

Describing Mount Holyoke College

Key Themes and Supporting Talking Points

Spring 2009

MOUNT HOLYOKE

Introduction

Thank you for your support of Mount Holyoke College. This document is designed to help you communicate the College's excellence whenever the opportunity arises.

In this paper you will find four key themes that showcase the College's distinctive strengths and respond to the needs and interests of our constituencies—particularly prospective students and their parents.

In combination these four themes differentiate Mount Holyoke from other academic institutions and make it easier for prospective students and their parents to determine whether Mount Holyoke should be their college of choice.

When talking to prospective students, their parents, and others about the College, it would be helpful if you said something about each of the four key themes. This document supplies you with support for each theme—talking points and ideas from which you can choose the most compelling information for your particular audience.

Feel free to incorporate stories from your own experience that support the key themes. Your personal experiences can convey, in a most powerful and compelling way, the value of affiliating with Mount Holyoke.

This document is not meant to be used as a script; rather, its purpose is to suggest a framework for all of us to use when describing the College. Consistency is a critical part of effective communication. By using these themes and talking points consistently, we effectively build and reinforce a strong, positive image for Mount Holyoke.

As you will see, the four themes reflect the College's mission statement and are designed to resonate with contemporary audiences.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mount Holyoke College reaffirms its commitment to educating a diverse residential community of women at the highest level of academic excellence and to fostering the alliance of liberal arts education with purposeful engagement in the world.

The Four Key Themes

- 1. Mount Holyoke is one of the nation's finest research liberal arts colleges.**
- 2. Mount Holyoke is a global community—unusually international and diverse.**
- 3. Mount Holyoke is a place where important connections are made.**
- 4. Mount Holyoke has a proud legacy of educating women leaders.**

The four themes collectively describe an institution uniquely positioned to graduate women who will be successful and contribute to a better world. Mount Holyoke offers the powerful combination of a rigorous liberal arts education; a tight-knit, diverse, and international community; a lifelong global network; and the conviction that women can and should make a difference in the world.

Our graduates are sought after by top employers and research universities because they are independent critical thinkers; they speak and write powerfully; they are thoughtful and informed citizens; and they have demonstrated time and again their ability to lead in a complex, pluralistic world.

Support for Key Theme 1

Mount Holyoke is one of the nation's finest research liberal arts colleges.

Mount Holyoke is a vibrant academic community where students develop strong relationships with their faculty mentors as well as with their peers. MHC's exceptional faculty, challenging and innovative curriculum, outstanding resources, distinguished history, and national leadership on issues affecting higher education make it one of the nation's most highly regarded research liberal arts colleges. Mount Holyoke women are challenged to excel, and they do. Mount Holyoke's serious intellectual culture, focused on academic excellence, produces impressive outcomes.

Audience value: Research indicates that our audiences value academic rigor and quality above all else. Students particularly value personal connections within an academic community. Both parents and prospective students are interested in outcomes. The College's prestige and reputation are also important to our constituencies.

POTENTIAL TALKING POINTS

(To be used in any combination/order and customized for the specific audience you are addressing.)

A VIBRANT ACADEMIC COMMUNITY Out of nearly 4,000 academic institutions in the U.S., Mount Holyoke is one of a small number of elite liberal arts colleges with the resources to provide students with:

- **Award-Winning Faculty Who Love to Teach** MHC recruits and hires exceptional faculty who are renowned scholars and outstanding teachers. Mount Holyoke students benefit from working closely with senior faculty, not TAs and graduate students. Faculty members often involve their students in their research, affording students a level of scholarship that rivals work at the graduate level. MHC faculty are winners of scholarly awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and fellowships from the Carnegie Corporation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and Guggenheim. Numerous MHC science faculty have won highly competitive CAREER awards from the National Science Foundation, as well as grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, NASA, and the National Institutes of Health; we've also had one Presidential Faculty Fellow and two Presidential Young Investigators. Mount Holyoke is among the top liberal arts colleges whose faculty consistently receive significant NSF grants, which translates into unique research opportunities for students. Each year MHC faculty publish approximately 30 books, write more than 150 articles and scientific papers, many with undergraduate coauthors, and receive many major grants, the majority for work with students. Ninety-six percent of faculty members hold the highest degrees in their field.
- **Small Classes** In this community of learning, students explore concepts together and develop the ability to express their ideas persuasively. The student-faculty ratio is 10:1. Sixty-four percent of classes have 15 or fewer students, and 82 percent of classes have 30 or fewer students. Mount Holyoke women are challenged to excel, and they do.

- Intellectually Curious, Motivated Peers** Mount Holyoke is highly selective, attracting smart, ambitious women with wide-ranging interests. In fact, in 2007 the College received the highest number of applications in its history, and in 2008, the second highest. Mount Holyoke encourages interdisciplinary exploration of concepts. Students connect their interests to their learning, drawing on the many offerings both on campus and off. Faculty assist students in customizing their college experience to most resonate with personal interests and passions.
- Winning Results** For a college of its size, Mount Holyoke produces an inordinate number of recipients of nationally and internationally recognized awards. Among the awards won by our students in recent years are a Marshall Scholarship, Fulbright Grants, Goldwater Scholarships, a Churchill Scholarship, a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships, a Truman Award, a Luce Foundation Scholarship, Rotary Foundation Grants, a Coro Fellowship, DAAD Annual Grants for one year of study in Germany, Microsoft Scholarships, and a number of National Science Foundation Awards.
- Outstanding Resources** Mount Holyoke's resources provide a rich and vital learning environment. The College has recently renovated its music and art buildings, as well as its campus center. Committed to continuing its historic leadership in science education, Mount Holyoke also recently completed an integrated Science Center. The center houses classrooms, laboratories, and offices for eight departments—biological sciences, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, mathematics, astronomy, earth and environment, and computer science. Information technology is used across the curriculum. An Information Commons in the library provides access to online resources and state-of-the-art hardware and software programs as well as all requisite support services, and the MEWS (Mediated Educational Work Space), with its 52-inch plasma screens and dual-boot Intel Macs, enhances multimedia teaching and collaborative projects. MHC was among the first colleges to merge library and computing services, ensuring that technology is an integral part of the learning environment. The College's libraries contain more than 750,000 print volumes and a wide variety of ebooks, ejournals, digital databases, and online reference materials. There are dedicated libraries for music and science, as well as computerized access to over eight million more volumes through the Five College Consortium.
- Residential Learning** Mount Holyoke's extraordinary facilities, combined with its stunning campus, make the College an exceptional place to live and learn. Our 800-acre campus is consistently named one of the most beautiful in the nation by the *Princeton Review*. Those who spend time on the campus come to love it and laud it as an extraordinary learning environment.
- Rich, Innovative Curriculum** With 49 majors, including the option to design your own major and a dual degree in engineering and chemistry or physics, Mount Holyoke has long been noted for its rich, innovative, and rigorous curriculum. Interdisciplinary programs such as environmental studies, critical social thought, and international relations bring together different disciplines in engaging and intellectually rigorous ways. The College's commitment to active learning strategies is reflected in the development of innovative courses: community-based learning courses combine class work and class discussions with project-based fieldwork; speaking- and writing-intensive courses focus on the development of communications skills. Technology is also being used as a tool to enrich and activate the learning experience across the disciplines.
- Exceptional Sciences** Long known for educating women scientists, from the 1840s to the 1980s MHC produced more women who went on to receive Ph.D.s in chemistry than any other college or university in the nation. As of

the early 1990s one in four women chemists had completed her undergraduate work at Mount Holyoke. Mount Holyoke ranks first among all liberal arts colleges in producing women who went on to receive U.S. doctorates in the life sciences and in the physical sciences from 1966 to 2004. This puts Mount Holyoke in the top 2 percent of all colleges and universities—even major research universities with at least double the enrollment and faculty. Between one-quarter and one-third of MHC students currently major in science or math—significantly more than the proportion of women who study science or math at comparable coed institutions.

- **Opportunities for Independent Work** MHC fosters independent thinking and research. Fifty-nine percent of the class of 2008 had done independent study/research for credit while at Mount Holyoke, 28 percent had worked on a faculty member’s research for credit, and another 14 percent had done research with a faculty member not for credit. Sophomores and juniors may elect up to eight credits of independent study.
- **The Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts** At Mount Holyoke, leadership and the liberal arts are integrally linked. Established in 1997, the Weissman Center showcases the connections between academic excellence and purposeful engagement in the world. The center sponsors a range of innovative programming, including the Speaking, Arguing, and Writing Program (SAW); lectures/symposia on issues of public concern; and community-based learning courses. The Weissman Center brings students face-to-face with important leaders who are making a difference in the world and helps students hone their own intellectual and practical leadership skills. *See page 15 for more details on these programs.*
- **The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives** In 2004 the College established the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives, which coordinates curricular and cocurricular offerings that explore global/international issues and cultures. *See page 12 for more information.*
- **Nexus Certificate Program: Curriculum to Career** Beginning in 2009–2010 students can earn a certificate in journalism/communications, law and society, business and entrepreneurship, sustainability, health and society, and art and society through Mount Holyoke’s new Nexus Certificate Program. *See page 12 for details.*
- **The Center for the Environment** The Center for the Environment, founded in 1998, is dedicated to engaging MHC students more actively in the scientific, social/human, and global dimensions of environmental study. Its goals are to ensure that students: 1) develop a critical understanding of fundamental environmental issues; 2) explore social, cultural, historical, political-economic, and scientific dimensions of environmental concerns; 3) make direct connections between academic studies and real-world issues, problems, and solutions; and 4) understand the connections between cultural diversity and biodiversity. In addition to maintaining curricular trails that provide data on campus weather, water, and forest conditions, the center offers environmental internships and invites nationally known speakers, such as environmental journalist Alan Weisman, Native American rights activist Winona LaDuke, and author Barry Lopez, to campus to engage students in discussions about environmental issues.
- **Venerable Tradition** Founded in 1837, Mount Holyoke was the first of the Seven Sister colleges, the women’s counterpart to the once predominantly male Ivy League schools.
- **Arts on Campus** The MHC faculty includes internationally known writers, dancers, composers, performing musicians, music historians, theatre professionals, visual artists, and art historians. The Mount Holyoke College Art Museum is one of the few college art museums in the nation with an encyclopedic collection that includes Western and non-Western art objects from antiquity to the present. This means every art history course is supported by objects from the museum. The College also presents a wide variety of exciting programs, including performers, artists, curators, and scholars of international repute.

THE FIVE COLLEGE CONSORTIUM MHC is part of Five Colleges, Inc., a consortium that includes Mount Holyoke, Amherst, Hampshire, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The consortium connects students to the vast opportunities and abundant resources of not just one but four prominent colleges and a flagship research university, at no extra charge. Students may take classes at any of the Five Colleges and join Five College music, dance, and theatre groups, community service groups, and political and religious organizations. A free bus service links the campuses, giving MHC students access to more than 5,000 courses and 30,000 college and university students. The combined holdings of the Five College libraries are accessible to all by computer links and Five College lending.

THE LIBERAL ARTS ADVANTAGE A liberal arts education is valuable because, unlike narrower approaches to education, it provides students with a broad exposure to a range of disciplines and perspectives. Mount Holyoke women learn how to think critically and develop strong arguments; to speak and write persuasively; and to analyze and solve problems from a variety of perspectives. A liberal arts education gives one enormous flexibility and is the best kind of education to have in an age when most people can expect to change careers numerous times in the course of their lives.

IMPRESSIVE OUTCOMES A Mount Holyoke liberal arts education gives students what they need to live useful and meaningful lives in the twenty-first century. While some people are under the impression that it's hard to get a job with a liberal arts education, just the opposite is actually true. An MHC education leads to great outcomes and flexibility—not to mention a fulfilling life.

- Six months after graduation, 91 percent of the class of 2007 were either employed or in graduate/professional school.
- Seventy-five percent of our alums enroll in advanced degree programs within ten years of graduating.
- New York University, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Tufts, Georgetown, Harvard, Yale, Boston University, University of Massachusetts, George Washington University, and Princeton are among the graduate programs to which MHC sends many of its students.
- Mount Holyoke's Career Development Center is known for helping students define, plan, and achieve their career as well as graduate and professional school goals. Its new online career-planning tool, *YourPlan*, allows students to electronically organize their goals and keep track of their progress toward them, from their very first semester at Mount Holyoke. The center holds approximately 115 workshops annually, covering such subjects as planning for medical school and law school, interviewing techniques, writing fellowship applications, job hunting, and searching for jobs on the Web. The center does an exceptional job of helping students obtain both summer and January Term internships as well as launching students on careers in everything from investment banking to work in museums.

Support for Key Theme 2

Mount Holyoke is a global community—unusually international and diverse.

More than its peers, Mount Holyoke is distinguished by its international and diverse community. By being exposed to academic and social issues in a context of diversity, MHC students develop global awareness and an ability to deal with complex social issues. This background is appealing to employers in the U.S. and abroad. The College is committed to facilitating study abroad opportunities for as many students as possible. In 2008–2009, the College funded approximately 93 percent of qualified students who applied for aid to study abroad.

Audience value: The public is increasingly aware that a diverse educational community better prepares students for the pluralistic world in which they will function. High-achieving prospective students see diversity and an international curriculum as highly desirable.

POTENTIAL TALKING POINTS

(To be used in any combination/order and customized for the specific audience you are addressing.)

EDUCATING FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP The College’s curriculum is designed to help students develop an awareness of global issues and issues of diversity. Why? Increasingly, one’s ability to succeed and lead in our world will require the ability to manage the complexities that result when people with different backgrounds live and work together. The diverse backgrounds, experience, talents, and interests of MHC students and faculty create powerful opportunities for learning and growth. This prepares students for citizenship and leadership in an interconnected world.

INTERNATIONAL AND DIVERSE More than its peers, Mount Holyoke is distinguished by its international and diverse community.

- **MHC has the highest percentage of international students** among elite U.S. liberal arts colleges. In a typical year approximately 400 international students (16 percent) from nearly 70 countries enroll at the College.
- **More than one in three** Mount Holyoke students is an international citizen or African American, Asian American, Latina, Native American, or multiracial.
- **Diverse Faculty** In 2008–2009, 26 percent of Mount Holyoke’s continuing faculty members are persons of color. Among leading private colleges and universities in the U.S.,
Mount Holyoke has one of the highest percentages of faculty of color, according to a recent survey.
- **MHC faculty come from all over the world** and speak more than 50 languages in addition to English.
- **High Percentage of Women on Faculty** Mount Holyoke’s commitment to diversity is apparent in the numbers of women on the faculty. For the 2008–2009 academic year, 52 percent of our continuing faculty members are women. (At some Ivy League institutions, fewer than 20 percent of tenured faculty are women.)

- **Fourth Best for Asians** MHC has been named the fourth-best college for Asian American students by *aMagazine: Inside Asian America*. The ranking was based on a survey of 300 U.S. colleges and universities that explored

ten different factors in several broad categories, including support for Asian American students, campus diversity, academics, and student life.

A DIVERSE AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IN BOTH CURRICULAR AND COCURRICULAR OFFERINGS

- **The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives** In 2004 the College established the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives, which coordinates curricular and cocurricular offerings that explore global/international issues and cultures. *See page 11 for more information.*
- **The College's multicultural requirement** ensures that every student is exposed to ideas and perspectives different from her own. In addition, global perspectives are woven into the content of classes across the curriculum.
- **Cultural Centers** Mount Holyoke expresses respect for its diverse student body by allotting space for different cultural groups. There are cultural centers for international students; students of African descent; the Asian and Asian American community; the Latina community; the lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community; and the Native American community. These spaces, which are open to the entire Mount Holyoke community, are places where students develop leadership skills, explore their identities, and socialize.
- **Intergroup Dialogue Residence Hall Program**
The Intergroup Dialogue Project is an innovative cocurricular program that focuses on issues of difference, such as race, class, and sexual orientation. The dialogues are open to all MHC students and are facilitated by students trained in intergroup dialogue process. Small groups of students representing different backgrounds and perspectives engage in dialogue. The goals are for participants to learn to

talk openly, honestly, and constructively about social justice issues that affect all of our lives and, ultimately, for graduates to interact effectively in a pluralistic society.

- **Serving Nine Faith Groups** Mount Holyoke is one of the few liberal arts colleges in the country to serve nine different faith groups—Baha'i, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, and Wiccan. Four chaplains—Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, and Muslim—respond to the pastoral and liturgical needs of the College's pluralistic community.
- **Women's Education Worldwide (WEW)**, an international initiative founded in 2003 by Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges, is an organization bringing together the presidents and chief academic officers of women's colleges and universities from around the world and other leaders in women's education. The mission of WEW is to share best practices, to collect and disseminate data about women's colleges, to foster exchange among our institutions, and to advocate for women's education worldwide. In June 2008, Mount Holyoke hosted the first WEW Student Leadership Conference, which brought together 70 young women from 17 countries and 23 women's colleges for three days of leadership and skill-building workshops, communal dinners, and get-to-know-you sessions. Each participant also developed a personal project to implement in her home country. A video documentary is available at www.mtholyoke.edu/proj/wew.

STUDY ABROAD Each year, approximately 40 percent of the junior class has an international experience studying abroad. These experiences make students more desirable to employers both in the U.S. and abroad. Students select from a wide range of places, including Australia, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom. Some study in the local language, and some in English. The College is committed to facilitating study abroad opportunities for as many students as possible. In 2008–2009, 93 percent of qualified applicants received aid. Students receive full Mount Holyoke College credit for work successfully completed abroad.

A PATH TO WISDOM AND SELF-UNDERSTANDING In valuing diverse community, the College recognizes that difference and community are inextricably linked: we are different and we are the same. Mount Holyoke students learn that getting to know others who are different—by virtue of race, ethnicity, class, culture, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national identity, and other characteristics—is a valuable path to wisdom and self-understanding.

Support for Key Theme 3

Mount Holyoke is a place where important connections are made.

Mount Holyoke women have an edge in making connections—to their own intellectual passions, to their professors and peers, to the rich offerings of the Five College community, to a worldwide network of powerful alums, and to the worlds of graduate study and work.

Audience value: Our audiences value making intellectual and personal connections that sustain them in life. This theme counters the impression noted in our market research that too many people view Mount Holyoke as “isolated” and “ivory towerish.”

POTENTIAL TALKING POINTS

(To be used in any combination/order and customized for the specific audience you are addressing.)

MAKING CONNECTIONS ON CAMPUS

- **A Welcoming, Inclusive, and Close-Knit Community** Mount Holyoke fosters a civil, inclusive environment. Those affiliated with the College often comment on what a strong, respectful, and caring community it is. Honor and respect are reflected in the College’s honor code, which calls upon students and faculty to uphold academic responsibility and supports the concept of free inquiry.
- **Lifelong Friendships** Women make deep and abiding friendships at Mount Holyoke. The College has an exceptionally strong reunion program and an extensive alumnae club system—83 U.S. clubs and informal groups; 19 international clubs—that helps many alums remain close to their College friends throughout their lives.
- **Special Faculty Guidance** Mentoring is woven into the fabric of the Mount Holyoke experience. Students rave about their professors’ intellectual passion and their willingness to give individualized attention.
- **Blanchard Campus Center** Our recently renovated campus center is a gathering place for the entire MHC community. Every day about 2,000 people pass through Blanchard Café, one of the most popular places to eat on campus. Many of the College’s more than 150 student organizations have offices in Blanchard. With concerts in the spacious Great Room, community breakfasts, and outdoor barbecues in summer—as well as the campus store, mail center, student art gallery, and a coffeeshop—Blanchard is always bustling.

CONNECTING TO ONE’S OWN INTELLECTUAL LIFE AND PASSIONS

- **Thoughtful, Personalized Academic Advising** Every first-year student has an academic advisor who works with her until she declares a major. Often students connect to a particular professor and ask that individual to advise them. In addition, for each class year there is an academic dean who is available to help students with academic planning.

- **First-Year Seminars** These classes are designed to introduce students to MHC's intellectual community and to help them develop essential skills in writing, speaking, and analytic critical inquiry. Enrollment is limited to keep seminars small. Each year the College offers between 30 and 50 seminars over a broad range of topics. Many involve participation in cultural offerings on campus or at one of the other Five Colleges, or include trips to events or museums in Boston and New York.
- **Nexus Certificate Program: Curriculum to Career** Beginning in 2009–2010, connecting a powerful liberal arts education and future career aspirations will be even easier at Mount

Holyoke. Through the new Nexus Certificate Program, in lieu of a minor or second major, students can earn a certificate in journalism/communications, law and society, business and entrepreneurship, sustainability, health and society, and art and society. They will gain valuable preprofessional experience by completing an internship, research project, or other beyond-the-classroom experience along with relevant interdisciplinary courses, guided reflection, and a final presentation at a campuswide symposium. Completing a Nexus certificate will help students intentionally connect the theoretical and the practical, giving them a competitive edge in pursuing their career goals.

CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

- **The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives** was founded in 2004 to unite Mount Holyoke's wealth of international programs and people and implement a coherent vision for education for global citizenship. The center plans educational activities that advance understanding of global problems and solutions from cross-disciplinary, cross-cultural, and cross-national perspectives. It organizes conferences and panels on major issues of global concern, such as offshore outsourcing, and each year hosts Global Scholars-in-Residence on campus. Recent scholars include Kavita Ramdas '85, president and CEO, Global Fund for Women; Gerald Caplan, leading Canadian authority on genocide and genocide prevention; and Guy Standing, former director of the Socio-Economic Security Programme of the International Labour Organization.
- **Five College Advantage** MHC is part of Five Colleges, Inc., a consortium that includes Mount Holyoke, Amherst, Hampshire, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The consortium connects students to the vast opportunities and abundant resources of not just one but

four prominent colleges and a flagship research university, at no extra charge. Students may take classes at any of the Five Colleges and join Five College music, dance, and theatre groups, community service groups, and political and religious organizations. A free bus service links the campuses, giving MHC students access to over 5,000 courses and 30,000 college and university students. The combined holdings of the Five College libraries are accessible to all by computer links and Five College lending.

- **Worldwide Alumnae Network** Thousands of alumnae worldwide participate in LifeNet, an online networking directory searchable by geographic area, profession, employer, graduate or professional school, personal and cultural interests, and club affiliations. Through LifeNet, students can also connect with alumnae for professional mentoring. Alumnae mentors offer students guidance about graduate school, internships, and planning and developing careers. No matter what part of the world they travel to, MHC alumnae find that open doors await them at the homes and offices of sister alumnae who share their passion for their alma mater.

- **The College's Career Development Center**, in cooperation with the Alumnae Association, offers career and professional support services especially designed for alumnae and students. On-campus career events feature distinguished alumnae guest speakers; panels, workshops, and classes offer career guidance to students and graduates; and weekend conferences bring alumnae and students together for professional and career networking. *YourPlan*, the CDC's online career-planning tool, allows students to electronically organize their goals and keep track of their progress toward them, from their very first semester at Mount Holyoke.
- **Off-Campus Learning** On-campus learning is integrated with off-campus learning opportunities, including community-based learning classes, summer internships, three-week January Term internships, study abroad opportunities in more than 25 countries, Five College classes, and opportunities for study at institutions in the Twelve College Exchange, the American University's Washington Semester Program, and the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. Many students also connect to the greater intellectual community when they make presentations at academic conferences, along with undergraduates and graduate students.
- **Study Abroad** Each year, approximately 40 percent of the junior class has an international experience studying abroad. These experiences make students more desirable to employers both in the U.S. and abroad. Students select from a wide range of places, including Australia, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom. Some study in the local language, and some in English. The College is committed to facilitating study abroad opportunities for as many students as possible. In 2008–2009, 93 percent of qualified applicants received aid. Students receive full Mount Holyoke College credit for work successfully completed abroad.
- **Extensive Internship Opportunities** Internships are an important part of the MHC experience. Many students do two or three internships; an increasing number of students do even more. Examples of internship sites include the White House, J.P. Morgan, the National Organization for Women, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Condé Nast publications, the Bureau of Land Management, Motorola, *Newsweek* (France), Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Merrill Lynch, Beth Israel Hospital, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, and Amazon.com. Through these internships, MHC students develop important work and world experience and broaden their personal and professional networks.
- **Lifelong Learning** After graduation, Mount Holyoke students continue to actively participate in the intellectual life of the College. The Back-to-Class Program offers mini courses during reunion weekends; the Lyon Lecture Series brings Mount Holyoke faculty and guest speakers to alumnae clubs across the country; and the Faculty-Scholar Program connects alumnae with a guest MHC professor each year for a year of sharing ideas.

Support for Key Theme 4

Mount Holyoke has a proud legacy of educating women leaders.

At Mount Holyoke, the oldest institution of higher education for women in the country, women are taken seriously. The College's illustrious alumnae are role models for today's bright, ambitious students.

Audience value: Many prospective students and their parents do not value single-sex education. However, they do value the development of women leaders and value women who are successful in their careers. Most alumnae and other College supporters are very proud of the College's record of graduating high-achieving women.

POTENTIAL TALKING POINTS

(To be used in any combination/order and customized for the specific audience you are addressing.)

VENERABLE TRADITION Founded in 1837, Mount Holyoke was the first of the Seven Sister colleges, the women's counterpart to the once predominantly male Ivy League schools. Mount Holyoke students become part of a long line of women who excel.

- **By and For Women** At Mount Holyoke, students are connected to a tradition of excellence shaped largely by and entirely for women. MHC's rigorous liberal arts education develops knowledge, habits of mind, skills, perspectives, and values that transform lives, motivate lifelong learning, and instill a sense of purposefulness. At Mount Holyoke, women are taken seriously.
- **Impressive Alumnae** MHC alumnae include poet Emily Dickinson (1849); Frances Perkins (1902), first woman cabinet member; Ella Grasso (1940), first woman governor elected in her own right; Gloria Johnson-Powell (1958), first African American woman to attain tenure at Harvard Medical School; Jean Picker Firstenberg (1958), director of the American Film Institute; Nita Lowey (1959), New York congresswoman; Julia Phillips (1964), first woman producer to win an Oscar; Nancy Vickers (1967), president of Bryn Mawr College; Elaine Tuttle Hansen (1969), president of Bates College; Wendy Wasserstein (1971), Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright; Nancy Novograd (1971), editor-in-chief of *Travel and Leisure*; Barbara Dombkowski Desoer (1974), chief of technology, service, and fulfillment operations at the Bank of America; Pamela Maffri McCarthy (1974), senior vice president/deputy editor, the *New Yorker*; Elaine Chao (1975), U.S. secretary of labor; Robin Neustein (1975), managing director and second female partner, Goldman, Sachs & Co.; Nancy Gustafson (1978), international opera star; Holly Metcalf (1981), first American gold medallist in women's eight-oar boat; Barbara A. Cassani (1982), first female chief executive officer of a British airline company, Go, recipient of the Veuve Clicquot businesswoman of the year award; Janet V. Lustgarten (1982), chief executive officer of Kx Systems, a California technology firm; Suzan-Lori Parks (1985), Pulitzer Prize- and Obie-winning playwright and MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" recipient; Kavita N. Ramdas (1985), president and CEO, Global Fund for Women; Mona Sutphen (1989), deputy chief of staff, Obama administration; Heather Harde (1991), chief executive officer, TechCrunch; Angela "Angie" LeMond (1993), actress/entertainment reporter.

- **Five Mount Holyoke women have had U.S. postage stamps issued in their honor.** They include Emily Dickinson (1849), poet; Frances Perkins (1902), secretary of labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first woman to serve on a presidential cabinet, and initiator of such landmark programs as minimum wage, social security, and child labor laws; Dr. Virginia Apgar (1929), develop-

er of the Apgar Score used to evaluate newborns, and first female full professor at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Lucy Stone (1839), women's rights activist who dared to keep her birth name after marriage; and Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College and pioneer in women's education.

CULTIVATING LEADERS For generations Mount Holyoke has been at the forefront in women's education. The College continues to take a leadership role in the worldwide education and advancement of women.

- **Female Role Models** The Mount Holyoke community focuses on the growth of each student in an environment replete with dedicated faculty, outstanding networking opportunities, and strong female role models. In 2008–2009, 52 percent of MHC faculty are women; at some Ivies, fewer than 20 percent of the tenured faculty are women.
- **On-Campus Leadership Positions** Leadership opportunities abound within such student organizations as the Student Government Association, CAUSE, and Model UN. Students also sit on advisory committees to the College faculty and administration.
- **The Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts** At Mount Holyoke, leadership and the liberal arts are integrally linked. Established in 1997, the Weissman Center showcases the connections between academic excellence and purposeful engagement in the world. The Weissman Center sponsors a range of innovative programming exploring both the intellectual and practical aspects of leadership. (See next three bullets.)
- **The Speaking, Arguing, and Writing Program (SAW)** This program, sponsored by the Weissman Center, is a national model for strengthening students' leadership skills, including the ability to frame, articulate, and advocate positions constructively and effectively. SAW sponsors speaking- and writing-inten-

sive courses across the disciplines, from art to biology to economics to math. Intensive one-on-one mentoring is also available.

- **Informed on Issues of Public Concern** Each semester, the Weissman Center sponsors a series of lectures/symposia focused on important issues of public concern. Generated directly from the research interests of MHC faculty, the series brings students face-to-face with important leaders and change agents, such as author/educator Jonathan Kozol, international human rights activist Naomi Tutu, and Maria Hinojosa, award-winning broadcast journalist and senior correspondent at NOW on PBS. Themes have included environmental health, architecture, travel, human reproduction, and race. These events draw huge student crowds and are part of the reason Mount Holyoke students have a reputation for being so well informed.
- **The McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives** In 2004 the College established the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives, which coordinates curricular and cocurricular offerings that explore global/international issues and cultures. *See page 11 for more information.*
- **Community-Based Learning (CBL)** Promoted and supported by the Weissman Center, CBL enhances students' understanding of public concern and fosters their leadership, citizenship, and advocacy skills. Community-based learning brings together students, facul-

ty, and community organizations to work on projects that provide intellectually rich experiences for students and tangible benefits to the community.

- **The Frances Perkins Legacy** The first female appointed to a presidential cabinet was MHC alumna Frances Perkins 1902, who served as secretary of labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt. Another Mount Holyoke alumna, Elaine Chao '75, served as secretary of labor in the George W. Bush administration.
- **A Leader in Information Technology** Anticipating that technology would become a major force in the creation and dissemination of knowledge, MHC has taken a leadership role in integrating technology throughout academ-

ic and cocurricular life. Through regular contact with technology and sophisticated scientific instrumentation, Mount Holyoke graduates students who are technologically savvy.

- **Home to the Five College Women's Studies Research Center** Every year, 20 researchers from around the world who are at the cutting edge of women's studies are in residence at the center on Mount Holyoke's campus. These scholars and activists represent a vast array of disciplines—from theatre to physics. All are exploring issues affecting women. MHC students have the opportunity to connect to these important scholar-researchers. They can participate in all center events and may also serve as research assistants.

STRONG TIES

- **Mount Holyoke students become part of a network of powerful women.** Mount Holyoke alumnae around the world are willing and eager to support their MHC sisters in both their personal and professional lives. There are 83 U.S. alumnae clubs and informal groups, and 19 international.
- **Impressive Alumnae Giving** Mount Holyoke alumnae express their appreciation of their Mount Holyoke education with an impressive show of generosity. Mount Holyoke is one of only a handful of colleges that averages nearly 50 percent alumnae giving participation.

LEADERSHIP IN SPORTS

- **Home to the 2004 USGA Women's Open** In July 2004 Mount Holyoke partnered with another venerable organization that cultivates women leaders—the United States Golf Association—and hosted the 2004 women's championship, the largest women's sports event in the world. One hundred sixty-four of the world's finest female golfers competed at the College's Donald-Ross designed course, The Orchards, for the prestigious title.
- **Athletic Prowess** Nearly one in five MHC students participates in a varsity sport. MHC athletes have attained success at the highest levels. The College has produced NCAA champions and Olympic gold medallists.
- **Equestrian Champions** The equestrian team captured the IHSA National Championship title in 2006 and 2000 and won the Reserve Champion title in 2007 and 2005. The 2007 team also earned Champion College honors for Region III, Zone I for the eleventh straight year. The MHC dressage club has been undefeated regionally since 1997. They were the National IDA Team Champions in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2008.
- **Laurie Priest**, chair of physical education and director of athletics at Mount Holyoke since 1989, has been named one of "The 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America" by the Institute for International Sport.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Founded in 1837 by chemist and revolutionary educator Mary Lyon, Mount Holyoke College is a highly selective, nondenominational, residential, research liberal arts college for women. The first of the Seven Sisters—the female equivalent of the once predominantly male Ivy League—the College is recognized worldwide for its rigorous and innovative academic programs, its global community, its legacy of women leaders, and its commitment to connecting the work of the academy to the concerns of the world.

To see the campus and hear students and faculty speak about their MHC experiences, please take our virtual tours: www.mtholyoke.edu/go/tour and www.mtholyoke.edu/go/myypov.

WHAT IS MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE'S PERSONALITY?

- Academically rigorous
- Open, friendly
- Globally aware
- Socially conscious community of individuals

PRIMARY BENEFITS OF ATTENDING MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

- Invigorates intellect and stimulates curiosity and creativity
- Hones communication and leadership skills—speaking, arguing, and writing
- Increases technological savvy and global awareness
- Increases a student's probability of getting into her first-choice graduate school
- Provides outstanding career preparation
- Heightens social consciousness and builds character
- Fosters strong sense of self-knowledge, confidence, and purpose
- Fosters lifelong friendships and connections around the world
- Enhances the ability to make a difference
- Confers the prestige of being “a Mount Holyoke woman”

An online version of *Describing Mount Holyoke College*, at www.mtholyoke.edu/go/identity, will be updated periodically. If you have suggestions for updating the information or making it more user-friendly, please contact Patricia Vandenberg, executive director of communications and strategic initiatives, pvandenberg@mtholyoke.edu.

MOUNT HOLYOKE

Mount Holyoke College
50 College Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-1459
www.mtholyoke.edu/go/identity
pvandenb@mtholyoke.edu

Office of Communications 34390409