



MCLA Beacons & Seeds

SUMMER 2010

**SERVING
OUR COUNTRY
SERVING
OUR COMMUNITIES**

Commencement 2010
more photos inside

Fiscal year 2008 and 2009 Honor Roll of Donors

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

SERVICE LEARNING, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, and academic rigor are the hallmarks of the liberal arts education at MCLA. From the time they are accepted to the College, MCLA students have a wide range of opportunities to participate in experiential learning and service projects that help develop their leadership skills.

Beyond campus, many members of the College community demonstrate their commitment to making a difference through military service and volunteer work with international relief and education programs. Please read some of their stories on page 2. On behalf of the entire MCLA community, I thank our military alumni for their hard work and sacrifice, and offer my wish that all of our alumni return safely to their homes and families.

While this issue of *Beacons & Seeds* takes a closer look at the service and sacrifice of members of the MCLA community in the military, as well as those participating in a rich array of community service activities, our students, faculty, staff, and alumni serve in many other ways as well. Generations of educators have made a profound difference in the classroom and in administrative roles as well. Many alumni have sought elected office, or have engaged in the political process as another way of serving; currently three of our alumni serve the public in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. And at this year's Commencement, we celebrated the commitment, service, and courage of Josetta Owen from the class of 1965.

As we researched this issue, we were struck that so many of you are so committed to making a difference in your communities and your professions. In the next issue of *Beacons & Seeds*, we will highlight more of the many service accomplishments of the MCLA community.

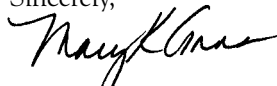
I am also grateful that, in the face of a challenging economy, alumni and friends of the College continue to make generous contributions to support our campus community. You will see from the list of names in our Honor Roll of Donors, hosted on our website (www.mcla.edu/honorrollofdonors) that more of you step forward each year, giving generously to help MCLA students achieve the goal of a college education. We are proud of your accomplishments and your success, and we thank you for understanding the important role that alumni support plays in sustaining and enhancing the quality of our programs and our status as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college.

You may have seen the recent news that Governor Patrick signed the law to establish a state university system in Massachusetts. The law takes effect later this fall; however, this important and historic change will bring Massachusetts in line with the 45 other states that have state university systems. MCLA, along with Mass College of Art and Design and the Mass Maritime Academy, will keep their current names in recognition of their unique roles and specialized missions, but will be campuses of the state university system. Six institutions Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Framingham, Salem, Westfield, and Worcester — will include university within their name.

Just as we have been a proud member of the Massachusetts state college system, so too will we be a proud member of the state university system in Massachusetts. Building on 116 years of tradition, MCLA is unique as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college, and as Massachusetts' member college in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), a national cohort of public liberal arts colleges and universities. We welcome this new opportunity to guide our students as they become thoughtful, engaged citizens of the world and members of their communities.

As always, I have the good fortune to serve as president of this wonderful College and to be a member of this gracious community. Thank you for all the ways that you serve MCLA, our students, and our community.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.

President



President Mary K. Grant presents the 2010 Commencement speaker Dr. Anita Hill with an honorary doctorate of law. See page 8 for more Commencement photos.

SERVING OUR COUNTRY SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

In 2005, Sarah Lapine '01 was waiting for a plane in the Atlanta airport, dressed in uniform. She was halfway through her second combat tour with the Massachusetts National Guard — she'd already spent one year in Afghanistan and eight months in Iraq — and was traveling home for a short visit. The weather was bad, and so many flights had been delayed that she lost her seat on the flight.



THAT'S WHEN A STRANGER SAT DOWN NEXT TO HER and offered to give up her own seat so that Lapine could travel home.

"This woman had been waiting for three whole days to get home," said Lapine. "But she said she was so grateful for my service, and for those like me. She said another day of waiting wouldn't hurt her. Then she hugged me, thanked me, and approached a flight attendant to make sure I got home."

For Lapine, who is now serving in her fourth combat tour, the moment was profound.

"I realized that, like so many Americans, she is really counting on us, on our sacrifice. Whenever I am feeling at my lowest, I remember that woman and what she did for me, and I know I can't let her down."

Today, Lapine is a staff sergeant, deployed in Afghanistan with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Bragg, N.C. She supplies the troops with fuel and bulk water assets, including potable water. Her duties require her to travel all over the country, often in extremely dangerous situations.

Lapine is just one of many alumni who have been called to serve their country. While the College does not keep formal statistics of alumni serving in the United States military, anecdotal evidence suggests that the number is high. Graduates of the College serve in all branches of the military, all over the world. They also serve America in other ways — as elected and appointed government representatives and in programs like the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps.

Like Lapine, many actually begin their service as undergraduates at the College. For example, 25 years ago, Steve Valley '88, an English/Communications major, walked into the Army National Guard recruitment office on Ashland Street and enlisted.

"I was inspired to join as a way to pay for college and because I genuinely believed in serving my country," Valley said. "It just seemed like a good opportunity for where I was at that point in my life."

Two and a half decades later, Valley is still with the U.S. Army Reserve, as a sergeant major and a foreign media analyst/senior communicator at U.S. Central Command. He keeps an office at the Pentagon and regularly trains there for two-week stints. Last year, Valley published *Inside the Fortress*, a memoir of his 2005 work with the Combined Press Information Center (CPIC), which oversaw communications and media relations in Baghdad's Green Zone during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The book provides insights into his work as a media spokesperson for the major battles of Najaf and Fallujah, and discusses his work overseeing media relations during the Sadr uprising, the Abu Ghraib court martial, and visits by dignitaries such as former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"Back in 1985, I never would have anticipated that 25 years later I would still be serving," said Valley. "But I tell you this: they're going to have to kick me out the door when I retire. I just really love this work."



Steve Valley '88
Sergeant Major, US Army Reserves,
1985 to the present



Sarah Lapine '01
Staff Sergeant, US Army, 2001 to the present

“I never would have achieved anything if it weren't for the College...I use all of the skills...every single day, to serve my country.”

“So many ways to serve”

Valley notes that the military is just one way to serve one's country. “For me, through all the years of my career, military service has been a constant, and I'm proud of that. But it's not just about the military; there are so many ways to serve America, including programs like AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps.”

Such non-military programs are becoming more and more attractive to graduates of the College. Spencer Moser, coordinator of the Center for Service, has observed an increase in student interest in public service programs after graduation — a local change that is consistent with national trends.

Greg Lucid '05 spent his first year after college as a full-time volunteer with the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), a community service program based on the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. During his service, Lucid cleared debris from seniors' homes in the wake of Hurricane Rita, delivered meals to people left homeless by Hurricane Katrina, assisted in schools in an impoverished community in California, helped seniors access health care in Oregon, and taught fitness, nutrition, and safety at a Boys' and Girls' Club in Baton Rouge. During that time he worked collaboratively with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Parks Service, and an array of community groups.

Lucid was so moved that he is now considering service as a full-time career. He has applied to the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and has specifically requested to do prison ministry, to serve the homeless, or to work with the developmentally disabled.

“Most of the people we served were living in real poverty. There was just a tremendous sense of need,” Lucid said.

Lucid recalls that during his first NCCC assignment, he asked a senior citizen in Cameron, Louisiana — a community that had been devastated by Hurricane Rita — how the man was doing.

“His answer to the question was just one word,” said Lucid. “He said only: ‘Without.’ It was the first time I realized the magnitude of what the hurricane had done to our country.”

During that year, Lucid worked with thousands of individuals, representing many different programs.

“All were there to serve our country,” said Lucid. “It gave me a real sense of pride, and a real appreciation for our country and all its contrasts.”



Steve Valley '88 at Najaf Air Passenger Terminal. “I was inspired to join as a way to pay for college and because I genuinely believed in serving my country,” Valley says. “It just seemed like a good opportunity for where I was at that point in my life.”

Shaped by Undergraduate Experience

While their duties are different, Lucid, Lapine, and Valley all report that experiences they had as MCLA undergraduates help shape them.

Some of Lucid's earliest experiences with direct service were at the College. In 2003, he participated in Alternative Spring Break, building houses with Habitat for Humanity. He also served as a literacy coach, and participated in a number of other community service projects with the Center for Service.

Lapine says that the College taught her the leadership skills she relies on today.

“When I was playing soccer for MCLA, I had to lead and to ensure that everyone I worked with was highly skilled,” said Lapine. “In order to work as a team, we had to act like one. It's the same for the Army.”

Valley credits virtually all of his accomplishments to things he learned on campus.

“I never would have achieved anything if it weren't for the College,” he said. “I put all of my education to use — all of my communications classes, my role as a sports editor for *The Beacon*, all of those class projects. I use all of the skills I gained during those years, every single day, to serve my country.”

President Mary Grant notes that an MCLA education can serve as a training ground for citizenship and service. Volunteerism is high on campus, and many classes integrate service learning into their curricula.

“Here, students get more than a quality education,” said Grant. “They also learn how to become responsible and engaged members of their communities and nation. Whether they are

STEVE GREEN HONORED THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

mentoring youth, participating in cleanup and construction, assisting at-risk community members, or raising funds for important causes, their hands-on activities make a real and valuable contribution to this community and to America.”

Indeed, each year students participate in nearly 10,000 community engagement hours. Service at the College is so high that MCLA was named to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Students work with schools, food pantries, youth groups, environmental organizations, arts organizations, and more.

Service at the College goes far beyond volunteerism, however. Service learning opportunities are integrated into student coursework. During the 2009-2010 academic year, more than one hundred students participated in 2,000 service learning hours as a part of their curricula. Service learning has been integrated into courses ranging from art to English/communications, from sociology to psychology, and from computer science to environmental science.

Sometimes these projects take on lives of their own. When students in a sociology course taught by professor Myles Whitney researched the foster care system, they discovered that foster families needed an array of support services beyond what the agencies offered. The students created a program, Friends of Foster Families, which allowed students to provide homework support, respite for parents, and mentoring of children in the foster care system. Today, Friends of Foster Families has become part of the College’s ongoing service to the community; the program is run by the Center for Service, and includes between three and seven student volunteers each semester.

Now, with the recently announced Steve Green Community Engagement Award (see sidebar), even more students will have the opportunity to design long-term community service programs. The award will support a junior or senior who will organize and execute a sustainable community service effort of their own design and initiative.

“The issues faced by our nation are complex,” said Grant. “Having these kinds of experiences serving fellow citizens — just getting out there and filling community needs — is an important way to move past cynicism toward the real, viable solutions that our country needs.”

AFTER 36 YEARS OF SERVICE to the College, Dr. Stephen Green, professor of sociology and vice president of academic affairs, retired in 2009. In recognition of his long career at the College and his work with community organizations such as Northern Berkshire United Way and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Steve requested that a fund be set up to support MCLA students who would follow Steve’s footsteps in public service to the Berkshire community. Steve and his wife Susanne Walker made a generous gift to the fund at its inception. In April, a portion of the funds raised was earmarked for a scholarship through MCLA’s Center for Service and Citizenship.

Beginning in September 2010, the Steve Green Community Engagement Award will support a junior or senior who will organize and execute a community service project. The award is intended to promote civic engagement within Berkshire county, and applicants are encouraged to consider a sustainable project that will honor Steve Green’s long-term dedication to the Berkshire community.

MCLA’s Center for Service and Citizenship is founded on the same principles Steve Green lives his life. The Center aims to promote student service-learning by encouraging students to interact with the surrounding community through volunteer opportunities. Both students and the community benefit from the center’s mission. Students gain enriching experiences where they can develop professional, personal, and leadership skills, while locals benefit from the expertise and enthusiasm of volunteer workers eager to be of service. The Steve Green Community Engagement Award is sure to keep supporting MCLA students and meeting the needs of our surrounding communities.



"Offering service to our country has taught me that giving back to communities can only help strengthen and enlighten those around us, and ourselves." Greg Lucid, AmeriCorps NCCC volunteer seen here during his AmeriCorps service, walking along the Santa Monica Mountains.

Policy Major Deepens Commitment to Service

The College has further deepened its commitment to citizenship and democracy with the creation of the political science and public policy major. The new major, launched last year, offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of government and the political process with a practical understanding of public policy at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Robert Bence, professor of political science, expects the program will give students a deeper understanding of the political context for how policy is made and unmade, ultimately providing students with the tools they need to serve the nation through better policy making.

"There's a real and growing need to understand how policy works, to take things apart, to understand the successes and failures of various policies," he said. "Through classroom experiences, internships, and hands-on projects, students gain a strong sense of how to turn ideas into action."

The policy major comes after several years of a successful Public Policy Lecture series funded by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust, which brings some of the nation's most influential policy leaders to campus. Recent lecturers have included a panel with acclaimed children's advocate Jonathan Kozol; executive producer of *Precious*, Lisa Cortés; and former ABC News anchor Carole Simpson; as well as real-life *Hotel Rwanda* hero Paul Rusesabagina; David Plouffe, and Bob Woodward.

"Through programs like this, we are exposing students to some of the people who are impacting policy every day," said Grant. "After all, our students are citizens of this country, and America will be profoundly shaped by their influence. It's critical that we provide students with the tools and ideas they need to engage meaningfully with their nation at a policy level."

Bence notes that while some lament a decline in traditional political activism among this generation of college students, the increase in service seen on campus is itself a type of activism.

"We need to look at student activism in a much broader sense," he said. "I'm always amazed how many of our students are involved in issues and causes. Many have done mission work, assisted with environmental issues, served in food kitchens, or volunteered with local charities."

"These efforts," said President Grant, "represent service in its purest sense."

"No Greater Feeling"

Long-term, on-campus community service can translate to serving one's country in any number of ways — through military service, domestic service programs, policy influence, and/or deeper involvement with one's local community. But one thing is sure, say the alumni who serve: service is a reward in itself.

"I love what I do," said Lapine. "And the faces of people who appreciate what we do and what we stand for. I have served in combat zones in two different wars, and I have traveled all over Iraq and Afghanistan. I can see we are making a difference. Just yesterday I was on a convoy in Afghanistan when a small boy waved at me. He thanked us for being there and protecting them from the people that will hurt them. It reminds me of our purpose, and it inspires me to do it to the best of my ability."

Lucid agreed. "I learned so much about compassion and humility as an AmeriCorps volunteer. It's something I'll never forget."

After his 25 years in the military, Valley believes that service itself is the ultimate reward.

"There's just no greater feeling than putting on your uniform, seeing your country's flag fly, and knowing that you have a role in defending freedom and democracy. This country has given us so much. We have the greatest, safest standard of living in all of human history. Where would we be if people hadn't been willing to serve?"

"It's an honor," he added, "to do my part." ■

Do you serve or know of an alum who serves? Please email us at alumni@mcla.edu.

MCLA Honor Roll of Donors

Fiscal years 2008 and 2009

The honor roll can be found online at www.mcla.edu/honorrollofdonors



MCLA's Major Gift Initiative, launched in July 2006, has raised \$6.89 million toward its \$10 million goal for scholarship and program support. Your gifts have made this achievement possible.

Since 1894 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts has been providing a quality education to generations of students. Contributors to MCLA are valued participants in the College's success in providing scholarship assistance and other resources to our students. MCLA wishes to thank the donors listed online (www.mcla.edu/honorrollofdonors) who have contributed cash or made multi-year pledges that provide vital support for financial aid as well as College programs.

MCLA is grateful for the support and participation of the Board of Trustees, the MCLA Foundation Board of Directors, and the Alumni Board for their gifts of time and resources. Their energy, passion, and commitment are deeply appreciated.

To make a gift call 413-662-5224 or go to www.mcla.edu/giving.



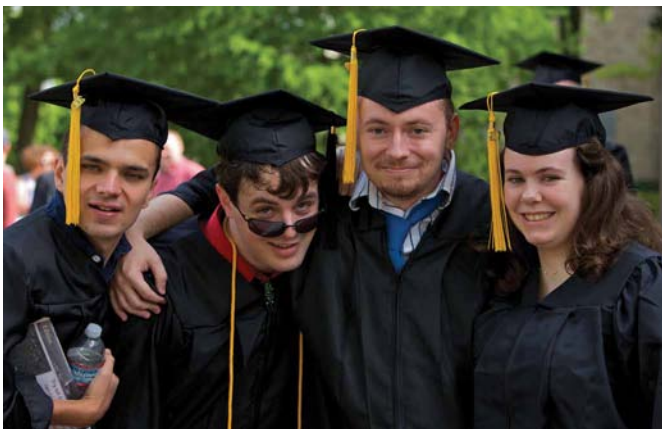
Commencement 2010

Commencement was held on Saturday, May 22. The following degrees were awarded: 323 bachelor's degrees, 38 Master of Education degrees and two advanced graduate study certificates. The day was a true celebration for our graduates, faculty, and staff.

AT RIGHT: In addition, President Mary K. Grant awarded four honorary degrees to distinguished guests at the ceremony: (seated left to right) Academy Award-winning painter Stephen Hannock, honorary Doctor of Fine Arts; MCLA alumna, educator, and humanitarian Josetta Owen '65, honorary Doctor of Humanities; President Mary K. Grant; Commencement speaker attorney and Brandeis University Professor of Law, Public Policy, and Women's Studies, Anita F. Hill, honorary Doctor of Law; and business executive and former MCLA Trustee Foster Devereux, honorary Doctor of Public Service.

ABOVE: Anita Hill in her Commencement address urged the graduates not to be satisfied with the way things are but to work to make things better politically and socially. "I see the future; you are it and you make it brighter than ever before. You are our best hope."





MCLA stepping forward with new Center for Science and Innovation

BY MARY K. GRANT

Seven years ago, we planted a seed to advance critical initiatives in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) and across Berkshire County.

With rapid progress in technology, information, and the life sciences, and the demand on a global level for professionals prepared for careers as well as advanced graduate studies in these critically important areas, MCLA set a course to develop a facility where collaborative and interdisciplinary work can be undertaken on a greater scale by the talented faculty and students in our region.

Soon, thanks to a concerted effort on the part of the Patrick administration, Berkshire County legislators, area business and community leaders, and the students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees of the college, MCLA will be home to a state-of-the-art Center for Science and Innovation.

This \$54.5 million project represents the largest single investment in public higher education in the history of Berkshire County. It is also a vital economic development investment for Massachusetts, a global leader in biotechnology and the life sciences.

National studies project increased demand for researchers and professionals in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, engineering and health care, as well as a gap in professionals trained in these fields. In Massachusetts, the demand for life sciences professionals is projected to grow faster than for workers in the state economy as a whole.

MCLA's Center for Science and Innovation will advance the important STEM work already underway at the college, where enrollment in STEM subjects continues to grow. By connecting MCLA and the region more closely to this vital research and career pipeline, the center will play a significant part in the continuing economic revitalization of the region.

Strong liberal arts tradition

When MCLA opens the center in a few years, all of our STEM-related departments and faculty will be housed under one roof. This new facility will support innovative interdisciplinary collaboration among the STEM programs. The building will house lab spaces, classrooms, and specialty spaces such as conference and presentation rooms, a resource library and convenient access to equipment and materials to support field research.

The Center for Science and Innovation's work will be rooted in MCLA's strong liberal arts tradition. MCLA is the commonwealth's public liberal arts college, and a leader in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, a national consortium. STEM programs rooted in the liberal arts provide students with the combined knowledge of specific disciplines and the skills valued by graduate programs and employers.

For example, we know that cutting-edge research is a highly collaborative process. Liberal arts-based STEM learning prepares students for success by providing them with a foundation in oral and written communications, critical thinking and analytical reasoning, teamwork, ethical decision making,

and the demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills to real-world settings. In a recent survey of employers conducted on behalf of the American Association of Colleges and Universities by Hart Research Associates, employers listed such skills among those they valued most highly.

These are the skills that students at MCLA develop through classroom work, undergraduate research projects and presentations, internships, study away, and a range of leadership opportunities through clubs, teams and service learning projects on campus and in the community. These values are embedded in the vision for the Center for Science and Innovation.

Excellence and leadership

One recent example of student interest – and success – can be found with MCLA math major Robin Clapper, a junior from Cobleskill, N.Y., who was selected for a highly competitive internship with the Mathematics Summer Employment Program at the National Security Agency (NSA) in Washington, D.C.

Candidates for the program are selected after a nationwide search. This year, some 300 college students from across the country applied to fill the 12 internship positions. Thirty applicants were invited to participate in three days of interviews, resulting in the selection of the 12 summer interns. This is a great accomplishment for Robin, and a reflection on the importance of student/faculty engagement in preparing students for success in high demand fields.

Members of our faculty also demonstrate leadership and excellence in their fields. For example, Dr. Christopher Thomas in MCLA's mathematics department is writing a textbook for elementary educators on strategies for teaching their students math.

Physics professor Dr. Adrienne Wootters is currently completing a Fulbright fellowship in Rwanda. Her colleague Dr. Emily Maher's research contributes to greater understanding of the sub-atomic world through her connection with the MINERvA neutrino scattering experiment centered at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

MCLA's Center for Science and Innovation will be a resource for the community as well as the campus. This new venue will provide the opportunity to advance a number of collaborative initiatives in the region, including the Berkshire Compact for Education and the Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network.

The Compact is an ongoing project to raise educational aspirations and to provide access to the higher education resources that inspire students to pursue college as an attainable goal.

The Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network provides professional development, training, and learning resources to area educators to strengthen their facility with STEM teaching. The Pipeline also provides STEM awareness and learning programs for students.

In support of these programs, MCLA's Center for Science and Innovation will maintain a dedicated community lab and teaching spaces where

Mary K. Grant, Ph.D., is president of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams.



local educators and students can enjoy access to equipment and materials to strengthen teaching and learning. Most importantly, this new resource will support student aspirations to pursue STEM majors in college and inspire undergraduates to continue along the STEM pipeline to advanced study or careers after graduating from college.

Process moves forward

A project such as the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation relies on the vital support of countless advocates and supporters. We are particularly fortunate that Gov. Patrick and the Berkshire legislative delegation championed this project at every stage of its development.

Last fall, the governor's five-year capital spending plan included funding support for the project, including funds during the current fiscal year to begin the study and design phase of the project. This funding represents an important milestone in the process to construct the first new academic building at MCLA in nearly 40 years.

In March, after an intensive bidding and review process in collaboration with the state Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) and the Designer Selection Board (DSB), Einhorn, Yafee, Prescott (EYP) of Boston and Albany was chosen to conduct the project study.

MCLA and DCAM will work closely with EYP throughout the spring and summer to assess specific departmental, faculty and program needs, and to translate the ambitious vision for the Center for Science and Innovation into a preliminary design and site selection proposal. The work leading to this proposal will reflect the continued engagement and participation of students, faculty, staff and community partners.

In addition to the construction of the Center for Science and Innovation, funding for this project will be used to renovate existing science spaces in Bowman and Venable Halls. As the departments, programs and faculty that currently occupy these facilities transition into the new Center for Science and Innovation, we will find new uses for these spaces to support campus growth.

As part of the design study, EYP will help identify new, optimal uses for the Bowman and Venable spaces, and determine the scope of the renovations required to outfit these spaces for new users and new opportunities.

MCLA is a vibrant, energetic college with a strong history and great momentum. With robust enrollment, a dedicated and talented faculty and staff, and students who inspire us with their enthusiasm and great potential, MCLA requires this Center for Science and Innovation.

It is heartening to know that soon, Berkshire County and MCLA will be home to a new place of learning – an exciting opportunity for every area educator and student to compete in the global marketplace of ideas and innovation. ♦

Reprinted in its entirety is this editorial written by President Mary K. Grant as a guest columnist for the Berkshire Trade of Commerce monthly newsletter.

ALUMNI AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts takes pride in recognizing our distinctly honorable alumni, those who have made outstanding contributions in public or community service or in service to the College and/or its alumni. This year's Alumni Awards luncheon and recognition ceremony will be on Reunion/Fall Family Weekend, Saturday, October 23, 2010. Please take a few moments to consider nominating former classmates who have strongly represented the College and made you feel proud to share the same alma mater. Nominees should have matriculated for one or more semesters at the College at least five years before the award is to be received.

The awards for consideration are:

Distinguished Alumnus

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

Humanitarian

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

Service to the College

The nominee must have demonstrated a record of service to the Alumni Association and/or the College.

Please provide detailed supplemental information (newspaper articles, publications, resume, etc.) relevant to your nomination that will allow the Awards Committee to review each candidate thoroughly and to make its selections fairly. Material submitted on behalf of nominees will be the only criteria the Awards Committee will consider in making its decisions.

In your submission, please include the following information: full name of nominee (including former name while a student), address, present employment, advanced degree information (degree, name of school and year of graduation), honors, publications, memberships and organizations, a summary of the candidate's achievements, and your reasons for nominating. Please also include your name and contact information.

Nominations must be received by August 30, 2010.

Please send to: Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Alumni Office
375 Church Street
North Adams, MA 01247
or email: alumni@mcla.edu

Women's Basketball — MCLA's Superstars

Blazing the Trail to the NCAA Tournament

By Brian Hubert '10

The MCLA Trailblazers' women's basketball team went 18-10 last season, capturing its first MASCAC tournament title. With the championship, the program earned its first ever berth in the NCAA Division III tournament. With 18 victories, the Trailblazers also broke the school record for wins in a season, set the previous year.

Throughout the season, a MASCAC championship seemed like a distant possibility. The conference slate got off to a rocky 0-2 start after a road defeat at Salem State. Behind an excellent defensive performance, the Trailblazers then posted a 60-35 home win over rival Westfield State. However, the team would go just 1-5 over its next six league games, standing at 2-8 in the conference, and appearing as though it would not make it to the playoffs. Failing to make it to the postseason would have been a disappointment for a team that has qualified each of its past three seasons.

The Trailblazers were not ready to wave the white flag yet. They came back with home wins against Framingham and Fitchburg, which essentially clinched a postseason berth. Following the MASCAC tiebreaking procedure, MCLA was awarded the fourth seed in the tournament, good enough for a home game. This would prove crucial for the Trailblazers. The last three years, MCLA qualified for the postseason, only to lose to the conference's top-seeded programs.

MCLA won over any skeptics by dominating Framingham State 63-47 at home. There was not much time to celebrate, because MCLA had to face the top-seeded Bridgewater State Bears on their home court. MCLA took up the challenge, and blazed a trail to a 61-53 victory over the Bears, earning a spot in the championship game.

In the finals, MCLA would face Worcester State. During the regular season, the Lancers defeated the Trailblazers twice, both times by double digits. This time, the game was held on a neutral court at Bridgewater State. MCLA led throughout the game, and following a last ditch three-pointer by the Lancers, won 68-65. The Trailblazers were MASCAC champions! What many had deemed impossible was now a reality.

MCLA earned the conference's automatic bid into the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history. The Trailblazers would move on to face the top-ranked team in the nation, Amherst College, in the opening round of the NCAA tournament. MCLA lost 68-47 to Amherst.



Above: The women's basketball team clinched the MASCAC tournament title at Bridgewater State College.

Below: Assistant coach Joe McGovern, head coach Holly McGovern, President Mary K. Grant, and Jim Canavan celebrate the team's victory.



Fifth-year head coach Holly McGovern said, "I was fortunate as a coach to have players who were willing to put the time and effort into improving themselves and their teammates. This team wasn't willing to let others outwork them, and it certainly showed during our practices. We were able to reach our goals, and then some, because of their commitment to the program."

Three seniors, Jade Prickett, Laura Silverman, and Ali Leveille, will be saying goodbye to the team. The trio was key to the program's turnaround.



Left: The baseball and softball programs began their seasons with participation in the Russ Matt and Rebel Games tournaments in Florida. Pictured left to right: Athletic Director Scott Nichols, Jaclyn Candelet '11, Amanda Borsotti '11, President Mary K. Grant, softball head coach Kristin Parzych '00, Kate Ouellette '11, Ken Recore '10, assistant softball coach Mike Ameen, and baseball head coach Jeff Puler.

Below: Gail Kennedy '67 spends her winters working in the gift shop at the Red Sox spring training park.



Back to the Sunshine State

There's no use resisting the call of warm weather, athletics, and MCLA Alumni! As MCLA's baseball and softball teams headed to Florida again this past March for the beginning of their season, President Mary Grant, Chief Advancement Officer Marianne Drake, and Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Jocelyn Merrick followed their trail to Florida to show support for MCLA athletics and visit with alumni, stopping first in Fort Myers.

As much as it was a time to celebrate our athletes, it was also a time to celebrate MCLA alumni. Gail Kennedy '67, of Fort Myers recently reconnected with roommate Priscilla "Pat" Schweidenback '68 and her husband, and invited President Grant, Marianne Drake, former Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Development Janice Messer and others to join them in an exciting tour of City of Palms Park, home of the Red Sox in spring training. President Mary Grant hosted a

second alumni gathering in St. Petersburg, where several alumni reminisced about campus life.

The Florida events culminated in Davenport, with MCLA's baseball and softball teams. Friends of the College, alumni, family members and MCLA Trailblazers enjoyed a barbeque hosted by President Grant.

All of the events were a success in bringing together students and alumni. Plans are underway for an event at City of Palms Park in March 2011. If you reside or spend time in Florida, or would like to join us next year for some great conversation, MCLA Baseball and Softball, and a chance to catch a Red Sox game, please forward your contact information to Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu. The gatherings are a terrific opportunity to network with alums and show your support for MCLA Trailblazers.

Calling All Snowbirds!

We will be hosting an event the week of March 14 -18, 2011 at the Red Sox Spring Training in Fort Myers, Florida. Please send your Florida address to J.Merrick@mcla.edu or call (413) 662-5224 so we can make sure you are on the invitation list.



Invited to speak at MCLA's eighth annual Undergraduate Research Conference in May, Maura Mills '05, pictured here with President Mary Grant at the conference, shared inspirational wisdom on succeeding in education after college.

Students Celebrate Their Research at the Eighth Annual Undergraduate Research Conference

Thanks to the hard work of their classmates, MCLA students who attended MCLA's eighth annual Undergraduate Research Conference had the opportunity to experience the results of world-class research without ever leaving campus. This year's event was extended to fill the entire day, and professors encouraged all students to attend. Nearly 250 projects and posters were presented.

The day began with poster presentations in Venable Gym. Posters explored a broad variety of topics, including the haunting of Hoosac Tunnel and the classic *Madeline* series of children's books.

Students also had the opportunity to show off a semester's worth of hard work at presentations held in different locations around campus. Arts management students cleverly turned what most of us would call trash into a piece of artwork entitled "From Trash to Treasure." *The Beacon* staff held a conversation about convergence in the media. English students performed dramatic readings and presented papers on a wide variety of topics including the effect of creative writing on the human heart rate.

The luncheon featured a keynote speech by Maura Mills '05, who recently earned a Ph.D. in industrial and organizational

psychology at Kansas State University. Mills' talk, "How to Get There from Here," gave students a taste of life after college and offered advice on navigating the decision to go to graduate school and networking for career opportunities.

The Undergraduate Research Conference continues to grow in scope each year, enabling more participants to gain valuable presentation skills while giving student attendees different avenues for learning. Conference Co-chair Professor Anthony Daly says, "The Undergraduate Research Conference showcases MCLA's strengths. It represents the best aspects of a liberal arts education." Co-chair Professor Rosanne Denhard adds, "I was so pleased with this year's conference. We grew the conference enormously, and that happened because of a strong spirit of collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and administration. Truly it was a campus-wide, interdisciplinary effort, and the day was a real celebration of the wonderfully active work of our students and faculty." MCLA students' creativity and curiosity will ensure that the event will feature fresh and interesting ideas for years to come.



The annual Undergraduate Research Conference, held each year in April, is a campus-wide celebration of the talent and dedication of MCLA students. The 2010 conference marked an exciting step forward, as over 250 student presenters contributed to a day-long event that showcased academic achievement from across the College.

MOVING FORWARD WITH MERRICK AND PENDER

The Alumni Association is excited to announce Jocelyn Merrick's promotion within the Office of Institutional Advancement to director of alumni relations and annual giving. A familiar face to many alumni, having worked closely with former Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Development Janice Messer, who retired in January, Merrick will continue to build relationships within the alumni body, connecting them to the College and to current students. She will be overseeing the Alumni Board as well as other volunteer groups, including the Class Agent program.

Additionally, the Alumni Office has hired Brandon Pender '07 as alumni relations coordinator. Pender will be focusing on the office's Internet communication and social networking strategies, connecting alumni through online media. He will also be working with young alums, building relationships and helping them to get more involved with College events and fundraising.



Alumni gather at the annual December Boston event. From left to right: Zach Natale '07, Alumni Relations Coordinator Brandon Pender '07, Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Jocelyn Merrick, and Adam Wolfrey '07.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni,

In the spring, the Alumni Association Board tackled one of its major initiatives: How we can impact the student experience. As alumni, one of the best ways we can help students is in sharing our experiences as working professionals. This March, Chris Robare '94 and the Board's Planning Committee organized a career networking gathering where students took advantage of a wonderful opportunity to build their networking skills. The event gave students a chance to make connections with Alumni in several fields including business, human resources, government, computer science, education, and communications.

Special thank yous to the Alumni Board, Dave Ortendahl '05, Annie Kirkpatrick '06, Raf Cohen '79, and chemistry professor Rob Harris for helping to make the day a success. MCLA will be hosting more events in the future to provide students with networking, internship, and career advice. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu.

Enjoy the summer and take time for family.



Dave Flint '78



DEDICATED ALUMNUS RECEIVES AWARD FOR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

by Brian Hubert '10

ON DECEMBER 11, BERNIE PINSONNAULT '73 received the 2009 Francis H. Hayden Memorial Award. Established in 1968, the Hayden Award is given annually by the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce to a local citizen who has volunteered time, made personal sacrifices, and demonstrated leadership while making significant contributions to the economic, social, and cultural improvement of Northern Berkshire communities.

Bernie Pinsonnault graduated from the College with a degree in business administration. He is the owner of Smith Brothers-McAndrews Insurance Agency in Adams. He has worked at Adams Cooperative Bank and at Legacy Bank and is a trustee of South Adams Savings Bank, a position he has held since 1997.

Active in local government, Pinsonnault has served as an Adams town meeting representative, a member of the Adams Downtown Development Committee, and a member of the local team that verifies election results. He used his position at the Berkshire Fund Inc. to found the successful Good Samaritan Home Ownership Program, which provides assistance to low-income families purchasing their first homes.

Pinsonnault's service to the Berkshire community also includes stints as an assistant basketball coach in the Adams



Bernie Pinsonnault '73 golfs annually in the MCLA Golf Classic. Pictured with his South Adams Savings Bank team are William McLaren '58, chief financial officer, treasurer and senior vice president of South Adams Savings Bank Denise Marshall '81, Bernie Pinsonnault, and Foundation Director Sally Douglas '74.

Police Athletic League, treasurer and board member of Adams Little League, and coach and board member of the Adams Youth Soccer League. He is also a member of Keeping Music Alive. In addition, he heads the Adams Cheshire Educational Partnership Fund, which helps local schools to improve curriculum beyond what school budgets allow.

A dedicated alumnus, Pinsonnault is vice chairman of the MCLA Foundation and serves on the Foundation's endowment and trust committee and on the College's Golf Classic committee.

Have you received an award or recognition? Let us know at alumni@mcla.edu.

CLASS NOTES

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

1936

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

1941

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

1951

William Grady
7924 Woodsbluff Run
Fogelsville, PA 18051-1537

1953

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

1937

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

1950

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

1952

Katherine Cariddi Mogavero
150 Sherwood Dr
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5914

1954

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

1956

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

1957

Mary Richards
740 Feura Bush Rd
Delmar, NY 12054-9789
real14mr@localnet.com

1958

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

1960

Paula Bousquet Dobeck
7 Saddle Ct
Schwenksville, PA 19473-1884
richardnavyd@yahoo.com



Decked in blue and gold, MCLA trustee Steve Crowe, Presidential Athletic Advisory Committee member Bob Bashevkin, and MCLA trustee chair Jane Brooks Allen '61 proudly display their support at an at-home basketball game against Framingham State College on Feb. 13, 2010.

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

Though **Paul Zendzian** recently suffered an accident with a circular saw, cutting his hand and wrist, he and his wife Susan have plenty to report about their evolving family, "Our son Nick got married this summer, at The House of Seven Gables in Salem, MA, and our daughter Sophie moved to Brooklyn, NY... She is now working at Mount Sinai Medical Center as a research assistant."



Paul Zendzian '60 celebrated his youngest son Nick's wedding over the summer.

1961

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

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

1962

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

Jean Kent Swift
42 Olds St
North Adams, MA 01247-3233
jeanswift@roadrunner.com

1963

David Hathaway
27 Beverly St
Pittsfield, MA 01201-7303
xkenacer61@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
speakezcabk@verizon.net

1964

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



Melanie Poulin Endyke '77, Dyane Shatford, Joan Saltzberg Virgil '76, Nancy Palazzi Glimberg '76, and Cynthia Santangelo Govoni '76 share in good laughs at the NASC reunion luncheon at the Hilltop Steak House in Saugus, MA on Oct. 13, 2009.

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

We would like to congratulate **M. Peter Wright** on his retirement from a 46-year career in public education. He has been superintendent of Windham Southwest Supervisory Union for 22 years. Prior to holding this post, he worked his way through the ranks in North Adams public schools. During his tenure at Windham Southwest Supervisory Union, he oversaw the successful merger of the Wilmington and Whitingham high schools while reducing costs and preserving educational quality. Wright plans to use his retirement years to spend more time with his family, including his grandsons. We wish him all the best!

1965

Ronald Alpert
509 Calle Libertad
Granada, Nicaragua
ronalpert@hotmail.com

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

1966

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

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

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

1968

Peter Andrew
73 Falmouth Rd
West Springfield, MA 01089-2168
WSAndrew@comcast.net

1969

Robert Iannitelli returned to his chemistry classroom at Mount Greylock Regional School after a four-year retirement. The school was unable to find a qualified replacement, so they contacted Robert and he accepted the one-year appointment.

Jim Kane recently retired from his job teaching second grade in his native Southbridge, MA, school district after over 30 years of service. In addition to teaching, Jim coached various teams over the years. At one time or another, Jim coached the freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity basketball teams, the junior varsity and varsity baseball teams, and the varsity tennis team. For a time, he was also head coach of the basketball team at Quinsigamond Community College. Best of luck to you in retirement, Jim!

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

Elaine Gunn spoke at the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the W.E.B. DuBois Boyhood Homesite and Memorial Park in Great Barrington, MA. During the 1960s, Gunn worked to support civil rights efforts in the South. Elaine, her friends, and family sent clothing, staged sit-ins, and held candlelight vigils. During the Johnson administration, Gunn worked for the federal Head Start program. She then

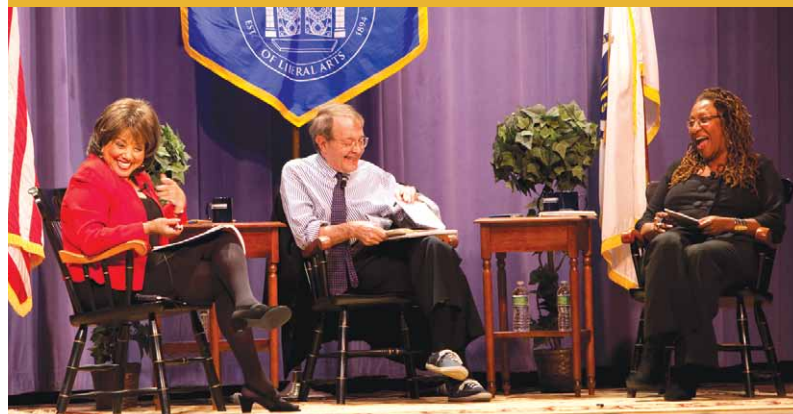
PAYING IT FORWARD

THE ESTATE OF ALUMNA RITA ROSCH CARD '43 has conveyed a \$100,000 bequest to MCLA in the name of Card and her late husband, Rodney Card '43. The couple, who met as students, credited much of what they achieved to the education they received here at the College. Both went on to teach in Connecticut. Rita became an art teacher, and Rodney became a professor at Central Connecticut State University.

Rita had a deep love and appreciation for the visual arts. President Mary Grant and Marianne Drake, chief advancement officer, recognized this during a visit with Rita at her home in Florida in the winter of 2009. Rita's home was a showcase for her art and for the work of artists she admired, including her former students. Since Rodney's passing in 1985, Rita's wish for her bequest was that it be used for art and education and that it would be used to benefit the school that meant so much to her and her husband.

Rita passed away in July 2009. Her generous donation will support the new visual arts major at MCLA through two endowed funds. The Rodney Bartlett Card '43 and Rita Rosch Card '43 Scholarship Fund, as well as a fund for the visual arts department to help ensure a high quality program for future art students at the College, have been established.

SPRING PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE



This Spring's Public Policy lecture entitled "Changing Lives: Precious, Policy, and Education" brought together the executive producer of the film *Precious*: Based on the Novel *Push* by Sapphire Lisa Cortés, educator and children's advocate Jonathan Kozol, and former ABC News anchor Carole Simpson for a lively discussion. The Public Policy Lecture is generously funded by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.

worked as a teacher in Chester, MA. She has also taught at Berkshire Country Day School, and she spent 21 years teaching at Great Barrington's Bryant Elementary School. Along the way, she raised five children.

1975

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

Mike DiCenzo has been named vice president of commercial lending for Hoosac Bank and Williamstown Savings Bank. Mike has 32 years of banking experience.

1972

Timothy Foley
Fairview Ave
Newbury, MA 01951-1203
track68@hotmail.com

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

1973

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

Julia White Cardinal has been director of the Beals Memorial Library in Winchendon, MA, for 31 years. During her time as director, she has seen the introduction of videos, DVDs, and Internet access at the small-town library. Currently, the library is working on installing a wireless network for its patrons. Julia enjoys reading and visiting the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem, MA.

1976

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

State Representative Paul Kujawski nearly took a bat to the face during a Red Sox vs. A's game. Paul ducked just in time as an Oakland slugger took a swing, accidentally letting go of his bat and sending it flying into the stands. Paul was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

1977

Mary Beth Allen
352 Manning Blvd
Albany, NY 12206-1814
mba2x@aol.com

James Biros, and his wife Susan Biros '83, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Catherine Biros, to Timothy Alan Rougeau. Sarah is currently a graduate student at the College.

Marian Poe-Heinman was recently appointed first vice president of commercial lending for PeoplesBank. Marian holds over 25 years of banking experience. She continues to live in Wilbraham, MA, and serves on the YWCA board. She is a member of the Rotary Club, a parent representative on the Minnechaug School Council, and chair of the football spirit club at the district's high school.

1974

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

Susan Reiker Carney
46 Charles St
Natick, MA 01760-2828

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

Alfred Skrocki is superintendent of the Adams-Cheshire school district.



Alumni brought NASC memories to Saugus, MA. Front row: Louise Rossetti, Joan Brackett Zavala, Melanie Poulin Endyke '77, Nancy Palazzi Cilimberg '76. Middle row: Candice Serafino '75, Donna Rossetti Bailey, Cynthia Santangelo Govoni '76, Joan Saltzberg Virgil '76, Howie Bart. Back row: Joseph Endyke '77



Robyn LaBonte Payson '89 and David Payson '89 attended the inauguration of Dr. James Birge, new president of Franklin Pierce University. "It was truly an honor for David and me to participate in this event on behalf of MCLA," Robyn said.

1978

Ann Keough Fragomeni
5 Grant Rd
Enfield, CT 06082-5707
Annknj@aol.com

Douglas Frazier
35 Weston St
Carver, MA 02330-1253
dugan35@comcast.net

1979

Michael Rooney
11 Josiah Dr
Upton, MA 01568-1452

1981

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

1982

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

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

Robert Heise is CEO of Heise Consulting Inc. His expertise spans computer hardware and software, construction, global manufacturing and distribution, and the retail and food

service industries. Check out his website: www.robertheise.com.

We recently learned that **Mary M. Morrow** has been named vice president of retail banking for Hoosac Bank and Williamstown Savings Bank. Best of luck to you, Mary!

1983

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

Susan Biros, and her husband **James Biros** '77, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Catherine Biros, to Timothy Alan Rougeau. Sarah is currently a graduate student at the College.

The New York State Division of Parole honored **Kevin O'Connor** with the Linda Mills Memorial Award for Re-entry Services for his work running Joseph's House, a homeless shelter in Troy, New York. During the 12 years of O'Connor's leadership, Joseph's House has taken steps to help people leaving prison adjust to everyday life. Kevin is currently a visiting assistant professor of social work at Siena College.

1984

Janice 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

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

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

Renee Seidel Channell-Kourias works for Alliance Imaging's oncology division at Brigham & Women's in Milford, MA. Renee recently traveled to Dallas, Texas, to receive the All-Star Award from Alliance Imaging. The Alliance All-Star Award is given each year to the top 25 people nominated nationwide in recognition of outstanding achievements in their career fields. Renee received the company's Gold Award for this same achievement in the fall of 2009. This year the awards ceremony was held at the National Managers Conference in Dallas.



Remembering their days at sea, participants of the '77 western Caribbean semester abroad Kevin Noonan '77, Mary Rose O'Brien-Bernini '79 and William S. Perreault '79 met for coffee on dry land. Anthropology professor Tom Price led the trip.



Lisa Marquis '87 and David O'Keefe '86 stand together during happy hour in Vail, Colorado in January 2010

1985

Edward Ready
6 Browning Dr
Dover, NH 03820-4103
td_ready@yahoo.com

Kevin "Joe" Kaczynski and Jill Snyder were married last year. Jill is a graduate of Boston University School of Law, and is the director of NFI Intensive Foster Care. Joe is director of technology for Swampscott public schools. Best of luck to you both!

Jim Stankiewicz was recently promoted to superintendent in the central Berkshire regional school district. Congratulations, Jim!

Debra Iannaccone Julin
135 Raleigh Tavern Ln
North Andover, MA 01845-5627
julin_debra@emc.com

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

Congratulations to **Rick Park** upon having his award-winning ten-minute play, *Please Report Any Suspicious Activity*, published in an anthology of short plays by Smith & Kraus. The play was produced at SnowFest 2010 in Racine, Wisconsin. Another 10-minute play of Rick's, entitled *Dressed Up Like A Douche* won the Audience Favorite Award at SnowFest 2009. Rick's most recent project was co-writing the critically acclaimed *The Superheroine Monologues: A Parody of Epic Proportions*. The play was produced in Boston in 2009 by the Phoenix Theatre Artists and Company One Theatre, and was named one of the best productions of 2009 by the Boston Herald.

1986

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



The '80s made a comeback when David O'Keefe '86, Joseph Kelley '86, Alan "Pep" Kline '86, and Kendyll Pickett Vresilovic '86 met for happy hour in Vail in January 2010



FACULTY EMERITI GATHERED AT THE COLLEGE last March. Pictured from left to right are President Mary K. Grant, Bob Bishoff, Harris Elder, Len Adelson, Lea Newman, Barre Hellquist, Myles Whitney, Steve Green, Charles Mark, and Harold Brotzman. Many former faculty members look forward to returning to campus for events and seeing former students.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

MCLA STUDENTS WORKED ALONGSIDE Drury High School students on a Habitat for Humanity project in March. The house in Williamstown, MA will ultimately be both environmentally responsible, as it was made using recycled materials, and economically accountable, in that its small size makes it easy and inexpensive to heat. The project was inspiring and worthwhile for all who contributed to the effort. MCLA student Brendan Foley commented, "I mean, anybody can drop a dollar into a tin, and that's good, but this gives you a great feeling of doing something."



Allen Harris '96, owner and chief portfolio manager of Berkshire Money Management. Harris was recently recognized in BusinessWest's "Forty under 40" list

1987

Jean Harnden Burt
3302 Mead Hill Rd
Newmarket, NH 03857-2318

Bill Robinson's "Coaches vs. Cancer" basketball tournament, held annually at the College, continues to grow more successful every year. This year's event attracted all 24 Berkshire county teams to its 12 games and, for the first time, hosted womens' teams. This year's event is expected to bring in between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society. Keep up the good work, Bill!

1988

Paula Randazza
420 S Main St
Nashua, NH 03060-5043
prandazza@rivier.edu

Lynne Doyle Robinson is teaching sixth grade at C.T. Plunkett Elementary School in Adams. She is currently battling a rare form of brain cancer, but she remains highly optimistic about the future. Her husband, Bill Robinson '87, created the "Coaches vs. Cancer" event at the College. Best of luck to you, Lynn!



MCLA knows no boundaries as Matthew Hier '98 visits his good friend Robert Messer in Sweden in October 2009.

1989

Congratulations to **Wayne Soares** for 20 years of giving back to the community by purchasing toys for disadvantaged children as an alternative to Secret Santa or Yankee Swap exchanges.

1990

Maureen O'Donnell Johnson
71 Buck Knoll Rd
Raynham, MA 02767-5325
FOURINRAYNHAM@aol.com

Sahag Johnson
71 Buck Knoll Rd
Raynham, MA 02767-5325
srjohnson@statestreet.com

John Giuliotti was named hockey coach of the North Reading High School Hornets' varsity team. John also works at the school as a guidance counselor. John played for the College's hockey team for three seasons. Best of luck to you, John!

1991

Lizz Furtado recently appeared on two episodes of the FX television series *Rescue Me*. Congratulations, Lizz!

1992

Dawn Fraser Wanner
7841 Ridge Ave Apt A212
Philadelphia, PA 19128
ItIsDawn@aol.com

Congratulations to **Dan Morgan** on his promotion to vice president of the Northeast Division at Snyders of Hanover, Pennsylvania. Snyders is the second largest snack food company in the United States. Dan will lead a sales division that includes the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

1993

Congratulations to **Beth Anne McKieghan** on her engagement to Epfifanio Tamburrino. Beth currently teaches math at Rensselaer High School, and she also works as a math tutor for Mohonasen High School. The groom holds degrees from SUNY Farmingdale and SUNY Oswego; he is currently a machinist at the Watervilet Arsenal. A wedding is planned for July 2010. Best of luck to you, Beth!

1994

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

1996

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

Allen Harris — owner and chief portfolio manager of Berkshire Money Management — was recently named one of the region's "Forty under 40" by *BusinessWest* magazine. In addition, Allen was praised by the judges for his civic work in Pittsfield, MA, and devotion to the New England Bassett Hound Rescue. We celebrate your achievements, Allen!

1997

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

Congratulations to **Christina Cruz** on her appointment at Southern Vermont

College as director of athletics. Christina has over 20 years of experience at Williams College in various administrative, coaching, and research roles. She also recently had a book entitled, *Gender Games: Why Women Coaches are Losing the Field*, about gender issues in athletics.

1998

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

Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank recently promoted **Eric Fellows** to associate compliance officer. Eric oversees day-to-day bank compliance with various federal regulations. Eric has worked at the bank for 12 years. Best of luck to you, Eric!

We are happy to announce the engagement of **Norman Waldron** to Ellen F. O'Rourke. The couple live in Greenfield, MA. Norman is a store planner for Yankee Candle Co. in South Deerfield, MA. Ellen is an elementary school teacher with the Quaboag regional school district. A wedding is planned for summer 2011. Congratulations to both of you!

Sue Frederick Winkfield wrote the Alumni Office, "We (my husband Lorne Winkfield and I) had our first baby on June 1, 2009 (Matthew Robert Winkfield). I am still working at the Chatham Community Center as a recreation coordinator (3 years come June) and loving it. We reside in South Yarmouth in our home we bought in 2007. Feel free to contact me at Sailing38@comcast.net."

Sue, **Amy Brough Palmerino '99**, and **Heather Duso Galpin '99**, former roommates at the College, got together in North Adams in the fall of 2009.

1999

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

Beth Howard Sombronsky
115 Gotham Hill Dr
Marshfield, MA 02050-5514
bethhoward@mpsds.org

WOMEN'S FORUM

IN APRIL, THE 2010 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM held a thoughtful discussion about women's issues. This year's theme, Finding Your Voice: Where Women Have Been, Where They Are Going, included a viewing of the documentary *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, directed by Gini Reicker and produced by Abigail Disney. The film explores the role of women in Liberia during the 1997-2003 civil war in that country.

The film inspired its audience of 60 and ignited the panel discussion, moderated by President Mary Grant. The Forum provided an opportunity to consider the impact of women leaders and benefitted scholarships for the MCLA women's studies minor.



Let's hear it for the boys! Former roommates Heather Duso Galpin '99, Amy Brough Palmerino '99 and Sue Frederick Winkfield '98 pose with their sons on campus.

Amy Brough Palmerino, Suzanne Frederick Winkfield '98, and Heather Duso Galpin, former roommates at the College, reunited in North Adams in the fall of 2009.

We are excited to announce the engagement of Nichole Mirabile to Dr. Luke V. Rigolosi. Nichole is a senior sales representative for Ameritox Laboratories. Rigolosi is a partner with Northeast Orthopaedics LLP in Albany, NY. A wedding is planned for May of 2010. Best of luck to Nichole and Luke!

Congratulations to Jillian Shaw on the success of her new consignment store, Buttons and Bows in Acton, MA. Buttons and Bows specializes in children's and maternity clothing, furniture, and gear. The store gives parents an alternative to paying full retail price on items that children quickly outgrow.

Jennifer Schimmel Stanley, and her husband Jeffrey, welcomed their new son Jackson Montgomery Stanley on January 19, 2010. Best of luck to Jennifer and Jeffrey!

2000

Kelly Taylor Kanelos
5 Barber Ter
South Burlington, VT 05403
Teachthird@hotmail.com

Jennifer MacMillin
184 W Main St Apt A3
Ayer, MA 01432-1234
jenniemac9@hotmail.com

Abbey Scott
90 Alpine St
Arlington, MA 02474-2651
ascott717@yahoo.com

Did you know that Maia Robbins-Zest is technical director for the '62 Center for Dance and Theatre at Williams College? She is doing a wonderful job.

Jeremy Micheal Taylor is engaged to Maureen Julie Acosta. He works as a direct sales representative for the Dart Container Sales Corporation. His fiancée, Maureen, works at the Pert Group in Bloomfield, Connecticut, as a senior insight manager. A September 2010 wedding is planned.



Pictured from left to right, the Women's Forum panel included keynote speaker Janet Johnson Bryant a journalist working in Liberia and featured in the film; Amber Chand, founder of the Women's Peace Collection; panel moderator President Mary K. Grant; Shirley Edgerton M.Ed. '07 director of the Berkshire Service Group, Department of Developmental Services; and Monique Symes '11 student leader, volunteer, and founder of Nexus.



MCLA's step team Nexus performed at the Women's Forum.



Former roommates Heather Duso Galpin '99, Amy Brough Palmerino '99 and Sue Frederick Winkfield '98 pose for a photo atop Mt. Greylock.



Alumni of the women's volleyball program came back to campus in April to play against the current team. A good time was had by all. Special thanks to Coach Amanda Beckwith '03 for organizing the event.



Janna Kohut Millard '02 and Deirdre Londergan Sullivan '04.

2001

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

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

Kristin Lamontagne
65 Strathmore Rd Apt 7
Boston, MA 02135-7740
Kristinl8779@aol.com

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

We recently learned that **James Blake** is engaged to Monique Gasson. Jason is a project manager/estimator with Allegrone Construction Company in Pittsfield. Monique is a human resources manager at Marvin and Company P.C. in Latham, NY. A wedding is planned for October 8th at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield.

Virginia Phyllis Jarrett had lunch recently with Janice Messer, retired executive director of alumni relations and development. Phyllis, as she is known, is amazing. She lives in Williamstown, and is weatherproofing the porch on her home by herself. Phyllis is very active with the First Baptist Church in North Adams.

Kenneth W. Newman, Sr. is the new assistant superintendent for student learning in Monticello, NY. Newman held various positions during his 11 years in education, including a stint as a business teacher in Schenectady, NY. Before his appointment in Monticello, he held the assistant principal position at Oneida Middle School. Congratulations!

2002

Martha Andrews
77 South St
Plainville, MA 02762-2613
andrewsm222@hotmail.com

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

Autumn May
34 Whittesley Ave
North Adams, MA 01247

Diane Thompson
77 South St
Plainville, MA 02762-2613
diane_m_thompson@hotmail.com

Sarah Gaffrey was recently named branch manager of Hoosac Bank's main office. Hoosac Bank is part of MountainOne Financial Partners. Best of luck to you, Sarah!

Janna Kohut deThorpe Millard writes, "After two years teaching in South Korea I have moved back to Newburyport, MA. I am currently completing my Masters Program at Cambridge College majoring in School Counseling. I was married on July 18, 2009 to Daniel deThorpe Millard who I met while in South Korea. Bridesmaids included **Kelly Emery Miller** and Deirdre Londergan Sullivan '04. Also in attendance were Seth Miller '01, **Jen Radley Benoit**, Brooke Boisvert Coyle '01, **Julie Young Coffin**, **Jen McDermott Doran**, **Vanessa White Sullivan**, **Aaron Crawford**, **Chris and Kelly Martinek '01** and '03.

2003

Christina Barrett
99 Whittier Ave
Pittsfield, MA 01201-7343
cbarrett81@hotmail.com

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

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

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

David Robbins recently returned from his National Guard deployment in Afghanistan. Before joining the Guard, he worked with Legacy Banks.

We recently learned that **Andrea Vilamaino** is engaged to Peter Anthony Micheals. A wedding is planned for October. Best of luck to you, Andrea!

2004

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



Cutting the cake and starting their lives together, MCLA Alumni Jenni Bell '06 and Brian Szczerbinski '05 wed back in January!

Lynn Brennan
5024 State Rd
Canisteo, NY 14823
lynnbrennanphotography@yahoo.com

Amanda Hayden
amanda_bunny@yahoo.com

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

Jacob McKim
7 Wood Hawk Way
Litchfield, NH 03052-2446

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

Erin Good
erinmgood@gmail.com

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

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

Rachel Churchill attended the Paul E. Tsongas scholarship luncheon held at the Massachusetts state house last November. The event was attended by dignitaries including Thaleia Tsongas, sister of the late Senator Paul Tsongas. We would also like to congratulate Rachel on her graduation from Suffolk University Law School. Best of luck to you, Rachel!

Kristen Hurley is the complex director in Esopus Hall at the State University of New York at New Paltz. She is also area coordinator of first year programs at the university.

Katy Schonbeck, a choreographer and performance artist, has just begun a new class in meditative movement at the Beacon Feed Dance Studio in Cambridge, NY. Her class is for movers of all levels who wish to deepen their experience of centering and moving the body. Best of luck to you, Katie!

2005

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

Nicole Losavio
PO Box 4654
Bennington, VT 05201-4654
nblosa@wm.edu

We are excited to announce the engagement of **Brian F. Laramée** to Jennifer E. Downer. Brian is employed by Stetson School in Barre, MA, and Ms. Downer is employed by TJX Companies Inc. in Framingham, MA.

2006

Danielle Barboza
1837 Alabama St
San Francisco, CA 94110-5247
dbarboza@mcla.edu

Jennifer Bell
290 North Oak St Apt P
Orange, CA 92865

CAMPUS UPDATE

HELPING OTHERS THROUGH FILM

MITCHELL MASELLI '11, AN ENGLISH MAJOR with a concentration in film studies, left Haiti two days before the January 12 earthquake struck the island nation. Maselli knew someday he would return to Haiti to film a documentary. He did not expect that he would return to Haiti on the first commercial flight after the earthquake.

Maselli had traveled with members of the Church Outreach to Youth Project as part of a Haiti Plunge team. Haiti Plunge teams have traveled to the villages of Desab and Breley for several years. Its volunteers have helped the local communities by fostering an agricultural cooperative of nine villages in the mountain region. Haiti Plunge is part of the Church Outreach To Youth Project Inc. (COTY) in North Adams, founded by Sister Eunice Tassone.

On his first trip to Haiti, Maselli helped with various types of construction work. On his most recent trip, he put his creative talents to work, making a film for Haiti Plunge. The film goes beyond the story of the devastating earthquake, showing a firsthand account of COTY's work. Once completed, the film will be used by the COTY center to raise funds for Haiti, and to spread awareness of the great need there. Maselli plans to submit his film to several film festivals.

HALL OF BLACK ACHIEVEMENT

The Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement was established to discover, detail, and disclose significant achievements and contributions of people of color within the Massachusetts state college system. The award ceremony was held at Bridgewater State College in February.



MCLA students are accomplishing more every day with support from faculty and staff. Here, Thomas Alexander, Coordinator of ALANA and International Student Programs and Services, (left) stands with Hall of Black Achievement inductees Tabitha Cruz '10, Samantha Bey '10, Nadyne Damas '10, Christine Mbaka '09, and Marvin Thompson '11. Recipient Chiara Morrison '09 is not pictured.



Kimberly Harris '08, Dayne Wahl '09 and Emily Silver '09, all currently teaching English in China through Hebei University, have been keeping in touch with MCLA alumni and current students. (Left to right: Cherry, Kim, Greg, Jing Jing, Emily and Dayne).



Alumni of the MCLA women's soccer program recently returned to campus to challenge the current team in a game that proved players' endurance, talent, and ability to have fun.

2007

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

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

We are excited to announce that North Adams' own **Lacey Sumner** and Russell Cyr have married. The couple married at Florida Baptist Church in Florida, MA. After a honeymoon to Williamsburg, Virginia, the couple lives in North Adams.

Matthew Dunne is a post-production assistant at Howcast Media in the greater New York City area.

Tyna Burda Senecal was recently named branch manger for William-

stown Savings Bank. Williamstown Savings Bank is part of MountainOne Financial Partners, which includes Hoosac Bank; Williamstown Savings Bank; South Coastal Bank: Coakley, Pierpan, Dolan & Collins; and True North. Congratulations, Tyna!

Jess Sokol writes, "At the moment, I'm the alumni relations and events assistant at Hampshire College. I absolutely love my job, but I'll be leaving soon. I was just accepted to the UConn higher education and student affairs master's program with an assistantship in the Office of Community Outreach. I begin working with Community Outreach this June and start classes in September. I'm still dating Kevin Sullivan '06. Kevin is working as both a senior videographer at E-TV, the town of Enfield's television station, and as a library assistant at the UConn law library. He's pursuing his master's degree in library and information sciences at SCSU."

2008

Jed Abbott-Washburn recently completed his graduate studies in the field of ethics and public policy at Suffolk University in Boston. He served as a graduate assistant in the history department, while earning a 3.8 out of a possible 4.0 grade point average. Congratulations!

2009

Ellen Rosati is directing a play, "Klepto," as part of the Winter Shortstheater festival. "Klepto" is the story of a Russian-born boy, Vlad, who compulsively steals things. He is trapped inside a reform school and uses tunnels, and even dynamite, to attempt an escape from the school. Best of luck to you, Ellen!

Emily Silver writes, "Hello from China! Yesterday Kim Harris '08, **Dayne Wahl** and I met three of the four Chinese students who studied at MCLA last semester. We went to dinner with them and had a great time reminiscing about college and hearing about their experiences. It seems like they loved MCLA, and I know the three of us are so proud to call them our fellow MCLA alumni! It's great to reconnect with MCLA even though we're on a different side of the world!"

2010

Rory Allan
358A Mountain Rd
Princeton, MA 01541-1109

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. 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.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Esther Green Bashevkin '46
January 1, 2010

Marcia C. Cate Desjarlais '50
May 5, 2010

Marilyn Sprague '53
January 29, 2010

William M. Boland '60
May 21, 2010

Mary R. Grady Healey '41
February 1, 2010

Robert J. Swain '60
January 8, 2010

Martha Buckley '53
February 19, 2010

Carlos Pagan '85
November 10, 2009

Virginia Walsh '80
January 13, 2010

Kitty Chalifoux '71
January 17, 2010

Jeffery A. Perachio '03
May 17, 2010

Catherine Burrington Cromack '51
December 22, 2009

Terry Romaniak '78
December 25, 2009



In Memory of
CARLOS M. PAGAN '85
Siempre que lo recordemos,
su sonrisa y su hermosa personalidad,
permanecera con nosotros.

CARLOS PAGAN '85 Classmates Kevin Kaczynski '85, Tom Brennan '84, and Brian Barthelmes '85 stand in celebration of the Carlos Pagan memorial bench on campus. Carlos Pagan '85, who died in the advanced stages of cancer last fall, left a lasting impression on the three classmates. Together with Rick Page '85, and Bob Thomas '85, Kaczynski, Brennan, and Barthelmes raised funds to remember Pagan through MCLA's bench program. The bench will serve as a lasting tribute to their friendship, to Pagan's memory, and to the friendships that are born at MCLA.

Are you interested in naming a bench in memory or honor of someone special? Contact Jocelyn Merrick at 413-662-5193 or j.merrick@mcla.edu

HOLLYWOOD DREAM IN THE MAKING

By Devin Kibbe '11



ASHLEY ELIZABETH GREEN '07 knew that after graduating from MCLA it was time for her to follow her dream. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in fine and performing arts, Green, who has been acting since the age of nine, left her hometown of Plymouth, MA and headed west to start anew in Los Angeles.

Upon arriving in L.A., Green realized the road ahead would not be easy. With no car and no furniture, no contacts, and no agent, the first weeks were a challenge. "There are hard times in anyone's life, but in L.A. it's all compacted," explained Green. With perseverance and hard work, Green has been able to move to a Hollywood Boulevard apartment complex, where she now lives with fashion designers, models, agents, screenwriters, singers, and designers.

Ashley Green considers L.A. a land of opportunity. Though she has come to understand that the acting business is extremely competitive, she is busy building quite a resume. Green has worked with David Duchovny and Vin Diesel and has been on sets with Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon. She has appeared on popular television shows including "Medium," "Californication," "Entourage," "NCIS: Los Angeles," and "Gossip Girl," and also starred in the indie film "Dinner with the Paddingtons," among other projects. Her latest plans include working on ABC's hit show "Grey's Anatomy."

MCLA played a big role in preparing Green for the challenges of her new profession. The opportunity to act and to be onstage on a regular basis through her work with Main Stage productions, Dance Company, and One Acts performances gave Green the confidence to open up while acting. She was also able to form close relationships with her MCLA classmates in a supportive, nurturing environment.

Academically, Green was challenged by two professors at MCLA, Bonnie Bishoff, who retired from the College this May, and Doug Jenkins. They consistently offered constructive criticism and prepared her for acting both in theater and film, giving her the technical education and the confidence she would need to make it in Hollywood. Green cites Jenkins, who has real acting experience as well as a doctorate, as a tremendous influence on her decision to pursue a graduate degree. Green has already earned a Master of Arts in film from Regis University and is now pursuing a doctorate in education at Walden University, so that, she says, "I can give students what I have been given."

Offering advice to students interested in pursuing a career in acting, Green warns, "Remember why you wanted it in the first place, and keep your support systems. People can be rude here, but I still talk to (Bonnie and Doug) and stay in touch with MCLA students from my acting classes. We call each other to share success and to cry." Good advice from a well-rounded pro!



A CALL FROM THE FUTURE

The Office of Institutional Advancement has many successful programs, and one of its most energetic and unique is the phonathon program. Each semester, 20 phonathon alumni ambassadors are selected from the student body to work evenings calling alumni. They share news about the College, update contact information, and ask for donations to support the Annual Fund, which directly supports student financial aid. The phonathon alumni ambassadors consistently praise the phonathon program for several gratifying opportunities it provides. At the top of the list is the feeling of accomplishment from raising money for student financial aid. Alumni generosity often directly benefits the phonathon callers personally, as nearly 83% of current MCLA students receive financial aid. Secondly, the phonathon callers rave about the conversations they have with alums, sharing opinions on professors and local hotspots, and receiving career advice. "I have received amazing advice from former teachers about how to stay true to myself in the education system as a teacher; it has been very beneficial to how I view my role as a future teacher," says phonathon caller Devin Kibbe '11.

This spring, the phonathon program partnered with a number of committed alumni and friends who offered to help the students with the difficult task of converting non-contributors into new donors. The matching funds we received through this effort allowed callers to tell alumni that their individual gifts would be matched dollar for dollar, doubling each individual donation and the impact it would have at the College. As a result of this wonderful initiative, the spring phonathon effort exceeded its goal and raised \$32,000.

Phonathon is the essence of unity, bringing current students and alumni together over simple conversation to share their love of the College. The financial support that so many alumni have already given to current MCLA students is remarkable and inspiring. If you would like to make a gift in support of MCLA students and programs, pick up the phone the next time it rings — it may be MCLA! Or visit www.mcla.edu/giving to make your donation for the future of students at MCLA.

Above: Phonathon Alumni Ambassadors present President Grant with a check representing the pledges they raised during the spring phonathon.



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North Adams, MA 01247

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SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Campus Events

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------|---|
| September 20 | Golf Classic
Honoring the Honorable Paul
Perachi '63, M.Ed '70 | December 1 | Boston alumni gathering
UMass Club |
| September 25 | MCLA Presents! Black Violin | December 8 | MCLA Presents! The Sweetback
Sisters |
| October 19 | Hardman Lecture Series: Laura Ling | January 29 | National Girls and Women in
Sports Day |
| October 22-24 | Reunion and Fall Family Weekend | February 4 | MCLA Presents! 6th Annual MCLA
Blues and Funk Festival
Papa Grows Funk and Benny
Turner |
| October 23 | MCLA Presents! Tsidii
Margaret A. Hart '35 Scholarship
Concert | February 13 | MCLA Presents! <i>Waiting for Godot</i>
As originally produced by the
Classical Theatre of Harlem |
| November 9 | Public Policy Lecture
Vandana Shiva | | |
| November 17 | MCLA Presents! <i>First Love</i>
Gare St. Lazare Players | | |

For more information, please contact the Alumni Office at 888-677-MCLA (toll free) or 413-662-5224; email: alumni@mcla.edu