

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022

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# MARY LYON SOCIETY



## Welcome. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to Mount Holyoke. As a Mary Lyon Society member, your legacy gift helps ensure the College's future.

Mount Holyoke has a rich tradition of enrolling an unusually diverse student body, bringing a breadth of perspectives and lived experiences that enhance conversations in and out of the classroom. The College has also consistently been recognized for the strength of its alum network and the strong connection graduates have with current students.



Ongoing generous support from the Mount Holyoke community — through legacy gifts, The Mount Holyoke Fund and endowed funds — allows the College to offer a superior experience to students regardless of socioeconomic background.

These gifts, from one generation to the next, are inspiring. I hope you will enjoy a special conversation between Judy Stone '68 and Kayla Solomon '23 about the shared meaning of scholarship support.

I also invite you to learn how retirement assets may be used to fund tax-wise charitable gifts.

As I approach my 50th Reunion this spring, I am still as enthusiastic as I was when I was on campus. I look forward to walking through the gates, reconnecting with classmates and making new friends. Hopefully I will see some of you there

With gratitude,

*Anne E. Bolton*

ANNE BOLTON '72  
National Mary Lyon Society Chair

### BY THE NUMBERS

## Meeting the Moment

Scholarship aid has never been more important in the lives of Mount Holyoke's exceptional students and in the College's ability to grow and evolve. Generous donors have come forward in unprecedented ways to increase the College's ability to provide critical scholarship and financial aid for talented and deserving students and ensure the future of Mount Holyoke.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

#### Meet the Moment Scholarship Challenge

A record-breaking \$10 million commitment by Trustee Liz Cochary Gross '79 and Phill Gross — bolstered by leadership commitments from Bess Weatherman '82, Nancy Nordhoff '54, Jamie Adkins Baxter '65, Sandra Hewitt '61, Betsy Barbeau '85 and Maria Cirino '85 — has inspired tremendous generosity.

**\$38 million**

FOR FINANCIAL AID ENDOWMENTS\*

**72**

COMMITMENTS TO NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

**20**

COMMITMENTS TO EXISTING SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

**2**

STUDENT SAFETY NET FUND ENDOWMENT COMMITMENTS

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS TODAY

#### Mount Holyoke Fund Scholars Match

To encourage gifts for immediate scholarship support, trustees Bess Weatherman '82 and Monica Landry '90 each offered a \$250,000 matching gift, inspiring over \$900,000 in gifts for The Mount Holyoke Fund Scholars Program† in 2020–2021.

**\$1.4 million**

IN SCHOLARSHIP AID FOR 2020–2021

**140**

STUDENTS SUPPORTED

**73%**

OF STUDENTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID (2020–2021 ACADEMIC YEAR)

AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID GRANT (2019–2020 ACADEMIC YEAR)

**\$31,111**

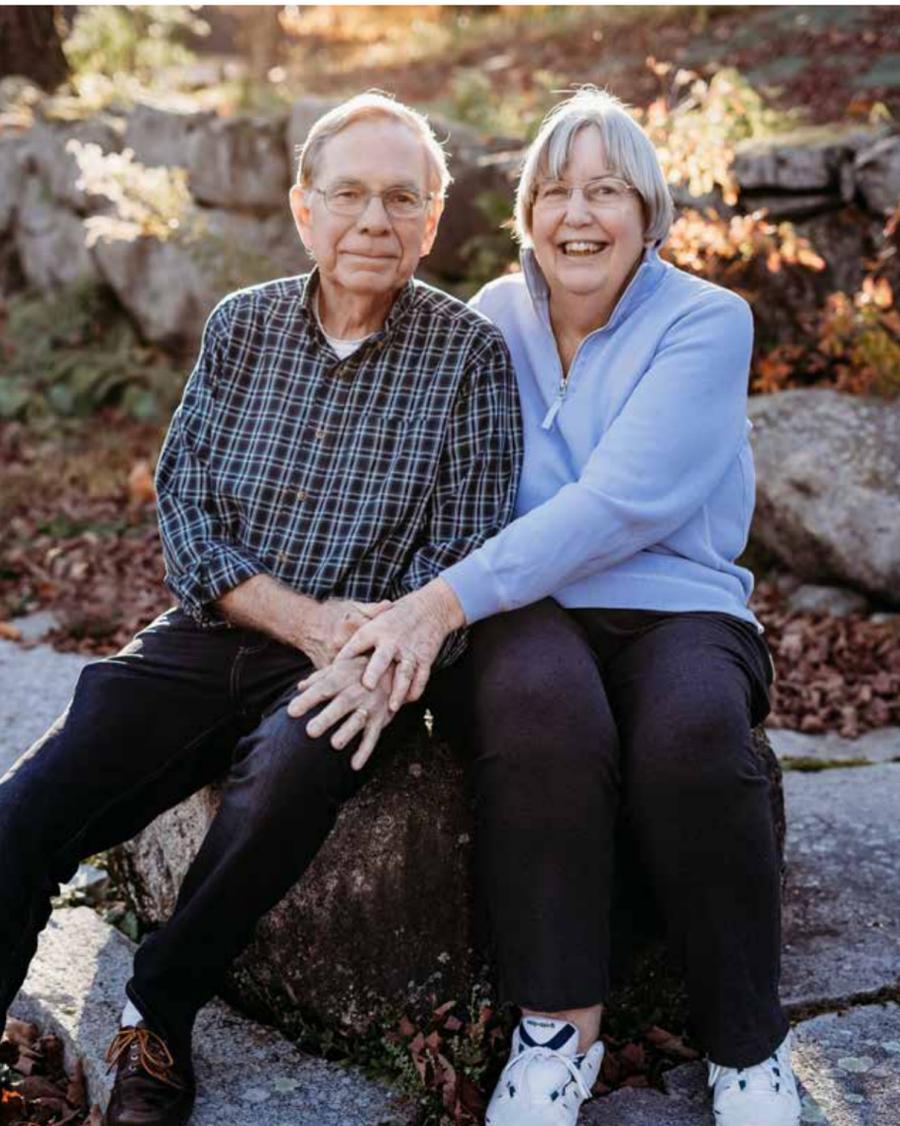
TOTAL FINANCIAL AID AWARDED (2020–2021 ACADEMIC YEAR)

**\$47,849,272**

\* TOTAL PLEDGED THROUGH DECEMBER 21, 2022.

† PROVIDES A ONE-YEAR NAMED SCHOLARSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF THE GIFT TO A STUDENT WITH DEMONSTRATED NEED.

Before November, Kayla Samuel '23 would have described Judy Parker Stone '68 as the generous alum whose endowed scholarship fund — the K. Hems Fund — supports her financial aid package. Judy, in turn, would have described Kayla as the author of lovely thank-you notes and the second student to benefit from the scholarship fund she and her husband, Bill, established in 2017.



Though their lives were interwoven, the two had never spoken. That changed this fall when they met via Zoom. Despite more than 50 years separating their time on campus, the connection was immediate. They told stories of finding their way to Mount Holyoke, their favorite traditions — Convocation for Kayla and the Laurel Chain for Judy — and how the College had challenged them academically and personally.

Judy recounted growing up knowing the Seven Sisters colleges as “the pinnacle of education for women.” Though her guidance counselors in Yardley, Pennsylvania, suggested she apply to some of Pennsylvania’s outstanding public colleges, a friend urged her to consider one of those groundbreaking women’s colleges.

Judy said she immediately fell in love with the Mount Holyoke campus when she arrived to interview in February 1964. She remembered that first sight of Mount Holyoke’s

Gothic-style buildings dusted with falling snow. More captivating, however, were the students she met that day. “Each was intellectually curious and ambitious in her own way. I remember thinking, ‘I could really enjoy going to school here,’” said Judy. “And the rest is history.”

As a student, Judy majored in sociology. After graduation, she taught elementary school in Ann Arbor, Michigan, before moving to Hopkinton, New Hampshire. There she volunteered in the public schools while raising her son and two daughters. When her children were older, Judy became a reading recovery specialist — it was a career she loved.

Kayla, who grew up in Harlem, first saw Mount Holyoke’s campus during Focus on Diversity, a weekend program for prospective students. She’d researched Mount Holyoke after it was recommended by her college counselors at the Success Academy, a K-12 charter school based in Manhattan.

“I visited in October. The campus was so beautiful with stunning foliage. But the students I met made the biggest impression. I knew I belonged here,” Kayla said.

A dancer since age five, Kayla is pursuing a double major in dance

and psychology. She’s active with the Mount Holyoke African and Caribbean Student Association and serves as the outreach coordinator for the Association of Pan-African Unity. She’s also the co-creator of the Black at MHC Instagram account.

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“I never envisioned overseeing content and interacting with people throughout the Five College Consortium and beyond,” she told Judy. “Mount Holyoke has changed my life and my perception of who I am.”

Kayla’s experiences and growth are precisely why Judy has been a longtime Mount Holyoke Fund donor and Mary Lyon Society member. “From my first gift of \$5 back when my husband and I were living paycheck to paycheck to participating in the recent Meet the Moment Scholarship Challenge, I want to help Mount Holyoke offer a transformative education to students from diverse backgrounds.”

Judy’s commitment deepened when both daughters chose to attend their mother’s alma mater. Heather Stone graduated in 1993, and Sarah Stone graduated in 1996. “After my children were educated, it was time to help others access Mount Holyoke,” she said.

In Kayla and her classmates, Judy sees a new generation learning — just as she and her daughters did — that they can succeed.

Kayla, in return, looks to Judy as a role model and guide. Current students, she told Judy, want to connect with alums and hear their stories.

“We know you paved the way for us. Someday we’ll do that for others.”

“  
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”

TAX TIDBIT

## Tax-wise Giving with Retirement Assets

The primary purpose of your retirement plan is to provide you with income during your retirement, but it can also be an excellent source of funds for making charitable gifts during your life and when your plan ends. A gift of retirement plan assets can be a surprisingly easy way to reduce potentially very high taxes and provide support to Mount Holyoke College.

During your lifetime, you may make a gift to the College from your traditional IRA through a “qualified charitable distribution (QCD)” if you are 70½ or older. The benefit of QCDs passing directly to the College is that these distributions are not counted as taxable income.

You can also create a legacy by designating Mount Holyoke as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts. Making a gift of retirement plan assets, such as IRAs, 401(k), 403(b) and other qualified plans, is simple. Request a new beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator and name Mount Holyoke as beneficiary of your plan for a percentage of your remaining assets, avoiding all income tax and estate tax. In order for your estate to enjoy both of these tax benefits, it is important that you name the College as a designated beneficiary of these retirement plan assets, not your estate.

For more information about QCDs and beneficiary designations, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 413-538-2754 or visit [giftplanning.mtholyoke.edu](https://giftplanning.mtholyoke.edu).



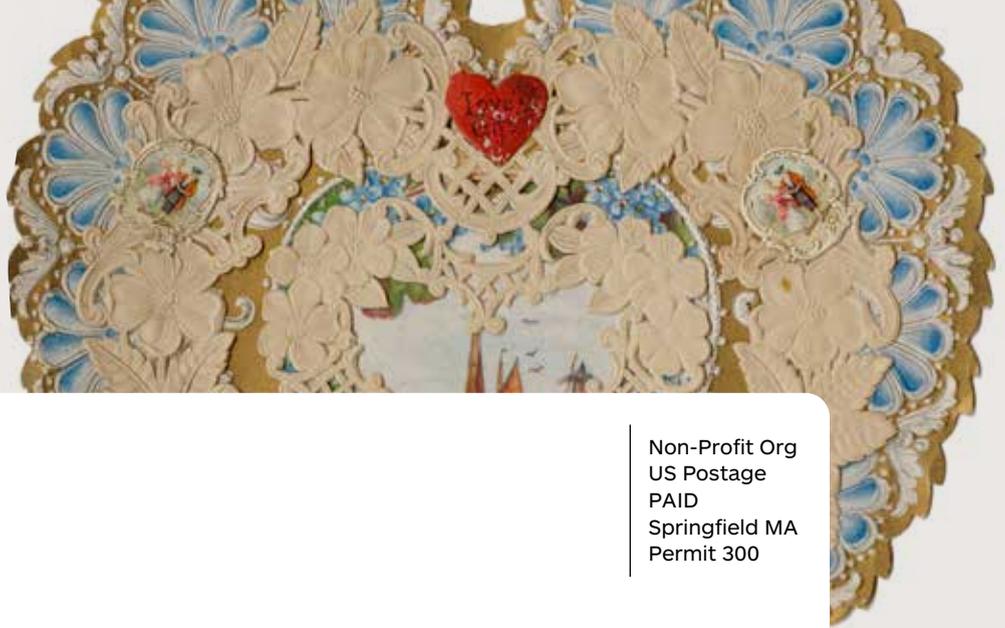
**Contact Anne Vittoria FP’05  
or Dana Gillette at**

Office of Gift Planning  
Mount Holyoke College  
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[giftplanning@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:giftplanning@mtholyoke.edu)

## MOUNT HOLYOKE

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Mount Holyoke alum Esther Howland 1847 popularized and commercialized the now ubiquitous symbol of romantic love, the Valentine's Day card.

## MARY LYON SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Mary Lyon Society at Mount Holyoke College, founded in 1974, honors those who have named the College as a beneficiary (of a will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy) or have established a life income gift with the College. You may contact the Office of Gift Planning for a list of Mary Lyon Society members in your class.

## STAY IN TOUCH

**What first brought you to Mount Holyoke?** We'd love to hear about your experience. Send your comments or stories to [giftplanning@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:giftplanning@mtholyoke.edu).

We're also available to discuss strategies that can help you give back to Mount Holyoke and provide significant benefits to you and those closest to you.

**Contact Anne Vittoria FP'05  
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