

# MCLA

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

NOV/17



**THE FACES OF MCLA**

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

A sampling of “The Faces of MCLA” come to you via this edition of the MCLA alumni magazine.

The profiles of Bryanna Bradley '17, Ashton Darrett '11, Michael Hagerty '81, and Jonathan Monroy '13 demonstrate that the knowledge gained and values established at MCLA encourage alumni to give back to their professions, communities, and peers. That is, indeed, the strategic purpose of an MCLA education – to create lifelong learners who respond to calls for action, challenge assumptions, think creatively, and inspire others in their own pursuit of excellence and justice. The faces featured in our magazine, those we honored in September as Distinguished Alumni (see page 26), and those represented in Class Notes are daily ambassadors for our college. We are proud of your accomplishments.



**STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2017–2022**

**Respond** to student and community needs in ways that enhance MCLA's distinctiveness, its role as a pioneering educational leader, and its value as an engine of regional growth

**Enhance** student persistence, completion, and preparation for post-college success

**Strengthen** and demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion

**Attract** and retain great talent and promote a campus climate that is collegial, collaborative, and creative

**Improve** internal communications and enhance our external reputation

**Improve** facilities and technology infrastructure in support of our mission

**Promote** enhanced organizational effectiveness

**Diversify** revenues and build a more sustainable financial model



MCLA President James F. Birge; Humanitarian Award recipient Wayne A. Soares '89; Coach Joe Zavattaro; and Director of Athletics Laura Mooney during this year's Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony.

I am pleased to announce that MCLA's 2017–2022 Strategic Plan is now in print, and it is beginning to shape the ways in which we work and learn on campus. The strategic goals, which appear on the adjacent page, summarize the aspirations of an MCLA education and will guide the development of new programs and initiatives in the years ahead.

The Strategic Plan is the culmination of a comprehensive process that began in September 2016. Led by an 18-person steering committee representing all segments of the college community, vast information was gathered from many college constituents to inform creation of the final plan. I intend to continue to capture the inclusive nature of the planning process as the

goals are operationalized into academic and administrative initiatives. The plan will ultimately strengthen and diversify our academic programs, deepen residential experiences on campus, and solidify the bonds, values, and achievements that distinguish our students and alumni.

I welcome your thoughts on our strategic goals and your ideas on how we can put them into action.

Warmly,

James F. Birge, Ph.D.  
President

## DEAR ALUMNI,

As I write this, I am still energized by the wonderful attendance we had for Reunion 2017. It was terrific seeing representatives from the classes of 1960 through 2016 back home on the campus of MCLA.

At the distinguished alumni lunch, we honored six impressive representatives of the alumni association, all of whom embody the ideals of compassion, leadership, and dedicated service that define the core values of what an MCLA education represents. At the Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony, we welcomed three more individuals to an already prestigious collection of alumni athletes, in addition to presenting the icon of the MCLA Athletics Department, Coach Joe Zavattaro, with the New England Intercollegiate Baseball Association Hall of Fame award.

While reunion is a time to get back to our roots and reconnect with one another and our alma mater, it is also a time to branch out – to renew and rediscover. During reunion weekend, we introduced an oral history recording session where members of the classes of 1960–68 discussed their experiences and the impact their education at NASC/MCLA had on their personal and professional lives. I encourage you to listen to that conversation at <https://youtu.be/PY7hko5MEsA> and think about all the ways the College has made a difference in your life.

This year, the Alumni Association Board of Directors will focus on increasing alumni engagement. Specifically, what can we do to promote connections between you, our fellow alumni, and the College to inspire increased attendance at events, volunteerism,



collective action, and alumni pride?

There are a number of ways you can engage, including nominating a fellow alum for a Distinguished Alumni Award; you can also run for a seat on the Alumni Association Board of Directors; join the Class Agent Program; share your own stories of the impact the College has had on you; attend a regional alumni event; serve as a mentor to a current student; or support the Annual Fund. Whether you are a graduate of MCLA, North Adams State College, State Teachers College of North Adams, or even the Normal School, we are bound together as members



**2017–2018 Alumni Association Board of Directors**, from left: Todd Vroman '90, Dave Flint '78, David Ortendahl '05, Dennis Zicko '65, Monique Symes '11, Lisa Hall Blackmer '99, Dan Summers II '07, Cheryl Starr Boillat '79, M.Ed. '97, MCLA's Director of Alumni Engagement Christine Naughton '99, Osakpolo Igiede '15, Erin Fielding Baffuto '05, Brandon Pender '07, Kaite Bonneville Rosa '10, Jade Prickett Morris '10, and Benjamin Lamb '07. Not pictured: Dennis Ducharme '82, Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey '99, Jonathan Monroy '13, Kristin Lamontagne Nichols '01, Paula Randazza '88, and Dorothy Giusti Ransford '64.

of one Alumni Association, each playing a pivotal role in the institution's past, present, and future, spanning a generational arc representing each chapter in MCLA's rich history.

Like many alums, I have come to appreciate that the community we join upon graduating is just as important as the community we were a part of when we were students. I encourage all of you to strengthen your connection with the College and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Starr Boillat, '79, M.Ed. '97  
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

# Alumni Association Board of Directors

The MCLA Alumni Association Board of Directors is an important link between MCLA and its alumni, providing opportunities for alumni to serve and promote the College in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Advancement. There are no dues to be a member of the association. Five alumni candidates are elected annually.

If you are interested in running for an elected seat on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, please call or email Christine Naughton, director of alumni engagement, at 413.662.5074 or [c.naughton@mcla.edu](mailto:c.naughton@mcla.edu). Nominations must be received by May 1, 2018.

# MCLA

## OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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Institutional Grants Coordinator

### **Taylor Graziola '16**

Advancement Operations Assistant

### **Christina Kelly**

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Assistant Athletic Director

### **Jami-Lynn Pytko '03, M.B.A. '13**

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## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Cheryl Starr Boillat '79, M.Ed. '97**

President

### **Dan Summers II '07, Vice President**

### **Erin Fielding Baffuto '05**

### **Lisa Hall Blackmer '99**

### **Dennis Ducharme, Esq. '82**

### **Dave Flint '78**

### **Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey '99**

### **Osakpolo Igiede '15**

### **Benjamin Lamb '07**

### **Jonathan Monroy '13**

### **Kristin Lamontagne Nichols '01**

### **David Ortendahl '05**

### **Brandon Pender '07**

### **Jade Prickett Morris '10**

### **Paula Randazza '88**

### **Dorothy Giusti Ransford '64**

### **Kaite Bonneville Rosa '10**

### **Monique Symes '11**

### **Todd Vroman '90**

### **Dennis Zicko '65**

# BECOME A CLASS AGENT

## A Great Way to Get Involved with MCLA

**Have you been thinking of getting involved to help  
students or reconnect with your  
alma mater in an impactful way?**

The MCLA Class Agent Program is a great way to get involved! Established in 1994 and refreshed in 2017, the intent of the Class Agent Program is to increase alumni engagement, participation, and communication between NASC and MCLA alumni and the Alumni Office.

Class Agents serve as ambassadors for their classmates and the College through an active commitment to communicate, connect, and contribute to the mission of MCLA.

Make an impact by participating in educational programs, helping gather class notes, and sharing pictures and campaign links!

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If you are interested in serving as a Class Agent, please contact Christine Naughton, director of alumni engagement at (413) 662-5074 or [c.naughton@mcla.edu](mailto:c.naughton@mcla.edu).

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

# 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts has distinguished itself in various ways, particularly through its many alumni, who have made outstanding contributions within their professional fields, respective communities, and family lives. During Reunion Weekend, we honor these truly remarkable graduates as Distinguished Alumni for their many achievements.

Please take a few moments to consider former classmates for one of the following Distinguished Alumni awards. The awards include:

**Young Alumnus Award:** Within 10 years of their MCLA commencement, the individual will have shown significant growth in their chosen profession and/or career path, received recognition as an emerging leader through professional and/or community achievements, and served as an outstanding role model for current and future MCLA students.

**Alumni Humanitarian Award:** The nominee must have demonstrated a record of service to his/her community and to the world at large.

**Outstanding Educator Award:** This award is given to recognize and honor an individual who has shown continued and dedicated service to their students and their profession and a commitment to developing the potential of all students. This award recognizes K-16 educators, from all areas of education, who have made significant contributions to support and enhance the education of students through innovative classroom practices, programming, extracurricular activities, or committee/community work.

**Outstanding Educator Emeritus Award:** This award is given to recognize and honor an individual whose life's work was dedicated to education and whose teaching impacted their students, school, and community.

**Outstanding Service to the College Award:** The nominee must have demonstrated a record of service to the Alumni Association and/or the College.

**Distinguished Alumnus Award:** The individual must have demonstrated a history of achievement in one or more of the following: community, state, regional, or national service, and/or the individual must have made a significant leadership contribution to a state, regional, or national organization that does not come under the purview of his/her profession.

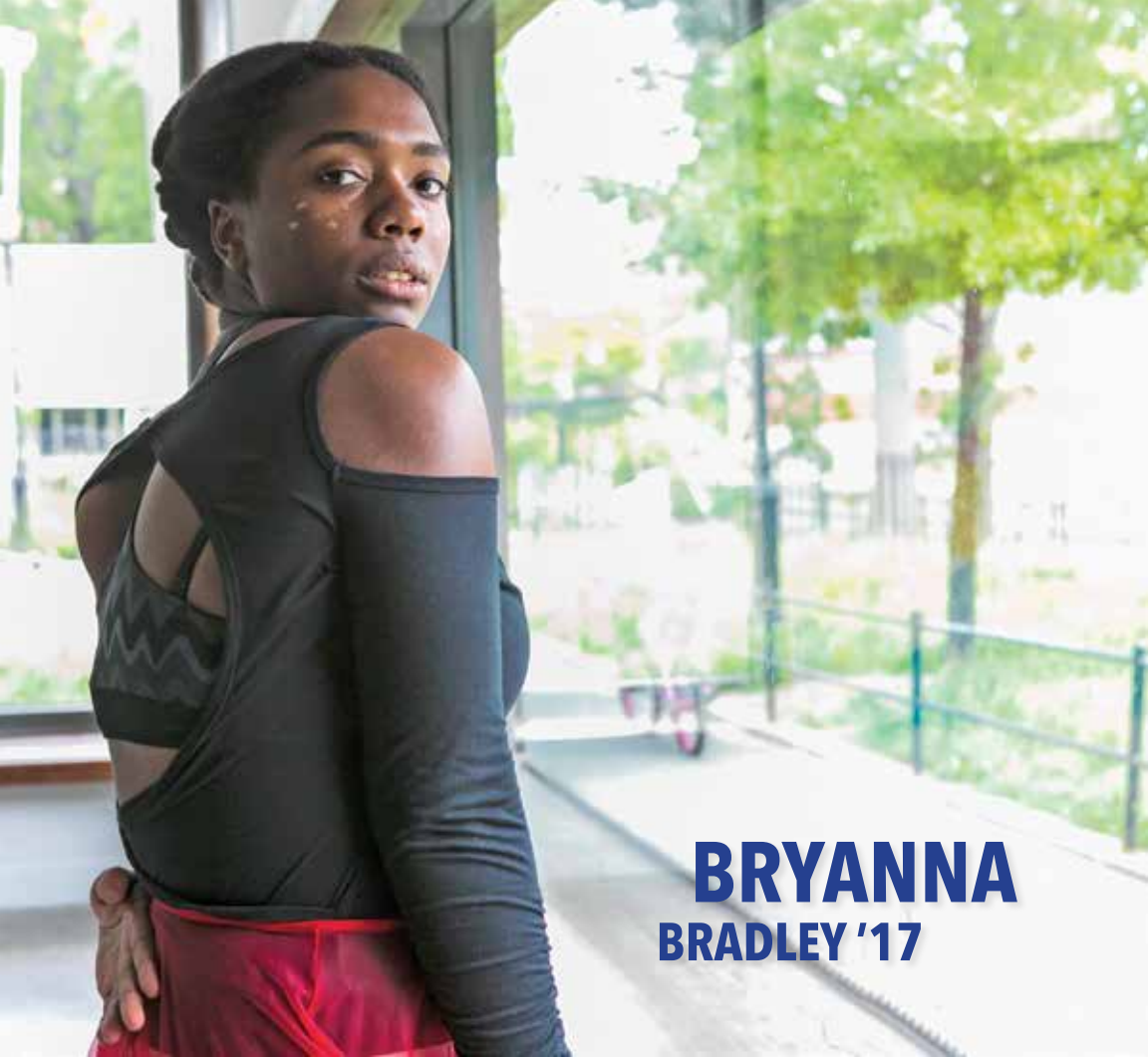
**Nominations must be received by May 1, 2018.** Please provide detailed information on the nominee; this will allow our Awards Committee to carefully review your nomination. Send to the director of alumni engagement, MCLA, 375 Church Street, North Adams, MA 01247, or contact Christine Naughton at [c.naughton@mcla.edu](mailto:c.naughton@mcla.edu) or (413) 662-5074.

To view past recipients: <http://alumni.mcla.edu/past-alumni-award-recipients>.

# THE FACES OF MCLA

In the Berkshires and far beyond, MCLA alumni are making positive contributions to the communities in which they live and work. Our alumni body features civically engaged citizens who care deeply about issues affecting society today and are willing to lend their time, talents, and leadership skills to make a difference. Whether they are working toward social justice, serving on a board, helping in their local schools, volunteering on behalf of those in need, or raising funds for charity, these outstanding individuals are an inspiration to our campus community. They are the faces of MCLA.





## BRYANNA BRADLEY '17

### ART & SOCIAL JUSTICE: *BUCK*

Bryanna Bradley '17, a former member of MCLA's Dance Company who also studied at The School at Jacob's Pillow, utilizes her talents as a gifted dancer and choreographer to raise awareness about the African American experience, racism, and social injustice. Earlier this year, she choreographed and delivered a performance titled *Buck: An Exploration of Black Masculinity*, which took place at MASS MoCA in April.

The performance was inspired by and performed within artist Nick Cave's exhibition, *Until*, which was featured at MASS MoCA from October 2016 through

September 2017. This immersive installation, named for the phrase "innocent *until* proven guilty" or rather "guilty *until* proven innocent," addressed issues of gun violence and racism. It incorporated 16,000 wind spinners, 24 chandeliers, millions of pony beads, and thousands of ceramic birds, fruits, and animals. Hidden within its beauty, museum-goers discovered black-faced lawn jockeys and images of guns, bullets, and targets amid crystals, flowers, and many items sourced from thrift stores in North Adams.

Cave urged performers to create their own work in response to *Until*, and Bradley rose to the

occasion. "I was very emotionally impacted by the installation and inspired to perform something in there," she says.

Bradley recruited her friend Phil Shedd '17, who initiated contact with the museum and also served as sound engineer for *Buck*. She also turned to dysFUNKcrew, a dance group comprised of MCLA alumni, for the assistance of a black male dancer. Member Ashton Darrett '11 embraced the opportunity.

*Buck* relied upon movement, music, and vocalizations to demonstrate the many layers of black masculinity. Asked about its message, Bradley says, "There's not just one message. There's not only one way to look at some things or to express black masculinity. Black men express themselves in many ways."

Darrett adds, "It had a lot of elements dealing with social justice, equality, and image. I saw it as an opportunity for the audience to consider how



# ASHTON DARRETT '11

the world sees a black male and how a black male deals with the pressures placed on him.”

In an opening exercise, Bradley and Darrett had words written on their bodies. Audience members were asked to add one positive word and one negative word that they associated with black masculinity. “People really struggled with confronting their thoughts on black masculinity – blackness in general – and then applying those thoughts to an actual black body,” notes Bradley.

Both Bradley and Darrett were pleased with the response to *Buck*. “One of our goals was to allow the audience time to reflect. There were people in

tears, people with confused faces, and people who expressed signs of physical discomfort,” Darrett observes.

Bradley agrees, stating, “Black masculinity does not exist in a monolith, and a lot of people aren’t aware of that or aren’t aware that they needed to be reminded of that.”

Now choreographing and performing at MCLA’s Performing Arts Theatre Program production of *Passing Strange* in North Adams, Bradley says she will continue to explore the idea of black self-awareness in the context of society through dance and other creative media.

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## GENERATIONS RUNNING TOGETHER

If there’s one thing that the members of MCLA’s Greek life have proven, it’s that there is power in unity. For nearly 37 years, the Pi Upsilon Pi fraternity has been working to raise funds for cystic fibrosis. While the fraternity got the ball rolling with the inaugural Run for Life Relay back in 1981, they were soon joined by members of the Pi Upsilon Omega sorority. Working together, the Pines members (as they are affectionately called) raised thousands of dollars in support of this important cause.

The Run for Life Relay was the brainchild of one of Pi Upsilon Pi’s founding brothers, Michael Hagerty ’81. With the fraternity’s MCLA chapter still in its infancy, he felt that it was important to establish a philanthropic tradition. He suggested a relay across the state, from North Adams to Boston (approximately 150 miles). Another brother had a family member coping with cystic fibrosis, so it was agreed that the funds raised would benefit this cause.



*The North Adams Transcript* - April 11, 1981



# MICHAEL HAGERTY '81

Organizing and executing the relay was a massive undertaking, but the event was successful. "To this day, when I travel that route from Boston to North Adams, I cannot believe we were able to do it," laughs Hagerty. "It's crazy... we were just young kids. It's pretty remarkable that we were able to pull it off."

Although a cross-state relay of this nature is no longer permissible due to liability and other restrictions, the Annual Run for Life to benefit cystic fibrosis has continued, in one form or another, since then.

In recent years, Pines brother Jonathan Monroy '13 has played an instrumental role in the fraternal organization, initiating the establishment of a Pi Upsilon Pi Alumni Board, improving communications among members past and present, and bringing a new level of professionalism to the 5k event.

This year, Monroy collaborated with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to move its annual Great Strides Walk from Pittsfield to North Adams. Combining the two events led to a significant boost in community support and participation.

In addition, the event took place during MCLA's Alumni Weekend, resulting in participation by "an amazing number of alumni," reports Monroy. As of this printing, the Pi Upsilon Pi team had raised more than \$3,500. The event, as a whole, raised more than \$10,500. Additional donations continued to be made through the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's website.

Monroy is proud of this achievement and of his fraternity, in general. "Our members have a close bond. We share a very strong college memory that

makes us who we are today." He and Hagerty agree that raising funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation strengthened the bonds of the Pines members and played an invaluable role in helping them develop strong leadership and organizational skills, as well as a lifelong commitment to philanthropy.

*(As of fall 2017, Pi Upsilon Pi fraternity is affiliated with the MCLA Greek Council and recognized by the College, while Pi Upsilon Omega sorority is no longer affiliated with the College.)*



## JONATHAN MONROY '13

"OUR MEMBERS HAVE A  
CLOSE BOND. WE SHARE  
A VERY STRONG COLLEGE  
MEMORY THAT MAKES US  
WHO WE ARE TODAY."

# CLASS NOTES

## 54

The Governor Winslow Elementary School gymnasium in Marshfield will be named to honor **Fred Hubbard**, who died in 2015. Fred served in a variety of roles in the Marshfield school system. He was an elementary school principal in three schools, an assistant superintendent, and also served twice as interim superintendent.

## 71

**Susan Hakes Girard** founded Kaleidoscope Productions, where she has been producing, designing, directing, and choreographing sold-out performances since October 2012 in sunny Las Vegas. Susan



Susan Hakes Girard '71

designed the gorgeous costumes in the photo (at bottom), where she is pictured with eight of the dancers she works with; they are ages 60–75.

## 80

**Elaine Berckman** retired from the Pelham, N.H. public schools after 20 years of teaching.

## 82

**John Geifuss** was one of the 2016–2017 Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Coach of the Year recipients and was recognized during its banquet on May 25, 2017.

**Linda '82 and Gerald '83 Shay's** daughter, Laura Shay, ran for ASAT in the Boston Marathon on April 17, 2017, to raise awareness about science-based treatment for autism.



Katherine Foster Warren '82

**Katherine Foster Warren** hosted the Second International Gliomatosis Cerebri Conference at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Cancer Institute (NCI) Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md. Attending the conference were Joe Arabia and his wife, Kathy, of the AYJ Fund of North Adams. Katherine is now head of pediatric neuro-oncology at the National Institutes of Health/ National Cancer Institute, a strong advocate of gliomatosis cerebri and other brain cancer research, and is working hard to find an effective treatment for this devastating disease.



Laura Shay with brothers Bryan and Pat

## 84

**Lisa Holst** is vice president of sales and marketing for NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes.

## 85

**Bruce Morey** was re-elected for Burlington Town Meeting Precinct 1.

**Glenn Nazarian's** physical transformation inspired the launching of a series of fitness centers called The Fitter Female (TFF). TFF offers women-only individualized personalized training in a small group, with a transformation system built around three principles: "Get Fitter, Be Healthy, and Give Back." Last March, the 17th TFF opened in Acton, Mass.; its next location will be in Needham, Mass.

**Joanne R. White** was the recipient of the MCLA 2017 Susan B. Anthony Women's Center "One of Us" Award.

## 86

**Robin Gaylord Poirot** was one of four recipients of the 2017 Berkshire County Educator Recognition Awards. This award, given by MCLA in collaboration with Berkshire County K-12 superintendents and Berkshire Community College (BCC), was created to honor the region's exceptional teachers.

## 88

Rick and **Karen Perry Guzman's** twin sons, Jacob and David, were cast in the Broadway Musical *Hamilton*.

## 89

**Jill Pompei, Ed.S.**, the literacy director at C.T. Plunkett School in the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District, received the MCLA SCOPE (Standing Committee on Professional Education) Educator

of the Year award on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, in Boston. This award recognizes and celebrates outstanding state university educator alumni who work or have worked in a Massachusetts public pre-K or K-12 school.

**Wayne Soares** was named spokesperson for Jason Varitek's 2016 Pitching in for Kids foundation's new anti-bullying campaign, "Be Kind Always."

## 91

**Paula A. Bennett** was selected from the family law firm Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson, LLP, to the 2017 edition of "The Best Lawyers in America," which recognizes the nation's top attorneys.

## 92

**Patricia Borsari Raynard** is currently the executive director of Women2Women, an international women's leadership program that brings together emerging young women leaders (ages 15-19) from around the globe, engages them in intensive action-oriented leadership training, and connects them to an international network of influential women leaders.

Army Colonel **Thomas Stewart** is currently serving as an adjunct professor at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., teaching current trends in leadership.

## 94

**Erin McVinney Tierney** is currently living in Reading, Mass., with her husband, Mark, and their two kids, Liam, 12, and Kira, 7. She is a reading teacher for grades 1-3 in Lynnfield Public Schools.

## 99

**Christopher Getchell** has been selected as the winner of this year's Thomas C. Passios Outstanding Principal Award by the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association.

In July 2013, **Laura-Jean Hickey** was appointed as a commissioner by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to serve as the AFL-CIO representative on the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF) for a five-year term. The commission was established in 2000 to help families bear the financial burden associated with children with special health-care needs and disabilities. The fund is overseen by an independent 11-member commission and falls under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. After being sworn in by the Secretary of State in 2013, Laura-Jean, along with her fellow commissioners, hears cases and deliberates on whether to provide financial assistance to families with children experiencing catastrophic medical conditions, accidents, and even death; the CICRF is a payer of last resort.



Aaron Pry '99

Sergeant First Class **Aaron J. Pry** has been deployed to Soto Cano Air Base, Joint Task Force Bravo, part of Army Southern Command for the past year. He is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the laboratory for the medical element on the base supporting Army, Marines, Air Force, and Navy personnel. Along with the military treatments, his unit, the 325th combat support hospital, also does MEDRETEs, local missions into the rural areas of Honduras and neighboring countries to provide them with medical care they would never receive otherwise.

**00**

**Dawn Davis Klein** received her master's of education from MCLA in August 2016 and attended the graduation ceremony in May 2017. Dawn has been teaching for 11 years and currently teaches English at Hoosac Valley High School in Cheshire, Mass. She is married to Henry Klein and they have a 6-year-old daughter, Estelle Klein.

**George Scione** was recently promoted from sports reporter to evening news editor at the *Nashua Telegraph*. He will continue to write columns on local and national topics for the sports pages and also oversee the crew designing pages, copy editing, and reporters covering breaking news or live events on deadline.

**01**

**Sarah Lapine** was honored by the Boston Bruins in December 15, 2016, for her military service. She has been promoted to Army Sergeant First Class and is currently serving on active duty and stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y.



Vance William Rocha

**Suzanne Desrochers Rocha** and her husband welcomed their first child, a baby boy, Vance William Rocha, on August 5, 2016.

**02**

**Kellie Denio Becker** is married to Robert Becker and they have three daughters. She is currently employed by Worcester Public Schools as a guidance counselor at North High School.



Top: Diane Thompson Hogue and husband, Kelsey. Bottom: their son, Fred Hogue

**Diane Thompson Hogue**

married Kelsey Hogue in May of 2015. They have a son, Fred, who was born in May 2016. Diane was recently able to catch up with some townhouse mates, Martha Andrews Ho '02 and Rachel Bancroft Montoya '02 at Martha's baby shower in October.

**Sally Shaughnessy Partain**

is living in Denver, Colo., and recently joined the Denver chapter of the Junior League so she can continue the volunteerism she learned to love at MCLA. Junior League



is an international women's organization that fosters personal, professional, and philanthropic growth.

### 03

**Sheree Cardin-Rae** moved to Ayer, Mass., from Chicopee in 2015 with husband, Billy, and daughters, Scarlet, 7, and Lincoln, 3. She was recently promoted to US Sales Training Business Partner Genetics, LSD (lysosomal storage disorders) at Shire.

**James Cieslik** was featured in a *Sunday Eagle Tribune* article on Dec. 25, 2016, for his participation in Big Brother with Big Friends Little Friends, an organization associated with Family Services of the Merrimack Valley that helps get Christmas presents for children in need.



Abigail Cooley '03

After a national search, **Abigail (Abby) Cooley** was selected by the Everett Public Library Board of Trustees as the next director of the Everett Public Library, Wash.

# 40 UNDER 40

On March 23, 2017, the following alumni received one of Berkshire Community College's 40 Under Forty Awards, recognizing Berkshire County's most outstanding young professionals.



**1. Brian Astorino '00**  
Greylock Investment Group



**2. Jason Dohaney '04**  
MountainOne Investment Group



**3. Amanda Chilson '05**  
Northern Berkshire  
Community Coalition



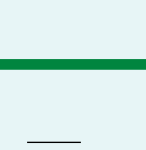
**4. Anne E. Rodgers '06**  
Director of Household Management  
& Toddler Relations



**5. Ashley Sulock Persip '11**  
Iredale Mineral Cosmetics



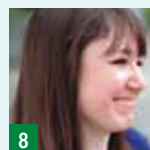
**6. Jessica Sweeney '11**  
ROOTS Teen Center



**7. Sharra Blache '15**  
Allen Brighman Community Center



**8. Julia Dixon**  
BerkshireFlirt, LLC





Dominic and McKenzie Brooke

Craig Maynard, **Jennifer Golden Maynard**, and big brother Dominic Joseph welcomed baby McKenzie Brooke into their family on February 3, 2016.

**Peter Sison** is part of the four-member brewing team for Four Pines Brewing Company in Hampton, N.H. Pete and his partners Jason Goldweber, Jim Frackleton, and Tony Yuhasz have been home-brewing together for three years, but this is the first time they have had their beer purchased.

In September 2016, **Christina Barrett Wynn** was named as one of the 1Berkshire Trendsetter Under 40 Change-Maker award recipients for her collaborative vision for Berkshire County and her desire to focus on the bigger picture, while remaining involved in numerous committees, boards, and programs that are working for the betterment of the region.

## 04

**Jason Dohaney** and wife, Danielle, welcomed Iris Rosa Dohaney on August 7, 2017.



Iris Rosa Dohaney



Jason and Jen LaValley Hurley's new puppy Emma

In May 2016, **Jason Hurley** and Jen LaValley Hurley bought their first house in Chicopee, Mass. In July, they also adopted a rescue puppy from a local shelter, a border collie named Emma.

**Thomas LeBeau** and wife, Nicole, along with son, Christian, welcomed their second child, Elena Marie, on April 13, 2017. He also wrote the logic for the first-ever personalized newsfeed in the history of *espn.com* – launched in March.

On November 2016, Canadian parenting magazine *The Baby Spot* named **Deirdre Londergan** blogger of the week for her blog "Cplumom: a blog for the slightly above average parent."



Nathan Keith Raposo

**Lora Samagaio Raposo** and her husband, Steven, welcomed their second child, Nathan Keith Raposo, on June 12, 2017.

**Scott and Cyndi Roper-Patenaude** welcomed their first child, Elynore Marion Patenaude, on May 2, 2017.



Elynore Marion Patenaude

**Lynn Brennan White** celebrated her bachelorette party with these beautiful glasses. Fellow alums Lori Mckenzie '06, Kelly Davis Haggerty '04, and Courtney Tebo Stawiecki '04 were in attendance.



**05**

2016 has been a busy year for **Erin Fielding Baffuto** as she earned her tenure with the Quabog Regional School District at the end of the school year and celebrated 10 years of marriage on June 10 to fellow alum **Christopher Baffuto '04**. In the summer, Erin was elected to the MCLA Alumni Association Board of Directors, and in the fall, she was voted in as the president of the Pi Upsilon Omega Alumni Association. She was asked to be the godmother of Maddyson, daughter of fellow alum **Katie Imperato Midley '07**. Erin also wrote an article that was published by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) that was shared with high schools, students, and parents across the Commonwealth. The article is about college admissions and the role parents should (or shouldn't) be playing in it.

**Sonja Ashton Barenboym** and her husband, Lev, bought a house in Danvers, Mass. She is currently teaching third grade in the Rockport School District and is working on her special education license to add to her ELS, reading specialist, and elementary teaching licenses.

**Jessica Bazinet's** Allendale Elementary School first-grade class received recognition as *The Berkshire Eagle* "Classroom of the Week" in February 2017. Jessica's classroom philosophy is teaching the "whole child."

**Allison Cook** married Wes Younts on June 6, 2015. She is working in the admissions office at Charter Oaks State College, and Wes is a professor at the University of Hartford. They, along with their daughter, Stella, purchased a home in Farmington, Conn.



Vera and Lena Marlow

**Jessica Marlow**, her husband, and big sister Clara, 2, welcomed twins Vera and Lena on February 26.

**Maura J. Mills, Ph.D.**, recently accepted a position in the Department of Management at the University of Alabama. Previously, she had been teaching industrial and organizational psychology at Hofstra University in New York.

**David Ortendahl** was MCLA's 2017 Convocation speaker.



David Ortendahl '05 with his parents during this year's Convocation ceremony



Gabriella Margaret Anastasi

**06**

**Patricia Gillis Anastasi** and husband, Chris, welcomed their first child, Gabriella Margaret Anastasi, on April 13, 2016.



Bengey Asse '06

**Bengey Asse** met Tom Hanks at Bengey's DJ gig on Fourth of July for Steiner Studios in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Julianne Bernstein** welcomed her second baby, Kade Everett Hughes, on April 21, 2017, and was promoted to supervisor of one of Community Health Resources housing programs in Enfield, Conn. She is currently enrolled at Springfield College for a master's in social work.



Nikki Davis Lothar '06 and family

**Stephanie Dery Kopala** was one of four recipients of the 2017 Berkshire County Educator Recognition Awards. This award, given by MCLA in collaboration with Berkshire County K-12 superintendents and Berkshire Community College (BCC), was created to honor the region's exceptional teachers.

**Nikki Davis Lothar** and Walter Lothar welcomed their first child, Emma Elizabeth Lothar, on November 14, 2016.

**Lori McKenzie** was promoted in November 2016 to operations manager at JC Ehrlich in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Celeste Roeller Harp** tied the knot on January 16, 2016, to Dan Harp in Albany, N.Y. She received her master of regional planning from SUNY Albany and currently works for the NYS DOH's Bureau of Community Chronic Disease Prevention. Celeste serves on the board of directors for the Woman's Club of Albany,

(where Eleanor Roosevelt was a member!), as a member-at-large for the NACCD arthritis council, and also works as a consultant land use planner for communities throughout New York state.

**07**

**Christine Barna-Lorenson** and her husband welcomed their second child on May 1, 2017.



Logan and Garrett Lorenson

**Ashley Green** crossed the finish line of the Annual Run for Life to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation this April 2017.

**Ben Lamb** and wife, **Emily Schiavoni M.Ed. '13**, welcomed Otto Camden Schiavoni Lamb



Otto Camden Schiavoni Lamb

on July 7, 2017. Ben was one of the five 2017 Berkshire Trendsetter Under 40 Change-Maker finalists. This award is given to a community member under 40 with proven leadership, team building, problem-solving skills, and who has a heightened awareness of key issues affecting Berkshire County.

**Katie Imperato Midgley** welcomed her first baby, Maddyson Abigail Midgley, on March 29, 2016.



Maddyson Abigail Midgley



Ashley Green '07

**Michelle Tucker Tyer** received her master's in social work from Springfield College in 2015. She was promoted to supervisor with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.

## 08

**Mark Kaley** is the member service contact center manager at Greylock Federal Credit Union.

## 09

**Brendon Graffum** is in his third season as a varsity cheerleading coach for Hamilton-Wenham High School and in his sixth season as a diving coach for Marblehead, Beverly, and Salem High Schools. He started an all-star cheerleading team for the Lynch/Van Otterloo YMCA in Marblehead, Mass.

**Matt Jennings** married Keri Chisholm Jennings on June 9, 2017.



Matt Jennings '09



Kaitlyn Bonneville Rosa '10



**Paul H. LeSage** just published the novel *Tales of Dorias: Kahlen's Burden*. Paul lives with his wife in Massachusetts and is a father to four sons.

## 10

**Laura Gibson Delariman** and her husband, Jared, have two happy and cute little ones: Mason (born July 7, 2014) and Kathryn (born March 2, 2016). Laura is the daughter of **Elaine Berckman Gibson '79**.

**Kaitlyn Bonneville Rosa's** wedding took place on February 15, 2015, at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, Mass.

## 11

**Brittany Shea Carr** was married on July 2, 2016.



Brittany Shea Carr '11



Mason and Kathryn Delariman

## Class notes

**Benjamin Warren** completed his master's degree at Lesley University in mental health counseling with a specialization in expressive arts therapy this May. He was also able to travel to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to work with at-risk children and elderly populations. Benjamin is currently looking to work with children/families in the Boston area.

### 12

**Sarah E. Dion** is a stage manager based in Seattle, Wash. Her work, including a recent position with Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), takes her to cities all over the country, including Philadelphia, Phoenix, and San Francisco. In April, her job with YAGP took her to New York City's Lincoln Center.



Sarah Dion '12

**Ashley Jean Franco Dupre** married Brett Dupre in February 2016. Baby Connor was born in April 2016. Ashley and Brett closed on a house in Swansea, Mass., in January 2017.



Thomas E. Kachadurian '99

Leadership Academy alumnus **Thomas E. Kachadurian** returned to campus on July 21, 2017 to deliver "So You Think You Want to Be an Administrator?" a talk that focused on Kachadurian's journey as an educator, as well as the limitless potential for educational leaders who are committed to their students' advancement and equality for all. He is the associate principal at South Colonie Central High School in Albany, N.Y.

**Alexandra Nichipor** accepted a position at the Initiative on



Ashley Jean Franco Dupre '12 and family

Health, Religion, and Spirituality based at Dana-Farber Hospital, which examines the role of spirituality and religion in creating a holistic model of patient care. Alex will serve as the research assistant for the program, a position that will entail analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, working with the Internal Review Board and other stakeholders in research, preparing manuscripts for submission, and doing the behind-the-scenes work necessary to keep the program running.

### 13

**Rebecca McCauley** graduated from St. Elizabeth College of Nursing with her RN degree in 2016.

### 14

**Sarah Goodrich** wed Damon Steffens on March 17 on the Atlantic Ocean at Hutchinson Island, Fla. They live on Hutchinson Island, along with their beagle, Luke.

**Christopher Hantman** joined the Berkshire Food Project Board of Directors in October 2016. He recruited the current brothers of Pi Upsilon Pi to help serve the annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Berkshire Food Project.

### 15

**Deanna Boucher** joined the staff at Springfield College as the integrated marketing coordinator for its School of Professional and Continuing Studies, focusing

mainly on adult/non-traditional students. She graduated with a master's from SNHU in May in organizational leadership and is in the inquiry phase with UMASS Amherst to pursue a PhD program in education policy and leadership with a concentration in higher ed.

**Ian Coyne** is currently working as a case manager for Intensive Needs Foster Care in Pittsfield, Mass. He has recently received his license in social work and will be starting an MSW program at Westfield State University.

**Emma Hodgson** was accepted to the AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) and left for Denver, Colo., in October 2016. There she spent a few weeks in training until she was sent out to various different community service projects in the southwest region of the country.

## 17

**Kayla LaVoice** got a summer job through AmeriCorps in Vermont in a program called DREAM, where she was a mentor for youth ages 5–18 in low-income housing communities in Bennington and Poultney, VT. She planned events and field trips for them throughout the summer.

# IN MEMORIAM

(07/01/2016 to 10/31/2017)

## ALUMNI

Charlotte Hunt Pignatelli '40  
 Angela M. Crowley '42  
 Helen M. Sindermann '44  
 Eleanor M. Goodnow Stewart '46  
 Mary Ann Siciliano Calvi '50  
 William R. Minardi '50  
 William L. Bringan '51  
 Graham K. Andrews '53  
 Marion A. Walsh '53  
 Stephen A. Cozzaglio '54  
 Peggy Lou Atkinson Howes '54  
 Rachel W. Whitman Lauser '54  
 Dorothy A. Nordberg  
     Anderson '54  
 Joan Kunstler Sampson '56  
 Bernard Herrmann '59  
 Ronald S. Goss '60  
 Edward Lincoln Hardy '61  
 George Pellerin '62  
 Marcia Stevens '62  
 Michael Bobowiec '63  
 Walter L. Getchell '63  
 Robert Mularczyk '63  
 John R. Mahoney '64  
 Warren E. Bohlman '65  
 Thomas E. McGill '65  
 Theresa M. Bellini '66  
 William Walden '67  
 Isaac Crawford '68  
 Alan P. Gigliotti '69  
 Sheila M. McCroary Gralow '69  
 Florence E. McFarland '69  
 Dennis J. McGeary '69  
 Edward E. Roberts '69  
 Charlene M. Elder Wiencek '69  
 Catherine Eagan '71

Michael J. Hess '71  
 Annette M. Arena '72  
 Allan C. Boschen '72  
 Edward M. Comstock '72  
 Kathleen M. O'Hagerty  
     Janulewicz '72  
 Roger J. Nilan '72  
 Dennis M. Moynihan '73  
 Deborah Gillette Bruneau '74  
 Richard A. Henault '74  
 Benedict Oleskiewicz '76  
 Rodney A. Prevey '76  
 Mary Lynne R. Buck Costas '77  
 Gail A. Weber '77  
 Peter J. Colford '81  
 Susan A. Rogers Shea '81  
 Lynn M. Swistak '84  
 Robert J. Fox '87  
 Thomas E. McDonough '90  
 Robert R. Rungay '90  
 Frank H. Lyon '93  
 Earl S. McGraw '93  
 Ericka R. Wilcox '94  
 Katherine R. Osborn  
     Dinicola '96  
 Mary Beth LaValley '01  
 Karen M. Chase '05  
 Deborah Arace Herrick '05  
 Jessica M. McIntosh '06  
 Dorianne Wark '06  
 Derek Logan Skrine '12

## FACULTY

Donald N. Davis  
 Paul Duquette  
 Lawrence H. Vadnais

# ALUMNI GATHERINGS

- 1 Several alumni met up in Denver, Colorado, in spring 2017. From left to right: Julie Lawrence, Melanie Desmarais '05, Silvia Lazala Breeland '06, Allison Peavy '16, and Sally Shaughnessy Partain '02.
- 2 These Pi Upsilon Omega moms organized a diaper drive in spring 2017 to benefit the Cradles to Crayons Foundation. From left to right: Erin Fielding Baffuto '05, Katie Imperato Midgley '07, Jennifer Rosen Leone '07, Suzanne Desrochers Rocha '01, and Melanie Carvalho Graham '07.
- 3 Former MCLA women's soccer players Courtney Tebo '04, Lori McKenzie '06, Sarah Lapine '01, and Beth Conroy '03 gathered in late 2016.
- 4 Pi Upsilon Omega alumni reunited in winter 2017. Top row, from left to right: Sandra Vautour Jammal, Amy McLane Santucci '96, and Jenifer Bryant Robinson '96. Bottom row, from left to right: Kelly Creelan Stead '96, Sharon Nash '96, and Kristen Ricciardelli Fales '96.
- 5 Delta Phi Epsilon members shared some laughter in summer 2017. From left to right: Tara Roberts '98, Kathy Lombardo, Audra Waldman-Lizarralde, Karen "Buffy" Potts-Abruzi '99, Allison Sjoblad-Green '98, Katie Bradley-Dvorscak '00, and Jenn Berger-Luke '97.
- 6 Pi Upsilon Omega alumni Christine Anderson '93, Susan Dalimonte Kenney '94, Hollie Laberis Donovan '94, Annemarie Crawford Bergeron, Andrea Gemelli Farley '94, Jennifer Coopee Grava '94, Erin McVinnie Tierney '94, and Kim Allen '93 celebrated a get-together in winter 2016.





## ALUMNI RUGBY GAME

Many NASC-MCLA rugby club members came back to campus to play the alumni rugby match this April. For more information about the next match, please contact Glenn Lawson at [Glenn.Lawson@mcla.edu](mailto:Glenn.Lawson@mcla.edu).



From left to right: Paul Degnan '86 and Jim Clemmer '86



From left to right: Dan McDermott '12 and John Hollows '12

## FALMOUTH GATHERING

Pamela Kenny Connolly '82, RyanAnne Naughton '12, Wayne Soares '89, Christine DeMasi Naughton '99, and Cheryl Starr Boillat '79, M.Ed. '97 having dinner at Osteria La Civetta in Falmouth, Mass.



# REUNION WEEKEND

MCLA alumni came back to campus during Reunion Weekend, September 22-24. For more Reunion Weekend photos, visit [alumni.mcla.edu](http://alumni.mcla.edu)



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

This year's Distinguished Alumni recipients. Top from left: Wayne A. Soares '89, MCLA President James F. Birge, and Ellen L. Kennedy '83. Bottom from left: Daniel J. Trombley '90, Russell J. Pearce '60, Susan A. Bell '97, and Jamal Ahamad '11.



To view digital copies  
of the MCLA yearbooks, visit  
[http://library.mcla.edu/  
localhistory/mclayearbooks](http://library.mcla.edu/localhistory/mclayearbooks).

# REUNION WEEKEND



## ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Congratulations to this year's Athletics Hall of Fame inductees. From left: MCLA's President James F. Birge, Phil Caruso (men's soccer), Jen Wehner '12 (women's soccer and basketball), Coach Joe Zavattaro, Kevin Carmody (men's baseball), and Director of Athletics Laura Mooney.

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## GOLDEN GRADUATES

We were delighted to celebrate members of the Class of 1967 as our newest Golden Graduates. Standing from left to right: Marcia Purtell Sullivan, Gail Kennedy, Naomi Curtis Sturtevant, Richard LaBarbera, Margaret (Peggy) Casali Tomko, Nancy Bourassa McShane, Carol Chenail Beauregard, T. Edward Taylor, Mary Ellen Bergeron, Joe Rysz, Verna Booth Duffy, Kathleen Gilligan McMahon, and Jeanne Slaney Peterson.





## MCLA ATHLETICS GOLF CLASSIC

The 2017 MCLA Athletics Golf Classic was held on Monday, August 7, 2017, at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, Mass. The MCLA Athletics Golf Classic benefits the student-athletes and athletics program at the college. From left: Director of Athletics Laura Mooney, 2017 MCLA Athletics Golf Classic honorees Dick Lamb and Holly Taylor, and President James F. Birge.

## STUDENT LIFE



Catherine Holbrook, vice president of student affairs, accompanied MCLA's mascot Trailblazer during the October 1, 2017, North Adams Fall Foliage Parade "Magic in the Berkshires."



President James F. Birge and wife, Lisa, with students during this year's MCLA Fall Day of Service.



## STUDENT PHILANTHROPY SPIRIT CORD PROGRAM

We want to say thank you one last time to those in the Class of 2017, who participated in our second year of the Student Philanthropy Spirit Cord Program. As students, these recent alumni gave at a leadership level of \$20.17 to show their commitment to their alma mater beyond their four years at this institution. It is with great pride that we acknowledge the following:

Samantha Anderson  
Eamonn Andre  
Abigail Baker  
Kathleen Baltzell  
Lily Breen  
Julie Cascarano  
Rachel Colucci  
Amber Coombe  
Allison Crews  
Mary Rose Delapp  
Erin D'Entremont  
Anna Despart  
Victoria Fernandez  
William Fitzgerald  
Idalis Foster  
Allison Gaylock

Siobhan Greene  
Andrew Haier  
Danielle Hartnett  
Katelyn Henault  
Sarah Hildebrandt  
Michelle D. Hill  
Jacqueline Kelly  
Samantha Kipp  
Karen Knobel  
Kayla LaVoice  
Emily Law  
Jessica Lovellette  
Allie Martineau  
Jeffrey Mason  
Josephine McDonald  
Emily Meidenbauer

Jamien Meservey  
Kaitlyn Moon  
Svetlana Morrell  
Allison Morris  
Sarah Muil  
Kathryn Murray  
Casey Nicoll  
Conner Noblit  
Cara Pacitti  
Sara Peck  
Kelly Phillips  
Stephen Pruzinsky  
Imara Renaud-Krutulis  
Travis Rice  
Susan Robert  
Sandy Robillard

Katherine Rowell  
Sakan Sadowsky  
Leigh-Anne Scarpitto  
Mallory Schettine  
Nia Scott  
Amy Sinico  
Michelle Slater  
TaylorJae Taber  
Yunus Umarov  
Rachel Valliere  
Monica Vogel  
Robert Wabshinak  
Rebecca Waterhouse  
Timothy Williams

## BEST WISHES, RETIREES!

We would like to recognize faculty and staff who retired between 2016–2017. Six MCLA faculty members – Jennifer Augur, David Langston, and Mary Levitt from English/communications, Susan Birns from sociology, Timothy Jay from psychology, and Sharon Thomas from history, political science & public policy – leave MCLA having educated our students for 140 years, collectively.

In addition, we bid farewell to retirees Annette Allen, Patricia Goman, Harry LaGess, Jacque Marling, Anthony Mirante, and Dennis Tash, who have given a collective 157 years of service to the College. Thanks to their efforts, we are a better, stronger institution. We know you will join us in wishing them the very best in this new chapter in their lives. Not pictured: Dennis Tash.



Annette Allen



Jennifer Augur



Susan Birns



Patricia Goman



Timothy Jay



David Langston



Harry LaGess



Mary Levitt



Jacque Marling



Anthony Mirante



Sharon Thomas

## RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 18, 2017** Hardman Lecture Series with Byron Pitts
- November 16, 2017** Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture with Jeffrey Toobin
- December 4, 2017** Alumni Holiday Social in Newton, MA
- December 12, 2017** December Academic Reception at MCLA
- March 15, 2018** Athletics & Alumni Gathering in Florida

For more information about the events listed above, please call (413) 662-5224 or [advancement@mcla.edu](mailto:advancement@mcla.edu).

**MASSACHUSETTS  
COLLEGE OF  
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# MCLA

2017-18 ANNUAL FUND

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- 200** Internship opportunities
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- 50+** Student clubs, activities, and organizations
- 130** Students participated in MCLA's Undergraduate Research Conference
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