

Think Globally, Eat Locally

Fall's "gracious dinner" is just one manifestation of Dining Services' quest to increase MHC's use of locally grown food.



Deerfield honey. Hadley tomatoes. Amherst apples. No longer the mealtime fare of a few local purists, area produce is often being served in college dining halls. Even as MHC thinks more and more globally, the food students eat is getting increasingly local.

Although the amount of food MHC buys locally changes with the growing season and the availability of specific items from area vendors, student dining centers routinely serve locally grown products on a daily basis. For instance, a student might spread honey from South Deerfield on her morning toast, make a sandwich at lunch with Springfield hummus and sprouts, accompany a dinner entrée with

Hadley asparagus or peppers, and top it off with an Amherst apple or ice cream churned in Greenfield.

On September 28, Dining Services showcased its local/sustainable agriculture efforts by offering a "gracious dinner" in which almost everything served was grown or produced locally. From creamy pumpkin soup to the mixed berry pie, every bite was fresh from a source somewhere in the Pioneer Valley or Connecticut River Valley.

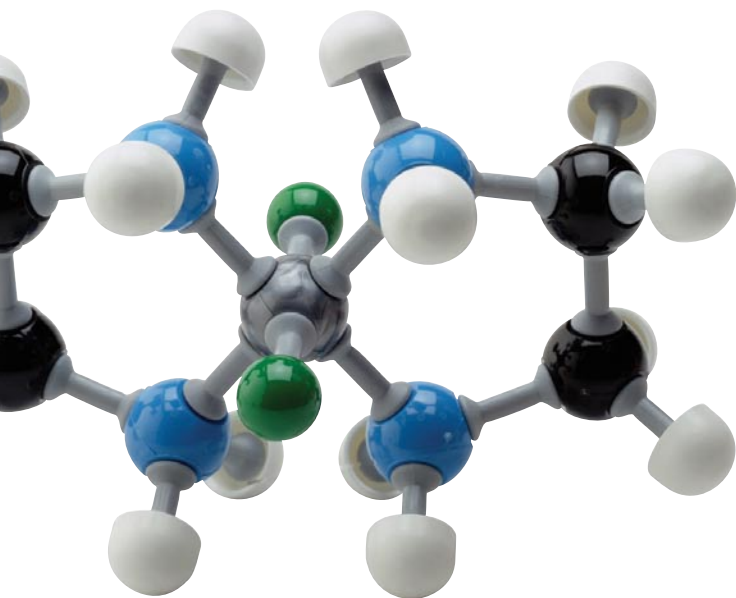
With a menu that combined student preferences with local availability, the dinner featured, as main courses, free-range roast turkey with gravy, homemade stuffing and cranberry orange chutney, grilled barramundi (a fish native to Australia, but farm-raised locally) with artichoke tapenade; and vegan tomatoes stuffed with tofu and veggies. Side dishes included homemade mashed potatoes, stuffing and dinner rolls made with bread from the campus bakery's ovens, butternut squash, green beans, and deviled eggs. For dessert, there were Cape Cod cranapple bars, blueberry/raspberry pie, and Bart's ice cream.

Student requests prompted Dining Services' efforts to increase the amount of local food served, and student reactions to September's locally grown dinner were enthusiastic. "The food is delicious; there is no comparison," said Becca Fabian '07 after enjoying her dinner in Prospect Hall.

MHC's local-buying effort is only one aspect of a broader environmental and sustainable initiative begun on campus about two years ago. It also encompasses robust composting and recycling programs, use of fair-trade coffee, and waste-reduction practices.

Buying locally isn't as easy as it might seem, especially in New England. According to Dale Hennessey, director of Dining Services, the Northeast's short growing season and small, spread-out farms mean that availability of local products can be dicey—and more expensive. "We want to buy local, but we must balance that with budget realities," Hennessey explains.

"It's great that Dining Services is taking such a lead in promoting both healthy food choices and environmental sustainability," says Lauret Savoy, director of MHC's Center for the Environment. "Their responsible food buying and composting practices now pay closer attention to our 'foodsheds'—the sources of our food and the destination of our food wastes." E.H.W.



MHC Science Alumnae Earn More Doctorates Than Other College Peers

Mount Holyoke continues to lead the way in educating women in science. According to a National Science Foundation survey, the college ranked first among all liberal arts colleges in graduating women who went on to receive US doctorates in the life sciences (356) and in the physical sciences (109) from 1966 to 2004. This puts the school in the top 2 percent of all colleges and universities graduating women scientists—including major research universities with at least double MHC's enrollment and faculty.

Among all colleges and universities, Mount Holyoke ranks eighth (tied with Stanford and Wellesley) in the number of female graduates who earned U.S. doctorates in physics from 1966 to 2004; ninth in chemistry; and sixteenth in biology.

Mount Holyoke also is a leader in educating international and minority students in the sciences. From 2000 to 2004, the college graduated more female non-US citizens who went on to receive US doctorates in the physical and life sciences than any other college or university. Twenty-three alumnae received US doctorates in life or physical sciences, compared with twenty-one women from the University of California-Berkeley, nineteen from Harvard University, and seventeen from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Among elite liberal arts colleges, Mount Holyoke ranks first in graduating minority women who went on to receive US doctorates (twenty-two total) in life and physical sciences from 2000 to 2004.

Not surprisingly, science students at Mount Holyoke work side by side with accomplished faculty. Since 2000, members of the science faculty have been awarded more National Science Foundation grant money (\$8.1 million) than any other leading liberal arts college, which translates into unique research opportunities for students. The science faculty mirrors the college's diverse student population: of fifty-one full-time science faculty members, 57 percent are women, and 22 percent are individuals of color. Allison Gillis

Technology Upgrades Include Wireless Access in Residence Halls

Today's students are a technologically adept—and demanding—bunch, and colleges nationwide are in a sort of permanent arms race to match, if not better, each other's computing capabilities. Mount Holyoke is no different and will soon be able to offer what technologists call a state-of-the-practice Internet environment as well as centralized wireless access in all residence halls.

A fiber-optic loop linking Five College consortium members, including Mount Holyoke and in the works for the last five years, is nearing completion. Designed to increase bandwidth to the Internet for better access, faster connections to intensive applications, and increased traffic, the \$3.3 million loop required negotiating with nearly a dozen towns to lay fifty-three miles of conduit and fiber runs. It ultimately will reduce Internet operating costs for the five institutions and is scheduled to be fully operational in early 2007.

Wireless Internet access, popularized by the coffee giant Starbucks and de rigueur at campuses everywhere, enables a computer user to hook up to the Internet without plugging into a wall socket. Currently available in several public places on campus but lacking integrated structure, wireless access administered through a central server will be available in all residence halls by the end of summer 2007, says Scott Coopee, director of infrastructure, systems, and support for the office of Library, Information, and Technology Services. M.H.B.

Junk food isn't cheap. Vending machines are hugely inefficient, energy-wise. By getting rid of the unpopular ones, and installing motion sensors on the rest to shut them down when no one's using them, the college will save \$10,000 annually—and twenty-seven tons of CO₂.



MOUNT BLOG: A Window Into Campus Life

Whether it's a firstie making sense of campus life or a pennywise student jubilant over the low cost of a grilled cheese at Blanchard, Mount Blog, the Alumnae Association's new Web log, offers fun and insightful snippets of campus life. The new feature, which you may access by going to alumnae.mtholyoke.edu and clicking on "Experience Virtual Café" and then "Mount Blog," also offers comments by staff members and discussion opportunities about interesting books and new technology. Come take a look, comment on the blogs that interest you, and read what others think, too.

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Number of alumnae who currently serve overseas with the Peace Corps, representing the greatest number of graduates from any single women's college.



College in Midst of Self-Study for Reaccreditation

Mount Holyoke is up for reaccreditation in 2007, a two-year process that involves a massive self-study along with a review of its performance by its peers. Fully confident of receiving a passing mark from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the regional accrediting body relevant to MHC, the college is also using the effort to measure its progress in achieving the goals of its own long-range Plan for 2010, as well as to respond to the growing demand for accountability in higher education nationwide.

The first step of the process is the self-study, which usually results in 100 pages of evidence that the college is doing what, in fact, it says it does, according to Sally Sutherland, associate dean of faculty. Next October, a visiting team of academics and senior administrators will spend three to four days at the college, matching up MHC's own assessment of its strengths and weaknesses with firsthand investigation by the team.

Ten years ago, when the process was last completed, the issues worrying the college were finances, admissions, and faculty workload. This time round, Sutherland said, a major focus will be the academic program and student learning, with lots of attention again to finances and admissions. M.H.B.

Literary colleagues and friends of Peter Viereck came to campus in November to honor the recently deceased professor and poet in a series of panel discussions celebrating his art and scholarship. The next *Quarterly* will include a piece on Viereck's legacy.



Speaking of poetry, The Poetry Bus Tour, sponsored by Wave Books and carrying a rotating group of 200-plus poets to fifty venues across North America in fifty days, made a stop at MHC in September.

BRAINSTORMS

Learning by Doing: Science Comes Full Circle

Rachel Fink has carried her “Tupperware tide pool” through the hallways of Mosier Elementary School in South Hadley at least half a dozen times. Curious to know what’s in her dripping buckets, the children respond enthusiastically when she has them sit in a circle on the floor, puts some sea creature in a dish, and pulls out the video microscopy cart.

Having a camera attached to a microscope allows all the kids to see what’s on the stage of the microscope by projecting an image onto a television screen—and revealing the wonders of, say, the tiny beating heart of a fish embryo. That kind of “wow, look at this” factor stimulates the kids’ “true passion for scientific inquiry,” Fink relates.

It was experiences like this that moved Fink, a professor of biology at MHC and the mother of two students at Mosier, to establish the Mosier Science Buddies program two years ago. It brings MHC science undergraduates interested in sharing inquiry-based learning—read: making science fun—into the local school.

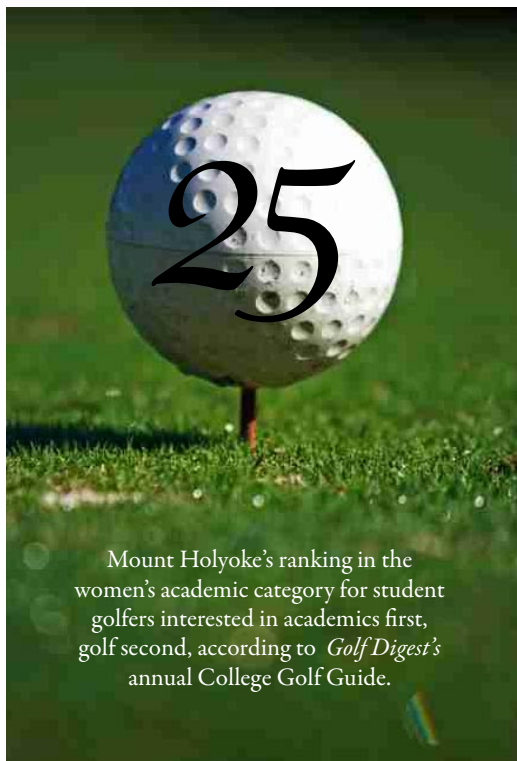
The educational value of the Science Buddies program works both ways, she underscores. If you have to effectively explain a difficult concept to an eight-year-old, you better have a good understanding of it yourself. Sharing scientific knowledge, learning to think on your feet, and recognizing the importance of community outreach are all evident in the program.

Alicia Hunsaker '07 is a two-year veteran of the program. A biology and politics double major, she joined Science Buddies not because she wants to teach when she graduates—she plans to get advanced degrees in law and public health and then focus on a career in bioethics—but to make science accessible to young children. “Lots of little kids fear math and science, and the kids respond well to having someone my age who really likes science. I had someone like that in my elementary school. She just made things so much fun.”

Even as her own children have moved on to middle school, Fink says she hopes to leave a legacy of greater engagement between the college and Mosier. “I would like to give these [MHC] students opportunities to become confident in their ability to do science by helping teach science.”
M.H.B.



Jane Chung '07, Cathy Johnson FP'06, Alicia Hunsaker '07, and biology professor Rachel Fink (left to right) sport their Mosier Science Buddies T-shirts at the South Hadley elementary school.



Mount Holyoke’s ranking in the women’s academic category for student golfers interested in academics first, golf second, according to *Golf Digest’s* annual College Golf Guide.

Computer Science, Far From Dead, Wants You!

Lisa Ballesteros, MHC associate professor of computer science, last summer was one of about 100 academics to attend the Google Faculty Summit in Mountain View, California. Among other issues, the two-day summit addressed the ways in which Google, one of the most popular search engines on the Internet, and academic institutions can work together to increase enrollment diversity in computer science and other technical fields.

Although the number of technical jobs is increasing nationally, computer science departments across American institutions have seen a drop in enrollments of more than 60 percent since 2000, according to the Computing Research Association. More worrisome, women and minorities are grossly underrepresented nationally in computer science and engineering, and enrollment by women has dropped more than 90 percent since its peak in the early 1980s.

Several factors likely influence the decline, said Ballesteros, including lack of computing courses in secondary school, the notion that female students struggle with a lack of confidence over their performance in computing courses, the collapse of the dot-com boom, and the perception that opportunities in computing are vanishing. Too, there is the unfortunate stereotype of the computer scientist as a Dilbert-esque character isolated in a cubicle.

The reality is that the number of technology jobs is increasing, particularly in areas of innovation and analysis. At Mount Holyoke, roughly ten students graduate with computing degrees each year. “We are working to ... more clearly articulate what makes computing an exciting field to be in,” Ballesteros says. M.H.B.

STUDENT EDGE

The Cutting Edge of Social Security



Jo Jensen '08

Unlike many of her senior friends who are “freaking out” about finding jobs after graduation, Margaret “Jo” Jensen '08 has a solid understanding of her value in an economic system that rewards drive, self-knowledge, and a spirit of confidence.

Jensen, who this year is president of the Student Government Association, has spent a good part of her college years mastering the ins and outs of public policy in Washington, D.C., especially as it relates to Social Security. A policy and economics major, she first became fascinated with the troubled national retirement program while taking a tax-policy class. After several rounds as a summer intern for various congressmen in Washington, D.C., she learned about the nascent group Students for Saving Social Security (www.secureourfuture.org). The appeal was instant.

“We’re really on the cutting edge here,” says Jensen of the group. “I had the opportunity to have my two cents and give my generation a voice. We’re in new territory.”

Indeed, her passion for the issue led to a remarkable string of promotions within the nonprofit, so that by fall of her junior year, which she took off to remain working in D.C., Jensen had risen to acting national director, a paid position. The satisfaction of working with donors, making hiring decisions, collaborating with White House staffers to organize presidential events, and seeing the student group grow to 4,500 members in just one year makes her current scramble to make up the credits she lost that term easier to swallow. (Jo insists she will graduate with her class in 2007; as we go to press, the college lists her graduation year as 2008.)

“After talking to members of Congress and being on television (C-SPAN), I’m definitely more confident. I’ve learned to value all the things that everyone brings to the table,” she adds.

Her campus leadership duties this year don’t stop with the presidential gavel. She is also head of the campus College Republicans, executive director of the Massachusetts College Republicans, and founder of the student Conservative Women’s Caucus. She credits Mount Holyoke for being a good breeding ground for women leaders and credits her mother, the first woman dean of the Coast Guard Academy, for providing an early role model.

“I don’t think you can do everything,” she muses about the juggling act women perform with work and parenthood. “It just depends on finding a balance.” M.H.B.

FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



Emily Groth '07

The fall sports season got under way with several early accomplishments. The **riding** team, last year's national champions, proved they're still the team to beat with a decisive victory at the Preseason Tournament of Champions in Virginia. Four riders placed first in their events, and senior Nathalie Cooper earned champion honors in the Medal Class. The Lyons then sailed into their regular season with a victory at the Smith College Horse Show on October 7. **Volleyball** senior Emily Groth set two MHC career records early on, breaking the all-time kills mark on September 12 (set by Naomi Tuffour '02 with 744 kills) and smashing the all-time service aces record on October 8 (set by Carla Rauseo '00 with 187 aces). **Tennis** clinched third place in the final NEWMAC standings with a win over Clark on October 14. Tennis duo Aleksandra Mihailovic '07 and Meaghan Sloane '08 have had great success at the third doubles duo, dropping only one NEWMAC match all season. The **crew** team's Varsity-4 boat got off to a speedy start, placing second among Division III competition at the Head of the Housatonic on October 7. The V-4 placed thirteen seconds behind Coast Guard and well ahead of seven other boats. **Bridget Gunn**, sports information director

Incoming Students Lend a Hand Locally

This past fall, more than 400 new students explored the Pioneer Valley by participating in Second Saturday, an annual daylong program of recreational activities and community-service projects led by upper-class students, faculty, staff, and alumnae.

Making quilts for HIV/AIDS newborns in Ashfield, repairing the MHC Outing Club's cabin, and harvesting fall crops at the Food Bank Farm in Hadley were a few of the twenty-nine activities offered.



Hannah Smith '10 brings new luster to an old engine at the Old Firehouse Museum in South Hadley.

BY THE NUMBERS

What Happened to 2006 Grads?

A whopping 94 percent of respondents in the class of 2006 were satisfied with their MHC education, and most hoped to be working right after graduation, according to the results of the annual senior survey, administered during graduation rehearsal and released in fall. Eighty-eight percent of graduating seniors responded.

Who's Going Where

72 percent hoped to be employed

18 percent planned on graduate or professional school

10 percent were volunteering or traveling

Academic Highlights

57 percent did independent study or research

47 percent completed internships domestically

40 percent studied abroad

28 percent worked on a faculty member's research

15 percent studied off-campus domestically

13 percent completed internships abroad

11 percent published or presented a paper off-campus