Worldly Wise

“I never imagined that my interest in the Middle East would become an academic pursuit, one that would guide me toward preparing for a career in international policy. . . . Mount Holyoke led me to a summer in Washington and a year in Egypt.”

–Liana Simonds ’12 | READ MORE ON PAGE 3
Meet the Class of 2014

Leah Hammond

Hometown: Boulder, Colorado
Likely Major: International Relations

Favorite quotation: "We don't believe in innocent bystanders. Because if you see something and do nothing, then you are not innocent anymore." —Preben Munch-Nielsen, Danish teenager who rescued thousands of Jews during WWII

Gap-year project: Seven months in Nicaragua with Empowerment International, an organization that works on removing barriers to education, and then a language-intensive program at Haifa University in Israel.

Languages: “English and Spanish. I'm trying to learn Hebrew right now, and then French is next. And then I would love to learn Arabic.”

On international relations: “When we’re talking about issues of oppression, you can’t resolve anything without communication, and the most basic form of communication is talking to people. You really need to be able to talk to people in their own terms—and to do that, you need to learn their language and their cultural context.”

Enrolled in: French, American Politics, the African Diaspora, and Climate Change

Why Mount Holyoke: “We were touring colleges in the area, and my mom wanted to look at Mount Holyoke, and I told her she was crazy, no way I would go to an all-girls school. And then I just fell in love with it. I could see myself thriving, and I loved the idea of being surrounded by 2,000 smart women—that just sounded really cool. It was the first school I looked at—and the only school I applied to.”

MHC videographer Clarity Risska Guerra ’09 spent five days filming students on location in New York City, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Meet Liana Simonds (cover story) and eight other MHC students and see how they connected their academic work to the world of work.

YouTube/mountholyokecollege
Worldly Wise

This summer in Washington, D.C., Liana Simonds ’12 of Minneapolis spent her mornings as a student in an intensive Arabic class at Georgetown University. Then, each weekday afternoon, she interned in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

**Designing a Major**
Simonds has a self-designed major in Middle Eastern studies, a field she discovered after taking a class on American foreign policy in the Middle East. Her concentration is international policy and conflict resolution. “I’m interested in seeing things from the other side, in a country that’s been on the receiving end of our foreign policy,” she said. Simonds is also pursuing the Nexus minor in law and public policy. “When I heard about that track, I felt it related to my major more than any other possible minor. Plus, I really liked the idea of integrating real-world experiences with a liberal arts education,” she said. “My internship was in a policy and planning office so it fit perfectly with Nexus.”

**On the Job in D.C.**
As an intern, Simonds assisted the Interagency Coordination Committee, which works to improve coordination among federal agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response. “I had opportunities to really contribute,” she said. “Along with learning about preparedness initiatives at the Department of Health and Human Services, I learned about projects under way at the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control, FEMA, and other agencies. It was fascinating.” Simonds, who describes herself as “a city girl at heart,” says she felt right at home in D.C. “Living and working in the city where all of the nation’s major policies are being made was extremely exciting.”

**Next Stop . . . Egypt**
Simonds’ Arabic class was both a continuation of the language studies she has done at Mount Holyoke and preparation for a junior year abroad in Egypt. As the recipient of a Boren Fellowship, a competitive award funded by the National Security Education Program, she is spending this fall in the Alexandria Language Program and then will study at the Cairo Political Economy program in the spring.

**Why MHC?**
“I wanted an East Coast school,” Simonds says. “And I knew Mount Holyoke would let me explore new interests. But I never imagined that my interest in the Middle East would become an academic pursuit, one that would guide me toward preparing for a career in international policy. I never imagined that Mount Holyoke would lead me to a summer in Washington and a year in Egypt.”

When students at Mount Holyoke start talking about their minors, the conversation inevitably involves Nexus.

Nexus is an interdisciplinary academic minor with embedded out-of-class experiences that are tailored to a student’s particular career interest. In short, it helps students connect their liberal arts education with valuable professional experience.

Begin by choosing from one of seven tracks—Art and Society; Education and Society; Global Business; Journalism, Media, and Public Discourse; Law and Public Policy; Nonprofit Organizations; or Sustainable Development—then follow a course of study to earn 16 academic credits. The experiential component can be a summer internship, paid employment, or a research project.

Find out more at www.mtholyoke.edu/nexus.
An Inspired View

INTRODUCING PRESIDENT PASQUERELLA
The tradition—which dates to 1838—goes like this: each autumn, the president of Mount Holyoke College designates one particularly glorious day as Mountain Day. The College’s bells peal at 7 AM for a full five minutes to announce that classes are cancelled.

The business of the day, apart from sleeping in, is hiking the nearby mountain after which the school is named.

This year, the first group of students making the climb up Mount Holyoke found themselves accompanied by the College’s new president, Lynn Pasquerella ’80. When they reached the summit—a rise of about 1,000 feet—Pasquerella took in the spectacular views with them. She stayed there throughout the day, greeting the hundreds of other students who subsequently made the hike, handing out ice cream, and cheering with seniors enjoying their final Mountain Day.

“This was my favorite tradition as a student here,” said Pasquerella. “Mountain Day is a wonderful way to celebrate community. It also reflects the College’s long history of giving women opportunities to exercise both their minds and their bodies. I’m very excited to be part of it again.”

Pasquerella returned to Mount Holyoke College as its eighteenth president in July. A noted philosopher and medical ethicist, she came to Mount Holyoke as a transfer student. The first in her family to go to college, she worked full-time to support herself while majoring in philosophy and graduated both magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Encouraged by her MHC professors to pursue graduate study, she received a full fellowship to Brown University and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy. Since then, Pasquerella has taught at the University of Rhode Island and the University of Hartford, where she also served as provost and chief academic officer. Her formal inauguration as Mount Holyoke’s president on September 24 was marked by a campuswide celebration.

In her inauguration address, Pasquerella expressed her hopes to bring the College’s work to new heights and to advance educational opportunities for women across the globe. She also spoke about the way that women’s colleges prepare women leaders and noted the stellar accomplishments of Mount Holyoke graduates across a “staggering array” of professional and creative fields.

“Mount Holyoke’s recent recognition by the Princeton Review as number one in the country for classroom experience speaks not only to the extraordinary talent of our faculty but the extent to which women on our campus are challenged to excel by their peers . . . .” —LYNN PASQUERELLA

(history of giving women opportunities to exercise both their minds and their bodies. I’m very excited to be part of it again.”

Throughout the fall, students have been getting to know Pasquerella through her open office hours, receptions she’s hosted for them at her home, and her presence at performances, athletic events, and campus hangouts. Marija Tesla ’11, president of the Student Government Association, said in her inaugural greeting to Pasquerella that she is constantly stopped by students who “express excitement about President Pasquerella being here. She mentors everywhere she goes. . . . Every time I see her, I am even more inspired to continue to serve our Mount Holyoke community, and through it, make this world a better place for us all.”

Global Engagement in Action

Clean water, sustainable agriculture, and entrepreneurship opportunities for women in AIDS-ravaged villages—these are just some of the life-or-death concerns that brought Mount Holyoke President Lynn Pasquerella to Kenya’s Lake District in August. For the third year in a row, she traveled to Africa with students and faculty from all of the institutions where she’s previously taught or worked as an administrator: Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, and the University of Hartford. To her delight, Mount Holyoke joined the team this summer.

Pasquerella has partnered with the Africa Center for Engineering Social Solutions (ACCESS), an organization founded by native Kenyan Clarice Odhiambo, to engage students and faculty at American colleges in designing simple engineering solutions for problems facing Kenyans. “The people of Africa have the solutions; they just don’t have the resources,” Pasquerella said.

Thanks to a grant from Newman’s Own, Hilda Barasa ’12, an urban education and economics major from Kenya, spent June and July helping Odhiambo organize the infrastructure for the team’s fieldwork. Yiting Wang ’11, an MHC environmental studies major and international relations minor from China, was in Nairobi for a summer internship and arranged to spend a week assisting the ACCESS team.

“I’m hoping that more MHC students can join us next year—faculty, too,” said Pasquerella. “This project is so perfectly aligned with the College’s mission of using liberal learning for purposeful engagement in the world. Through ACCESS, our students directly partner with women in Kenya. Together, there’s so much we can accomplish.”

Hear President Pasquerella’s Inaugural Address at www.mtholyoke.edu/inauguration.
Meet the Class of 2014

Hometown: Oakland, California
Likely major: Art History
Favorite treat at Masse’s, her parents’ Berkeley bakery: “I like the seasonal things, like the Mont Blanc, which has a hazelnut crust and baked meringue, ganache, whipped cream, and chestnut puree.”

Bakery lesson: The balance of creativity and discipline. “My mom’s really creative. I have to be able to sit down and do it from start to finish, rather than being distracted and moving on to something else.”

Artist’s statement: My hands are the handmaidens of a curious and creative mind. “I love working with my hands—to interact with the world on that level, working, making, and really seeing. Sewing, embroidering, fiber arts. Right now I’m trying to make a dress from this pattern from the 1840s.”

Volunteer work: Creative Growth Art Center, a studio for adult artists with disabilities. “I didn’t even realize it, but it turned out that I had this preconceived notion that I was there to help—but then it turned out to be the opposite. I was really there to learn.”

Dream job: “I love conservation and the preservation of all these historical things like textiles and paintings. I think I might want to do that in the future—conservation. It would incorporate so many of my interests.”

Five words to describe yourself: Inquisitive, visual, engaged, open, daydreaming.

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia
Likely major: “Neuroscience and behavior. The brain fascinates me and I am curious about why people act the way they do.”

Ultimate goal: “I want to be a physical therapist working in sports medicine. I’m very interested in kinesiology, which is the science of movement, and I’m hoping to take classes in that field at UMass.”

Stand-out experience: Junior Achievement. “Last year, I served as president of the company created by my JA team. In the process, I learned a lot about getting people to work together. I also networked with executives throughout Atlanta. This fall I’m planning to volunteer with JA in either Holyoke or Springfield.”

Recommended book: Black and White by Malorie Blackman. The book offers a different perspective on the civil rights movement. It really drew me in.

On my iPod: “I listen to all types of music, everything from rock to jazz to hip-hop to R&B. My favorite artist has been Usher; I really like his soul music.”

Why MHC? “Even though I’d finished my applications, my best friend convinced me to apply to MHC with her. We both were accepted and came to visit. I thought I had no interest in attending a women’s college so I regarded the trip as a little vacation. To my surprise, I immediately fell in love with MHC. My best friend ended up choosing a different college, but here I am!”

Lesson learned: “Never say never.”

Hometown: San Francisco, California
Likely major: “Unknown. I want to take advantage of the different classes offered and find what intrigues me. I’m open to everything.”

Passion: “Music—it’s been in me since the beginning. I sing and also play the violin. I love to perform and spent the past six years with the San Francisco Girls Chorus (SFGC). It was incredible and very intensive—at times, we practiced seven days a week. We worked hard and I’m really proud of what we accomplished.”

Chorus highlights: “We recorded our two-CD set, Heaven and Earth, last year at Skywalker Ranch. We also won three Grammys for our performance of Mahler’s 8th Symphony with the San Francisco Symphony.”

Singing with the SFGC at the Inauguration: “Words cannot describe the amount of pride and joy I feel about having sung at the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States. I was seated maybe 40 feet away from President Obama and the former presidents in attendance. Witnessing history with my very own eyes was something I’ll always remember. I’ve never felt such emotions.

The idea that I was there was to sing for the world was unbelievable, but it made me more conscious of the influence of music. It is almost as though I have been traveling from one world to another through music; being a normal teenage girl in one, and being part of something much larger than myself in the other.”

Crossing the continent: “Going from the West Coast to the East will be really different. I’m also leaving the city—and then there’s the weather. But it’s good. I want the changes that Mount Holyoke offers.”

Hometown: North Port, Florida
Likely Major: Research Biology
Statement of purpose: “I have a really strong passion for conserving and preserving our natural world. It’s not just an interest—it’s more like a spiritual calling.”

Gap-year project: Internship at the Hacienda Baru National Wildlife Refuge in Costa Rica, studying white-faced capuchin monkeys. “I wanted to gain a more global perspective and learn Spanish and get hands-on experience in biology—and I just wanted to do something different. It was a real journey of self-discovery.”

Nickname: Bat Girl. “In high school I did two internships with a bat biologist, and I’m actually certified in bat rescue. So when there happened to be a downed bat at school one day, I knew just how to handle it, even though I’m a shy person. Bat Girl to the rescue!”

Most influential book: It’s a Jungle Up There: More Tales from the Treetops, by Margaret D. Lowman. “No one had ever really looked at the jungle canopy before, and it’s nicknamed The Eighth Continent because of the incredible biodiversity. And it’s a male-dominated field, so she’s really a pioneer. Oh, and also Jane Eyre.”

Animals worked with: Cats, dogs, horses, butterflies, umbrellas cockatoos, shore birds, ferrets, deer, lemurs, monkeys.

Dream job: “To be a research biologist and write for National Geographic.”
### Homestown: Temara, Morocco

**Likely (Double) Major:** Biology and International Relations

Four ways to describe yourself: “I like challenges. Perseverance. I’m interested in a lot of really different things. And the last thing is that I love chocolate.”

Five languages you know: Arabic (Moroccan and Classical), French, English, Spanish, and Latin. “But my Spanish isn’t fluent, and it would be really useful for me to speak it fluently.”

Dream job: “I have two main interests. The first one is infectious diseases—I really want to do research in a field like that, maybe malaria. And the other thing is working to promote development among impoverished populations. I want to work for an NGO—or create my own!”

Favorite hobby: Mountain climbing. “It’s a relentless and continual surpassing of my limits and fears.”

Hardest climbs: Toubkal (4,167 meters) and M’goun (4,071 meters)—the two highest peaks in Morocco.

Favorite thing about MHC: “The courses are definitely really, really challenging and really, really interesting. Professors are different from where I come from: here, they give you the tools, and then you have to think and struggle on your own; we’re really active, not passive. And the people are incredible and they all have such different stories and such different interests—and they’re all really good at what they do. I’m in a challenging environment, but it’s also supportive.”

### 21st Century Scholars

Mount Holyoke’s 21st Century Scholars Program 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. Every 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.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Robin Barson</td>
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**Average:***

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Mount Holyoke offers the best classroom experience in the country, according to the Princeton Review Guide’s 2011 annual guidebook, *The Best 373 Colleges.*

**News**

**Marine scientist Barbara A. Block** headlined the October dedication of the Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Center for the Environment.

Gabrielle Gregg ’08—@gabifresh—won a nationwide contest and a $100,000 contract to become MTV’s first Twitter Jockey. The Detroit native now tweets as @MTVJ.

**Casey Maliszewski FP’10** attended the White House Summit on Community Colleges as a student representative to address strengthening two-year institutions. Maliszewski was one of five students chosen from Phi Theta Kappa to attend.

**In August, Lynn Pasquerella travelled to Kenya** with the Africa Center for Engineering Social Solutions. Shown left, with her son, Spencer Kuchle, a Hampshire College student, with a ceramic water pot designed to filter contaminants.

Professor of geology Al Werner led undergraduates on a climate change research trip this past summer to Svalbard, Norway—and the results were chilling.

In recognition of her work to educate women and girls in Afghanistan, Sadiqa Basiri Saleem ’09 has been named the 2010 Patricia Blunt Koldyke Fellow.

As a summer student intern with CNN, Marianna Nash ’11 wrote about the serious and the light, from the impact of the Gulf oil spill to the challenges of maintaining a summer romance.

Schuyler Marquez ’11 (left) presented at this year’s LEAP (Learning from Application) symposium. Her research on “The Integration of Muslims in Denmark: Insights from a First Encounter with Anthropological Fieldwork and Writing,” was among more than 100 student presentations on summer internship and research experiences.

With publication of her debut poetry collection, *Spring’s Third Day,* Laura Gross FP’11 turns to nature to find her voice—both on and off the page.

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