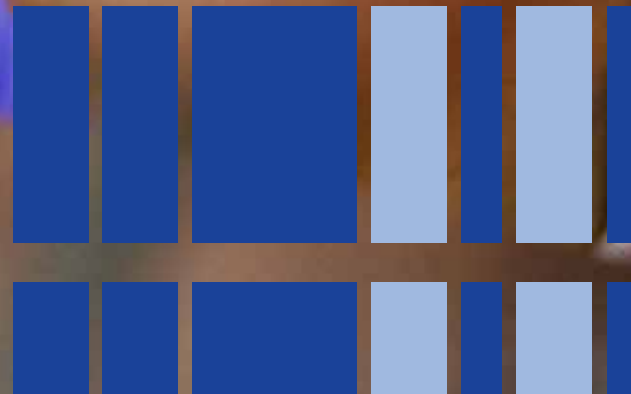


MCLA Beacons & Seeds

WINTER 2011

Science Research Flourishes at MCLA

*Reunion 2010
SGA Celebrates 100 Years*



Beacons & Seeds

WINTER 2011

CONTENTS

- 1 From the President
- 2 Science Research Flourishes at MCLA
- 8 Reunion
- 10 MCLA Celebrates 100 years of Student Government Association
- 12 2010 Alumni Association Awards
- 14 Education Degree Leads to Teaching Career Abroad
- 15 Class Notes
- 24 MCLA Golf Classic
- 25 Donor Profile

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Dear Alumni,

THIS HAS BEEN AN EXCITING FALL SEMESTER. ENROLLMENT CONTINUES

to grow, with a large transfer student population joining over 300 new first-year students. This fall's Admissions Open Houses, where prospective students and their families come to learn more about the College, have also seen a tremendous response. The energy and excitement they experience during these visits is part of the reason that over 80% of applicants list MCLA as their top choice.



That same energy and excitement was on display during Reunion and Fall Family Weekend October 22 to 24. Over 500 alumni and family were on campus for activities that ranged from the Distinguished Alumni Awards presentation, to the annual Family Carnival, to a reception celebrating 100 years of the Student Government Association (SGA), to a wonderful Margaret A. Hart '35 scholarship concert from violinist (and MacArthur Foundation honoree) Regina Carter, featuring a terrific a cappella performance by MCLA's own Allegrettos. You can see photos from the weekend in this issue of *Beacons & Seeds*.

Time and again, as I speak with parents and alumni I hear stories of the tremendous opportunities afforded students at our campus. Small classes, close working relationships with faculty, and the chance to do field work and hands-on research projects all add up to a first class living and learning community.

Experiences like undergraduate research make a tremendous difference in preparing students for study at the graduate level and for post-graduate careers, especially in the sciences. This issue of *Beacons & Seeds* explores how MCLA students are benefitting from participating in faculty-sponsored research projects and how such experiences prepare alumni for careers in the sciences. Read about how undergraduate research opportunities at MCLA prepared three young alums for careers in the sciences and academia on page 2.

On the heels of our successful Undergraduate Research Conference last spring, where over 200 students presented posters and papers, MCLA hosted the first Northeast Regional


Undergraduate Research Conference of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) in October. Faculty and students from MCLA joined with their peers from five other COPLAC schools in the Northeast to learn from one another and to build new networks of collaboration.

Adding to the excitement here on campus, in late October we announced the designated location for the Center for Science and Innovation, which will be on Blackinton Street next to Admissions. Reaching this milestone has been the product of great collaboration with faculty and staff in the sciences and from across campus, as well as with our partners in the state. When we break ground on the site next spring, we will be one step closer to a facility that will advance the College's role as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college and a vital resource in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives at the state level.

Beyond the sciences, we continue to strengthen and expand our academic offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We recently launched our newest graduate program, the professional M.B.A., a part-time advanced business degree for working adults. Graduates of MCLA's professional M.B.A. program will be prepared to grow into and take on leadership roles in their chosen fields.

I invite you to come back to campus to see all the exciting work being done here as we continue our proud work in fostering academic excellence in a supportive learning community.

Sincerely,


Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.
President



Professor Ann Biletz



Professor Tim Jay



Science Research Flourishes at MCLA

The summer after his sophomore year, Jon Cavanaugh '10 got his first taste of academic research. Under the direction of Dr. Ann Biletz, professor of biology, Cavanaugh was awarded a fellowship to design and implement a research project studying the neural pathways of songbirds. The experience was transformative.

“It was amazing,” said Cavanaugh. “When I entered college, the very idea of research was foreign to me. But that summer, I began to understand not only how it’s done, but that it’s what I wanted to do long-term. After that, I just went for it, full on, and started doing as much research as I could.”

By the time he graduated, just two years later, he had worked on five additional research projects. During his junior year, Cavanaugh worked with Dr. Maria Bartini, associate professor of psychology, on a year-long project studying relational aggression among different groups. In a separate research project, he and Dr. Timothy Jay, professor of psychology, studied fluency and swearing. The same year, he did a third project, with Dr. Peggy Brooks, professor of psychology, on the role of napping in memory consolidation. The summer before his senior year, he worked with a faculty member to acquire population data on local bird species. Then, he spent his senior year studying ultrasonic vocalizations of juvenile rats for his senior thesis. He presented each of these projects at the MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference and presented one of them — on relational aggression — at The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).



Evan Herrmann '07



Professor Maria Bartini



Jon Cavanaugh '10

Today Cavanaugh is running lab tests for DEKA Research and Development in Manchester, New Hampshire, a design and engineering firm that develops medical device technologies. He plans to enter a graduate program in neuroscience in a year.

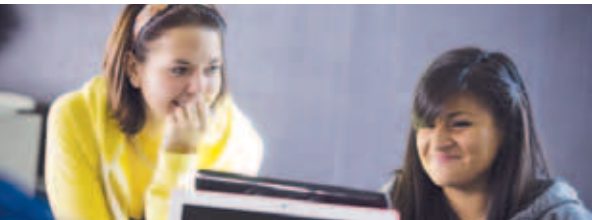
“The research I did as an undergraduate is absolutely the reason I got my job. It’s also the strongest part of my application to graduate school. I’d say what’s equally important, though, is that it has given me the confidence to know that I could really do these things and that I’m really prepared for them.”

Cavanaugh is one of many students who have found robust research opportunities on the MCLA campus. Indeed, undergraduate research has expanded dramatically at the College in recent years; today, students can choose from hundreds of independent study opportunities in many disciplines—the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities—and they can design their own

research projects as independent studies. The College supports these students by offering small research grants, dedicated faculty mentors, and a dynamic campus-wide undergraduate research conference for presenting their work.

“One of the things that is so nice about an MCLA education,” says Billetz, “is that undergraduates can do research really early. Students can engage in research as early as the summer after their first year. This allows them to do a range of projects over the course of their education; it also allows them to engage in long-term research projects. This simply wouldn’t happen at most larger schools.”

Evan Herrmann '07, a doctoral candidate in the human behavioral pharmacology department at the University of Vermont (UVM), notes that there is another advantage to doing



Professor Peggy Brooks

Kristin Janschewitz '04

Professor Tom Byrne

Students can engage in research as early as the summer after their first year...it also allows them to engage in long-term research projects. This simply wouldn't happen at most larger schools.

research at a school like MCLA, the small student-faculty ratio (currently 13:1).

"If you're interested in something, if you want to take an idea further, if you want to ask questions, MCLA faculty are never too busy to mentor you," says Hermann. "Nobody ever told me that they didn't have time for me."

Hermann's own mentor was Dr. Tom Byrne, professor of psychology and chair of the department. Hermann first became interested in behavioral research during his junior year when taking Byrne's class on human behavior and drugs. At first, he sat in on some meetings in Byrne's behavioral pharmacology research laboratory. The following year, Hermann joined the lab to assist Byrne with a research project evaluating whether smokers make more impulsive choices than non-smokers in the presence of visual stimuli that typically accompany smoking behavior.

"One of the researchers at UVM saw my CV and noticed the delayed discounting research I'd done with Professor Byrne," says Hermann. "He said right away, 'you'll be an excellent fit.'"

Billetz notes that undergraduate research almost always gives students an edge when looking for a job, or when applying to graduate schools.

Undergraduate research is also critically important for preparing our future workforce for science, technology, engineering,

and math (STEM) careers. Undergraduates who participate in scientific research are twice as likely to pursue STEM careers

as similar students who haven't participated in research projects.

Just as important, undergraduate research offers a new way of thinking that benefits alumni no matter what paths they choose after graduation.

"It shows them what science is all about," says Billetz.

Jon Cavanaugh agrees.

"There are different ways to learn," he says. "You've got the classroom setting, where you sit in front of professors and take notes. Then, there's writing a paper, where you take an idea, and guide it into a new direction."

But research, Cavanaugh says, offers something fundamentally different. "You come up with the question, and then you think of a way to go about answering it. You meet so many roadblocks, so you're problem-solving the whole way, sometimes having to come up with on-the-spot solutions. You've got to be diligent about recording your data. Then, when you get your data, you've got to analyze the results, see if they fit your hypothesis. Then you've got to summarize it all in a paper. It's just a totally different way of approaching learning."



MCLA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

At the MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference, students presented the results of independent study on a vast array of subjects—the natural sciences, social sciences, mathematics. Here's just a sampling of some of the topics presented by undergraduates. For a full listing, visit www.mcla.edu/urc.

Identification of Dinoflagellates in the Sea Anemones

Aiptasiapallida* and *Diadumene lineata

PRESENTER: Anita Parker FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Anne Goodwin

The Effects of Estrogen Concentration and Elevated Temperature on Population Structure, Reproduction, Survival, and Heart Rate of *Daphnia magna*

PRESENTERS: Katie Collins, Kate Grady, Jesslyn Schnopp
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Emily Mooney

Unlacing the Corset: Imperial Feminist Ideology

PRESENTER: Jeannie Gilson FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Anthony Daly

Packaging Discoveries of Infinite Supplies, an Exploration of Mathematics and Global Supply

PRESENTER: Robin Clapper FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Alla Kucher

Husserl's Phenomenology: Philosophy's Coup de Grace

PRESENTER: Jacob Wheeler FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Paul Nnodim

The Effects of Academic Stress on Test Performance

PRESENTERS: Rachel Barrett, Benjamin Johnson, Kaitlyn Wood
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Deborah Foss

Exploring Disabled Characters in Children's Literature: A Critical Analysis

PRESENTER: Sarah Maust FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Sumi Colligan

Rheumatoid Arthritis as a Health Issue in an Aging Population

PRESENTERS: Molly Watson, Dale Veratti Jr., Kelly Lindberg
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Diane Louise Balduzy

FACTS ABOUT RESEARCH AT MCLA

- In 2003, 35 students presented at the first Undergraduate Research Conference.
- At the 2010 Undergraduate Research Conference, over 200 students presented independent research undertaken in conjunction with 34 faculty mentors, demonstrating academic achievement from across the College.
- MCLA hosted the 2010 Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, Oct. 1-2. The conference featured 72 presentations of research in the humanities, the arts, the social sciences and the natural sciences, from all six northeastern COPLAC colleges: Eastern Connecticut State University, Keene State College in New Hampshire, Ramapo College of New Jersey, University of Maine-Farmington, SUNY Geneseo, and MCLA.
- MCLA students also participate in the Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference and in the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research.
- The College recently received a \$40,000 grant for its science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programming from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts STEM Pipeline Fund.
- MCLA hosts the annual Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair (MSSEF) Region I Fairs for middle school and high school students.

CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

MCLA announced the site designated for the new Center for Science and Innovation at a ceremony on October 26. The new building will be located adjacent to the College's admissions office on Blackinton Street, on land currently used as parking lots, and owned by the MCLA Foundation. The Foundation is gifting the property to the Commonwealth.

President Grant was joined by faculty, staff and the many supporters who have believed in the project and helped it along the way to officially mark its location. This comes after six years of advocating for the building, which will house the College's biology, chemistry, environmental science, physics, and psychology departments in a single location.

Physics professor Adrienne Wootters described the science center as an integral part of the community, which will continue to help shape science at local elementary and secondary schools by



Massachusetts Education Secretary Paul Reville attended the site designation ceremony.

offering space and programming for local teachers.

"We take our role in the community very seriously," she said. "We want our K to 12 educators to be prepared. We want our local children to see the fun things we do and inspire them to go into the science and engineering fields. We want this to be a meeting space where the community can come to learn and grow."

Participating in scientific research also increases students' confidence, understanding, and awareness of the value of science. That was certainly the case for Kristin Janschewitz '04.

"I was not one of those students who knew forever what I wanted to do. When I entered MCLA, I thought I might major in English and the fine arts. Then, I considered a degree in philosophy."

Then Janschewitz began doing research with psychology Professor Tim Jay on communications and linguistics.

"It opened up a whole world," says Janschewitz.

While at MCLA, Janschewitz was awarded the prestigious Psi Chi Undergraduate Research Grant from the National Honor Society in Psychology, and she presented research with Jay at the Eastern Psychological Association Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. After graduating, she earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology and did post-doctoral research at the University of California, Los Angeles, one of the nation's premier graduate psychology programs.

Janschewitz focused her job search on smaller colleges with a teaching emphasis. Today, just six years after graduating, she is an assistant professor at Marist College, with thirteen presentations and published articles to her name.

"I wanted to work at a place like MCLA," she says. "Somewhere that I could do research, but also work very closely with students."

Marist, where she began teaching this fall, serves 4,200 undergraduates, with a student-faculty ratio of 15:1. When the college announced that Janschewitz had been hired, they noted, "Because of her own very positive experience as an undergraduate, she is committed to promoting undergraduate education and research."

"My own experience at MCLA was exceptional," says Janschewitz, and it really influenced how I think undergraduates should be treated."

President Mary K. Grant says that an outstanding undergraduate research program incorporates several elements: mentored, as well as self-directed work; a process of inquiry, design, discovery, and analysis; and communications about the study results' implications.

"This is critical experience for a 21st century workforce," says Grant. "Skills in research and discovery are no longer optional; they are essential. MCLA faculty members do an outstanding job in helping students acquire these skills. The College is committed to supporting this work and doing all we can to provide additional resources—including the Center for Science and Innovation, for which we will break ground in the spring."

Exactly how much research is happening on the MCLA campus now? At the 2010 MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference, over 200 students presented their work, having been mentored by 34 faculty members.

As for alumnus Jon Cavanaugh, he's grateful he had the opportunity to do research as an undergraduate.

"I felt so lucky at MCLA. I got to do so many different projects, with so many different professors. At a bigger institution, I would not have gotten that chance. At a large university, I'd have been lucky to get into a lab with anybody. But at MCLA, I got into a lab with everybody I wanted."

"Those first research experiences put me on a pathway," he adds. "It's what I want to do. I love it." ■

SEAN DONOVAN '11 UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE OF HARD WORK.

Donovan, a senior at the College, works 30 hours each week as a research associate at Nuclea Biotechnologies while carrying a full course load, including three upper-level laboratory biology classes. The schedule doesn't faze him; in fact, it was his hard work that transformed a summer internship at Nuclea into a paid position in the biotechnology industry.

"It's been a fine balancing act to partition my time between classes and work," said Donovan, "but it's been totally worth it."

His work at Nuclea, a genomics company working in cancer research, isn't easy, but it's critically important. Donovan works in Nuclea's histology lab, performing "immunohistochemistry," a process of staining cells to determine whether a cell is cancerous or non-cancerous, so Nuclea scientists can study disease biomarkers. The process requires tremendous precision, with no margin for error; the company's entire research, and success, depends on their technicians' accuracy. "It's the backbone of the company, and it's incredible to be part of something like this," said Donovan.

Donovan's academic preparation included a series of biology classes at the College, including a cell biology class with professor Ann Billetz. He also performed undergraduate research on acid rain's impact on native and non-native flora.

"The biology faculty really taught me the fundamentals of biology," said Donovan. "When someone knows the basics well, a company like Nuclea can really help them build upon that."

Donovan credits his boss, Patrick Muraca, Nuclea's president and chief executive officer, with taking his understanding of cell biology to the next level.

"He's amazing," said Donovan. "He's been extremely willing to teach, and he's working hard to give back to all of Berkshire County by bringing more biotechnology to the region."

Already, Massachusetts is home to a "supercluster" of 480 biotechnology companies, which collectively represent nearly 47,000 employees statewide as well as 900 drugs in development. The Massachusetts biopharmaceutical industry grew by 60% between 2000 and 2009.

"Massachusetts is a world leader in biotechnology and the life sciences," said President Mary K. Grant. "It's an important part of the Berkshire County economy, and its importance will only increase. As an institution, we strive to prepare our students for this critical growth industry." Grant notes that enrollment in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) majors at MCLA has increased by about 20% in recent years, and



the College recently added a concentration in biotechnology within the biology major.

Like others working in the life sciences throughout the Commonwealth, Donovan is optimistic about the College's Center for Science and Innovation.

"I can't wait to hear that the College is teaching students on the latest equipment, that students are exposed to these real-world technologies. It's about job skills training, and it is really important."

Donovan hopes to continue working at Nuclea beyond graduation and to eventually attend graduate school in the life sciences. While it's not a career path for the faint-hearted, Donovan isn't worried.

"MCLA has done a great job not only of teaching us the basics of biology, but also of showing us the importance of dedication, diligence, and hard work," said Donovan. "The faculty really instilled those values in us."

Clearly, it has paid off.

"I couldn't ask for a better situation," he added. "I have just loved being in the lab; it's where my home is. I'm loving every day at Nuclea and trying to get as much out of the experience as I can."

REUNION 2010

Over 150 alumni, friends, and family came to campus for Reunion this October. The program was run concurrently with Fall Family Weekend, and the campus was abuzz with many activities: the fine and performing arts department's fall production of *As You Like It*, the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony, the 100th anniversary of SGA reception, a men's soccer game against Westfield State, and Friday and Saturday night receptions were just a few among many. A special thank you goes to our class agents, who held their annual workshop on Saturday afternoon.

Is 2011 a reunion year for your class? Interested in helping to get your classmates back to North Adams for some fun and catching up with the campus community? Contact the Alumni Office at alumni@mcla.edu or (413) 662-5224, and let's get started!



Standing: Dan Boyle '65, Cindy Barrow Kuliga '63, Frank Ryan '65, Dave Hathaway '63, Jim Holden-Rhodes '65, Karen Lane '65, Martha Hathaway '63, Anthony Lengowski '65, Dot Giusti Ransford '64, Ruth Lambert Zicko '64, Kenna Andrews Hoellerich '66, Bob Taylor '64, Danny Foster '61, Paula Bousquet Dobeck '60, Suzanna Wilbur '60, and Dennis Zicko '65. Seated: Glenn Sheldon '60 and MCLA trustee chair Jane Brooks Allen '61



Young alums celebrate at the SGA reception. Back row: Melissa Gumlaw Ortendahl '05, Josh Ortendahl, Ben Lamb '07, Kristen Hurley '06, and Annie Kirkpatrick '06. Front row: Nicole Losavio '05, Michelle Hansen '08.



Joe Joseph '50 and Danny Foster '61



Kathleen O'Rourke '76 and Tom O'Rourke '76 talk with MCLA Treasurer Jerry Desmaris '74.



Kevin Giroux '63 and his wife Anne Marie



Many former SGA members gathered at the 100 year celebration over Reunion. Pictured here are Jade Prickett '10, Dave Hathaway '63, and Jameek Clovie '11.



Paul Kolodziejczak '60 then and now



The Class of 1960 celebrates 50 years: Paula Bousquet Dobeck, Glenn Sheldon, Suzanna Wilber, George Lazaros, Paul Kolodziejczak, Annette Chouinard Cohen, John Farmer, Paul Zendzian, Starr Baker and President Mary K. Grant.

MCLA Celebrates

100 years

of Student Government Association



The 2010 Student Government Association is marking the 100th anniversary of SGA by establishing an SGA scholarship in honor of SGA Office Manager Diane Collins. Back row: Student Trustee Jameek Clovie '11, Stephanie Esposito '12, Kate Collins '11, and Kevin Seely '11. Front row: Coordinator of Student Activities Jenn Craig, SGA President Jessica Krason '11, Jaynelle Bellemore '12, Ashley Franco '11, and SGA Office Manager Diane Collins.

In the 100 years since the Student Government Association (SGA) was founded, SGA has grown to represent more than 100 student clubs and to serve as a strong voice for students on campus. This fall, over Reunion and Fall Family weekend, SGA held a reception to celebrate.

“The 100th anniversary represents success,” said Jessica Krason '11, this year's SGA President.

Alumni who served on SGA say the experience helped them become more involved in college life, gave them an opportunity to make strong friendships, and paved the way for future careers.

“SGA is the voice of students,” said Kristin M. Hurley '06, a former coordinating vice president for the SGA. “It offers a unique and awesome opportunity to make change at MCLA or preserve those things that are valued traditions.” Hurley is a coordinator for first-year programs and a residence hall director at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Hurley got involved in SGA after she founded a cheerleading club on campus. She ran for SGA senate to help other students launch clubs they were passionate about. As a senior, she was elected coordinating vice president. Hurley worked to ensure that clubs were open to all students, sat on a finance committee

that oversaw the funding of clubs, and helped advise clubs on how they could raise and budget money.

Jim Doran, '86, who chaired the student senate and also served as SGA president, said the staff and faculty both “valued and validated” the opinions of SGA leaders.

“Our interpersonal, communication, political, and leadership skills were honed and sharpened with every passing senate hearing, campus committee meeting, budget hearing, election campaign, trustee meeting, late night brainstorming session, and debate,” Doran said. “Many of my best memories and valued friends I have to this day are from my SGA days.”

Doran said he did not plan to become involved in SGA when he arrived on campus in the 80s. In fact, he thought he'd transfer to another school, but quickly fell in love with the College. “My involvement grew as I became more and more committed to the amazing campus life and community that I found at the College,” Doran said.

Doran says SGA gave him the opportunity to participate in events of global importance, such as a worldwide Day of Peace on college campuses, and in local and national politics, including student rallies against Reagan-era budget cuts to financial aid.



The 1934 SGA included the College's first African American graduate Margaret Hart '35 pictured on the right. Elizabeth Rugg Ciccone '34 was SGA president.



Current SGA president Jessica Krason '11 honored Diane Collins '27 years of service by presenting her with a watch.



The 1986 SGA; Jim Doran '86 is on the far left.



Kristen Hurley '06 thanks Diane Collins for all the help and guidance she has provided SGA over the years.

His political experience led Doran to pursue a career in higher education. He earned a master's degree and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from the University of South Carolina. "I have been a stronger leader at work, in business, and on volunteer boards because of my SGA experience. It is the foundation for much of what I have accomplished and the success I have enjoyed."

Hurley said her experience on SGA led to her position at SUNY New Paltz. "My experience with SGA at MCLA helped me realize my passion, which is to work in higher education," she said. "Now I am influencing students as a professional, rather than a fellow student."

Current members are learning many of the same leadership skills. Krason became involved in Student Government after being active in her high school. She was an active member of the student council and wanted to continue that experience. She said her time on SGA has been influential, "It has taught me leadership qualities such as people and time management which I believe is an important quality to understand."

For Doran, Hurley, and Krason, SGA would not be what it is without the guidance of Diane Collins, who has been the SGA office manager for 27 years.

"Diane really helped make SGA the success that we were in the mid 80s," Doran said. "She was, and I suspect still is, the continuity and the backbone for student government leadership."

Collins said it has been a pleasure to see SGA grow and change over those years. She noted that with every year, students seem to become even more motivated, she said.

"They take a lot more initiative now," Collins said. "If they have an interest in something and it's not here, they make it happen."

Since the College has evolved into a liberal arts institution, offering a major in fine and performing arts, students have formed many new clubs that focus on the arts. There are now on campus an *a capella* group, a dance troupe, and student theater companies staging everything from Shakespeare to plays about gender equality.

Krason hopes future SGA members continue the tradition: "I hope SGA continues to be an effective voice for the students along with staying involved on campus and in the community." This year's SGA is working to establish a scholarship for future student leaders in honor of Diane Collins.

If you would like to make a gift toward the SGA scholarship, please contact Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu.

2010

Alumni Association Awards

The MCLA Alumni Association held its annual awards ceremony on Saturday, October 23, during Reunion Weekend.



James Holden-Rhodes '65, President Mary K. Grant, Anna Saldo-Burke M.Ed. '89, Dennis Zicko '65

MCLA graduates continue to distinguish themselves as leaders, as teachers, and as members of the College's thriving community. MCLA is honored to count this year's Alumni Association Award recipients among the ranks of our many distinguished alumni making a difference in the world every day.

James F. Holden-Rhodes '65 is this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Holden-Rhodes is a retired military intelligence officer of the United States Marine Corps, as well as a retired lieutenant colonel of infantry. After retiring from the military, Holden-Rhodes completed a doctorate in philosophy and political science at the University of New Mexico.

Presently Holden-Rhodes is a full-time technical consultant for Universal Technology Corporation at Space Countermeasures Hands-On Program (SpaceCHOP), Air Force Research Laboratory and an adjunct associate professor of intelligence studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Albuquerque. The International Association for Intelligence Education selected Jim as its Outstanding Teacher for 2009.

Holden-Rhodes has written and presented papers dealing with the subject of terrorism and the pivotal role of intelligence in successful counter-terrorism operations, including his book *Sharing the Secrets: Open Source Intelligence and the War on Drugs*. In 1995, The International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts presented him with an award for the work making the greatest contribution to advancing the state of the art in Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysis.

In addition, Holden-Rhodes established and served as the director of New Mexico State University's Intelligence Studies program, offering one of the nation's few university courses in intelligence.

Anna M. Saldo-Burke M.Ed. '89 is the recipient of the Alumni Association's Humanitarian Award. Saldo-Burke is a 27-year veteran teacher and currently teaches third grade at Sullivan Elementary School in North Adams. Throughout her career, Anna has devoted herself to improving the community and the world as a whole through projects

she develops and pursues with her class.

Anna and her students have been dedicated to bringing holiday cheer to our troops since 1999, an effort which began with the Operation Troop Support effort through the Berkshire County American Red Cross. Following the events of September 11th, she developed a number of projects to commemorate victims and their families through the "USA Points of Light" initiative.

That same year, she developed a project to collect food items as part of the "Feinstein Challenge" Food Drive. Together, Anna and her students involved local supermarkets and the school community to gather 3,705 food items for the Northern Berkshire Community Action Food Pantry. These are just a few of the many projects in which Anna and her students have been involved. Anna has taught students and community members to raise awareness, take action and inspire others.

Her work has been recognized with numerous awards including the Ladies Auxiliary to the Dr. George I. Curran VFW Post 996 Citizenship Award in 2010 and the Teaching for Democracy Award in 2008 for outstanding contributions in community service-learning.

Dennis P. Zicko '65 received the Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Service to the College. After graduating from MCLA, Zicko enjoyed a 36-year career as a high school physics teacher. He received a Master of Natural Science in physics in 1970 from the University of South Dakota. Zicko was awarded the Plymouth County Science Educator of the Year Award in 1990 and was a finalist for the Massachusetts State Science Teacher of the Year Award for 1990-1991.

In his role as class agent, Dennis worked to raise \$10,000 for the establishment of a Class of 1965 scholarship. With help from his fellow graduates, he secured contributions from an impressive 50 percent of the class. Through this effort, Zicko rebuilt connections between the College and alumni and created a fund to support future students. Dennis was presented with the Class Agent of the Year Award in 2009.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients.

PRESIDENT GRANT TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AWARD

President Mary K. Grant has been selected as the recipient of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District 1 Chief Executive Leader Award. This prestigious award was established to honor institutional leaders for outstanding contributions to their campus communities, for efforts promoting public understanding of education, and for support of advancement at their campuses.

Christine Tempesta, Chair of the CASE District 1 Board of Directors, remarked that the nomination highlighted President Grant's "...constant advocacy for public higher education; her thoughtful and communicative style; her passionate professionalism; her fundraising capabilities and her tirelessness in a role as both devoted alumna and beloved president."

The award will be presented to President Grant on January 26 during the Awards Celebration dinner at the CASE District 1 conference in Boston at Westin Copley Place. Congratulations, President Mary Grant, and thank you for your dedicated work.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



Marjorie Belizaire '07, Hyde Park, MA



Tony Dedrick '06, Dorchester, MA



Laura-Jean Hickey '99, Acton, MA



Michele Rugo '77, Murphys, CA

//CAMPUS UPDATE

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AWARDED \$1.5 MILLION GRANT

MCLA received a five-year, \$1.5 million grant for student support services from the U.S. Department of Education as part of the Federal TRIO Program, designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. The College's student support program offers structured academic support, which includes developmental courses, peer tutoring, and the Individual Enrichment Program, a program that offers specialized academic advising and promotes the development of a peer support network.

The grant drew praise from Sen. John Kerry. "For 30 years, MCLA's student support services program has given countless students the leg-up needed to succeed in college, and I'm thrilled the Department of Education is providing them with the resources to keep it up," said Kerry.

WOMEN'S SOCCER HONORS ALUMNI WHO SERVE



John Greenbush '05, former Vice President Steve Green, and captain of the women's soccer team Jessica Tietgens '11 helped raise the flag at Sarah Lapine Day.

Women's home soccer games have a new feature: an American flag that once flew over Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. The flag, a gift from Staff Sargent Sarah Lapine '01, who played soccer with the Trailblazers for four years, was officially raised on September 18, 2010. Her flag flew at all women's home soccer games this season in honor of Lapine and her fellow soldiers and veterans who serve our country.

"We brainstormed together and thought, why don't we have a flag flown for the women's soccer program? It was flown over the base in Afghanistan, ceremonially folded, and Sarah sent it to us. It helps to keep her in our thoughts, as well," said Deborah Raber, head women's soccer coach. Lapine was one of the alumni profiled in the previous issue of *Beacons & Seeds*. She currently serves with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, stationed in Afghanistan, which supplies troops with fuel and water. September 18 was designated "Sgt. Lapine Day" at MCLA in her honor.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear Alumni,

This September, I was elected by the Alumni Association Board of Directors to be the president of the Alumni Association. It is with great honor and pleasure that I accepted this position. The opportunity to lead this wonderful organization, which serves so many alumni, is most welcome.

Since my husband Scott and I moved back to North Adams in December of 2004, I have become increasingly involved at the College. I was elected by the alumni body to serve on the Alumni Board in 2007. I joined the history department as an adjunct professor in 2008, teaching U.S. History and political science in the new Fast Track program. Also in 2008, my mother and I set up a scholarship fund at the College to memorialize my late grandparents. In 2009, I was invited to join the MCLA Foundation's board of directors. Through each new level of involvement, my pride in this institution has grown.

I encourage you to get involved in whatever way you can. Make a gift, become a mentor to a current student or a new graduate in your field, or help out at Admissions Open House; you will learn so much about our alma mater and the impressive students attending it today. Consider attending an athletic event, visiting a class, or taking a walk around campus. The College has so much to offer.

For more information about how you can get involved, go to www.mcla.edu/alumni or contact Jocelyn Merrick, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at J.Merrick@mcla.edu or (413) 662-5193.

Sincerely,
Buffy Lord '98

EDUCATION DEGREE LEADS TO TEACHING CAREER ABROAD

FOR JANICE MARSHALL CALZINI, CLASS OF 1965, a North Adams State College degree in education paved the way to an exciting 28-year teaching career abroad.

Jan studied to be an elementary school teacher in college, and after graduation taught for a few years in the Marlborough, MA, school system. Then her husband Bob, also a teacher, was bitten by the travel bug. The newlyweds decided to move overseas to teach in U.S. Department of Defense schools, located on American military bases abroad.

Jan and Bob taught in DOD schools in Germany, Denmark, and England. Jan finished out her career on a base in Rota, Spain, where she taught for nine years. The couple returned home for a year at one point to allow Bob to complete a doctorate while Jan earned a master's in education at Michigan State University.

"I thought I'd try living abroad for a year or so," Jan says. "I was a homebody and was not one of those independent women who just pack their bags and go."

Jan found the adjustment to be difficult at first, but eventually she loved living and teaching abroad. The couple have two children, Clinton and Derek, who were born in Germany and Spain, respectively.

"It was a marvelous experience for them," she says. "It gave them a good worldly aspect."

Jan said the close-knit atmosphere at North Adams State, now MCLA, helped her to overcome academic challenges and to develop close lifelong friendships.

"School was not always easy for me," she says. She recalled professors who had high expectations of students and encouraged her to keep her nose to the grindstone. "The professors and my academic advisor gave me a lot of tips and told me to hang in there and maintain the drive and fortitude to go forward," Jan says. That kind of commitment helped her to become not only "serious and tenacious," she says, but also a "kind and loving" teacher herself.

Jan taught overseas until 2003 and then returned to Massachusetts where she and Bob built a home on a lake in Mashpee, on Cape Cod.



Jan Marshall Calzini '65 (lower right and again on the right) credits her professors at the College in training her to be a compassionate teacher.

CLASS NOTES

Interested in becoming a class agent?
Please contact Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu about getting involved in our volunteer program.

1936

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

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
150 Sherwood Dr
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5914

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 Fewa 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

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

1962

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

Jean Kent Swift
42 Olds St
North Adams, MA 01247-3233
jeanmaryswift@verizon.net

1963

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

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

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

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

1965

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



Martin Perlmutter '60 and Diane Gallese Parsons '61 shared in the discussion at an event at the Advancement Office in August, where faculty emerita Dr. Lea Newman talked about growing up Italian in Chicago.



Jo Knopf Owen '65, here with Chief Advancement Officer Marianne Drake, hosted a gathering at her beautiful home on the Cape in July.



Alumni gathered in Cape Cod. Top Row: Dennis Zicko '65, Ruth Lambert Zicko '64, Jo Owen, Anthony Tuillo '71, Alumni Relations Coordinator Brandon Pender '07, and Patricia Cronin Goodwin '85, Front Row: Peggy Lou Atkinson Howe '54, Janice Marshall Calzini '65, and Jayanne Gammon Sci '85



Ron Cimini, Brian Steady, Wayne Collins (seated), and Sheila McCroary Gralow (not pictured) attended the Pittsfield High School Class of 1965 Reunion in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in August and had a mini NASC Class of 1969 reunion. Ron and Wayne came back to campus for a visit in September, continuing the trip down memory lane!

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

1966

Kenna Andrews Hoellerich
827 Main Rd
Savoy, MA 01256-9203
ruhoell@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

Congratulations to **Isaac Crawford Jr.** who has written and self-published *Beating the Odds: A Story of Survival*, the story of his family history from the 1830s through the present day. The book will be a great addition to the genealogical field and is available for purchase through Xlibris.

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.

1970

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

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

1971

Larry Ryan and his wife **Rose Marie Ryan '72** have retired from teaching after more than 35 years. After graduating from North Adams State Teachers College, Larry and Rose worked for years as compassionate teachers; they even gave students magnets with their home phone number, fondly deemed the "Ryan Hotline," in case they had trouble with their school work. They have served the profession well, and we thank them for their devotion to education.

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
68 Greylock Estates Rd.
Lanesboro, MA 01237-1554
jeannemroy@aol.com

Rose Marie Ryan and her husband **Larry Ryan '71** retired from teaching after more than 35 years. After graduating from North Adams State Teachers College, Rose and Larry worked for years as compassionate teachers; they even gave students magnets with their home phone number, fondly deemed the "Ryan Hotline," in case they had trouble with their school work. They have served the profession well, and we thank them for their devotion to education.

1973

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

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

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
rsjpus@optonline.net

Colonel Joseph H. Vivori has retired from 31 years of service in the U. S. Air Force. His service was honorable, resulting in many decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, six Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and two Air Force Achievement Medals. His retirement is well-earned.

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

1975

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

1976

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

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

1979

Michael Rooney
11 Josiah Dr
Upton, MA 01568-1452

1980

Charlene E. Bolster has been promoted to vice president and Queensbury branch manager of Glens Falls Bank in Glens Falls, New York. Charlene is an active board member for the Fort Ann Rotary Club and serves as a volunteer income tax assistant. Congratulations and continued success, Charlene!

Michael Coffey was recently honored with the Gerard D. Downing Advocate of the Year Award for his service to victims and witnesses. Coffey has served 25 years as a victim-witness advocate for Suffolk County, MA

Mary-Jeanne "Jeanne" Filiault has been named the new principal of Hancock Central School in Hancock, NY. Though this is her first time working as a principal, Filiault has spent over twenty years working in public and private schools and is expected to be a great fit for the community-oriented school.

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 Lepkouski
14 Willey St
Rochester, NH 03867-1025
colette.lepkouski@gmail.com

1983

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

A bumper sticker on Donna Delrosso's car reads— "Hingham Women's Hockey: Why Should the Kids Have All the Fun?" As recent New England Women's Hockey League cup



Derrick Jackson, former Hardman speaker and parent of a current student, presented Laura Ling with a photograph before her lecture.

HARDMAN LECTURE SERIES BRINGS LAURA LING TO CAMPUS

Laura Ling, the journalist who was detained by North Korean soldiers after crossing the Chinese border into North Korea, gave the annual Hardman Lecture in October.

As a foreign correspondent, Ling has reported on subjects including slave labor in the Brazilian Amazon, Mexico's drug war, internet censorship in China, and women's rights in Turkey. Additionally, Ling worked as a series producer for Channel One News, where she produced reports from around the globe. Her work has appeared on MTV, ABC's "Nightline," NBC, PBS, and the WB network. While working for Current TV as a correspondent and vice president of its Vanguard Journalism Unit, episodes of Vanguard received numerous prestigious awards, including the Alfred I. DuPont Award and several Emmy Award nominations.

In March 2009, while working on a story for Current TV, Ling was detained by North Korean soldiers along the Chinese-North Korean border. She and her colleague Euna Lee were arrested and held captive in North Korea for 140 days before being pardoned and returned to the United States. Ling currently works to bring awareness to the crisis of international sex trafficking and the plight of other imprisoned journalists.

Ling is co-author with her sister Lisa Ling, of *Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea and the Other's Fight to Bring Her Home*.

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

winners, Delrosso and her Hingham Women's Hockey teammates choose to play the game they love rather than just sit on the bench. As team captain, Delrosso was enthused when fifty-four women showed up to join the team and warns, "We're not just some bonbon-eating moms."

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

Jeffrey Williams
43 Jackson St
North Adams, MA 01247-2740
willfam@gis.net

Laura Ebener Williams
43 Jackson St
North Adams, MA 01247-2740
willsam@gis.net

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

1985

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

Elizabeth Barbara Jacobs married **Michael John Stottle** on July 16th, 2010. What makes this marriage unique is that Jacobs is a member of the Arlington House Chapter, Virginia NSDAR (National Society of Daughters of the American

Revolution), and Stottle is a member of the Charles Carroll of Carrollton Chapter, MDSSAR (Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution). They were married at the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters in Washington, D.C., in the Kansas Chapel. Michael is a staff officer serving in the executive branch of the United States government.

Pete Vasil continues his dedication to basketball after playing as an All-Conference guard for the College 25 years ago. Vasil is the head coach at Bloomfield Technical School in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Under Vasil's leadership, the team has been continuously victorious and has found more success at the New Jersey State Coaches Association All-Star Classic. Congratulations!

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

1988

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

Paula Randazza has recently been elected president of the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers. Congratulations on your exciting new venture, Paula!

1989

Hoping to inspire the same passion she had for learning, **Jill Pompi** is teaching fifth grade at C.T. Plunkett Elementary School in Adams, MA. She explains, "I want [my students]



Both descendants of patriots, **Michael John Stottle '85** married **Elizabeth Barbara Jacobs** in July in Washington D.C.

to love learning and love reading. I want them to have the same passion I did...I think the best way to experience the world—if you can't physically travel—is through literature."

Linda Reardon is now the principal at Clarksburg Elementary School in Clarksburg, MA, after working at Brayton Elementary School in Adams, MA.

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

1991

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

1992

Dawn Fraser Wanner
325 Green Ln. 3rd Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19128
ItIsDawn@aol.com

1993

After retiring from 25 years with the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, **Joyce Phillips** will continue to do good work on the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee. Joyce also serves as executive producer for concerts on the board of the Gill-Montague Educa-



A round of golf brings together men's soccer alumni! **Jim Hachey '86**, head coach **Adam Hildabrand '99**, retired coach **Ron Shewcraft**, and **Dave Pereira '93** participated in the annual tournament.



Paula Randazza '88 and **Kim Schmidl-Gagne '86** at the NEACUHO (Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers) Conference at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. Paula works at Rivier College in New Hampshire and was elected to the office of NEACUHO President. Kim works at Keene State College in New Hampshire.

tion Fund, which raises money for the schools.

1994

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

Rosemary O'Sullivan
rosemaryosullivan@hotmail.com

1995

We read that PeoplesBank recently announced the appointment of **Jeffrey A. Kerr** as assistant vice president, retail marketing. Jeffrey brings over 20 years of banking and marketing experience to PeoplesBank. Jeffrey is also busy pursuing a Master of Education degree from American International College in Springfield, MA. Best of luck to you, Jeffrey!

1996

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

Chris Dolan has done Red Sox fans across the country proud by building a quarter-scale Fenway Park in his backyard of his home in Westfield, MA, along with his wife Jen Coughlin Dolan '95. Fenway Westfield hosts several fundraisers each summer to benefit the Community Christian School of Westfield and the New England chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS). Chris is a Massachusetts state trooper and is assigned to the crime scene investigators unit in Springfield. He and Jen have three sons.

Mara Woolley, a kindergarten teacher at C.T. Plunkett School in Adams, recently joined other teachers from her school to volunteer at the annual St. George Grecian festival in Pittsfield, MA. The popular summer event celebrates Greek culture and serves as a primary fundraiser for the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. Mara enjoyed being "Greek for a weekend."

1997

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

Congratulations to **Christina Cruz**, who has been named a delegate to the national women's leadership program Vision 2020, which focuses on women's leadership and gender equality. Christina was chosen based on her commitment to helping women and girls. She is the author of the book *Gender Games: Why Women Coaches are Losing the Field*.

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 bank compliance with various federal regulations on a day-to-day basis. Eric has worked at the bank for 12 years. Best of luck to you, Eric!

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@mpsd.org

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
jenniema9@hotmail.com

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

Jennifer Smith Huberdeau was one of 11 journalists from around the country to be selected for the 2010 Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation Health Care Coverage Fellowship. As part of the year-long fellowship, Jennifer, senior reporter at the *North Adams Transcript*, took part in a nine-day intensive workshop at Babson College. Fellows met with health-care experts from around the country, including David Blumenthal, national coordinator for health information technology under President Barack Obama, and Kitty and Michael Dukakis. Among those in her fellowship group were reporters from the *Washington Post*, the *Dallas Free Press*, the *Cape Cod Times*, and the *Louisville Courier*. Jennifer holds the distinction of being the first reporter from a small, local newspaper to be invited to join the fellowship.



Class of 2000 Xavier Jackman's daughter gets her MCLA on.

// CAMPUS UPDATE

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER DELIVERS PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE



Vandana Shiva, a leading international environmental scholar, delivered the Public Policy Lecture on campus in November.

Founder and Director of the Research Foundation on Science, Technology, and Ecology in India, Shiva is one of India's leading physicists, holding a master's degree in the philosophy of science and a Ph.D. in particle physics. Shiva has authored

numerous books on international environmental issues, including *Water Wars: Pollution, Profits, and Privatization*; *Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge*; *Monocultures of the Mind*; *The Violence of the Green Revolution*; *Staying Alive*; and *Soil, Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis*.

Shiva is a leader in the International Forum on Globalization, an organization that promotes equitable, democratic, and ecologically sustainable economies, along with Ralph Nader and American economist Jeremy Rifkin. She was a keynote speaker at the World Trade Organization summit in Seattle, and at the recent World Economic Forum in Melbourne, Australia. *Time* magazine called Shiva "an environmental hero," and *Asia Week* described her as one of the five most powerful communicators on the Asian continent. Shiva is a recipient of the Global 500 Award of the United Nations and the Earth Day International Award. She has also received the Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize," and is a member of the Order of the Golden Ark, established by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in 1971, which honors individuals for their major contributions to nature conservation. Shiva was awarded the 2010 Sidney Peace Prize, the only international peace prize awarded in Australia, this November.

Shiva founded a movement called Navdanya, or "nine seeds," which promotes biodiversity and the use of native seeds in planting. She launched the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology in her mother's cowshed in 1997. Its studies have validated the ecological value of traditional farming methods and have helped to fight destructive developmental projects in India.

The Public Policy Lecture Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.



Buffy Lord '98 and her mother Deb Smith recently met former Red Sox first baseman Brian Daubach, now the manager of the Pittsfield Colonials in Massachusetts.



Dave Robbins '03 was the announcer at Sgt. Lapine Day, honoring Sarah Lapine '01 and all members of the MCLA community who have served our country. Dave is pictured on the left with the Williamstown American Legion Color Guard and Rifle Squad who participated in the flag raising ceremony.

She resides in Adams with her husband, Robert Huberdeau '07, and their children, Michaela, 10, and Isaac, 6.

Kristin Lamontagne
65 Strathmore Rd Apt 7
Boston, MA 02135-7740
Kristin18779@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. James is a project manager/estimator with Allegro Construction Company in Pittsfield. Monique is 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.

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

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

We are happy to share the news of **Coleen Friend's** wedding to Brian Phillips! Coleen works as a case manager for the Special Education Surrogate Parent Program (SESPP), and Brian works for D.W. Philips Electric. Congratulations, Coleen and Brian!

Sarah Gaffey was recently named branch manager of Hoosac Bank's main office. Hoosac Bank is part of the MountainOne Financial Partners, which includes Williamstown Savings Bank; South Coastal Bank; Coakley, Pierpan, Dolan & Collins; and True North. Best of luck to you, Sarah!

2003

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

Lauren Mauriello Burn
807 E Broadway Apt 3
South Boston, MA 02127-2389
lburn@maaps.org

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

Christina Barrett has been named director of marketing and public relations at Berkshire Community College. She will oversee enhancing the institution's social media and media relations strategies. Congratulations on this exciting new venture, Christina!

Jennifer A. Maynard has been hired to manage Clinton Savings Bank's West Boylston branch. Jennifer will

be responsible for overseeing operations including customer service, lending, security, and products. Congratulations, Jennifer!

A collaborative effort between North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown has been created around the hiring of **David Robbins** as the new veterans' agent for the towns. Robbins served as a sergeant in the state National Guard and has just returned from an 11-month tour of duty in Iraq. Congratulations and welcome back, David!

2004

Robert Black
1911 Avalon Dr
Hull, MA 02045-3433
axp135@yahoo.com

Lynn Brennan
5024 State Rd. 36
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

Now residing in Providence, RI, **Adam Alt** is speaking publicly about learning to understand schizophrenia. Adam is an office worker at Sovereign Bank and is enrolled at the Community College of Rhode Island, where he is pursuing a degree in accounting. He works with his wife, Michele Alt, to breakdown stereotypes and myths about violence and mental illness by speaking to groups of high school and college students. Good luck, Adam!

Jo Gavrity continues her devotion to education by serving on the New Lebanon, NY, school board as vice president. Jo is also involved in the district's Shared Decision Making Team, which works toward meeting building and school needs to help improve student achievement. She currently teaches special education in the Southern Berkshire regional school district in Sheffield, MA. Good luck in all your endeavors, Jo!

Kevin O'Connell graduated from Berkshire Community College with a degree in nursing. He is working as an emergency medical technician and is working toward a career as an an-



Rian Rabideau '06 and Dianne Manning, director of MCLA's Residential Programs and Service, at the NEACUHO (Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers) Conference at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. Rian works at Keene State College in New Hampshire. Also in attendance were Berkshire Towers Residence Director Brendon Goodridge and Hoosac Hall Residence Director Emily Schiavoni.



Dianne Manning, director of MCLA's Residential Programs and Services, and Michelle Hansen '08 at the NEACUHO. Michelle is a Residence Director at Roger Williams and served as the chair of the Hospitality Committee

esthesiology nurse. Congratulations, Kevin!

We are excited to announce the engagement of Rebecca Skandera to Nicholas Perlmutter. Rebecca works as a ski and snowboard instructor at Stratton Mountain in Vermont and actively pursues skills in crafting and fine art, while Nicholas is employed as a custom cabinet/furniture maker for Wadsworth Co. in Vermont. A lovely Vermont wedding is planned for October 10th.

2005

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

Nicole Losavio
68 Sayles St
Southbridge, MA 01550-1710
Nicole.Losavio@gmail.com

Reverend Margaret (Meg) McDowell Marley was recently ordained as a minister of word and sacrament at the Bay Road Presbyterian Church in Lake George, NY.

2006

Danielle Barboza
435 1/2 Murray St
San Francisco, CA 94110-5929
dbarboza@mcla.edu

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

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

Erin Good
erinmgood@gmail.com

Kristen Hurley
1009 Hawk Dr
New Paltz, NY 12561-2455
kh0187@mcla.edu

Anne Kirkpatrick
364 Kemp Ave Apt 1
North Adams, MA 01247-4332
ak0266@mcla.edu

The North Adams Public Library is now exhibiting several paintings by Jason Kokoszka, a local artist who has been drawing from the age of five and received formal training as a graphics major at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia before completing a degree in music at MCLA.

Congratulations to Erin Leith Lenski who married Nicholas Lenski of Adams last September. They are expecting a child this spring.

2007

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

Sarah Flint
20 Robinson St
Plymouth, MA 02360-3428
sflint@mpsd.org

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 live in North Adams.

// CAMPUS UPDATE

MCLA JOINS WITH STATE COLLEGES TO FORM STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



On October 26, MCLA became a campus of the Massachusetts State University system. This change was initiated in July when Governor Deval Patrick signed a law granting new status to the nine state colleges. While MCLA joins eight other institutions as part of the system, college officials have no plans to change the College's name, which reflects MCLA's mission as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college.

President Mary K. Grant says the College will retain its name to "reflect the type of different and unique opportunities we provide our students."

Grant said that MCLA is already designated as the state's public liberal arts college. "We are one of 26 such public liberal arts colleges in the country, many of which retain their own identities but are part of their own state university systems."

As state universities, MCLA and the other institutions within the system will continue to deliver high quality, affordable public higher education opportunities to students across the Commonwealth. The transition makes the state university system more competitive on a national level and highlights the distinctive programs and resources available within the system.

As part of the Massachusetts State University system MCLA, along with Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Massachusetts Maritime Academy, will retain their names to reflect their unique missions and special statuses.



Man on! This year's men's soccer gathering organized by Coach Adam Hildabrand '99 drew 98 athletes to participate.

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

Shirley Edgerton has started a new program to provide role models for young women in Berkshire County. The program named, "Rite of Passage," exposes young women to positive role models and life choices.

Evan Herrmann shared his knowledge with MCLA students in April, speaking in Professor Byrne's drugs and behavior class on the topic of "Principles and Applications of Contingency Management in Substance Abuse Treatment." He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Vermont studying behavioral pharmacology.

Katie Johnson returned to MCLA in April to host "MCLA Presents! 'A Night at the Cabaret.'" The event was exciting and a real treat. Thanks, Katie!

Ben Lamb and Emily Schiavoni are engaged to be married in July 2012. Congratulations Ben and Emily!

Stephanie Puc has recently joined the cast of "The Berkshire Bachelor," a local spin-off of the popular show *The Bachelor*. Along with seven other women, Stephanie will be dating bachelor Brent White for a chance at \$1,000 and, with any luck, a great date!

Tyna Burda Senecal was recently named branch manger for Williamstown 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!

Jessica Sokol "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 assistant-

ship 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 a library assistant at the UConn law library. He's pursuing a master's degree in library and information sciences at Southern Connecticut State University. Thank you!"

2008

Danyelle Meyers is now teaching English at Middle High School in Berlin central school district in Berlin, NY. She previously worked in the Greenwich central school district in Greenwich, NY. Good luck through the school year, Danyelle!

Funny man **Kyle Ploof** has a well-established career as a comic in the Boston area. Kyle hosts a monthly show at Tommy's Comedy Lounge in Boston's theaterdistrict and can be seen at several of the area's top venues including The Comedy Studio in Cambridge and Nick's Comedy Stop. Years of hard work have paid off; congratulations, Kyle!

2009

Michael Ameen has been announced as the next softball coach of the MCLA Trailblazers. Ameen has been a great asset to Berkshire County softball for years, coaching at Mount Greylock, McCann Tech, and most recently at Hoosac Valley High School in Adams. Good luck to Mike and the Trailblazers!

Two MCLA employees, **Amey Blackburn** and Stanley Spiewak, were recently wed. Amey is an executive assistant for the chief advancement officer and Stan works as a campus police officer for the MCLA Department of Public Safety.



Softball alumnae turned out for their annual alumni game over Columbus Day weekend. Thanks to Kristen Parzych '00 for helping organize the game.

Kirsten Banks '11 was Amey's maid of honor. The lovely couple spent their honeymoon touring Major League Baseball stadiums. Sincere congratulations to you both!

2010

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

IN MEMORIAM

Jacquelyn Ferguson Fetherston 1953
October 7, 2010

Gertrude Peck Finck 1949
June 1, 2010

Christine H. Dyson Hughes 1966
July 21, 2010

Tracy B. Jahn Jr. 1973
July 15, 2010

Dawn M. Alcombright Kelton 1997
July 4, 2010

Bob Moulton 1965
July 29, 2010

Catherine Oldham 1965
October 3, 2010

Dennis E. Rivers 1982
August 28, 2010

Edward M. Rurak 1973
June 1, 2010

Patricia Bates Stephenson 1947
September 19, 2010

David P. Wall 1972
November 6, 2010

Robert J. Wellspring 1980
June 23, 2010

MCLA FACULTY UPDATES

Here's a sampling of what just some of our faculty have been up to in the last few months:

Psychology professor Tim Jay was part of a *New York Times* "Room for Debate" panel on swearing with other experts, including best-selling author Deborah Tannen. Professor Jay also had two television appearances this fall: an appearance in the Hallmark Channel program *Whatever with Alexis and Jennifer*, followed by an appearance in a History Channel program about the history of cursing.

Business professor Ben Kahn participated in a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT). While in China, he also presented at the "China and America in the Next Decade" workshop hosted by the East China Normal University.

Physics professor Emily Maher traveled to Fermilab in Illinois this summer to be part of the international MINERva (Main Injector Neutrino Experiment v-A) project to study the neutrino.

Biology professor Emily Mooney spent her summer at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory studying osha, a relatively unknown plant that could one day help to prevent a flu pandemic.

Philosophy professor Paul Nnodim's children's book *The Tortoise and the Birds* was published by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers Inc.

Physics professor Adrienne Wootters returned from a prestigious Fulbright scholarship this summer teaching physics to college students in Rwanda's capital city Kigali.



Professor Wootters teaching in Rwanda.



Professor Frances Jones-Sneed on right with Charlayne Hunter-Gault, last year's Hardman lecturer.

THE ROLE OF PLACE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

Frances Jones-Sneed, Ph.D., history professor at MCLA, was awarded a third major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue her exploration of African-American history in the region.

Jones-Sneed will lead "The Role of Place in African-American Biography." The project involves a four-week summer institute for 25 college and university faculty who, in June 2011, will travel to MCLA from across the country to explore local African-American history.

Among the Berkshire County African-American figures they will study are Samuel Harris, civil war soldier; W.E.B. Du Bois, civil rights activist; Elizabeth "Mum Bett" Freeman, who legally obtained her freedom from slavery; and Agrippa Hull, a patriot of the American Revolutionary War.

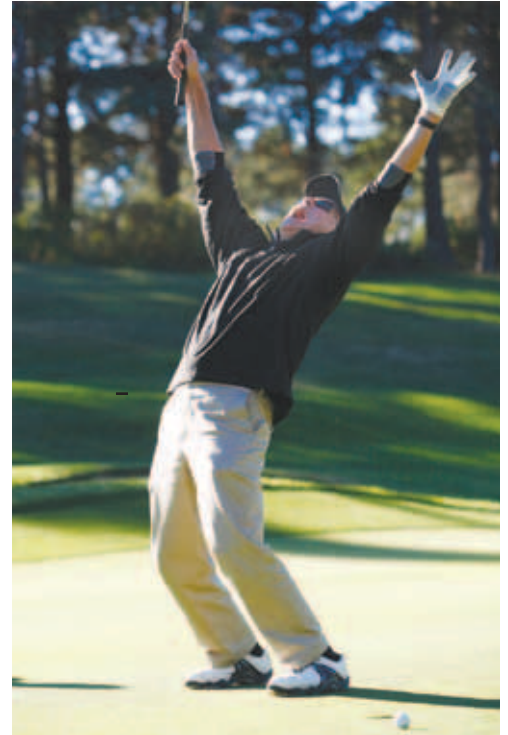
After attending the institute, "The professors will go back to their own communities and find their own local figures whom they can link to national themes in the same way we've done here in the Berkshires," Jones-Sneed said. "They are coming to see our models so they can replicate them."

Sponsored by MCLA, the 2011 NEH Summer Institute is a collaborative effort with Williams College and the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. In addition to Jones-Sneed, project directors will be Robert Paynter of UMASS-Amherst and Richard Courage of Westchester Community College.

Jones-Sneed has directed two other National Endowment for the Humanities grants, "The Shaping Role of Place in African American Biography," in 2006, and "Of Migrations and Renaissances: Harlem/NY and South Side/Chicago, 1915-75," in 2008. Both were designated as "We the People projects" by the NEH.

COMMUNITY FRIENDS AND ALUMNI TEE OFF IN SUPPORT OF MCLA ATHLETICS

THE HONORABLE JUDGE PAUL PERACHI '63, M.ED. '70 RECOGNIZED



MCLA hosted its 14th annual Golf Classic on September 20th at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, MA. The event raised more than \$18,000 for the College's athletic programs and awakened the competitive spirit in many!

The daylong event teed off with a barbeque followed by a scramble game of 18 holes with prizes, a banquet dinner, a raffle, and an auction. Winners of the tournament were the Puleri Team (Gary Baker '76, Dean Dimassimo '94, MCLA head baseball coach Jeff Puleri, and MCLA Professor Ron Shewcraft) in the Gross Division, and the McGrath Team (Michael Emerson, David Herforth, Michael McGrath, and Thomas Szczepaniak) in the Net Division.

The 2010 Golf Classic's honoree was the Honorable Paul Perachi '63, M.Ed. '70, who has made many contributions to the community and the College. Perachi has served Berkshire County as a teacher, coach, principal, attorney, and juvenile court judge. In addition, he served on MCLA's Alumni Association Board and the College's board of trustees. As a student, Perachi was a member of the College's basketball team. In 2002 he was inducted into the MCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincere thanks to the community members and local businesses that support the College's athletic program! A special thank you to this year's President's Club title sponsor, Covidien.

Clockwise from top left: Athletic Director Scott Nichols, honoree Paul Perachi and President Mary K. Grant '83; Diane Kelly, parent of Andrew Kelly '10, takes a swing; glee on the course! Linda Lewitt, Assistant Athletic Director Dot Houston, Toni Diamond '70, M.Ed. '95 and Marilyn Truskowski '84 came out to support the College's athletic programs; Student athletes stand with the Classic's honoree. From left to right: Marvin Thompson '11, Benny Cuprill '11, Jon Greenburg '11, Paul Perachi, Kris McLaughlin '11, and Adam Tarsa '11; Honoree Paul Perachi and his wife, Janet.

CLASS OF 1965 ESTABLISHES LEGACY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Class agent Dennis Zicko '65, a retired teacher and coach living in Marshfield, MA, recently led his classmates in an effort to raise \$10,000 for an endowed scholarship fund in honor of the class of 1965.

"I thought it would be a good idea to have this scholarship fund," Zicko said. "The College was a stepping stone for many of us. After graduating, I went on to earn a master's degree in physics and then to teach for 36 years. The College prepared me very well and did so for everyone else, too. It was a great place to be and still is."

Zicko was assisted in his fundraising efforts by classmates Frank and Melba Vieira Ryan, Josetta Knopf Owen, and Karen Lane who appealed to friends and classmates to contribute to the fund.

Josetta Knopf Owen said she was interested in participating in the fundraising effort because of her own experience as a young student struggling to pay for college. "I thought this was a wonderful idea," said Owen. "It is a way for our class to pull together, show class spirit, and also help a deserving student. We graduated 45 years ago, but we still have that class spirit from having attended a small college where everyone knew each other." Owen's enthusiasm about the effort led her to nominate Zicko for the Service to the College Award, which is awarded annually at the Distinguished Alumni Brunch over Reunion Weekend.

Zicko's leadership enabled the class of 1965 to reconnect with the College and with old classmates while reaching out to MCLA's current students. Zicko said, "It's a nice legacy to the school from our class."



Ruth Lambert Zicko '64 and Dennis Zicko '65



A few members of the Class of 1965 gathered with other alumni in Cape Cod in August 2009

*Considering establishing an endowed fund in honor or memory of someone?
Contact Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Jocelyn Merrick at JMerrick@mcla.edu.*



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SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Campus Events

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------|--|
| February 4 | MCLA Presents! 6th Annual
MCLA Blues and Funk Festival | April 8 | Faculty Brown Bag Lecture:
Bill Montgomery will present
“Did Technology Drive the
Nuclear Arms Race?” |
| February 5 | Alumni Board meeting | | |
| February 13 | MCLA Presents! <i>Waiting for Godot</i> | April 13 | MCLA Presents! Dala |
| March 3–7 | Spring FPA production <i>Lysistrata</i> | April 16 | Alumni Board meeting |
| March 4 & 5 | MCLA Presents! Nora Chipaumire:
lions will roar... | April 19 | Taconic Society reception |
| | | May 1 | MCLA Presents! PAM! Show |
| | | May 20 | Baccalaureate |
| | | May 21 | Commencement |

CALLING ALL SNOWBIRDS!

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

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