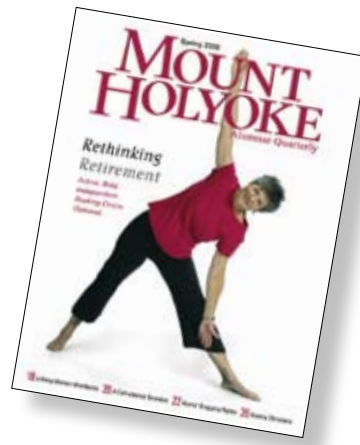


viewpoints



Drop the Banners, Pass the Water

[Re/ "Global Outsourcing," winter] I watch with dismal curiosity anti-globalization protesters as I have those who lament being left behind by the digital divide. Could it be that both groups lack the required vision? Outsourcing has actually revealed a huge business opportunity in the U.S. just waiting to be tapped. There is now a growing market for job retraining with easily identifiable fields on the up and others that are clearly being shipped offshore. Why are private players not filling this void? Could it be that they are too busy protesting?

I work in HR in the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry. Globalization pays for my business suits, but many years ago I spent a few months holed up in an ashram, reading religious texts and eschewing

Coca-Cola because we were against what globalization was doing to the farmers of India. When I got into the BPO industry, on the weekends I worked for a foundation that sought to provide clean drinking water to Indian farmers. So one day on a trip to a village, I asked a farmer if he would object to private players entering the potable water space and providing him with high-quality potable water in exchange for a small fee (thus far his drinking water had been free). He enthusiastically welcomed this idea, agreeing quickly to the fee provided it guaranteed quality. He never even noticed the Coke can in my hand.

Jyotsna Singh '93
Bangalore, India

Serving a Changing World

I was offended and saddened by the letter from Judith Vickers Andrews '68

(winter). I think Mount Holyoke has done an excellent job of meeting [the needs of] today's changing world and serving and acknowledging its wide-ranging and varied community. I am greatly distressed by the self-righteous and judgmental tone of Ms. Andrews's letter, and of the Christian Right that has become so prevalent in our society. It does not reflect Christian tolerance, or Mount Holyoke values, as I understand them. And, by the way, congratulations for acknowledging Lyon's Pride and the lesbian community. Being gay or lesbian is no more a choice than being born black or with blond hair and blue eyes, and like these traits, it is neither evil nor wrong!

Margaret Norton '58
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Challenge of Alternative Viewpoints

I echo the sentiments of Rev. Cressell '01 in her recent letter (spring). I am a born-again Christian, and think that MHC's liberal bias challenged me to examine my own faith, and only caused it to grow deeper. I enjoyed the variety of religion classes taught by

fine religion professors like John Grayson and Robert Berkey (who recently passed away). And I benefited greatly from the Christian groups on campus, such as Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and Campus Crusade for Christ. I think freedom of religion is key to our culture in the United States of America. We as Christians should not be of the world, but should live in it, and thereby learn to shine our Light among its people.

Holly Schabacker Daniel '85
Strongsville, Ohio

Retirement? What a Scandal!

I read the article on retirement ("Rethinking Retirement," spring) and realized I fit right in! I turn sixty-five in June and am running—for the first time—for a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives. I've yet to retire, and work part-time for the Mental Health Association of Franklin County and time-and-a-half behind the scenes for candidates, issues, Democracy for America, America Votes; you name it. Retirement? Never.

I decided to run for several reasons. I've been preaching grassroots

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. We reserve the right to edit letters, especially for length (300 words is ideal).

“ When we find something that gives us joy,
that we are good at, and that serves others,
we can't help but make a difference
in our communities and in our world.”

Natalie Baxter Strange '82
Norwich, England

involvement for thirty years and it was time for me to practice what I preached. And this is not the year in scandal-ridden Ohio to let any Republican stand unchallenged. Twelve years of one-party rule in our state legislature has resulted in all kinds of problems and negative firsts: first in foreclosures, first in bankruptcies, college tuition so high that we are losing young people to other states, and the loss of manufacturing jobs with no effective plan to replace them. Let's not even mention the number of people without health insurance.

So here I am, a candidate for the first time at the ripe old age of almost sixty-five, ready to knock on doors and talk to the people of my district. Check out my Web site at www.marianforohio.com. Retirement? Hah!!

Marian Lichtiger Harris '62
Columbus, Ohio

Serial Careers Are the Way to Go

I enjoyed “Rethinking Retirement” but was astonished and amused at how young most of the retirees who reported are. Let's see: I retired from teach-

ing in 1984, but not from my research in the English romantic period, from which I retired in 2005 with my last publication in the *Keats-Shelley Journal*. And although I retired last year as the editor of the *Beloit Poetry Journal* (fifty years was enough), I remain on the editorial board and still write all the reviews. In the eighties and nineties, I had a career in arts administration for the Maine Arts Commission, and then in my eighties settled into a long-postponed career as a freelance writer.

I'm specializing in memoirs, three now published as articles and a book scheduled for 2007. Another article, on war, is still out, and I'm just finishing a book on my experience of wilderness. After a lifetime of editing other people's writing, I find the self-indulgence of writing my own experience is enormous fun.

To today's students I'd say: If all goes well you will have a life span long enough for serial careers. Keep acquiring skills and concerns. If Holyoke has given you what it gave me, you will be incapable of boredom.

Marion Kingston Stocking '43
Lamoine, Maine

Life's Expanding Third Trimester

The article “Rethinking Retirement” by Maryann Teale Snell '86 was right on the mark. I was delighted to see my quote included; but even more important was the article's affirmation of my belief that the usual notion of retirement is not applicable to educated women who have had creative and interesting professional lives, as is the case for many Mount Holyoke graduates. The *Quarterly* is an excellent source for tracking the unique life-cycle issues of educated contemporary women who lead the way in many areas throughout their lives. Neither the popular press nor the usual nonfiction books does justice to this segment of our changing society. Thank you, Maryann. Let's have more on the

lengthening “third trimester of life.”

Elinor Miller Greenberg '53
Centennial, Colorado

Making a Difference, Vocationally

Donal O'Shea's words from his convocation speech (winter “Last Look”) stirred my heart. I wholeheartedly agree with his urging to find one's vocation, not just a career. Vocation is a calling, something bigger than ourselves. As O'Shea says: “Vocations are about care, about passion and excellence, and about service.” When we find something that gives us joy, that we are good at, and that serves others, we can't help but make a difference in our communities and in our world.

Natalie Baxter Strange '82
Norwich, England

Correction: *The spring Quarterly article on board of trustees chair Leslie Anne Miller '73 contained an error. It should have read that Miller served (not serves) as general counsel for the state of Pennsylvania. We regret the mistake.*