

# MCLA *Beacons & Seeds*

SUMMER 2009

## **Sustainability:**

Deep-Seated  
Tradition at MCLA





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## MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

375 Church Street  
North Adams, MA 01247

(888) 677-MCLA  
Fax: (413) 662-5260  
alumni@mcla.edu  
foundation@mcla.edu  
www.mcla.edu/alumni

**On the Cover:** Chelsy Baker '10 stands with Dr. Lauren Moffatt, coordinator of the Berkshire Environmental Resource Center, in the campus garden located next to Smith House.

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## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Adams, MA  
cactjc@yahoo.com

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*President*  
Plymouth, MA  
davidflint20@comcast.net

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ljgriff7@yahoo.com

Cecelia Hamrock Kennedy '78  
Madison, NJ  
cmk5390@optonline.net

Cynthia Barrow Kuliga '63  
Ware, MA  
speakezcabk@verizon.net

Buffy Durringer Lord '98  
*Vice President*  
North Adams, MA  
lord\_buffy@hotmail.com

Beverly A. Low '84  
Hamilton, NY  
balow@mail.colgate.edu

George T. Malone '83  
Hudson, MA  
George.Malone@fmr.com

Alison McGonagle '05  
Haverhill, MA  
alisonmcg@luxmail.com

Michael A. Reopell '85  
North Adams, MA  
Michael.A.Reopell@williams.edu

Christine Reynolds Robare '94  
Stamford, VT  
Christine.a.robare@williams.edu

Alyssa Sporbert '92  
North Adams, MA  
lsporber@williams.edu

Andrew Zaback '80  
Farmington, CT  
azaback@longmeadowcapital.com

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Commencement is always an exciting time on campus, as students come to the end of their journeys at the College and prepare for the next chapter in their lives. The Class of 2009 Commencement was no exception, as our graduates, their families and friends, and the entire campus community came together for a wonderful celebration. Read about our honorees and see pictures of our newest graduates on page 8.

In this issue of *Beacons & Seeds* you will read about the history of conservation and environmental programs at the College. While the trend toward sustainability has been gaining widespread popularity in recent years, we as a community have been teaching and promoting responsible stewardship of our resources for decades. Read more about these efforts and MCLA's environmental track record on page 2.

Many of you may be wondering how MCLA is weathering the current economic storm. This spring, I held a series of town hall meetings with the campus community to address such concerns. We continue to be thoughtful and strategic in controlling costs, reducing expenses and increasing revenue. The state budget outlook for fiscal year 2010 is challenging, but federal stimulus support through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help to bridge our budget gap and allow us the flexibility to continue serving students while planning for the future. We will keep you informed of how we are managing through these very challenging times.

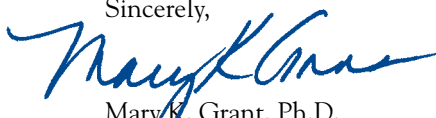
Admissions applications are up considerably, and we expect the class entering in the fall of 2009 will be larger than last year's freshman class. To ease the financial burden on our students and their families, a group of dedicated alumni, the "Kitchen Cabinet," has been hard at work recruiting alumni volunteers to help us increase funding for financial aid support. Please be a part of the College's future, and make a gift today to the Annual Fund, which supports student financial aid, at [www.mcla.edu/giving](http://www.mcla.edu/giving).

As many of you know, our new Center for Science and Innovation was included in a bond bill that was passed last fall. We hope to begin the feasibility phase for this important project in the near future, when location and design will be determined.

Finally, we continue to promote the College to students, parents and the community at large. Over the course of the past year we undertook a comprehensive assessment of our branding and marketing materials. We found that MCLA is consistently and definitively described as a community that provides students with a wide range of academic, social, and vocational opportunities, and that students have access to these opportunities from the moment they set foot on campus. One exciting outcome of our effort is a new MCLA tagline: My College. Right from the Start.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support and interest. Best wishes for a happy and restful summer.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.  
President



President Mary K. Grant and alumni at the Boston Alumni Social in December 2008.

# Sustainability: Deep-Seated Tradition at MCLA

Anyone who visits Stephanie Burton '08 and Dan Harris '08 at their house in Goshen, Massachusetts, invariably notices something remarkable: virtually all of their yard—the space that in most homes would be given over to green lawn—is dedicated to growing food. Vegetables grow in containers and hens scratch at the earth, while nearby, worms break down kitchen scraps into organic compost. And, this small lot is just the beginning; drive a few miles down the road, and you'll see a robust community garden that the couple recently founded on a friend's land.



*Stephanie Burton '08 and Dan Harris '08 prepare soil for planting in the community garden they founded in Goshen, Massachusetts.*



*The Center for Resourceful Living (CRL) was a program at the College in the 1970s and the mid-80s. Its intention was to offer students the freedom and facilities to explore how to live in harmony with nature and to help students acquire skills, knowledge and values enabling them to become more self-reliant and self-sufficient by utilizing limited resources to their fullest potential.*



During the week, both Burton and Harris work for Berkshire Environmental Consulting, which helps industrial firms comply with environmental regulations. In their spare time, they bake bread from scratch, brew their own beer and organize “work parties” for planting, weeding and harvesting.

“We eat as locally as we can, and this means growing our own,” says Burton. “This is part of our effort to live in a sustainable manner.”

Harris agrees. “We’re at a critical time in history,” he says. “Our nation faces so many environmental and economic challenges. I really believe that doing more for ourselves, relying less on industrialized systems, is an important part of facing those challenges.”

By any standard, Burton and Harris are impressive ambassadors of sustainability. However, among graduates of the College, they are just two of many. Today, alumni are promoting sustainability in a staggering array of industries, including trucking, apparel, industrial manufacturing, resource conservation, renewable energy and education.

Sustainability is front-page news—from melting ice caps to dependence on foreign oil, and from the often-discussed “green economy” to ensuring adequate food and water for a growing population. Many of our biggest challenges as a society are rooted in a simple question: how do we make the best use of our existing resources?



*Stephanie (in the cart) founded a community garden on a neighbor's property with Dan (not pictured).*

It’s a question that has as many answers as there are individuals to answer it. For their part, alumni have responded by teaching environmentalism, working for national parks, designing sustainable products, producing clean energy, helping green global production facilities, conserving natural ecosystems and showcasing the beauty of our planet through the arts.

“In myriad and tangible ways our graduates are joining worldwide efforts to care for our planet. By doing so, they are changing our country and our world for the better,” says President Mary K. Grant.



*In addition to a working farm, the CRL managed 55 acres of College-owned forest land bordering Windsor Lake and the College’s athletic fields.*

## From Counterculture to Campus Culture

Burton and Harris were environmental studies majors—indeed, they were non-traditional students whose interest in MCLA was piqued specifically because the College offers an environmental studies program. But the roots of the College’s ecological movement began long before the current environmental studies program was founded. The College’s first foray into sustainability was in the 1970s, when Professor of Education Larry Vadnais and his wife Betty founded the Center for Resourceful Living (CRL).

“It was right after the first gasoline crisis,” says Professor Vadnais. “I started wondering how prepared students would be to face a time of scarcity. This prompted me to look into other things, like how much energy it took to grow the food we bought at the supermarket. I was just amazed.” With support from the trustees and administration, and with help from a grant, Vadnais

and his students created a working farm, first on campus, and then in Stamford, Vermont, on the Vadnais' own property.

Center for Resourceful Living students grew their own food, raised livestock, generated solar energy, visited farm auctions, made their own cheese and butter, learned food preservation techniques, used traditional tools, made goods by hand and explored the business and philosophical challenges of living in a sustainable manner. It was, Vadnais noted, an entirely different approach to education.

"In most classes, you learn material, and then later you are tested on that material. The Center for Resourceful Living was quite the opposite. We'd be faced with a test—a bunch of sick piglets, or a crop of tomatoes that was withering—and then we'd have to learn, right then and there, what was happening and how to respond. We could see the immediate meaning and necessity of what we were learning. This was wholly different from traditional education, and students just threw themselves into it. I think it helped build character, responsibility and accountability."

The program had a core of profoundly enthusiastic students, yet the Center remained small until it closed in the 1980s.

"We were never a mainstream part of campus," said Vadnais. "When I look at the photos now, I can see how others saw us. We were countercultural all the way. But that's how it was at the time; if you were an environmentalist, if you talked about scarcity



*The Green Team is committed to developing and implementing a campus-wide program to reduce energy use, improve recycling efforts and invest our campus and community in sustainability. Students can sign up to get involved, and many choose to volunteer in the campus garden.*

in an era of cheap gasoline, people thought you were crazy. It just wasn't how most people thought."

Twenty years later, the situation has changed. Today, sustainability is being integrated into all aspects of campus life. In 2007, President Grant signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, an agreement to make campuses across the country carbon neutral. Shortly thereafter, a campus-wide committee—a 30-member team comprised of faculty, students, administrators and other staff, dubbed the "Green Team"—began identifying specific ways the College can reduce waste, save energy, support more eco-friendly vendors and engage in special projects to promote sustainability.

To date, the College has increased recycling efforts, installed solar panels on campus buildings, reduced waste and packaging in dining services, brought environmental leaders—including Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott Weidensaul and Nobel Prize-winner Bill Moomaw—to campus, launched a Green Living series on food production and even started an MCLA campus garden near Smith House (pictured on cover). In addition, an anonymous donor recently finished endowing the Vadnais Lecture Series, supporting an annual lecture in environmental issues in perpetuity.

The forefather of the College's environmental program, Larry Vadnais, is impressed. "It's amazing," says Vadnais, of the extent to which sustainability has become such an important part of campus life. "It's just so wonderful to see."

Perhaps most importantly, the College created the environmental studies major, run by a dedicated faculty member, Elena Traister.



*MCLA's environmental studies program is a multidisciplinary major housed in the biology department, which offers students a solid foundation in the natural and social sciences. The theoretical lessons learned in the classroom are applied to a variety of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in order to enhance the study of human activities and their effects on natural systems.*



## From the Classroom to the Real World

“Our goal is to provide students with the background they need to tackle real-world problems,” says Traister. “Everywhere in the world, leaders are looking at issues of greenhouse gases, biodiversity, environmental justice and the green economy. The environmental studies program, along with the explosion of campus activities related to sustainability, helps prepare students to face these issues head-on.”

Traister notes that while the major is new and graduates are still young, students who pursued environmental studies at the College are already working in green fields. Several MCLA graduates are working to monitor environmental health; one runs a farmers’ market in Vermont, while another has launched a line of eco-friendly ski and snowboarding apparel. Others are employed with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Hawaii, Maine Land Use Regulation Commission, and Berkshire Photovoltaics, a solar energy firm founded by Chris Derby Kilfoyle ’76, who was involved with the Center for Resourceful Living in its early years.

“These jobs are responding to a real environmental imperative and to profound economic and societal shifts,” adds Traister. “The jobs are appreciated worldwide.”

Students who never specifically studied environmental issues have found that their education at the College prepared them to face environmental challenges. Doreen Yale Zaback ’79 was a medical technology major who took numerous classes in the sciences. After working in the medical technology field, she

went to graduate school to study geoscience, eventually earning a Ph.D. Today, she works with Connecticut municipalities converting solid waste to renewable energy, which is then sold on to the electric grid. Prior to this job, she worked in environmental site assessment and helped major manufacturing facilities adopt more environmentally-friendly practices.

“Having a science background allowed me to venture off into many different directions,” says Zaback. “I’m grateful that the College helped me gain such a sure footing in the sciences.”

Her environmental focus doesn’t end with her workday, however. Zaback also serves on the board of the ReCONNstruction Center, an organization that recycles building materials with the goal of keeping items out of landfills and conserving natural resources. She also gardens, composts, limits her driving when possible and takes other steps toward personal sustainability.

“Living in a sustainable manner, incorporating it into every aspect of your life just makes sense,” she says. “There’s no reason to waste natural resources, to waste energy or to waste money. Living green is simply common sense.”

## Traditional Industries Going Green

Graduates are making a difference even in industries that are not usually considered pro-environment. Alum Frank O’Brien-Bernini is another Center for Resourceful Living student. Today, he works for Owens Corning, a Fortune 500 company that makes building materials. While this might seem a long way from his days on the Vadnais farm, he is in fact vice president and



*The College’s environmental science major includes a variety of courses in disciplines including biology, chemistry, geology, economics and sociology. Through the College’s partnerships with local environmental organizations and agencies, students have opportunities to investigate and develop solutions to environmental problems of regional significance.*



*Dan Harris '08 checks the progress on seedlings planted in the community garden he and Stephanie Burton '08 established in Goshen, Massachusetts.*

chief sustainability officer in charge of “greening” the company’s worldwide facilities. O’Brien-Bernini will be this fall’s Vadnais lecturer and will speak on campus on October 22.

Another graduate who is helping green a traditional industry is Cynthia Borek Normandin '76. Normandin helped implement efforts to promote sustainability at Braun’s Express, the trucking company she co-owns with her husband David.

Braun’s Express has installed technologies that reduce fuel consumption and lower emissions. The company equipped long-haul trucks with rechargeable battery packs, so drivers don’t need to idle vehicles for heat or other power needs while resting; installed automatic engine shut-offs on shorter-distance trucks to reduce idling; put energy-efficient wide-base tires on their vehicles; started computerized monitoring of tire pressure and trained drivers how to improve fuel economy. Onboard computers allow the company to monitor the impact of these changes on energy consumption.

These efforts are significant—changes to Braun’s Express’ long-haul trucks alone cost approximately \$10,000 per vehicle—and the results have been impressive. Last year, the company was recognized as an Energy Leader by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

Equally important, Braun’s Express is now teaching other transportation companies about sustainability. Because its onboard computers can actively track fuel economy and other factors, Normandin has collected vast amounts of data that will help other companies.

“We learned that these efforts, while costly up-front, offer an enormous return on investment, often paying for themselves in a single year,” says Normandin. “Because we can quantify this, we’re able to help motivate other transportation companies to make similar investments. This helps improve the sustainability of the entire transportation industry.”

“It’s important to do this,” adds Normandin. “It’s for our children’s children and this great planet of ours. If everybody works on it in their own little world, we can really make a difference.”

Dan Harris agrees. “After years of thinking about our environmental challenges,” he says, “I realize that the best way to make an impact is to take small steps close to home.”

For some, that means growing their own food. For others, it means driving less, conserving home energy or taking first steps to green their workplaces.

“Most of the time, these steps aren’t expensive, and they aren’t difficult,” says Harris. “They simply require getting started.”

*For more information on MCLA’s green initiatives, go to [www.mcla.edu/green](http://www.mcla.edu/green).*



# Student Interns: *Learning Beyond the Classroom*

An important facet of an MCLA education is participation in high-impact experiences. These can include research projects, presentations at conferences and internships. Internships provide students with the ability to try out a career, learn more about a profession and most importantly, put their classroom skills to work.

Recent conversations with two students explored the role of the internship in a liberal arts education. Jammal Clark and Rachel Seklecki credit their internships with a broad range of benefits in both the classroom and the workforce.

Jammal Clark '09 was attracted to MCLA because of its intimate approach to liberal arts education and his desire to continue studying marketing, a subject he pursued in a technical high school. As a business major, Clark was all business when it came to stepping through the doors that MCLA helped open for him. During the 2008 winter break, Clark worked as a full-time intern with trustee Jim Clemmer '86, president of the medical supplies business segment at Covidien plc. Working in market research at Covidien, a global health care products company, gave Clark the chance to put his computer and analytical skills to work in the context of a new product launch. He also accompanied a veteran sales representative on calls to customers, giving him a greater appreciation for the breadth and depth of the health care field. "Getting out from behind a desk and talking with colleagues and customers helps keep people engaged," says Clark. He discovered that he enjoys a workplace that encourages him to take on different roles in different settings. "Being able to ask questions and give presentations gave me confidence," says Clark.

Clark's internship proved beneficial in the classroom as well. "I have experience in the corporate world, and that made me better able to participate in class," says Clark. He also credits his professional interactions at Covidien with making him more comfortable as a public speaker and as a leader. "You gain the best information by getting out and finding it for yourself," says Clark. "My internship allowed me to do that."

Rachel Seklecki '11 was able to combine her interests in writing, publicity and marketing with her passion for the arts as an arts management major. A grants and fundraising class with Professor Lauren O'Neal, coordinator of the arts management major, led to O'Neal's recommendation of Seklecki for a three-credit internship in the MCLA Office of Institutional Advancement. "We encourage our students to expand on their knowledge by seeing firsthand how different organizations do things differently," says O'Neal. Working with Director of Annual Giving Jocelyn Merrick, Rachel contributed to many Advancement Office programs including online communication, brochure design and special events planning. "Fundraising is so much more than



Jammal Clark '09



Rachel Seklecki '11

asking for money," says Seklecki. "It's a way to connect with people who share an interest in something you feel strongly about."

The next step for Seklecki will be to combine her interest in fundraising with her love of theater, and she will pursue both this summer through the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP), which combines work experience with classes and interactive sessions with the area's leading arts professionals. She will be working on fundraising appeals and special events for the Williamstown Theatre Festival. "I am anxious to see how aspects of fundraising differ in an arts-related field," says Seklecki.

What Seklecki already knows is that her experiences and those of her MCLA classmates will become part of group discussions in future classes. "The classes are small, and we all have the chance to relate what we're learning in class to our own experiences," says Seklecki. Professor O'Neal agrees that student interns make connections between theory and practice. She points out that arts management students document what they do and are required to analyze their internship experiences through a journal, class presentations and a portfolio. "It is great for students to see the public impact of their work," says O'Neal.

Jammal Clark and Rachel Seklecki agree that their internships added to their classroom experience and provided an opportunity to learn more about their fields. Both students envision reaching back as alumni with their own offers to host interns.

MCLA alumni are encouraged to get involved in enriching the student experience by providing internships, participating on a career panel or volunteering as a guest speaker. This is an opportunity for you to interact with current students, to impact their decision-making and to gain insight into the future generation of employees. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Sharron Zavattaro '85, Director of Career Services, at (413) 662-5332 or [Sharron.Zavattaro@mcla.edu](mailto:Sharron.Zavattaro@mcla.edu).



# COMMENCEMENT 2009



On Saturday, May 16, MCLA's Class of 2009 was awarded 357 degrees—including 42 master's degrees and 11 Certificates of Advanced Graduate Study. Author, musician and composer James McBride received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree and delivered the keynote address.

Also receiving honorary degrees this year were local educator and the co-founder of Families of September 11, Sarah "Sally" Goodrich, who received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree and Brian K. Fitzgerald '75, executive director of the Business-Higher Education Forum, who was awarded a Doctor of Public Service degree.

In addition, President Mary K. Grant awarded the President's Medal for Distinguished Service to MCLA's vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Steve Green, for his many years of service to the College and the community.





# MCLA ONLINE

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**M**assachusetts College of Liberal Arts has a new user-friendly Web site and a Facebook page (MCLA Alumni Association) for alumni and other friends of the College to network with each other.

The newly redesigned Web site—[www.mcla.edu](http://www.mcla.edu)—offers much more than eye-catching graphics and updated pictures of campus. Geared toward a new generation of Internet-savvy students, the Web site has been restructured to include a rotating selection of news stories about MCLA and its programs, faculty, students, alumni and staff.

“We’ve created a Web site that is cohesive and presents MCLA to the outside world in a better way, from a technological perspective,” says Mark Berman, who became the College’s first chief information officer in December 2008. “The Web site provides a content management system that is easy to use and allows the different departments to continuously update information. It looks good and lets us keep things current and vibrant.”

The new Web site will appeal to all sectors of the MCLA community, particularly to potential students who are accustomed to navigating the world via the Internet.

“Web sites have become the primary tool used by prospective students during their college search,” says Denise Richardello, vice president of enrollment and external relations. “Our Web site now serves a critical function. It needs to be one that is easily navigated with more than just facts and figures. It needs to have information students are looking for and be attractive at the same time.”

Prospective students not only access facts via the Web site, they use it to register for Open House programs, to apply for admission, and to communicate with college staff and faculty.

Amy Stevens, MCLA’s Web communications manager, says that the new Web site is more than just a new front page and splashy colors.

“Over the past five years, prospective student use of the Internet in choosing a college or university has risen from a mere 30 percent to a startling 98 to 100 percent,” Stevens says. “Students are forming their first impressions of a college based on our Web presence, making judgment calls about how easy it is to work with us based on how easily they find what they’re looking for. Our new Web site was designed to put these students, their parents and our alumni first.”

Berman says the redesigned Web site will benefit everyone connected with MCLA.

“This allows us to reach out to all sorts of people, from our offices on campus to prospective students, parents and alumni, to the Berkshire County community and beyond,” he says. In addition, MCLA’s new Facebook site takes advantage of a popular Web-based networking tool to broaden and enrich the College’s community.

Berman says the new Web site and Facebook page are just a few examples of improvements to technology services and Internet accessibility at MCLA.

The College recently doubled its bandwidth connection and is working on a plan that will better integrate the use of laptop computers with academic departments. Berman says he is also developing a shared computer-based calendar/scheduling program for the College and is investigating ways to make administrative desktop computing “more functional.”

“Technology is an important part of President Grant’s strategic plan,” he says. “My hiring is an expression of the College’s commitment to using technology to improve pedagogy and student life and expand the reach of the College.”

Berman adds that another initiative involves the expansion of distance learning for students located far from campus, and for non-traditional students, who require more flexible course scheduling.

# THE PASSING OF A LEGEND:

## Sue Getchell M.Ed. '63

*Pioneer of Women's Sports at MCLA*

MCLA lost a beloved friend and colleague with the death of Sue Getchell, a trailblazer in women's sports at the College, on February 25, 2009.

Getchell was born and raised in Melrose, Massachusetts, where she was a prominent high school athlete. In 2005, she was inducted into the Melrose High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

She received a bachelor of arts degree in education from Bridgewater State College and a Master of Education degree from North Adams State College in 1963. Getchell taught in the North Adams public schools before raising her children, and then in 1969 returned to the College, where she was an associate professor of physical education and a coach.

Getchell had a lifelong love of sports and physical activity. She was a pioneer in the area of women's sports and began teaching and coaching women's athletics at North Adams State College before Title IX became law, according to the *Melrose Free Press*. She spent 20 years coaching a variety of sports, including field hockey, softball, gymnastics, archery and soccer.

"She was an outstanding person who was very dedicated to women's athletics," says Joseph Zavattaro '61, M.Ed. '63, athletic director and men's baseball coach at the College until 1995. "She was here at the very beginning, and she started a lot of programs in women's athletics."

According to Zavattaro, Getchell was the second women's coach at the College and greatly expanded women's sports, launching a field hockey program, women's basketball, women's soccer, and men's and women's tennis. Getchell did not coach every sport, but Zavattaro says she was instrumental in launching new sports programs and locating coaches for the few areas where she had no experience. For a long time, Getchell was the only female coach at MCLA.



*Sue Getchell M.Ed. '63*

Dorothy Houston, MCLA's assistant athletic director, says Getchell's advocacy for women extended well beyond the playing fields.

"She was very passionate about her students and her student athletes," Houston said. "She was a fighter for women's rights, whether it was in athletics or in the academic world."

After retiring from coaching, Getchell continued to teach and served as the chairwoman of the physical education department at the College. During her last two years at the College, she was director of the Susan B.

Anthony Women's Center. In 1998, Getchell and her husband Walter Getchell, M.Ed. '63, retired to Mansfield, Maine.

"She wanted to make sure there was equality between the genders," Houston says. "She was very passionate about what she did in the classroom, as well as in sports, and she made it enjoyable for her students to learn."

Houston recalls that even after retirement, Getchell contacted her about National Girls and Women in Sports Day, an annual event across the country that recognizes the progress of girls and women in sports. Over the years, MCLA has offered a very successful program of clinics for girls and women in various sports to celebrate the day.

"She wanted to make sure everything went well with the event," Houston says. "She was very interested in making sure there were opportunities for girls."

In 1999, Getchell was inducted into the MCLA Athletic Hall of Fame. And, in 2008 the College's Sportswoman of the Year Award, given annually to an upper-class, female student-athlete who has demonstrated excellence in both academics and athletics, was renamed the Sue Getchell Award.

As an advocate of women's involvement in athletics, Sue laid the path for the College's student-athletes today—many of whom do not realize what a pioneer she was.



## Trailblazers in Florida

MCLA's baseball and softball teams headed to Florida for spring break in March, competing against other college teams as part of their athletic season. The men took part in the Russ-Matt Central Florida tournament, and the women competed in the Rebel Spring Games tournament. Following the games on Sunday, March 15, President Mary K. Grant held a cookout for more than 90 MCLA Trailblazers, their parents and friends of the College.

President Grant hosted the event at the Tradewinds restaurant at Bahama Bay Resort in Davenport, Florida. The buffet dinner, also attended by Chief Advancement Officer Marianne Drake, followed Sunday's baseball and softball games, when the men beat Clarkson University 7-5, and the women split their games, losing to Endicott College 11-3, but beating Allegheny College 6-0.

"Our teams have a loyal following of family and friends, many of whom come to Florida to watch them play. I had promised the teams in the past that I would come watch them play. It was a wonderful gathering," said President Grant.



Back row: Baseball Coach Jeff Puleri, Pat Negrini '09, Ken Recore '10, Cory Burtman '09, Athletic Director Scott Nichols. Front Row: President Mary K. Grant, Stephanie Hendricks '09, Amey Blackburn '09, Rachel Desautels '10, Softball Coach Kristin Parzych '00.



## Contributions to Honor Green

Dr. Stephen Green retired on June 1, after 36 years of service to the College. Steve has worn many hats during his years at MCLA, his most recent position being vice president of academic affairs. In addition to his work at MCLA, Steve has worked tirelessly on behalf of numerous community organizations, including Northern Berkshire United Way and the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. In recognition of his dedication, President Grant hosted an event in Steve's honor on Wednesday, June 17, in the Amsler Campus Center Gym. At this event Steve was presented with a book of good wishes and memories.

At Steve's request, contributions made in his honor will be used for scholarships, programs and initiatives in support of community and civic engagement. To date 211 alumni and community members have contributed a total of \$53,064 in Steve's honor.

If you are interested in contributing to the fund or sending Steve a memory, please contact Nina Garlington, director of donor relations, at (413) 662-5220 or [Nina.Garlington@mcla.edu](mailto:Nina.Garlington@mcla.edu).



## MCLA Bids a Friend Farewell

On June 10 the College lost a dear friend. Don Westall '69 was a wonderful community member and devoted advocate for the College. His dedication to his alma mater and the greater Northern Berkshire community was felt through his work on both the MCLA Foundation Board and the Foundation Property Committee.

To honor his memory, Don's family has established a fund to serve as a lasting memorial to him and his commitment to the success of our students. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Nina Garlington, director of donor relations, at (413) 662-5220 or [Nina.Garlington@mcla.edu](mailto:Nina.Garlington@mcla.edu), or make a gift to the Westall Fund at [www.mcla.edu/giving](http://www.mcla.edu/giving).

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

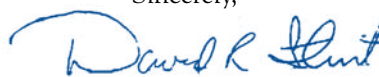
Dear Alumni,

The Alumni Association Board bylaw revision accepted in October 2008 stipulates that an annual report of the activities of the Board will replace the annual meeting traditionally held over Reunion Weekend. Our hope is that the report will allow more of you to see what the Board has recently accomplished as we continue to look at ways we can both promote and support the mission of the College. To that end, the following is an account of Board activities since July 2008:

- A. By-laws for Alumni Association Board of Directors were rewritten and accepted.  
Changes included:
  - a. Term limits: three three-year terms.
  - b. In addition to elected members, a committee will appoint two members each year for the next three years to insure diversity of age, geography, ethnicity and profession and bring the number of Board members to 21.
  - c. Nominations for the Board elections can be submitted at any time.
- B. Board members were asked to participate as members of the Alumni Kitchen Cabinet, a group of individuals dedicated to supporting the College through fundraising and outreach activities.
- C. Annual Alumni Volunteer Retreat was held on campus on June 27.
- D. Reunion Weekend is now scheduled to coincide with Fall Family Weekend October 23-25.  
The Distinguished Alumni Brunch and the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction will be held on Saturday, October 24.
- E. The Alumni Association continues to gather momentum with regional alumni events held in Hartford, Boston and the Plymouth, MA, area, and in the Berkshires. In addition, several classes held volunteer-organized reunions this year, including the class of 1987's November reunion in Newton, MA and a 1990s reunion in Boston in May.

I am pleased to respectfully submit this report to the entire alumni body on behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. It is a pleasure to serve you, the alumni of the College.

Sincerely,



David Flint '78



**The Alumni Office  
welcomed the Class of  
2009 into the Alumni  
Association at an event  
on May 12 at Cafe  
Latino in North Adams.**



Gabrielle Rivera '09 and Lauren Casola '09

Dayne Wahl '09 and Cassandra Pierre '09



# CLASS NOTES

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## 1930

**Grace Browning** reluctantly received the “Gold Cane” award given by the city of Northfield. The award recognizes Grace as the oldest resident in town. Grace later relented, admitting “this (ceremony) is really wonderful.”

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## 1936

*Ida Rose Maino Trabold*  
212 Franklin St  
North Adams, MA 01247-2713

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## 1937

*Alma A. Benedetti*  
54 Bradford St  
North Adams, MA 01247-4239

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## 1941

*Margaret Benedetti Davenport*  
1 Lyman St Apt 117  
Westborough, MA 01581-1438

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## 1950

*Joseph J. Joseph*  
15 Bank St  
PO Box 508  
North Bennington, VT 05257-0508

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## 1951

*William F. Grady*  
7924 Woodsbluff Run  
Fogelsville, PA 18051-1537

**Elvira Bellows Scott** retired after serving 35 years as teacher/principal in a nine-room school in Athol, MA.

---

## 1952

*Katherine Cariddi Mogavero*  
93 Bay State Rd  
Pittsfield, MA 01201-6743  
kikiphil@mymailstation.com

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## 1953

*Graham K. Andrews*  
6835 Post Oak Dr  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322-3835  
GAndPat@aol.com

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## 1954

*Harriet Peck Hunt*  
25 Rubin Dr  
Pittsfield, MA 01201-9111  
wjhnhunt@cs.com

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## 1956

*Joan Kunstler Sampson*  
10 Grays Beach Rd  
Kingston, MA 02364-1722

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## 1957

*Mary P. Richards*  
740 Feura Bush Rd  
Delmar, NY 12054-9789

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## 1958

*Nancy Alsing Stewart*  
614 E Rose Ave  
Santa Maria, CA 93454-3158  
NancyCars@aol.com

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## 1960

*Paula B. Bousquet Dobeck*  
7 Saddle Ct  
Schwenksville, PA 19473-1884  
(610) 287-2903

*Suzanna Wilbur*  
93 Pines Edge Dr  
Northampton, MA 01060-1563  
suzwilbur@hotmail.com

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## 1961

*Daniel W. Foster*  
78 Gates Rd  
Eagle Bridge, NY 12057-2020

*Diane Gallese Parsons*  
56 Highland Ave  
North Adams, MA 01247-4049  
dmparsons33@msn.com

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## 1962

*Carolyn Doran Cheesbro*  
23 Marion Ave  
North Adams, MA 01247-3711

*Jean Kent Swift*  
42 Olds St  
North Adams, MA 01247-3233  
jeanswift@adelphia.net

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## 1963

*David P. Hathaway*  
27 Beverly St  
Pittsfield, MA 01201-7303  
xkeracer61@aol.com

*Martha Bornak Hathaway*  
27 Beverly St  
Pittsfield, MA 01201-7303  
mcbh1@aol.com

*Cynthia Barrow Kuliga*  
156 North St  
Ware, MA 01082-1029  
speakercabk@verizon.net

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## 1964

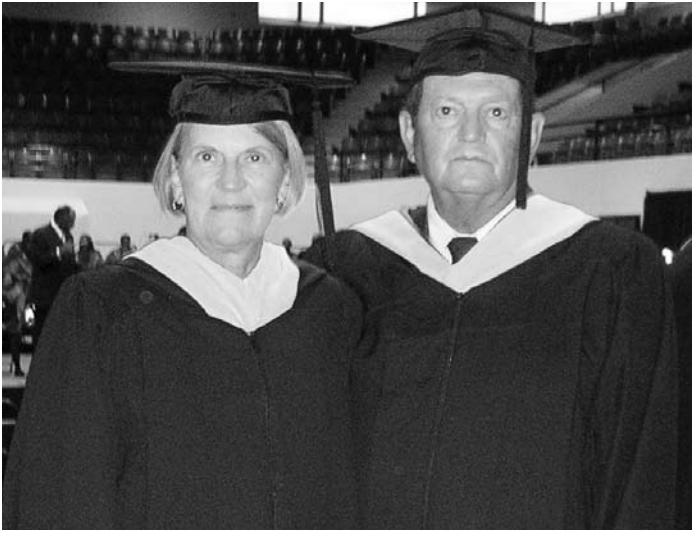
*Dorothy Giusti Ransford*  
620 Daniels Rd  
North Adams, MA 01247-2904  
dotransford@roadrunner.com

*Ruth Lambert Zicko*  
671 Tremont St  
Duxbury, MA 02332-4410  
rjlzicko@yahoo.com

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## 1965

*Dennis P. Zicko*  
671 Tremont St  
Duxbury, MA 02332-4410  
dpzicko43@verizon.net



Mildred Depelteau Little '72 and Charles Little '66 representing MCLA at the inauguration of South Carolina State University President Dr. George E. Cooper on March 27, 2009.

## 1966

Kenna Andrews Hoellerich  
827 Main Rd  
Savoy, MA 01256-9203  
rwhoell@verizon.net

Ronald Pollone  
187 Main St  
North Andover, MA 01845-2508  
rpollone@comcast.net

George F. Sarrouf  
213 Sand Springs Rd  
Williamstown, MA 01267-2249  
gsarrouf@verizon.net

Charles Little and his wife, Mildred Depelteau Little '72, represented MCLA and President Mary K. Grant '83 at the inauguration of South Carolina State University President Dr. George E. Cooper on the 27th of March in Orangeburg, SC. Thank you Chuck and Millie.

## 1967

Paul Egan  
PO Box 61  
Essex, MA 01929-0002  
segan@segan.net

Jeanne Slaney Peterson  
21 1/2 Inman St  
Cambridge, MA 02139-2406  
jpeterso@bu.edu

Class Agent **Jeanne Slaney Peterson** would like to encourage everyone to keep in touch with her and your former classmates. The Alumni Office can often be of help if you have lost contact information. Please email your updates to Jeanne at: jpeterso@bu.edu.

## 1968

Peter O. Andrew  
73 Falmouth Rd  
West Springfield, MA 01089-2168  
WSAndrew@aol.com

**Dick Steele** fell off his roof at home this past winter while he was trying to clear it of snow. Dick is doing okay, but he did get pretty badly banged up. He is married to **Barbara Giusti Steele '67** and is the brother-in-law of **Dorothy Giusti Ransford '64**. Stay healthy, Dick!

## 1970

Charlotte Miczek  
1874 Commonwealth Ave Apt 15  
Brighton, MA 02135-6018

Diane Johnson Skorupski  
7810 N Rasmussen Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85741-1448  
dskorupski@comcast.net

## 1971

**Tony Tullio** retired in 2005 after spending 34 years in public school education and school administration. Tony earned a master's in education at Bridgewater State College. He now lives in Wareham. He and wife Cheryl will enjoy retirement on the Cape in Wellfleet.

## 1972

Timothy Francis Foley  
Fairview Ave  
Newbury, MA 01951-1203

Linda Publicover O'Neill  
39 Fox Run Rd  
Bellingham, MA 02019-2906  
jandloneill@comcast.net

Jeanne Belfield Roy  
PO Box 1554  
Lanesboro, MA 01237-1554  
jeannemroy@aol.com

**Jim Durkee** teaches history at McCann Technical High School in North Adams.

**Mildred Depelteau Little** and her husband, **Charles Little '66**, represented MCLA and President **Mary K. Grant '83** at the inauguration of South Carolina State University President Dr. George E. Cooper on the 27th of March in Orangeburg, SC. Thank you Chuck and Millie.

## 1973

John Hugh O'Neill  
39 Fox Run Rd  
Bellingham, MA 02019-2906  
jandloneill@comcast.net

**Kevin O'Donnell** is the town manager of Great Barrington, MA. He was recently appointed as a board member at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington.

## 1974

Stephen Joseph Bailow  
311 Joy Ln  
West Chester, PA 19380-5109  
sjb99@verizon.net

Susan Reiker Carney  
46 Charles St  
Natick, MA 01760-2828  
(508) 655-6148

James Michael Gibson  
7 Tulsa Ave  
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2729  
rsvpus@optonline.net

After 34 years on the job, Ludlow Fire Chief **Charles Chaconas** is ready to say good-bye. Charles graduated from the College in 1974 after completing a 20-month tour in Vietnam. In 1975 he took a job as a dispatcher for the Ludlow fire station. The next year he became a full-time firefighter and in



Mary Beth Allen '77 is seen in full academic regalia representing President Grant at the inauguration of President of Empire State College, Alan R. Davis in March, 2009.

1986 was appointed captain. He became acting and permanent fire chief in 1999 and has been so until now. Happy retirement, Charles!

**Alan Marquis** contacted the office recently. You may remember Alan as the first RA in Berkshire Towers and a member of the first graduating class of business majors. Alan is living in Charlotte, NC, where he is regional manager of the Charlotte office of American Audio and Video. Alan can be reached by email at amarquis@aav.events.com.

## 1975

Kathleen A. Sullivan  
528 Kaanini St  
Hilo, HI 96720-2751

## 1976

Carol Cushenette Corrigan  
31 Highland Ave  
Adams, MA 01220-1811  
cactjc@yahoo.com

State Representative **Daniel Bosley** was the recipient of the 2008 Massachusetts Association of Jewish Federations/Jewish Community Relations Council Legislative Achievement Award. To quote Representative Bosley, "I am very humbled by this award. I was glad that I was able to assist the Jewish community through legislation in the last legislative session."

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources has recognized Braun's Express, owned by **Cindy Borek Normandin** and her husband,



# INNOVATION AT MCLA

## Sixth Graders Participate in Hands-On Science at MCLA

Local sixth-grade students and their parents participated in a free hands-on science program at MCLA in March. The College, a lead partner of the Berkshire STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Pipeline Network, hosted the event as a way to introduce more children in Berkshire County to the sciences and to the possibility of attending college.

Participants learned about alternative energy by building wind turbines, discovered physics through the creation of rockets and explored chemistry with lab experiments.

Established through state economic stimulus legislation, the Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network seeks to improve teacher preparation in the science, technology, engineering and math fields and to increase students' interest in, preparation for and success in STEM careers. Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield also hosted students as part of the program.

## Participation in Regional Science Fair More Than Doubles

Nearly 200 students displayed their scientific research and experiments at this year's Massachusetts Science Fair for Region 1, held in March at MCLA. The participation was greater than previous years, indicating a growing interest in science among high school students across Western Massachusetts.

The event included a presentation by Kathleen Arcaro, professor of environmental toxicology, Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at UMass Amherst, who spoke about the effects of environmental pollutants on human health.

Students from across the region—Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties—explored and shared various aspects of science with peers from surrounding communities. This year's projects included those in behavioral and social science, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, mathematics, medicine, microbiology, physics and zoology.



Albany alumni meet to plan an alumni regional gathering. Pictured from left to right: Amanda Hayden '04, Jatasha White Harris '03, Bob Balcom '77, and Mary Beth Allen '77.



John Kennedy '78 visited campus and met members of the current baseball team. Pictured from left to right: Ken Recore '10, Cory Burton '09, Pat Negrini '09, John Kennedy and Coach Jeff Puleri.

for its ongoing efforts to reduce fuel consumption and limit its impact on the environment. As part of this, the Department of Energy put together a case study on Braun's, and named the company a Massachusetts "Energy Leader." Braun's Express has invested in an array of technological solutions to reduce the amount of diesel fuel consumed by their trucking fleet. The Department's Braun's Express case study looks at these tools and their implementation by Braun's Express.

**White Harris '03** and **Jo Ann Simonnelli Nelson '80**. The event is being planned for fall 2009. It was the first time Mary Beth and Bob had seen each other since graduation.

**Mike Quigley** is an air export operations manager at Expeditors International of Washington Inc. in Boston. He can be reached at [mike.quigley@expeditors.com](mailto:mike.quigley@expeditors.com).

**Michele Kostka Rugo** represented MCLA and **President Mary K. Grant '83** at the inauguration of President of Santa Clara University, Michael Engh, S.J., in Santa Clara, CA. Michele earned a master's degree at Santa Clara. She and her husband, John Rugo, live on their ranch in Murphys, CA.

## 1977

Mary Beth Allen  
352 Manning Blvd  
Albany, NY 12206-1814  
[mba2x@aol.com](mailto:mba2x@aol.com)

Thanks to **Mary Beth Allen** who represented MCLA and **President Mary K. Grant '83** at the inauguration of President of Empire State College, Alan R. Davis, in March 2009.

Class Agent **Mary Beth Allen** and **Bob Balcom** met with other Albany, NY, alumni to begin to plan for an alumni regional gathering in the area. Among those in attendance were **Amanda Hayden '04**, **Jatasha**

## 1978

Ann Keough Fragomeni  
5 Grant Rd  
Enfield, CT 06082-5707  
[Annknj@aol.com](mailto:Annknj@aol.com)

Douglas Peter Frazier  
35 Weston St  
Carver, MA 02330-1253  
[dugan35@comcast.net](mailto:dugan35@comcast.net)



Alumni on their annual weekend-long golf trip in Cape Cod. Pictured from left to right: Tom Brennan '84, Bob Thomas '85, Jeff Thomas '86, Kevin Kaczynski '85, Rick Page '85 and Brian Barthelmes '85.

**Anna Chinappi** is communications director at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**Janice O'Keefe** and husband, Professor Clark Billings, left North Adams at the end of May after nearly 35 years of residency. Clark, a history professor at the College, was very active in local politics and ran his own television show, *Think About It!* Janice is originally from Rhode Island and was excited to move back with Clark. Good luck to you both; we will miss you!

## 1979

Michael Robert Rooney  
11 Josiah Dr  
Upton, MA 01568-1452

## 1980

Pamela Pellicio Nicolosi  
14 Fox Run Dr  
Haverhill, MA 01832-1054  
pammico1213@aol.com

**Jo Ann Simonelli Nelson** met with other Albany, NY, alumni to begin to plan for an alumni regional gathering in the area. Among those in attendance were **Mary Beth Allen '77**, **Bob Balcom '77**, **Amanda Hayden '04**, and **Jatasha White Harris '03**. The event is being planned for fall 2009. Jo Ann is vice president of client services at Pierce Communications in Albany.

## 1981

Charlene Kilgour Houghton  
35 Revere Cir  
Greenfield, MA 01301-9748

## 1982

Pamela Kenny Connolly  
PO Box 1557  
Westford, MA 01886-4996  
pkbuca@comcast.net

Colette Anderson Lepkowski  
14 Willey St  
Rochester, NH 03867-1025  
colette.lepkowski@gmail.com

**Ruth Asher** has only two more courses to complete before she receives a master's degree. After writing her thesis, she hopes to graduate in May 2009. Congratulations, Ruth!

Did you know that **Steve Ryder** is owner of The True Nut company and of True North Networks? Steve lives in New Hampshire and is quite active in many nonprofit organizations in his community.

## 1983

Ellen L. Kennedy  
485 Oblong Rd  
Williamstown, MA 01267-3099  
ellen.kennedy@roadrunner.com

Class Agent and former MCLA Chief Advancement Officer **Ellen Kennedy** was recently appointed dean of administration and finance at Berkshire Community College. Congratulations Ellen!

**Kathy Rivers Millard** is principal at McCann Technical High School in North Adams.

## 1984

Janice Lee Colter  
318 High St  
Ipswich, MA 01938-1251  
janislei54@yahoo.com

John Killam  
43 Wilson Pond Rd  
Rowley, MA 01969-2336  
jkillam@ghs.com

Kathleen Boudo Killam  
43 Wilson Pond Rd  
Rowley, MA 01969-2336  
KathyKillam@aol.com

Anita Palmeri Overgaard  
10 Windmill Rd  
Ellington, CT 06029-2120  
Anitaover@aol.com

Jeffrey Williams  
19 Shaw Rd  
Bridgewater, MA 02324-2614  
willfam@gis.net

Laura Ebener Williams  
19 Shaw Rd  
Bridgewater, MA 02324-2614  
willfam@gis.net

**Barbara J. Nauman** has been promoted to senior director of consumer marketing at *The Providence Journal*. She will also continue to oversee the company's promotion department. Congratulations, Barbara!

## 1985

Edward Ready  
6 Browning Dr  
Dover, NH 03820-4103  
Td\_Ready@yahoo.com

**Christine Croteau** has been selected as the deputy network director for VISN 1 at New England VA Healthcare Systems. She began her new duties on November 9, 2008. Prior to this appointment, Christine served as the assistant director for VA Boston Healthcare System.

**Kathleen Goff** works for the registrar at Amherst College. You can reach her at [kgoff@amherst.edu](mailto:kgoff@amherst.edu).

**Barbara Isler Herzog** represented MCLA and **President Mary K. Grant '83** at the inauguration of Dr. Dennis Hollinger as President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, MA. Barb was joined for the events by her husband, Dr. John A. Herzog. Thanks, Barb.

**Kenneth Michaels** has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Hachette Book Group in New York City. Ken joins the Hachette Book Group after serving as senior vice president of Global Process Management. He currently lives Robbinsville, NJ, with his wife and three children.

## 1986

Monica Murphy Coakley  
7 Burns Ln  
Charlton, MA 01507-1463  
emmyjack3@charter.net

Debra Iannaccone Julin  
135 Raleigh Tavern Ln  
North Andover, MA 01845-5627  
(978) 258-0921

Jennifer Sydow Whalley  
57 Page Rd  
Bow, NH 03304-4504  
jjwhalley@comcast.net

We are happy to announce the marriage of **Kay G. Bruffee** to Paul J. Herbert. Paul is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Provide Comfort, Iraq and Operation Restore Hope,



Somalia. He is now a police officer for the town of Whately, MA. Kay is a registered nurse at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. The couple's children served as best man, maid of honor, bridesmaid and groomsman.

**Gerry Leon** volunteers his time for the Ashland Youth Baseball & Softball League. Gerry is founder of Metrowest Sports Web, which provides web design and maintenance for small organizations.

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## 1987

Jean Harnden Burt  
143 Exeter Rd  
Newmarket, NH 03857-2033

**Dana Biscotti Myskowski** is an award-winning screenwriter, stay-at-home mom, freelance writer, adjunct professor at University of New Hampshire, home school mentor, and volunteer. She is celebrating: her short play was selected for the Boston Theatre Marathon, May 17! Congratulations, Dana!

Gallagher, Callahan, & Gartrell P.C. of Manchester, NH, is pleased to announce that attorney **Jan Myskowski** has joined the firm as a shareholder-director. Jan will head the Trusts and Estates Practice Group. He has more than 15 years experience in trust and estate law assisting high net worth individuals, as well as elderly and disabled clients, in the areas of wealth preservation and transfer, gift and estate tax planning, special needs trust planning, and planning for public benefits such as Medicaid. Send congratulations to Jan at [myskowski@gcglaw.com](mailto:myskowski@gcglaw.com).

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## 1988

Paula Randazza  
420 South Main St  
Nashua, NH 03060-5043  
[prandazza@rivier.edu](mailto:prandazza@rivier.edu)

**Peter A. Lounsbury** is a financial consultant at Oxford Financial Services. You can visit the website at [www.lol.com/oxfordfinancial](http://www.lol.com/oxfordfinancial).

EPOCH Assisted Living in Mel-bourne, MA, has promoted **Amy McNally** to marketing director. Amy has worked at EPOCH for more than three years.

**Linda Woodard** has recently been appointed manager of custom fabrics and draperies at Debsan, My Decorat-

ing Store in Natick, MA. Debsan is a family owned and operated store that has been in business for the last 60 years. Congratulations, Linda!

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## 1989

**Wayne Soares** is president of Jess Productions and works in the entertainment industry. He recently completed his second children's book, *Are You a Good Sport?* ([www.summerlandpublishing.com](http://www.summerlandpublishing.com)), and finished developing two new television shows, *It's All about Kids* and *Summer Boat Safari*. Wayne will be working on a movie called *The Funny Thing about Life* with two-time Emmy Award winner Jeff Cesario in June. Wayne continues to deliver a variety of public speaking presentations and appearances at the high school, collegiate and corporate levels. He also devotes charitable time to three organizations: the Massachusetts and Maine Special Olympics, the Jimmy Fund and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

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## 1990

Maureen O'Donnell Johnson  
71 Buck Knoll Rd  
Raynham, MA 02767-5325  
[FOURINRAYNHAM@aol.com](mailto:FOURINRAYNHAM@aol.com)

Sahag R. Johnson  
71 Buck Knoll Rd  
Raynham, MA 02767-5325  
[srjohnson@statestreet.com](mailto:srjohnson@statestreet.com)

**Rachel Kagno** has received the CAREFirst Award from Newton-Wellesley Hospital. The award is given to recipients nominated by their peers for compassion, attitude, responsibility and excellence. Rachel has been with the hospital for 12 years. Congratulations, Rachel!

**Michelle Kirby** sent a note to the Alumni Office: "2008 has been a great year at BSI (Black Sheep Inn) in Ecuador. This past spring **Beth Gifford Vercellone**, **Kristin Chadwick**, **Maria Chambers '91**, and **Ellen Slingsby '91** came down to visit! We had a lot of fun! I also wanted to let you know that *National Geographic Adventure Magazine* listed Black Sheep Inn as one of the world's top 50 ecolodges in its November issue. We were very excited! Andy and I were in the States in September, but this time went to visit friends and family on the West Coast, in Seattle and Portland. All the best from the Andes." Contact Michelle and the Inn at [blacksheepinn@yahoo.com](mailto:blacksheepinn@yahoo.com).

# CAMPUS UPDATE



## Obama Campaign Manager Delivers Public Policy Lecture

David Plouffe, campaign manager of Obama for America, delivered the public policy lecture, "Building a Grassroots Movement in the 21st Century," on April 29.

The lecture was funded by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. The Trust has graciously agreed to continue this funding through the establishment of a Public Policy Series, making Public Policy Forums an ongoing part of the College's long-term speaker offerings, and a complement to MCLA's new major in political science and public policy. A lecture by renowned journalist Bob Woodward marked the creation of the new major last fall. John DeRosa, administrator of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust, said "the [Woodward and Plouffe] lectures have the shared purpose of connecting students to the world and to broader thinking through the exchange and debate of ideas."

The Obama campaign built a grassroots movement of 13 million people that is now reshaping itself as a key voice in public policy initiatives. After winning the election, President Barack Obama called Plouffe "the unsung hero" who developed the best political campaign in American history.

In addition to the lecture, Plouffe participated in a student question and answer session. At both events he discussed his approach to grassroots strategy development, tactical implementation and the use of technology to connect a diverse group of people and motivate them to volunteer with a sense of purpose and passion.

The Alumni Office recently heard from **Peter Lachance**, currently living in Kent, WA. Peter is the account executive at Daptiv, Inc. (formerly known as eProject Inc.). It's good to hear from you, Peter!

**Mike Rose** was awarded the Deborah Baker Professional of the Year Award in recognition of his success in public relations and crisis management during the past year. Mike is vice president of Nuffer, Smith Tucker Inc. and was presented with the award at the recent Edward L. Bernays Mark of Excellence Awards. Congratulations, Mike!

---

## 1992

*Dawn Fraser Wanner*  
325 Green Lane 3rd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19128  
ItIsDawn@aol.com

**Paul Babeu** was recently elected sheriff in Pinal County, AZ, a town of 300,000 residents. He also serves as a major in the military. Paul's brother, **Shaun Babeu '99**, has also relocated to Arizona where he is working in the criminal justice system. Best of luck!

**Brenda Leeman Hendricksen** joined the Air National Guard after she graduated from the College. She moved to California and became an aviator and traveled the world. Brenda now works in public relations for the National Guard. Her unit is the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing, located at March Air Reserve Base in Moreno Valley, CA. Brenda wrote: "We fly the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle. I work full time for them and my title is Wing Executive Officer, and my rank is major. I miss the East Coast."

**Derek Maddalena** has a new position at Warner Home Video in California. He is now vice president of sales and retail marketing. Send Derek congratulations at derek.t.maddalena@warnerbros.com.

**Patricia Babbitt Minton** became a stay-at-home mom in 2007 and has since faced her toughest challenge yet. Patricia and husband Larry have two children: Jessica (age three) and Kaitlyn (15 months).

Congratulations to **Craig Nickerson**, an attorney with Shaevel & Krems on Tremont Street in Boston, who was named a Massachusetts Rising Star 2008 by *Super Lawyers* magazine. Craig's areas of practice are employment and labor, real estate and general litigation. He is a graduate of California Western School of Law.



2009 Pinwheel: The Colonials skating at Eastern's—Laura-Jean Hickey '99 is on the far left at the end of the pinwheel.

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## 1993

**Catherine Doherty** has been appointed assistant executive officer at the Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Berkshire County. Congratulations, Catherine!

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## 1994

*Rosemary O'Sullivan*  
54 Tiltonson Road Apt 2  
Needham, MA 02494  
rosullivan@hotmail.com

*Christine Robare*  
315 Main Rd  
Stamford, VT 05352-9726  
christine.a.robare@williams.edu

**Kelly Brown Donovan** and husband John have two wonderful children. Kelly is currently a personal trainer and boxing instructor. She enjoys her home on Cape Cod and enjoys such activities as running, exercising and making her own work schedule so she can be home with the kids more often. She and John also sing in a band. Kelly poses the question, "What more can you ask for?"

**Karen M. Jarrell** is still employed at the University of Texas at Dallas as the university registrar, but has recently been promoted to assistant vice president of student financial aid and academic records. She is also a clinical assistant professor of public affairs. She is still involved in publishing and plans to have a "Dallas" chapter in a book on city governance patterns published in the next year.

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## 1995

**Eric Brown** is a second-grade teacher at Cheshire Elementary School in Adams, MA. Eric is married to **Nicole Grabicki Brown '96**.



Girls Night Out! Alumni Stacy Dibbern Moresi '99, Sarah Fitton Gorgone '99, Amy Lambert '98 and Kristen Harkin '98 enjoy a night on the town.

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## 1996

*Mara Woolley*  
8 Melrose St  
Adams, MA 01220-1625  
woolleym@acrsd.net

Congratulations to **Henry (Jay) Bailly** who is now dealer floorplan administrator of financing for automobile agencies at Berkshire Bank in Pittsfield.

**Hank Derby** is married, and he and his wife Lisa have a baby boy, Henry. Hank is still living in warm and sunny Florida.

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## 1997

*Colleen Bulman Dunn*  
7 Edith Ave  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-3032

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## 1998

*Michael Kilfeather*  
15 Kingsley Ave  
Northampton, MA 01060-3902  
montjoy94@earthlink.net

**Chris Long** and Sarah Dowd were married on November 29, 2008, in Holyoke. Sarah is a conference coord-

inator for UMass Amherst. Chris is a production manager for Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson in Hadley, MA. Congratulations to you both!

---

## 1999

*Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey*  
66 Spruce St  
Acton, MA 01720-2434  
ljgriff7@yahoo.com

*Beth Howard Sombrowsky*  
115 Gotham Hill Drive  
Marshfield, MA 02050  
howardbeth5@aol.com

Recently we heard from **Shaun Babeu**: "Hello, I moved out to Arizona a little over six years ago. I have two beautiful kids. Savannah is four, and Matthew is two. My wife Brandy and I live in Queen Creek and we both work for the Department of Corrections." You can email Shaun at sbabeu@hotmail.com.

We are pleased to announce the engagement of **Ryan Edgett** and Joan Perry. Ryan is employed at Prometheus Labs as a technical sales specialist. The future bride is employed at Brigham & Women's Hospital as an editor in the division of cardiovascular medicine. A 2009 wedding is planned at Lake Pearl Luciano's in Wrentham, MA. Congratulations to both of you!



**Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey** resides in Acton, MA with husband, Attorney **William Hickey '00**, and their 4-year old son Vincent. Laura-Jean has worked for the IUOE Local 4 Benefit Funds since 2002 after earning a master's degree at Suffolk University. For the past year she has taken on a second position within the labor union world at the Massachusetts Coalition of Taft-Hartley Trust Funds, Inc. The Coalition strives to ensure the availability of innovative, quality health care to over 150,000 lives in MA, as well as high quality benefits in the areas of defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Then comes Friday night...when Laura-Jean can be found on the ice at the Nashoba Valley Olympia skating with The Colonials Adult Open Synchronized Skating team. The team recently traveled to New Jersey for the 2009 Eastern Synchronized Skating Championships and placed 7 out of 12 teams. Visit Laura-Jean on Facebook or email her at: [ljgriff7@yahoo.com](mailto:ljgriff7@yahoo.com).

The office received a call from **Holly Baptiste Jackson**. Holly and her husband, William, live in Vineyard Haven and have one daughter, Mckensi (age 2.) Holly is expecting another baby this spring. You can contact her at [hjmj9601@hotmail.com](mailto:hjmj9601@hotmail.com). She is interested in coming back to the College in October for her 10th reunion.

**Mike Ward** is a Pittsfield city councilor.

## 2000

*Kelly Taylor Kanelos*  
5 Barber Ter  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
[Teachthird@hotmail.com](mailto:Teachthird@hotmail.com)

*Jennifer MacMillin*  
184 W Main St Apt A3  
Ayer, MA 01432-1234  
[jenniemail9@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniemail9@hotmail.com)

*Abbey Scott*  
90 Alpine St  
Arlington, MA 02474-2651  
[ascott717@yahoo.com](mailto:ascott717@yahoo.com)

**Jaime Arsenault** and **Oscar Lanza-Galindo '01** were married in 2002. Both completed master's programs in intercultural service, leadership and management at the School for International Training. Oscar was a 2005 and 2006 Schepp Fellow and the 2008/2009 recipient of the Miriam L. Hornback Scholarship. Jaime is

a former Roothbert Fellow, and has worked to return human remains and sacred items to Native nations.

**Brian Astorino** has been appointed as LPL financial advisor at the Greyllock Investment Group.

**Jocelyne Hescocock** is the preference card coordinator at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, MA. You can reach Jocelyne at [jhescocock@bhs1.org](mailto:jhescocock@bhs1.org).

We recently heard from **Jennifer McCue-Ciempa**: "Since last updated there has not been much change. I will be returning to school in January 2010 to finish my nursing degree, and in March 2010 my husband will be graduating from ITT Tech with three majors (computer networking, multimedia and web design). After I graduate we are thinking of selling our home in North Adams and moving to New York, the Washington DC area, or Virginia. Until then we are very happy living in North Adams, working in the community for nonprofit organizations, and we look forward to the future." Good luck, Jenn.

**Abbey Scott** ran in the Boston Marathon: As I sit here typing, another marathon is in the books. I did not quite reach my goal of finishing in under four hours but I was darn close at four hours and 33 seconds. Although I had a time in mind, finishing the 26 mile course is really what's important. Congratulations Abbey!

We are happy to announce the engagement of **Michael Vella** to Jessica Brown. Michael is self-employed and earned a bachelor's degree at the College. The bride is a hairstylist at Salon Experience in Dalton, MA. Congratulations to both of you!

**Cari LaPierre White** enjoys teaching high school biology and chemistry. She and her husband **Greg White** are also successful athletic trainers at Clark University. Their daughter Cecelia is two years old and lots of fun! Cari, Greg and Cecelia are awaiting a new arrival to the family, expected May 2009. Congratulations!

# CAMPUS UPDATE

## Albany Times Union Editor Shares Experience with Students

This spring, MCLA welcomed Rex Smith, editor and vice president of the *Albany Times Union*, as the 2009 Hardman Journalist-in-Residence. Smith participated in three events as part of the residency.

On March 4, Smith delivered the lecture, "Ethical Foundations of Journalism." He told



students that the "commandments" of journalism are to seek the truth and report it fully, to act independently, to minimize the harm a story could have on a subject or source and to honor the transparency of sources. On April 14, Smith delivered a second lecture and workshop on community journalism, and on April 23, journalism students visited the *Times Union* newsroom in Albany and toured the newspaper's facilities. They also participated in an editorial board meeting.

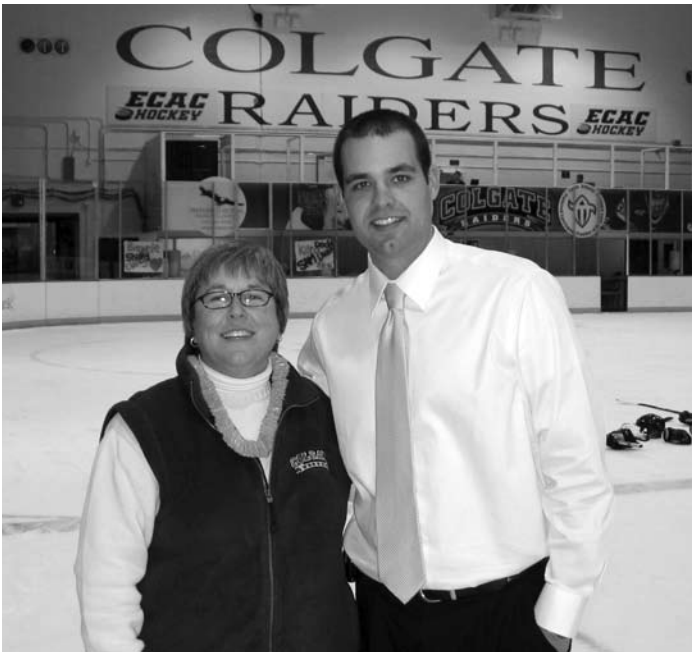
The Hardman Journalist-in-Residence is supported through the generosity of the Hardman Family Endowment. The Endowment's programs bring leading journalists of our time to campus each year to meet with students for in-depth discussions. Last fall, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks presented a personal look at presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama.

## Jessica Park on the Road: Students Create Traveling Art Exhibition

*The Art and Life of Jessica Park*, an exhibit curated by MCLA art students, traveled to Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, in March. Endicott College's School of Visual and Performing Arts offers a pre-professional program in Creative Arts Therapy.

The exhibit features paintings, drawings and early creations by Park, a Williamstown artist who has autism. Park received an honorary degree from MCLA in 2003. The exhibit details the remarkable circumstances under which her art was created and interprets the artist's work through her long journey out of the isolation of autism.

Professor Anthony Gengarelly, Ph.D., who along with students collaborated on the 96-page book *Exploring Nirvana: The Art of Jessica Park*, published by MCLA in 2008, presented a lecture and held a book signing at Endicott as part of the exhibit.



Beverly Low '83 and Shaun Richard '03 wearing "pink at the rink" after the final women's ice hockey game of the season at Colgate University.

## 2001

Melissa Dalessio  
4405 Gallatree Ln  
Raleigh, NC 27616-0733  
Lumablue2@hotmail.com

Amanda DiCesare  
8515 Panglemont Dr  
Charlotte, NC 28269-2300  
manda3279@hotmail.com

Kristin Lamontagne  
65 Strathmore Rd Apt 7  
Boston, MA 02135-7740

Sarah Shinkwin  
33 Mohegan Ave  
Springfield, MA 01151-1822  
sshinkwin@comcast.net

Gail York Crowell is now the program coordinator at the Animal Welfare Center in Kennebunk, ME. Gail received a degree in English/communications from the College. She lives in Kennebunk with her family and two dogs.

Lisa Denault-Viale and Thomas Viale Jr. proudly announce their marriage in October 2007. Lisa earned a juris doctor degree from Western New England College School of Law. She is currently a probation officer in Northern Berkshire District Court. Thomas attended the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston and is currently a pharmacist at Rite Aid pharmacy in Adams. Best of luck in the future!

Robin Falkowski Mountz and husband Harry married on November 17, 2008. The newlyweds announce the birth of their son, Landon Slade, born September 19 of the same year. Landon joins older sister Ashlynn, now 18 months old. The Mountzes are proud to report all are happy and healthy.

Joseph Owumi Jr. is a financial consultant with MedAssets Net Revenue Systems. He graduated in 2005 with an MBA from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY.

After a few years of diligent work as trust officer and quality assurance manager, **Janice May Ward** has been appointed vice president and trust officer of Greenfield Savings Bank. Janice graduated summa cum laude from the College and holds a law degree from Western New England College School of Law. Congratulations on your success, Janice!

## 2002

Rachel S. Bancroft  
18 Woodside Ter  
Lynn, MA 01905-1239  
rasuba702@yahoo.com

Autumn May  
34 Whittesley Avenue  
North Adams, MA 01247



An alumni brunch in Boston. Clockwise from the left are Julianne Bernstein '06, Patty Gillis '06, Allison Cook '05, Lora Samagaio '04, Erin Fielding Buffuto '05 and Crystal Spath Parenteau '04.



Baby, it's cold outside! Jennifer Beaton '05 and Maura Mills '05 ring in the New Year in Northern Vermont.

Diane M. Thompson  
77 South St  
Plainville, MA 02762-2613  
diane\_m\_thompson@hotmail.com

**Michelle Hayes** and Timothy Baity were married. The ceremony took place on April 19, 2008, in Pittsfield. Michelle is a human resources specialist at Berkshire County ARC in Pittsfield, while Tim is a contractor and the owner of T. Baity General Contractors Inc. and Riverbend Millwork. Congratulations to you both!

We are happy to hear that **Vanessa White** and Michael Sullivan have married. The couple walked down the aisle at The Garden at Bedford Village Inn in New Hampshire. Vanessa earned graduate degrees from the College and UMass Boston. Congratulations!

## 2003

Christina Barrett  
32 Temple St  
Adams, MA 01220-2105  
cbarrett81@hotmail.com

William David Halbert  
247 Everett St # 3  
East Boston, MA 02128-2270  
greenscout@aol.com

Lauren Mauriello  
807 East Broadway Unit 3  
South Boston, MA 02127  
mauriello@maarea.us

Peter-Greg Sison  
263 Forest St  
North Andover, MA 01845-3207  
pgsison@hotmail.com



We are happy to announce the engagement of **Sarah Gagnon** to Eric Witowski. Sarah is currently working on a master of science in reading and mathematics. She is currently a second grade teacher at Memorial School in West Springfield, MA. Eric is employed as an IT project manager at United Health Group in Hartford. The couple is planning a late summer wedding.

**Jatasha White Harris** met with other Albany, NY, alumni to begin to plan for an alumni regional gathering in the area. Among those in attendance were **Mary Beth Allen '77**, **Bob Balcom '77**, **Amanda Hayden '04** and **Jo Ann Simonelli Nelson '80**. The event is being planned for fall 2009.

**Zachary Martin** is living in Poughkeepsie with his two children Corey (age 2) and Layla-Sierra (age 3). He is happy to be a single father and enjoys his career as a fully tenured crisis intervention C.S.W.

North Adams' own **Shaun Richard**, a star performer for the Trailblazers and two-time all-conference performer for the College's baseball team, is now an assistant athletic director at Colgate University.

## 2004

Robert Black  
1911 Avalon Dr  
Hull, MA 02045-3433  
emc016@hotmail.com

Lynn Brennan  
5024 State Road  
Canisteo, NY 14823  
LynnBrennan@eveningtribune.com

Amanda Hayden  
8 Woodlake Rd Apt 1  
Albany, NY 12203-3964  
amanda\_bunny@yahoo.com

Holly Grant Herring  
21 Village Rock Ln Apt 4  
Natick, MA 01760-5714  
hillygrant@yahoo.com

Jacob McKim  
1350 W Van Buren St Apt 2033A  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2589

Jessica Skinner  
4000 Jefferson St  
Austin, TX 78731-6109  
jskinner1982@gmail.com

Class Agent **Lynn Brennan** has won awards for news photography and feature photography from the New York Newspaper Publishers Association. Lynn works for the *Evening Tribune* in Hornell, NY. Congratulations, Lynn!

**Trish Farco** was the keynote speaker for the Undergraduate Research Conference at MCLA. Trisha majored in english/communications, with concentrations in literature and creative writing. She had the distinction of being the first MCLA Commonwealth honors scholar. She received a Master of Arts in English from The College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY, in 2006. Trisha is currently an adjunct faculty member in the English Department at Saint Rose.

Class Agent **Amanda Hayden** met with other Albany, NY, alumni to begin to plan for an alumni regional gathering in the area. Among those in attendance were **Mary Beth Allen '77**, **Bob Balcom '77**, **Jatasha White Harris '03** and **Jo Ann Simonelli Nelson '80**. The event is being planned for fall 2009.

**Scott Patenaud** attended the wedding of **Michelle Tucker '07** and Ben Tyer. Also present at the ceremonies were alumni **Chris Bailey '05**, **Melissa Ortendahl '05** and **Danielle Tyer '07**.

## 2005

Erin Fielding Baffuto  
64 Sophia Drive  
Worcester, MA 01607-1815  
meep02@gmail.com

Nicole Losavio  
68 Sayles St  
Southbridge, MA 01550-1710  
nblosa@wm.edu

**Melissa Ortendahl** and **Chris Bailey** attended the wedding of **Michelle Tucker '07** and Ben Tyer. Also present at the ceremonies were alumni **Scott Patenaud '04** and **Danielle Tyer '07**.

# CAMPUS UPDATE



Cassandra Pierre '09, Raul Escobar '09 and Danielle Durand '09 at the Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement at Bridgewater State College.

## MCLA Students Receive Top Honors

In April, the Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement (HOBA) at Bridgewater State College honored three MCLA students as Massachusetts State College Student Achievers.

Danielle Durand '09, Raul Escobar '09 and Cassandra Pierre '09 received the awards at HOBA's 21st anniversary heritage celebration. The Student Achiever Award is given to a few students of African descent (including African-American, Caribbean, Latino, and Cape Verdean heritage) each year from each of the nine state colleges in Massachusetts. The award honors students who have demonstrated academic achievement, strong leadership skills and good citizenship both on campus and in the greater community.

Danielle Durand majored in English/communications with a concentration in film. On the dean's list every semester, she was a member of the honors program and the Lambda Iota Tau International Honor Society for Students of Literature. She received an award for excellence in experimental filmmaking and was a student ambassador in the Admissions Office.

Raul Escobar was a business major with a concentration in accounting. A strong student leader, he has been named to the dean's list, received multiple ALANA (African, Latino, Asian, Native American) academic excellence awards and represented MCLA at a congressional breakfast for higher education financing. He was captain of the men's soccer team for two years.

Cassandra Pierre majored in English/communications. She earned the Margaret Hart Scholarship, received many ALANA academic excellence awards, and was named to the dean's list. Cassandra was a writer for the College newspaper, *The Beacon*, and has held multiple positions within the Student Government Association.

## 2006

Danielle Barboza  
18 Newport Terrace Apt 1  
Wollaston, MA 02170  
dbarboza@mcla.edu

Jennifer L. Bell  
290 North Oak Street Apt P  
Orange, CA 92865  
jennib01@hotmail.com

Amanda Boudreault  
12148 Jollyville Rd Apt 1006  
Austin, TX 78759-2240

Kristen Hurley  
21 Mountain View Cir  
Southampton, MA 01073-9490  
kh0187@mcla.edu

Anne E. Kirkpatrick  
70 Meadow St Apt 1  
North Adams, MA 01247  
ak0266@mcla.edu

**Andrew Bemis** has begun his first feature-length production: an independent film entitled *Black Light*. The film's main set will be the Routes 5 and 10 corridor in Deerfield and Whately, MA. Andrew serves as writer, director and producer for the film. You can track the film's progress at [Blacklight-movie.blogspot.com](http://Blacklight-movie.blogspot.com).

**Michael Douglas** is currently the head of the life sciences department and AP biology coordinator at the Bronx Preparatory Charter School, where he has been teaching for the past three years. Mike plans to complete a master's degree in secondary education from Mercy College. Mike and wife Julie anxiously await the arrival of daughter Emma, due April 7. Keep us up to date, Mike!

**Anne Kirkpatrick** wrote the Alumni Office to say, "I resigned from my position with the College Advising Corps to accept a position working for Senator Ben Downing as his district aide in his Pittsfield office. It was hard saying good-bye to my Admissions family as well as my students from Drury. Not only is the Senator a great public figure to work for, but he has surrounded himself with an amazing staff that has been delightful to work with."

**Erin Leith** is now engaged to Nicholas Lenski of Adams.

**Jillian Lorenz** and **Michael Giovine** announced their engagement. Both were on soccer teams at the College. Michael is a sales manager for Builder's Network Inc. in Pittsfield, and Jillian is a program advisor for Canyon



Attendees of the 2009 annual Biology Club-sponsored Biology and Sports Medicine Alumni/Student Softball Game showing their athletic skills and MCLA pride. This was a great opportunity to bring alumni and current students together over some recreational competition. For the first time in recent years, the alumni team won! Photo by Coady Ward.



The 2009 Leadership Conference had a number of alumni return to campus to serve as session presenters. From left to right: Nicole Losavio '05, Dave Ortendahl '05, Sam Cesario '07, Ryan Bissonnette '08, President Mary K. Grant, Theresa Radley '06, Amanda Yozzo '05, Dan Summers '07, and Christy Vlach '08.



Alumni Andrew Burton '05, Linda Sou '05, Brian Nocerino '05, Nicholas Hess '06, Tony Dedrick Jr. '06, Ben Schaeffer '06, Latoya Jones-Tuggle '06 with her husband Justin Tuggle (attended MCLA 2004-2005), and Kristen Hurley '06 all got together to celebrate Tony Dedrick's birthday!



Ranch Resort in Lenox. The couple is planning a September 12, 2009 wedding in Northampton.

**April Lee Pavin** is now Mrs. April L. Pavin Mazzeo! She and husband Matthew were married in Pittsfield on August 23, 2008. April is a teacher at St. Mark's School in Pittsfield and Matthew is a firefighter for the city of Pittsfield. Congratulations to you both!

**Maggie Noel** is enjoying her job as box office manager for the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Her duty is primarily to oversee the sale of tickets at the box office, but her job requires her to wear many different hats to perform all of her managerial duties. Originally from Wynantskill, she currently lives in Watervliet, NY.

**Jonathan Powers** recently joined the public accounting firm of Snow, Eicher, Farrar & Co. Jonathan worked previously as a tax accountant and auditor for Stulmaker, Kohn & Richardson CPAs in Albany. He lives in Queensbury, NY with his wife and two daughters.

**Anna Stein** is a recruitment consultant at Michael Page Company in New York City.

*Sarah H. Flint*  
20 Robinson St  
Plymouth, MA 02360-3428  
gabby88057@aol.com

*Brandon Pender*  
7 Price Rd Apt 1  
Allston, MA 02134  
bp0714@mcla.edu

**Ben Lamb** sent the Alumni Office this update, "Immediately after graduation, I moved to Belize for three months to volunteer as an intern at Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. From there I moved to Fredericksburg, VA, where I worked at a national military park as a restoration intern and a wildland firefighter. From Virginia I moved back to New York where I worked five months as a research chemist for a chemical intermediate company, working with circuit board laminates and Bisphenol F (a replacement for Bisphenol A - BPA). From June to September this summer, I volunteered as a field researcher for the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, stationed at a remote, float-plane-access-only lake in Alaska, where I did salmon population research." In September he will be heading to The College of St. Rose where he will pursue a master's in higher education administration.

**Chris Mailman** and **Christine Robichaud** returned to campus in spring 2008 to discuss how the College has helped them in their early success. Chris Mailman is the director of news for Channel 22 while Christine is an engineer for Avid Technologies. Congratulations to both of you!

## 2007

*Sarah K. Carroll*  
14 Kluge St  
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-2010  
sweetertanrain@yahoo.com

## We Enjoy Receiving Photo Submissions

If you would like to submit a photo digitally, please be sure that your photo is high resolution: 300 DPI when sized to about 3 inches wide. If you set your camera to the highest or best quality setting, this will produce a high resolution image. Lower resolution photographs may look sharp on your computer screen, but will not work in the magazine. Please save the photo as a JPG file and be sure your name is included in the file name before you email it to us at [alumni@mcla.edu](mailto:alumni@mcla.edu).

Please include a caption with your photo and identify the people, place and occasion of your photo.

# CAMPUS UPDATE

## Watch out Spielberg, here Comes Cody Romano!

MCLA Freshman Cody Romano's film *Dawn* received an "Indie Soul Special Recognition Award" at the Boston International Film Festival in April.

*Dawn*, a seven-minute film built around three sonnets by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, was one of 100 films selected for the festival from over 2,500 submissions. A friend who shared his interest in Chile introduced Romano to Neruda's poetry. "I immediately fell in love with his work," Romano said. "I wanted to create something that would allow people to visualize his work and think about it in new ways."

Romano enlisted the help of two friends to portray the main characters in his film, which was shot in and around Boston last summer. The budding filmmaker had help from Cambridge Community Television, where he worked last summer, and the Center for Digital Imaging Arts at Boston University.

"The film cost \$300 to make and we were filming on a \$3 million soundstage," Romano said. Romano used equipment borrowed from his mother, who is also a filmmaker.

Romano said he was "honored and surprised" to learn his film was accepted at the festival, which also included independent films starring Kate Beckinsale, Matt Dillon, Angela Bassett and Ethan Hawke.

Romano's debut at MCLA came last spring, when the Admissions Office received his application along with a five-minute video. "I was never a good student in high school, and I felt my grade point average didn't fully reflect who I am," he said. Romano has since filmed videos for the Admissions Office, which can be seen on the MCLA Web site [www.mcla.edu/admissions/information](http://www.mcla.edu/admissions/information).



We are happy to announce the marriage of **Michelle Tucker** and Ben Tyer. The couple was wed in July 2008. Michelle is a program supervisor for a nonprofit social services agency in Berkshire County, and Ben is a deputy sheriff in Berkshire County. Among the attendees were alumni **Melissa Ortendahl '05**, **Danielle Tyer**, **Chris Bailey '05** and **Scott Patenaud '04**. Good luck to you both!

## 2008

**Juana "Maria" Arias** extends her thanks to the MCLA staff and faculty for providing her with an excellent education and training, allowing her to land a job she loves—working with elders and keeping them safe at home and within their communities.

**Angela Atchue** is working at UMass Boston.

**Ryan Biros** is the new webmaster of the Adams, MA, website. Having started the project when he was still earning a bachelor's degree at the

College, Ryan transformed the old neglected site into a sophisticated technological center for information about the town. Features include the ability to pay city bills online and even take a virtual tour of the town hall. Well done, Ryan!

Recent graduate **Sean McHugh** has landed himself the title role of Macbeth for the Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies at UMass Amherst and the Renaissance Center Theater Company's presentation of the play this October. Congratulations, Sean!

**Vivian Reed** was approached by actor and videographer Michael Hitchcock to be an extra in **Andrew Bemis's '06** independent film *Black Light*. For more information on *Black Light* send an email to [blacklight.movie@gmail.com](mailto:blacklight.movie@gmail.com).

**Chris Lepotakis** has been named a field service technician at Compu Works, a computer solutions provider based in Pittsfield, MA. Congratulations!

# IN MEMORIAM

Norman Boyer '53, February 3, 2009

Anne Coyne, March 10, 2009

Vicki K. Maxfield Forfa '87, December 6, 2008

Gil French '63, March 5, 2009

Susan Getchell '63, February 25, 2009

Robert Lohnes '67, December 22, 2008

Susan L. McCarthy Marrina '83, February 23, 2009

June A. Shogry McCloskey '63, April 20, 2009

Ruth Meaney, January 27, 2009

Thomas Rauseau, March 15, 2009

Eleanor Shea, February 18, 2009

Dorene N. Gamba Skilton '62, January 30, 2009

Joan Tovani '54, December 28, 2008

Don Westall '69, June 10, 2009



Above: Barbara Bashevkin, Jane Brooks Allen '61, President Mary K. Grant, Robert Bashevkin.

Right: Alumni Board member Laura-Jean Griffen Hickey '99 with Jennifer Smith Huberdeau '00.



Above: Alumni Board Emerita Alma Benedetti '37, former Alumni Board member Dorothy Giusti Ransford '64, and Rita Karhan '89, M.Ed. '99.



**The Advancement House, Home of the Alumni Office,** celebrated its move this past December with an open house in April. Many friends gathered to visit our new location on 228 East Main Street in North Adams.

To update your information or share a class note, click on Update Your Information at [www.mcla.edu/Alumni/](http://www.mcla.edu/Alumni/) or call (413) 662-5224 or (888) 677-MCLA.



## Back to the Classroom and Now Giving Back

**A**ndrew H. Mick '09, president of New England Newspapers, Inc., knows what it's like to finally complete a long-held goal. At age 60, after 39 years away from the classroom, Mick returned to school to finish his bachelor's degree at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

This spring, Mick donned gown and mortarboard and stepped up to receive his degree along with more than 300 other graduates.

After three years of taking classes and juggling personal and professional responsibilities, Mick completed his degree as a non-traditional student in interdisciplinary studies. The experience was so transformative that he decided to establish a scholarship fund to help other students who don't fit the mold to return to college and pursue degrees.

Mick learned that non-traditional students opt out of returning to school for a variety of reasons including family and job commitments, fear of failure, worries about being the odd person out in a classroom of young people, and lack of money.

"I thought if we could create a fund to give a little scholarship to at least get people started, that would help," Mick said. Mick and his wife donated the first \$1,000 to the scholarship and solicited donations from friends and business associates to help the fund grow. Mick hopes to raise \$25,000. To date over \$10,000 has been donated.

Non-traditional students who are returning to school can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship.

"It's just to get people out of the gate," Mick said.

Mick understands well what it means to drop out of school. In 1970, circumstances forced him to leave school and get a full-time job. Mick was fortunate in that he was able to continue moving ahead professionally without a bachelor's degree, rising to the position of president and publisher of a newspaper chain. Mick said that the path he took is not an option in today's business world, where a four-year college degree, at minimum, is mandatory for success in most white-collar occupations.

He thinks it's even more critical for non-traditional students to go back to school in today's trying economic times.

"An awful lot of people today are stuck in jobs that are going nowhere or they have been laid off," he said. "Adult workers must continue to keep their skills up to date and get back into institutions of higher learning to finish their degrees or to develop new skills."

Mick returned to college himself at the urging of MCLA President Mary K. Grant. Grant had asked Mick to serve as chairman of the executive committee for the Berkshire Compact for Higher Education, an initiative focused on higher education in Berkshire County. The goal of The Compact is to provide opportunities for every Berkshire resident to achieve a minimum of 16 years of education. When Mick confided that he had left school after earning an associate's degree, Grant invited him to complete his studies at MCLA.

"It felt great," Mick said. "For me, it was strictly an adventure in personal accomplishment, not something that would land me a better job or a pay increase. At the age of 60, I felt like I accomplished one of those things on my bucket list. I've been reasonably successful and this was just something I wanted to give back. I wanted to help break down some of those barriers that keep people from going back to school."



*For more information  
about the non-traditional  
scholarship fund, contact  
Nina Garlington at  
Nina.Garlington@mcla.  
edu or (413) 662-5220 or  
to make a gift online go to  
[www.mcla.edu/giving](http://www.mcla.edu/giving).*

# SAVE THE DATE

## Upcoming Campus Events

*For more information,  
please contact  
the Alumni Office at  
(888) 677-6252 (toll free)  
or (413) 662-MCLA;  
email: [alumni@mcla.edu](mailto:alumni@mcla.edu)*

September 21  
September 24  
September 30  
October 15  
October 20  
October 22  
October 23 - 25  
October 24  
  
October 28  
November 5  
November 13  
  
December 6

**MCLA Golf Classic**  
**MCLA Presents!** Kinodance Company  
**MCLA Presents!** Watcha Clan  
**Hardman Lecture:** Charlayne Hunter-Gault  
**MCLA Foundation Annual Meeting**  
**Vadnais Lecture:** Frank O'Brien-Bernini  
**Reunion and Fall Family Weekend**  
**Distinguished Alumni Brunch**  
**Athletic Hall of Fame Induction**  
**MCLA Presents!** Emeline Michel  
**Public Policy Lecture:** Paul Rusesabagina  
**I 15th Anniversary Celebration with**  
**MCLA Presents!** Donna McKechnie  
**MCLA Presents!** God's Trombones