

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE
MARY LYON AWARD 2017

PRESENTED TO



Katy Simpson Smith '06

KATY SIMPSON SMITH, CLASS OF 2006, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present to you the Mary Lyon Award. The award honors an alumna who graduated no more than fifteen years ago and who has demonstrated sustained achievement in her life and career consistent with the humane values that Mary Lyon exemplified and inspired in others.

Katy, your love of history and skill as a storyteller has allowed you to become a highly acclaimed author of historical fiction. You have used your graduate training as a historian as the basis for writing around the themes of love and loss in the context of the old South, skillfully interlacing historical fact with gripping storytelling.

A true daughter of the South, your work reflects your roots. Your dissertation on motherhood in early America led to your first book, *We Have Raised All of You: Motherhood in the South, 1970–1835*, published in 2013. Shortly thereafter you turned to writing fiction. Your first published novel, *The Story of Land and Sea*, explored the themes of relationships, slavery, and loss. One reviewer wrote that the book “heralds the birth of a major new talent.”

Your second novel, *Free Men*, was praised by critics. A review in *Publishers Weekly* stated, “This novel evokes the complexity of a fledgling America in precise, poetic language. It is rich with insights about history and the human heart.”

In recognition of your exceptional early career achievements and in anticipation of your future contributions to literature, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Mary Lyon Award.

MARCIA BRUMIT KROPP '67
PRESIDENT
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

NANCY BELLOWS PEREZ '76
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE