

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964
After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!
Quarterly Class Notes

“Quarterly” News: Spring 2009 Class Notes
by Gretchen Beck Green

Several '64s sent the sad news that Anne Greer Garonzik's husband, Frederik (Rik), passed away on Nov. 8, 2008, in NYC. Rik (Brown '64) had a long career at Goldman, Sachs, from which he retired in '98 as co-head of the fixed income currency and commodities division. In recent years, Rik was a trustee of Brown and chaired its investment committee, and was on the boards of The Buckley School and several nonprofits. Among the MHC '64s attending the service on Nov. 13 were: Pat Altman Falkenberg, Vicki Simons Ferenbach, Debbie Newcomb Nightingale, and Gail Hunt Reeke.

Marjorie Pedersen Garren wrote: “I retired in 2006 from being a speech/hearing/music therapy/visual impairment/rehab engineer clinic director at a state facility in VA for adults with severe developmental disabilities. My husband Charlie and I have moved to San Diego to be near my daughter and granddaughter. The good news was we sold our home in Richmond when the market was booming. The bad news was we bought here at the same time, paying an extraordinary amount for a small house that basically needed redoing from top to bottom. We are in a retirement community (55 and older) so all the homes are one story, which makes my knees happy. In a classic example of better late than never, we have joined a gym and I work out about 5 days a week (yoga, kickboxing, Latin dance, Pilates, etc.). If there is such a thing as flabs (sic.) of steel, I have them. So far, I haven't felt too guilty about living the life of leisure, despite our ever-dwindling retirement account. Being on the west coast with my former life rooted on the east is a little hard travel-wise, but we wouldn't trade the weather and proximity to Elizabeth and Abby for anything.”

Check out our class Web site, www.mhc64.com, to see photos of Gretchen Wuth Hays, her husband, Wayne, outside the new dorm with the bench, which they, Wendy Lycan Jackson, and Elizabeth (“Libby”) Main Welty '37 donated to the college last year. Click to see the photos

This is the first column in almost 10 years when I've not had more news than our line limit allows. My fault...I was preoccupied with preparing for, taking, and recovering from a 7-week trip from Athens to Hong Kong! The highlights: the pyramids, seeing a pirate boat commandeer a cargo vessel in the Gulf of Aden, Dubai, a trip to the Taj

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Mahal (cancelled because of the terrorists in Mumbai), the unexpected substitution of Muscat (Oman) and Goa, plus stops in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and China. All in all, a wonderful trip, but for losing my suitcase, last seen while clearing customs in Chicago. Fortunately, my camera and all the memory chips were in my carry-on!

“Quarterly” News: Summer 2009 Class Notes
by Gretchen Beck Green

Ginny Klemm Wells sent the obituary of her h.s. classmate, Karen Peterson Adkisson, who passed away on March 10, in Blacksburg, VA. Karen received her Ph.D. in genetics from the U. of Michigan in '70, and for 30 years was a bio. prof. at Roanoke College, in Salem, VA. In addition to her passion for teaching, Karen loved to hike and cross-country ski in CO, where her ancestors were settlers. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Curtis S. Adkisson (534 High Meadow Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060-8834), and her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren, who live in CO. Please click for more.

At the end of March, I (Gretchen) had a delightful visit with Lisa Liffers Wenzler, when she and her husband came through Naples. While neither is ready to retire, they are scouting possible locations where they might spend winter months in a more temperate climate than their beloved MI. Lisa's grandmotherly duties preclude her attending Reunion this year, but she's already planning on the 50th! As I told Lisa, I dearly love to answer questions about, and give tours of, Naples. Any of you are welcome to contact me, if you are planning to be in this area. I'm usually here between Oct. and May. (No, I am not a realtor! I just love it here.)

Thanks to e-mail, we have an update from Liliane Menzi Barry, who has now been living in Switzerland longer than she lived in the US. She returns frequently, as she still feels “attached to the States and its dynamism and particularly so since my daughter is living and working in NYC.” Lil's son is working in London, which is handy now that she has more time available. She has just retired “for the 2nd time!” Her field was compensation and benefits, which she did for Grace in their European h.q. until it closed in '97. In '01, Lil started a “temp” job, which lasted 7 years, with Merck Serono, a biotech firm: “...a fascinating world filled with scientists, labs, and process development for

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drugs (between research and development).”

It is very hard to believe that I have been doing this column for 10 years! I want to thank all of you who have been so generous, spontaneously sending me information about yourselves and/or your friends, or answering my e-mailed pleas just before a deadline.

As you know, Priscilla Morse Huston and Jean Vnenchak will be coscribes going forward. I have agreed to help with the column that reports on Reunion. In all likelihood, 3 of us will get far more information on classmates than will fit the line limit allotted to us in the Quarterly (which you won't receive until about 3 months after you are reading this issue.) So, I encourage you to check out our class's Web site after you finish reading this issue. We anticipate having extensive information from the Reunion posted during the summer, as well as (hopefully....) lots of photos.

“Quarterly” News: Fall 2009 Class Notes
by Jean Vnenchak

Gretchen Beck Green has been our scribe since 1999. We thank Gretchen for keeping us well informed for these past 10 yrs and for contributing so much to this post-reunion column. Priscilla and I (Jean) will alternate writing columns. If you send your news for columns and Web site to the scribe64@mtholyoke.edu address, it will automatically reach both of us. Please write!

Our sincere condolences to Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas on the death of her husband, Eugene. Gene passed away on May 31 while Heather was visiting with her daughter, our class baby, after reunion. Notes can be sent to: 164 South Shore Dr, Unit 103, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.

Kate Shockey Lafrance writes: I so appreciated the love and encouragement given me by so many classmates even though I missed reunion due to chemotherapy for colon cancer. Chemo has been more challenging than the laparoscopic surgery, but not enough to keep me from golf! Cancer was discovered when low red blood cell counts were seen in my annual physical. Please have one yourself.

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964 *After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!* Quarterly Class Notes

When Jane Shilling Emerson returned to Seattle from reunion, she and her husband Mike invited local classmates and spouses for dinner and a garden tour. Wendy Ly-can Jackson, Catherine Higgs Milton, Nancy Grover Scarborough, and Nancy Ireland Wilson attended. Jane reports the conversation was super lively as a result of current events and each having had very interesting careers and world travel experiences.

Susan Koch organized a team of MHC '64s in the DC area to participate in the "Race for the Cure" on June 6. Participants were Anita Corman Weinblatt, Susan Koch, Laraine Masters Glidden, Nancy Chambers Goff, and Mona Marich Hanford. They had a wonderful time catching up while contributing to a worthy cause. Their team marched with another MHC team organized by Helen LaRose '75.

Arsine Rustigian Oshagan spent the last 11 years as a mgmt. consultant in Philadelphia. Previously, she ran a school in Sydney. Sadly, she lost her husband 8 years ago. Her children and their families are in Ann Arbor and on the West Coast.

Barbara Dallinger Crowell, or "Judge Barbara," presides over family court in Wilmington, DE. Her role is helping to protect children and "place them with responsible families" and to help young offenders not become repeat offenders. Barbara had classmates in gales of laughter as she described real courtroom situations.

Josephine Bennett Domingues and Virginia Klemm Wells met in Springfield, VA, when their children were in the same music recital. Both Jo and Ginny were librarians, and yes, they drove together to reunion.

Lil Menzi Barry probably came to reunion from the greatest distance-Switzerland! Her recent retirement, coupled with having a daughter in NYC, made travel easier. Lil and Gretchen Beck Green shared a delightful drive to college with Gail Hunt Reeke. Mary Lee Warren also traveled from Europe. She's currently on assignment for the US Dept. of Justice in Brussels.



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This was the first reunion for Elizabeth (Elisa) Plantamura Barbis. After teaching French for 13 years, she got her law degree at Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. She and her husband and young son returned to PA, where Elisa joined a law firm. A 2nd son was born in '83. In '85, Elisa opted for in-house law with CoreStates Financial, now Wachovia. She retired last summer and just grins when asked if she is enjoying it.