

MCLA

BEACONS & SEEDS

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

FALL 2012

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a beige turtleneck sweater, stands on the left with her arms crossed and a smile. A young man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue sweater, stands on the right with his arms crossed and a smile. They are positioned back-to-back in front of a large, multi-story building with many windows.

**HIGH IMPACT
EXPERIENCES**

INSPIRE CAREER PATHS



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INSPIRE CAREER PATHS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dauri Torres '10 , Natanael Burgos '12, President Grant, and Dary Burgos '14 after the 2012 Commencement ceremony

Dear Alumni,

In mid-September, we held a Topping Off ceremony and celebrated a milestone in the construction of the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation as we raised the final steel beam into place. This has been an amazing demonstration of the power of hard work, persistence, and collaboration; and, it points to the exciting potential that will be realized when this important new academic building opens to students, faculty, and the community next fall.

The Center for Science and Innovation will support our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning by providing space for faculty and students to engage in cutting-edge research, and by preparing students to apply their learning beyond the classroom and connect with opportunities in high-demand, high-growth careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). From biology to history, physics to fine & performing arts, the connection between learning and doing is at the core of the liberal arts tradition, and is central to everything we do at the College. At MCLA, students find ways to enrich their academic study with service learning, internships, travel courses, research projects and presentations, and performances and exhibitions. It translates into student life programs as well, where participation in athletics; leadership in clubs, organizations, and the Student Government Association (SGA); and community service stand as high impact, transformative experiences.

Whether presenting their work at our annual Undergraduate Research Conference or other regional and national venues, planning the next phase of their education at the graduate level, or launching careers, MCLA offers students a place to practice excellence, and a community that models it for them each and every day.

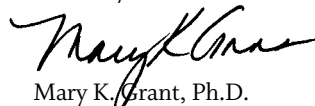
In this issue of *Beacons & Seeds*, you will read about some of the exciting, innovative, and enviable work MCLA students and recent graduates are doing, and the difference they are making in locations ranging from our own campus center to Canberra, Australia, from Nantucket to Tampa, and countless points in between. You also will read about the role that alumni can play by providing mentoring and internship opportunities for students and recent graduates. This is a great way for alumni to give something back to the College, and to be part of the MCLA community.

We celebrated that community in a special way in October when we officially launched *Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*. Through the campaign, we will raise funds to sustain and build on the exciting momentum that continues to transform the College and the community. From the completion of the science center project to the renovation of Bowman Hall, to arts programs that connect with the remarkable cultural community in the Berkshires, to increasing endowed funds, we will be looking to our alumni and friends to invest in the future of MCLA.

Just as the Center for Science and Innovation continues to rise from a solid foundation, I know that MCLA is on firm footing as we all work together to build the future of our alma mater.

Thank you for your commitment, your support, and most of all, your friendship. Please visit MCLA to see the power of hard work, persistence, and collaboration in action. Come visit!

Sincerely,


Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.
President

HIGH IMPACT EXPERIENCES

Inspire Career Paths

It's 7:30 a.m. and **RyanAnne Naughton '13** is putting an ocelot through his paces. At her urging, the cat stands up on his hind legs, showing her his belly as he stretches up against the fence that separates them. While he simply wants to earn a treat, Naughton is checking his well-being.



Photos: Big Cat Rescue, Tampa, FL

Her summer internship at Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, FL, was an important step for the biology major, who is well on her way to making her lifelong dream of becoming a keeper for wild cats a reality. In February, she will head to Africa for yet another internship. But this time, no fence will separate her from the much larger cats she will care for.

At the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT), Naughton will work with lions that range in age from just a few months to about 18 months old, the age at which they are considered adults. From the tips of their noses to the ends of their tails, male lions measure about nine feet long and can weigh as much as 500 pounds. Naughton's job will be to interact with these majestic animals, encouraging them to form bonds with humans through – among other methods – physical contact.

For Naughton, these internships are vital to reaching her career goal.

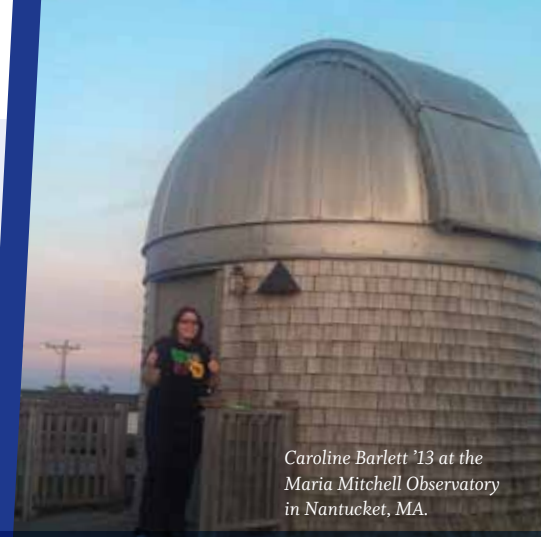
“Experience is what employers look for. Every step that I take in learning how to care for these animals is one step closer to being able to land the job I want when I'm done with school,” she says.

To learn more about RyanAnne's work at Big Cat Rescue, go to http://www.mcla.edu/news/biginternship_729/ or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



Physics major **Caroline Bartlett '13** took an important leap forward on her way to a career in cosmogony – the study of the origin and development of planets, stars, solar systems, and galaxies – when she traveled in summer 2011 to Canberra, Australia, to study wave velocity differentials as part of her National Science Foundation (NSF) internship.

Several months later, she presented her research in San Francisco, CA, at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union, the largest worldwide conference in the geophysical sciences.



Caroline Bartlett '13 at the Maria Mitchell Observatory in Nantucket, MA.

“This experience gave me the opportunity to understand what research really is. It isn’t reading books and writing a paper; it is actual data analysis, and a lot of creativity goes into it,” Bartlett said.

This past summer, Bartlett was in Nantucket, MA, taking part in an NSF internship supported in part by a Massachusetts Space Grant offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and funded by NASA. At the Maria Mitchell Observatory, she monitored a star she believes is in the very early stages of development. The variability in this star, which she watched through a 24-inch telescope, is likely due to planets that are beginning to form around it.

“This internship has given me opportunities that I could not have had anywhere else,” Bartlett says. In the coming months, she plans to publish her work in a peer-reviewed journal. She will also prepare a poster for the American Astronomical Society Meeting in January 2013.

It’s high impact experiences like completing an internship, conducting undergraduate research, and presenting work at conferences and meetings that make all the difference to students’ prospects after graduation, says Dr. Deborah Foss, associate dean of advising and the director of MCLA’s Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE).

“This is not just about being successful in the classroom. It’s being successful in terms of your overall development. Students come to college at a certain place and point in their lives, and our role is to nurture them and provide support and engagement to enrich their lives so that they leave us at a higher level of development and achievement,” Foss says.

“Certainly, employers want somebody who did well in class,” she continues, “but they also want someone who challenged themselves. A liberal arts education is about learning through experience.”

Every year, MCLA sends students to the National Undergraduate Research Conference. Other high-impact opportunities at the College include study away, participation in athletics, and service learning. Indeed, high impact experiences are at the core of MCLA’s Strategic Plan, as the College ensures the ongoing viability of a broad range of service learning and internship opportunities, and provides welcoming, resource-rich physical and virtual environments that inspire study, teaching, learning, and research.

At any given time, MCLA’s sociology department has nearly 100 different internships available to students. Internships are required for two sociology minors – social work and criminal justice – because both are applied fields.

“Internships allow students to develop skills,” explains Dr. Myles Whitney. The sociology professor emeritus oversees the sociology interns. “They can apply their classroom knowledge to the outside world. They can try or test out a certain career path, and they can build up experiences that can be used on a resume.”

MCLA has a high placement rate for alumni who want jobs in the human service field.

“A big asset is the fact that they’ve done an internship. This gives them a record of performance,” Whitney explains. “If you don’t serve an internship, you may be a good student. You may be a wonderful intro-level practitioner. But, who’s to know? An internship gives you that experience, and it’s documented.” What’s more, Whitney says, “Students oftentimes are offered jobs where they’ve worked as interns.”

continued on next page



Michael Obasahan '11, MCLA events & information manager

Such was the case for **Michael Obasohan '11**, who worked for three years in MCLA's Office of Student Development. After he graduated, he applied for and was offered a full-time position there. Now he aims for a career in higher education in the area of student affairs.

Rachel Seklecki '11 also built her career on an MCLA internship. She works for Blackbaud at its Charlestown, SC, headquarters, talking to potential customers about the same software she used as an intern in MCLA's Advancement Office. The company – which has locations throughout the United States, as well as in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Mexico, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom – specializes in software for nonprofit and educational organizations.

“You gain so much experience just from working in an office and working in a professional environment. At MCLA, I worked with special events and the Annual Fund. That got me really interested in development, building relationships, fundraising, and nonprofits,” Seklecki explains. She took that experience to the Williamstown Theatre Festival, where she was an intern for the director of development. Seklecki discovered that she not only enjoyed working with people, she excelled at it.

Internships, she says, definitely gave her a jump start in obtaining experience and finding out what she liked. “I don't think I would have started working as early if it weren't for my internships. They set me apart. I had more experience and more experience in the field.”



Rachel Seklecki '11, account development representative for Blackbaud, Inc.

Desgres Named New Career Services Coordinator



Alumni and students have a terrific new resource in Janine Desgres, MCLA's new assistant director of the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) and coordinator of career services. Desgres specializes in helping students explore majors, careers, and internship and job opportunities. She is also available to assist alumni in internship and job searches.

Desgres says, “We help students when they first arrive on campus to solidify why they're here and find out what they envision for their educational and professional careers. Then, we help them gain experience through internships, job shadowing, part-time, and summer jobs. As they near graduation, we assist them in finding ‘the’ job.”

Students who serve internships tell Desgres that they feel more competent. “It's gaining experience, but it's also using an internship as a way to explore. They learn about themselves. They learn about the world of work and see what's out there,” she says.

Involvement on campus, too, is very important from an employer's perspective, because of the skills various activities build.

“It's the soft skills such as working as part of a team, dealing with other people who are different from you, speaking in public, leading and motivating others, and managing resources,” she says. “Ideally, a student joins a club or organization related to his or her major, but branching out to other interests is important as well. It's also about building skills. Every single experience you take part in, you're gaining skills and building on skills you already had.”

“Study abroad gives students the opportunity to learn about other cultures, which, in this global economy, is so vitally important,” Desgres says. “Students are also challenged by a new environment and must adapt accordingly – another skill valued by employers.”

Planning co-curricular activities in advance produces a well-rounded education. “By adding in these other, extra, high-impact experiences that really give students experience, they're just becoming that much more marketable as alumni.”

Alumni are encouraged to contact the Alumni Office to share information about internship and job-shadowing opportunities for students. If you are able to offer an internship opportunity or are interested in mentoring a student, please contact Director of Alumni Relations Jocelyn Merrick at (413) 662.5193 or J.Merrick@mcla.edu.

However, many young people lack that experience, says **Andy Zaback '80**, managing member of Longmeadow Capital Partners LLC of Longmeadow, MA. "There are a lot of alumni out there who are willing to give back," he says. "Today, it's a lot of who you know and not what you know, so if you can open doors and help people connect, it's very, very important."

A mentor to a number of MCLA business students, Zaback, too, served an internship when he attended the College. He says that experience had a profound effect on him and helped him go to the next level in his career. "I felt like that was a life-changing, life-influencing event for me, and I want to give back and help young alumni the same way others helped me."

MCLA is fortunate that many of its alumni offer mentoring and internship opportunities to our students, says Dr. Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs. "Internships not only provide experience in the job market, they give students an opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom."

According to Dr. Cynthia Brown, vice president of academic affairs, "There is a lot of interest in ensuring college graduates have and use skills such as critical thinking and positive communication strategies to be effective workers and leaders. Internships provide another avenue to learn and practice these so-called '21st-century competencies.'"



Alumni board member Andy Zaback '80, managing member for Longmeadow Capital Partners, LLC

Among the MCLA faculty who work to provide students with life-changing experiences is Dr. Emily Maher, chair of the physics department. She includes her students in her work with MINERvA (Main Injector Neutrino Experiment v-A) at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Illinois, where hundreds of scientists and researchers from colleges and universities across the country and around the globe are studying the neutrino, a fundamental particle.

One of those students is **Max Eve '12**.

"It was an amazing opportunity just to go to Fermilab and be surrounded by brilliant people who have a passion for something that I'm interested in. It really gave me an opportunity to see where physics can take me," Eve says.



Max Eve '12 was honored recently by the American Physical Society in Boston, MA, with a second place award for "Outstanding Presentation of Undergraduate Research" for a talk based on research he did at an internship at the University of South Florida in the summer of 2011.

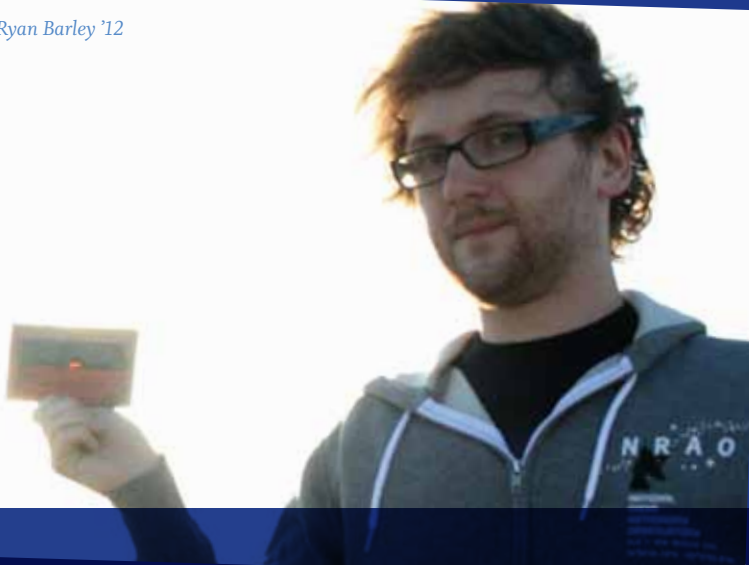
"It was my first exposure to what it means to be a physicist, and what I have to look forward to."

Maher explains that when students participate in frontier research, they see what it means to actually do physics, which can be quite different from their classroom expectations. Applied projects relate to multiple fields such as engineering and computer science, which provides a multidisciplinary approach, often leading to a deeper appreciation of the underlying physics.

Back at MCLA, Maher and Eve sorted and analyzed the massive amount of data they collected at Fermilab. According to Maher, students learn many different skills as they conduct research, such as problem solving, time management, and organization.

"Students experience complete immersion in an experiment and must learn as they go. This is a daunting task for most, but it is excellent preparation for a future in academics or industry jobs. Students learn to present their results clearly and concisely to different audiences. Sometimes they will present their progress to their research group, while other times they will present to a general audience. Reaching both audiences requires different skills, which helps them in all future paths," Maher explains.

Ryan Barley '12



At the American Center for Physics in College Park, MD, **Ryan Barley '12** worked at the Center for History of Physics' Neils Bohr Library and Archives, doing historical research and writing for a Web exhibit about Ernest Rutherford, a British chemist and physicist who became known as the father of nuclear physics.

Barley, who wants a career in physics research, says the summer internship prepared him for the research he must do in graduate school.

To read more about what Ryan has been doing to further his career goals, go to www.mcla.edu/news/physicsphotos_721/.

"This is where connections are made that can help me get my foot in the door for future careers. This is where I can hone the skills that will make me appealing to employers and graduate schools, so in that sense this internship will definitely help me get a full-time job," he says.

Kaitlyn Bonneville '10 says having an internship on one's resume speaks volumes about work ethic, professionalism, maturity, and character, and allows students to see what's out there without having to make a commitment. "It's so hard to get a job without an internship these days. It's expected of our generation that we enter the workforce with some experience under our belts."

An English/communications major, Bonneville completed an internship through The Washington Center in Washington, DC, with a nonprofit organization. Her duties included writing articles for print and for the Web.

The hands-on experiences she had in the small organization provided her with opportunities to build skills in many different areas. Upon her return to MCLA, she became editor in chief of the college newspaper, *The Beacon*, and served a public relations internship in the College's communications office.

Bonneville, who found work in her field soon after she graduated, recently started a new position in Waltham, MA, as the marketing manager for global marketing operations at Lionbridge Technologies, a worldwide firm that offers translation and localization services to global companies.

Internships, Bonneville says, not only expose students to the workforce and potential careers, but they open the door to fantastic networking opportunities that oftentimes can be more rewarding and educational than the internship itself. "Every student who walks through MCLA's gates should take on meaningful internships, network with influential people, and take the right steps toward a successful education and future."

Kaitlyn Bonneville '10, marketing manager for Lionbridge Technologies.



Aligning Students with High-Demand Jobs

Internships are a powerful tool in building the nation's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) workforce. Recognizing how important it is for undergraduates to have this important experience right from the start, one alumnus is heading the charge to make that happen.

Brian Fitzgerald '75, Ed.D., chief executive officer of the Business-Higher Education Forum in Washington, DC, recently partnered with *U.S. News & World Report* to present the U.S. News STEM Solutions Summit in Dallas, TX, where he talked about his organization's STEM Higher Education and Workforce Project.

The project develops campus-level initiatives to address declining interest and proficiency of U.S. students in STEM fields across the country in private institutions and through public higher education in an effort to meet state and regional workforce needs.

"We see two workforce problems. Students are not aligned with the high-demand jobs, and STEM is a textbook case. STEM jobs will grow 17 percent over the next decade. And computer science is one of the prime areas. Yet, we see the numbers of students studying computer science

dropping over the past decade," Fitzgerald explains.

"As industry transforms itself, every major business organization is a technology organization. They may not manufacture it, they may not sell it, but they use it," he continues. "For example, one third of all Nationwide Insurance workers are technology workers. And yet, they can't find chief level computer scientists. They're importing them from India."

National data show that only 17 percent of this country's 12th grade students who are college-ready in math are interested in STEM careers. "But, when they get to undergraduate education, we lose 50 percent of those students. They transfer out of STEM majors. And, in the highest demand areas like computer science, that attrition rate is up to 70 percent," Fitzgerald explains.

At the summit, Fitzgerald conducted several conference sessions and moderated a keynote luncheon panel about ways in which industry and higher education can collaborate on significant workforce needs, and what types of tools can be used to meet those requirements. Internships, he says, play a crucial role in drawing students to STEM careers.

"Most companies only allow rising juniors and seniors to have

internships. We've lost 50 percent of the STEM undergraduates by then," Fitzgerald says. "Internships will get them invested enough to stay and to go into STEM fields.

"If we could halve the dropout problem, we could come close to solving our STEM workforce problem. And the best way to do that is to have the companies that are hiring these students work with colleges and universities to redesign the first two years of undergraduate education to provide incentives early on for students to stay."

According to Fitzgerald, STEM fits squarely within MCLA's mission.

"MCLA can help with the quantitative dimension of the problem, and that really is recruiting more students. With the new science center, MCLA is perfectly primed to address this," he says. "The secret to innovation is workers that have absolutely superior technical skills, married with 21st-century workforce competencies. That means analytical skills, critical thinking, expert communications, and teamwork. Undergraduate education and experiences like internships need to build those skills."



"Internships are a powerful tool in building the nation's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) workforce . . . With the new science center, MCLA is perfectly primed to address this."

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM FOR JARROD ABBOTT-WASHBURN '08

Jarrold Abbott-Washburn freely admits that his first experience at MCLA didn't end well.

He withdrew from North Adams State College in 1993. Ten years later, he made a triumphant return, graduating in 2008 with a double major in history and philosophy and a minor in political science.

He recently earned his master's in ethics and public policy from Suffolk University. Today, Abbott-Washburn is carefully considering his next step, either law school or a political science doctoral program. In the meantime, he's happy to discuss life as a non-traditional student at MCLA and how his experience here helped shape his successful academic career.

What led you back to MCLA?

After a ten-year absence from academia, I came to the conclusion that a return to school was necessary to pursue a more satisfying career. At the time, I was cooking at a restaurant as well as working with special needs students at Conte Middle School in North Adams. I was much more fulfilled by and proud of the work I was doing at Conte and realized that a career in the kitchen was not going to be satisfying enough. Although I was not sure what I intended to study, I reentered academia to credential myself for future work and test myself intellectually.

How did being a non-traditional student impact your experience at MCLA?

The impact was largely social . . . I never participated in the traditional college experiences of campus living. Additionally, perhaps in part because I was so ready to be in school after a long absence, I was an eager participant in the classroom. I was focused on academic success above most everything else in my life.

What inspired you to choose your course of study?

I knew I would end up with a major in the humanities and decided on my first

major after taking a history class with Professor Dan Connerton. I loved the source material, and Professor Connerton challenged me to realize my potential. I chose my second major, philosophy, after taking a class with Professor Matt Silliman. He helped me become a more polished student and better thinker. Philosophy appealed to my intellectual curiosity and was foundational in training me how to think critically.

How did MCLA encourage innovation in your academic study?

I am not sure how to address "innovation" in my academic study. The most important set of skills I learned were somewhat old school – how to think critically. When I began grad school, I was just as prepared to engage in high-level academics as my colleagues who attended higher-profile schools, and I attribute this to a number of factors. First, I had professors who were invested in my success. I learned how to think critically and how to dissect arguments. I learned how to access information and properly cite it. I was able to engage in thoughtful discussions with faculty and peers. All of the brochure bullets are true; MCLA students who take advantage of the small school environment can absolutely get a competitive education.

What advice would you give to undergrads to help maximize their experience at MCLA?

Make the most of professors who resonate with you! One luxury of attending a small, intimate college is access to your professors . . . The course material is only as good as the professor presenting it, and teachers you enjoy can make even the most inaccessible material sing.

Jarrold delivered the keynote presentation at MCLA's 2012 Undergraduate Research Conference.



MCLA GOLF CLASSIC 2012

Another Successful MCLA Golf Classic Honors Marilyn Truskowski '84

Marilyn Truskowski '84, a long-time passionate supporter of MCLA athletics who recently retired as MCLA director of human resources, was honored at the 16th annual MCLA Golf Classic on September 10, 2012. The event was held at Berkshire Hills Country Club. 140 golfers took part in the tournament, which was followed by a banquet dinner. The tournament raised close to \$20,000 for the athletics department. We would like to thank all of our sponsors, players, and guests for making the 2012 MCLA Golf Classic a great day for all involved.



Director of Athletics Scott Nichols, President Grant, President's Club sponsors Tina '91, M.Ed '01, and Matthew Pitoniak of Conserve Thru Control, Inc. (CTC).



Honoree Marilyn Truskowski '84 with her niece Rebecca Polumbo '96, son Brian Truskowski, husband Joe Truskowski, sister-in-law Sharyn Collins '84, son Jeff Truskowski, niece Ellie Collins, and brother Bob Collins.



Foundation directors Isanne Fisher and Joan Callahan, MCLA Vice President of External Relations and Enrollment Denise Richardello '77, M.Ed. '81, Susan Metzner.



George Latimer Jr., parent of MCLA Alumni Relations Coordinator Brandon Pender '07, Dick Syriac '71, Garth Ramsay, MCLA Dean of Continuing Education Dr. Jake Eberwein M.Ed. '03.

iSUPPORT ATHLETICS

Throughout the past year, alumni gathered for alumni vs. alumni, alumni vs. student, and regular season athletic games. The iSupport initiative was launched to increase alumni attendance at games, increase alumni support for athletics, and encourage alumni to get to know current coaches and players. Participants were given yellow iSupport shirts to show their pride at the games. Interested in getting involved? Contact Brandon Pender '07 at (413) 662-5392 or B.Pender@mcla.edu.

“The game was exciting to the very end. It was nice to see MCLA alumni from various years cheering our team on.” Adam Wolfrey '07



Saturday, February 18, alumni came out and showed their support during our regional iSupport event in Bridgewater, MA. The men's and women's basketball teams took on Bridgewater State University in a competitive match-up.



Brian Keough '98 and Justine Murphy '00 traveled to watch and cheer on their Trailblazers. They heard about the event in the E-Trail, the monthly alumni newsletter.



Jerry '74 and Mary Jane '72 Desmarais really enjoy being the fans in the stands.



Biology Professor Jerry Smosky reunites with former basketball players Jade Prickett '10 and Chelsey Burke '11.



Saturday, April 21, alumni from the men's soccer team gathered at the Ron Shewcraft field for their first outdoor tournament.



Alumni from the volleyball team worked up a great game on Saturday, April 21 in the Amsler Campus Center Gymnasium before spending some time on campus for Spring Fling. Pictured (left to right): Christina Kidd '11, Marta Brown '09, Wendy Norcross '11, Kayla Bromback '12, Diana Blanchard '08, Amanda Beckwith '03, Kimberly Petengill '03.



Saturday, April 28, women's soccer held their alumni vs. students game at the College. After a great competitive match, they cheered on the baseball and softball teams during iSupport and Fan Day.

“There’s nothing like the excitement of college basketball to get you warmed up on a cold winter’s night. The men’s and women’s teams have their ups and downs but we are very seldom shortchanged on effort. Even though we sometimes live vicariously through these athletes, you know they love to see and hear the support from the stands.” JERRY DESMARAIS '74



Bill Caprari '75 and Jackie Nash '12 stopped to take a photo during the iSupport event at the Zavattaro Athletic Complex.



The Campaign was officially launched at a kick-off event on October 3 in the Campus Center Gymnasium. Pictured here are Campaign Co-chair and event emcee Andy Mick '09, Laurie Mick, President Grant, Jim Canavan, parent Derrick Jackson with his son Tano Holmes '13, and Williams College President Adam Falk. The event was also an opportunity to recognize and honor President Grant's decade of leadership at MCLA.

SOWING SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

MCLA LAUNCHES FIRST COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Anticipation is building at MCLA as a new chapter of growth and expansion, a transformative moment in the College's history, begins. Construction of the new, state-of-the-art Center for Science and Innovation is now well underway. Upon completion of this project in the fall of 2013, a complete renovation of Bowman Hall will begin.

A project of the science center's magnitude is dependent upon an equally ambitious fundraising initiative along with alumni involvement. To this end, the College has launched *Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*.

"While past fundraising efforts have helped to lay the groundwork, this is our first-ever comprehensive capital campaign," says Marianne Drake, chief advancement officer and president of the MCLA Foundation. "The changing economic environment of recent years has placed a tremendous emphasis on the need for private funding. We have faith that our supporters, including community leaders, area residents, and

especially alumni, will rise to the occasion."

The Campaign was publicly announced at a kick-off celebration on October 3 that also celebrated President Mary K. Grant's decade of leadership. Drake, working side-by-side with President Grant, the Advancement staff, and campaign committee members, was hard at work long before, developing a donor pool and cultivating leadership gifts. At the time of the kick-off, pledges totaling more than \$17 million had already been made, some of which already has been put to use.

Contributions to the Campaign will create and sustain an unprecedented growth and expansion of College initiatives and help pioneer the Berkshires as a hub of innovation and educational excellence. The campaign's multi-pronged strategy has been developed to provide financial support both now and in the future.

A significant portion of the campaign will support programs and equipment necessary for the operation of the Center for Science and Innovation. The new center will serve as a gathering



Campaign Co-Chairs Foundation Director Mike Christopher '73, Trustee Susan Gold, Foundation Director Andy Mick '09, and Alumni Board member Tony Dolan '84 with President Grant.



Dianne Shewcraft '80 with retired men's soccer coach Professor Ron Shewcraft

place for teaching, learning, research, and innovation, and as a resource for the community. Special features will include an incubator laboratory, customized laboratory space, a vivarium, a rooftop greenhouse, and more. The Center will also allow for collaborative opportunities with industrial partners to enhance teaching and research activities.

The campaign also endeavors to secure funding for academic programs, many of which will be in the renovated Bowman Hall. Following the renovation, Bowman will house the math, computer science, art, and arts management departments. MCLA's arts programs and initiatives are deeply integrated with the vibrant cultural life of the Berkshires. The new Bowman will provide additional space and an inspirational atmosphere in which students can learn and grow, explore their limitless talents and creativity, and embrace the contributions of others.

Yet another goal of the Campaign is to increase the number of permanently endowed funds at the College, thus providing ongoing support for students, faculty career development, and international outreach, as well as increasing the percent of alumni participation of all classes. Every single gift will count, no matter the size.

Drake says that a new matching gift program offered by the state of Massachusetts may allow some donors to maximize their campaign contributions. The State will match, dollar for dollar, all gifts donated toward establishing internships for students, up to \$1 million statewide.

Gifts to *The MCLA Campaign for the Future* can be made in the form of cash, life insurance bequests, annuities and trusts, and through estate planning. A variety of naming opportunities are available. For more information or to make a gift, please call the foundation at (413) 662-5229 or email M.Drake@mcla.edu, or contact Christine Naughton, director of donor engagement and stewardship, at (413) 662-5074 or C.Naughton@mcla.edu.



Alumni Board member Michele Rugo '77 and John Rugo traveled from California to celebrate with President Grant. Pictured here with Foundation Director Jim Canavan.

"You have been afforded a tremendous opportunity to attend one of the finest colleges in the country. Turn to someone next to you and tell them, 'You made the right choice.'"

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A POSITIVE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE



JOANNE R. WHITE '85 SPEAKS AT CONVOCATION

The MCLA campus came alive over Labor Day weekend with the arrival of a fresh new group of undergraduate students.

After moving into residence halls, students met with other new undergrads and transfer students for activities such as the annual hike to the top of Mt. Greylock. (Many alumni remember hiking the peak, the highest natural point in Massachusetts.) Others took part in community service projects in North Adams, their home away from home for the coming years.

First Days culminated with Convocation on Tuesday, September 4, a ceremony symbolizing the official beginning of the academic year and the students' acceptance into MCLA's community of learners. En route to the ceremony at the Church Street Center, students passed through the College's historic wrought-iron gates.

As is customary, MCLA welcomed the return of a graduate to serve as the keynote speaker at Convocation. Joanne R. White '85, an English language arts consultant at the Connecticut State Department of Education, was proud to be that alum.

"I was honored and extremely excited when asked to speak at the convocation ceremony," says White. "Since graduating from MCLA, I have continued to hold the College in high esteem and have been impressed with its leadership and programmatic improvements, which without question, support preparing students to engage in and succeed in a global economy."

White expressed a keen understanding of the concerns and emotions experienced by the incoming freshmen during their important transition to college life. She inspired students by

speaking about the importance of education in today's global society, and encouraged them to access academic and social supports to ensure a positive college experience. She spoke about how they have been provided the framework to complete a four-year education, but it is up to each of them to make decisions all along the way. Joanne continued about the journey each new student is embarking upon remarking, "You will create your path and determine your outcome."

When asked how she hoped to influence students, White explained, "My goal is to impart an understanding of the significance of the undergraduate college experience: developing lifelong friendships, taking advantage of internships and study abroad programs, applying newly acquired knowledge, and debating concepts beyond limits allowed in most high school classrooms. Additionally, I want to encourage students to find a sense of balance early on in their academic careers, to ensure adequate attention to studies and a positive social experience. Finally, self-advocacy is important. Students must realize assistance is available for both academics and social concerns and be familiar with how to locate such services."

White earned a master of science degree, K-12 reading specialist, from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a second master of science degree in education administration from the same institution. She is currently a doctoral student studying education policy and leadership at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

CLASS NOTES

Italicized names denote Class Agents.
Interested in contacting your Class Agent?
Call the Alumni Office at (866) 677-MCLA.

1936

Ida R. Maino Trabold

1937

Alma A. Benedetti



Cecelia Balakier '39 and her daughter Katherine enjoy a visit from Chief Advancement Officer Marianne Drake and President Grant at their home in Florida.

1941

Margaret Benedetti Davenport

1951

William F. Grady

1952

Katherine Cariddi Mogavero

1953

Graham K. Andrews

1954

Harriet Peck Hunt

1956

Joan Kunstler Sampson

1957

Mary Richards



ROBERT RABIL '87:

Keynote Speaker for 2012 Commencement

MCLA conferred 380 diplomas on the Class of 2012 at the 113th Commencement on Saturday, May 19. Robert Rabil '87, director of graduate studies and associate professor of Middle East studies at Florida Atlantic University, delivered the 2012 commencement address. He told the Class of 2012 that they are the new generation of leaders and encouraged them to hold to the principles of Thomas Jefferson and the courage of Rosa Parks. "You are standing now on the cusp of profound challenges unfolding in unpredictable ways in our world, from the rise of China as a global power to the fiscal crisis in Europe to the spread of Arab revolutions in the Middle East. Your challenges are diverse and serious and demand more than hard work."

In 1984 Rabil left Beirut, Lebanon, and found his way to what was then North Adams State College. In hindsight, "I think the College played a key role in smoothing my cultural transition from Lebanon to the United States. The welcome, support, and kindness I received from faculty, staff, and colleagues at the College made all the difference in the world in transforming my insecurity, ignorance, and fears into a commitment to better myself as a professional and as a human being," Rabil said.

Rabil received an honorary doctor of humanities degree, presented by President Mary K. Grant. Also receiving honorary degrees were Sandra L. Burton, the Lipp family director of dance and chairwoman of the dance department at Williams College; attorney and philanthropist Samuel H. "Sandy" Laitman of Williamstown; and Dr. Eugene Leibowitz, MCLA trustee emeritus and former board chair, of Pittsfield.



Jane Brooks Allen '61 and John Allen '65 at the 2012 pre-Commencement gathering.

1958

Nancy Alsing Stewart

1960

Paula B. Bousquet Dobeck
Suzanna Wilbur

1961

Danny Foster
Diane Gallese-Parsons

1962

Jean M. Kent Swift

1963

David Hathaway
Martha Bornak Hathaway
Cynthia Barrow Kuliga

1964

Dorothy L. Giusti Ransford
Ruth J. Lambert Zicko

1965

Ronald A. Alpert
Dennis P. Zicko

Janet Evison is the current president of the Venice chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind. Best of luck to you, Janet!



Members of the Class of 1962 who attended the 2012 Commencement included Martha Lundblad Bressette, Mary Lou Rapoza Humphries, Katherine Zych Darmofal, William Lasher, Dorothy Kirkpatrick DePollo, and Jean Kent Swift.

1966

Kenna B. Andrews Hoellerich
Ronald F. Pollone



Don Pecor '66 and his wife Nancy gathered the night before Commencement to celebrate our honorary degree recipients.

Donald Pecor delivered the first talk of the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum's lecture series, "Women, the Berkshires, and the World" in June. An accomplished women's historian, he also authored the "Secondary Curriculum Guide for Women's History," published by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Congratulations Donald!

1967

Jeanne A. Slaney Peterson

1968

Peter O. Andrew

1969

John Barrett was elected to City Council. The city's long-serving former mayor, John has spent the last two years as a consultant to the city of Pittsfield and as the interim executive director of Berkshire Works. He plans to tackle the issues of job creation and keep-

ing the city affordable. Great work!

1970

Charlotte Miczek
Diane C. Johnson Skorupski

After 24 years of service, **Beverly Gilmartin** will retire from the Hanover school system. A beloved teacher and director of the TePee program, Beverly worked passionately with preschool and kindergarten children after school for over 20 years. A retirement party was planned in June in her honor. Best of luck in your retirement, Beverly!



Allan Boschen M.Ed. '72 talks with a guest at the 2012 Educator Recognition Awards.

1972

Timothy F. Foley
Linda P. Publicover O'Neill
Jeanne M. Belfield Roy

Maryann Backiel and husband Mitchie have spent their days traveling the world since retiring. Mitchie worked on the team that developed the formula for "Off" bug spray! Mary Ann and Mitchie are enjoying their spontaneous lifestyle and don't plan on stopping any time soon.

1973

John H. O'Neill Jr.

1974

Stephen J. Bailow
Susan Reiker Carney
James M. Gibson

1975

Kate Sullivan

John Stone is retiring after serving three generations of families in the Jaffrey-Rindge School District in NH. Before his 16 years as principal of the Rindge Memorial School, he taught 5th and 6th graders. His impact on the community and students will surely be missed. Good luck!



Brian Fitzgerald '75 and skipper USN Captain (Ret.) Alan Krulisch aboard Crackerjack at the start of a sailing race from Newport to Bermuda on June 15. They competed against 160 other boats. Brian completed his 11th race on June 19, finishing second in his class. Terrific sailing, Brian!

1976

Carol A. Cushenette Corrigan

Joanne McDiarmid announced her retirement from Pathfinder Regional Vocational

Technical High School. Beginning her teaching career in 1976, Joanne spent the better part of 30 years as an English teacher, serving as an advisor to the student council, literary magazine, and drama club.

She hopes to travel to Ireland and hike the White Mountains during her retirement. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Nancy Wells** on being named vice president for development and alumni relations at the University at Buffalo. She has led the university's fundraising efforts with more than 218,000 alumni worldwide! Great work, Nancy!

1977

Mary Beth Allen

Denise Codogni Richardello, vice president of enrollment and external relations at MCLA, was recently named to the New England Regional

CAMPUS UPDATE

Susan Birns Steps Down as Women's Center Director



After 12 years, Professor Susan Birns has stepped down as director of MCLA's Susan B. Anthony Women's Center. Although the decision was difficult, she says it was simply "time for a change."

The Women's Center has grown and prospered under Birns's leadership. Working with the center's advisory board and student staff, she produced a variety of engaging and educational programs, developed a center newsletter, supported the women's studies minor, and boosted student participation. The center's student staff increased from one or two students per year to three to six, making it necessary for Birns to further reduce her teaching responsibilities to accommodate growth within the center. An annual women's studies dinner, which has enjoyed the support of the Advancement Office and Alumni Association in recent years, was also instituted.

One highlight Birns fondly recalls was working as part of a team to translate *Bitches, Bimbos, and Ballbreakers: The Guerrilla Girls' Illustrated Guide to Female Stereotypes* into an original theatrical production. "It won the 'Best Program of the Year' award in 2009, played to full houses, and raised over \$1,000 for the Elizabeth Freeman Center for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault," she says. Birns continues to be a valuable asset to MCLA. She is currently teaching four courses and coordinating the women's studies minor for the 2012-13 academic year. In the fall of 2013, she will continue to teach, while also assuming the chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work.



Glenn Lawson '77 sent in this photo from the alumni rugby reunion and match held on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

Council of the College Board. She is one of two members appointed by the vice president of the New England regional office on the recommendation of the chairman of the assembly. Congratulations Denise!

1978

Ann Keough Fragomeni
Douglas P. Frazier

Respected craftsman and educator **Thomas Mowatt** preserves traditional knowledge developed over centuries, interlacing sustainable practices of natural material acquisition to painstakingly create high-quality birch bark and porcupine quill items for sale through Cat Den Containers in his studio, Breezy Bluff Cottage, in Adirondack Park.

1979

Michael R. Rooney

Terrance McGlone has been promoted to director of mechanical construction of R.H. White Companies Inc. in Auburn, MA. Congratulations Terrance!

1980

Thomas Calter officially announced his candidacy for re-election for state representative. He has served three terms as state representative and currently serves as vice chairman of the Joint Committee on Higher Education and as a member of the Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies and the Community Development & Small Business Committee. Congratulations Tom, and best of luck!

1981

Charlene M. Kilgour Houghton



Jim Canavan, Cheryl Westall '81, Nicole Westall '92, Mike Richardello, and Joan Callahan attended the gathering on the eve of Commencement to celebrate honorary degree recipients.



Patricia Costa Stankevitz '84, Lori Fafard '78, and Judith Scully Mastroianni '81 all work at Taft Elementary School in Uxbridge, MA. Pattie teaches grades K and 1, Judi teaches grades 1 and 2, and Lori has been their assistant principal for five years and this year their principal. "We all have the same style and beliefs in teaching that NASC instilled in us."

1982

Pamela M. Kenny Connolly
Colette A. Anderson Lepkowski

Lee Perry Hews, founder and publisher of Current Publishing, is celebrating 10 years of success. Current now serves 26 cities and towns through its six weekly newspapers, its four lifestyle magazines, and its online presence. Congratulations Lee!

Steven Ryder is president and CEO of True North Networks LLC and The True Nut Company LLC as well as president of the Elm City Rotary Club. Keep up the good work!

1983

Congratulations to MCLA president **Mary K. Grant** for being awarded the 2011 Francis H. Hayden Memorial Award by the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce for her work as president and her involvement with other organizations. Established in 1968, this award is given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the community.

Ellen Kennedy has been appointed Berkshire Community College's new president. Ellen has been working with BCC since 2008, serving as interim president, vice president for administration and finance and CFO. She received her second master degree in Public Administration from



MCLA President Mary Grant '83 and Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy '83 sign a new articulation agreement to allow business students to seamlessly transfer between BCC's associate's and MCLA's bachelor's degree programs.

Harvard University and is currently completing her doctoral degree from Northeastern University. Ellen was also honored at this year's Delta Mu

Delta business administration honorary society induction for all of her hard work and accomplishments in the business field. Congratulations Ellen!

1984

Jan Colter
John Killam
Kathleen Boudo Killam
Anita T. Palmeri Overgaard
Jeffrey Williams
Laura Ebener Williams

Marilyn Truskowski, director of human resources at MCLA, was recognized for her work in coordinating donations with the Northern Berkshire United Way. With the help of volunteers, the community raised over \$520,000 through 1,982 individual donations. Great work, Marilyn!

1985

Edward Ready

Lynn Brown has been appointed first vice president of commercial banking at Peoples Bank of Holyoke, MA. With over 26 years of experience in the financial service industry, Lynn has worked in the area for the majority of her career. Congratulations, Lynn, and good luck!

James Stankiewicz retired as superintendent of Central Berkshire Regional School District to begin his term as headmaster of the St. Agnes Academy in Dalton, MA. Stankiewicz is working on efforts to increase the school's enrollment and advancing technology at the institution.

1986

Monica R. Murphy Coakley
Debby Iannaccone Julin
Jennifer L. Sydow Whalley

Judi Wilson, longtime employee of Snow Library in Orleans, MA, was recently hired as the new Council on Aging director for the town. Judi was selected out of more than 31 applicants. Way to go, Judi!

1987

Jean T. Harnden Burt

Congratulations to **Tom Lynch** on his new position as senior account executive at Add-On Data, a Wilmington, MA technology solution provider. Great work!

CAMPUS UPDATE Bike Share Program Spins into Action



The gears have been turning for some time, but finally the efforts of students and staff paid off last spring with the launch of a bike share program at MCLA. Bikes are now available for loan from Freel Library, offering a fun, healthy, and efficient means to get around campus and town.

Spencer Moser, coordinator of the Center for Service and Citizenship, began brainstorming the possibility of providing bikes as an economical and sustainable mode of transportation for students working on service learning projects. He soon learned of students in an environmental studies class seeking to offer bicycle transportation as a green initiative aimed at campus sustainability. Moser and the students joined forces to research programs on other campuses, develop a plan, and collaborate with administration. Contributions were sought from departments campus-wide, resulting in the initial purchase of seven bikes. An eighth, larger bike has since been added.

Student interest in the Bike Share Program has been very high. "I can easily see this program expanding," says Moser. "We will see how things go this fall and re-assess our needs in the spring. Right now, we're still fine-tuning the whole process."

Bikes can be borrowed for a period of 24 hours. They are checked out with the swipe of a card in the same fashion as other library materials.



Dr. Robert Rabil '87 (center) this year's Commencement speaker had time to visit with Albert and Barbara Coury while he was in town.

1988

Paula Randazza

Melissa Smith was named Community Tutor of the Year by the Berkshire Community College Tutorial Center. This award was granted to Melissa after her first year of tutoring. Congratulations!

1989

Wayne Soars has been busy. He recently finished his third book, *The Big Game*, a coloring/rhyming book for ages three to nine. He continues with his national anti-bullying speaking tour this fall in the Midwest. And, he is working on two new television projects: a new reality show in NYC and a financial show titled *Straight Cents*.

1990

Sahag Johnson

Maureen O'Donnell Johnson

Diane DePippo and Todd Richardson have announced

their engagement! The couple plan to wed in March. Best wishes to you both!

Sheila Mason has been named the new director of development and community outreach at Hillcrest Educational Centers in Pittsfield! Sheila will be working to raise the funds needed to help transform lives by providing therapeutic

treatment and special education to children and adolescents with unique psychological and learning needs. Way to go, Sheila!

Sean Nimmons has been appointed as Big Y's district director for the company's eastern zone, which includes 15 stores. Sean has worked in the supermarket business for over 28 years. Congratulations Sean!

Spencer Savings Bank has recently promoted **Douglas Schmeling** to vice president and credit officer. He was previously an assistant vice president and credit officer at the bank. Congrats Douglas!

We congratulate **Nancy Williams** and **Philip Dick** on their engagement. The couple is planning an October wedding in Marshfield, Mass.

1991

Christian Elsmore and **Kathleen Lawlor** have announced their engagement! The couple plans to reside in Philadelphia and have a summer wedding. Congratulations!

Gillian Jones has worked as a photographer for *The North Adams Transcript* for the last 20 years. Recently, MCLA Gallery 51 showcased her work with the retrospective exhibition *Gillian Jones: Twenty Years of Photojournalism in the Berkshires*.

Manny Mulas recently announced his candidacy for school committee in Wilmington, MA. If elected, he plans to integrate technology into the classroom and to create an anti-bullying campaign in schools. Good luck Manny!



Tom Duggan '89, Boyd Foulds '90, Steve Greenberg '91, John Gavin '90 (not pictured are Jim Legacy '88 and Sahag Johnson '90). Sahag writes, "There were six of us who were all regular players, captains, and presidents of the once thriving rugby club. We have maintained a tight knit friendship throughout all the years since graduation. There were six of us who got together at a golf course on Cape Cod in October 2011."

Congratulations to **Todd Siegel** on being appointed a seat for Ward 3 City Council in Salem, MA. Todd has lived in Salem for nine years and is prepared to tackle the issues that come before the council. Entering public office with an open mind, he is eager to listen to his constituents and offer his new ideas and fresh take on things! Good luck!

1992

Dawn Fraser Wanner

Thomas Gallagher, owner of Nennie’s 5 Star Cafe in New Ipswich, NH, has been the lucky and well-loved beneficiary of his local community. After a severe spinal trauma left him without use of his legs, his community stepped in and helped him and his family. Thomas said, “The

support that I’m getting from [surrounding towns] . . . they’re amazing people . . . it’s so touching it’s unbelievable.” We wish you the best of luck, Tom.

1993

After dedicating 25 years to teaching, **Nancy LaValley** retired this February. Having spent 23 years at the Williamstown Community Preschool, she is now excited to spend the next chapter in her life with her family and grandchildren. Congratulations Nancy!

Mark Souza began work as the new vice principal at Parker Middle School in Chelmsford, MA. Before taking on this new position, Mark had spent his entire professional teaching career in the Lowell public school system. Best of luck Mark!

1994

*Rosie O’Sullivan
Christine A. Robare*

Diane Wetzel recently celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband Ed Wetzel by traveling to both France and the Eastern Caribbean. Congratulations, Diane and Ed!

1995

We congratulate **Kara Lessard** and **Tom Damseaux** on their wedding engagement! The two have planned a garden wedding on Block Island, RI. Best wishes!

1996

Mara Woolley

Jason Adams has been appointed business development staff member at Pioneer Cold of Chicopee, MA. He will be responsible for driving strategic development while working to develop supply chain solutions for customers’ needs. Congratulations!

In the spirit of the Green Monster, **Christopher Dolan** and fellow teammates played ball this past June for the 3rd Annual Jeremiah Hurley Jr. Wiffle Ball Tournament. A replica of the Boston’s Fenway Park sits in the comfort of Dolan’s backyard, where six teams played to raise money for Westfield’s Community Christian School and scholarships for fallen police officers’ children. The

CAMPUS UPDATE Yvonne Leonesio Fund Now Endowed



For 33 years, Yvonne Leonesio put smiles on the faces of students and faculty at MCLA, serving up hot meals with a side of kindness. As an employee on the front line in the College’s food services department, Yvonne touched many lives. She loved her job, and the campus community loved her.

Now, thanks to the generosity of many, an annual scholarship will be made in Yvonne’s name. The Yvonne Leonesio Scholarship Fund was fully endowed earlier this year. The final gift was made by Yvonne’s husband, Tom Leonesio, and her daughter, Gail Boyer, who was also a caring presence at MCLA for 16 years prior to her retirement from the Registrar’s office in 2011.

“We are so pleased to offer this scholarship in my mother’s name,” says Boyer. “Education was very important to her. Although she never had the privilege of a college education, she worked hard to help provide one for my children. She also loved being part of the MCLA family . . . even at 81 years old, she never uttered the word retirement.”

Boyer and her father extend their gratitude to everyone who contributed to the Yvonne Leonesio Scholarship Fund, as well as to Dr. Deborah Foss, associate dean of advising and director of the Center for Student Success and Engagement, who took the lead in initiating this fund following Leonesio’s passing in 2004.

tournament is in honor of Dolan's uncle, Jeremiah Hurley Jr., a Boston police officer who was killed in the line of duty in 1991. Family, friends, and even former Boston Red Sox player Bernie Carbo made it to the charitable event.

1997

Colleen M. Bulman Dunn

1998

Mike Kilfeather

Congratulations to **Norman Waldron** and Ellen O'Rourke on their wedding, held July 3, 2011 in York, ME. The newlyweds plan on making their home in Greenfield, MA. Best wishes to you both!

1999

*Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey
Beth Howard Sombronsky*

Lisa Blackmer, who recently completed her second term as city councilor of North Adams, MA, has signed on to continue her lifelong commitment to leaving the world a better place than she found it. Lisa's areas of concern for the next two years on the council will include the improvement of economic development and job creation for the city. Keep up the great work!

Congratulations to **Gregory Vallee** and Cheryl Smith who wed in December 2011. Best wishes!

2000

*Kelly Taylor Kanelos
Jenn MacMillin
Abbey Scott*

Gina Coleman, who serves as an associate dean of students at Williams College, has created a new program called Quest Educational Services. Stemming from her own family experiences, Coleman's service provides after-school tutoring and mentoring for students in grades 2-12. It also offers college counseling for students that includes college searches, mock interviews, etc. Gina is hoping for great success from this program. Great work!

Jackie Grabicki's dance studio, Dancecapade, celebrated its 15th anniversary in May. Jackie started the Spring Street dance studio in Adams in 1997 as a sophomore at MCLA. Every year she travels to New York City to take a teachers' workshop to keep her choreography up to date; what dedication! Congratulations, Jackie!

Senior reporters of the *North Adams Transcript*, **Jennifer Huberdeau** and Ryan Hutton '06 received a second-place award received from the New England Associated Press News Executive Association in July 2011. They received their award for covering the discovery of several slain pet rabbits. They worked on the story over a four-month period. Nice work!

Congratulations to **Paul McDonough** and Cara Linham who were married July 23, 2011. The backyard wedding

and reception were held at the bride's childhood home. The couple currently reside in Plymouth, MA. Best wishes!

This July, the spotlight was on **Ann Chris Warren** for her direction of the musical *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. The show made its Broadway debut in 1949 and was made into a film in 1953 starring legendary actress Marilyn Monroe. Centerstage Productions presented the musical at the Rhinebeck Center in New York. Warren has directed four other productions during her time at the performing arts center.

2001

*Melissa Shartrand Dalessio
Amanda Gerhart DiCesare
Kris Lamontagne Nichols
Sarah Shinkwin*

Deborah Francome has been appointed executive director of Riverbrook Residence, which provides residential placement and community-based day support to women with developmental disabilities. She had been serving as Riverbrook's program director. Congratulations Deborah!

Regan Johnson has been hired as the new athletic director for the town of Guilderland, NY. He had been working as Guilderland's assistant athletic director since 2007. Congratulations Regan!

Congratulations to **Shawn Parnell** and **Christine LaShure** on their July wedding! A reception was held at Boyden Farm in Cambridge,

MA. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in Antigua. Best wishes to you both!

Shaun Wyman is unlike any other sports fanatic; he gets paid for it. As a talent producer for the ESPN Radio Network, he is living out his dream producing a national three-hour radio show and a weekly original podcast. Growing up, Shaun always had a passion for sports. When he was in college, Shaun reached out to every local radio station for internships. This, he believed, allowed him to develop relationships that led to his first job at ESPN Radio. Years of hard work had Shaun inside the locker room after the Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl and with ambitions of interviewing Tom Brady some day. Happy to wake up for work every morning, Shaun admits that it's a fast-paced job that requires not only a love of sports but non-stop work. With his exceptional work ethic, Shaun is grateful that he gets to focus on the things he loves: family, friends, and sports.

2002

*Martha L. Andrews
Autumn May
Rachel Bancroft Montoya
Diane Thompson*

Congratulations to **Michael Jarrett**, whose B&B The Old Mill on the Falls Inn will be featured in the March issue of *Yankee Magazine*. Great work!

2003

Christina Barrett
 Lauren Mauriello Burn
 William D. Halbert
 Peter-Greg A. Sison

George and Melissa Allen became the proud parents of a son, Logan Roger Allen, born on May 10, 2011. Congratulations!

Jennifer Moran is currently working full time at Waterfront Media. She has purchased a house on Bethel Street in North Adams.

Ross University School of Medicine recently announced that **David Warren** is a candidate for the degree of doctor of medicine. Congratulations David!

2004

Robert Black
 Lynn Brennan
 Holly Grant Herring
 Jacob McKim
 Jessica Skinner

2005

Erin Fielding Baffuto
 Nicole Losavio

Recently, Attorney **Timothy McNamara** joined the law office of William M. Yates. He will concentrate his practice in the areas of Medicaid and estate planning, probate administration, and business formation. Great work!



Cynthia Roper-Patenaude '04, last year's Berkshire Educator Award recipient, with President Mary K. Grant.

2005

Erin Fielding Baffuto
 Nicole Losavio

We would like to congratulate **Jessica Bazinet** for being one of the recipients of the second annual Berkshire County Educator Recognition Award, an award created to honor the Berkshire region's exceptional teachers. Jessica has worked in

the Pittsfield public schools for seven years.

Jason DuCharme and Karen Rapp were married on July 31, 2011. Jason works as an accountant with the Children's Study Home in Springfield, MA. The couple honeymooned in Maui, Hawaii, and they now live in Springfield. Congratulations to you both!

CAMPUS UPDATE

President Grant Receives Two Special Recognitions



Photo: iBerkshires

In the 10 years since President Mary K. Grant took the helm at MCLA, many extraordinary achievements have been celebrated. The first alumna of the college to serve as its president, Dr. Grant came to MCLA with a strong vision for the future, and the passion and leadership skills to realize that vision. Her contributions to MCLA and the community were recognized twice last spring.

In May, Girls Inc. of the Berkshires presented Dr. Grant with the "She Knows Where She's Going" award. Presented annually since 1990, this award recognizes Berkshire County women leaders who exemplify the vision and values of Girls Inc.

A month later, Dr. Grant received an honorary doctorate from Williams College in recognition of her achievements in expanding academic programs and facilities; strengthening connections between the College and community; creating the Berkshire Compact for Education; advocating for public higher education, civic engagement, and community service; and advancing the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) agenda in Berkshire County and statewide.

The honorary degree citation read during the Williams College commencement cites Dr. Grant's "extraordinary intelligence and determination." It concludes, "Public higher education in this country has no more passionate and effective voice, as you and MCLA show how a small college can have national clout even from the remote northwest corner of Massachusetts."



Jessica Bazinet '05, a first-grade teacher at Allendale School in Pittsfield, was one of three recipients of the 2012 Berkshire Educator Award. This is the second year the College has given this award in recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by Berkshire area educators. She received her award alongside Allendale Principal Carl Ameen '00.

2006

Danielle Barboza
Jennifer Bell
Amanda Boudreault
Kristen M. Dedrick
Erin Good
Anne Kirkpatrick Rodgers

We are happy to announce the engagement of **Sarah Blair** to **Eric Rau II**. Sarah is employed at the May Institute. Eric is a sonar supervisor for the United States Navy in New London, CT. An October 2012 date has been set for the wedding. Best of luck Sarah and Eric!

Thad Broughton, a former Trailblazer on the men's basketball team, has been announced as the Peabody High School boys varsity basketball coach! Thad has been a U.S. history teacher at the high school for the last three years and the JV coach for the past four years. He is happy to be coaching and working in the city he grew up in. Congratulations!

Navy Seaman **Andrew Donovan** recently completed U.S. Navy basic training in Great Lakes, IL. The eight-week program included learning naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. Congratulations, Andrew!

Andrew Etman is the curator of the current special exhibit at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg, PA. entitled "The Role of Railroads in Pennsylvania During the Civil War." Andy has been with the RRMPPA since May 2009. Congratulations Andy!

Amanda Hourihan walked 13 miles this September in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk in Boston. Amanda's life had been touched by cancer time and time again. A childhood friend suffered from leukemia, a colleague endured a brain tumor, and her mother was diagnosed with cancer in November 2005. She has participated in the event for four years now. She received donations from family and friends and sold cupcakes to co-workers for cancer care and research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Remarkably, Amanda reached her goal of raising \$1,250 this year, nearly \$800 more than she raised last year. By hitting the \$1,250 mark, she has been granted the title of pacesetter. Congratulations!

Adams police and courts reporters **Ryan Hutton** and **Jennifer Huberdeau '00** received an award from the

New England Associated Press News Executives Association for their deep coverage in the *North Adams Transcript* on a story about cruelty to animals, specifically pet rabbits. Both followed the case closely over a four-month period and were awarded second place. Good work!

Congratulations to **Christopher Tanguay** on his engagement to Ashley Littlefield! The couple has planned a September wedding. Best wishes to you both!

Katie Toohil was one of three local Dallas, TX, artists to receive the Dallas Observer 2011 MasterMind Award for her original dance production "Grieve." Congrats, Katie!

2007

Sarah K. Carroll
Sarah H. Flint

Michael Hamor and his brother Craig have created an eco-friendly product that develops "green" fiber-based concrete panels. Their business, Hamor Structural Systems, LLC, plans to sell the product to residential and commercial builders and developers. In the future, they plan to build a prototype to market fiber-concrete panel walls to builders. Nice work!

Nicole Henry was recently hired by Garden Arts Fresh Market in Rutland, VT, as the new market manager. Congrats Nicole!

Librarian **Seth Kershner** packed his books and headed for El Salvador! This past July he spent two weeks work-



Congratulations to Tony Dedrick '06 and Kristen Hurley Dedrick '06 who were married on October 15th, 2011 at Our Lady of the Valley in Easthampton, MA. There were a good many alumni at the reception at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke, MA. In this photo are: Benjamin Lamb '07, Greg Lucid '05, Tony Dedrick, Kristen Dedrick, Ariel Pichardo '06, Justin Tuggle, Latoya Jones-Tuggle '06, Pam Klotz '07, Carissa Everett '07, Michelle Hansen '07, Christina Landeta '07, Phil Krochmal, Bengy Assé '06, Amanda Marino '07, Jen Rosen '07, Maureen Cherry '07, Ashley Moone, and Annie Kirkpatrick Rodgers '06.

ing as a library consultant for ConTextos and helped develop a library system at four pilot schools. Kershner also traveled to study and report on how students are using the books donated by ConTextos.

Krista Pinsonneault, a history teacher at Drury High School in North Adams, is the recipient of the 2012 North Adams Public Schools' Marion B. Kelley Teacher of the Year Award. This award is presented annually to local teachers in recognition of their dedication, skillful teaching, and knowledge and understanding of children. Krista has worked at Drury High School since

2005 and teaches advanced placement European, world, and United States history. Congratulations Krista, and keep up the great work!

2008

Congratulations to **Amy Anderson** on her new position as a first-grade teacher at C.T. Plunkett Elementary School. She has spent the last three years since graduation as a paraprofessional. This is her first teaching job. Good luck!

Congratulations to **Amy and Dave Antonellis** who were married on January 11, 2011! Also, congrats to Amy, who



Ben Lamb '07 wed Emily Schiavoni, assistant director of residential program services, and student in MCLA's graduate education program, in Camden, ME on July 14. Many alumni were in attendance at the wedding. Pictured from left to right: Amanda Beckwith '03, Jennifer Craig, Daniel Summers '07, Gina Puc '06, Brendan Gaesser '07, Deb Raber, Scott Balise '07, Jacque Marlin, Emily Schiavoni M.Ed. '13, Lyndsay Isham-Morton, Brian Millett '07, Michelle Hansen '08, Ben Lamb '07, Dianne Manning, Celia Norcross, Stephen Pratt '09, Christine Bergeron '07, Ammie Kirkpatrick '06, Jacqueline Cournoyer '13, CJ Haley '09, and Jennifer Lamb '10.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Meet the New Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education, Dr. Jake Eberwein, M.Ed '03



MCLA welcomes Howard Jacob (Jake) Eberwein III, Ed.D., as its new dean of graduate and continuing education.

Eberwein says he is both excited and honored to join the MCLA community because the College had a significant role in his professional growth and development. "There is no better time to be afforded the opportunity to strengthen existing programs and to create new programs that will support the advancement of individuals in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors," Eberwein said.

Eberwein spent 18 years as an educator and an administrator in the public schools of Berkshire County, most recently as superintendent of Pittsfield public schools from 2008 until June of this year.

As superintendent, Eberwein's accomplishments include elevating Pittsfield to the top performing school system among the 24 urban school districts in the state. His 2011 bullying policy was recognized as a model plan by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Pittsfield schools were profiled for their efforts on CBS national news. His wellness policy led to the award of a federal grant that will infuse several million dollars into wellness and physical activity programs in Pittsfield's schools.

A recognized expert in urban school leadership, Eberwein served as co-chair of the Massachusetts Urban Superintendents' Network and as a reviewer of the state's successful federal Race to the Top application. He also wrote and implemented Pittsfield's Race to the Top plan.

Eberwein holds an Ed.D. from UMASS-Amherst. He earned his B.A. in biology-chemistry from Skidmore College, his M.Ed. from MCLA, and principal certification from MCLA's Berkshire Leadership Academy.



Sibling alumni Anibella Reyes '08 and Ruben Reyes '08 at the Springfield / Hartford Alumni gathering in January at Max's Tavern at the Basketball Hall of Fame

graduated on May 21, 2011 from Vermont Law School. She is now preparing to take the bar exam this month.

Congratulations on the engagement of **Ken Martin** and **Jaime Greene!** The couple plan to wed in June. Best wishes to you both!

2009

Congratulations on the engagement of **Samantha Morrissey** and **Patrick Negrini.** The couple plans to be wed October 20, 2012. Best wishes!

2010

Rory A. Allan

Congratulations to **Michael Geary** on his new position as marketing manager at Enter Stage Left Theater of Hopkinton, MA. Michael had been working as a theatrical director for the nonprofit performing arts center before it received a grant that allowed the creation of the marketing position. His skills will be a perfect fit for the creative designs necessary to promote the theater.

Jodi Joseph, former director of retail operations for MASS MoCA is the new director of Berkshire Creative. Berkshire Creative's mission is to stimulate new job growth and economic opportunity in the region by sparking innovative collaborations between artists, designers, cultural institutions and businesses. Keep up the great work, Jodi!

Congratulations to **Jared Martin** and **Jacklyn Vye** on their fall wedding. The couple were married on October 22nd, 2011, and plan to reside in Nassau, NY. Congratulations to you both!

Ken Recore has been hired to teach history at McCann Technical School in North Adams. Having recently completed his student teaching at Mount Greylock Regional High School, Ken immediately followed in his father's footsteps (who taught history for over 35 years). Congratulations, and best of luck!

Michele Lynn Zatorski is engaged to Dane Matthews. Michele is a teacher in the Pittsfield public school system, and Dane is a purchasing manager at Hi-Tech Mold & Tool Inc. in Pittsfield. An April 2012 wedding in Negril, Jamaica, was planned. Congrats, Michele and Dane!

2011

Katie Bodnar admits that her time at MCLA has led her to discover her passion for foreign language and history. In August

2011, Katie traveled to the University of Hebei in Baoding, China, where she is currently teaching conversational English to students. Katie plans on teaching there for two or three years, and ultimately wants to teach in Korea. Excellent work, and good luck!

Nicole Dunn has recently been cast as Jo March, the lead character from the book *Little Women*, in the Concord Player's production of *Little Women*. Congratulations, and break a leg Nicole!

Alyssa Larkin is engaged to be married to **Christopher M. Peebles.** Alyssa works as a preschool teacher at Lenox Children's Center. The couple is planning a July 28th wedding. Best of luck, Alyssa and Christopher!

Amanda L'Etoile was featured in an article in the *Berkshire Eagle* which explored the many different people within Berkshire County who work with the outdoors. Amanda is the Berkshire Natural Resources Council Outreach Trails Coordinator who leads hikes and teaches classes on tracking, flora, and fauna. Way to go, Amanda!

Ashley Perkins was inspired this October when local residents of North Adams were boycotting an end to corporate welfare. Originally attending the rally to watch a local band, Perkins soon became active in the Occupy movement.

Congratulations on the marriage of **Julie Navom** and **Nathan Pichette.** The couple was married in July, 2011, in Pittsfield, MA. Best wishes to you both!

Acoustic guitarist **Chris Saterlee** is making the best of the current economic downturn. Chris and Jack Woodward have decided to bring back Depression-era songs in hopes of making a little extra money. While playing on the streets and at local open mic nights, the musicians plan on broadening their horizons. Next stop: New York City, playing the bar scene. Great work!

In May 2011, **Anita Parker** was honored at the Statehouse in Boston at the annual "29 Who Shine" event. This event celebrates 29 outstanding graduates from the Class of 2011. Anita was nominated by faculty and staff of the College. Born in Peru, Anita has served as an active volunteer at MCLA and in its surrounding community. She was noted as a peer tutor and a student ambassador for MCLA's Office of Admissions, has participated in Relay for Life events and served as vice president of Colleges Against Cancer. Congratulations on all your accomplishments, Anita!



Shaney Crafts '11 and Judy Thrasher '11 came back to campus in February for a luncheon in celebration of our December graduates. Pictured here with Mary K. Grant; they met members of the Alumni Board and stayed for a home basketball game.



Young alums celebrate with the Class of 2012 at Commencement: Kayla Hollins '12, Natasha Richardson '11, and Avery Tiner '12.

2012

Sheriann Stanton had an op-ed piece published in the *North Adams Transcript*. The piece featured her opinion on the suggested changes to the Massachusetts community college system. Good work, Sheriann!

The Alumni Association was saddened to hear about the passing of **Matthew Goodson**. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

In Memoriam

Elisabeth L. Lane Allen 1940
Benjamin Apkin 1969
Ralph Beer 1985
Fritz T. Brown 1954
Nancy Carpenter
Stephanie Chapman 1997
Mary Calkins Chevalier 1959
George J. Cobelli 1952
James J. Dougherty Jr. 1950
Mary F. Barry Downey 1941
Ernest Filiault 1979
John Florini 1977

Richard E. Gaillardet 1973
Elizabeth G. Gionet 1978
Matthew Goodson
Yvette Harris 1978
Margaret S. Smith Jones 1931
Joseph J. Joseph 1950
Henry J. Kalisz 1958
John Kelly 1980
Kevin A. Kelly 1980
Richard F. Kelly 1975
Shirley Rudnick Kronick 1940
Gina Linton

Margaret A. Miles Matson 1936
Charles McGee 1975
Geraldine E. Stanton McMullen 1945
David McNeice 1971
Loralee Moon 2003
Albert Mottau 1951
Betty Davine Pasierbiak 1939
James Russell 1950
Judith Leahey Spencer 1962
David Tomassini 1965
Eugene Turgeon 1971
Marion Whittaker-Will 1977



FORMER ACADEMIC DEAN AND ALUMNA MAKES SPECIAL LEGACY GIFT

North Adams native Dr. Patricia J. Prendergast '51 has witnessed firsthand the evolution of MCLA in the past sixty-plus years. She has seen the College through two name changes, eight presidents, and many exciting achievements. She has a deep appreciation for the meaningful contribution that the College has played in her own life, the lives of countless students, and the Berkshire community. Now, she has chosen to make a meaningful contribution of her own – one that will greatly benefit MCLA in years to come.

Dr. Prendergast began her lifelong relationship with MCLA as a young woman. In 1951, she earned a B.S. in education from what was, at the time, the State Teachers College of North Adams. After several years spent working toward her master's degree from Columbia University and Ph.D. from SUNY Albany, she returned to her hometown in 1955 as a teacher at the Haskins School and, later, the Mark Hopkins School. Her expertise led her back to her alma mater in 1969, when she was offered a professorship at what had by then become North Adams State College. Dr. Prendergast quickly established herself as an integral member of the campus community. She was appointed director of teacher education and, eventually, academic dean.

Following her retirement in 1992, Dr. Prendergast continued to correspond with colleagues and carefully followed the activities of MCLA. She strongly supported the College's decision to adopt its current name in 1997, in recognition of the school's role as the Commonwealth's designated public liberal arts college.

"I applaud the direction that has been taken, because a public liberal arts college is extremely important to the education of students today," she says. "The president, faculty, and staff of MCLA are doing a great job in attracting students and providing them with everything they need."

Dr. Prendergast recently demonstrated her support of MCLA by purchasing a \$100,000 life insurance policy and naming the College as an irrevocable beneficiary of that policy. This arrangement enables Dr. Prendergast to bequest a larger amount to MCLA by leaving a death benefit greater than the premium paid for the policy. It also allows MCLA to recognize Dr. Prendergast's gift during her lifetime, even though the proceeds will not be received until after her passing. In recognition of her gift, the fourth floor outdoor classroom in the Center for Science and Innovation will be named in honor of Dr. Prendergast.

"In terms of public institutions, MCLA is one of the finest," says Dr. Prendergast. "There is no other organization or institution I'd rather support."

Marianne Drake, MCLA's chief advancement officer, extends her gratitude to Dr. Prendergast. "This is the first gift of this nature that we have received," she says. "I sincerely hope that Dr. Prendergast's act of generosity will inspire others. Gifts such as this are a wonderful means to amplify your giving capability. They allow donors to fulfill their philanthropic goals without placing too much of a burden on their current finances."

President Mary K. Grant commented, "This generous gift enhances our ability to invest in the work of our faculty and staff and support our students. The College is honored to have Dr. Prendergast's name associated with us in perpetuity. We cannot thank her enough."

To learn more about charitable giving options, please visit www.mcla.edu/alumni/waystogive/.

MCLA

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North Adams, MA

**Massachusetts
College of Liberal Arts
Alumni Association is
pleased to introduce
the College's alumni
online community.**

The alumni online
community is a fun way to
search and stay connected
with fellow alumni.

You will have the
opportunity to update your
information, add photos,
participate in interest
groups, and share stories!

Follow these easy steps to register:

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Community"
3. Click on "Register Now" under
"First Time Visitors"
4. Enter your last name and class
year. Click "Find My Record"
5. Click your name
6. Enter your security code.
7. Click "Verify My Record"

If you have lost or do not
have your security code, click
"Submit this Form" and your
security code will be sent to
you. You will be prompted to
choose an ID and password for
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Please note: In the password
protected community, alumni contact
information will be viewable to other
registered users. If you wish to hide
your information, log in to the online
community and edit your privacy
settings on the "My Profile" page.

Join Today!

HARRIS CONNECT



SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

November 30	MCLA Presents! <i>Broadway's Next Hit Musical</i>
December 4	Elizabeth and Lawrence Vадnais Environmental Issues Lecture: Stephen L. Cowell
December 6	MCLA Alumni Holiday Social, Boston, MA
December 13	MCLA Presents! <i>Dala, A Very Special Holiday Show</i>
March 7	Public Policy Lecture: Irshad Manji
March 9-17	Spring Break
April 18	Undergraduate Research Conference
May 17	Baccalaureate
May 18	Commencement