The Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor Carol Sweeney Benson, class of 1961, with the Loyalty Award. By generously dedicating your time and talents, you have helped the College and the Alumnae Association advance their missions and enduring values. It is with great pride that we pay tribute to your service.

You came to Mount Holyoke from Ridgewood High School in New Jersey and majored in chemistry. You credit Mount Holyoke with preparing you for a wide variety of occupations and avocations. To wit, you have been a vice president at Peoples Trust of New Jersey; the proprietor of a bed and breakfast in Stowe, Vermont; a computer consultant; a freelance writer—and the list continues to grow. As you once noted on an alumnae survey, “New quests are always on the horizon and I consider a day wasted if I have learned nothing new.”

Along with pursuing your many interests, you have remained active with the Class of 1961. Your service includes a term as a class agent and a term on the Nominating Committee. Since 2001, you have been class chair for the Mary Lyon Society and, in 2006, you assumed the role of class treasurer.

Though you are respected for all your contributions, your classmates are especially indebted to your innovative work setting up a class chat group. You launched this group in 1996 and have faithfully maintained it these fifteen years. Topics have ranged from lively discussions of Reunion planning to heartfelt conversations about illness and loss. Because of your work, members of the Class of 1961 remain connected to and supportive of each other despite the demands of full lives.

You have embodied Mary Lyon’s expectation when she said, “Let one efficient lady, in almost any place, either alone or with one or two to aid her, commence the work with decision, and with perseverance carry it through, and it will be done!” With sincere thanks for your extraordinary efforts and for your ongoing volunteer service, the Alumnae Association recognizes you with the Loyalty Award.

Cynthia L. Reed ’80
President
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

Jane E. Zachary
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College