

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

ELIZABETH TOPHAM KENNAN AWARD 2018

PRESENTED TO



Mirella Jona Affron '58

MIRELLA JONA AFFRON, CLASS OF 1958, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments in the field of education exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Mirella, as a distinguished faculty member and leader at the College of Staten Island, you have been a trailblazer for women in academia. At a time when few women advanced to the highest levels of academic administration, you served as senior vice president of academic affairs in a large and complex urban university, where you spent most of your career.

You received a doctorate in Romance languages and literatures from Yale University in 1964. At the College of Staten Island, the focus of your scholarship and teaching shifted from French language to film and media studies. You went on to chair what is now the Department of Media Culture and, in 1987, were appointed dean of humanities and social sciences. Seven years later, you were named provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, serving with distinction until your retirement in 2002. You also served as director of the College of Staten Island Center for the Study of Staten Island and were a member of the doctoral faculty in theater of the City University of New York Graduate Center. Among your many publications was the critically acclaimed *Grand Opera: The Story of the Met* (University of California Press, 2014), one of three books you co-wrote with your husband, Charles Affron. Your scholarly and professional accomplishments are even more noteworthy in the context of the times in which you achieved them.

MIRELLA, for your accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award on this, your sixtieth, reunion.

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

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