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On The Cover: President Grant (fourth from the right) greets incoming students during Opening Days at the annual hike up Mt. Greylock with Jamal Ahamad '11, Marcelle Bastille '09, Esther Fan Fan '11, Justin Vanderpool '11, and Ben Warren '11.

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From the Office of Institutional Advancement

Dear Alumni:

IN NOVEMBER, over 200 friends of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts — including alumni, students, faculty members, trustees, foundation directors, members of the alumni board and community — came together for the College's 115th anniversary celebration. This truly special event gave us the opportunity to look back at the history of this wonderful institution and to anticipate everything we will achieve in the years to come.

In addition to sharing good company and wonderful memories, the celebration raised close to \$23,000 to support scholarships for MCLA students. These scholarships help to ensure that today's students can make the most of the educational experience MCLA offers, both in and out of the classroom.

One alumna who knows firsthand about the potential of an MCLA degree is President Mary K. Grant '83. In every issue of *Beacons and Seeds*, we focus on the accomplishments of a noteworthy member of the alumni community. In this issue, we profile President Grant. Now in the eighth year of her presidency, she continues to oversee the evolution and transformation of the College. You can read her story on the following page.



Thanks to President Grant and the dedicated faculty and staff who work with her, more and more students are coming to MCLA to take advantage of our academic programs, internships, service learning, and undergraduate research projects, and to develop their leadership skills through campus clubs, organizations, and athletic teams. Students know that the College will challenge and support them, and that our cultural programs, lectures, and campus events will reflect and enhance their academic course work.

MCLA's value and academic excellence continues to attract prospective students and their families. This fall, enrollment was up by nearly 100 students. During Opening Days in September, over 200 students hiked up Mount Greylock. President Grant greeted the hikers at the summit, and invited each of them to face the experiences and challenges ahead of them with the same gusto and commitment they showed on the climb.

As applications stream in and enrollment continues to rise, scholarship support has become crucial, especially in these challenging financial times. The Advancement Office has called on alumni, community members, and other friends of the College to dig deep in support of student scholarships through gifts to the Annual Fund. (If you have not already, please make a gift online at www.mcla.edu/giving.)

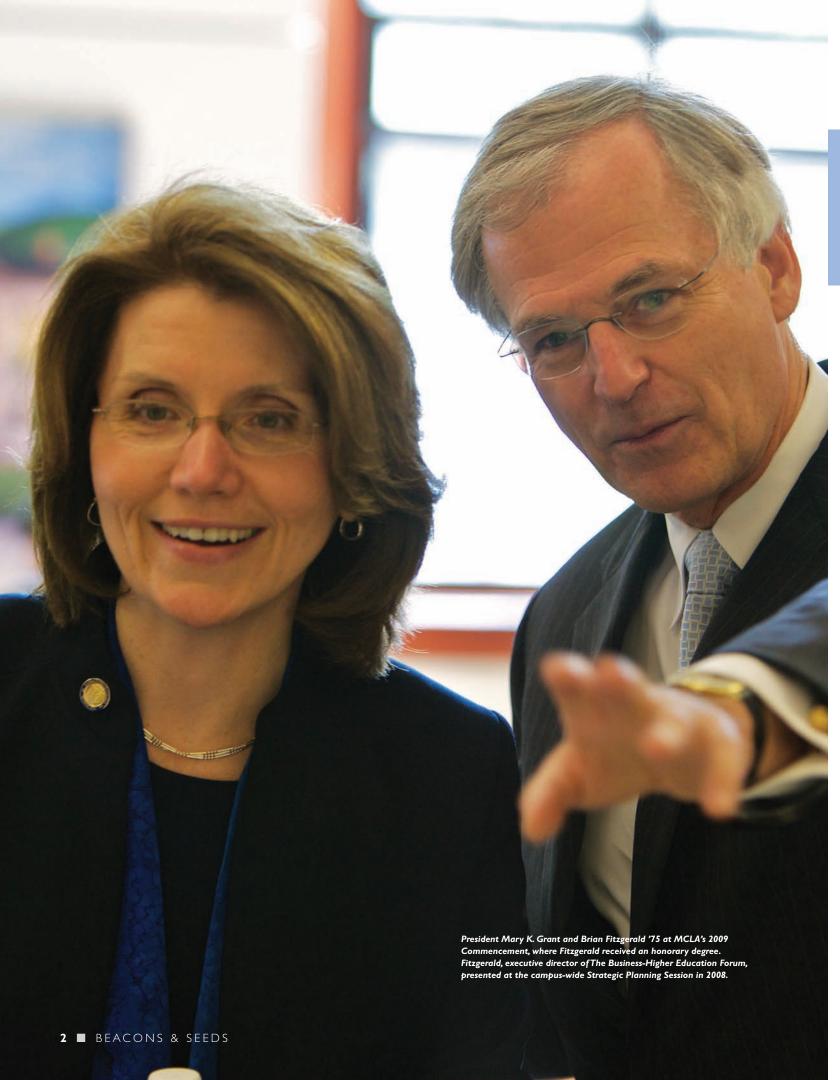
This is an exciting time at MCLA. We are working together to prepare the next generation of innovators, leaders, lifelong learners, or even another future college president.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Marianne Drake

Chief Advancement Officer, President, MCLA Foundation, Inc.

Maurine Drake



MARY GRANT Right from the Start

Now in her eighth year as MCLA's dynamic leader and celebrating the College's 115th anniversary, President Mary K. Grant represents the strength and accomplishments of so many NASC and MCLA alumni.



Commencement is an important time of year as the institution celebrates our newest alumni. President Grant plays a pivotal role, conferring degrees on every one of the graduates. Gladys Byrd and her mother Mary Montgomery both completed the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in education, furthering their careers.

LIKE ANY LEADER WORTHY of her title, Mary K. Grant, President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, knows how to recruit, motivate, and inspire. She is as comfortable sharing a story with a student or a cup of coffee with a staff member, as she is cultivating the vision needed to advance the mission and the excellence of the College in spite of declining public dollars. "Mary Grant has an astute knowledge of human nature," says Matt Harris, a former MCLA Trustee and a managing general partner at Village Ventures, an early-stage venture capital firm. "She has a level of empathy that's off the charts."

No one understands that better than Andy Mick, president of New England Newspapers Inc., publisher of the Berkshire Eagle, and 2009 MCLA graduate. In 2006, Grant approached Mick and asked him to chair the Berkshire Compact for Higher Education. Launched the previous year, the Compact began as a vehicle to support the educational component of the region's transition from its manufacturing past to its future in technology, innovation, and the creative economy. The goals of the Compact align with the work being done on the local, state, and national levels to reexamine the entire educational pipeline, from early childhood to higher education and lifelong learning. Governor Deval Patrick's Readiness Agenda reflects many of the key components of the Berkshire Compact, which harnesses the talent and skills of key academic, business, and political groups to develop training and education that will boost opportunities for young people.

Mick, who was flattered by Grant's invitation and certainly eager to serve, felt compelled to say no. He had a secret that he'd harbored for decades: he had never completed his college education. At age 60, he couldn't imagine steering a group focused

"I'm a believer in public education. I look at what it did for me. I look at what public education does for the students I see here every day at MCLA." says President Mary K. Grant.

on the needs of higher education when he didn't have a degree himself. "I would classify this as a huge personal inferiority complex," says Mick, today a proud baccalaureate. But when he confided his secret to Grant, he says, "Instead of a stern look of disappointment, a sly smile formed on her face, and she said, 'So what are you going to do about it?" After an hour's talk about the issues and challenges, says Mick, "With Mary's encouragement, I came to one of those life-changing decisions. In addition to accepting the Compact chair position, I was going back to college!"

Inspired by Grant's enthusiasm, Mick embarked on a life-altering adventure. "Going back to college was terrific," he says. "I am more confident, and I've developed a healthy skepticism that causes me to challenge traditional thinking. I also got some interesting insights into youth." At the same time, MCLA and the Compact benefited from the expertise of Mick, an influential, savvy contributor. Mick says: "Mary Grant has put MCLA on the 21st-century map of institutions of higher learning. She has taken MCLA from a good school to a great school. She gets it and pushes hard to be a leading social and economic driver for Western Massachusetts."

President Grant clearly loves every minute of her job. "But this isn't about me," she says. "We're the only four-year public institution of higher education in northwestern Massachusetts, and we serve this entire region. So we need to make sure that students of all ages in the area understand that they have an institution they can be proud of — one that will serve the community and grow." Grant acknowledges that MCLA, formerly North Adams State College, may have suffered from an under-the-radar profile in the past. But those days are gone. "We're a first-rate institution meeting the needs of our students," says Grant.

All Roads Lead to North Adams

President Grant's commitment to shaping higher education began during her own transition to college. Grant earned a scholarship to a private college right out of high school. She was 18 years old and living at her parents' house in the Boston suburb of Weymouth. "I was the first in my family to go to a four-year school, and they were very proud of me."

"I'm one of six kids," says Grant, "and I'm a middle child."
"My dad was an auto mechanic and ran a gas station for many years. With six kids and a full house, one salary was stretched very far, but my parents always worked very hard to set a great example."

The trouble with attending her first school was: she hated it. "I felt like a fish out of water. It may have been the economics. Coming from a working-class household, I was commuting to school in a beat-up old car to a place where most of the students were in residence. It was probably an issue of readiness too, of not knowing how to navigate this new place. I wasn't quite ready and it just wasn't the right fit."

Grant began skipping classes and considered stopping altogether. She was unwilling to burden her parents with the fact that she was unhappy. "I remember one day leaving the house, calling out as I left, 'See you later. I'm going to school,' and getting in my car, and thinking, 'I just can't do this.' I went back in the house, and I said to my mother, 'I need to tell you what's going on.' And lo and behold, the sky didn't fall. My parents did what good parents do, and they said, 'Well, if you're this miserable, you shouldn't be doing it."

Nevertheless, Grant wanted to continue attending college. "So I looked into the different public schools across Massachusetts." She chose MCLA for several reasons. "As one of six kids, I was ready to be away from home. I wanted a chance not to share a room with my two sisters. But it was also the location, the natural beauty of the Berkshires, and the size of the school, which meant an opportunity to get to know the faculty. All of it just appealed to me," she says. "I started here and never looked back."

Grant's undergraduate experience shaped her beliefs and values in the years to come. Today she says simply, "I'm a believer in public education. I look at what it did for me. I look at what public education does for the students I see here every day at MCLA. There are great schools in so many corners of the country, particularly in Massachusetts, but I absolutely believe a good fit with the institution matters most of all to the individual student."

All in all, as Grant puts it, "this place served me very well as an undergraduate student." After graduating with a major in sociology, Grant earned a master's degree in public affairs from



President Grant believes in fostering student leadership and takes time to meet with student groups every semester both to learn what is important to students and address their concerns one on one. At the 115th Anniversary Celebration: Michael Obasohan, Esther Fan Fan, Student Government Association president Jameek Clovie, Patrick Ryan, President Mary K. Grant, student trustee Jade Prickett, and Shuai Liu and Jingjing Bai, visiting students from Hebei University in Baoding, China.

the McCormack Institute of Public Affairs at UMass (now the McCormack Graduate School) and a doctorate in social policy from the Heller School at Brandeis. Along the way, she met and married Jim Canavan, a nonprofit executive.

One of Grant's earliest jobs was with the Thompson Island Education Center, located on an island in Boston Harbor. "I took a boat to work every day, even in February. It was terrific." She was working in community development in Boston when an old mentor at the McCormack Institute invited her back. "I went to the Institute and really found a professional home at UMass Boston for the next decade," says Grant, who worked on a range of projects, including teaching graduate courses. In the late 1990s, at the request of UMass Boston's chancellor, she took a leave from the Institute to work as an assistant vice chancellor on a project to reorganize human resources at UMass Boston. "It was great fun. I learned a lot and then was able to return to the Institute as a senior fellow, running the Center for Social Policy."

In 2000, Grant was again tapped for a high-profile project, this time by the office of the president of UMass, to serve as deputy CEO and chief academic officer of a new system-wide online education venture. "It was an invaluable time to be learning about technology because schools such as the University of Phoenix were just stepping into the marketplace," she says. "There were lots of negotiations with five different institutions, each with its own personalities and contributions," she remembers. Her team helped recruit Jack Wilson, the current president of UMass, to be the first CEO of UMass Online.

Given the way that jobs seem to find Grant rather than the other way around, it's not surprising that she wasn't actively looking when MCLA came calling. "This institution found me," she says. "I wasn't out there shopping. And this was the only time I've been in a search to be a president." Grant arrived at MCLA at exactly the right time and place to steward the institution that she credits with once launching her into the wider world — one that has responded to her distinctive blend of pragmatism and vision. I think it's about being open to opportunity," she says, looking back. Or, ever with an eye on getting the right things done: "It's about making sure that this place has a future that goes beyond any one president or any one board of trustees."

Building on Momentum

By any measure, Mary K. Grant has been doing a terrific job since 2002, even as the job of a public college president becomes more complex and demanding and state budgets shrink. "It's unusual for a leader in the nonprofit social sector to be sufficiently commercially minded and organizationally talented to run a good business without for a second sacrificing the mission," says former trustee Harris. "Mary has that rare talent to keep her head in both arenas at the same time."

Under her leadership and in collaboration with the College community, enrollment at MCLA has grown steadily and the number of programs has multiplied. Athletics and team sports have thrived. MCLA has forged innovative bonds with the region's communities and businesses, expanding resources



As part of President Grant's ongoing effort to bring people of note and experts in their field to present on campus, in spring 2009 David Plouffe spoke as part of the Public Policy Lecture Series. This series is generously sponsored by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. From left to right, President Mary K. Grant, Professor Avaz Hajizadeh, David Plouffe, and John DeRosa.

Under Grant's leadership and in collaboration with the College community, enrollment at MCLA has grown steadily and the number of programs has multiplied.

for students and providing opportunities for student internships. Recent on-campus events have featured educator Jonathan Kozol; journalist Mariane Pearl; environmentalist Bill McKibben; the Washington Post's Bob Woodward; New York Times columnist David Brooks; and Paul Rusesabagina, author of An Ordinary Man, whose story inspired the film Hotel Rwanda. Grant has also tapped commencement speakers such as Senators John Kerry and Ted Kennedy and author, composer, and jazz musician James McBride.

In addition, by consciously recasting the campus's culture, Grant is not only recruiting a broader mix of professors and research specialists, she's also re-energizing long-term faculty. Before Grant's arrival, says Deborah Foss, coordinator of advising services and professor of psychology, "I had pretty much dropped out of the center of life at the College." (Foss has been a faculty member since 1987.) "I contributed by teaching classes, but I wasn't happy with the status quo, and so I respectfully withdrew. I had spent too many years banging my head against the wall, and it hurt."

Her turnaround was swift and purposeful. Seven years ago, Foss volunteered to be on the committee that planned Grant's inauguration and soon discovered renewed dedication to the school and an appreciation for its incoming president. "Mary is a great leader," says Foss today. "She gives people time and space to figure things out and trusts their decisions, yet she doesn't hesitate to weigh in and give direction."

It is Grant's unusual ability to effectively move forward with that double vision — juggling long-term and immediate needs; attending to details while implementing strategic plans — that so defines her value to MCLA. The latest example is the Governor's recent approval of the \$54.5 million Center for Science and Innovation, which will be the single largest investment in public higher education in Berkshire County.

"It was a very deliberate strategy about getting everyone on message," says Grant, explaining that the campaign to secure the funding began back in 2003 at the strategic planning retreat she convenes each year after Commencement. "I said to the campus, 'We will have a new building.'" Grant worked to create a sense of shared ownership in the project. Early on, she invited the science faculty to a dinner, asking the group to imagine how such an innovative space might be used.

Grant then tapped key community and state stakeholders who could join her in advocating for investment in the life sciences in Berkshire County to the leadership in Boston. After that, she kept every MCLA person on-message: "If someone went to an event or meeting, they made sure, whoever the event was for, that they went up to him or her and said, 'I'm from MCLA, and we really need this new science building."



Tony Dedrick '06 shares news of his career with President Grant at an alumni event held this December in Boston

I urged all students to talk about the science building. We worked hard to build support for the project from the governor and the members of our legislative delegation. We have been truly fortunate that the project received their full support early on. They appreciate the need for the Center, and the opportunity it represents for this region and the Commonwealth. So when this Center goes forward, there'll be lots of folks who deserve a share of the credit."

And when her time at MCLA is done, what will Mary K. Grant do? The question gives her pause. "I'm not thinking about that at the moment," she says. "For now I'm having too much fun, and I'm focused on the important work that we're doing every day to serve our students and our community." Given Grant's record, it's a good bet that MCLA will continue to deliver firstclass opportunities for all of its students and stakeholders for the next century. "We just celebrated MCLA's 115th anniversary. We have a strong history and a solid foundation that will serve us well not only as we move through the immediate challenges ahead but as we position the college for the next 115 years!" she says.

When it is time for President Grant to move on to her next project, we can be certain the legacy of her commitment and determination is MCLA's growing reputation as one of the premier public liberal arts schools in the nation.

DOING THE NUMBERS AT MCLA

As the 2009–10 academic year is in full swing, the College can boast impressive progress. Here are some of the fast facts.

STUDENTS

1,960 total enrollment

Almost 600 new students this fall

First-year applications up 30%

10% increase in new student enrollments

23% increase in African, Latino, Asian, and Native American students

Undergraduates from 17 states

Programs with highest enrollment: English/Communications, Business, Education, Fine & Performing Arts, Psychology, Sociology

ADVANCEMENT / ALUMNI

16,000 MCLA Alumni

Since July 1, 2006, \$6.4 million has been raised toward the Major Gift Initiative

MCLA Foundation owns 15 properties

Foundation manages 59 endowed funds

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Expenditure of \$3.7 million in capital projects

Cost savings of over \$100,000

October 2009 Governor Patrick released five-year capital plan that included \$50 million for the Center for Science and Innovation, including \$500,000 in fiscal year 2010 to initiate the study phase.

TECHNOLOGY

Bandwidth increased from 25mb to 70mb

30% jump in Blackboard Vista courses

46.5% rise in Web traffic this year

Over 1.5 million online page views this year alone

ATHLETICS

636,000 online views of college sports

Five MASCAC Coach of the Year awards in the past

40% of student athletes on honor roll



The 25th reunion Class of 1984 had a great weekend, culminating with a class dinner at Jae's Inn.



The Class of 1959 celebrated their 50th reunion with a special dinner at the Advancement/Alumni House with President Mary K. Grant. second from right.



Tom Aldous '84 and his wife Hoa were on campus both to celebrate Tom's 25th Reunion and to see their daughter Tiffany who is a first year student. Here they chat with Dianne Manning, director of residential programs.

REUNION

This year alumni came back to celebrate Reunion in October in conjunction with Fall Family Weekend. Over 300 alumni were in attendance at a variety of events.



Friday night's reception honored retired Vice President of Academic Affairs Steve Green. From left to right: Steve's wife Susanne Walker, Ruth Glick Asher '82, and Steve Green.

Long time College Alumni Director Retires

Janice Messer, the College's executive director of alumni relations and development, retired from her position in January. She spent 15 years as the voice and coordinator behind many alumni efforts at the College. Janice not only accomplished the task of creating greater alumni involvement, she advocated for the creation of more alumni regional groups and made fundraising a priority within the Alumni Association. "The challenge of reconnecting alumni and cultivating relationships was a wonderful part of my job," says Janice.

Janice credits her diverse educational background and her experience in the theater, to her success as the director of alumni relations. She majored in speech and English at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, and obtained a master's degree in Organization and Management from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire. "When I went to graduate school, I interacted with people from all walks of life. I found that interacting with those people and learning from them was really important."



Diane Sammer '81 credits Janice Messer with getting her reconnected to the College.

Many alumni have fond memories of Janice; she often "discovered" lost alumni and got them reconnected and into leadership roles. Dave Flint '78, president of the Alumni Association Board, recalls the day he found the alumni office's webpage and



Ben Metz '06, Ben Leahy, and Ellen Rosati '09 at Bonnie Bishoff's brunch.



Paul Menard '03, MB Makara '03, Jill Barr '05, Frank Borrelli '05, Jay Burnett '04, and Alexis Pelletier '02 came back to campus to celebrate Bonnie Bishoff.

The capstone of the weekend was a surprise brunch honoring Fine and Performing Arts Professor Bonnie Bishoff. Over 100 alumni came back to the College from far and wide to honor Bonnie as she directed her final play in the department before she retires in the spring.

For more information on the newly established Bonnie and Robert Bishoff Award for Creative Achievement in Theatre or Film please contact Nina Garlington at nina.garlington@mcla.edu or 413-662-5220.



Michelle "Misha" Crawford-Cranmore '00 and family with Bonnie Bishoff.



The first ALANA Alumni dinner took place during the weekend. ALANA alumni and current students connected to share their experiences at the College. Plans are already underway for a spring ALANA gathering. Contact Jocelyn Merrick at i.merrick@mcla.edu for more information.

Clockwise from the left: Nicola Cummings Wilburn '95, Greg Burnett '03, Marjorie Belizaire '07, and Dominique Lafortune.

updated his contact information, "I sent my form in electronically, and not more than five minutes had passed when the phone rang and it was Janice letting me know she was traveling for the College and would I meet her for dinner." Janice's enthusiasm for the College and the alumni body was infectious. She took the small volunteer social held every summer and built it into an alumni retreat, teaching alumni more about the College and the people behind important initiatives.

Jocelyn Merrick, MCLA director of annual giving and interim director of alumni relations, describes how Janice's one-woman alumni relations program built an interested and engaged alumni body. No event at the College or in the region was complete without Janice. She would pick a place, pull together a list of alumni to invite, and manage the event from nametags to remarks. And she'd come back to the office with another candidate for the Alumni Board, names and emails of lost alumni, and commitments to support the College and student scholarships.

This past year, the Alumni Board chose Janice as the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Service to the College. Carol Corrigan '76, chair of the awards committee, says, "It was a natural choice. Janice has been our biggest advocate and helped many of us to become reacquainted with an institution we loved. Without Janice, many of us may not be as involved as we are today."

Marianne Drake, chief advancement officer, says, "Janice will be deeply missed. It is rare to find an individual so committed and passionate about the mission of an institution. She was always looking to connect with students, and immediately transferred that devotion to them as alumni once they received their diplomas."

As Janice looks forward to the next phase of her life, she can take a bit of her own advice to new graduates of MCLA: "One of the things you have to be is open-minded. I think going to college prepares you for life; be open-minded to every opportunity out there."

VVomen's Soccer

Blazing New Trails: Women's Soccer Team Advances to ECAC New England Championship

The Lady Trailblazers ended their regular season with a 3-1 loss to Westfield State College on November 7 in the title game of the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC). But the loss couldn't keep the Trailblazers out of post-season



The 2009 women's soccer team set a record for the most victories in a season.

competition. In recognition of its winning season, the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) invited MCLA's team to compete in the ECAC tournament. The Trailblazers entered the tournament with a 14-5 season, setting a school record for the most victories during a season. The previous mark was set in 1994.

On November 11, the Trailblazers hosted a 3-0 shut-out game against Emmanuel College on Shewcraft Field, then advanced to the November 14 semi-finals against top-seeded Brandeis University. The game went into double overtime. With the score tied 3-3, the Judges prevailed on penalty kicks, 3-1, and the Brandeis team advanced to its third straight ECAC tournament championship finals.

Throughout the season and the tournament the Trailblazers showed strength, talent, excellent sportsmanship, and dedication to school spirit. They end this season with a 15-5-1 record, 9-1 at home, and 6-4-1 on the road. Four players earned MASCAC all-conference team first and second team honors. Jade Prickett '10, Jess Tietgens '11, and Jen Wehner '12 were named to the first team, and Danielle Parenteau '11 earned second team honors. The college community congratulates the women's soccer team for their winning season. We are proud of their hard work and impressive accomplishments.

Trailblazers Head Coach Named Coach of the Year

Women's head soccer coach Deb Raber received the 2009 Coach of the Year Award by the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC). This is the second MASCAC award Raber has received; her first was in 2007. Coach Raber attributes her honor to the team, "They are 25 women who were willing to work hard every day and were willing to learn all I could teach them." The award is given following a league-wide vote of the organization. Raber ends the season with a 15-5-1 record, including a 6-3 showing in the MASCAC conference and a 9-1 home winning record. She has led the Trailblazers to three straight winning seasons, including 25 victories in the last two seasons. Raber's accomplishments at the College include serving as MASCAC soccer representative to the NCAA/New England Region Ranking Committee and as NCAA national tournament site representative, and receiving the Silver Award from the NCAA Ethics Committee in the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007. Congratulations to Coach Raber and the Trailblazers for their stellar season and great achievements.



Coach Raber has been named MASCAC Coach of the Year in 2007 and 2009.

Tietgens Sets College's All-Time Women's Soccer Record

Jess Tietgens '11 is the Trailblazers' shining star. In 2008, her second season, she broke the record for goals scored in a season (21) previously held by Jen Maloney '95. In 2009 she led the MASCAC in both goals and points, scoring 30 goals and 64 points. She set an all-time record for career goals scored (70) and tallied her 100th career point in just the third game of the season, ending the season with 158 points.

Tietgens' record-setting earned her two MASCAC "player of the week" awards this fall. She also received top honors this year when she was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-New England Team, the ECAC All-New England first team, and, for the second time in her career, the all-MASCAC first team. She led the conference with 6 game-winning goals and is ranked 3rd nationally for goals per game (1.29) and 8th nationally for points per game (3.05) by NCAA Division III.

Tietgens, a business administration major from Stamford, VT, is a thirdgeneration MCLA undergraduate. Her mother Heather graduated in 1983 with a degree in business administration, and her grandmother, Nan Witto, graduated from the College in the mid-1970s. Her mother, father, and sister Jill can always be seen at home and away games, cheering on Jess and the team.



Jess Tietgen's love of the game comes across in her play on the field.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

MCLA has a rich history of athletic competition and achievement. On October 24, the College recognized the 2009 Hall of Fame inductees at a dinner and ceremony. These alumni athletes distinguished themselves and the College through their athletic participation. Many deserving individuals have been considered for selection to the MCLA Athletic Hall of Fame. To read about past honorees, visit athletics.mcla.edu/information/HoF.



Back row: Athletic Director Scott Nichols, Tom Cronin '87, Sue Plankey Leclair '01, Laurie Pecoraro Sullivan '00, President Mary K. Grant, State Representative and the evening's master of ceremonies Dan Bosley '76. Front row: Bill Caprari '75, M. Ed. '80, Andy Marhoffer '83, Shirley Gomez, Jim Hachey '85.

2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

Bill Caprari '75, M. Ed. '80, baseball & athletic department

Tom Cronin '87, men's basketball

Dr. Sam Gomez, cross country (posthumous)

Jim Hachey '85, men's soccer

Sue Plankey Leclair '01, softball

Andy Marhoffer '83, ice hockey

Laurie Pecoraro Sullivan '00, women's soccer

Steve Swail '89, baseball

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni,

am so pleased to be serving as president of the Alumni Board for another year. Many of you joined us on campus this October for Reunion Weekend. The reunion coincided with Fall Family Weekend and gave us the chance to meet current students and their families, to see the fall production *Two on an Island*, and to participate in a variety of fun activities and events. Seeing the campus busy and active, with its highest enrollment since the early '90s, and seeing the proud smiles of families and friends visiting students gave me even more reasons to be a proud alum.



Over the weekend, we bid farewell to Janice Messer, executive director of alumni relations and development, and wished her luck in her retirement. Janice has been an important advocate in the alumni effort at the College. One of her most important legacies is the knowledge that our relationship with the College does not end with graduation, but continues as we join the ranks of thousands of alumni. We join them in supporting each other and supporting current students through the MCLA network and with our gifts to the College.

Best wishes for this New Year,

David R Sunt

Dave Flint '78

COMMITED TO COMMUNITY

Denise Marshall '81, Woman of Achievement



ON OCT. 19, Denise Marshall '81 received the 2009 "Women of Achievement" award from the Berkshire Business Professional Women (BBPW), for her achievements and commitment to the Pittsfield community. BBPW is a Pittsfield-based organization that provides professional and personal development and networking opportunities for working women from diverse fields. When Mar-

shall first heard of the award, she responded: "I was overwhelmed and truly honored to learn that I would receive this prestigious award. I am extremely flattered to be in the company of so many distinguished past recipients, many of whom I know and have looked to as role models in achieving my own aspirations."

Marshall is senior vice president and chief financial officer at South Adams Savings Bank in Adams, MA. She received her B.S. degree in business administration from the College and studied for two years at the Massachusetts School for Financial Studies at Babson University. "We had an amazing group of women nominated for this honor. It's really a testament to the ways in which women continue to contribute to career and community here in Berkshire County," said Kim Baker, chairwoman of BBPW's Woman of Achievement committee. "Choosing this year's winner was no easy feat, but we're thrilled with Denise Marshall and all of her accomplishments. She truly exemplifies the mission of a Woman of Achievement Award."

Marshall has an active history of volunteer and community involvement. She just completed a two-year term as chair of Berkshire United Way's (BUW) board of directors; she was the voice of the new community impact business model that successfully transformed BUW from a mere fundraising organization to a true community leader. Marshall continues to serve on the BUW board and is the chairwoman of their community investment oversight committee. She also serves on the investment committee for Berkshire Place in Pittsfield and is the chairwoman of the Sacred Heart Parish Finance Council. In addition to receiving the BBPW award, she also received the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2005.

Do you know of other alumni who have received recogntion?

Email Jocelyn Merrick at j.merrick@mcla.edu



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

1937

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

1941

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

Rose Butterly Stewart called to express her regrets at not being able to attend the 2009 Commencement on campus. Rose is now living in Alexandria, Virginia and she is very happy. She sends her regards to all other Golden Grads.

1950

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

1951

William Grady 7924 Woodsbluff Run Fogelsville, PA 18051-1537 1952

Katherine Cariddi Mogavero 93 Bay State Rd Pittsfield, MA 01201-6743

1953

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

1954

Harriet Peck Hunt 25 Rubin Dr Pittsfield, MA 01201-9111 wjhmhunt@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

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

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

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



Several alumni found good friends and laughter at the alumni event held this August in Chatham, MA at the home of Josetta Knopf Owen '65. Back row: Lynn Ryder DeHart '65, Anthony Tullio '71, Jo Owen, Ruth Lambert Zicko '64, Elizabeth Townsend Ashley '65, Karen Lane '65, and Dennis Zicko '65. Front Row: Peggy Lou Atkinson Howes '54, Ann Mary O'Malley '49, Janice Marshall Calzini '65, and Gemma Mathews '67.

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.

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

1963

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

Martha Bornak Hathaway 27 Beverly St Pittsfield, MA 01201-7303 mchh 1@aol.com

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

David Hathaway ran into Roger Eurbin '64 at their 50th reunion at Adams High School in September 2009.

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

Karen Madison Haringa returned to campus for our 45th alumni reunion weekend, Oct. 23-25. Karen was accompanied by Patricia Ellis Chassey, a parishioner/friend who is also an alumna, class of '79 (and a North Adams native). Karen taught at Adams Memorial High School until her husband Jack Haringa graduated from the College in 1966. After moving to Milford, MA, Karen taught with Jack at Hopedale Ir/Sr High School until the birth of their son. A career change for Karen - she graduated from Andover Newton Theological Seminary in 1977 and has been a Congregational Minister for 32 years. Say hello to Karen sometime. Write a note to Rev. Karen L. Haringa at 76 Bancroft St. C3, Auburn, MA 01501 or email haringa7334@charter.net

Despite the "ducky" (rainy) weather, this class agent had a wonderful Saturday with Karen and Pat (Dennis Zicko '65, too) reminiscing, touring, eating, greeting old friends and making new ones.

David Hathaway '63 ran into Roger Eurbin at their 50th reunion at Adams High School in September 2009. Roger was a navy pilot during the Vietnam War, was shot down but rescued and able to fly another day. We are proud of your service, Roger, and that of all those graduates who have served their country.

Mark Matthews was elected to serve as chairman of the board of directors for Hillcrest Educational Centers in Pittsfield. Mark received the 2008 Dr. David B. Kagan Volunteer Award from the Pittsfield Rotary Club.

1965

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

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

Tim Carroll, Bob Linton, and Dennis Zicko with Steve Magargal (a friend of the College) posted a score of 58, two strokes better than the next team, and won the MCLA Golf Classic held at Berkshire Hills Country Club. Tim also won one of the raffle prizes, and Dennis won closest to the pin on the 13th hole. All had a great time and plan to be back next year.

The '60s were well represented at the annual South Shore Alumni gathering at the Royal Garden Restaurant in Kingston. Attending and enjoying the dinner and conversation were Verna Booth Duffy '67, Janice Marshall Calzini, Janet Holway Murley, Joe Santacroce '63, and Dennis Zicko and Ruth Lambert Zicko '64. Just a reminder, 2010 is the year for our 45th reunion. Plan to attend.

Deanna Gerren would love to hear from her classmates. Her current address is 16R Broadway, Apt. D, Beverly, MA 01915.

Class agent Dennis Zicko received the 2009 MCLA Class Agent of the Year Award in June. This award is given to an agent who excels at keeping in



Always there for support, Peter Andrew '68, Mary Ellen Bergeron '67, Barbara Bergeron '70, and Jane Bennett Marino '92 join with others at Taylor's restaurant in North Adams.

touch with his or her classmates and promoting the College. The honoree is chosen by the staff of the Alumni and Development Office. Congratulations, Dennis!

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

1967

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

Jeanne Slaney Peterson 21 ½ Inman St Cambridge, MA 02139-2406 jpeterso@bu.edu

Linda Leary Hamm represented the College and President Mary K. Grant at the inauguration of the president of Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, in October 2009. Thank you, Linda!

Jeanne Slaney Peterson, Ph.D., represented the College and President Mary K. Grant at the inauguration of President Tito Guerrero III at Cambridge College in Cambridge, MA, on May 29, 2009. Thank you, Jeanne!

1968

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

Bob Beebe thought he had retired in 2002 from the Ludlow school system, but when two members of the staff were out on sick leave, he was asked to return. This year, Bob was again called into service when a staff member went on maternity leave. Bob is a born teacher and counselor. He has served as a substitute administrator at Ludlow's high school and middle school since 2005.

Did you know that Richard Frost earned a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts? Richard is married to Susan Kieltyka Frost and they live in Adams, MA. Their daughter Stephanie Frost graduated from the College in 2000. She is married and living in West Virginia, pursuing a Ph.D. in public health.

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

1972

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



Dr. Jeanne Slaney Peterson '67 pictured here with her daughter Susanna, prepares to attend the inauguration of the new President of Cambridge College.

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 iandloneill@comcast.net

1974

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

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

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

Walt Bishop was in the North Adams area this fall and spent some time visiting with Jerry Desmarais. Walt lives in the Mount Airy, MD, area and works in Washington, DC.

A retired educator and deputy superintendent of schools in Pittsfield, Linda Porter was elected to the Grevlock Federal Credit Union's board of directors. Linda will serve as vice chair.

Dan Wilk retired from teaching in the Savoy, MA, school system after 34 years of service. Congratulations, Dan!

1975

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

1976

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



MCLA HONORS **ALUMNI AT REUNION**

THREE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS received awards from President Mary K. Grant and the Alumni Association this fall.

Steven J. Ryder '82 of Keene, NH, accepted the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award for his role as a philanthropist in his community. He owns two businesses: True North Networks in New Hampshire and The True Nut Company. He credits the College for instilling in him the entrepreneurial spirit: "While at the College, I was encouraged to become active and take risks," he said. "The College gave me a flavor of the real world rather than just theory in the classroom." Steve is the president of the Stonewall Farm Board, a non-profit, member-supported educational facility and working dairy in Keene. He volunteers in his local community and in El Salvador and Ecuador.

lanice G. Messer, retired MCLA executive director of alumni relations and development, accepted the Outstanding Service to the College Award. Read more about Janice's career at the College on page 8.

Oscar Lanza-Galindo '01 of Greenfield, MA accepted the Alumni Humanitarian Award. Lanza-Galindo was recognized for utilizing the power of language and media to call attention to issues of social justice affecting adult education and programs at colleges such as Westfield State College and the School for International Training located in Brattleboro, VT. Oscar is a program associate at the Center for Community Engagement at Amherst College. In addition, he is completing a second master's degree in library and information sciences through the University of Arizona and is on the board of the Center for New Americans.

Congratulations to the awardees for their work and for their dedication to the College and to their communities.



There is never a dull moment when you get three alumni from the '70s together! Especially Joanie Saltzberg Virgil '76, MCLA treasurer Jerry Desmarais '74, and Janice Cushman Desch '77.



Jim Hachey '86, (second from top left) one of this fall's inductees to the Athletic Hall of Fame, and several other alumni met together after a men's soccer game at Bridgewater State College.

Carol Cushenette Corrigan joined Steepleview Realty in Adams, MA, as a real estate agent. Carol is employed by Biomass Commodities in Williamstown and serves on the MCLA Alumni Board of Directors.

State Representative Paul Kujawski recently celebrated 15 years with the Massachusetts Legislature. He was first sworn in on June 22, 1994 and is serving his eighth full term in the Massachusetts House of Representatives representing the historic communities of Dudley, Webster, Douglas, Uxbridge, and Oxford. Representative Kujawski currently serves on the Committees on Personnel and Administration, Election Laws and Public Service. He has served as Chairman of the influential House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling and also as Vice Chairman of the House Rules Committee.

1977

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

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

Nick Constas has formed a band called Flirting with Disaster and has been performing in the Cape Cod area. Nick attended the College's Cape Cod event at the 19th Hole in August 2009. Check out the band at: www.myspace. com/Flirtingwithdisasterband.

The Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce has named David Bruce, 2009 Business Person of the Year. David is president and chief executive of Lee Bank in Lee, MA and currently lives in Great Barrington. Congratulations, David.

1979

Michael Rooney 11 Josiah Dr Upton, MA 01568-1452

1980

Stu Miller works for New England Gallery, one of the finer art and antiques galleries outside of New York City. He has been buying, selling, appraising, and running the gallery on his own for the last 15 years. Check out New England Gallery Inc. at 50 North Main Street, Andover, MA 01810

1981

Charlene Kilgour Houghton 35 Revere Cir Greenfield, MA 01301-9748 Denise Marshall of South Adams Savings Bank, has been named the Berkshire Business and Professional Women's 2009 Woman of Achievement. The award honors a Berkshire County woman for her achievements and commitment to her community. Congratulations, Denise.

1982

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

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

1983

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

Josh Arnold is serving as a consultant/ advisor at Bounty-Jobs.com. He also works as an advocate for children with special needs at Associated Advocacy Center and serves as president of Arnold Career Services.

1984

Janice Colter 318 High St Ipswich, MA 01938-1251 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

Hoa Chung Aldous' and Tom Aldous' daughter, Tiffany, is a freshman at the College. Welcome, Tiffany! The Aldous' other daughter is a student at Bridgewater State College.

Lucinda Bradley, a teacher at Mt. Greylock High School in Williamstown, received a lovely tribute from one of her students. Michael Leja was chosen by faculty to speak at his graduation. A June Berkshire Eagle article said that he is attending MCLA so that he can follow in the footsteps of Ms. Bradley and become a high school English teacher.

Channell-Kourias Renee Seidel recently received Alliance Imaging's Alliance All-Stars Gold Award for outstanding service. This award is one of the highest that Alliance bestows on its employees. Renee works in the radiation oncology division. She currently resides in Franklin, MA, with her husband Demitrious Kourias '83 and her children

Kathy Boudo Killam and her husband John Killam have three daughters, Amanda, Ashley and Abbey. High-school students Amanda, a senior, and Ashley, a junior, recently toured their parent's alma mater. Kathy and John are class agents and live in Rowley, MA.

Barbara J. Nauman of West Warwick, RI, has been named vice president of circulation at The Providence Journal and will be responsible for the overall management, sales development and growth strategies of the newspaper's circulation division. We are very proud of you, Barbara!

1985

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

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 julin_debra@emc.com

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

1987

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

Class Agent Jean Burt is currently working as a product support analyst for Infor Global Solutions in New Hampshire. Jean still loves her job in technical support after working in that field for more than 14 years. Jean was given a customer service award recently and regularly receives kudos from her customers. By the way, Jean ran into Lisa Gagliano Harris recently in New Hampshire. Lisa lives in Kittery, Maine.

Ara Hagopian, whose work was shown at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston last year, announced that he is launching a line of premier fine art greeting cards. Twenty-four of Hagopian's freehand images are featured. For more information go to AraHagopian.com.

1988

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

Susan Garland Gabriel recently accepted the role of executive director of Beverly Bootstraps in Beverly, MA. Beverly Bootstraps is a very active charitable organization. Congratulations, Sue!

We received this note from Peter Hatch. "I attended North Adams State College from 1982 to 1984, at which point I transferred to the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. I graduated from UMass in 1988 with a B.S. in psychology and a minor in elementary education. Since 1990, I've had advanced testicular cancer. I underwent a bone marrow transplant, and the cancer has been in full remission for six years. I'm a recovering alcoholic/addict, and I speak to kids about the dangers of substance abuse. Life is awesome being cancer free and substance free. Having cancer has made me appreciate being alive and well. Thanks!"

Sergeant Major Stephan Valley of the U.S. Army proudly served his country with a 14-month tour of duty in Baghdad. We thank him for his service of over 20 years. Steve recently published his first book, Inside the Fortress, a Soldier's Life in the Green Zone, about the American military personnel who served in Iraq during 2004 and 2005. Steve is married to Lauren Trulson Valley.

1989

Comedian Lenny Clarke and ESPN's Wayne Soares taped a segment for a new show, Summer Boat Safari, at InterContinental Boston's Miel Brasserie Provençale. The show features celebs and chefs talking about their favorite summer destinations

In addition, Wayne was contacted by the special events staff at Fort Lewis in Seattle and booked to entertain hundreds of troops at their annual Oktoberfest celebration. While at Fort Lewis, he visited several Army hospitals with wounded soldiers.

Campus **UPDATE**

High Enrollment Brings Critical Scholarship Need

Enrollment at MCLA has reached its highest level in a decade and is on track to hit the College's goal of 2,010 students by 2010. This fall, MCLA welcomed 535 new students to the campus — 360 freshmen and 175 transfer students. This number represents a 15 percent increase in student enrollment from a year ago and includes a 23 percent increase in the number of first-year multicultural students. The College is a first-choice pick for many students graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, including the Class of 2009 valedictorians from Pittsfield High School and Drury High School.

In addition to the surge in enrollment, applications for financial aid have increased 37% from a year ago while state budget cuts have resulted in a dramatic reduction in funds available for scholarships. A contribution to the Annual Fund is the most direct way to help these students and support MCLA. One hundred percent of your Annual Fund gift will go directly to financial aid, helping students and their families pay for their education. Make a gift today at www.mcla.edu/giving.

Convocation



Trustee Chair Jane Allen '61, Cynthia Normandin '76, and President Mary K. Grant

Cynthia Normandin '76, was this fall's Convocation speaker. Her company Braun's Express has been a leader in the trucking industry's green movement since 2004. She exhorted the incoming class to face the challenges ahead with a positive attitude, set goals, make good choices, and be kind.



MCLA advancement operations officer Marc Morandi '90 celebrates his birthday with an appropriate cake for a John Deere enthusiast at the Advancement Office.

What an honor! This event was coordinated by Wayne's good friend and former Oakland Raider Otis Sistrunk.

Deirdre Flynn Sullivan lives in Pittsfield and teaches English at Berkshire Community College.

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 sriohnson@statestreet.com

We recently heard from Jeannette Williamson Appold: "I've started a nationwide adoption coaching business (www.adoptionplancoach.com) to guide potential adoptive parents through the non-legal aspects of the adoption process. I haven't quit my day job, but I am now doing something that I am passionate about!"

Eric Battite is owner of The Real Deal Deli in West Roxbury, MA. They deliver to both West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. This year The Real Deal Deli won the Boston *Phoenix* readers' poll for the best sandwiches in Boston.

Beth Cain is marketing coordinator at NewsMax Media in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Lt. Col. Robert Campbell has written home from his post at the KG Pass, a supply route in Afghanistan and the



Jennifer Boylan-Turner '92, her husband Joe Turner, and her three children Joseph (age 8), Brayden (age 4) and Declan (age 6), visiting Santa's Village in New Hampshire.

main target of Taliban forces: "Amid all of this poverty are a people that are proud of their country, tired of war and eager for peace," writes Robert. "They are some of the most generous people you will find. Their ability to survive in this environment inspires me." Robert is married to the former Leslie Ann Hamp and has two sons, Robbie, 14, and Louden, 10. Robert has been decorated with numerous awards including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantrymen's Badge, the Senior Parachutist's Badge, the Air Assault Badge and the Ranger Tab.

Kristin Chadwick is living in the greater Los Angeles area. She is working as brand director at Intelligent Beauty (ibinc.com), one of the fastest growing beauty companies in the world. Kristin is a consultant and marketing strategist.

1991

Manny Mulas is national account director at Cormark Inc. in Boston. Cormark Inc. is based in Des Plaines, IL. Cormark designs and manufactures point-of-purchase displays and fixtures for both major brands and large retailers. As a national account director based out of his home office in Wilmington, MA, Manny works with large retailers such as Staples and TJX as well as brands like New Era and Bose. He lives in Wilmington with his wife Sarah and two daughters Madison, 5, and Maya, 3.

David Newcombe is president and managing editor at Stellar Medical

Publications. Dave is married to **Susan** Harney Newcombe.

Living in the greater Los Angeles area, Cybele Parsignault is working as marketing sales director at Distinctive Assets. Cybele is also self-employed as editor of Cybelesays.com.

Kevin Talty is CEO of Talty Real Estate Associates LLC in the greater Boston area. Kevin received an M.B.A. from the University of New Hampshire's Whitmore School of Business and Economics.

Congratulations to Todd Vroman, who recently joined the professional staff at Legacy Financial Group in Providence, RI, a general agency of MassMutual. Todd will serve as sales manager at the company, where he will be responsible for the growth and development of his staff.

1992

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

Class agent Dawn Fraser Wanner announces the arrival of her son, Aaron Ronald, born April 22 at 10:06 pm. He weighed 8 lbs., 13 oz. and measured 22 inches long at birth. He joins an older brother, Benjamin Everett Wanner.

1993

Bryan Holmes is vice president of sales at Neoscape Inc., in the Boston area. Bryan can be reached at bryan.holmes@neoscape.com.Bryan is married to another alum, Laura Thompson Holmes '96.

1994

Rosemary O'Sullivan 54 Tillotson Rd Apt 2 Needham, MA 02494 rosullivan@hotmail.com

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

We read that Larry Cerrito has served dinner to homeless people at Father Joe's St Vincent's Church in California from time to time. We are proud of you, Larry.

Pam Kenyon has been appointed as principal of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Pam was formerly the district's director of student services. Congratulations, Pam!

Jennifer Tomasini-Boucher is married to Jason Boucher, and they have three beautiful children: Morgan, 15, Noah, 9, and Alexus, 8. She owns her own salon, Snip Cut in Pittsfield.

1995

In October 2008, Bill Kracunas was selected as one of the best and the brightest business persons by the Boston Business Journal's 40 under 40, a list of 40 business men and women who are under 40 years old and have established themselves as leaders to be watched in their fields. Bill is vice president of Caturano and Company, an information and technology company in the Boston area. He is married to Suzanne Upton Kracunas '96.

1996

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



Assistant athletic director Dot Houston with alumni of the women's basketball program Pictured left to right, Dot Houston, Tracy Gregory Pierce '91, Larissa Miner '09, Kristen Lewis 07, Kerry LaFleche Mossey '92, Maryellen Edwards '92, and Pam Barton Mulcahy '94. The event was organized by Coach Holly McGovern..

Colleen Bolman Dunn 7 Fdith Aug Buzzards Bay, MA 02532-3032 cdunn@compassbank.com

1998

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

Danielle Anderson is now living in Charlotte, NC. "It was a hard decision for me but one that I am happy I made. I now work at TV station WSOC in Charlotte as an editor/electronic news gathering (ENG) operator/Web producer. I'm learning how ENG works - it's something that I have never done in the 11 years that have I been working in TV. Let's just say it's interesting. I should also mention that I won my second Emmy on the day I arrived in NC. Got the call from my friends who had attended the ceremony to inform me that we had won for a second year in a row for best interactivity show. So I can claim being a two-time Emmy winner with three nominations. It's a nice feeling!" Congratulations, Danie!

Margaret Crane enrolled in Dartmouth Medical School in the fall of 1998 and earned a Ph.D. in 2004. On September 1, 2006, she was appointed research assistant professor in the department of microbiology and immunology at Dartmouth Medical School.

Amy Swartz Sanborn has a new baby! Amy writes, "He is the sweetest baby and good as gold. I am so lucky! His name is Max Joseph Sanborn. He was born at Cape Cod Hospital. My daughter Lily, who is three, is adjusting well!" Congratulations, Amy!

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 howardbeth5@aol.com

Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey sent us this email about her former roommate Jenn Santanello: "My roommate from MCLA is in a commercial for a Wii video game showing on ESPN. They had her sign a contract with 2K Sports as 'Hockey Mom,' and I think she will be making appearances and was even lined up for a phone interview today with Sports Illustrated. Check it out: http://2ksports.com/ games/nhl2k10?commercial footage). She is the one with the gray hoodie that says 'Junior Wolves.' Her acting idol is Carol Burnett, and you can tell in some of the faces she makes." Good luck, Jenn.

Campus UPDATE

Hardman Lecturer Presents to College Community



Charlayne Hunter-Gault with MCLA professor Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed.

AWARD-WINNING National Public Radio Special Correspondent Charlayne Hunter-Gault presented this fall's Hardman lecture, entitled "Africa's Women on the Move." Ms. Hunter-Gault is the author of In My Place, a memoir of the civil rights movement, which describes her experiences as the first black woman to attend the University of Georgia. Her latest book is New News Out of Africa: Uncovering the African

Renaissance. Her numerous awards include two Emmys and two Peabody Awards. She has been a correspondent and reporter for several media organizations, including CNN, The Newshour with Jim Lehrer, The New Yorker, and The New York Times.

At a student question and answer session held earlier in the day, MCLA faculty and students came to hear Hunter-Gault speak personally about her work as a journalist. She discussed her career, which began with her job at the Atlanta Inquirer, a college-based newspaper that documented the lunch counter sit-ins of the 1960s. Hunter-Gault's approach to journalism is to report the news through people and their individual experiences. "When intelligent people are informed properly, they can make their own judgments," she says. Before the close of the session, Hunter-Gault offered valuable advice to future journalists: "Come in right, don't have a preconceived notion of the issue, let the truth speak for itself."

The Hardman Lecture Series is supported through the generosity of the Hardman Family Endowment.



Heads up! Thirty alumni turned out for the annual alumni baseball game hosted by coach Jeff Puleri.



Stay low! Softball alumnae came to campus this fall for their annual alumni game coordinated by coach Kristen Parzych '00.



Sue Plankey LeClair '01, one of this fall's Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, enjoys a day at the Zavattaro Athletic Complex with her son Landon.

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

Jaime Arsenault and Oscar Lanza-Galindo '01 are expecting their first child.

Scott Fleishman received the Sports Announcer of the Year Award from the Oregon Association of Broadcasters for his work at KMTR-TV.

Stephanie Frost is married to Brian Anderson and living in West Virginia. Having earned a master's degree in Chinese medicine, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in public health at West Virginia University, where her husband teaches.

In case you missed it, Kristin Parzych and her daughter, Gisella, were featured in a photograph on the front page of the North Adams Transcript. The picture was taken at the park in Williamstown where they were trying to cool off in the heat.

200 I

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 k.lamontagne@neu.edu

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

Oscar Lanza-Galindo received the Distinguished Humanitarian Alumni Award in October 2009. Oscar is married to Jaime Arsenault '00. Oscar and Jaime are expecting their first child.

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

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

2004

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

Ivnn Brennan 5024 State Rd Canisteo, NY 14823 l.brennan@infoblvd.net

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 hllygrant@yahoo.com

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

Brian Burniske, a tutor at Berkshire Community College, recently received the Tutor of the Year Award, newly established this year by Berkshire Community College's tutorial center.

Vanda Monzo was recently elected a director of the Berkshire chapter of the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Women. Vanda is marketing manager for Berkshire Insurance Group.

Tom Rauseo is continuing to pursue a career in music. He is currently creating staging for rock bands in the greater Boston area.

The new editor of The Dedham Transcript is Andrea Salisbury, who has been the night editor for Waltham's Daily News Tribune since 2006. The New England Newspaper Association honored the Waltham newspaper with a Distinguished Newspaper Award in 2008. Andrea, who lives in Mansfield, MA, holds a master's degree in journalism from Regent University.

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

Katie Lorenz started working at Drury High School as a Massachusetts Campus Compact college access advisor. Katie will spend the year at Drury working to help make higher education an attainable goal for all students, in consultation with the MCLA admissions office

Nicole Losavio is director of student involvement and leadership at Southern Vermont College in Vermont.

We received this nice note from Maryann Turner: "I received an M.Ed. in higher education administration and student advising from Northeastern University. I am currently working in admissions in the for-profit arena but hope to cross back over to the nonprofit arena at a traditional school in the not too distant future. I feel that my education at MCLA is what brought out my passion and appreciation for higher education. Claire Smith has always been a great mentor and role model for me. I now reside in Malden, 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

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



CAMPUS Update

Hotel Rwanda Humanitarian Addresses College Community

PAUL RUSESABAGINA DELIVERED the public policy lecture "Hotel Rwanda: A Lesson Yet to be Learned" on November 5. He spoke about his experiences and his commitment to saving the lives of 1,200 refugees as temporary manager of the Hôtel des Mille Collines in Kigali, Rwanda during the 1994 civil war and resulting genocide that shook the nation of Rwanda and the world. Rusesabagina's compelling autobiography, An Ordinary Man, chronicles his personal journey and explains the history of the conflict between Rwanda's Hutu and Tutsi tribes. The movie Hotel Rwanda which was nominated for three Academy Awards, vividly brings his experiences to life.

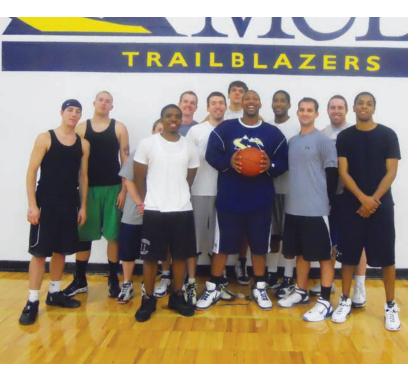
"I've become a humanitarian, and I never thought I would become one," Rusesabagina said. "And, as a humanitarian, I wanted to take this message on a wider scale, to raise awareness of what happened in my country so that the international community can help others who suffer now." Rusesabagina founded the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation, which provides support, care, and assistance to children orphaned during the genocide, as well as to women who have suffered abuse.

Rusesabagina is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award, and the Peace Abbey Courage of Conscience Award.

The Public Policy Lecture Series is generously funded by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.



Kim Harris '08, Emily Silver '09, and Dayne Wahl '09 relax in the lotus garden in Baoding, China, where all three alumni are currently living and teaching English.



Men's basketball alumni enjoyed a spirited game against the current college team with the support of Coach Jamie Morrison.



Dressed in their best, recent alumni came together to celebrate the wedding of Catie Lachapelle '09 and Eddie Cano '09. Left to right: Matt Douglas '09, Kevin Pink '09, Dayne Wahl '09, Mike Valenti, Eddie Cano, Catie LaChappelle Cano, Brian Pickett '09, Marcelle Bastille '09, John Gundlach '08, Adam Ciborowski, Mark Staplin, Kristin Lachapelle, Tara Moyna '06, Rick Line, Ellen Rosati '09, and Derek Anderson '09.

Danielle Barboza is now special elections clerk for the city and county of San Francisco.

Christine DiPaolo was quoted in The New York Times on July 22, 2009, as part of the article, "Advice From Those Who Have Been There, Done That" for students about to embark on a college career. "I grew up in New York City. In the weeks leading up to my departure for college I scooped up every New York City T-shirt I could find, from the iconic 'I Heart NY' to the more abstract 'Rocky Horror Picture Show, New York City.' Every time I got homesick, I just changed my shirt."

Will Gelinas now lives in Barre, MA. Will returned to the area after doing commercials and some professional theater in West Virginia. He credits professor Bonnie Bishoff with preparing him well for his career. Will is currently a supervisor at the Stetson School in Barre. He is also acting as the beast in Beauty and the Beast in Gilbertville

Jillian Lorenz and Michael Giovine announced their marriage. Both were on the soccer team at the College. Michael is a sales manager for Builder's Network Inc. in Pittsfield, and Iillian is a program advisor for Canyon Ranch Resort in Lenox. The couple were married on September 12, 2009, in Northampton.

2007

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

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

Brandon Pender 243 North Harvard St Apt 2 Allston, MA 02134 bp0714@mcla.edu

After graduation, Sylvia Birns-Swindlehurst worked on the Sol LeWitt retrospective at MASS MoCA from April to September 2008 as an apprentice. In October 2008, Sylvia moved to Portland, OR, to see what life on the other side of the country is like. Sylvia is currently enrolled in a one-year certificate program in Web design at Portland Community College and works part-time at Mimosa, a ceramics studio in Portland, Sylvia is engaged to be married in August 2010 to Joshua Sprague of North Adams.

Teddy Bourgeois is living in Jamaica Plain, MA.

We are honored to share the engagement of Darci Callaghan and Ryan Niedzwiecki. Darci received a Master of Education from the College and is employed at the Berkshire Museum. Ryan received a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Providence College and is employed at Sabic Innovative Plastics in Pittsfield. A September wedding is planned in Pittsfield. Congratulations!

Matthew Dunne is News 12 Editor at Cablevision Systems Corporation in the New York City area.

Thanks to Robert Flood who helped move students into the College during Moving in Days in September 2009! He was a great help.

Katie Johnson has a great job! She is the assistant to the producing director at Barrington Stage Company in Pitts-

Christina Landeta currently works at SUNY New Paltz as a complex director. She started a master's in criminal justice with a specialization in behavior analysis last May.

Christopher Mailman is technical support representative at Avid Technology in Boston

Rob Markwich co-founded Mico Ecoline, a sustainable ski/snowboard clothing line. The Center for Ecological Technology wrote an article about the company last year at http://www. cetonline.org/aboutCET/PressReleases/SkiSlopes.php

2009

Jake Brundige is program director at Camp Emerson in Pittsfield.

Amanda Hillman shared this news with the Alumni Office: "I have been admitted to and will be attending two programs at the University of Michigan! I will be pursuing a Master of Supply Chain Management with the Ross School of Business starting this January, and in the fall of 2010, I will begin a Master of Science in sustainable systems with the School of Natural Resources and Environment. I am, of course, incredibly excited, as this dual degree program was my top choice!"

Sara LaFountain left her home state of New York to begin a year-long service with Americorps/Vista of Rhode



Thea Yurkewecz '06 proudly dons her Sox gear and poses at a Red Sox game at Fenway Park.

Island. Sara is one of a select few to be admitted into the Campus Compact. After a five-day pre-service orientation at Northeastern University in Boston, she will begin her duties on the campus of Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, in the Center for Service Learning & Community Engagement.

Jonathan Martinez is currently working for News 40/Fox 6 in Springfield, MA, as a master control operator.

North Country Behavior Health Care Network and North Country Management Services in Saranac Lake, NY, have recently hired a native of the area, Katy Van Anden, as a project specialist. "We are very excited to have Katy join our organization," CEO Barry Brogan said. "Her expertise in event management and marketing will fill an important niche in the services we provide our members and the community."

Becca Wehry is working at MASS MoCA in North Adams as the development assistant and special events coordinator and assistant to the director of development. Since starting at MASS MoCA just over a year ago, Becca has had the chance to be a part of the massive Sol LeWitt Wall drawing retrospective that opened in November 2008 and MASS MoCA's tenth anniversary celebration this past May. Becca credits the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) for preparing her for her current career path. She served as a marketing intern at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, where she had the chance to explore all of the different jobs at the theatre. It was also helpful that B-HIP provided class time and outings to explore arts administration in just about every type of arts organization. Becca feels that her experience at MCLA won her the job at MASS MoCA.

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.

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.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Josephine Wanat Billieux '30, September 2, 2009

Grace E. Blodgett Browning '30, May 1, 2009

> Stacey Keane Burns '90, May 10, 2009

> > Derek Card '03. October 16, 2009

Rita Rosch Card '43, July 1, 2009

Marcia L. Diorio Cassavant '74, May 4, 2009

Geraldine Seagrave Kelly '65, September 30, 2009

Don LaFrance, former MCLA Foundation director, September 10, 2009

> Peg LaFontaine Lucier '38, August 16, 2009

> > Rolinda Mondesir '13 December 8, 2009

James F. O'Connor '54, October 13, 2009

Robert J. Smith '90, August 1, 2009

Audrey D. Sweeney '79, former MCLA Trustee, September 23, 2009

Don Thurston, former MCLA Trustee, October 6, 2009

Don Westall '69, former MCLA Foundation director, June 10, 2009

THE COLLEGE'S 115TH ANNIVERSARY: A SMASHING SUCCESS!

MCLA is the institution that it is today because of 115 years of support from our many alumni and friends. Throughout its history, the College has been committed to and focused on our most important asset: our students. The 115th Anniversary Celebration on November 13 was a huge success and raised close to \$23,000 toward financial aid. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, business leaders, trustees, foundation directors and corporators, and family and friends helped to celebrate the milestone.



John DeRosa and Barbara Bashevkin were lucky bidders in the silent auction that helped to raise funds for scholarship support.



Foundation director Joan Callahan, Eloise Kalker, MCLA vice president for enrollment and external relations Denise Richardello '77, M. Ed. '81, and Holly Taylor.



President Mary K. Grant invited State Representative Dan Bosley '69 to share some words about the College.



Sheila and George Keator wish President Mary K. Grant a happy anniversary for the college.



The evening culminated in a concert that featured a terrific presentation by students Meghan Gleason, Jessica Jean-Charles, Laura Gibson, and Megan Tainter, opening for Broadway star Donna McKechnie.



Bigs and Jen Waterman, parents of Jessica Robinson '13, helped to celebrate.



Sherri Quinn '85 catches up with friends.



Cory and Marie Thurston '74 talking with Ozzie and Monica Alvarez.

Support today's students who are forming bonds that will last a life time. Your gift, no matter the size, will help students meet the rising cost of an education.

Make a gift today at www.mcla.edu/giving or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 413-662-5224.



Do your MCLA connections fade over time or grow stronger? Classmates honor Carlos Pagan '85

Then Brian Barthelmes '85 and Tom Brennan '84 came to North Adams in the mid-'80s, they met Carlos Pagan '85, who had traveled north from Puerto Rico to attend college in the Berkshires. Carlos' classmates remember with a smile that he had only sneakers and a thin jacket to get him through his first Berkshire winter at North Adams State College. Thus began a friendship that lasted many years.

Carlos spent his breaks and holidays with Brian and Tom and invited them to his hometown of San Juan for vacations. Brian and Tom remember that Carlos attended both of their weddings before they somehow fell out of touch.

First careers got in the way. Carlos held a few jobs in New England but soon moved back to Puerto Rico, where he worked in hotel management. Tom and Brian found management jobs in the tech industry. With growing families, it was hard for them to find time to visit old friends from State.

Two years ago, Brian found himself heading to Puerto Rico for a business trip. He tracked down Carlos only to discover that Carlos was seriously ill, in the advanced stages of cancer. The two reconnected and kept up their friendship on Facebook, using the social-networking site to overcome the constraints of geography, time, and Carlos' speech difficulties, a result of his illness. When Brian learned that Carlos had passed away, he shared the news with mutual friends from the College. As word spread, friends posted kind notes and fond memories on Carlos' Facebook page.

"How do you memorialize a friend?" Brian and Tom wondered. They soon decided that MCLA's bench program was the perfect way to honor their old friend. A bench on MCLA's campus would recall the afternoons of college life where their friendship began, and at the same time it would give a similar opportunity to current students: a place to share experiences and build lifelong friendships. By sharing their proposal with friends and classmates, they believe they can get others involved in the memorial effort. Brian, Tom, and other friends have already contributed gifts toward the Carlos Pagan Memorial Bench Fund's goal of \$2,500. If you are interested in making a gift in memory of Carlos Pagan, or purchasing a bench in honor of a fellow classmate, please contact Nina Garlington, director of donor relations, at Nina.Garlington@mcla.edu or at 413-662-5220.



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SAVE THE DATE Upcoming Campus Events

February 13	National Girls and Women in Sports Day	April 16	MCLA Presents! A Night at the Cabaret w/ Katie Johnson '07
February 25	MCLA Presents! The Amazing Acoustaphotophonogrammitron Music = Art	April 24	College & Community Clean Up Day
		April 28	MCLA Presents! PAM! Show
March 5	Four College Issues Forum with		
	Dr. Tony Cosgrove: "Developing a Health Care System for the 21st	May 21	Baccalaureate
	Century"	May 22	Commencement
March 10	MCLA Presents! Iyeoka Ivie Okoawa		
March 27	2010 Women's Leadership Forum: "Where Women Have Been, Where They Are Going: Finding Your Voice"		30

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