

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964 *After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!* Special Topics

Members of the Class of 1964 at Inauguration of Lynn Pasquerella

Twelve members of the class of 1964 were able to attend Lynn Pasquerella's inauguration as the 18th President of Mount Holyoke on September 24, 2010. The photo below was taken when Lynn took time to stop and talk with us just before her inauguration.

Pictured are: Gretchen Wuth Hays, Priscilla Morse Huston, Richard Gurner (husband of Jean Vnenchak), Mary Vic Jones Giersch, Jean Vnenchak, Lynn Pasquerella, Anne Greer Garonzik, Nancy Chambers Goff, Gail Welch Hanson, Barbara Flesch Resnek, Lily Klebanoff Blake, Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas, and Ann Heckel Oppenheimer. Pat Altman Falkenberg joined us later.



It was a great pleasure being together, meeting and listening to students, faculty, other alumnae, and guests. The planning for the inauguration was excellent. Even though we were not able to stay on campus, we felt very comfortable and integrated into an assortment of activities. As you can see from the picture above, even President Pasquerella went out of her way to make us feel included. The ceremony and her Inaugural Address *The Promise of Women's Leadership: Uncommon Women for the Common Good* challenged the extended Mount Holyoke community. She indicated that we still have a long way to go to achieve Mary Lyon's dream as she described many issues and opportunities. We felt filled with excitement and a sense that the class of 1964 could and should pursue ways to support the college and our new president.

Pictured are: Lily Klebanoff Blake, Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas, Clarice Odhiambo, Nancy Chambers Goff, Gretchen Wuth Hays, Priscilla Morse Huston, Mary Vic Jones Giersch, and Anne Greer



Garonzik

While on campus, we participated in a variety of interesting discussions and activities. One of the most inspiring was when we met Clarice Odhiambo, the Founder and CEO of the African Center for Engineering. Clarice was Lynn's guest for the inauguration. Lynn has been quite involved with Clarice's organization; while at the University of Hartford, Lynn served as a project leader for a research team with the Africa Center for Engineering Social Solutions. Mount Holyoke is going to continue that involvement by providing economic analysis to Clarice's organization in Kenya. Fortuitously, Clarice was staying in the same hotel as we were and we had the great pleasure of spending time speaking with her. She is a most inspiring woman, who is planning water and economic impact projects for Kenya.

The morning after the inauguration we discovered that *The Republican*, a local newspaper, had taken a photo of President Pasquerella with Ann Oppenheimer and Heather Wilcauskas in the background. Over breakfast several of us with the help of Clarice Odhiambo turned this into our first effort: a memento of congratulations and support for our new president. To view a few pictures, our letter to Lynn and the memento, please [click here](#).

Picture from The Republican: Ann Heckel Oppenheimer and Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas behind President Pasquerella

As our second effort, both the inauguration attendees and the officers decided that it would be a wonderful step for our class to ask Lynn and Clarice to serve as Class of 1964 Honorees.



The officers are actively pursuing additional ways to support planning and other activities of the college. Our class president, Lily Klebanoff Blake, talked with President Pasquerella at a Vespers event and discussed the commitment of our class to furthering the initiatives for women that she spoke of at her inauguration.

-- Priscilla Jane Huston

(added 1/26/11)

Letter to President Lynn Pasquerella delivered with Memento

Lynn Pasquerella, President
Mount Holyoke College
203 Mary Lyon Hall
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

October 12, 2010

Dear Lynn,

On behalf of the Class of 1964, it is our distinct pleasure to present you with this framed memento of your inauguration. A dozen members of the Class of 1964 attended your inauguration. In fact, two of our classmates made the cover of *The Republican* along with you on September 25th. Ann Heckel Oppenheimer and Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas are the ladies in pink, cheering you on as you march into the amphitheater. You also graciously posed for a photo with some of our class members immediately prior to your inauguration. Assembled behind you in the first row, going from left to right, are Gretchen Wuth Hayes, Priscilla Morse Huston, Mary Vic Jones Giersch, Nancy Chambers Goff, Barbara Flesch Resnick, and Ann Heckel Oppenheimer; in the second row, going from left to right, are Richard Gurner (husband of Jean Vnenchak), Jean Vnenchak, Ann Greer Garonzik, Gail Welch Hanson, Lily Klebanoff Blake, and Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas.

The words you spoke at your inauguration resonated with our classmates. The challenge you posed, "to provide access to excellence in higher education and nurture the promise of women's leadership in an effort to promote social justice," is one that the Class of 1964 joins you in supporting. We are ready to take up your challenge in as many ways as we can. Specifically, we would be honored if you could let us know how we can contribute to your strategic planning process.

Moreover, because the themes you addressed, the same ones Mary Lyon dealt with more than 180 years ago, ring so strongly with our classmates, we are privileged to ask you to serve as an Honoree for the Class of 1964. During our visit to Mount Holyoke, we were fortunate to speak with Clarice Oldhambo. Due to her inspirational commitment to the improvement of women's lives in Kenya, we also plan to ask Clarice to be an Honoree for the Class of 1964.

Please accept our heartfelt congratulations and very best wishes for your presidency. The Class of 1964 is with you!!

Sincerely,

Lily Klebanoff Blake, President

Anita Corman Weinblatt, Vice President

Ellen Manfradonia Nutter, Reunion Chair

Diane Kelley Fenton, Treasurer

Margaret Cormeny O'Brien, Secretary

Jean Vnenchak, Scribe

Priscilla Morse Huston, Scribe

(added 1/26/11)

Notes from Jean and Lily based on conversation with Lynn after she received the Memento

From Jean Vnenchak after call from Lynn:

Not only did I get a call from Lynn's assistant saying the package had arrived and she would be giving it to Lynn when she returned to the office, but when I came home late in the afternoon, there was a message from Lynn herself on our answering machine! She said:

"Hi Jean this is Lynn Pasquerella. Thank you so much for the beautiful gift. It's so wonderful. It means so much to me to have the support of your class and a tribute [? this word was hard to decipher] so thoughtful. I truly appreciate it. I'm looking forward to getting together again soon and thank you so much. Take care. Good bye."

I am sorry I wasn't home when she called, but I was away for a good reason. Richard and I were celebrating the 21st anniversary of his open heart bypass surgery!

When you come back Lily, it looks as if Lynn has given us an opening to pursue initiating some contact with her about what kind of support from us would be most helpful.

It was so good to hear in her voice how pleased she was. The idea that Clarice suggested was a good one and thanks to all who helped to make it happen.

(added 1/26/11)

Lily Klebanoff Blake to class officers (November 19, 2010):

Ladies, I attended an event in NYC with Lynn Pasquerella on Wednesday evening. Gail Hunt Reeke, Gretchen Wuth Hayes (the new head of the Mary Lyon Society), and Pat Altman Falkenberg were also there. Prior to the event, I approached Lynn to introduce myself. She LOVES the memento we sent of her inauguration, and my thanks to all of you who helped make it so fabulous. ... I asked whether she was willing to serve as one of our class honorees and she said of course.

During her talk, Lynn said that she was in the process of doing a strategic plan for MHC and was eager to have input from all stakeholders. I took this opening to approach Lynn after her talk to tell her how excited those of us who attended her inaugural were to hear her call to action for MHC, and that our class was eager to participate in the strategic planning process. Lynn is eager to have our input ... (added 1/26/11)

Classmates' Comments after the Inauguration of President Lynn Pasquerella

Gretchen Wuth Hays Email: I loved the statement on the back of the Inauguration program: Uncommon Women for the Common Good. (added 1/26/11)

Nancy Chambers Goff notes to Class Agents: Lynn is amazing - so humble, and cause driven. The inauguration was uplifting and joyous with all the pomp and circumstance of an academic ceremony. We all enjoyed seeing the over 100 visitors from colleges and universities in cap and gowns from their institutions. Speeches of praise and affection lauded our new President. (added 1/26/11)

Priscilla Huston: Lynn Pasquerella has challenged all of us, reminding us that we still have a long way to go to achieve Mary Lyon's dream, that we are uncommon women with the ability to contribute to the common good. (added 1/26/11)

Jean Vnenchak: What a wonderful inspiring time. First of all,, I had never been to the inauguration of a college president and it was fascinating to behold the pomp and circumstance and traditions that such an event entails. Beyond that it was inspiring and fun to hear the speeches and sort of meet our new president. The panel discussion that night before and the opportunities to speak with some of the students gave me some encouraging insights into people who care about this world and improving the lot of women in it.
(added 1/26/11)

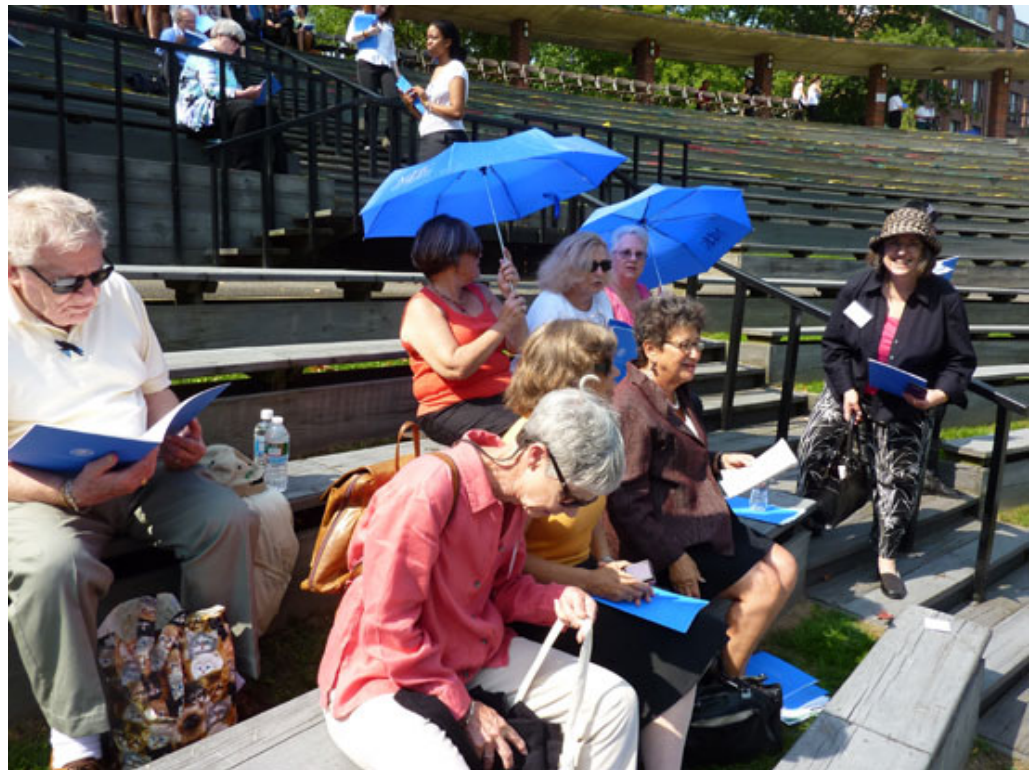
Jean Vnenchak's Husband Richard in their Holiday letter: Jean continues her work with her Mount Holyoke class. We both enjoyed the pageantry of the inauguration of Mount Holyoke's new president, Lynn Pasquerella, in September. Jean is discovering that a lot of work goes into keeping in touch with classmates and engaging in fund-raising. But she is enjoying reconnecting with some very fine women and earlier this spring spent a weekend in New York with other class officers working on their five-year plan. They rewarded themselves for their labors by visiting the Met to see a ballet. Now as we enjoy Met Opera Simulcasts, she knows what it feels like to be "live at the Met."
(added 1/26/11)

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964

After the Middle Ages comes the Renaissance!

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Descriptions for Pictures at Inauguration



Gathering early for Inauguration



Before Inauguration the President stopped to greet us. Pictured are: Gretchen Wuth Hays, Priscilla Morse Huston, Richard Gurner (husband of Jean Vnenchak), Mary Vic Jones Giersch, Jean Vnenchak, Lynn Pasquerella, Anne Greer Garonzik, Nancy Chambers Goff, Gail Welch Hanson, Barbara Flesch Resnek, Lily Klebanoff Blake, Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas, and Ann Heckel Oppenheimer. Pat Altman Falkenberg joined us later.



Members of the Alumnae Association Board of Directors



Paul Weissman, representing Harvard University in the parade (Harriet and Paul Weissman funded the Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts)



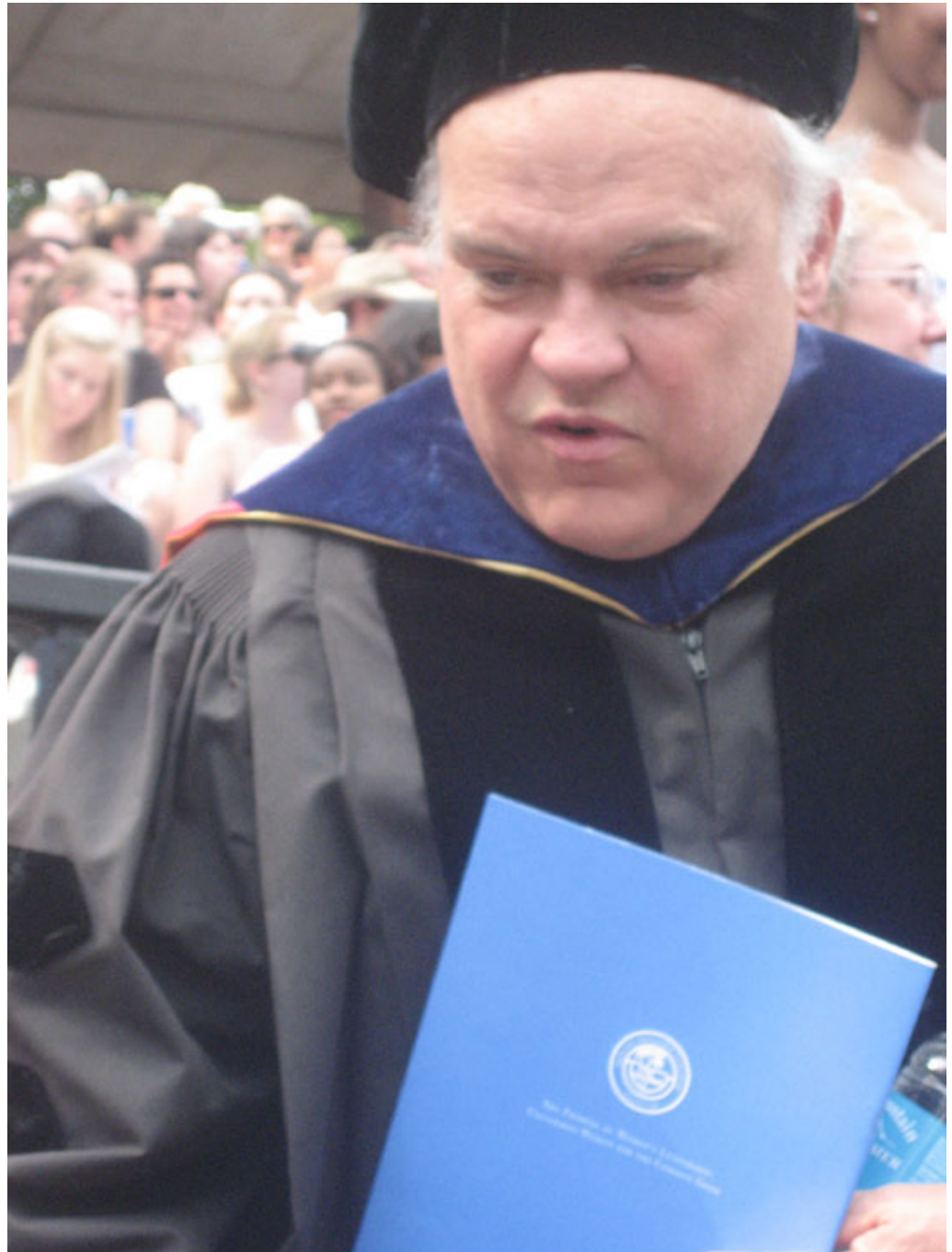
Jane Zachary, Executive Director, Alumnae Association



Representative from Brandeis enters



Faculty enters; Vincent Ferraro is man with beard



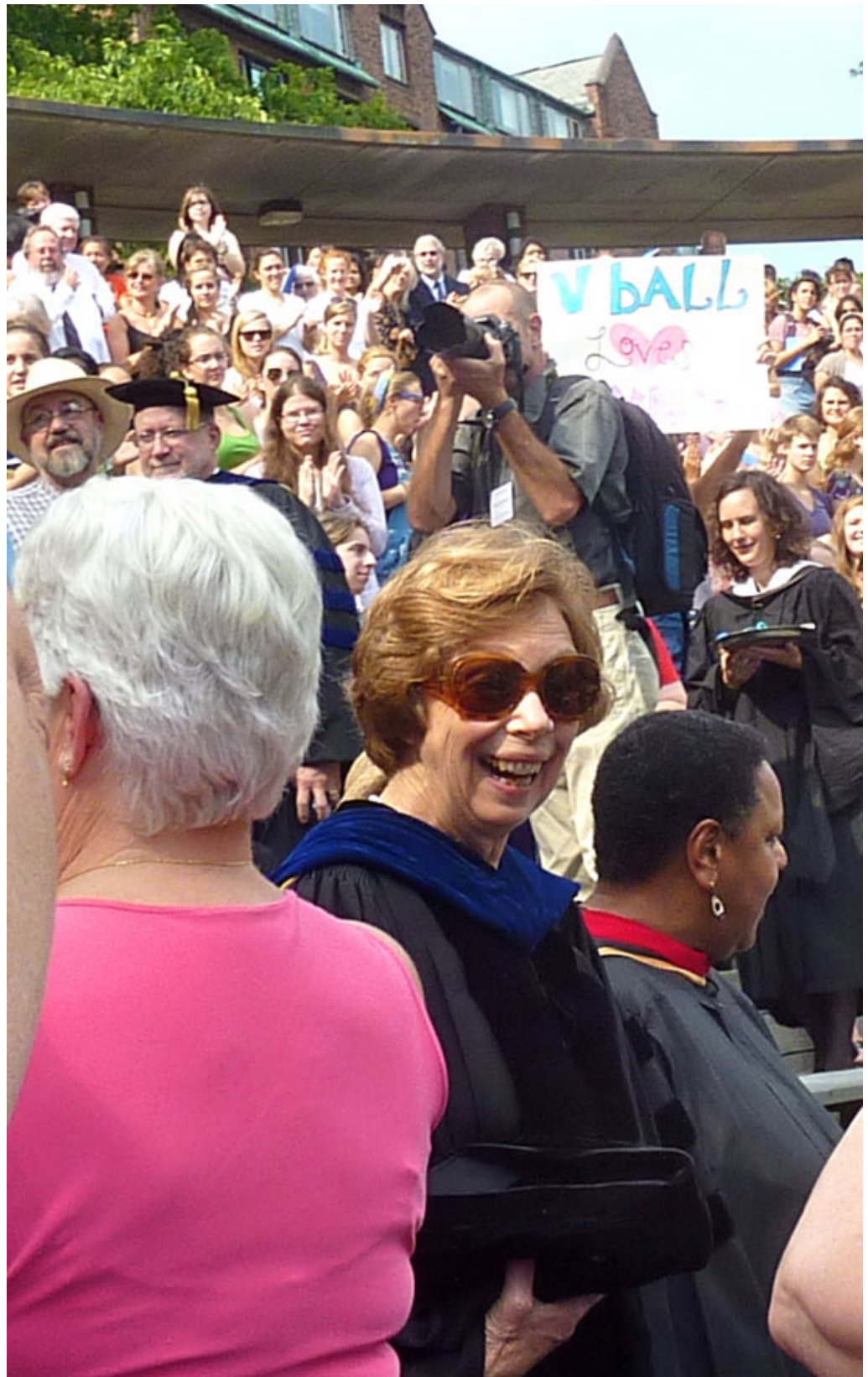
Donal O'Shea, Dean of Faculty



Board of Trustees enters



Trustee Ellen Cosgrove '84 enters



Past President Elizabeth Kennan enters



Past President Joanne Creighton enters



Lynn Pasquerella enters her inauguration as the 18th President of MHC



View beyond Stage



Sheriff of Hampshire County and College Marshall



State Representative John Scibak and past presidents



Innovation by John Grayson, Professor of Religion



Welcome by Mary Graham Davis '65 Chair of Board of Trustees

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Headline from The Republican which printed the next photo



9-24-10 - South Hadley - Republican staff photo by Don Treeger - The Inauguration of Lynn Pasquerella as the eighteenth president of Mount Holyoke College. Here, Lynn acknowledges cheers as she enters the Richard Glenn Gettell Amphitheater on the campus of Mount Holyoke College.



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Layout with Ann and Gretchen at Ann's home



Draft layout by Jean and Priscilla at framer



Framed memento -- front



Framed memento -- Back

Letter to President Lynn Pasquerella from MHC64
Comments from Jean and Lily