

President Creighton, honored guests, fabulous faculty, splendid staff, amazing alumnae, and stupendous students, on this beautiful September morning, it is my great delight to welcome you, the class of 2011, and to welcome back the returning classes, especially our Senior Class of 2008.

At Orientation 101 on Monday night a group from UMass called “Project 2050” did an excerpt of a performance they will be offering in April of next year. One of the refrains of their production was “I dream a revolution.” I like that and think it’s fitting for you as you begin this new school year.

For I dream a revolution where peoples of all faiths and no faiths will be able to sit to together at a roundtable, a table at which there is no head, but where all are equal and can reason together.

I dream a revolution where brilliant young women like you are and become the changes you want to see in the world.

I dream a revolution where everything that divides the human family is settled by dialogue rather than violence; where difference is mediated by discussion and where might doesn’t equal right.

I dream a revolution in which you are both the leaders and the followers having much to offer and much to learn.

This week on my bulletin board in Eliot House there’s a quotation from Frederick Buechner that says, “True vocation is where your deep gladness meets the world’s deep need”.

May your true vocation or calling as students fill you with knowledge and wisdom; with joy and passion. And whatever you endeavor to do this year, whether studying, praying or playing sports; singing or serving on the SGA , may your life be surrounded by love and laughter.

Mount Holyoke students, we send you into this academic year with our deepest and prayerful support. We honor each one of you and your gifts, and can’t wait to see what you will bring to this campus community. Have a great year!