“Like many who cross these gates, I felt, when I first visited Mount Holyoke, as if I’d found a community I might call home. Mount Holyoke’s incontestable beauty and storied past is an invitation to believe in an exceptional future, a future full of possibilities and of hope; a future in which we can all see ourselves, a future in which our students would impose themselves, and challenge us and the systems that shape the world beyond the gates, too. I am more sure than I’ve ever been of anything, that this is a learning community — a community in which curiosity and inquiry really matter, and in which challenging conversations are the norm, not the exception. And I am so grateful, so very honored, to be able to continue to serve Mount Holyoke, and to serve you, because I believe in this place, in us, in possibility.”

President Sonya Stephens
THE INAUGURATION OF
SONYA STEPHENS
NINETEENTH PRESIDENT

SATURDAY, THE TWENTY-NINTH OF SEPTEMBER
TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN
THREE O’CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

THE FIELD HOUSE
KENDALL SPORTS AND DANCE COMPLEX
MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
Sonya Stephens, a celebrated scholar of 19th-century French literature and its relation to visual culture, assumed the presidency of Mount Holyoke College on July 1, 2018.

A leader, a scholar and an educator, Stephens was made acting president in July 2016. During her tenure, she has overseen the implementation of The Plan for Mount Holyoke 2021 and has been keenly focused on ensuring the College’s long-term financial stability. Other key efforts include the creation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative and the hiring of the College’s first chief diversity officer.

Stephens led the development of the College’s comprehensive self-study for re-accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and launched the Community Center construction and the opening of the Dining Commons. She is also overseeing the College’s commitment to reach carbon neutrality by its bicentennial in 2037.

Stephens arrived at Mount Holyoke in 2013 as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty after a national search led by an all-faculty committee. Working closely with divisions across the College and with the Five College Consortium, she led efforts to renew the faculty and to support and extend Mount Holyoke’s contemporary liberal education. She was instrumental in the creation of academic programs such as the Data Science Initiative, a Nexus concentration in data science, and the Women in Data Science partnership. She oversaw the establishment of the College’s Makerspace, promoted entrepreneurship opportunities on campus and prioritized environmental commitments.
She developed a program in support of emeriti faculty and their continued scholarly engagement with Mount Holyoke. She promoted the deep integration of The Lynk, Mount Holyoke’s curriculum-to-career initiative, and re-envisioned the Career Development Center.

Prior to Mount Holyoke, Stephens worked at Indiana University Bloomington, where she was chair of the Department of French and Italian and the University’s first vice provost for undergraduate education. She oversaw the implementation of a new general education curriculum, assessment initiatives, the development of the university’s integrated Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning and a student success roadmap. Stephens began her career as a faculty member at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The author of “Baudelaire’s Prose Poems: The Practice and Politics of Irony,” Stephens has also edited several books, the most recent of which, “Translation and the Arts in Modern France,” was published in July 2017.

Stephens knows from personal experience the value of a women’s college education. She received her B.A. in modern and medieval languages from New Hall, a college for women at the University of Cambridge that is now known as Murray Edwards College. She also earned a doctorate in French from the University of Cambridge. Her master’s degree in French studies is from the Université de Montréal, where she was a Commonwealth Scholar.

Stephens is married to John Triggs, retired professor of international finance and a chartered accountant. Her older son, Louis, is a first-year student at Dickson Poon School of Law at King’s College, London, where he is pursuing an LLB in politics, philosophy and law. Her younger son, Oscar, is excited about pursuing a U.S. liberal arts education next year.
The Inaugural Ceremony
Please turn off cell phones and all electronic devices before the ceremony begins.

Processional
Order of the Academic Procession

- College Marshal
- The Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association
- Delegate Marshals
- Delegates from Colleges, Universities and Learned Societies
- Faculty Marshals
- The Faculty
- Officers of the College
- Trustee Marshalls
- The Board of Trustees
- Presenters of the Invocation and Poem
- Past Chairs of the Board of Trustees
- The Eighteenth President of the College
- The Board of Directors of the Five Colleges
- The Eight Bearers of Greetings to the President
- The Chair of the Board of Trustees
- The President

Invocation

John T. Grayson, Professor Emeritus of Religion

Welcome

Barbara M. Baumann ’77, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Remarks

Rosemary Lloyd, Rudy Professor Emerita of French, Indiana University

Musical Greeting

“Good News” by Gui Xili
“The Swan” by Camille Saint-Saëns
Bingyao Liu ’19, Founder, the Mount Holyoke College Chinese Music Ensemble
Greetings

Biddy Martin, President, Amherst College, on behalf of the Five College Consortium
Paula A. Johnson, President, Wellesley College, on behalf of the Seven Sisters
Dame Carol Black, Principal, Newnham College, the University of Cambridge

Musical Greeting

“What Shines”
music by Nathan Jones, poem by Marjory Heath Wentworth ’80
The Mount Holyoke College Glee Club
Stephanie Council, Director of Choral Ensembles and Lecturer in Music

Greetings

Maria Z. Mossaides ’73, President, Alumnae Association, on behalf of the alumnae
Adelita Simon ’19, President, Student Government Association, on behalf of the students
Cynthia Legare ’82, Benefits and Training Manager, Human Resources, on behalf of the staff
Amy E. Martin, Director, Weissman Center for Leadership; Professor of English on the Emma B. Kennedy Foundation, on behalf of the faculty

Presentation of the Symbols of Office and Investiture of the President

Barbara M. Baumann ’77, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Inaugural Address

Sonya Stephens, Nineteenth President of Mount Holyoke College

Closing

Three poems by Emily Dickinson, class of 1849
Christopher Benfey, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English

“Alma Mater”

Words on page 14

Recessional

Five College West African Music Ensemble
The Symbols of the Office

The Key

The key that is part of today's ceremony is an actual key to the original Mount Holyoke Female Seminary building. It was salvaged from the fire that destroyed the seminary in 1896. Made of iron, it is both a physical reminder and a symbol of founder Mary Lyon’s remarkable achievement in opening the doors of higher learning to talented women.

The Mount Holyoke College Charter

President Stephens receives a copy of the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary charter, which was approved on February 1, 1836. A copy of the charter was last presented as a symbol of office in the inauguration of Lynn Pasquerella ‘80 on September 24, 2010. Prior to that, it was presented to Joanne V. Creighton on May 5, 1996, and earlier to Roswell G. Ham on September 23, 1937, the College’s centennial. A blue ribbon was tied around the rolled-up charter; the same ribbon is used today. The original charter, kept in the Massachusetts State House in Boston, marks the incorporation of the seminary and its charge “to be devoted exclusively to the purposes of education.”

The Mount Holyoke College Seal

The College seal is represented in today’s ceremony as a bronze medallion for presentation as a symbol of office to President Stephens.

The original inspiration for the seal was a pencil drawing created in 1938 by Orra White Hitchcock, prolific illustrator of landscapes, fossils, rocks and geological strata, and wife of Amherst College president Edward Hitchcock. Featuring palm trees, mountains, an ornate palace, women reading and conversing and a cornerstone, the drawing illustrated Psalms 144:12, “That our daughters may be as cornerstones polished after the similitude of a palace.” The seal, a simplified rendition of the drawing, was embossed on early diplomas and on a circle of sealing wax attached to a diploma by a blue ribbon.

Over time, the seal has evolved through several phases reflecting changes to the institution’s name – from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (1837) to Mount Holyoke Seminary and College (1888) and finally to Mount Holyoke College (1893).

Though the seal’s design has changed considerably from the original, the primary symbols remain. The palm trees suggest fruitfulness, the mountains bespeak strength and the cornerstone calls to mind a statement made about Mary Lyon by one of her former pupils: “She aimed to teach her pupils to educate themselves, to show them how to study, to help lay the foundation of an edifice they were themselves to finish.” With the presentation of this seal to President Stephens, the College welcomes a new leader dedicated, as was Mary Lyon, to the principles and purposes of higher learning.
Academic Apparel

The history of academic apparel has its origins in medieval British universities, particularly the University of Oxford, where scholars wore hoods and gowns as their customary daily attire. Because of the close affiliation between the university and the church at that time, academic gowns resembled cassocks and elaborately worked clerical vestments. It is from these medieval garments that American academic dress derives.

Gowns and hoods have been worn at American colleges and universities since colonial times, but it was not until 1895 that an intercollegiate commission established a code for academic attire. In accordance with this code, which has been modified over the years, academic attire reflects the level of an individual’s degree and the institution granting that degree. Black is the standard color for gowns, and the three levels of degrees are distinguished mainly by sleeve style. Gowns for the bachelor’s degree are usually worn closed and have long, pointed sleeves. Masters’ gowns are usually worn open and have oblong sleeves with the front section cut away in an arc. The doctor’s gown is trimmed in velvet down the front, with three bars on each of the large, bell-shaped sleeves. A fourth bar on the sleeves is worn by a college or university president.

The length of the hood and its velvet border indicates the level of degree attained. The color of its lining, which may be a single color or several colorful stripes or chevrons, identifies the institution conferring the degree. The color of the velvet trim bordering the hood indicates the field of learning. Some institutions of higher education have adopted solid-color gowns that incorporate their college or university colors.

The black mortarboard cap is standard at most colleges and universities throughout the United States. Some authorities believe its square shape represents a scholar’s books, while others believe it represents the quadrangles at Oxford. The tassel is its distinguishing feature, with a black tassel signifying a bachelor’s degree and a gold tassel signifying a doctoral degree.

In an academic procession, an individual usually wears the apparel appropriate to the highest degree earned. Members of the Board of Trustees, however, may wear doctoral gowns, and individuals officially representing an institution wear a gown appropriate to that role. Military uniforms and religious habits are acceptable apparel. The president of Mount Holyoke College wears a custom-made gown in the College’s colors.

Colors indicating fields of learning:

- brown    fine arts, architecture
- citron   social work, sociology
- copper   economics
- crimson  journalism
- dark blue philosophy, political science
- golden yellow science, mathematics, environmental science
- green    medicine
- lemon    library science
- light blue education
- maize    agriculture
- orange   engineering
- peacock blue public administration, foreign service
- pink     music
- purple   law
- russet   forestry
- sage green physical education
- salmon pink public health
- scarlet  theology
- white    arts, letters, humanities, English, history
History of Mount Holyoke College

As the first of the Seven Sisters — the female equivalent of the once all-male Ivy League — Mount Holyoke College has led the way in women’s education. Chemist and educator Mary Lyon founded Mount Holyoke (then called Mount Holyoke Female Seminary) in 1837, nearly a century before women gained the right to vote. Though prevailing thought held that women were constitutionally unfit to withstand the mental and physical demands of higher education, Lyon proved otherwise.

Mount Holyoke’s early history is one of triumph over tremendous odds. The country was in the grip of economic depression when Lyon began tirelessly fundraising to establish her institution. When Mount Holyoke Female Seminary opened its doors on November 8, 1837, it embodied two major innovations in women’s education: rigorous academic entrance requirements and a demanding curriculum free of instruction of domestic pursuits. In addition, the institution was endowed, thus ensuring its permanence and securing the principle of higher learning for future generations of women.

A model upon which many other women’s colleges were patterned, Mount Holyoke quickly became synonymous with brilliant teaching and academic excellence. In 1861, the three-year curriculum was expanded to four. In 1893, the seminary curriculum was phased out and the institution’s name was changed to Mount Holyoke College. At the start of the 20th century, Mary Emma Woolley began her 37-year presidency of the College. Like her predecessors, she focused on faculty development, building needs, curricular change and the endowment, but her interests spread into the international arena and she advocated higher learning for women around the world.

Mount Holyoke has shown itself to be resilient and resourceful, continuing to model leadership in liberal arts and women’s education through changing times. Throughout the second half of the century,
Mount Holyoke continued its growth and expansion, with the 1960s witnessing the construction of many new academic buildings and residence halls. Mount Holyoke’s reputation for excellence grew as well, with many notable alumnae breaking new ground in the sciences, the arts and the women’s movement. In 1978, Elizabeth Topham Kennan ’60 became the first alumna in that century to serve as president of the College.

Joanne V. Creighton assumed the presidency in 1996, serving until 2010. During her tenure, she oversaw two record-breaking capital campaigns that, among other advances, created Kendade Hall and the Science Center, the Weissman Center for Leadership, the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives and the Miller Worley Center for the Environment.

The advances continued under Lynn Pasquerella ’80, who served as president from 2010 until 2016. Her accomplishments included the launch of The Lynk, a bold initiative that provides a paid internship for each student and connects curriculum to career; positioning the College for long-term financial sustainability; global engagement with the alumnae community; and strong partnerships with local and regional communities. Under Pasquerella’s leadership, the College endowment increased to $717 million.

In April 2018, after an extensive selection process, Sonya Stephens was chosen to head the College by the Board of Trustees in an enthusiastic, unanimous decision. With the inauguration of Stephens as the 19th president of the College, Mount Holyoke reaffirms and builds on its legacy of women’s leadership, diversity, global excellence and sustainability. With Stephens at the helm, Mount Holyoke continues to champion rigorous and innovative academic programs, academic access and a commitment to connecting the work of the academy to the concerns of the world.
**Previous Principals and Presidents**

Mary Lyon  
*Founder and Principal*  
1837–1849

Mary C. Whitman, *Class of 1839*  
*Principal*  
1849–1850

Mary W. Chapin, *Class of 1843*  
*Principal*  
1850–1865

Sophia D. Stoddard, *Class of 1841*  
*Acting Principal*  
1865–1867

Helen M. French, *Class of 1857*  
*Principal*  
1867–1872

Julia E. Ward, *Class of 1857*  
*Principal*  
1872–1883

Elizabeth Blanchard, *Class of 1858*  
*Principal and President*  
1883–1889

Mary A. Brigham, *Class of 1849*  
*President-elect*  
1889

Louisa F. Cowles, *Class of 1866*  
*Acting President*  
1889–1890

Elizabeth Storrs Mead  
*President*  
1890–1900

Mary E. Woolley  
*President*  
1900–1937

Roswell G. Ham  
*President*  
1937–1957

Richard Glenn Gettell  
*President*  
1957–1968

Meribeth E. Cameron  
*Acting President*  
1968–1969

David B. Truman  
*President*  
1969–1978

Elizabeth T. Kennan ’60  
*President*  
1978–1995

Joseph J. Ellis III  
*Acting President*  
Spring 1984

Peter Berek  
*Interim President*  
Fall 1995

Beverly Daniel Tatum  
*Acting President*  
Spring 2002

Joanne V. Creighton  
*President*  
1996–2010

Lynn Pasquerella ’80  
*President*  
2010–2016

Sonya Stephens  
*Acting President*  
2016–2018

Note: Prior to 1888, “principal” was the official title of the head of the institution.
Delegates from Colleges and Institutions

1167
University of Oxford
Anne Mullen
Acting Academic Director

1209
University of Cambridge
Dame Carol Black
Principal, Newnham College

1701
Yale University
Scott Foster
Alumnus

1740
University of Pennsylvania
Stanley M. Levenson
Alumnus

1773
Dickinson College
Neal Abraham
Alumnus

1794
Bowdoin College
Gail Berson
Alumna

1796
Dartmouth College
Kate Morris ’82

1797
Hartwick College
Ed Edler
Alumnus

1812
Hamilton College
David Wippman
President

1820
Indiana University
Andrea Ciccarelli
Provost Professor of Italian Studies;
Dean, Hutton Honors College

1821
Amherst College
Biddy Martin
President

1831
Wesleyan University
Jill Morawski ’73
Professor of Psychology

1832
Gettysburg College
Bruce Stefany
Alumnus

1836
Emory University
Carrie Nichols Baker
Alumna

1837
Knox College
Will J. Millard
Alumnus

1839
Westfield State University
Diane Prusank
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

1841
Fordham University
Hope Ogletree
Director of Development,
Gabelli School of Business

1842
Hollins University
Betsy Stefany
Alumna

1845
Wittenberg University
Karen Gerboth
Vice President for Marketing and Communications

1847
Lawrence University
Peter Betzer
Alumnus

1848
Muhlenberg College
John Dunne
Alumnus

1851
University of Minnesota
Karen Hanson
Executive Vice President and Provost

1852
Mills College
Molly Upton
Alumna

1853
Washington University in St. Louis
Barbara Krauthamer
Alumna

1855
Bates College
Kate Hagstrom Lepore
Alumna

1856
St. Lawrence University
Betsy Billington Howerton
Alumna
1863
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Kumble R. Subbaswamy
Chancellor

1864
Swarthmore College
Dorothy Pam
Alumna

1865
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Judith Jaeger '95
Executive Director of Advancement

1870
Wellesley College
Paula A. Johnson
President

1871
Smith College
Christen Mucher ’03
Assistant Professor of American Studies

1880
Emerson College
Steven Shaw
Alumnus

1880
University of Southern California
Ellen L. Leggett ’75
Professor of the Practice of Psychology

1885
Bryn Mawr College
Jennifer L. Walters
Dean of the Undergraduate College

1887
Clark University
Margaret R. Guzman
Alumna

1889
Barnard College
Nikki Chambers ’10
Admissions Counselor

1889
Boston Architectural College
Glen S. LeRoy
President

1889
Agnes Scott College
Leocadia I. Zak ’79
President

1890
University of Chicago
Nancie L. Fimble ’68
Alumna

1891
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Jane Curren
Alumna

1897
Bay Path University
Amanda Gould
Chief Administrative Officer

1899
Simmons University
Cathryn Mercier ’81
Professor, Director of the Children’s Literature Program

1901
Sweet Briar College
Patricia Fallon
Alumna

1903
Skidmore College
Sally Sutherland
Alumna

1906
Suffolk University
Marisa Kelly
President

1913
Georgia State University
Kijua Sanders-McMurtry
Alumna

1916
The Sage Colleges
Mary Ann Oppenheimer
Alumna

1919
Emmanuel College
Patricia Rissmeyer
Vice President for Student Affairs

1919
University of California, Los Angeles
Laura Lavado Parker
Associate Vice Chancellor, Development

1926
Sarah Lawrence College
Jessica Halem
Alumna

1932
Bennington College
Duncan Dobbelmann
Chief Communications Officer

1947
Merrimack College
Kathryn Nielsen
Associate Provost

1960
New College of Florida
Donal O’Shea
President
Trustees of Mount Holyoke College

Elizabeth Barbeau ’85
Barbara M. Baumann ’77, Chair
Jennie Berkson ’76
Lori Bettison-Varga
Debra Martin Chase ’77
Katherine E. Collins ’74
Erin Ennis ’92
Carrianna K. Field ’97
Ellen J. Flannery ’73
Elizabeth Cochary Gross ’79
Heather Harde ’91
Rhynette Northcross Hurd ’71
David Mahoney P’18
Camille Malonzo ’16
KC Maurer ’84
Anne McKenny ’79
Natasha Mohanty ’03
Maria Z. Mossaides ’73
Ellen Hyde Pace ’81
Elizabeth A. Palmer ’76
Jennifer Rochlis ’94
Gareth Ross
Raj Seshadri ’87
Sonya Stephens, President of the College
Karen Strella ’90, Vice Chair
Mona Sutphen ’89
Michelle Toh ’85

Louise Wasso ’75
Elizabeth Weatherman ’82
Sarah Wells ’10
Elizabeth Wharff ’75

Former Chairs and Co-chairs of the Board of Trustees

Jameson Baxter ’65
Eleanor Claus ’55
Mary Graham Davis ’65
Mindy McWilliams Lewis ’75
Leslie Anne Miller ’73

Marshals

Alan Werner
College Marshal

Katherine Binder
Samba Gadjigo
Faculty Marshals

Kenneth Colodner
Dorothy E. Mosby
Delegate Marshals

Shannon D. Gurek
Lenore Reilly
Trustee Marshals
Musical Selections

“What shines”
Music: Nathan Jones
Poem: Marjory Heath Wentworth ’80

Tears falling that no one sees familiar voices voices you love and the bells ringing at the end of day seedlings sprouting on the windowsill the future fish scales iced branches after the storm a choir cloud covered stars everyone’s soul white candles glowing at the church entrance desire unspent coins in a saucer hair filled with sunlight or water what the diamond means

“Alma Mater”
Music: Gladys Pratt, Class of 1914
Text: Gertrude Brady Murphy, Class of 1914

Oh Mount Holyoke we pay thee devotion, In the fervor of youth that is strong, The courage of right is thy garland, Our lives, Alma Mater, thy song. So from east and from west now we gather, And united in firm love to thee, All years are as one, and their loyal pledge, Mount Holyoke forever shall be, Mount Holyoke forever shall be.

Through the heart of a new day’s endeavor, Breathes the life of the old days that live, For what thou hast given we honor, But we love thee for what we can give. So when soft in a whisper thou callest, For the treasures unlocked by thy key, Our achievements, our hopes and our glorious faith Shall answer, Mount Holyoke, to thee, Shall answer, Mount Holyoke, to thee.
Presidential Inauguration Committee

Charles L. Greene II, co-chair
_Vice President for Communications and Marketing_

Kathleen Pertzborn, co-chair
_Chief of Staff, Office of the President_

Barbara M. Baumann '77
_Choir of the Board of Trustees_

Alicia Erwin
_Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Programs, Office of Student Life_

Cynthia Legare ‘82
_Benefits and Training Manager, Human Resources_

Mindy McWilliams Lewis ’75
_Formal Trustee_

Stacey Lyons
_Executive Director for Advancement Operations, Office of Advancement_

Maria Z. Mossaides ’73
_President, Alumnae Association_

Nancy Bellows Perez ’76
_Executive Director, Alumnae Association_

Alexandra Puffer
_Digital Content Manager, Office of Communications and Marketing_

Lenore Reilly
_Senior Advisor to the President and Secretary of the College, Office of the President_

Mona K. Sutphen ’89
_Trustee_

Elizabeth Weatherman ’82
_Trustee_
Special thanks

Barbara Arrighi
*Deputy Chief, Campus Police*

Paul Breen
*Director of Facilities Management and Planning*

Faith Conant
*Director of Five College West African Music Ensemble and Visiting Instructor in Music*

Stephanie Council
*Director of Choral Ensembles and Lecturer in Music*

Maryelizabeth Fahey
*Office Manager/Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of Advancement*

Deb Garrity
*Director of Web Communications and Development, Office of Communications and Marketing*

Aaron Haesaert
*Director of Branding and Creative Services, Office of Communications and Marketing*

Jennifer Marion
*Assistant Director of Conference and Event Services, Willits-Hallowell Conference Center*

Kevin McCaffrey
*Director, Community and Government Relations, Office of Advancement*

Sasha Nyary
*Senior News Writer and Copy Editor, Office of Communications and Marketing*

Rich Perna
*Director of Dining Services*

Jim Shepard
*Special Assistant, Office of the President*

Luisa M. Tavares
*Associate Director of Events and Logistics, Alumnae Association*

Mike Urgo
*Manager of Media Resources, Library, Information and Technology Services*

Jonencia Wood
*Senior Director of Alumnae Engagement, Alumnae Association*

Imad Zubi
*Director, Willits-Hallowell Conference Center*
“Go forward, attempt great things, accomplish great things.”

Educator and chemist Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke