

# campus currents

## College Launches \$300 Million Fundraising Campaign

THIS FALL, MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE embarks on a five-year, \$300 million fundraising campaign, the largest in the school's history. Formally announced by the board of trustees in October, The Campaign for Mount Holyoke 2010 has as its top priorities a substantively increased endowment, additional support for the Annual Fund, capital for new buildings, and resources in support of the faculty and programmatic initiatives.

The campaign is designed to support the goals laid out in the college's strategic *Plan for 2010*, which includes a transformation of the curriculum focused on interdisciplinary connections that address the impact of technology and globalization. "The Plan challenges Mount Holyoke to educate all students for global citizenship in the twenty-first century," said President Joanne V. Creighton in a message announcing the campaign. "In order to accomplish this ambitious work, trustees and the college leadership call upon our alumnae and friends to rally around Mount Holyoke."

### Endowment the Tallest Order

The fundraising effort seeks new gifts and pledges totaling \$175 million for the college's endowment over the next five years. The endowment in May 2006 was approximately \$521 million, and in 2005 was ranked ninth among eleven selective liberal arts colleges. "The endowment is one of the most critical contributors to any college's annual budget," notes Barbara McClearn Baumann '77, cochair of the campaign and chair of the college's Finance Committee. "So, the bigger the endowment, the more dollars are available for immediate use. A more robust endowment translates into the sorts of tangible things that students consider in selecting their college, and perhaps more important, the things that make colleges preeminent: more programs, more financial aid, more faculty support."

### Annual Fund, Projects, and Programs

Some \$50 million of the campaign goal is earmarked for the Annual Fund, which accounts for approximately 10 percent of the college's yearly budget. The goal is not only to increase annual giving to \$10 million a year, but also to increase the overall participation rate of alumnae from 45 percent to at least 50 percent. The campaign seeks another \$50 million in expendable, programmatic funds to support innovations in technology inside and outside of classrooms, arts and summer research programs, and landscape enhancements, as well as for the college's many study centers.

### New Buildings and Renovations

Of the \$25 million to be raised for facilities, \$15 million is earmarked for a new residence hall. (See p. 20.) The college will also attend to \$1.5 million in renovation needs of nine older dorms in the next ten years. Athletics will benefit from \$10 million of the campaign, as the college looks to build an artificial turf field with lights so sports can proceed later in the season and the day and in inclement weather. Also on

the drawing board is a new, synthetic outdoor track, a boat-house to accommodate the crew team, and renovations to the Kendall sports complex.

Mary Graham Davis '65, president of the Alumnae Association and a member of the campaign steering committee, said alumnae understand the importance of continued support for the college to sustain faculty quality, programmatic resources, and building upgrades. But emotional ties are important, too, she added, as alumnae also "give in memory of the many friendships and experiences of their college days and often their ties to the college that continue to this day."—M.H.B.



Campaign Cochairs Leslie Anne Miller '73, left, and Barbara McClearn Baumann '77

## Newsbriefs



### The Drone, Thud, and Clunk of Summer Construction

IF YOU IMAGINE summer on the MHC campus to be spa-like in its stillness and contemplative serenity, think again. The high energy of students and returning alums vanishes only to be replaced by cherry pickers, bucket loaders, and a variety of other machinery with functions best observed from a distance. Some of the construction and renovation projects that kept Facilities Management crews busy this summer were:

- Excavation of the lawn in front of Mary Woolley Hall to extend underground utilities to the site of the new residence hall adjacent to Pratt Hall
- Five separate projects at Prospect Hall, including expansion of the kitchen
- Extensive renovation to the interior of Mead Hall, including all bathrooms
- Repair damage to Wilder Hall from a fallen tree limb; cleaning and repointing of brick exterior
- Installation of new ventilation, lighting, and sound systems in Hooker Auditorium; repainting and recarpeting the interior; reupholstering the seats
- Removal of five dying hemlock trees
- Recarpeting the library's main reading room

## By the Numbers

### Welcome, Class of 2010!

**3,065** students applied

**1,632** were accepted

**565** enrolled

**129** (23 percent) are African American, Asian American, Latina, and Native American students

**72** (13 percent) have alumnae relatives

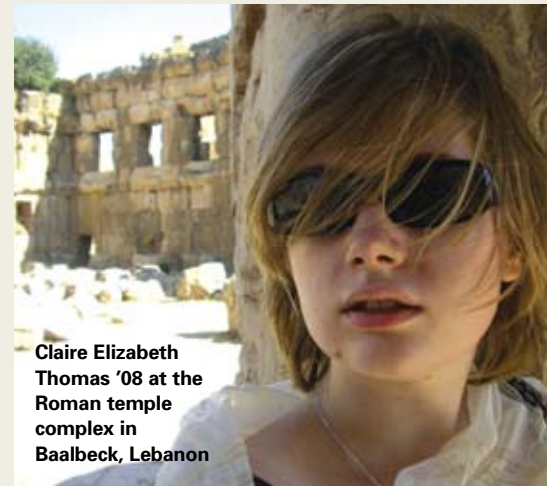
**38** states are represented

**37** foreign countries sent us their best

**3.7** is the class's high-school grade-point average

## Summer Intern Evacuated from Beirut

**Last summer, Claire Thomas '08** went to Beirut for a newspaper internship at The Daily Star. Her work was interrupted by the Israeli-Lebanese conflict, and she was evacuated back to America. She agreed to describe some of what she experienced on her final day in country.



Claire Elizabeth Thomas '08 at the Roman temple complex in Baalbeck, Lebanon

The last meal I ate in Beirut was an exceptionally greasy mozzarella and pesto crepe. It was by far the worst food I'd had while in Lebanon, which otherwise was some of the best I've ever eaten. But I was lucky to even find that crepe, on the relatively abandoned Bliss Street, an eatery-packed avenue in front of the American University in Beirut.

Bliss Street is well known for its cheap food, and is usually inundated with hordes of university students. Now only a few lonely and somber groups milled around whatever was still open, which wasn't much. The street, which only a week ago had been jam-packed with impossibly sluggish Beirut traffic, lay wide open. I passed a man loading his family into a car, a mattress tied to the roof.

It turned out the only crepe supplies available were cheese, congealed pesto, and Nutella. The young man behind the counter chatted as he put the crepe batter on the propane-fueled grill; there was no electricity. He asked my friend and me if we were leaving. We responded that we were trying. His smile was understanding, and more than a little sad. My friend asked what his thoughts were on what was happening. He said he didn't blame Israel so much as see it as one of life's inevitable evils, an inhuman leviathan that Hezbollah had misguidedly stirred from its slumber. Later that afternoon I bid Beirut farewell from the deck of the cargo freighter the *Hual*, chartered by the Swedish government for the evacuation.

Less than two months before, I had arrived in Beirut for an eight-week internship at *The Daily Star*, an English-language newspaper. While I don't study journalism, I am majoring in international relations and have studied Arabic and Middle Eastern politics, which is what drew me to Beirut. Interning at *The Daily Star* was incredibly interesting—I was even able to write articles that were published. On weekends, I traveled with friends north to Byblos and Tripoli, south to Sidon, and east to the Bekaa Valley and Baalbeck, places that, along with Beirut, I now hear about daily on CNN in reports about their destruction.

## Student Edge

# Awakening Dragon

## Student Interest in Chinese Language Mirrors Nation's Growing Importance

**The rise of China as an economic behemoth** and its longstanding cultural importance have increased student demand for Chinese language instruction at Mount Holyoke. Ying Wang, associate professor of Asian studies and the college's primary instructor of Chinese, had nineteen students when she arrived in 1999. This fall, she and two visiting instructors welcomed more than seventy.

"It's important to know a different culture," says Wang, who first came to America to study while teaching at Beijing Language and Cultural University (BLCU). China is on the radar screen of many MHC students and alumnae who have traveled to China for pleasure, are there teaching English, are looking at graduate schools in disciplines that could involve fieldwork in China, or are interested in business careers with corporations active in Asia.

Tonal rather than phonetic, Chinese is a tough language for native English speakers to learn. While students can build their skills in class, nothing hones language abilities as well as visiting a country where the language is spoken. So Wang last year put together a summer-study program at her old school in Beijing. Seventeen students signed up for this summer's pilot program at BLCU, which included lectures and drills in the morning, and practice and field

trips with a native-language partner in the afternoon. Working four hours a day, five days a week, students completed a full year of Chinese in just eight weeks.

## Brainstorms

trips with a native-language partner in the afternoon. Working four hours a day, five days a week, students

completed a full year of Chinese in just eight weeks. Kaitlyn Szydlowski '09 wrote about her experiences in a blog. "Each and every day my Chinese is improving," she exclaimed. "Apart from speaking the language both in class and at tutoring sessions, getting out into the city really tests my skills."

Wang, who also teaches contemporary Chinese fiction at MHC, brings considerable life experience to the classroom. During Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, she was twice moved from Beijing to a rural village to work and live with peasant farmers. "Of course, I would have liked to have had a peaceful childhood," Wang says. But she insists that enduring hardships in one's youth can be rewarding over time. "My generation became very strong and contributed to China's current changes," she points out. —M.H.B.



## Tidbits

• Susan Barry's **remarkable, lifelong journey** from monocular vision—lacking in depth perception—to binocular stereoscopic vision—the ability to perceive a three-dimensional world—was chronicled in an article by Oliver Sacks in the June 19 *New Yorker*. Barry is associate professor of biological sciences and a member of the program in neuroscience and behavior at MHC.

• Costa Rica President Oscar Arias knows a **good read** when he sees one. He recently met with Eva Paus, director of the Center for Global Initiatives, to talk about economic policy and said her recent book, *Foreign Investment, Development and Globalization: Can Costa Rica Become Ireland?* was on his nightstand.

• The papers of Dr. Virginia Apgar '29, creator of **the widely used Apgar Score** to evaluate newborns' health, are now available on the National Library of Medicine's Profiles in Science Web site. That library collaborated with MHC archives to digitize her papers and make them widely available. See them at [www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov).

• **From the "You Don't Say" department:** Students at women's colleges spend more time on productive activities and gain more from their college experience than women at coeducational institutions, according to a recent study by the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research. Findings were based on a national survey of students.

## More Changes in Religious Life

THE REV. SHERRY S. TUCKER, MAT '92 has been appointed interim dean of the Office



of Religious and Spiritual Life. She also will continue to serve as chaplain and adviser to the Protestant community, as she has done since last year. Tucker replaces Rabbi Lisa Freitag-Keshet, who this past summer moved with her partner and two children to Israel. Tucker is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Her husband is a professor of sociology at the college.



Field hockey player Meaghan Murphy '08

## Fall Sports Preview

**Crew:** MHC rowers hope to improve on last year's fourth-place regional ranking. This will be a challenge with the loss of ten seniors, but many talented juniors are ready to fill the boats.

**Cross-Country:** Academic All-American Christine Klepacki '09 led the MHC harriers last year and looks to power a stronger squad this season, as fifteen returners and several swift first-years fill the roster.

**Field Hockey:** Coming off a 14-8 record and an ECAC New England title game appearance, the field hockey team hopes to continue its winning ways. The loss of six seniors is daunting, but the team can count on nearly a dozen returnees and a large incoming class.

**Golf:** The golf outlook is bright as four out of five players return from last year, including senior captain Erin Weimer and sophomore Martha Elson.

**Riding:** The 2006 national riding champions don't have much room to improve. National contenders Nathalie Cooper '07, Christine Gunn '07, Marie Hilliard '07, and Dani Johnson '07 hope to lead the Lyons to their fourth straight national championship appearance.

**Soccer:** Lots of newcomers will add depth and flexibility to the 2006 squad, while a solid core of returners aims to reach new heights.

**Tennis:** With the return of seniors Anjali Bhalodia and Anna Boatwright from study abroad, as well as national singles qualifier Angela Horner '09, the Lyons look to be a formidable force on the court this year.

**Volleyball:** The 2006 campaign looks promising as many talented newcomers join the squad, while veteran outside hitters Emily Groth '07 and Chelsea Tracy '09 and setter Rachel West '08 power the attack.

—Bridget Gunn, sports information director

## Hip-Hop Goes Academic

On a Tuesday late last March, Skinner 216 is jam-packed with students from all five area colleges listening intently, taking notes furiously, bobbing their heads and tapping their feet. This is African-American Studies 313: The Cultural and Literary History of Hip-Hop.

Professor Anthony Ratcliff is standing at the front of the room, also bobbing his head and shoulders to the beat of Lauryn Hill's song "Final Hour," as the class reads the song lyrics on a handout. The windows are vibrating slightly. "We want to get deep into the song," says Ratcliff, after the music stops. The song's hook, "You can git the money/you can git the power/ keep your eyes on/ the final hour," occupies much of the discussion. Students talk about the lyrics' polysyllabic rhyme structure, the religious themes of the song, and the message to fellow hip-hop artists not to get so focused on money and fame that they forget their faiths.

Getting deep into hip-hop is a relatively recent phenomenon in academia. Like jazz in its youth, hip-hop has not been considered serious enough to merit academic study. As it grows and shapes the wider culture around it, however, hip-hop is finding a place in classrooms. This course is truly a multimedia endeavor and includes books, such as Gwendolyn D. Pough's *Check It While I Wreck It: Black Womanhood, Hip-Hop Culture, and the Public Sphere*, articles, films, and naturally, music, from more mainstream "gangsta" rap by 50 Cent to more populist

pieces by Mos Def and Lauryn Hill.

Tsehay Shaw '06 is from the Bronx, thought to be the birthplace of hip-hop. "I lived there, but I didn't know much about [hip-hop]," she says. The class looks at the culture and history of hip-hop, and explores the lyrics, showing that it is "more than just girls in booty shorts," Shaw says, referring to the scantily clad women in most music videos. She says the course is widening her view of the genre.

Danielle Brennan '06, an English major familiar with hip-hop, wanted to get exposure to its deeper meaning. "This class has broadened my horizons," she says, by revealing the social and political issues both created by and reflected in this art form. "It's not just about the beat."—E.C.W. '92



Ratcliff and students

## In Session