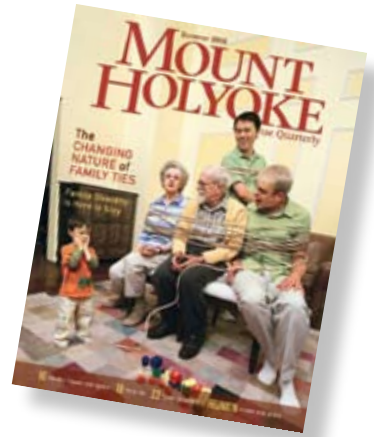


# viewpoints



## Re/ MHC Architecture

During my years at Mount Holyoke, I was always intrigued by the history of the dynamic evolution of the campus and its buildings, so was immediately attracted to Jennifer Giesecking's story [summer], especially her insight into the relationship of buildings to the changing social mores of women. I commend her for her arduous work in organizing and cataloguing all those building plans, and congratulate the Alumnae Association for its funding. I question Giesecking's designation of the Mandelles and new Rockies as "cottages." I had always understood that this designation initially applied to the post-1896 residences, modeled on new residences at Smith. While still called cottages, the later buildings were definitely echoes of English manor houses. An interesting building feature

of the residences was basement rooms for maids, Irish girls who, in the summers, worked at New England coastal hotels. In Mary Lyon's Seminary the students shared responsibility for cleaning and cooking, for reasons of economy and the teaching of domestic skills. In the cottages era they were relieved of this responsibility in order to concentrate on their studies. To study the social archaeology of the campus, and read the palimpsest below its surface, reveals the constant adaptability of the college and affirms Mary Lyon's hope and prediction that her school would survive and flourish.

**Anne C. Edmonds,**  
MHC librarian emeritus  
Camden, Maine

I am writing to clarify that, while Jennifer Giesecking's work on the college's

architectural drawings was an important first step toward making them available to researchers, they are not yet cataloged. Giesecking conducted a preliminary survey of some 35,000 architectural records, a crucial step toward developing a grant application to secure funding to preserve, organize, and catalog the drawings that document nearly every area of campus from 1891 to the present. With continued hard work and good luck, the drawings will eventually be made accessible to the broader research community. Toward that end, Sarah Geisler '07 spent the summer typing Giesecking's survey notes and writing a narrative describing the collection.

**Jennifer Gunter King,**  
Head of MHC Archives and  
Special Collections

## An Inestimable Talent

When I read the "In Memoriam" notices [spring] on the passing of Robert Berkey and Elizabeth Boyd, I experienced overwhelming sorrow and gratitude. Sorrow, of course, on their passing, but gratitude for having known and been a student of these highly learned and honored professors. It moved me to

recall and acknowledge that I have been, as so many of us have, the beneficiary of teachers who have passed into that professorial pantheon; John Teall and Betty Nye Quinn also came to mind. But I particularly want to acknowledge Bob Berkey's contribution because he was my mentor, directed my honors thesis, and was the inspiration for my going on to graduate work in religious studies and a career in teaching. He was one of the most selfless, humble men I have ever known. While himself highly gifted, the gift that he most prized was his ability to encourage others to recognize and implement their own gifts, an inestimable talent in a teacher. Along with his wife, Carolyn, who also has made a major contribution to Mount Holyoke, they were an unbeatable team. His lifelong gift to my husband and me was their friendship. Our condolences go to Carolyn, his family, and his friends.

**Barbara Diamond Turner '62**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

## Re/ "Bragging Rights"

I loved "Bragging Rights" [spring]. I want to speak

## We Want to Hear From You!

We love getting mail. Send your thoughts, with your full name, address, and class year, to Mieke H. Bomann, *Alumnae Quarterly*, 50 College St., South Hadley, MA 01075-1486 or [mbomann@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:mbomann@mtholyoke.edu). We reserve the right to edit letters, especially for length (300 words is ideal).

*“Reading the stories of others venturing into new and different arenas in all phases of their lives emphasizes that Mount Holyoke graduates **Continue to learn and grow** throughout their lives.”*

*Pamela Crandall '77  
Leawood, Kansas*

directly to Julianne Trabucchi Puckett's folding talents. In the early '70s, I lived in an apartment in Sydney, Australia, where, if we wanted to hang laundry out, it had to be done in the furnace room in the basement. A neighbor, several years my senior, saw my king-sized fitted sheets and inquired as to how to fold such sheets “properly.” Spatial relations are a serious weakness for me, and while I shared my rather untidy tips (start by pushing the corners into each other), I felt totally out of my depth. And wonder of wonders, the question still plagues me! Imagine my total delight in finding an MHC sister who can do it right! I love it. She is justifiably proud. Every one of the other entries in this article caught my attention and left me with a taste of delight.

**Susan Smith McLaren '62**  
*Phoenixville, Pennsylvania*

As to the article about bragging rights, I have some, but one in particular that is unique. Because I am dyslexic, I am also totally ambidextrous: I can do everything with either hand. That, however, is not the unusual part. I also can write with both hands, simultaneously:

upside down and backwards with one, while writing right side up and forward with the other. In true dyslexic fashion, the first thing I wrote that way was, “I can't read right, but I can write wrong!” Dyslexia, caused by a difference in brain structure, is incurable. Living with and around it can be a life's nightmare, because dyslexics often cannot do even simple tasks, which most people take for granted. Dyslexia has taught me much about life—especially, never to take myself too seriously!

**Joan Lichtman '65**  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

### **Re/ “Late Bloomers”**

Many times over the summer I wondered what I was getting myself into as I prepared to start school at the University of Kansas to obtain a master's in social work. It had been twenty-five years since I had last been in graduate school, and my MBA was definitely at the other end of the spectrum from social services. Imagine how encouraged and relieved I was to read the article [summer] about alumnae late bloomers just one week before the start of my classes! Many friends think I am crazy, and

others are jealous but skeptical. After all, I finally have time for myself with my last daughter heading to college. Having time for myself is precisely why I enrolled in school. Mount Holyoke taught me that I will always have something to offer and gave me the tools to succeed. It is time to take what I have learned over the past twenty-five years in business and the community and give it a unique focus. Reading the stories of others venturing into new and different arenas in all phases of their lives emphasizes that Mount Holyoke graduates continue to learn and grow throughout their lives. Thanks to all who shared their stories for encouraging me during my latest blooming period.

**Pamela Crandall '77**  
*Leawood, Kansas*

### **Scrambled Pronunciation**

When I attended my reunion in June, my classmates and I were shocked to hear the name of our alma mater mispronounced by speakers at the alumnae meeting and even by the college operator! During our first few weeks at Mount Holyoke we were drilled that the school name was “a complete egg” and

never a “sacred tree.” What has occurred in the past five to ten years to change the situation? I've returned for every reunion and do not recall encountering this problem before. Just check the music and sing the *Alma Mater* and you can hear there are just two notes, for two syllables, not three.

**Alice J. Capson '71**  
*Overland Park, Kansas*

### **Third-Age Reading**

In response to Elinor Miller Greenberg's comments in [summer] “Viewpoints” and the [spring] “Rethinking Retirement” piece, the success of *The Third Age: Principles for Growth and Renewal After 40*, written by my father, speaks to the dire need for the popular press and usual nonfiction books that Ms. Greenberg says don't do justice for people in their third trimester, or third age, or whatever one calls it. I agree, as does my dad, and hence his second book on a creative retirement is in press, and soon to be filling that void on bookstore shelves for vibrant women like Ms. Greenberg, and those profiled in your piece.

**Kirsten Sadler Edepli '90**  
*New York, New York*