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Leadership in Action

MHC PREPARES ITS GRADUATES FOR 21ST-CENTURY CAREERS

Mount Holyoke—the oldest continuing liberal arts college for women—has a proud legacy of producing strong leaders eager and able to respond to the world's most complex challenges. MHC students learn the skills necessary to open doors and excel wherever they choose to go—the laboratory, the courtroom, the boardroom, the locker room, or the newsroom. In short, they are bold, uncompromising, and socially aware. Whether they are educating women in Afghanistan, protecting Arctic glaciers from global warming, creating business opportunities for women, or teaching teenage girls how to make videos, Mount Holyoke alumnae are making their mark on the world with confidence, compassion, and courage.

Vista

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MOUNT HOLYOKE

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Career Connections

Meet MHC students who landed dynamic summer and January Term internships and research opportunities. www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/comm/news/21766.shtml



Comic Relief

See how Casey Brienza '03 won a full scholarship to Cambridge, where she'll research the transnational publishing of Japanese comics. www.mtholyoke.edu/news/stories/5681411



It's Debatable

Check out the new IR blog, which includes commentary from MHC and other Five College faculty on a variety of global issues. <https://pub.mtholyoke.edu/journal/mhcirblog/>



Parting Words

Watch Mary McAleese, the president of Ireland, deliver the 172nd commencement address to MHC's class of 2009. www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/comm/news/22807.shtml



Vision Quest

Read about neurobiology prof Susan R. Barry's new book, *Fixing My Gaze: A Scientist's Journey into Seeing in Three Dimensions*. www.mtholyoke.edu/news/stories/5681409

Curriculum to Career

Mount Holyoke recently launched Nexus, a certificate program designed so that students can connect their liberal arts studies with their personal and professional goals. Each Nexus participant

chooses a Nexus "track" that includes an experiential component, such as a summer research project or internship. The seven tracks are Sustainability; Art and Society; Law and Public Policy; Journalism, Communication, and the Media; Health and Society; Global Business and Entrepreneurship; and Education and Society. Dean of the College Penny Gill, who oversees Nexus, explains the benefits and value of this new initiative.

How does the Nexus program enhance a liberal arts education?

PG: A liberal arts education—with its emphasis on communication, critical analysis, and creativity—is more important than ever in preparing a young woman for a successful

career in our very complex global economy. Nexus, an alternative to a traditional minor, invites students to create a bridge from their own course of study to their long-term professional future.

What might a typical Nexus program look like?

PG: Each student will take two courses specific to each Nexus track as preparation for her "beyond the gates" experience. She will identify and organize an appropriate internship, paid job, or research project. She will take a predeparture course to prepare her for that project and a postexperience course of critical analysis of that project in preparation for an oral report to the MHC community at the fall LEAP (Learning from Application) Symposium. The last piece will be an advanced course where she will bring all she has learned back into the classroom. An example for the Art and Society Nexus: Begin with Anthropology 232: Cultural Performances, and Theatre 215: Topics in Performance, followed by the predeparture and postexperience courses before and after a summer internship with a regional theatre company. The last course could be Italian 301: Liars and Pranksters on the Italian Stage.

Who will administer each Nexus track?

PG: Each track will have a faculty chair and two or three additional faculty members who will assist with advising and planning the pre- and post-experience courses.

How have students reacted so far to the new program?

PG: Students are very enthusiastic about Nexus; they seem to understand immediately the power of this program for catapulting them into the workforce in a strong and clear way. We expected about 30 or 40 students to sign up for the pilot predeparture course in April 2009; much to our surprise, 139 applied.

PHOTO: JIM GIPE

Our Woman *in the* White House

Mona Sutphen '89 | Deputy Chief of Staff for the Obama Administration

According to a recent *Washington Post* article, Sutphen has been characterized “by current and former colleagues as very smart, driven, and matter of fact . . . [she] has previous White House experience absent from the résumés of most other senior staff.” Read more on page five.

Leadership in Action

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Job Outlook 2009 survey, the skills employers value most include the ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing, and the ability to process and analyze information. These make up the core of Mount Holyoke's educational mission. "In a complex, changing marketplace, our liberal arts graduates are ideally prepared," said Steve Koppi, director of the College's Career Development Center. "They are adaptable, quick learners with excellent problem-solving and communication skills."

Mount Holyoke graduates are often sought after for positions in a broad range of fields including consulting (Boston Biomedical), education (Teach for America), and research (Dana-Farber Cancer Institute), to name a few. The skills they develop at MHC pay off. A recent PayScale study, which was reported in the *Wall Street Journal*, showed that the median salary of MHC graduates ten years out is higher than that of graduates at peer institutions.

Most MHC alumnae go on to earn graduate degrees. In fact, 75 percent earn advanced degrees within ten years of graduation. According to the Class of 2008 Six-Months-Out Survey, MHC alumnae were attending Vanderbilt, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Dartmouth Medical School, among others.

Here are profiles of seven alumnae who have forged bold career paths. Ask any of these young women what has most helped them to get where they are and to aim even higher, and they'll tell you their Mount Holyoke education was essential to their journey.



Innovator and Entrepreneur

Analisa Balares '99 | Founder and CEO | Womensphere

Analisa Balares '99, founder and CEO of Womensphere, describes herself as a Renaissance woman: "I love business and entrepreneurship, the arts and literature, science and technology, public policy. I love tackling a myriad of problems—from fighting poverty to empowering women, to educating underprivileged children, to environmental stewardship."

Womensphere embodies Balares's passions and ambitions. A network of more than 7,100 women leaders from many fields, including business, law, public policy, education, science, media, and the arts, it brings together communities of women through conferences, educational programs, and media around the themes of leadership, career development, innovation, and entrepreneurship. "At Womensphere, we create opportunities, we unleash potential, and we inspire impact," she said. "Living by this mission is most exciting!"

Balares grew up in the Philippines, raised by parents who impressed upon her the necessity of working hard for what you want in life. Her parents, neither of whom had finished high school, also modeled a deep appreciation for education. She earned an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and worked for several years at Microsoft and Goldman Sachs before launching Womensphere in 2007.

At Mount Holyoke, Balares majored in economics and mathematics and was actively involved in debate and public speaking. "Having a rich liberal arts background is truly key to what I am doing now, as the CEO

of an independent media company, as publisher of cutting-edge literature for women, and as a convener of global summits focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation, and social change," she said.

After graduating in 1999, Balares founded the Lyons Network, a student-run leadership and career mentoring organization for young women. She remains deeply devoted to the college that supported her own leadership aspirations—and offered her a life-changing scholarship. "There's a soul to Mount Holyoke," she said. "The reason I keep coming back is because Mount Holyoke has preserved its soul. It hasn't lost sight of its compass or its spirit. That keeps me and so many other alumnae coming back again and again."

Educating Afghan Women

Sadiqa Basiri Saleem FP'09 | Founder | Oruj Learning Center



This past March, Sadiqa Basiri Saleem FP'09 took a break from her senior-year course work to be honored by the Vital Voices Global Partnership alongside Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other international women leaders in Washington, D.C. A month later, she received the prestigious \$10,000 Samuel Huntington Public Service Award sponsored by National Grid. Then, just three weeks before graduation, *Newsweek* published a feature article about her. All these accolades were in recognition of her extraordinary efforts to educate women in her homeland of Afghanistan.

Before the Taliban forced her Afghan-run university in Pakistan to close, Basiri Saleem planned to become a



Maile Martinez '03 | Reel Grrls Program Manager

gynecologist. After the fall of the Taliban in 2002, she returned to Afghanistan and, by pooling her savings with those of a few other women, founded a school for girls in the remote village of Godah. With help from family, friends, and donors, that effort—known as the Oruj Learning Center—expanded to six schools educating more than 2,700 girls and four literacy centers serving 200 women throughout the Wardak province.

Basiri Saleem came to MHC in 2005 through the Initiative to Educate Afghan Women, a program that connects highly motivated Afghan women with American colleges and universities. “Though I already had established girls’ schools, my scope was limited,” she said. “Here is where my true leadership skills developed.”

Now, degree in hand, Basiri Saleem, who majored in international relations, is heading home with plans to expand a program for gifted students and establish two new schools for returnees and internally displaced persons. She notes—with regret—that women’s education is now a controversial issue in Afghanistan. “But this does not stop me from moving forward,” she said. “I remain committed to my goal, since I see the interest of my people in it. And in addition to establishing primary schools, I hope to follow in the footsteps of [MHC founder] Mary Lyon by founding the first Afghan Women’s Leadership Institute to train college-age women in management, leadership, advocacy, and lobbying skills.”

Our Woman in Washington

Mona Sutphen '89 | White House Deputy Chief of Staff

Mona Sutphen '89 (photo on page three) is deputy chief of staff for the Obama administration, where she oversees policy development and implementation. She is coauthor of the book *The Next American Century: How the U.S. Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise* and a former managing director of Stonebridge International, LLC. Sutphen, who holds a master’s degree from the London School of Economics, was also a member of the Clinton administration, serving on the staff of the National Security Council under Sandy Berger.

According to a recent *Washington Post* article, Sutphen has been characterized “by current and former colleagues as very smart, driven, and matter of fact . . . [she] has previous White House experience absent from the résumés of most other senior staff.”

Sutphen describes her experience attending a women’s college, where she majored in international relations, as incredibly inspiring. “Intellectually, the institution builds a cadre of forward-thinking, creative women. It really embraces women’s achievement.” She adds that while women’s colleges are not for everyone, they reflect the diversity of higher education in the U.S.

She credits Tony Lake, Clinton’s national security advisor, former Five College Professor of International Relations, and current MHC trustee, for fostering her

career. “It is happenstance that I am in this field,” Sutphen said. “I got to know Tony Lake during my time at MHC. I met him when I was 19, and he gave me career advice. He and others encouraged me to take the Foreign Service exam.” Just out of MHC, she passed the exam and was eventually sent to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

Sutphen believes that there is more than one way to discover your passion and that MHC equips you with the resources to help you in this journey. Her advice to new MHC graduates: “Follow your interests in the early part of your career. It all comes back and is relevant.”

Empowering Teens through Film

Maile Martinez '03 | Program Manager | Reel Grrls

When Maile Martinez '03 (photo left) landed a job two years ago at Reel Grrls, a filmmaking program in Seattle for teenage girls, she knew it was a perfect fit. As program manager, she plans and implements the organization’s after-school classes, workshops, and summer camps exploring all aspects of filmmaking and media literacy.

Martinez fell in love with teaching while working for Teach for America after graduation and earning a master’s degree in education. In 2005, she set her sights on a Ph.D. in comparative literature and, with support from Mount Holyoke’s Career Development Center, won a prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship to get a master’s degree in European literature and culture at the University of Cambridge.

While Martinez thrived at Cambridge, she found it difficult to reconcile that work with her desire to do something more socially conscious. “At MHC and Cambridge, I had many pinch-me moments when I asked myself how I had gotten so lucky to be getting this amazing educational opportunity. I wanted to help other people who haven’t had the same opportunities I’ve had.”

Martinez focused on film studies at Cambridge and aspired to a job that would combine her interests in community service, young people, and the arts. “It’s the only program of its kind exclusively for girls. Having come from Mount Holyoke, I’m really a believer in all-women’s education, so this job is great for me.”

While Reel Grrls serves a diverse population, Martinez particularly enjoys working with at-risk girls.

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“A lot of these kids have cast themselves into roles as unsuccessful students. Here, away from school, they can break out of that and be successful. It’s great to watch them stay committed to something that’s really hard and succeeding at it.”



Climate Warrior

Katey Walter Anthony '98 | Aquatic Ecologist and Biogeochemist

University of Alaska at Fairbanks

Named a National Geographic 2009 Emerging Explorer, Katey Walter Anthony '98 goes to the ends of the earth to research global warming.

Anthony spends five months a year in some of the most inhospitable places on the planet: Alaska, Siberia, and the Arctic Circle. Such fieldwork is not for the faint of heart—Anthony regularly faces the perils of walking on thin ice (she’s fallen through several times) and always carries a gun to fend off marauding polar bears and grizzlies. These days, she usually has at least one person with her and is “too busy to be lonely.” But when she started her doctoral research in Siberia in 2000, she said, “I was often alone, and even when I was with people, I was the only American.”

Anthony planned to major in geology at MHC but found it wasn’t “alive” enough for her. She added some biology and ecology courses and ended up with an independent major in biogeochemistry. “I didn’t think that these disciplines individually told the complete story,” she said. “Seeing how they relate to each other and where they cross over is a better way of understanding the environment.”

As an aquatic ecologist and biogeochemist at the Institute of Northern Engineering at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, Anthony researches the effects of global warming on the Arctic’s frozen soil, or permafrost. She explains that when permafrost thaws, lakes form, and the enormous amount of carbon that had been frozen for tens of thousands of years is released into the water. Microbes digest the carbon and convert it to methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide, which is essentially burped out into the atmosphere.

Reflecting on her MHC education, Anthony is grateful for the small classes. They enabled her to develop close, mentoring relationships with her professors, who encouraged her to work independently: “They supported me and were invested in me.”



Breaking Barriers

Jade McCarthy '02 | Sports Reporter
Philadelphia’s NBC 10

Like many of her fellow alumnae, Jade McCarthy '02 has been a “first woman” in a male-dominated profession. When she joined the sports team at

NBC 10 in 2006, she became the first female sports reporter in the history of Philadelphia’s major television networks.

Having grown up near Boston as an avid Red Sox fan, McCarthy wrote her first piece for an MHC journalism seminar on Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez. Her professor, North Cairn, was so impressed, she urged her to pursue a career in television journalism. “In part because of her encouragement, I interned at Fox News Channel in New York City, and I was hooked,” McCarthy said. “I realized that this was what I wanted to do with my life.”

McCarthy cut her teeth in broadcast news reporting during her senior year at WGGB in Springfield, Massachusetts, and went on to an ABC affiliate in Huntsville, Alabama. That experience set her up perfectly for the Philadelphia job. “When I first spoke with NBC 10, they said, ‘We’re looking for someone with a news background. We don’t want a stats geek,’ ” she said.

“When I was interviewing, they asked, ‘Do you think you can handle going into the locker room or the clubhouse and asking the tough questions? Can you handle the light that will be shone upon you as the first woman in this city to do this?’ ” She assured them she could, and has earned the respect of Philly’s sports fans. “Once you’ve proved that you know what you’re talking about and you can do the job, people embrace you,” she said.



Laboratory to Law School

Katie Kraschel '06 | Associate Scientist
Pfizer Global Research and Development

After spending three years working on the cutting edge of pharmacological research at Pfizer Global Research and Development, Katie Kraschel '06 is hanging up her lab coat and heading to law school to study bioethics and health law. Although she has enjoyed her work at Pfizer, she wants to pursue a career at the interface between science and society. “I may be working on a drug that will cure diabetes, but I want to ask, ‘Who will this drug benefit?’ ”

Kraschel, who graduated cum laude with high honors in biochemistry, credits Mount Holyoke for giving her not only a first-rate education in research and technology, but also a broader, more holistic perspective on the role of science in society. Thought-provoking interdisciplinary courses such as Medical Ethics taught by philosophy professor James Harold, and Disease, Debates, and Dilemmas, cotaught by Harold and biologist Craig Woodard, expanded her sights beyond the test tube. “I love thinking about science in a broader social context. The interdisciplinary part of my liberal arts education is at the core of why, when I do experiments, I think about things like, ‘Who can afford this drug?’ ”

Kraschel embarks on her legal career with a desire to “hone the leadership skills” she gained at MHC while serving as president of the Student Government Association, cocaptain of the varsity soccer team, and a mentor in the chemistry department.

Her dream job is to start a boutique law firm specializing in reproductive rights. “There are so many issues involving in vitro fertilization, frozen embryos, the parental rights of gay and lesbian couples. There’s a whole body of law waiting to be figured out, and I’ll do it.”

Mount Holyoke Welcomes 21st-Century Scholars

Mount Holyoke is proud to introduce its new 21st-Century Scholars Program, which recognizes new students of remarkable achievement. All 21st-Century Scholars receive a merit scholarship renewable for four years and funding for an internship or research project. They also participate in scholarly and social events and enroll in a first-year honors tutorial with a distinguished faculty member. Each applicant to the College is considered for this award; no additional application is necessary. Award winners are selected by the Office of Admission without regard to financial need.

21ST-CENTURY SCHOLARS At a Glance

High School:		Average:	
Public	66%	GPA	3.95
Private	27%	SAT Critical Reading	736
Parochial	7%	SAT Math	718
Domestic	76%	SAT Writing	731
International	24%	ACT	33
		RIC	95

Scholars and More

Speaker of English, Urdu, Spanish, French, and Arabic; Patent owner for ultrasonic snow measuring; Singer in women's barbershop quartet; President, Gay/Straight Alliance; Stage manager and costume designer; Epée squad leader; Coauthor, Korean language instruction book; Volunteer, Marine Science and Technology Center; Tri-sport athlete; Ballet teacher, British Academy of International Arts; Number 2, Syrian national tennis tournament; President, National Honors Society; Writer of novel for young readers; Fundraiser; On exchange in Egypt, Alabama, India, and France; Trapeze artist; Black belts; Winner, MHC Book Award; Founder, "Helping Hands"; President, varsity debate; Class valedictorian; Barn manager

Natalia Alvarez Diaz
American Community School, Beirut, Lebanon

Layli Amerson
Verona Area High School, WI

Mary Elizabeth Baumgartner
Leonardtown High School, Silver Spring, MD

Allison Berger
Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD

Ellen Bledsoe
Lakeside High School, Evans, GA

Cassidy Bommer
Kent Place School, Summit, NJ

Kameron Brodie
Bloomfield High School, NJ

Seyyada Burney
Kuwait English School, Salmiya, Kuwait

Yucheng Chen
NE Yucai Foreign Language, Shenyang, China

Lindsay Culbert-Olds
Arlington High School, MA

Stephanie Daussin
Apex High School, NC

Jessica Freese
Raleigh Charter High School, NC

Mishal Halim
Karachi Grammar School, Pakistan

Liliana Hoot
Edmond Memorial High School, OK

Alexandra Iturralde
Baltimore School for the Arts, MD

Noa Karr
Concord-Carlisle High School, MA

Tolulope Kehinde
Loyola Jesuit College, Abuja, Nigeria

Cheong Ah Kim
Cheongshim Intl. Academy, Gyeonggi, South Korea

Alexis Kriete
Middletown Senior High School, MD

Rachel Krueger
JFK Memorial High School, Burien, WA

Thea Lange
North Shore High School, Glen Head, NY

Ariel Lantz
Oakham School, UK

Ashley Lewis
Parkview Baptist High School, Baton Rouge, LA

Shuo Li
High School Affiliated to University of Renmin, Beijing, China

Meaghan Lynch
Nantucket High School, MA

Zanna McKay
Saigon South International School, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Alena McNamara
Southwest High School, Minneapolis, MN

Andrea Miranda
William P. Clements High School, Sugar Land, TX

Rebecca Neubardt
White Plains High School, NY

My-Linh Nguyen
Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD

Sylvia Peterson
McNair Academic High School, Jersey City, NJ

Marcy Rattner
Pinewood School, Los Altos Hills, CA

Jordan Seto
Misr Language School, American Div., Cairo, Egypt

Ifrah Shahi
Lahore Grammar School, Pakistan

Erin Syring
Central High School, La Crosse, WI

Amani Talwar
George C. Marshall School, Ankara, Turkey

Sarah Tulimat
Asmaa High School, Homs, Syria

Cory Ventres-Pake
Cleveland High School, Portland, OR

Ayoola White
Southfield-Lathrup Senior High School, MN

Ruby Sarah Wilkinson
Hingham High School, MA

Chelsea Wurms
College Preparatory School, Oakland, CA

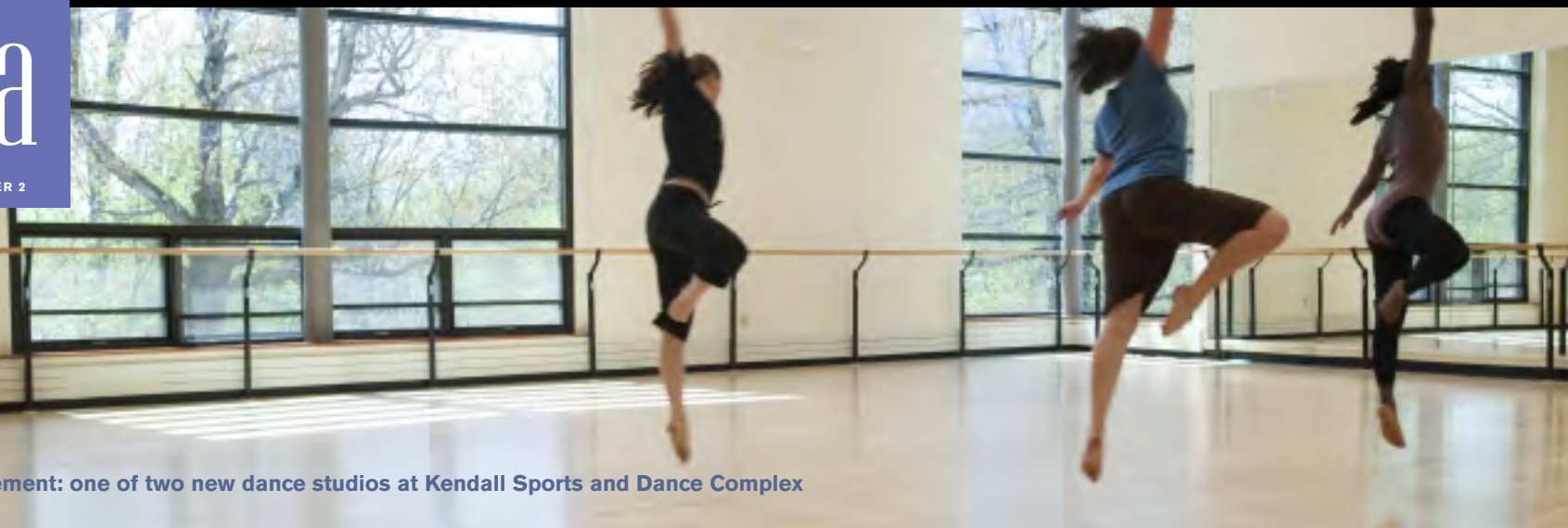
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M O U N T H O L Y O K E C O L L E G E



The joy of movement: one of two new dance studios at Kendall Sports and Dance Complex

PHOTO: BEN BARNHART

News

Emily Yates '11 took first in the 2009 Kathryn Irene Glascock '22 Intercollegiate Poetry Competition, vying against top poets from five other schools including Smith and Yale.

TEACHFORAMERICA
In a record year for the organization, Teach for America is the top employer of MHC's 2009 graduates.

The *Washington Monthly* ranked Mount Holyoke second in the nation among liberal arts colleges in a survey measuring what colleges are doing for the country.



Mount Holyoke cyclist Emma Bast '09 (above) won the 2009 Division II USA Cycling Collegiate Road Nationals, which took place in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Harriet Weissman '58 and her husband Paul Weissman were honored at a spring "birthday bash"

marking the tenth anniversary of MHC's Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts.

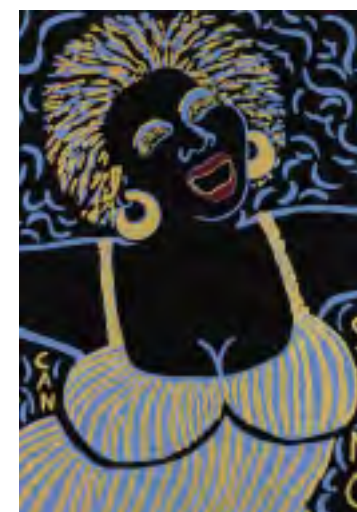
Pulitzer Prize-winning author Kirstin Downey was on campus to discuss her new book on MHC alumna Frances Perkins, class of 1902, FDR's secretary of labor.



Kathryn Jones '10 (above), an international relations major, spent her summer internship writing for the *Daily News* in Cairo, Egypt. Each year, hundreds of MHC students do internships all over the world.

MHC's fourth annual Senior Symposium, a daylong celebration of intellectual achievement, featured 126 student presentations on a wide range of subjects.

The MHC Art Museum hosted **Faith Ringgold: Works on Paper** (below) and *What Can a Woman Do: Women, Work, and Wardrobe 1865-1940*.



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