on the surveys of 215 classmates.

97% of classmates have been married. 3% of surveyed classmates have never married.

37.5% refer to their current or past spouse/partner as a "soul mate" - half of these have been widowed, divorced and remarried, or are caretakers for their ill spouse.

Most classmates use other words to describe their current or past spouse:

32% "confused," "often clueless," "from a different planet"

54% "best friend" or "good company"

8% "a bad choice"

22% "all of these, depending on the day"

#### # of years of our longest marriage:

1-10 yrs 5% of classmates

11-19 yrs 11% " "

20-29 yrs 23% " "

30-39 yrs 14% " "

40-46 yrs 15% " "

47-50 yrs 32% " "

71% of classmates have been married only once.

52% are still married to their first husband.

6% are currently in a partnership with a man or woman.

26% have been married 2-4 times.

10% are widows and have not remarried.

35% have been divorced 1 or more times; 4% of these have also been widowed.

**85% have children: 2 children is the average.**

15% have no children (including most of the 3% who never married).

10% have children but no grandchildren.

54% help take care of grandchildren. Their average is 14 hrs/month and/or 2 wks/year.

**My household includes:** 28% myself only. 65% spouse/partner. 3% children. 1% parent. 3% other. 24% pet(s). 3% dating (one mentioned being on 60+ "first and last" dates using an on-line service).

Who cooks? 50% me. 37% both. 10% him. 3% other: People still *do* that? Don't notice it happening. Wendy's.

### Bucket Lists: Classmates' 850+ Bucket List entries basically boil down to *travel, family, time to . . . , and focused enjoyment.*

*To name a few:* More time with my children and grandchildren. More retirement time with spouse and other family.

Travel, travel, travel: to certain places, countries, continents; for certain activities and experiences; to specific sites or cultures.

Be a grandparent. Introduce grandson to downhill skiing & scuba diving. Resist weakening grandchildren by giving them too much.

Focus on remembering favorite moments, events, people, experiences, gatherings, realities, traditions, new beginnings.

Make decisions about retiring: when and where to move, by which child to move, into what kind of facility to move.

Time to get stuff and paperwork in order. Time for organizing personal photos, collections, genealogy, memoirs.

Time to learn to play certain instruments better, certain sports better, or further develop another particular skill.

Upgrade computer skills. Get back to writing. Get back to enjoying cultural opportunities. Try singing in a choir.

Take the stress out of my schedule and obligations. Get organized to be able to plan to do only things I enjoy.

Do a circular coast to coast driving trip visiting old friends, historical sites, and favorite national parks.

Find a partner. Take a trip to another country as a single on an organized tour. Overcome phobias.

Time to complete a particular project, accomplish a career goal, or attain an artistic goal.

More reading. Join a book group. Join a faith group. Form a gourmet club.

Find a course to make life more meaningful. Improve my second language.

See the Supreme Court finally hear and decide a particular case.

Distribute our assets where they will *only* be useful or enjoyed.

Live with a great view – inside me as well as out the window.

Lose weight and get physically fit. Learn to slow down.

Skydive. Vacation on a boat. See the national parks.

Reasonably plan and then enjoy the results.

Organize one more family reunion.

Develop the knack of *less is better*.

Enjoy others. Laugh a lot. Love life!

my spiritual group to  
 26  
 my estate has decreased in value  
 31  
 my estate has increased in value  
 still experience plenty of male chal  
 28  
 schedule more exercise routines cc  
 email more compared to 10 years :  
 try to simplify life or increase "free  
 would like to have more to do or v

38%  
 national politics  
 concern about world politics  
 30%  
 travel as much as ever  
 44%  
 take more meds and supplements  
 40%  
 take time for myself more

From "Decade comparisons" tabulations of first 100 surveys

## Certain Sad Realities

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**Some of the very sad and challenging realities of specific classmates** stated in surveys in response to “The Hardest Loss I have suffered is . . .”, and from other comments of classmates in their surveys.

Classmates or spouses with disabling illnesses requiring long-term caretakers or skilled care centers.  
Classmates surviving life-threatening surgeries and who have permanent disabling conditions.  
Loss of parents of classmates at young ages – including before and during our college years.  
Life-threatening anorexia, including the classmate who almost died while we were freshmen.  
33% of classmates who have or had 1-3 cancers (70 out of 215 surveyed – over twice the reported nat. average).  
Sexual abuse of 6 classmates – some when teens, destroying their ability to have children.  
Classmates’ lost time and extreme pain due to a horrible or long divorce process.  
Severe physical abuse by ex-husbands – requiring long hospitalizations.  
Lost years of classmates or their children to severe depression.  
Loss of a son or daughter by 8 classmates due to physical illnesses, addictions, or accidents.  
Classmates’ children with disabilities or addictions who must live at home or in institutions.  
Disabling mental illness of classmates’ children at birth or after being raped.  
Loss of grandchildren to adoption or to congenital conditions.  
Loss of spouses – their love, friendship, support, help, shared interests, and good company.  
Loss of supportive parents. We miss their understanding, unconditional love, and advice.  
Loss of our siblings and other close and cherished relatives.  
Loss of special friends including our 33 Mount Holyoke classmates who are deceased.

### How We Are Holding Up at 71-ish: *We’re young at heart. . . slightly older in other places.*

**Exercise** 20 minutes or more at least 3 times a week: 31% yes 6% usually 14% more than that! 7% I don’t  
Keep abreast with research on **nutrition**: 50% yes 6% no 26% by osmosis usually 6% I’m fanatic about it!  
30% have had reconstructive/plastic surgery: breast (post mastectomy), knee, hip, teeth, face, hearing, neck, nose, guess.  
33% of classmates have had or are dealing with 1-3 **cancers**: 36 breast, 32 skin, 4 thyroid, 3 ovarian, 2 colon, 2 lung.  
82% rated their **physical health** above average (7 being our class average score on a 1-10 scale).  
80% rated their **short-term memory** a 5 or 6 out of 10 in the surveys . *It’s an annoying reality for most of us.*  
90% rated themselves well above average for **mental health** (8 out of 10 if not counting short-term memory).  
Currently, our biggest medical complaint/condition is  
annoying for 54%      activity limiting for 24%      debilitating for 8%      14% no complaints

**Our Organ Recital** - Medical Complaints Mentioned Most Frequently:  
morning aches and stiffness, acid reflux, arthritis, back pain, hearing loss, hearing aid difficulties, high blood pressure, cancer and cancer recovery (breast, colon, lung, ovarian, thyroid, pancreatic, pituitary, skin, melanoma), diabetes, lack of energy, Parkinson’s, depression, bad feet, cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, heartaches and pain which limit normal activities, need for hip replacement, need for knee replacement(s), trouble remembering words and names - finally coming up with them long after they would have been useful, balance trouble, growing old, impatience, intolerance, pinched nerves, lousy memory, **insomnia**.



**Spending Time** past to future (**Bold** is used for emphasis, major topics, and the most frequently mentioned activities.)

**Paid work:** 8% still work full-time 14% work part-time 7% don't plan to retire 15% look forward to retiring  
 76% **retired from paid work.** 1% never worked outside home. Half working full or part-time are **self-employed.**

**What have been your major focus and/or career?**

- 70% **raising children**
- 67% **teaching/libraries**
- 40% mothering
- 31% homemaking
- 18% writing
- 14% consulting
- 14% law
- 13% travel
- 11% computer services
- 10% medical service
- 9% government
- 8% plant/tree maintenance/design
- 2% real-estate
- 2% finance/investing
- 2% adult care-giving
- other: grant writing, medical research, research writing, social work, tourism, physical fitness, retail, publishing, technology, banking, accounting, child care, religion

**Our most self-indulgent activities:**

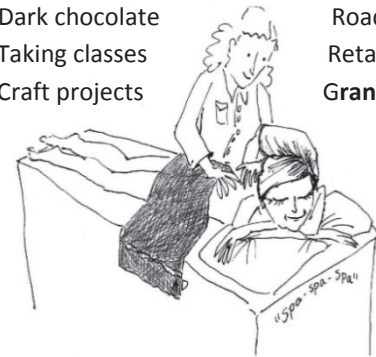
- Good movies & popcorn
- Newspaper and coffee
- Playing my instrument
- Special cultural events
- Enjoying the outdoors**
- Shopping for myself
- Savoring good food
- Leisurely showers
- Time with friends
- Excessive reading
- Artistic creations
- Woodland walks
- Creative sewing
- Gourmet dining
- Defying the diet
- Time to myself
- Dark chocolate
- Taking classes
- Craft projects
- Travel**
- Facials
- Singing
- Reading**
- Napping
- Snacking
- Hair care
- Junk food
- Fine food**
- Good wine**
- Eating out**
- Massages**
- Pedicures**
- Meditation
- Gardening**
- Vacationing
- Road tripping
- Retail therapy
- Grandchildren**

**More about Our Retirement (or not) Years:**

<b><u>We want to do MORE:</u></b>			<b><u>We want to do LESS:</u></b>	
Time to myself	Sewing	<b>Exercise</b>	Time in the box	Shoulds
<b>De-cluttering</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Friends</b>	Commitments	<b>Cooking</b>
<b>Creative arts</b>	Cooking	Movies	Volunteering	Fretting
<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Walking</b>	<b>Family</b>	Maintenance	Running
Discussing	Reveling	<b>Travel</b>	<b>Housework</b>	Whining
<b>Socializing</b>	Learning	Hiking	Paperwork	<b>Cleaning</b>

**Volunteer work:** Past and Present *We believe in it!*

<b><u>Average hrs/mo now:</u></b>		<b><u>Average hrs/mo at the peak of</u></b>	
0 hrs	27%	17%	our volunteering
2-6 hrs	20%	10%	(which may be now):
7-15 hrs	24%	21%	
16-25 hrs	16%	8%	20% of classmates volunteer <u>more in retirement</u> than before they retired.
26-55 hrs	5%	28%	75% volunteered <u>more in the past</u> than they do now - 20 hrs/mo average.
60-80 hrs	4%	4%	<b>73% of classmates volunteer now; our current average is 10 hrs/month.</b>
81-100 hrs	2%	8%	<i>We may be slowing down, but we're still making a positive difference!</i>
101-120+ hrs	2%	4%	



**Creativity**

**Do you consider yourself creative?** 60% yes 20% no 20% I don't, but others seem to think I am.  
 Currently, we believe time to be creative is: 52% essential 16% very important 22% nice 8% not important  
 Have computers improved or facilitated your creativity? 68% yes 26% no

**In what ways are you being creative these days?**

- 60% writing
- 58% volunteer work
- 52% gardening
- 42% crafts and fine art
- 32% caretaking
- 31% volunteer teaching: tutoring, grandchildren, in schools, elders, other adults
- 28% music; 17% choir
- 28% home
- 26% family support tasks
- 18% photography
- 13% group leadership or motivational speaking
- 8% clothing
- 5% youth programs

Some of our **solutions for making our lives more manageable/enjoyable:**

Make choices for your time along the lines of your priorities and what you most enjoy.  
 Do the things you like and can maintain a positive attitude while you're doing them.  
 Make lists, but occasionally drop everything and do what you want.  
 Get relieved of chores that can be done by volunteers or hired help.  
 Try to be comfortable with change that is necessary or positive.  
*Make progress* at chipping away at things needing to be done.  
 Let go of leadership when a new approach is needed.  
 Get priorities straight: relationships are important.  
 Be an "up" person and consistently pleasant.  
 Realize you can't and don't have to do it all.  
 Nurture loving family and loads of friends.  
 Get plenty of physically relaxing exercise.  
 Find something to laugh about every day.  
 Get rid of extras – live more simply!!!  
 Be aware of the viewpoint of others.  
 Reduce your level of volunteering.  
 Appreciate and enjoy all you can.  
 Step back from others' problems.  
 Be a good friend and neighbor.  
 Keep in touch with friends.  
 Spend more time at home.  
 Start early in the morning.  
 Keep a gratitude journal.  
 Reduce scheduled time.  
 Focus on the moment.  
 Dwell on the positive.  
 I learned to say "no."  
 Schedule down time.  
 Find a guru to help.  
 Revel with friends.

Reduce stress  
 Appreciate  
 Add music  
 Don't rush  
 Be patient  
 De-clutter  
 Prioritize  
 Meditate  
 Simplify  
 Exercise  
 Listen  
 Pray  
 Nap



What gives many of us **peace of mind:**

Recognizing my busyness is self-imposed  
 Having a will and health directives in place  
 Happily married children with thriving careers  
 Re-reading favorite personal cards and messages  
 Thinking I've made a nice difference for some  
 Eliminating distractions from my top priorities  
 Having reasonable ability to accept change  
 Good relationships with family and friends  
 Close relationships with grandchildren  
 Seeing my children with their children  
 Our children finally having children  
 My children's accomplishments  
 Appreciation for my wonderful life  
 Views of the mountains and ocean  
 Not letting the turkeys get me down  
 My view of our lake and its creatures  
 The gratification of landscape design

Knowing I have done my best  
 Praying while I do housework  
 Coping with where planted  
 Not thinking about politics  
 Forgiving myself of errors  
 Nature walks and sunsets  
 Enjoying what we have  
 My being conscientious  
 Discussions with others  
 Good health of family  
 Appreciative contacts  
 Devotion of husband  
 Finishing daily goals  
 A stable relationship  
 Surviving cancer  
 Gorgeous vistas  
 Safe arrivals

Joy  
 Yoga  
 Music  
 Poetry  
 Hiking  
 Family  
 Reading  
 Laughing  
 Gardening  
 Meditation  
 Devotionals  
 Good health  
 Grandchildren  
 Helping others  
 A safe place to live  
 Practicing gratitude  
 Thank yous with depth

## I Am So Glad I . . . More about Spending Time:

87% made the friends I did; 56% have kept in touch with MHC friends  
 80% have a sense of humor; 37% have lightened up  
 78% married whom I did (the 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> time)  
 78% usually eat right Several others said they “plan to.”  
 78% usually feel self-confident; 74% feel as capable as most our age  
 72% went to Mount Holyoke  
 73% take care of my body; *but* 51% want to lose lbs  
 72% retired (76% have retired; *some must still be getting used to it.*)  
 70% got another degree after MHC  
 70% travel(ed) while still able to carry the bags  
 68% enjoy hearing about the success of others  
 65% **like to garden**  
 65% **plan to keep traveling**  
 60% can comfortably speak in front of a large group if prepared  
 59% am the real me  
 57% picked the career I did  
 54% have self-discipline  
 48% am a news junky  
 44% stayed home with young kids  
 43% have all my children happily married or with a partner  
 37% lived where I wanted  
 34% **started learning to use computers before 1985**  
 27% pursued a hobby with a passion  
 24% left a bad marriage  
 24% developed skill in music/arts  
 23% changed jobs/careers  
 23% down-sized my home (30% moved to down-size; *perhaps not all happily so*)  
 18% am still working (out of the 22% still working)  
 14% moved parent(s) to a safer place  
 13% met my soul-mate after divorce  
 8% went back for an advanced degree 10-30 years after MHC graduation  
 4% admit powerlessness over a chemical addiction  
 3% recovered from being molested  
 3% coached a children’s team: soccer, tennis, softball, basketball, hockey



### Technology We Use:

40% cell phone	7% use no cell nor smart phone. 2% have no home computer (some use one at work)	
53% smart phone (iphone)	26% home computer shared by family	
15% Siri for smart phone questions	72% home computer for me mostly (not shared much by others), <b>used as follows:</b>	
40% digital books	98% email	22% playing games
40% digital camera	3% tweeting	3% other entertainment (not books, videos)
68% MP3 player (ipod)	32% Face Book	25% home record keeping
22% computers at work	30% weekly calendar	25% writing for publication
50% GPS while I’m driving	40% paying bills	67% other writing (word processing)
93% email for most correspondence	20% other business	30% weekly web surfing
	80% Amazon orders	51% organization of photos

**Average time on computers is 18 hrs/wk at home/work** (besides short-term projects or reading digital books).

Computer time: 1½% 0 hrs. 8% 1-2 hrs. 9% 6-10 hrs. 26% 11-15 hrs. 16% 16-20 hrs. 15% 21-30 hrs. 4% 35-40. 4% 45-60.

The tech innovation most frequently written for “other” was an **iPad** – mentioned by 10%.

## On the Go

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33% of classmates have lived in 1-4 foreign countries in the past (mostly soon after MHC graduation).

3-16 have lived in France, UK, Germany, Japan, Canada, Italy, Kenya, Iran, Australia, Brazil, Tanzania, Lebanon, or Denmark.

1 or 2 of us have lived in each of these countries: Austria, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, SKorea, Libya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Singapore, St Thomas, Switzerland, or Sweden.

Currently 27 classmates live abroad. 1-4 classmates live in each of the following: Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, England, Finland, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Guatemala, India, or Japan.

### The past 3-4 years, our travel has been

- 12% Frequent vacation driving trips.      6% I mostly spend my travel time at my vacation property.
- 26% Several domestic plane trips.      10% I'm frequently out of town to visit or take care of family.
- 14% About one nice vacation trip/yr      11% I don't travel much due to my health issues, money issues,
- 30% About one foreign trip/yr.      fear of flying, spouse's illness.
- 9% More than this - travel is "my thing" now!
- 17% My foreign travel is mostly Europe.
- 12% In particular, I enjoy the dramatic cultural differences of certain "emerging" (3<sup>rd</sup> world) countries.

### How many U.S. states have you visited? (9% have visited more foreign countries than they have U.S. states.)

7% 5-9 states	18% 22-38	10% 48-49	
18% 10-21	41% 40-47	4% all 50 states	<b>Average: 42 states</b>

### How many foreign countries have you visited?

11% 1-8 countries	15% 16-20	13% 36-40	1% 90+ countries visited.
32% 10-15	15% 21-30	4% 41-65	<b>Average: 18 countries</b>

**How many continents?** 8% 2    20% 3    24% 4    25% 5    12% 6    1% have been on all 7 continents.

### Where would you most like to visit for the first time? *Some may find traveling companions at the reunion.*

Frequently mentioned: Africa, Angkor Wat (Cambodia), Antarctica, Australia, Bhutan, China (with Hope), France, Greece, Galapagos Islands (Ecuador), Kenya, India, Ireland, Machu Picchu (Peru), New Zealand, Panama, Patagonia, Russia, Rwanda/Uganda (gorillas), Sicily, Tibet, Turkey, Viet Nam.

## Personal Accomplishments (past or current) which give us comfort, if not joy:

84% My children	44% Mount Holyoke degree	<b>other:</b> Overcoming fear of public speaking,
74% My good health	43% Creativity	being alone, mice, or odd sounds.
72% Enduring friendships	31% Surviving divorce	Living to my own satisfaction.
60% Being my own person	30% A strong faith	Overcoming feelings of inadequacy.
57% Home(s)	30% Lookin' good	Surviving an abusive religion.
56% Career success	26% Singing/playing an instrument	Surviving my demanding family.
56% Marriage	20% Gourmet cooking	"Once Mother died, I gave up guilt."
54% Physical fitness	14% Community beautification	Reconciliation of family out-laws.
54% Financial security	12% Surviving loss of a spouse	Reconciling friends/colleagues.
53% Family dynamics	4% Surviving loss of a child	Balancing career with a full family life.
51% Caring for others		Being known for my expertise.

*See the reunion handout for more survey results from "On the Go" and "Personal Accomplishments" responses:*

*Of all the places you have lived or visited, which is the one you would recommend classmates visit? Why?*

*What is a favorite part about trips/vacations for you? A more complete list of places classmates want to visit.*

*Accomplishments: which give us the most satisfaction or sense of accomplishment. Which depended on your creativity?*



## Currently We Do These (within the last 12 months):

### Activities the MAJORITY of us do:

96% **read for fun**  
 95% **recycle** paper, plastic, glass  
 86% **walk to exercise**  
 82% drive after dark (only 35% want to)  
 78% usually feel self-confident  
 74% go to concerts  
 73% do volunteer work  
 72% go to museums  
 70% garden  
 65% focus on family  
 65% plan to keep traveling  
 62% drink alcohol  
 54% do crossword/math puzzles  
 52% work at making new friends  
 52% think creativity time is "essential"  
 51% want to lose pounds

### Activities MANY of us do:

50% now volunteer 8-120 hrs/mo  
 48% play with kids  
 47% vacation with our children  
 45% belong to a sports/exercise club  
 44% get pedicures or massages  
 42% do needlework/crafts  
 41% do Pilates/yoga/tai chi  
 41% sense our time is bloody short  
 40% attend religious gatherings  
 37% go hiking  
 36% compost  
 34% have a theater subscription  
 32% lift weights for exercise  
 30% watch grandchildren play sports  
 30% cook a lot  
 30% live in a down-sized home

### Activities SEVERAL of us do:

29% speak a foreign language  
 27% bicycle: 16% stationary, 12% road  
 26% play a sport: tennis, golf, ski, swim, crew, basketball, soccer  
 25% write for publication  
 22% play computer games  
 22% have a boat  
 22% play cards  
 21% listen to children read  
 21% enjoy birding  
 21% mostly relate well with in-laws  
 18% sing in a group  
 18% do genealogy  
 16% keep a journal/diary  
 14% play piano  
 11% desire more friendship loyalty

A FEW of us do these: 6% go dancing, 2% go to races, 2% have a gun, ½% casino gamble, ½% smoke tobacco

## Comparing the past 10 years to the decade

### before, these now apply to our lives:

91% read more for fun (especially since retiring)  
 89% feel concern about national politics  
 73% eat less meat, 17% eat vegetarian mostly  
 73% have an estate that grew in value the last 10 yrs,  
 70% feel concern about world politics  
 68% are excited by life-long learning  
 67% email more than 10 yrs ago  
 63% increasingly realize the value of spouse/old friends  
 45% still experience plenty of male chauvinism  
 44% travel as much as ever  
 42% schedule more exercise routines  
 40% go to bed earlier  
 40% take more meds and supplements  
 35% want to drive less at night (but 82% of us still do)  
 35% schedule fewer activities to simplify life and increase "free time"  
 26% have an estate which has decreased in value the last 10 yrs  
 26% promote community beautification/environment preservation  
 25% donate to foreign countries experiencing calamity  
 18% work through a spiritual group to fund aid for people in need  
 17% do community service to benefit children and women in need  
 15% directly help homeless people in a shelter, serving meals, etc.  
 15% talk out loud to myself more  
 8% would like to have more to do or feel more useful or needed



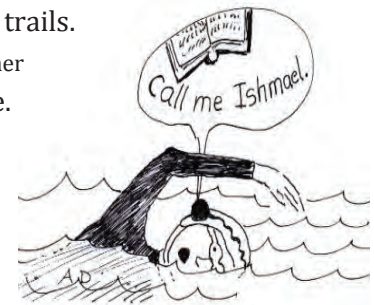
### Other current activities of Class of '64:

45% help take care of grandchildren  
 40% read for book discussions  
 38% have/had immediate family in military  
 38% provide financial support for children  
 22% provide financial support for grandkids  
 20% forward email humor

***Classmates' Notable Uncommon Situations/Realities/Experiences:***

*A period indicates the end of each person's comment. A line may include comments from several classmates.*

I find things possible that many consider not so. -Priscilla Morse Huston, who influenced the evolution of the Internet.  
 Had the honor of conducting a sweat lodge ceremony. Created the #1 rated children's museum in the USA.  
 Use a wetsuit to extend the Oct. swim season in VT. Use a spelunker headlamp to extend my gardening days.  
 Started programming computers in '64 when they were only in banks, insurance, very few schools, and gov't.  
 Took up playing the harpsichord four years ago. Have always done my own financial investing – successfully.  
 Feted son's 40<sup>th</sup> with his friends, Munich Oktoberfest.-Edie P. Mendez Helped start Americorps.-Catherine Milton Higgs  
 We now own steeplechase race horses in England; it's like being inside a Dick Francis novel! -Carol Nagy Theodore  
 Lived in different state when spouse: Held interim positions. Worked over-seas for months. Was in submarines.  
 Spent a year in small African village teaching with no electricity, no water, but with many delights.-K Taylor Trout  
 Help patients using hospital pet therapy.-Jeane S Samuelson Spent 61 yrs trail riding in Rockies at 10,000-11,000'.  
 Married, divorced, and remarried the *same man*. Tried internet dating at age 69 for 60+ "first and last" dates.  
 Recently remarried – at *this* stage of life!-C Li I'm a recovering alcoholic.-MPC I'm a Republican living in MA!  
 Travel alone in out-of-the way places in China for fun and to research material for my books. -Hope W. Justman  
 Taught HIV/AIDS in Africa (now in USA for Red Cross)-Susan S Hirst. 1964 volunteer in Mississippi.-Karen T Lord  
 Helped Mayan people reopen their solar temples and fulfill a prophecy in Mexico in 1995.-Jani Morrill  
 Started full-time work at age 61. Proficiency at scuba diving and boat navigation.-Betsy Wadt Mulcare  
 I did judo and now am doing circus aerial, acrobatics, and juggling on a unicycle.-Alice Ullman Dustin  
 Recently crowned queen of regional CA chapter of National Smooth Dancers. -Gee Gee Barden  
 Contributed to ending war, opposed apartheid, and promoted reproductive rights in NYC.  
 Effectively opposed the abuse of coastal environments and mountainous hiking trails.  
 Advanced the role of women in the Episcopal Church and beyond. -Sue Salot Gaumer  
 Son married a Vietnamese woman introducing us to Vietnamese life and culture.  
 Taught English in China to engineers; **now listen to books while swimming** .  
 Adopted an infant daughter from Peru which extends my Peruvian heritage.  
 Made two unassisted parachute jumps from planes at 3,000'.-Jane S. Emerson  
 Lived 25 years in Alaska. My job is designing distilleries.-Nancy Chamber Goff  
 Was on first name basis with several foreign heads of state.-Mary Lee Warren



*Summary of the less personal responses for*

**If I had the last 50 years to do over again, I would . . .**

**Speak up** more resolutely for social justice. Call people out for being arrogant, self-righteous, discriminatory.  
**Be less critical.** Learn sooner that it may be better to lie rather than hurt someone's feelings.  
 Overlook things that don't really matter. Trust my own judgment. Shoot off my mouth less. Dwell on positives.  
**Take charge** of my inheritance - not delegate. Learn to enjoy exercise. Clean less and take more chances.  
 Live in the mountains. Find a way for my work life to be outdoors. Leave Alaska sooner. Move to Alaska.  
 Work harder at trying to make my marriage last. Not marry whom I did, except our children are great!  
**Start sooner:** Laugh more.-Mona Marich Hanford. Dance sooner and more often. Play or sing with a group.  
 Start my avocation. Worry less. Be more brave.-Pam Kydd Jones. Play more and work less. Be nicer.-Lisa Lansing  
**Get help sooner** acknowledging the influence of depression. Get earlier help for addiction. Get sober sooner.  
**Parenting:** Listen better to my children. Be a more attentive parent. Not abdicate parenting to teachers.  
**Career: Be my own boss.** Be self-employed rather than working for someone else. Be the CEO; not his gofer.  
 Be more creative and adventuresome in choosing a career path. Get the degrees to be in charge at my job.  
**Friendship:** Nurture deeper friendships. Make more long-term friends. Stay in better touch with friends.  
 Lighten up sooner.-Lucia Baker Owen Retain friendships at a more active level. Make more time for friends.

*A few of the impressive influences and diverse changes created by classmates:*

Helping minority students reach their goals. Getting programs for gifted and talented installed in public schools.  
 Strengthened opportunities for public school students with special talents. Adopted distressed foster children.  
 Persuaded several school districts in WA to include the IB Program for bright, motivated students.-Jane Emerson  
 Created web designs for Boeing.-Wendy Jackson Lycan Promoted opportunities for girls' high school athletics.  
 Promoted local historic preservation. Fund-raising for and construction of a new town library.-Lisa Lansing  
 Raised my awareness of cultural differences by living in 10 USA states, Spain, Germany, and Columbia.  
*My children desire to support others.* Raised children who are making a difference in today's world.  
 Researched and wrote a book about getting along with daughters-in-law.-Beth Schnoll Krugman  
 Effected positive changes in justice systems of certain foreign countries.-Mary Lee Warren, JD  
 Opened young minds to the world and its possibilities. Improved student financial aid.  
 Brought about preservation of some sections of an ancient road in China.-Hope Justman  
 Installed a strong natural history education program in our community and state.  
 Fluency in four languages creates lots of cultural adventures.-Susan Bass Marcus  
 Enacted model legislation for child support payments from absent fathers.  
 Started MRI programs in CA including neurosurgical centers.-Chaney Li, MD  
 Promoted awareness of the studio glass movement.-Barbara Gorney Basch  
 Developed staff and enabled colleagues through a supportive attitude.  
 Am bringing younger people to AA. **Became an appellate judge.**  
 Helped calculate orbits for GPS satellites.



*We'd like people to say about us:*

Generous with her compassion, loyalty, joie de vivre, discretion. She's a great representative of humanity!  
 No one could ever fill her shoes. She is missed beyond imagining. The most capable person I'll ever know.  
 Committed. Persevering. Seeks opportunities to speak out about racism, people's rights, income injustice.  
 Gives her heart and resources to those she loves. Gives comfort to others and supports them in living life.  
 Her leadership brings out the best in others. Whatever the project, one always wants to be on her team.  
 She knows what she's talking about. Respected by all. Problem solver. Open-minded. Super-organized.  
 Incredibly effective at challenging children to be all they can be. Nurtures children's creativity.  
 The very best kind of friend - she remembers my noble thoughts and forgets my ignoble ones. Just. Honest.  
 Warm and gracious. Believes in others' strengths in her inspiring help and encouragement. Kind. Gentle.  
 Compassionate. Understanding. Forgiving. Loves those hard to love. Generous in spirit. Poetic. Creative.  
 Excites learning in students who then help friends to experience their enthusiasm. A stable influence.  
 Brightens the days of others - improving their lives. Funny. Clever and witty. Lives a genuine life.  
 Generous and knowledgeable. The best at it that anyone could hope to be. Makes it look so easy.  
 Great story teller. Makes us laugh. Terrific sense of humor. Clown ability. Fascinating. Fun. Ever joyful.  
 Reliable. A great role model for her children and those of other parents. Was there when I needed her.  
 Successfully challenges us to be more than we thought we could be. What an interesting life she had!  
 Makes the world a better place. Helps others from all walks of life. Cares enough not to remain silent.  
 Cares about knowing the right thing and follows what she knows. Welcomes expressions of individuality!  
 Her ready smile is always encouraging. Listens and really hears. Always does a good job and tries to grow.  
 Enthusiastic about positive thinking. Enjoys the game. Acts on her values - no lip service. Loves deeply.  
 Has great common sense but enjoys life to the fullest. Generously gives back to friends and the community.

*Throughout these Survey Results, when included, an author's name follows her quote. Statements without names lacked space on the line, were duplicates, composites, anonymous, or were from a classmate who wrote several responses to the question.*

## Classmates' Favorite Sayings and Pearls of Wisdom *Often, the initials or name of the classmate* 12

*submitting a saying are in italics following the saying, but the classmate makes no claim to be the author. Authors, if known, also follow the quote.*

Why not me? -*Jean Vnenchak* Things stop changing when you're dead. -*Chaney Li* It is what it is. -*Sue S Gaumer, after losing all in Katrina.*

Wisdom has two parts: 1) having a lot to say, and 2) not saying it. -*Mary M Biasott* The sun is up – let's sail! -*Betsy Wadt Mulcare*

The object of life, as I understand it, is to learn our possibilities, and strive to realize them. -*E J Harris* It's not about me. -*Kathie P Mack*

Don't wait long to recognize that kindness is one of the highest virtues. A mother is as happy as her unhappiest child. -*DM Bhagat*

No tomorrow should find any of us where we are today. -*EJH* One short poem a day will push you up. -*K O Minaguchi* Less is more.

In life you'll have both friends and enemies – the key is to be proud of both lists. -*DSC* Take time to smell the roses. -*K P Mack*

We leave traces of ourselves wherever we go, on whatever we touch. -*Lewis Thomas, Dee Wilson Nelson*

Don't waste resources fretting if there's nothing to be done about it. -*Karen A Chalfen* If everything changes, change everything.

Realize as early as possible: life is too short for anything but selfless love, a supportive attitude, truth, justice, caring for others. -*JSE*

You have brains in your head; you have feet in your shoes; you can direct yourself any direction you choose. -*Dr. Seuss, RL Christianson*

When you believe everything is finished, that will be the beginning. -*L. Lilmour, BRGrace* A misbehaving child is a discouraged child.

Maturity is the capacity to endure uncertainty. -*SD O'Connor, Pam Driscoll* In wildness is preservation of the world. -*Thoreau, M Judd*

It's wonderful what efficacy there is in trying just to *look* cheerful. -*Elizabeth J Harris.* It could be worse – we could be dead. -*FPM*

Whatever you can do or dream, you can begin it - boldness has genius, power and magic in it. -*Goethe, Marney Cody Komives*

The lion and the lamb shall lie down together, but the lamb won't get much sleep. -*Woody Allan, Lauren Heinbaugh Darling*

Just deal with it! -*Nancy G Scarborough's daughter.* When was the last time you did something you've never done before?

Life is what happens to you when you're making plans. -*Woody Allen* My mind is like a steel whatchamacallit. -*Marilyn Hofmann*

You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old. -*George Burns, Linda Schrank* Walk the spiritual path with practical feet.

If you were admitted to MHC, you have a reasonable amount of ability; if something needs to be done, you can and should do it. -*MHC chem prof*

This looks like we've been to the Three Stooges School of Management. -*KH O'Neil.* One small change could change everything. -*JM*

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. -*E Roosevelt, Ruth Hill* We all put our pants on one leg at a time. -*JSEmerson*

There is nothing so fatiguing as an uncompleted task – procrastination is attitude's natural assassin. -*Wm James* Do it today! -*NCGoff*

Concerning things out of your control, regret or misery is probably a waste of your time. Grief is inevitable; misery is a choice. -*JSE*

This is a nation – a world – badly in need of adult supervision. -*Peggy Noonan, BTChalmers* If it's important to you, 'be in the game!'

Even if I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree. -*Martin Luther, Judy Cudnik* There are no quick fixes.

Be careful about making a blunt, negative comment - that one ignoble one may overshadow the following 1,000 positive ones. -*JSE*

Everything takes longer than you think it will. -*Christa Sammons* If you're the smartest one in the room, find another room. -*CTheodore*

I measure my life by your presence, which your absence does not take away. -*GEB* Be the change you want in the world. -*Karen Trout*

Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good – luckily, this isn't difficult. -*C. Whitten, H Justman*

In the grand scheme of things, this disappointment may not be all that significant. -*JSE* Get over it. Debrief and turn the page.

The average person is stupid – and they breed, and they vote. -*Heather Wilcauskas* You learn nothing by talking; listen more! -*CNT*

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries; without them, humanity can't survive. -*The Dalai Lama, Marney C Komives*

If you take away the mistakes and the failures, you might also take away whatever it is that you love most. -*Jane Morrill*

Happiness is the art of making a bouquet of those flowers within reach. -*Chinese proverb, Gee Gee Barden*

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing. -*Barbara Dallinger Crowell*

### Your Current Mount Holyoke World:

#### ***If you feel your contact with classmates is minimal, you're not alone!***

1) With how many MHC classmates do you generally socialize in person within an average month?

**72% socialize with 0 classmates in an average month.** 9 classmates have no other classmate in their country.

8 classmates have no other MHC classmate living in their state of AL, AZ, DE, KS, LA, NV, WV, WY.

25% socialize with 1 or 2 classmates/month. 3% socialize with an average of 4 classmates in the average/mo.

2) Approximately how many MHC classmates have you had personal contact with since the last reunion you attended?

**54% have had personal contact with 0-5 classmates since their last reunion; another 20% with 6-10 classmates.**

<u>30% Scarce</u>	<u>24% Minimal</u>	<u>13% Okay</u>	<u>20% Good</u>	<u>8% Lucky</u>	<u>10% Socially Organized</u>
0 10%	3 6%	6 7%	9 3%	14-16 4%	25-50 9%
1 10%	4 6%	7 4%	10 4%	17-20 4%	55-100 1%
2 9%	5 12%	8 2%	11-13 5%	<b>Only 18% had personal contact with 14 or more classmates since the last reunion.</b>	

*Your Mount Holyoke World* – 210 classmates filled out this survey section; 5 (2.3%) skipped it.

The **amount of time we spent studying** as students at Mount Holyoke correlates with grades, honors and advanced degrees – *Funny how that works!!!*

Amount of time spent studying <i>The majority of each study group is in bold.</i>	Poor grades	Okay grades	Good grades	Graduation honors	Did you have limited friendships in college due to the amount of studying you did?		If you had it to do again, how much studying would you do?		
	4%	34%	36%	25%	24% Yes	76% No	8% Less	65% The Same	27% More
<b>Minimal</b> <b>1% of 210 = 2</b>	<b>100% of 2 = (2)</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	100% (2)	0%	50% (1)	50% (1)
<b>Less than most</b> <b>3% (6 classmates)</b>	0%	<b>100% (6)</b>	0%	0%	0%	100% (6)	0%	83% (5)	17% (1)
<b>About average</b> <b>32% of 210</b> (68 classmates)	4% of 68 = (3)	<b>62% of 68 = (42)</b>	25% (17)	9% (6)	4% (3)	96% (65)	0%	37% (25)	63% (43)
<b>More than most</b> <b>15% (32 classmates)</b>	3% of 32 = (1)	19% (6)	<b>66% (21)</b>	12% (4)	25% (8)	75% (24)	12% (4)	66% (21)	22% (7)
<b>A LOT!</b> <b>42% (88 classmates)</b>	3.5% (3)	21% (18)	<b>39.5% (35)</b>	36% (32)	34% (30)	66% (58)	8% (7)	86% (76)	6% (5)
<b>An inordinate amount</b> <b>7% (14 classmates)</b>	0%	7% (1)	14% (2)	<b>79% (11)</b>	64% (9)	36% (5)	36% (5)	64% (9)	0%

A total of 24% (50 out of the 210 classmates surveyed) felt they had a limited number of friends at MHC due to the time they spent studying. A total of 25% surveyed (53 classmates) earned graduation honors for their honors paper and/or over all grades. Note that 94% surveyed believe they studied the class “average” (32%) or more (64%). So only 4% did all the “less than average amounts of studying”???

**Study time amounts correlate with ADVANCED DEGREES,**  
but surprisingly not as much as MHC grades and graduation honors correlate.

% of Advanced Degrees earned in each study group	% of group earning an MA	PhD	JD	MD	RN
58% (39 people) of the “About average” study group	42% (31)	15% (10)	4.5% (3)	1% (1)	1% (1)
69% (22) of the “More than most” study group	55% (17)	10% (3)	10% (3)	3.5% (3)	0%
83% (73) of the “A LOT!” study group	73% (64)	12.5% (11)	8% (7)	3.5% (3)	1% (1)
93% (13) of the “Inordinate amount” study group	80% (10)	21% (3)	15% (2)	15% (2)	0%

For 210 classmates surveyed, **70% have earned advanced degrees** (147 classmates have 200 advanced degrees): 150 masters degrees (122 classmates); some have 2+ masters degrees plus a PhD or MD. 27 have PhDs, 15 JDs, 7 MDs, 2 RNs.

**The Class of 1964 notably uphold the MHC tradition of uncommon women who have been seriously interested in academics and prepared for professional careers!!**

**Skills we developed at MHC that still sustain us or give us a sense of well-being:**

- 57 Self-confidence.** Great self-confidence. Self-confidence in the face of male-chauvinism. Self-confidence to forge ahead when I know I'm probably right. A sense that I can both understand and do what I want to do. The feeling that women can do anything men can do. More belief in women. Self-confidence from doing well at MHC; and my high regard for MHC excellence significantly benefited my students and children. A confirmation of belief in myself and my abilities. -Mary Vic Giersch A certain confidence in my mind, thinking, and even writing. A sense that I am smart enough and capable enough to do anything I really want to do. -Jani Morrill. Belief and trust in myself. A "can do" attitude. Good grades and graduation honors gave me a sense of being capable in graduate school academics. Since I survived MHC, I can survive anything.
- 24 Research skills:** Learning to check out the source of "so-called facts." -Hope Justman. I can research anything. -Beth Krugman Analytic reasoning skills. Analytical thinking and cogent organization of argument or position support in court.
- 18 Perseverance.** I confirmed my inclination to respectfully persevere when I believe I may have a better idea. -Jane Emerson
- 16 Discipline** and focus gets the job done. -Sarah Mowitt. The discipline to work at a task until it is accomplished. -Lisa Wenzler Discipline in studying and then a sense of accomplishment for having completed work well. -Christi McDonald The discipline and solid work ethic to be academically successful in graduate school, and then "lucky" in life.
- 15 Good friendships.** Acquaintance with highly knowledgeable, talented, and wonderful women. Years of camaraderie. Better discretion re. choosing friends, regular good meals, being outdoors, and getting regular exercise. Being a good friend. *Human connections which, I believe, are essential to mental health as we age.* -Beth Schnoll Krugman. Developing close friendships. Being a good friend. The value of strong friendships with women of varied backgrounds. Organization and a sense of duty to others.
- 26 Writing ability:** Ability to analyze and write effectively. Ability to think and write. Ability to write clearly and succinctly. Realization: good writing is interesting, unambiguous ideas so clearly stated that almost any intelligent person can follow and understand them.
- 18 Nature and natural beauty:** Connection with MHC – it is a beautiful place to still be a part of and to remember. Memories of our picturesque campus. Appreciation of beauty in nature. Enjoyment of time alone in nature. A keen eye and love of natural beauty. Love of autumn and winter. Taking breaks from work or worry to walk in nature. Expansion of my interest in ecology from childhood through now. -Debbi Taft Perry The importance of being outdoors in a beautiful rural area. The value of older buildings, beautiful landscapes, and a sense of place.
- 24 Development of new fields of interest.** Enjoyment of birding (Miss Boyd). Interest to keep stretching, growing, and venturing into new things. Exploring topics and issues about which I know little; I still seek out lectures and experience that expand my knowledge. -Barb D. Crowell
- 51 Intellectual curiosity.** An education encouraging a broadened outlook from self-absorption to wider world thinking: from self-serving to liberal thinking. Not being alone in my intellectual curiosity and level of thinking, a match for my strongest values, and closest life friends. -Pam Kydd Jones MHC nurtured a life-long love of learning. -Barb Newmann Babb, Peace Corps building Mayan village stoves, master gardener, teacher. Never ending exploration. Love of learning. Need to be a life-long learner. Enjoyment of learning. -Marney Cody Komives A liberal outlook. Generally a liberal education. Thinking for myself – which eventually made me a Democrat. The joy of life-long learning. My curiosity and love of on-going learning. Love of learning new things. Tools to keep learning and developing new interests.
- 43 Ability to think at a higher level.** Capacity to learn new and difficult ideas. Ability to tackle tough problems. **Problems solving ability.** Ability to think more critically and organize anything. -Sue Salot Gaumer Independent thinking which has served me well in breaking the glass ceiling. -Deepti Mehra Bhagat
- 37 Deeper appreciation of an art form or other life interests.** Love of choral music. Love of beautiful music. Chorus. Greater appreciation of music through courses and participation in class choirs and glee club. Performing with V-8's helped reinforce my music and performance goals. -Marilyn Brainard Hoffman Singing with the V-8's. Art electives. My interest/love of art and music. My singing ability. Interest in visual arts. Interest in history, religion, and sociology. Love of literature. Exposure to early English writers and poets helps in reading the King James Bible.
- 48 Expanded self-awareness, help forming life skills and life goals.** I can get things done with enough hard work and working with others. -Jean Vnenchak. Women can succeed at any level in any field. -Mary W. Mayer MHC opened many doors. -MV Giersch A sense of who I am as a person. A sense of self and what I could do. A higher value for self-awareness. Pride in being a MHC grad - but also a sense of being over my head academically. Ability to do whatever I put my mind to do. Knowing I'm well-educated. Ability to be a leader. As Head of Freshmen & Hall Pres, I learned to lead meetings. -Georgia Smith Regnaults Awareness that given enough time, I could learn whatever was thrown at us by MHC professors; the problem was limited time to learn it. Personhood – the value of an individual and open horizons. -Edie Prentice Mendez, went to grad school 3 decades after MHC for a PhD in math. Ability to shift quickly from one thing to another. -Mary Ellen Scarborough. Intellectual honesty. Suppress the truth rather than hurt someone. MHC pride: Realization (comforting to me) that the longer you're at a place, the more confident you get; I'm proud to be a MHC alum. Pride in being a 64' grad when MHC was known for science excellence, and admittance was rigorous because it required SATs & top grades. Knowledge & skills that led to a successful clinical microbiology career with respect and appreciation for my knowledge/experience. -G. Barden A sense of pride and accomplishment in reaching my goal of preparing myself to teach – which led to a 30-year career that was very fulfilling. Awareness of how little I knew. Being myself and hardly thinking about how men view me. Ability to listen to arguments and sort out the truth.



*Comments of several classmates may be on the same line; a period indicates the end of each person's comment. Certain comments were in several surveys. The number preceding each topic in bold is the number of classmates quoted on that topic. Often the topic itself is the comment in one or several surveys.*

## Putting Things In Perspective

<i><b>Our Current Self: The Real Us</b></i> on a scale of 1-10 <i>The <b>average</b> score for each category is <b>bold</b> in a light gray cell</i>	Not so Good 1-2	Below Average 3-5	Doing Okay 6-7	Good to Great 8-9	Just Where I like it 10	% Above Average 6-10
Being in charge of my discretionary time	2%	30%	<b>33%</b>	20%	15%	68%*
Recycling plant/kitchen waste – <i>Our poor showing.</i>	51%	<b>8%</b>	16%	13%	12%	41%
Recycling paper, glass, metal – <i>Our redeeming priority!</i>	4%	12%	20%	<b>37%</b>	26%	83%*
My own financial security – <i>Results of both luck &amp; hard work.</i>	4%	25%	<b>38%</b>	18%	15%	71%*
Financial security of my children	5%	34%	<b>41%</b>	14%	6%	61%*
Time with children/grandchildren	14%	33%	<b>33%</b>	11%	9%	53%
Babysitting of grandchildren	15%	20%	<b>23%</b>	16%	16%	55%
Mental/physical health of my spouse/partner	10%	25%	<b>52%</b>	11%	2%	65%*
My typing (keyboarding) skill – <i>We're good at this!</i>	3%	23%	<b>32%</b>	27%	15%	74%*
My tech savviness - <i>Is inferiority intervention needed?</i>	19%	<b>43%</b>	30%	7%	1%	38%
Meeting my major life goals – <i>This is a telling item!</i>	2%	18%	<b>59%</b>	15%	6%	80%*
Reduction of household stuff – <i>A daunting challenge.</i>	39%	<b>35%</b>	20%	3%	3%	26%
Flexibility about change and new ways to do things	1%	34%	<b>50%</b>	10%	5%	65%*
Getting plenty of laughs – <i>A healing or fun choice.</i>	5%	34%	<b>36%</b>	15%	10%	61%*
My mental health not counting short-term memory - <i>Average 8 is great!</i>	1%	8%	38%	<b>43%</b>	9%	90%*
My short-term memory – <i>A concern of most.</i>	1%	35%	<b>50%</b>	12%	2%	64%*
Mood (only infrequent mood swings)	1%	15%	<b>47%</b>	27%	10%	84%*
My physical health – <i>More good news!</i>	2%	16%	<b>50%</b>	25%	7%	82%*
My physical endurance or balance stability	4%	31%	<b>45%</b>	18%	2%	65%*
Aging gracefully (considering all the above)	1%	15%	<b>51%</b>	24%	9%	84%*
Concern about inaccuracy of newscasting – <i>We're VERY concerned!</i>	<b>51%</b>	27%	7%	1%	3%	11%
Frustration with nat. politicians who don't vote the way we would	<b>65%</b>	24%	4%	1%	2%	7%
My sex life – <i>Ya' win some and ya' lose some.</i>	40%	<b>34%</b>	20%	5%	1%	26%
My life as an "uncommon woman" – <i>Thank you MHC!</i>	3%	26%	<b>40%</b>	20%	11%	71%*

\*Asterisks identify the 16 most important above categories.

**Summary:** See the far right column for the % of the class rating themselves above average (total of 6-10 scores for each category). In all 16 of the most important categories, 61-90% of classmates rate themselves above average. **This suggests a large majority of classmates are doing well.**

These statistics can also be useful to an individual classmate in getting a sense of how she is doing in various areas of life relative to other classmates, and how much classmates can differ.

The fact that more classmates did not score themselves a 9 or 10 in most categories and almost all gave themselves 2 or 3 below average scores, may indicate that in general they tried to be straight-forward and realistic about themselves. **This is critical in creating an authentic and useful class profile.**

Regarding the 6 categories which have below average scores for a **majority** of the 215 surveys: 1) We admit doing poorly at recycling kitchen waste, but we do GREAT at the recycling which has a far bigger impact on the environment. Surveys consistently indicate that preservation of the environment is important for the vast majority of classmates.

2) It is notable that all but 8% of the class rated themselves lower at being technically savvy compared to their typing skill (which was one of our best categories with 74% of classmates well above average). The 8% who rated themselves high for technology include a software engineer, a database manager,

software research analysts, a supervisor of Boeing computer support, computer testers and teachers, and computer manual writers. Several other classmates who had careers in computers (such as their own successful computer business) or spend 40+ hrs/ wk on computers rated themselves a 7 or below. Perhaps a lot of us feel shy about our computer skills because we think about all we don't know rather than about all we have learned and all we *can* do using computers. To help put this in perspective, think about what you can do using computers compared to your parents.

3) Reduction of household stuff is a serious concern of the 74% surveyed who rated themselves with a below average score. Only 6% of classmates indicate good progress here besides some of those who have already moved to down-sized homes.

4) Regarding low satisfaction ratings for sex life (the average score of those surveyed is 4), it is unclear if classmates wanted to be more satisfied more often, or just weren't engaging as they had and this is fine with them! *Enough said.*

5-6) The concern and frustration over politicians' votes and the inaccuracy in newscasting is *extreme* for the vast majority of classmates whether they are conservative, liberal, or both. These statistics, others relating to political issues, and many, many survey responses and gratuitous comments filing the survey margins (which are fascinating to read!) indicate that most classmates follow news with high interest and resulting strong political views as well as organized political actions.

## Classmates' Definitions of "Uncommon Women" of Our Era:

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*Many are insightful and inspiring. One would like to think we have lived up to them in our mindsets and actions.*

Older and smarter than we look. -Margaret Fiddesof Breitwisch

Believing we had equal rights even when we didn't. -Carol Nagy Theodore

Being the boss rather than an employee and daring to be "different" in thinking outside the box despite opposition.

Confidently and effectively creating new solutions while encountering confining, outdated traditions. -Jane Shilling Emerson

Raising children to be assets to the world as promoters of positive change while being kind and generously supportive of others.

Able to assess a problem quickly, and then quietly take the steps to improve the situation. -Steven LaRocque, partner of Kathie Mack

Having the self-confidence to be more independent than our mothers in forging new trails for women in our *own way*.

Being smart, capable, and knowing it in not allowing society to keep women down. -Jani Morrill

Successfully transitioning – feeling comfortable with evolving conditions. -Barbara Resnek Flesch

Following their own way in blazing their own unique paths to a full life. -Virginia Smith Bornholdt

Being especially adaptable in reinventing themselves several times. -Marilyn Ursu Bauriedel

*Changing the future of others* by helping children and being of service to the community.

Wanting to excel in an era when that was not greatly encouraged. -Mary Ellen Scarborough

Living confidently with purpose and believing in possibilities. -Marney Cody Komives

Standing up and being counted for what one knows is right although not popular.

Being independent feminists before it was part of the culture. -Lucia Baker Owen

Open to possibilities in a changing world; game changers. -Molly Bowditch Jones

Confident and willing to take chances to try something new. -Mary Lee Warren

Intellectually curious, masters of life-long learning, and facilitators of change.

Able to "hold their own" and stand up for their beliefs. -Meredith Dobyns, MD

Standing up for what can improve the lives of those being treated unjustly.

Believing in their ability to grow and help others. -Nancy Grover Scarborough

In the vanguard of women's rights and employment. -Alma Taylor Laththrop

Persevering and breaking into a male dominated society. -Chaney Li, MD

Thinking for themselves and beyond the present. -Hope Whitaker Justman

Having a lot to adjust to and rising to each occasion. -Mary Jane Higgins

Being great women who rise to great heights. -Deepti Mehra Bhagat

Self-starting and being their own person. -Barbara Standley Worden

Growing and blooming wherever planted. -Georgia Smith Regnault

Riding the cusp of feminism and doing it well. -Sue Salot Gaumer

Thinking outside the box and going there. -Priscilla Morse Huston

Pushing the envelope with gracious but persistent capability.

Caring and accomplished in many fields. -Edie Prentice Mendez

In the forefront of the women's movement. -Mary Vic Giersch

Taking education seriously and using it to make a difference.

Intellectually curious and willing to venture into new things.

Not giving up when challenged. -Josephine Bennett Domingues

Bright, energetic, connected, involved. -Betsy Wadt Mulcare

Ground breakers – bridge makers. -Jeane Stewart Samuelson

Pursuing ideas they believe are right. -Priscilla Morse Huston

Smart, independent, and interesting. -Gretchen Wuth Hays

Energetically focused on making a significant difference.

More independent than our mothers. -Susan Bass Marcus

Between the traditional 1950s and the liberated 1960s.

Having the courage for a strong sense of adventure.

Interesting and interested. -Ellen Manfredonia Nutter

Being a boss, not the secretary. -Sue Wolfe Lauffer

Achievers without saying so. -Sarah Allen Mowitt

Taking education seriously. -Alice Ullman Dustin

Ready for change in the 60s and well beyond.

Multi-faceted, capable, and determined.

Brave and self-aware. -Pam Kydd Jones





## Politics and Issues

**How we voted the last couple of years:** 6% Republican 90% Democratic 2% about half R and half D  
3% conservative 36% liberal 1% Libertarian 1% Tea Party conservative 14% flaming liberal 3% don't vote much  
Because of politics, 38% of us choose to spend time with certain friends and not others; 61% don't

**In 2012, for President we voted:** 7% Romney 91% Obama

**Our likely vote for President in 2016:** 6% Republican 73% Democratic 51% Hillary, if she runs  
4% Not sayin' 12% I really don't know. 1% Other



### Issues supported by a majority of classmates:

- 1) 96% Stronger gun reform – background checks, etc.
- 2) 95% Choice for women
- 3) 94% Equal rights for gays
- 4) 94% Stronger environmental laws
- 5) 90% Marriage for gays
- 6) 84% Taxing the top 1% more
- 7) 84% Alternative fuel development, less oil dependence
- 8) 83% More funding for public schools
- 9) 78.5% Single-payer national health care
- 10) 77.5% More medical support for vets
- 11) 77% Helping illegal immigrants: green cards, learn Eng.
- 12) 68% Euthanasia for terminally ill who request it
- 13) 64% Over-turning “corporations are people”
- 14) 64% Stronger controls on oil drilling

### Issues we call “PASSIONS”:

- 1) Choice for women
- 2) Stronger gun reform
- 3) Taxing the top 1% more
- 4) Stronger environmental laws
- 5) Equal rights for gays
- 6) Marriage for gays
- 7) Single-payer nat. health care
- 8) Over-turning “corps are people”
- 9) More funding for public schools
- 10) Alternative fuel development
- 11) More medical support for vets
- 12) Euthanasia for terminally ill requesting it
- 13) Stronger controls on oil drilling
- 14) Helping illegal immigrants



**Our support of the other issues:** 26% The “occupy” movement in general. 11% Huge fines for employing illegal immigrants. 6% More money for military. 7% Relaxing environmental laws. 6% school vouchers. 3% “Drill, Baby, Drill” U.S. oil drilling. 2% Deporting illegal immigrants. 2% Prolife/antiabortion. 1% Less funding for public schools. 1% “Corporations are people.” 1% NRA efforts, less gun control. 0% less help for gays.

### Real Concerns of classmates (in the order most frequently mentioned in this section):

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1) Our widening income gap 91%    | 7) Bias of Supreme Court justices 58%  |
| 2) The power of the gun lobby 85% | 8) Oil fracking 47%  |
| 3) Global warming 76%             | 9) Capital punishment 40%  |
| 4) Reproductive rights 70%        | 10) The national debt 36%  |
| 5) Civility in discourse 64%      | 11) Trend toward electronic communication (rather than person-to-person contact) 35% |
| 6) Political gerrymandering 60%   |  |

72% are VERY concerned about accuracy in newscasting.

85% are VERY frustrated about the way national politicians vote.

51% have participated in a protest – most commonly concerning above “passions,” anti-war options, racism, and social justice issues such as help for the impoverished, disabled, and our other most fragile citizens.

12% are willing to be arrested to promote a certain cause they support.

## Classmates' Comments about Gender Differences:

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### What do you notice about the current differences in men and women's interests or the way they think?

*Warning: Comments are often brutally straight-forward.*

#### Multi-tasking and broad thinking:

Women tend to say, "Yes we can!" Men are less inclined to "Just do it!" Men are more single-minded and power driven.\*  
Women are broad thinking and inclusive; men are channel-focused and often impatient when reminded about relevant details.  
Women are more aware of others' needs, spoken or not; men seem to be more self-absorbed – even around young relatives.  
Women are more cooperative and consensual. Men are more competitive and less likely to work toward consensus.  
Women think more globally and have multiple interests and pursuits. Women can multi-task; men can't.  
Women are collaborative and want *everyone* to win. Egos get in the way of men reaching compromise.  
Women are more organized and can juggle more for *all* concerned.  
Men really *can* think about nothing.



#### Relationships, friendship, and feelings:

Men seem more pragmatic; women tend to be more emotional.  
Women seem to value, need, and nurture friendships more than men.  
Women spend more time than men thinking and talking about relationships and feelings.  
For our generation, men don't care to talk much about their thoughts and feelings; women do.  
Men seem to have less need to socialize than women. Men are more introverted and less needy of close social contacts.  
Women like sharing feelings, emotions, and information about who is doing what; men prefer to play and talk about sports.  
Women depend on and share with their female friends; men aren't comfortable with similar connections with other men.  
My husband would rather use the restroom during the Passing of the Peace in church rather than greet others in the pew.  
Women are more able to share their worries without expecting suggestions or solutions. Men want to fix discussed concerns.  
Women like to talk more and feel better after sensing empathy or understanding. Men want solutions without much discussion.  
With the exception of most spiritual leaders, it seems that men are less attentive to the interests or concerns of their friends.  
Men want frequent appreciation and consistent compliance; women want unquestioned loyalty and respectful discussion.  
More than men, women focus on relationships, the feelings of each individual family member, and on social activities.  
Men hate conversations about emotions or feelings, problems they can't solve, and questions they can't answer.

#### Sensitivity and focus:

Women are more nurturing and focused on their household. Women are more responsive to individual concerns of family.  
Women are far more generous with their time for others; men are quite content to write a check rather than give of their time.  
Mothers would do well to insist their little boys learn to cook, be tidy, listen to others' feelings, and decipher others' emotions.  
Achievement is the "end all and be all" for men. Successful career identity is a bigger deal for fathers than for working mothers.  
Women are more independent, more willing to take travel trips without a partner, attend social events or shop alone.  
We're more similar than we were. The last 50 years have changed things; men are more considerate of women now.  
My husband is from the 'old school'; our sons are much more participatory in their marriage and family's lives.  
Women are better able to define themselves beyond their profession, thus they're happier in retirement.  
Men are more impatient and take more physical risks. Men are more dense in some ways, less alert.  
Men can be quite definite and yet indifferent about what others may want or need.  
Men are less aware of others' needs (with a few exceptions – I know of two).  
Females tend to be right brained and males more left brained.



#### Interest in contact sports and violence:

Men like watching football or hockey violence and enjoy player fights more than women.  
Women in general dislike violence, fighting, and other unfriendly, unsportsmanlike behavior.  
Men enjoy rough contact sports more. So many men enjoy brutal violence in movies as well as in sports.  
Most men seem jealous of my husband's garage/workshop that he built for his "big boy toys"; women aren't.  
Men don't understand that parenting does not end with conception, or that the weekend and sports are not synonymous.  
Men are more direct, like action movies, and are more into competitive contact sports. Too few like ballet, opera, and poetry.

*\*A period signifies the end of one classmate's comment. A line may include the comments of two or more classmates.*

## Classmates' Advice for Helping Young Children and Grandchildren

**Model that your children and grandchildren are your top priority.** Let children know that they are highly valued.

If you show them they are loved, most children turn out well in spite of your mistakes.

If children perceive that you are *on their side*, they will be much more likely to follow your directions and to tell you the truth.

What they remember from childhood is what they model themselves as adults. Love them; accept them; love them.

Teach by example. Actions speak louder than words. Teach compassion by example. Children learn through repetition.

Children hear most clearly what you say to other children. You may have less influence than you think.

What you model to children is more effective than what you preach to them – including the amount of time spent on TV and reading, making food choices, being truthful, feeling good about working hard and doing a job well, the importance of spiritual growth, and doing what is right such as being honest, kind, compassionate, and helpful.

**Listen carefully** for underlying concerns of children. Talk to them as real people. Show dislike for bad actions – not for the child.

Give understanding feedback so children know you heard them – although you may not agree with them.

**Affirm their feelings.** A feeling is whatever it is – appropriate or not. The lesson: how one learns to react to their feelings.

React to the action or product of a young child with “Nice job!” or “Good effort!” – not “Good boy!” or “That’s a nice girl.”

**Let children/grandchildren make mistakes and learn to recover.** **Patience** is the most important teaching quality.

Teach with the awareness that if one is *not* making mistakes, they probably are not being challenged enough.

Help a child to be comfortable with *honest* mistakes - with you *both* accepting that they are natural and appropriate in learning.

You can’t use *your* experience as a parent to spare all mistakes of your children/grandchildren. Failure can be a learning tool.

It’s often better not to bail out children from consequences. “No pain, no gain” *is* realistic in learning to deal with challenge.

Help children to be self-sufficient. Once your kids are on their own, trust them to figure out important issues for themselves.

**In helping children to be self-disciplined, coachable, and the best they can be, provide unconditional love and clear direction.**

Consistency is soooooo important in helping children **to learn to follow directions and thus to develop self-discipline!**

Children will be more “coachable” (willing to try your suggestions), if they’re convinced you are working for their best interest.

Encourage children all the time to do what is right, to follow appropriate directions, to consider likely results of their options.

*Self-discipline is key* – in the sense of making yourself do what you know would be best *whether you want to or not*.

To develop skilled, self-disciplined students/children, always make love/respect heard in your voice, listen and respond so they *know* you heard them and have tried to understand their point of view; then make expectations challenging but doable.

*Insist they follow directions* so they master the skill of listening and being willing to try instructions for improving academically, in sports, music, and in learning to determine right from wrong and wanting to do the “right” thing for all concerned.

Give a young child choices so they feel more invested in what they are doing – but make all choices healthy and constructive.

Help children *keep their options open* (by avoiding addictions and by not quitting when things get tough – guaranteed to be a challenge in helping middle school students); so as hormonal driven adolescence wanes and maturity finally kicks in, they still have a good chance of success in pursuing their interests, developing their talents, and reaching their goals.

Opportunities like piano lessons or swim team for young children can help them prove to themselves that willingness to work hard at doing quality practice (and probably *extra* minutes of piano practice or many *more* laps than other swimmers) **WILL** improve their skill level and sense of accomplishment. Proving this for themselves promotes self-discipline and a “can do” attitude for other pursuits - as well as promotes that all-important peer approval. *Stress skill improvement* – not winning.

**Priorities:** Limit distractions for children (such as giving them too much) so they have a chance to focus on their top priorities.

Nothing promotes peer approval better in adolescents and teens than being outstanding in a skill valued by their peer group.

In helping children to enjoy sports and develop good life skills, emphasize improving skills, fair play, being a dependable team player, and doing the best they can do so they will feel good about their individual effort - whether they win or not.

Don’t expect a serious student to do their academic best if you impose distractions on them - such as a job to feed (finance) a car or pay tuition, time out of school, distracting electronic gifts, too much money, family chores, or extra trips home.

Taking children out of school (for vacations, skiing, to play with *your* toys), delivers the message, “School isn’t *that* important.”

As long as a child is making very good use of your investment 1) by *making choices* that promote skill in their academic passion that will lead to an honorable career supporting them in a lifestyle they’d like, 2) *are keeping their body and mind clean* (regarding drugs, sex, exercise, avoiding regret, enough sleep), and 3) *are doing the best they can academically* and taking advantage of other positive school opportunities, try to pay all their student expenses if you want them to stay in school.

## After helping aging parents, things we want to be sure to do or not to do as we age: 20

**Stay physically strong and as flexible as possible; simplify home and stuff; nurture younger friendships.**-Mary Wegner Mayer

**Decide now what you'll do if you can't live alone.** Decide now who will direct your best interests. A word about giving adult children advice: don't. I'll NEVER give up my home or independence! Try not to distrust but to accept help graciously. Worry less, but plan carefully for the end of life. Live in a community in my 80's and up so I have company and help. Move before you have to. Be sure to keep communication open about my feelings, preferences, health, and finances. Accept that others may be able to better assess my capabilities than I can. Mend fences.



**Get rid of unnecessary things.** Clear out the house and move to a retirement community. Downsize, don't get isolated from others, ask for help when needed, be supportive and pleasant. Go through stuff: collections, files, papers, and photos leaving *only* what might interest our children. Clean out closets, storage areas, and drawers so our children could easily get the house ready to sell.

**Stay active, keep learning new things, develop a hobby/activity that absorbs my interest and provides a sense of creativity.** Maintain interests. Keep up with what's new. Get out of yourself: be interested, share reading with a child, help in a school. Distract yourself from feeling sorry for yourself by keeping handy photo albums of your favorite people and fond memories. Make new friends so you end up with supportive younger friends and do not require too much of your children. A supportive attitude and interest in others keeps one young. I've become afraid to walk around after falling. Old age occurs when you stop helping others. Try to be comfortable with change that is necessary or positive. Live in a place which offers lots of intellectual and cultural stimulation. Don't be cheap about hobby supplies. Take the most rigorous trips on your Bucket List while you're still mobile and can carry your suitcase.

**Stay independent** and resist sounding helpless. Don't wait too long to get hearing aids – not being able to hear is isolating. "Death with dignity" could be a choice if I'm aware of severe mental/physical deterioration. I'd rather not live with dementia. I'll take ending my life into my own hands if my health goes. I've instructed my daughter to shoot me when I start dithering. I plan to end my life if I get an awful diagnosis. I do NOT want to prolong my life in any way! If my brain is gone, unplug me.

**Don't be self-absorbed. No complaining or whining.** Find three things to be grateful for in each day. Replace complaining and self-absorption (which are boring and bad company) with being an asset to others. Model a zest for enjoying others. Don't take frustrations out on those you love the most - even though they politely allow it. Don't criticize your children/grandchildren out of *your* need to feel useful to them like you were when they were younger. Try to stay positive (not so easy when considering one's inevitable mortality). Don't nit-pick. Choose to live a joyful heart. Don't talk aches and pains. Don't catalogue bodily functions. Keep bitching to a minimum. Don't prattle on about yourself. Accept life as it evolves – this was a huge blessing from my mother to me. Be a cheerleader about the success of others. Continue to make a difference and leave the world a better place by encouraging young people when they think outside the box, consistently work hard, are kind and considerate of others, and focus on skill development toward excellence. The frustration of having more and more difficulty walking, seeing, hearing, and remembering often makes the aging feel helpless – and they often feel their only options are to be grumpy and blame others. Resist this natural tendency!

**Have affairs in legal order. Use a "wills and estate" lawyer to help make things fair for your children.**

Don't leave property like a vacation home to more than one child – it always creates hard feelings over maintenance. Be careful in your legal will not to create discontent among children by leaving more or better stuff to one of the children. Organize photos, estate finances, your will (including charitable donations), and end-of-life medical preferences (living will). Be wary of whom you trust with investments - even a son. Realize that all caretakers eventually steal from those in their care. Leave your children written instructions about the value of possessions. Don't worry about old age – it doesn't last that long.

*Summary of our common goals for our own aging which we've learned from helping our aging parents:*

**Good paperwork, independence, less stuff, learning, relationships, helping others, no complaining.**

And remember this response to impatient or hovering children: "Don't try to improve me; just love and tolerate me."

## What's Really on the Minds of Classmates!

### And They Hope These Topics Will Be Discussed at the Reunion.

Six specific concerns and discussion interests are mentioned by the majority of classmates throughout the surveys. The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion program committee has drawn on these in planning discussions at the reunion - some with speakers and several discussions with '64 moderators.

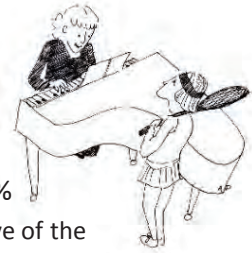
- 1) **Aging gracefully** - coping with aging and maintaining whatever we still have.
- 2) **Reprioritizing** to accommodate retirement changes and opportunities, increasing family mobility (including moves to far away areas), and maybe slowing down a little but still solving problems.
- 3) **Downsizing**: 70% surveyed do not "live in a down-sized home," and more need to clear out stuff.
- 4) **How to improve our peace of mind in our 70s and in retirement** - which may include reprioritizing, organizing paperwork, getting "stuff" more manageable, dealing with the loss of career identity, making new friends, keeping relationships enjoyable, dwelling on the positive, and helping others.
- 5) **Effective coping with change** and living in a rapidly changing world.
- 6) **Coping tips for losses and for common family challenges** of 71-ish "uncommon women" used to being fiercely independent, feisty, caring, intellectual and well-respected for expertise in various areas (careers, raising families, avocations), and who are still very active learners and leaders.

**The top 10 common activities the majority of us share:** Our families are the **#1** most mentioned common interest. **#2** 96% reading for fun. **#3** exercise/sports participation: 86% by walking, 40% yoga/Pilates, 37% hiking, 32% weight lifting, or 24% either play tennis, golf, ski or swim, 2% do crew, play basketball or soccer. **#4** 85% life-long learning, research, 67% writing - many for publication. **#5** 83% concerts/theater. **#6** 77% travel (past-future). **#7** 70% gardening. **#8** 66% of us have been teachers. **#9** 54% do crossword/math puzzles. **#10** Many of the following activities are ways 60% use creativity: 42% do needle crafts/fine art, 36% cook, 19% sing.

### Characteristics noted by Your Spouse/Partner/Friend: (filled out in 132 surveys)

*In general, how would you characterize 1964 Mount Holyoke classmates of your wife/partner/friend?*

- |                                       |                            |   |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 Interesting 94%                     | 8 Strong 76%               | 15 Women Libbers/Feminists 28%              |
| 2 Life-long learners 91%              | 9 Adventurous 74%          | 16 Not always right, but never in doubt 25% |
| 3 Focused and committed 91%           | 10 Definitely uncommon 72% | 17 Born leaders 26%                         |
| 4 High energy 90%                     | 11 VERY independent 70%    | 18 Stubborn 10%                             |
| 5 Intense about certain interests 90% | 12 Community activists 68% | Mouthy 1%                                   |
| 6 Dependably loyal 88%                | 13 Flexible 30%            | Pushy 1%                                    |
| 7 Unusually capable 86%               | 14 Tech proficient 28%     | Shrinking Violets 0%                        |



Other: Generous. Social/sociable. Musical. Caring. Sexy. Deeply appreciative of nature and protective of the environment. I'm indebted to MHC for the education provided to my wife! Although different, all are fun to be around. **Able to assess a problem quickly, and then quietly take the steps to improve the situation.**

*The following SURVEY RESULTS are not published in this 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion book due to space limitations. These and other results will be in a handout distributed at Jane's brief presentation of survey results, Thursday evening of the reunion, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Accomplishments: expertise, recoveries, subjects taught.     | 5 Things we worry about or often concern us.        |
| 2 New interests making positive differences in our lives.      | 6 Bucket List items already accomplished.           |
| 3 Things we'd like to do in whatever time we have left.        | 7 Ways we've made the world a better place.         |
| 4 What we do for fun: by ourselves, with family, with friends. | 8 Tips of classmates to enhance life in retirement. |

**The grads of '64 truly are an amazing class** whose lives notably exemplify 50 years of Mount Holyoke uncommon women: older and smarter than we look, thinking out-side the box and going there, ready to pursue new ideas we believe are right. And we're still energetically making a positive difference for people we don't know as well as for those we love.

*The class thanks you for your extraordinary participation in creating this MHC Class of '64 profile! And I thank you for the huge privilege of reading your surveys and compiling such interesting, insightful, and useful results! -Jane Shilling Emerson.*