

60th Reunion Highlights

We began working on our 60th in 2020. Because our 55th was a Zoom-union, we were determined that this one would be live, in person, on campus. We coordinated on recruiting classmates to serve on various committees; Sallie focused on the Class Read, Costumes and Parades, while Sunny concentrated on Hospitality and our “60th Reunion Booklet.” It goes without saying that we would not have had such a successful event without considerable help from everyone on the Reunion Board and the Alum Association.

Some Highlights, Day by Day:

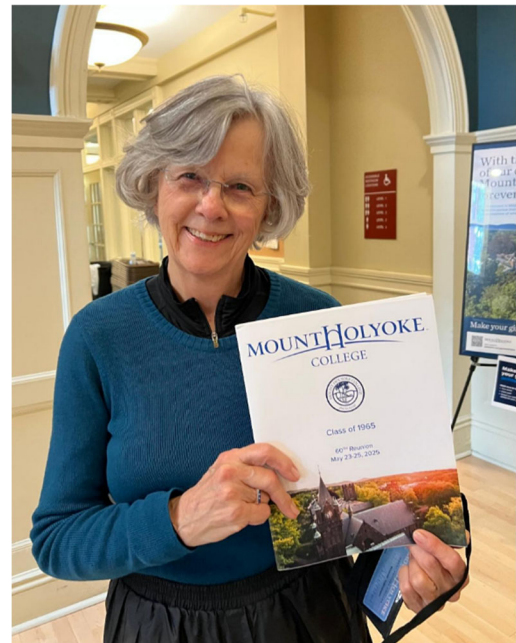
Thursday night was rainy but inside Mead Hall registration proceeded briskly, thanks mainly to Caroline Griep ‘86, and her student helpers. Gwyn and Abby were officially check-in assistants, while Claire and Sabella were the luggage fetchers. But, in fact, from Thursday to Sunday, they all did anything and everything asked, including assembling tables, carrying provisions, arranging photos and other memorabilia, helping with assembling our hats, delivering our signs, engaging with our classmates in impromptu round table discussions at the check-in desk, and, of course, cleaning up our headquarters afterwards.

One of the opening events was a presentation by President Danielle R. Holley to all reuniting alums on the topic of the State of the College. She spoke of MHC’s “Mission, Vision, and Values”—Academic Excellence, Resource Stewardship, Student Experience and Operational Leadership. She proudly declared the principle of DEI as it has always been fundamental at the college!



We would be remiss not to mention the “Hospitality Committee,” especially Kris Steuber, who procured beverages and hors d’oeuvres, kept them at her home, and did a lot of heavy lifting to deliver everything to Mead. In sum, the great on-the-ground assistance we had resulted in having a spectacular “Social” Friday night. President Danielle R. Holley joined us, and here she is with our retiring President Dotsy Derrick.

Another highlight is presenting our “60th Reunion Booklet”! It is to the credit of our managing editors—Carole Shmurak, Amy Laden, and Patty Hinkle—who with the help of a designer and the more than 70 classmates who submitted “Reflections” made this booklet possible. And the Reunion Board is grateful to a couple of “Angels” who have stepped up to cover costs beyond what we have in our Treasury. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!





Saturday morning dawned with brilliant sunshine and graced our traditional alum parade. Here we are, carrying our banner, and wearing our festooned sun hats.

We watched the Class of 2025, with their laurel chain, parade around Mary Lyon's grave. This tradition is quintessential Mount Holyoke and this year's parade was simply one of the best ever! Probably more seniors than ever! As is traditional, they sang the moving "Bread and Roses."



In the afternoon, we moved into Gamble for videotaped remarks from our Class Honorary, Dr. Sonya Stephens. This was followed by a trifecta of events—our class meeting, a discussion with the author of our class read, "The Exceptions," and finally a "Time of Remembrance," where Jo Griffith Domingue and Betsy "Fish" Guardenier read the names of departed classmates interlaced with a lovely selection of poems. It was very moving.

We then walked over to Willits-Hallowell for a catered cocktail hour and our class dinner. Our other two Class Honoraries, President Danielle R. Holley and Dr. Eleanor R. Townsley, joined us and shared remarks.

Here joining us are Nancy Boggie Kuehler and her husband Gert, who came from Germany to be with us at our "Diamond Jubilee" Reunion. They are obviously having a wonderful time.



A lovely highlight to end the weekend was the canoe sing with lighted canoes on Lower Lake. How special to hear the songs with many voices coming across the water, joined by others on the shore.



What a good time we all had, connecting with friends we met so long ago, and the friendships that continued through the years! Now we are ready to think about our NEXT reunion, in 2030, though this one will be hard to top!

To see more pictures, click on the 60th Reunion Green Tab.

Prepared by Sallie Wright Abbas and Sunny Eaton Steadman, 60th Reunion Co-Chairs.