

June 2008

Dear New Student,

Welcome to Mount Holyoke College! During your time here we will challenge you to grow, to reflect, and to excel, all in the context of a diverse educational community that is based on a system of honor and cooperation. The primary purpose of this letter is to give you information that will help you navigate your first few days on campus and prepare you for your Orientation experience.

MHC Student Handbook

In addition to the information in this mailing, you are also expected to familiarize yourself with *The Mount Holyoke College Student Handbook* which can be found on the college's website. The handbook contains definitive information on everything from the Honor Code and college policies, to services, opportunities, and cultural traditions at Mount Holyoke. If you would like to familiarize yourself with its contents over the summer, the 2008-2009 updated version will be available on the web beginning August 1st at www.mtholyoke.edu/cic/stulife/handbook/

New Student Orientation

Our Orientation theme this year is “Challenging Women to Change the World” which reflects our commitment to empowering women to work in cooperation as a community of diverse leaders. I hope that the Orientation program will help you begin the exciting process of discovering the many ways that you can realize your goals, uncover new passions, and make connections with your fellow students.

International and Passages Pre-Orientation Programs

The college offers an opportunity for international students, students of color (African, Latina, Asian, and Native American) and multiracial students to participate in pre-orientation programs designed to assist with their particular transitional concerns and needs. These programs, International Pre-Orientation (for international students) and Passages Pre-Orientation (for students of color and multiracial students) both begin on Friday, August 29th. Participants in these programs will receive individual information about their check-in process later in the summer. For more information and to register for pre-orientation, please visit <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dos/12606.shtml>

General Orientation Arrival Information

General Orientation for all new students including transfer and guest students begins on Sunday, August 31st at 8:00 a.m.

All **residential students** should report directly to their assigned residence hall (you will receive this information from the Residential Life Office via email in mid-July). There will be Orientation Leaders there to welcome you and help you unload your vehicle. As soon as your car is unloaded, you will be directed to one of several parking lots. Inside the residence hall there will be Residential Life staff available to check you into the building.

Day students should check-in between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the Day Student Lounge in Blanchard Campus Center where you will be welcomed and given information on Orientation and events for the first few days of the semester. You should plan to attend the picnic lunch on Pageant Green as a group at 11:30 am.

Orientation Program Overview

All new students are strongly encouraged to participate fully and substantively in the Orientation program; its many elements have been thoughtfully planned to provide you with a strong foundation for your future success at Mount Holyoke. When you receive your orientation schedule you will find that there are several events that we have identified as “small group” events. Each new student will be assigned to a small group consisting of 10-15 new students led by two upperclass students who have been selected to be Orientation Leaders. The small group experience will give you the opportunity to make connections with several of your new classmates and to have upperclass students at your disposal to answer questions and provide assistance to you throughout the orientation program.

The Orientation program includes a combination of required and optional events. The required events include everything from a session on how to excel academically (“Making Connections: Your Academic Experience at MHC”), to an interactive program where you will explore becoming a member of our diverse community (“Intersections: Identity and Community”). In addition you will have a one-on-one meeting with your faculty advisor to discuss your academic program and interests, a panel discussion of faculty members on this year’s common reading, *Caucasia* by Danzy Senna. There will also be a variety of optional social events, open houses, tours, and the “Second* Saturday” program all designed to help you feel welcomed and a part of the Mount Holyoke community. There is more information contained in this packet about how you can sign up to participate in the “Second* Saturday” program and the Boston bus trip.

Questions? How to Contact Us.

Orientation is the time to begin exploring all that Mount Holyoke has to offer, make new connections, and begin what is bound to be an exciting journey. I hope the rest of your summer goes well and I look forward to welcoming you personally in September. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to contact my office at 413-538-2550 or via email at deanstudent-orient-c@mtholyoke.edu if you have any questions about your transition to Mount Holyoke. I would also encourage you to explore our orientation website at www.mtholyoke.edu/go/orientation .

Yours sincerely,

Liz Braun
Dean of Students

Information from Campus Offices

Student Employment: All first years on work study are required to work at least one 2-3 hour shift in dining services and then can search on JobX for additional work elsewhere on campus. See the student employment website for the "New Student Welcome letter: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/cdc/5169.shtml>

Parking Office: Please go to our website: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dps/parking/> for all of your parking needs. Find out how to register your vehicle, where to park when you first arrive on Campus, and how you can avoid being ticketed. There is a discounted rate if you purchase your parking decal online so be sure to take advantage of the savings!

Alcohol and Drug Awareness Project: Although alcohol and other drug concerns and questions may not be the first thing you'll be thinking about this year, we would like you to know what is available <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dos/12611.shtml> For additional information about the campus Alcohol and Drug Awareness Project check out: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/health/6096.shtml>

Athletics: Fall Sports Tryout Information

YES, you *can* tryout for a fall sport! Here's what you need to do:

1. Contact the coach ASAP. Don't underestimate your ability – you might be better than you think!

2. Have your doctor fill out the "Pre-participation Evaluation for Intercollegiate Competitive Athletics" forms that are part of your package from the Health Center. The Sports Forms are at: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/health/6100.shtml>

Go to <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dos/12611.shtml> for more information about individual sports and contact people.

Office of Religious and Spiritual Life: The Office of Religious & Spiritual Life welcomes you to Mount Holyoke College and hopes that you will become involved with our programs. We value strong exploration in the multifaith community as well as strong and meaningful involvement within a student's individual religious traditions. We invite you to visit the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life's website at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/religiouslife/15080.shtml> to learn how we can enrich your life here at MHC.

Vendors during Orientation: Set up your new home away from home! Skip the malls—shop on campus. <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/go/students>

Fleet Office: Do you want to go shopping? Do you need to go to the doctor? Do you want to go on a day trip? If so, the Fleet Office now has a vehicle for personal rentals. Check out our website for more information at <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/dps/fleet/>