

# MCLA



## BREAKING NEW GROUND

President's Report 2011

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Dear Friends:

When MCLA's old friend Hubie Jones took the podium to speak at the 2011 Commencement exercises, he donned his well-worn MCLA ball cap. When the applause quieted down, Hubie said, "I wear my MCLA ball cap all over Boston, and when people ask me what 'MCLA' stands for, I tell them 'MCLA stands for excellence!'" Needless to say, Hubie brought the house down.

Indeed, we have come to expect excellence in everything MCLA. I use the word so frequently that oftentimes I look for another word to characterize the MCLA experience. I have tried *splendid*, and while there is much that is splendid here, the word seems to fall just short. On different occasions I have considered *grand*, *superb*, *marvelous*, *fabulous*, *fantastic*, and even the overworked *incredible* or *amazing*. But Hubie Jones, as always, is right. *Excellence* is the word.

The lead story of this edition of the MCLA President's Report is that we finally have broken ground on MCLA's first new academic building in 40 years: the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation. We do a lot of ground-breaking work at MCLA, and when Governor Patrick and I, and a host of friends, supporters and dignitaries, put shovels in the ground last October, we literally and metaphorically broke ground on the MCLA for the 21st century. Beginning in September 2013, and continuing long after we are all gone, students, faculty and the education community of Berkshire County will enjoy learning, teaching and scientific breakthroughs in this excellent facility. By the way, during the summer of 2011 the campus saw dramatic improvements across many facilities; in addition to enhancing the quality of campus life, these projects created dozens of jobs and injected millions of dollars into the local economy.

MCLA has broken new ground halfway around the world, too, with new partnerships with the University of Hebei, and with the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT), both, of course, in China. We have planted the seeds for new collaborations, including student and faculty exchanges, with our Chinese partners, and we expect that those who travel between our institutions to have an excellent experience.



Commencement 2011 honorary degree recipient and keynote speaker Dr. Hubert E. "Hubie" Jones and his wife, Dr. Katherine Butler Jones with President Mary K. Grant.

Closer to home, we have been treated to excellence across academic programs, co-curricular activities, and arts and athletics. Whether cheering on our Trailblazer teams, or traveling to New York for a day at the Metropolitan Opera, the MCLA community has been fortunate to be in the presence of excellence. It would be impossible here to thank all the people who work so hard, and are so generous, to make possible all these opportunities, but MCLA has been blessed with alumni and donors who understand the value of what we do here. Under the leadership of Marianne Drake, MCLA's chief advancement officer, and Board Chair Tim Dolan, the MCLA Foundation has embarked on a new capital campaign that will provide long-term resources to support the Center for Science and Innovation and many other important new initiatives. As always, the Foundation's primary mission is to support students, and the effort to sustain scholarships is ongoing.

So, please enjoy this 2011 MCLA President's Report. Thank you students, faculty, staff, alumni, Board of Trustees, Foundation Board of Directors, friends, donors, and families of students for all your support. This excellent College continues its good work because of your support. Come visit – soon.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Grant, '83, Ph.D.  
President

# Breaking New Ground

On October 14, 2011, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick joined Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, state and local officials, and MCLA students, faculty and staff for a long-anticipated celebration. With deft flips of ceremonial shovels, the MCLA community officially broke ground on the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation.

The celebration of this milestone commemorated a process of hard work, advocacy and planning that began in 2004. The Center for Science and Innovation is one of the hallmarks of the College's strategic planning process, which has broken new ground at MCLA in so many ways. The construction of this new, state-of-the-art building is one of a series of projects in recent years that has transformed the campus and provided new academic, educational, athletic and co-curricular opportunities to the campus and the community.



Breaking ground can take any one of a number of powerful forms, some metaphorical, some literal. We break ground to build, as in the case of Center for Science and Innovation, expanded athletic facilities and enhanced student residential spaces. We break ground to plant seeds that we cultivate carefully as they grow and flourish, as we have with new academic programs and new initiatives for students along with new opportunities for leadership and service such as the L.E.A.D. Academy program. Finally, we launch new groundbreaking initiatives, expanding boundaries and exploring new territory, as we have by extending the College footprint into downtown North

Adams and Pittsfield through initiatives like MCLA Gallery 51 and innovative program delivery models like Fast Track and the Professional MBA, and course offerings at the new MCLA and Berkshire Community College (BCC) Education Center in downtown Pittsfield.

Taken together, these different types of breaking ground are part of what makes MCLA a distinctive, essential and indispensable educational resource and part of what enables MCLA to deliver on its mission as the Commonwealth's designated public liberal arts college. All these efforts are rooted in the work of the College's strategic plan.

Gov. Deval Patrick addresses the community at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center for Science and Innovation.

### Planning and Preparation

MCLA's first strategic plan ran from 2004 through 2011. The work of the MCLA campus community to achieve that plan resulted in a record of unprecedented accomplishment.

During 2011, a task force representing the MCLA faculty and staff, students, alumni and the College Board of Trustees took on the important work of developing a new plan for the College to guide progress over the next several years. The planning process provided opportunities for campus-wide input and engagement, and the resulting plan reflects the perspective of the entire MCLA community.

"Our new strategic plan is a forward-looking document that represents who we are, and who we aspire to be," said MCLA President Mary K. Grant. "In some ways, as a result of the hard work and great progress that took place following that set of goals and strategies, we had outgrown our previous plan. The planning process gave us the opportunity to see how far we have come as a community, and to survey a new and exciting frontier of possibilities."

The plan focuses on goals that will build on the progress achieved during the previous planning process, including:

- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Supportive and Inclusive Community
- Responsive and Intentional Stewardship
- Public Purpose and Engagement

The strategic plan provides us with the framework for pursuing new aspirations and sustaining progress as we continue to break ground on new initiatives.



### Building on our Foundations

In addition to the construction of the Center for Science and Innovation, in recent years MCLA has invested significantly in facilities. The College installed a state-of-the-art artificial turf field at MCLA's Zavattaro Athletic Complex, providing a playing surface equal to the energy, drive and competitiveness of our student-athletes. We completely renovated the tennis courts at the complex, which helped pave the way for the addition of a men's tennis team this past fall. Over the summer, the gym floor in the Amsler Campus Center was replaced.

Residential life enhancements include new windows in the Flagg townhouses, a new entrance and expanded social and programming space in Berkshire Towers. During the summer of 2011, the first part of a two-phase renovation which took place in Hoosac Hall will increase residential capacity and programming space in the building.

The renovations to Hoosac will provide a greater visual connection between this residence area and the renovations to the Amsler Campus Center marketplace. Work in the Campus Center included an enhanced dining area, and expanded bookstore and convenience store space. The new Marketplace is a hub of community and commerce – a comfortable and supportive space for student, faculty, staff and community interaction.

These enhancements build on the model established with the renovation and redesign of Murdock Hall several years ago. The Murdock Hall project reinvented the oldest academic building on campus as a truly 21st century learning environment that enriches our students' development and experience. While enhancing the

quality of life for students, these capital investments help create a renewed sense of pride on campus.

These investments in physical spaces support MCLA's academic goals in some very important ways as well. "We work to create structure and support for students so that students not only feel welcome as a part of the community, but also so that students understand that the community is here to support and sustain them," President Grant said.

Supporting and sustaining success is the commitment that inspired the creation of MCLA's Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE). CSSE aligns the functions and offerings of advising services, career services, and learning services to help ensure students' academic success and to reinforce the contributions of co-curricular programs, internships and employment to a successful MCLA experience. This commitment to support, mentorship and engagement also inspires Student Affairs initiatives and programs, including peer advisors and orientation leaders.

CSSE Director Dr. Deb Foss observed, "It's not just about being successful in the classroom. It's being successful in terms of your overall development. Students come into college at a certain place and point in their lives, and our role is to provide support and engagement to enrich their lives so that they leave us at a higher level of development and achievement. That's not just the role of academics. That's the role of every office and every person on campus."

## Planting Seeds

Beyond the bricks and mortar that create environments in which students can achieve their full potential, the harvest of our planning process included innovative new programs such as the Leadership in Education, Action and Development (LEAD) Academy, the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) and MCLA Gallery 51, and new academic majors such as art, arts management, athletic training, political science and public policy, and the professional MBA, our newest graduate program.

With an increased interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) majors, as well as growing enrollment in MCLA's chemistry minor and a recognized need for STEM professionals in the Commonwealth and nationally, the College advanced a proposal to restore MCLA's chemistry major. This fall the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (BHE) approved the proposal to restore a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry at MCLA. According to Dr. Robert Harris, associate professor of chemistry, the return of this major allows the MCLA faculty and administration to improve courses offered to create new electives. "The new chemistry major will provide students with two options for structuring their electives," Harris said. "One track will prepare students for licensure as science educators. The other is focused on the skills graduates will need to pursue graduate study or jobs in the innovation economy. Growth in the sciences at MCLA, and the opportunities the Center for Science and Innovation will provide - that's where the future is."



## Blazing Trails

Creating the future we envision for the College, our students, and the community involves a process of give and take. That future will reflect the strategic goals of engagement and stewardship, of using our resources and living our values in a way that benefits the community, and that holds our progress in trust for the next generation.

Exploring new horizons works best when you have good partners by your side. MCLA has partners throughout the community, the Commonwealth and the nation, through relationships with the City of North Adams; local cultural organizations; members of our legislative delegation; business partners like Nuclea Biotechnologies, which has provided high performance computing resources to support innovative faculty and student research; and educational partners including Berkshire Community College (BCC), the institutions within the Massachusetts State University System, and our peer institutions within the nationwide Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC).

Our graduates are trailblazers in the truest sense of the word. For example, Cynthia Normandin '76 left MCLA with a degree in education. After working as a teacher for several years, she joined her husband in the trucking business, and has become a pioneer in the area of environmental sustainability in the industry.

Today, the College continues to provide a launching pad for new professionals, including some recent alumni who are beginning their careers at MCLA. Chelsey Burke '11 is using her degree in business administration as she works on special events and conferences in the Office of Institutional Advancement. Ashton Darrett '11 also earned a degree in business administration, which he applies to his work in the Administration and Finance department. Devin Kibbe '11, who earned her bachelor's in English literature, serves as an admission counselor. Natasha Robinson '11, another English major, also joined the College's Office of Admission as the access coordinator of multicultural recruitment. Finally, Michael Obasohan '11, who earned a bachelor's degree in arts management, is part of the team in student affairs.

"Our recent alumni employees are an enthusiastic group who add to the energy here on campus," said Human Resources Director Marilyn Truskowski. "We know that they have tremendous potential and we have the

opportunity to build professional skills and experience. In addition to their professional responsibilities, these alumni serve as role models for their former classmates and peers, modeling what the world of work can look like and what their life can look like after MCLA."

MCLA has the ability, the responsibility and the sense of mission necessary both to advance the economic, educational and social development of North Adams and Berkshire County, and also instill in students and alumni the importance of giving back to the institution. One of the cornerstones that enables us to nurture and sustain our trailblazing nature is the generosity and financial support of our friends, supporters and donors. Indeed, the commitment to stewardship takes many forms, from direct financial support to the sharing of expertise through mentorship and career opportunities.

Stewardship and engagement are woven through academic programs such as political science and public policy. In addition to the major in this field, the campus community and members of the public have opportunities to be part of conversations about important issues in the political arena. In 2011, our public policy lecture series took a big step forward when MCLA's Board of Trustees voted to name the annual fall public policy lecture in honor of former Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis and his wife, Kitty Dukakis.

"The Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture will continue to bring nationally and internationally renowned speakers to MCLA to share their experience and expertise with students, faculty, staff and members of the North Adams community. The opportunity to be able to name the lecture in honor of a leader, practitioner and scholar in the field of public policy reflects the transformative connections MCLA has made in this area," said MCLA Board of Trustees Chair Steve Crowe.

MCLA's commitment to the larger community is not limited to public programs. "North Adams is a college town," said North Adams Mayor Dick Alcombright. "Students are citizens and consumers. The more we recognize and act on these facts, the greater the economic development impact. In addition to this economic impact, MCLA students, faculty and staff have a tremendously positive social impact," he noted.

Members of the MCLA community partner with the city of North Adams for major days of service. These include a citywide day of service in the spring that brings





together faculty, staff, students, community members and the City with a common goal of cleanup and beautification of North Adams; a fall day of service that includes crosswalk painting, community cleanup and work with human services agencies; and a community day of service honoring the example and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A perfect example of stewardship is a service project that spun into serving an entire community. Amanda L'Etoile '11 of Falmouth, Mass., committed a summer to building the Hoosac Range Trail. Amanda cut and removed trees, brush and windfall, and hauled boulders from the trail. An environmental studies major, Amanda is passionate about the outdoors, keeping the Berkshires beautiful, and teaching others how to enjoy the region as much as she does. L'Etoile notes that MCLA's proximity to Windsor Lake provides the College with a unique opportunity to interact positively with community members who spend time swimming, fishing, boating, and picnicking at the lake. The results of building a sustainable hiking trail are immense, said L'Etoile. Participants in MCLA's LEAD Academy and other groups of MCLA freshmen also helped build the trail. "It was exciting to hear that many of the students would consider coming back out to do this rewarding work again in the future, and would love to participate in local outdoor recreation," said L'Etoile.

Stewardship also is about both being responsible for what we produce and consume. MCLA is committing resources, building programs, teaching students and

leaving the institution better than we found it when we started this process in 2004. This is but one step on the journey, because we leave our progress and accomplishments to the leaders, faculty, staff and students who follow us. As we hold the institution in trust for the people who will take the next step in the MCLA journey, in addition to planting seeds, we must ensure that the ground we break and the territory we explore is lovingly attended.

When all of these resources work together, a clear set of values emerges, including academic excellence, community, stewardship and engagement. These qualities manifest in multiple ways through signature programs, new facilities and public celebrations of a long-anticipated building project. These high profile examples highlight good, important and necessary work that takes place daily in smaller, but no less transformative ways.

Groundbreaking moments happen in the dining hall when students sit with friends in a welcoming and comfortable space to create memories, relationships and inspiration. It happens when the campus community learns about faculty research and each other at "Brown Bag Lectures." It happens in the small gestures that say we care for one another, such as when administrative staff provide study break cookies for students working late in the library during finals. It happens when faculty, students and staff join together at the playing fields and in the gym to cheer on the Trailblazer teams, support their classmates in Dance Company and theatre performances, and eagerly crowd in to exhibition openings at MCLA Gallery 51.

Groundbreaking moments happen at MCLA because of our commitment to community and the values that we share. We are successful because we live and demonstrate those values, and we have students who embody those values by being advisors and mentors to others, whether helping with directions to class or leading by example. The work we do at MCLA today will ensure we leave the institution better than we found it. This work never ends. The students, faculty and staff who make up our community hold the College in trust for the generations of students, faculty, and staff to follow. We break ground to build something that will not only last, but continue to grow and expand. The territory is ever-expanding and the horizon is boundless.

## MCLA Chemistry Major Connects to STEM Pipeline

In October 2011, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved MCLA's proposal to offer a major in chemistry. This new academic program reflects the steady surge in enrollment in MCLA's chemistry minor in recent years, as well as the growing demand for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professionals throughout Berkshire County, the Commonwealth and the nation.

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The job outlook for chemistry majors is highly promising, according to Dr. Robert Harris, associate professor of chemistry. "Most chemists can find jobs in industry or government right after graduation. The major will also prepare them for professional schools such as medical, dental, veterinary medicine, or graduate school in chemistry."

In addition, the major provides the opportunity for the chemistry faculty to enhance course offerings and develop new electives. This provides greater options for majors and supports the needs of biology, physics, environmental

studies and athletic training students who require chemistry courses as part of their program of study.

The chemistry major will continue to foster the growth and support of STEM initiatives in Berkshire County and the region by producing graduates prepared for careers in industry, education and public service. The curriculum was designed so that students who wish to major in chemistry and education can accomplish both goals in four years and be prepared for licensure through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



## Exceptional Lectures Connect Learning and Practice



Former anchor of CNN's "American Morning" and "Weekend Today" host at NBC, Soledad O'Brien

MCLA welcomes extraordinary guests to campus. Among this year's distinguished speakers were political analysts James Carville and Mary Matalin, journalist Soledad O'Brien, and former U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates.

Key players on the national political scene for more than three decades, Carville and Matalin shared their strong and opposing political opinions about contemporary politics in the March public policy lecture, "All's Fair: Love, War and Politics."

CNN anchor O'Brien delivered the Hardman Lecture Series in October in MCLA Church Street Center's newly named Eleanor Furst Roberts Auditorium. O'Brien provided students and the community with an insider's

look at the strategies, hard work and attention to detail required to report on the stories that reflect and affect America today.

In November, Dr. Gates delivered the inaugural Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture in the MCLA Amsler Campus Center gymnasium, where he spoke on a variety of topics, including global politics, U.S. foreign policy, U.S. intelligence and defense strategies.

For more information, go to [www.mcla.edu/speakers](http://www.mcla.edu/speakers).

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert M. Gates

### The Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture

In October 2011, the MCLA Board of Trustees voted to name the annual fall public policy lecture in honor of former Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis and his wife, Kitty Dukakis, in recognition of their service to the Commonwealth, their instrumental role in the creation of MASS MoCA, and their long history of support for North Adams and Berkshire County.

The Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture will continue to bring nationally and internationally renowned speakers to MCLA to share their experience and expertise with students, faculty, staff and members of the greater MCLA community.

The lecture is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. MCLA expresses its deepest appreciation to the fund's trustee, John DeRosa.

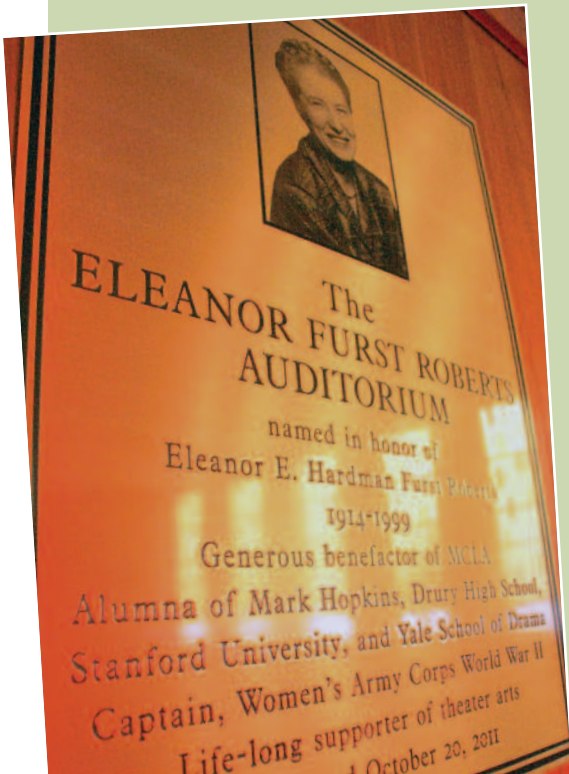


### Eleanor Furst Roberts Auditorium

This fall, MCLA announced its Church Street Center auditorium would be named after Eleanor Furst Roberts, the benefactor of the College's Hardman Family Endowment.

According to MCLA President Mary K. Grant, Roberts' life and sense of generosity exemplifies the Hardman family's tradition in the spirit of giving. Her bequest to the College established the endowment that supports student scholarship, faculty professional development in journalism, the archiving of materials in Freeland library, and the annual Hardman Lecture Series that brings world-renowned journalists to MCLA to speak to students and community members.

The College is deeply grateful to the members of the Hardman family for their contributions to MCLA, our students and faculty and the community.



## Policy and Practice

Launched in 2008, MCLA's political science and public policy major provides students with strong academic preparation in the field. Beyond the classroom, students and faculty enjoy a range of opportunities to put learning into practice and to build upon their academic coursework.

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The Political Science and Public Policy Lecture Series, and the Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis lectures present examples of the ways that faculty work to connect the program to the community. Political science faculty member Petra Hejnova helps to coordinate the lectures. She is part of the group of faculty and administrators who identify and recommend potential topics and speakers, and organize the program.

According to Hejnova, "It is an exciting opportunity not just for me and other faculty but especially for the students who get to be inspired by these national and often global leaders."

In addition to the lectures, Hejnova facilitates discussions with the community. She brings together the public, campus community, local leaders, speakers and students to talk about issues that are facing not only our community but also the region and society at large, and to help identify possible solutions. An example of this work was the mill reuse seminar Hejnova taught in the spring of 2011. Participants in this service-oriented course studied urban history and looked at the old mills in North Adams and Berkshire County.

In recent years, these communities have considered how best to utilize these large spaces that once housed manufacturing industries. In the seminar, students took

an in-depth look at these substantial brick buildings and how they might be used in the 21st century.

"The course was very hands-on," said Hejnova. "We had a lot of people speak to the students and took field trips. Basically, we went over the history of North Adams and of mills in the Berkshires, as well as urban policy, as we studied mill and community development."

As their final project, students focused on the Windsor Mill in North Adams, coming up with ideas on how to re-use the old mill. Owned by the City of North Adams, the mill is occupied by a handful of businesses. Much of its vast space is vacant.

The students presented their findings and suggestions to members of the community, including Mayor Richard Alcombright, MCLA President Mary K. Grant, Vice President of Academic Affairs Cynthia Brown, artist and developer Eric Rudd, and former State Rep., Daniel Bosley '76.

According to seminar participant Caitlin Versailles '12, one suggestion focused on tearing down the older, less-used, more dilapidated sections of the mill to open up the courtyard, as well as the entire complex in general, to more foot traffic. "We wanted to focus on business and improving the marketability of the mill to outside



companies, and we were hoping that opening up the complex and repairing it would do so," Versailles said.

Another study group suggested that the City of North Adams, the Chamber of Commerce and other interested parties should focus on renovating the mill and creating an extensive advertising campaign to promote it.

"They thought it would be good to market to young people, who are looking for inexpensive living and working space," Hejnova said.

"I really enjoyed what we accomplished," said Chris Skutnik '11. "The information we learned about many of New England's mills felt very relevant to the project we were working on, and I felt extremely satisfied to see the end result."

Another way that students apply policy and public service lessons is through internships. Quincy Goodwin '13 participated in a Judge Reginald C. Lindsay Fellowship in Boston during the summer of 2011. As part of the fellowship, Quincy interned at the Federal Public Defender's Office. He worked with the attorneys and staff in the office.

According to Quincy, "Talking with the clients, hearing their stories, and helping them through the process stood out in my mind the most. This experience opened my eyes to the bigger picture and the importance of listening to people's stories and history to really see the whole picture and to come away with an informed point of view."

## Undergraduate Research: A Transformative Experience

Since its inception in 2002, MCLA's Undergraduate Research Conference has provided students with opportunities to conduct and present original research. These experiences give students a competitive advantage as they vie for spots in graduate schools and in the job market.

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MCLA's liberal arts mission and commitment to high-impact experiences support a culture of inquiry through which students and faculty collaborate in a variety of ways. Faculty get to know their students well and involve them in projects right from the start, which provides multiple research opportunities for both faculty and students.

Over the past decade, the annual Undergraduate Research Conference has grown to a campus-wide day of engagement. In addition to the approximately 250 students who present work at the conference, all faculty and students are encouraged to participate in the conference by attending poster sessions, paper presentations and performances.

To support this exciting and important work, faculty members Dr. Maria Bartini, Dr. Ann Billetz and Dr. Rosanne Denhard established an Undergraduate

Research Advisory Board and a Center for Undergraduate Research. In December 2011, they held a faculty workshop to provide advice and assistance, encouraging even more professors to incorporate student research into their classes.

"Students really need the experience of undergraduate research, particularly if they are going onto graduate school or professional programs," Dr. Billetz noted.

"Research allows students to develop, implement, collect and analyze information on their own. It gives them a chance to see what they are capable of doing when they put learning into action."

Dr. Denhard remarked that undergraduate research makes students better prepared for graduate school and their subsequent careers.

"Through undergraduate research projects, students learn how to take a major project from the proposal stage





to completion. Along the way, they practice problem-solving at various stages and learn how to work both independently and collaboratively with peers and with faculty," she explained.

In addition to presenting their work at MCLA, a number of students share their research on regional, statewide and national levels. In October, a group of students presented their work at the Second Annual Regional Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Undergraduate Research Conference at Keene State College in New Hampshire. (MCLA hosted the first northeastern COPLAC conference in 2010.)

Beyond their own presentations, students increasingly are working collaboratively on projects rooted in faculty scholarship.

Informed that the International Margaret Cavendish Society's theme for the 2011 Biennial International Conference in Belgium would be "The Cavendishes and Anglo-European Cultural Exchange: Seventeenth-Century Dutch, Flemish and French Influences," Dr. Denhard challenged students from her "Medieval and Renaissance British Drama" class – as well as a fine and performing arts major working on an independent study project on historical costume design – to participate in a collaborative research project that focused on how to teach the work of 17th century British writer Margaret Cavendish.

They presented their results at MCLA's annual Undergraduate Research Conference in April. In July, Dr.

Denhard shared their work in Belgium. Although the students themselves were not present, they contributed through a DVD that documented their collaboration.

"It was impressive to see how these young scholars were able to get the pulse of the field and follow through so well," Dr. Denhard said. "The students' interests and concerns for Cavendish research were absolutely right on target with what established scholars in the field are doing. It was especially gratifying to hear the positive comments of my fellow scholars as they discussed our work at MCLA."

**"Our best students are extraordinary. They continually work to gain all they can from a dedicated faculty, rigorous curriculum and myriad high impact learning activities, such as undergraduate research"**

Dr. Rosanne Denhard

## Educational Partnerships with China Flourish

MCLA continued to develop collaborations with educational institutions in China, as we once again hosted exchange students from the University of Hebei. In 2011, MCLA also welcomed our first students from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT).



Top row from left to right: Xujing Yu (Kate), Yuting Han (Jane), Cheng Zhang (Sunny), Yan Hou (Quinn), Wanting Zhou (Tracy) Bottom row from left to right: Xiaochu Shen (Charlie), Jieqing Zhang (David), Xin Lu (Louis)

In addition to hosting exchanges, MCLA sent students to study for a semester in China. Among them was Jenny Rosario '12 of Brooklyn, N.Y., who immersed herself in international business studies at SIFT's International School of Business, School of International Studies and School of Languages.

Through her classes in the Chinese language, culture, and business, Rosario studied with peers from Great Britain, Spain, Russia, Africa and South America. "The thing I love most about studying among other international students is that I get to learn about different cultures and languages," she said.

In addition to introducing her to some different perspectives on how other people live, the experience inspired Rosario to seek job opportunities outside the United States, following her graduation from MCLA.

Exchanges between the U.S. and China are particularly important. According to economics professor Ben Kahn, "Because the U.S. population is less than 5 percent of the global population, we need to understand the global community. Our students' future leadership will play an important role in understanding business and economic issues between the U.S. and China."

In September, faculty and administrators from Hebei University came to MCLA to discuss new initiatives, including a proposed program that will enable MCLA students in the education program to conduct part of their student teaching in China. As the host institution, Hebei will place students in a K-12 classroom in Baoding, China, supervise their work, and provide free housing on the Hebei campus.

**"These types of collaborations – exchange programs and study abroad experiences – are very important for global education. Our students need to gain knowledge of other cultures, values and perspectives, and to be exposed to the world through the lens of others."**

*Dr. Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs*



## Jones Calls Upon Grads to Make a Difference

On May 21, MCLA celebrated the Class of 2011, when 345 graduates received their degrees at the College's 112th commencement exercises. During the ceremony, keynote speaker Hubert E. "Hubie" Jones, a renowned social justice advocate and educator, and Dean Emeritus of the Boston University School of Social Work, encouraged the graduates to make a difference in an increasingly uncertain society.



As he spoke about unrest in the Middle East, standoffs in national politics, and disparities that separate inner city students from their peers academically, he said, "We need your intelligence, your views and your energy to make this a better world."

Jones, a City Year Social Entrepreneur in Residence and 2010 Purpose Prize recipient, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

Also receiving honorary degrees were attorney and community volunteer John DeRosa, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws, Pittsfield Mayor James M. Ruberto, who received an honorary Doctor of Public Service, and Eunice Tassone, S.S.J., M.Ed. '77, Director of Development at the Catholic Outreach to Youth Center (COTY) in North Adams, who received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Sister Eunice's work with the Haiti Plunge is remarkable for its impact on life in Haiti, and for its longevity.



“We need your intelligence, your views and your energy to make this a better world.”

Hubert E. Jones

## Arts Opportunities

Berkshire County is home to a rich and diverse array of cultural institutions and resources. This unique environment provides great opportunities for MCLA students to learn, create and experience the arts in ways that connect directly to our art, arts management, and fine and performing arts programs.

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For example, experiences created through the MCLA Presents! performance series are more than entertaining; they provide lifelong lessons and understanding through inspiring interactions between students and performers.

“The vast scope of the work that we present at an institution of this size is unique,” said Jonathan Secor, director of special programs at MCLA. “To be able to make the number of connections that we do, at the size and scale that we are, is groundbreaking.”

Performers come to MCLA from all over the world not only to perform, but to meet and work with students on a variety of levels. Performers teach students through workshops, master classes and informal conversation. Students are actively involved from start to finish as they work on all of the MCLA Presents! productions. Arts management students take turns serving with Secor as production managers, working with the artists, agents and the production crew.

Among the most powerful of these experiences involved students working with three dozen musicians and performers from the Pacific Islands, presenting *Water is Rising*, a production that highlights the dangers of rising sea levels as a result of global warming and climate change.

Students shared conversations with the artists, who

were not professional performers, but indigenous people from the islands, about the local and international environment during an environmental studies discussion, participated in a dance class, and shared a meal and conversation with the group.

In the area of economic development, *DownStreet Art* – an initiative of MCLA’s Berkshire Cultural Resource Center – once again brought approximately 20,000 people to downtown North Adams to view art, attend gallery openings and performances, and shop with local businesses. The MCLA students and recent graduates who worked as associate gallery managers received some real-world experience as they each ran a *DownStreet Art* gallery.

“I attribute our success to the quality of the work that was in *DownStreet Art*, and I attribute it to the work, energy and motivation of the associate gallery managers,” said Secor.

In addition to MCLA Gallery 51 as a permanent fixture on Main Street, *DownStreet Art* has spawned four new galleries in North Adams, which remain open year-round. One of those galleries is the brainchild of Melanie Mowinski, an assistant professor of art at MCLA. She took something that she loves and found a creative way to share it with the community, and to use as a



Visitors experiment with cuts and plates to make their own printed collage at *PRESS*.

teaching tool with her students.

At first her *PRESS: Letterpress as a Public Art Project* gallery was intended to be a temporary installation, but the endeavor proved so popular that Professor Mowinski decided to keep it open throughout the entire year.

Seeing the 1,800-pound Vandercook proof press in action at the center of the gallery reminds older art enthusiasts of past processes and introduces a generation that's more familiar with inkjets and lasers to another way of making prints.

"*PRESS* would not happen without MCLA students. MCLA students – as interns and volunteers – are really the reason *PRESS* has been able to function. I have a really solid group of students who are falling in love with that machine and with the space. They are willing to do what it takes to help this space stay alive," Professor Mowinski said. "I am really grateful to those students. I could not do it without them."

MCLA also provides students with opportunities to experience world class art at world class venues beyond the Berkshires. This was the case for the arts, arts

management, and theatre students who enjoyed rare, behind-the-scenes glimpses into the world of New York City's Metropolitan Opera Company.

In April and December, students were treated to a day of opera, thanks to the generosity of Sandy Fisher, former chairman of the Berkshire Opera Company, who also serves on the Met board of directors.

"It's just wonderful," said music professor Dr. Michael Dilthey. "You feel so transported out of the everyday. This is how opera should be experienced. It's a high level of appreciation."

After the show, the students went backstage to tour the set and visit with the performers. It's an opportunity for these prospective performers and arts professionals to get to know those to whose jobs they aspire and to understand more about their lives.

"When you go behind the stage, you literally see 150 people working on the set," Dr. Dilthey explained. "You see how much is involved to run a company like this. It's something you would never imagine, sitting in the audience, but they get to see it firsthand."

## Transformative Changes

A number of building and renovation projects dramatically changed the look of major gathering places on campus over the past year.

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In addition to breaking ground on the Center for Science and Innovation, the College completely remodeled the Amsler Campus Center cafeteria, gave the adjacent Marketplace a whole new look with a striking renovation, replaced the entire gymnasium floor and added a new parking lot.

Students returned to campus this fall to an all-new cafeteria that includes new flooring, windows, and dining booths. Along with the physical renovation, the cafeteria now features an all-you-can-eat meal plan that offers a wide variety of menu options. One of the most popular features has been the new brick pizza oven.

The Marketplace, too, was transformed. According to Dr. James Stakenas, vice president of administration and finance, the goal was to give the space a “wide open” feel. To accomplish this, a stairwell was removed and the adjoining outdoor patio was enclosed and outfitted with new windows that face out to the inner quad. Upstairs, the

corridor outside the Sullivan Lounge was expanded. “There’s a Plexiglas rail that goes around,” Stakenas explained. “You can look directly down into the Marketplace, so the entire second floor area is wide open.”

A new entryway facing Hoosac Hall leads to the Marketplace, which features expanded bookstore and convenience store spaces, along with a Subway sandwich shop that will open early in 2012.

Upstairs, MCLA athletes practice and compete on a new gymnasium floor. Its state-of-the-art design allows the expansive floor’s boards to “float” when humidity runs high.

In 2010, the College purchased a warehouse on Ashland Street across from campus. Following renovations, the building will house MCLA’s facilities department. As part of the renovation, two-thirds of the building was removed and replaced with a 98-space parking lot during the fall.









“This renovation dramatically changes the look and feel of the Campus Center. This new marketplace space provides students with a fresh, new space that seems four times larger.”

Dr. James Stakenas, Vice President of Administration and Finance

## Trailblazer Pride: Student Athletes on the Move

It was a memorable year for MCLA's student-athletes and fans alike as two basketball players surpassed 1,000 career points. Others spent hours volunteering in the community, and the search for a Trailblazer mascot began. In addition, the College's student-athlete roster grew with the addition of the women's cross country and men's tennis teams.

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Beyond their athletic achievements, our student-athletes are first-class scholars, and continue to represent themselves, and MCLA, with distinction. Forty-five percent of them were named to the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) All-Academic Team, which requires a 3.2 or higher grade point average.

The athletics department welcomed two new coaches this fall. Rob Colantuono is the new women's cross country head coach, and Andres Lima heads the men's tennis program. While Colantuono is the first coach to head the new women's cross country team, Lima is relaunching a tennis team that was discontinued more than 20 years ago.

MCLA began the search for a new mascot, to be present at games and other campus events. The mascot will reflect the history and traditions of our community while generating enthusiasm and campus spirit.

That spirit is expressed by our student-athletes as they volunteer throughout the community. Among their many service-related activities over the past year were efforts following Tropical Storm Irene.

Members of the women's soccer team gathered at a charity center in Adams, where they sorted and folded clothes, and distributed food and other necessities to those in need. The men's baseball team also rolled up their sleeves and got to work after the storm by cleaning up and helping with repairs to Williamstown's Cal Ripken League field. They also conducted a clinic to raise funds for the league.

Other volunteer service to the community by our student-athletes in 2011 included our women's and men's basketball and soccer teams, as well as members of the volleyball and softball teams, who participated in numerous sports clinics that benefitted our region's youth.

In addition, the men's soccer team volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity house in North Adams, and the women's basketball team supported a "Think Pink" event, promoting breast cancer awareness. Along with our men's basketball players, the women also volunteered at a local shelter for homeless families, and cleaned up and weatherized a home on the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.



### **Chris Harris**

On December 2, 2011, men's basketball player Chris Harris '12, a business administration major from Dorchester, Mass., reached a significant milestone when he scored his 1,000th College career point during a game against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

After the game, Harris said he didn't realize until after he made that basket that he had broken the 1,000 point threshold. Also a key defensive player for the Trailblazers, Harris boasts over 145 steals over the course of his MCLA career. He attributes his accomplishments not only to the hard work he's put in on the courts, but also to his teammates.

According to head basketball coach Jamie Morrison, scoring is just one part of Harris's game. "He's probably our best defensive player. He steps up when he's asked to guard the other team's best guy and then help shoulder the scoring load on offense."

## Jen Wehner

Also in December, women's basketball player Jen Wehner '12 of Cooperstown, N.Y., pulled down her 1,000th career rebound and became the College's all-time leading scorer with 1,327 points (and counting), while competing in the University of Southern Maine Holiday Classic. Those were just two highlights in her record-breaking career as a student-athlete.

In 2011, Wehner was the first player in program history to be named a Division III preseason All American by members of the national media. The previous year, she became the first Trailblazer to be named MASCAC Player of the Year. As a sophomore, she was a member of MCLA's first ever NCAA tournament team, and was named the most valuable player of the MASCAC tournament, which was won by MCLA. Jen was named MASCAC player of the week more than 10 times in her career and made the All Conference team every season.

Over the past four years, Wehner contributed to program accomplishments not only in basketball, but soccer as well.

"Jen had an amazing year," said Deb Raber, women's head soccer coach.

"She was named unanimous first team, all-conference goalkeeper for soccer for the second year running. She kept that success going right into basketball.

"She has become the most dominant goalkeeper in soccer and center for basketball in the MASCAC. These efforts have also led to regional and national recognition. On the academic side, she was on the MASCAC All Academic Team for the fall of 2011. As a dual-sport athlete and athletic training major, she's getting it done on the field, on the court, and in the classroom."



## President Grant Recognized Across the Commonwealth

President Mary K. Grant '83 received several awards in 2011, including the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I Executive Leadership Award, the American Council of Education's (ACE) Massachusetts National Network of Women Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce's Francis H. Hayden Award.

Presented to Dr. Grant in January, the CASE award honors institutional leaders for outstanding contributions to their campus communities, for efforts promoting public understanding of education, and for support of advancement at their campuses.

According to CASE President John Lippincott, "President Grant exemplifies the kind of strategic leadership that colleges and universities require in the 21st century."

The ACE lifetime achievement award recognizes women in leadership positions who have made substantial contributions to support, mentor and promote women in higher education. Donna M. Qualters, Ph.D., chair of the Mass. ACE Awards Committee, said, "President Grant has consistently developed and supported programs to identify and promote women as leaders from students to senior colleagues at MCLA, as well as in her previous positions."

In December, President Grant received the Francis H. Hayden Award at the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting, in recognition of her volunteerism and community involvement in Northern Berkshire County.

"I am privileged to work in public higher education, and to witness our students' growth and

development," President Grant said. "I am fortunate to share that important work with so many talented, innovative and dedicated colleagues, and to know that, every day, our efforts make a difference in the lives of the students we serve."



Attorney, community volunteer and administrator of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust John DeRosa presents President Grant with the Francis H. Hayden Award.

## Berkshire Compact: Access, Aspiration, and Opportunity

With MCLA as lead partner, the Berkshire Compact for Education increased its broad scope of work, as it continues to expand education for a 21st century Berkshire County.

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Key efforts in 2011 included expanded campus visits, the launch of an early childhood education initiative, and a television show that educates the community on education and workforce issues.

For the fourth year, sixth-grade students from 20 Berkshire County public schools visited a college campus as part of "Berkshire County Goes to College." The program introduces third and sixth graders to the college experience as a means to inspire them to attend college themselves one day. In addition, participation in the Compact's third grade visits grew as Pittsfield's Conte Community School participated for the first time.

Supported with funds from Berkshire United Way, campus visits included meeting with college students and faculty, eating in dining halls and presentations about topics such as chemistry, biology, television production, criminal justice and physical therapy.

The Compact's early childhood outreach continued during the "Week of the Young Child" in April. The Compact promoted the importance of early childhood literacy and reading to children through the "Wee Read

Berkshire County" initiative. Wee Read distributed 1,200 free copies of the book, *SHOES*, by Elizabeth Winthrop throughout the County, along with a customized bookmark that offered tips for parents about the importance of reading to young children. A collaboration among the Compact, local libraries, and early childcare providers, Wee Read also engaged the local business community in new ways. The program was supported by corporate sponsors Greylock Federal Credit Union, Hillcrest Educational Centers, Interprint, Inc., Callahan Sign Company, Child Care of the Berkshires, and the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum.

The Compact's reach extended beyond Berkshire County's Pre-K through 12 students through its television show, *Reach Out for Education*. Hosted by Doug McNally, chair of the Compact's Aspirations Committee, *Reach Out* airs on community television stations across the county. By providing access, information, and outreach, the Compact continues to realize the vision of educational opportunity "from cradle to college."

To learn more about the Compact, go to [www.mcla.edu/compact](http://www.mcla.edu/compact).





## Blazing Trails Online: The Alumni Association's Social Media Presence

As part of our commitment to stewardship, we continually look for new ways to strengthen the connections between alumni and the College and to help alumni connect with one another. Increasingly, technology and social media provide opportunities to enhance our alumni communications and to build on the community we work to sustain through traditional methods of communication, our alumni magazine and events.

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Since Brandon Pender '07, alumni relations coordinator, joined the team in June 2010, there has been an increased presence on the MCLA Alumni Association Facebook page. He posts regularly to announce events, Trailblazer games, College and community news, and stories about current students. If you can't make it to an event, photos are posted so you can see what you missed. Visit MCLA Alumni Association on Facebook daily to share a comment, like a post, or tell us about what's going on in your life!

Increasingly, classmates use the Web to build attendance at events. Last year's Nashoba Valley event in Westford, Mass., drew over 60 alumni because of the momentum built by e-mails and Facebook postings. "I use Facebook to keep up with friends and classmates and I am always checking out MCLA Alumni Association to see what events are going on," said alumni board member Tony Dedrick '06 from Boston, Mass. "I like to comment on the MCLA Alumni wall, join events that are created and 'like' posts. When possible, I try to share that activity with my other

friends on Facebook. It can be a real conversation starter as we reminisce about our college days.”

The E-Trail, the Alumni Association’s email newsletter continues to bring news of campus programs, noteworthy happenings, and new projects to all alumni. Readership continues to grow as alumni share their email addresses and respond to articles that they particularly enjoy. In addition, we’ve provided a number of links to news and information. “I especially like the blast emails about Trailblazer games. I can quickly see if the team is playing nearby and bring my family to a game,” says Kristine Cullen ’84 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

In addition, the Alumni Office recently launched a Twitter feed, sharing news and events from across campus. Encourage your friends and former classmates to follow the conversation @MCLA\_Alumni.

The MCLA/NASC Alumni LinkedIn group has taken career mentoring online. Whether you are entering the job market, looking to move forward in your career, or willing to provide mentorship opportunities or career advice, this is a great place to begin your networking.

Lastly, our newest alumni gathering spot is the Online Alumni Community. This Web site enables alumni to search for classmates and make new connections. Membership is free and exclusive to alumni only. Check it out at [www.mcla.edu/alumni](http://www.mcla.edu/alumni).

Our online presence allows alumni to participate and stay connected despite busy family schedules and demanding careers. “Alumni will continue to get the alumni magazine and event invitations in their mailbox,” said Jocelyn Merrick, director of alumni relations and annual giving. “But the Web and social media give alumni a way to get involved wherever they are located, everyday.”



**“The Web and social media give alumni a way to get involved wherever they are located, everyday.”**

Jocelyn Merrick,  
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving

## Stewardship and Success: The MCLA Foundation

With more than 2,000 annual donors, the MCLA Foundation raises funds to support the College and our students. A separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Foundation is MCLA's fundraising arm, coordinating all initiatives to raise funds in support of the mission of MCLA. While student scholarship is one of the Foundation's highest priorities, funds raised benefit the College in a number of ways, including support for athletics, the library, travel programs and lecture series, to name just a few.

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Another important role the Foundation plays is property acquisition, allowing the College to expand the campus footprint. The Foundation currently owns 10 properties that are used for parking and faculty offices. For example, the Foundation owns several parcels on Blackinton Street, and recently gifted five of these properties to the College to use as the site for the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation. Tim Dolan, chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, said, "This gift of land for the science center exemplifies the work of Foundation. The board of directors is thrilled to assist in this important new initiative."

Since 2006, the Foundation has secured more than \$10 million in funds for programs and activities of the College and provided critical financial aid support for students. On the heels of this achievement, the Foundation will launch *Sowing Seeds for Success: the MCLA Science and Humanities Campaign*. This will be the first comprehensive campaign in the College's history. Every dollar raised will count—including all gifts to the Annual Fund, of which 100 percent is designated for scholarship aid.

MCLA's growth and transformation will be driven by the success of the MCLA Science and Humanities



Campaign, which seeks to dramatically increase private donations. MCLA depends on private philanthropy to achieve excellence. The most ambitious fundraising initiative in the College's history, contributions to the Campaign will:

- Create and sustain an unprecedented growth and expansion of College initiatives.
- Invest in a transformational model that leverages \$54.5 million in state support.
- Celebrate the Berkshires as a hub of innovation and educational opportunity, driving future regional economic success.

Funding priorities will include programs and equipment to support the Center for Science and Innovation, as well

as the humanities and the arts; scholarship; and a dramatic increase in endowed funds to sustain MCLA's longevity and provide a backbone for confident planning. Naming opportunities are available for all initiatives.

Marianne Drake, chief advancement officer and president of the Foundation commented, "President Grant's leadership has brought us to this pivotal moment in time. Our alumni and friends have invested in the College in a very generous way and now we have to seize this unique opportunity to broaden and deepen our donor base as we build the Center for Science and Innovation and focus on the arts and humanities programs."

*The honor roll of donors, which lists donors from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011, can be viewed at [www.mcla.edu/honorrollofdonors](http://www.mcla.edu/honorrollofdonors).*

Thank you for your commitment to the future of MCLA and our students.

## Student Accomplishments



MCLA's a cappella group the Allegrettos, advanced to the semi-finals in public television station WGBY's *Together in Song: A Celebration of Choral Music in Western New England*. In December, the Allegrettos placed second, winning a cash prize, in the Lenox, Mass., caroling competition.

Twelve MCLA students received Paul E. Tsongas Scholarships at the Massachusetts State House. This scholarship includes four full years of free tuition and fees for top students who attend state universities. The students are: Alyson Carey '12 of Dudley; Megan Houle '13 of Northbridge; Aimee Hudon '12 of Russell; Tyson Luneau '13 of Amesbury; Mary Marcil '13 of Agawam; Emily Minns '13 of Gardner; Peter Mitchell '13 of North Attleboro; Kayla Montambault '12 of Edgartown; Kaitlyn Moore '13 of Amesbury; Ericka Oleson '12 of Florida; and Tyler Prendergast '12 of Saugus.



Political science and public policy major Todd Foy '12 of Hadley, Mass., spent the summer in Washington, D.C., as an intern in the office of U.S. Senator John F. Kerry.

Biology students in Dr. Anne Goodwin's *Field Studies in Marine Biology* class traveled to the U.S. Virgin Islands during spring break. They studied marine health, as well as the coral population. Students snorkeled to study marine life and hiked as they learned the scientific history of the Virgin Islands.

Environmental studies students Perri Bernstein '13 of Great Neck, N.Y., Morgan Nankivell '14 of Shirley, Mass., Nathan Quinn '14 of North Eastham, Mass., and Philip Santangelo '14 of Lindenhurst, N.Y., planted native trees to add needed waterway vegetation to the Hoosic River.

Eleven members of the Environuts club traveled to Washington, D.C., in November to demonstrate in opposition to the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline project. They included Emily Archibald '13 of Schodack Landing, N.Y., Jason Brown '13 of Templeton, Mass., Sarah DiMarino '13 of Townsend, Mass., Rebecca Geraci '13 of Ulster Park, N.Y., Christopher Goodel '13 of Wareham, Mass., James Goodman '14 of Westport, Mass., Sean Pease '15 of Pittsfield, Mass., and Nashua Rose '13 of Marblehead, Mass.



Political science students Nick Altonaga '11 of Melrose, Mass., Tom Barnes '11 of West Springfield, Mass., Catt Chaput '13 of Leominster, Mass., Patricia Deoliveira '12 of Everett, Mass., Todd Foy '12 of Hadley, Mass., Tim James '11 of Stow, Mass., Thomas Mellone '11 of Portland, Maine, Dan Saunders '12 of Tewksbury, Mass., Chris Skutnik '11 of Sunderland, Mass., Hawa Umarova '12 of Chelsea, Mass. and Caitlin Versailles '12 of South Yarmouth, Mass., traveled with political science and public policy professor Dr. Bob Bence to Toronto, Canada, to serve in the North American Model United Nations. Each student represented a different country and worked with other college students to solve contemporary world problems such as disarmament, world health and economic issues.

Biology major Anita Parker '11 of Littleton, Mass., was one of 29 students from the Massachusetts system of public higher education to be honored for her academic achievements and contributions to the Commonwealth at the "29 Who Shine" ceremony at the State House, held in May.

The 2011 Women's Soccer Program was awarded the 2011 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Ethics/Sportsmanship GOLD Award for Ethics.

Women's volleyball player Kayla Bromback '12 of Hinsdale, Mass., set the College record for kills with 686 kills over the course of her career.



Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Richard M. Freeland and Board of Higher Education Chairman Dr. Charles F. Desmond pose with "29 Who Shine" award winner Anita Esperanza Parker of MCLA.  
Photo credit: KulbakoPhoto.com

MCLA students Tyeson Bell '12 of Roxbury, Mass., Jaynelle Bellemore '12 of Northboro, Mass., Catt Chaput '13 of Leominster, Mass., Katie Collins '11 of Grafton, Mass., Esther Fan Fan '11 of Dorchester, Mass., Rachel Kish '14 of Auburn, Mass., Kris McLaughlin '11 of Pittsfield, Mass., Stephanie Naffah '11 of Groveland, Mass. and Hawa Umarova '12 of Chelsea, Mass., joined 150 of their state university system peers on Beacon Hill for the annual State House Day in April to represent the College and their fellow students. The students were accompanied by MCLA Coordinator of Marketing and Communications Bernadette Lupo, Alumni Relations Coordinator Brandon Pender '07 and Celia Norcross, director of student development.

At the State House, the MCLA students met with various legislators including State Rep. Thomas Conroy, State Rep. Linda Dorcena Forry, State Rep. Paul Mark and State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, who took them on a tour of the State House.



State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli took MCLA students on a tour of the State House.

## Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

English/communications professor Dr. Paul LeSage was selected to serve as MCLA's associate dean of academic affairs. This position was created as a rotating position, to provide faculty members with an opportunity to build their administrative experience.

Environmental studies professor Elena Traister discussed stream restoration on *The Academic Minute* on WAMC Northeast Public Radio.

English/communications professor Dr. David Langston presented *The Myth of Modernity* on the *The Academic Minute*.

Terry Miller joined the Office of Institutional Advancement as the director of corporate and foundation relations. She previously served as director of College's Learning Services Center.

History professor Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed led *The Role of Place in African-American Biography*. Some 25 college and university faculty from across the country attended this four-week summer institute, held at MCLA, to explore local African-American history with nationally recognized scholars. The project was funded by the third major grant awarded to Dr. Jones-Sneed from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

In addition, Dr. Jones-Sneed was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Sarah A. Lewis Social Justice Award by the Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement (HOBA) at Bridgewater State University.





The Berkshire Festival of Women Writers presented readings at MCLA Gallery 51. MCLA English/communications faculty member Jill Gilbreth read from her recent works as part of the festival.

Psychology professor Dr. Tim Jay was featured in the February 12, 2011, *New York Times* article, "Trying to Hold Down Blue Language on a Red-Letter Day." He also taped a segment on swearing in America for the BBC.

Fine and performing arts professor Dr. Anthony Gengarely attended the annual conference of the Folk Art Society of America (FASA) in Santa Fe, N.M. His article, "In the Spirit of Tradition: Three Generations of Women Artists," was featured in the fall 2010/spring 2011 issue of the *Folk Art Messenger*, FASA's professional journal, available online at [www.folkart.org](http://www.folkart.org). Gengarely also discussed the Jessica Park project at the Association of Arts Administration Educators Conference in Boston, Mass.

Business administration professor Katie Bruce supervised three teams of students participating in the "Marketing Genius" contest sponsored by Follett Bookstore.

English/communications professor Dr. Joe Ebiware participated in the News Literacy conference at SUNY Stony Brook in New York.

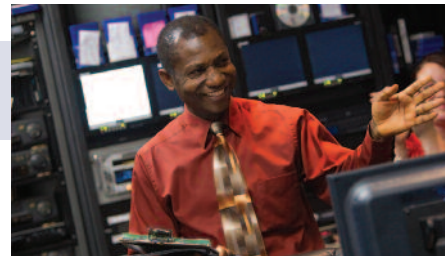
Berkshire Environmental Resource Center (BCRC) Coordinator Caroline Scully led a Green Team trip to Middlebury College to learn about their sustainability initiatives.

Education professor Dr. Dale Fink was a keynote presenter at the "Simply Science" professional development program for Berkshire County educators, held at Berkshire County Head Start in Pittsfield, Mass..

Education professor Dr. Ellen Barber and math professor Dr. Christopher Thomas were the co-presenters at the introductory session of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Common Core Standards Initiative orientation program for local educators. They also partnered with other educators to co-lead information sessions on English language arts and math.

Political science and public policy professor Petra Hejnova led a group of students to Chicago, Ill., for the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. There, she presented "Disappearing Dissidents: Women and Politics in Postcommunist Czech Republic," served as a chair for a panel on gender and violence, and as the chair for a roundtable discussion of innovative research in gender and politics.

Education professor Dr. Dana Rapp's op-ed, "United Against the Forces of Greed," appeared in *The Berkshire Eagle*.





Philosophy professors Dr. Matt Silliman and Dr. Dave Johnson's paper, "Critical Thinking, Autonomy, and Social Justice," was accepted for publication in the upcoming collection *Poverty, Markets, and Justice* (Philosophy Documentation Center, 2011). The paper is a dialogue on the philosophy of education; a revised edition of the paper appeared as a chapter in their book, *Bridges to Autonomy; Paradoxes in Teaching and Learning*, published in 2011.

Vice President of Enrollment and External Relations Denise Richardello presented on the Berkshire Compact's "Berkshire County Goes to College" program at the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Readiness Conference. The conference was a gathering of higher education and K-12 representatives from across the southeastern Massachusetts region, to share ideas on creating pathways to college readiness and success.

Josh Tefft '08, assistant director of transfer admissions, was elected to the board of the New England Transfer Association (NETA).

Physics professor Dr. Adrienne Wootters coordinated the video conference, "Engaging Student Voices in Institutional Inquiry and Assessment," presented by faculty and students from North Carolina A&T State University, which was hosted at MCLA.

The Residential Programs and Services (RPS) residence director staff – Heather Quire, Emily Schiavoni and Brendon Goodridge – attended the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers (NEACUHO) annual conference at Rochester Institute of Technology, where Goodridge served as a judge for the new professionals case study competition.

The executive assistant in the Dean of Students Office, Lyndsay Isham-Morton, received a plaque at the annual meeting of the Boston Area College Housing Association (BACHA) for her outstanding service to the organization's steering committee.

Business professor Dr. Ben Kahn participated in the Eastern Academy of Management International Conference in Bangalore, India.

Dr. Gerol Petruzella, philosophy adjunct professor and coordinator of academic technology, received a Mellon Foundation grant to present at the *THAT Camp Technology and the Humanities* conference at the University of Maryland in January on the topic of online course design. He also signed a contract with academic publishing group Peter Lang to publish his book, *Durable Goods: Pleasure, Wealth, and Power in the Virtuous Life*, as part of the "Studies in Theoretical and Applied Ethics" series.

The Freel Library staff, in partnership with the North Adams Public Library and the North Adams Historical Society, completed a project to digitize, preserve, and post online an archive of *The Log*, the Sprague Electric Company newsletter.



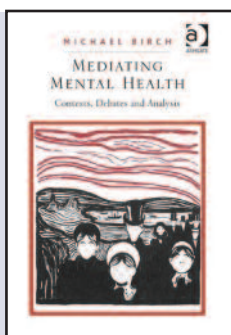
Ven Voisey, manager at MCLA Gallery 51, was selected to participate in the 2012 deCordova Biennial.

Psychology professor Dr. Thomas Byrne and student co-author Bryan Acton '13 presented the poster "Contingency Management Improves Attendance and Performance for Students Enrolled in a GRE Tutorial" at the *Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy Conference* at UMass-Amherst.

Art professor Melanie Mowinski and computer science professor Dr. Bill Spezeski received Faculty Incentive awards at MCLA's annual *Giving Thanks* reception. These awards recognize special achievements and highlight excellence in scholarship. Spezeski received a Faculty Incentive Research Award for his paper, "A Keyless Polyalphabetic Cipher," while Mowinski was awarded the Faculty Incentive Creative Project Award for the business plan she developed for the *PRESS Gallery* on Main Street as part of *DownStreet Art*.

MCLA STEM Coordinator Dr. Chris Himes served as co-author of the article "A Shared Vision of Mentoring from Different Perspectives," in the November 2011 edition of the *American Society for Cell Biology* newsletter. He also presented "Diversifying Academia" at a meeting of the *Ronald E. McNair Fellowship* at UMass-Boston.

English/communications professor Dr. Mike Birch, completed his book, *Mediating Mental Health: Contexts, Debates and Analysis*. The book looks across fictional and factual genres in film, television and radio, examining media constructions of mental health identity.



Art professor Greg Scheckler's essay, "The Darkness and Brightness of Teaching: Portraits of College Drop-Outs," appeared in the fall 2011 edition of the National Education Association's *Thought and Action* journal.

## New Faculty

**Dr. Mark A. Cohen**, computer science and information systems  
B.S., electrical engineering, Lafayette College  
M.S., computer science, Drexel University  
Ph.D., information sciences and technology, Pennsylvania State University

**Elizabeth J. Hartung**, mathematics  
B.S., mathematics, Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
M.S., mathematics, Syracuse University  
ABD, Syracuse University

**Ryan M. Krzyzanowicz**, biology  
B.S., athletic training, Slippery Rock University  
M.S., education, Old Dominion University  
BOC Athletic Trainer

**Kathleen A. Miller, M.S.W.**, sociology, anthropology and social work  
A.A., liberal arts, Simon's Rock College  
B.A., social sciences, Simon's Rock College  
M.S.W., University of Connecticut

**Dr. Nicholas Stroud**, education  
B.S., astronomy-physics, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
M.A., astrophysics, SUNY-Stony Brook  
Ph.D., science education, Columbia University, Teachers College

**Benjamin T. Wood**, psychology  
B.A., classical studies (Greek and Latin), Virginia Commonwealth University  
M.S., counseling psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Master of Theological Studies, Harvard Divinity School  
Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University

## Retirees

**Rosemary Aitken 7 Years**  
President's Office

**Gail Boyer 15 Years**  
Registrar's Office

**Sandra Duda 20 Years**  
Chemistry/Environmental Studies/  
Mathematics/Physics/Psychology

**Patricia Flaherty 20 Years**  
Administration and Finance

**Erica Forrest, M.S.W. 10 Years**  
Counseling

**William Hurley 18 Years**  
Facilities Management

**Darlene Truskowski 16 Years**  
Psychology

**Myles Whitney 35 Years**  
Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work

## MCLA's Economic and Community Impact

In carrying out our mission to our students, the community and the Commonwealth, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts has an incalculable academic, social and cultural impact on the region. In the economic sphere, MCLA delivers a host of benefits to North Adams and Berkshire County.

As an economic engine, MCLA's nearly \$40 million operating budget, the spending associated with some 400 full time and part time employees, 2,000 students, and 41,000 annual visitors, and the activity produced through a range of capital projects makes a powerful impact.

Consider the following data:

- According to calculations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, MCLA employees spend approximately \$10.2 million a year at area businesses.
- MCLA students contribute nearly \$5.2 million in additional direct economic activity to the North Adams economy.
- College visitors account for an additional \$2.7 million in economic impact.

In 2011, MCLA spent nearly \$5.7 million on a range of capital projects, from design work for the Center for Science and Innovation and renovations to the Campus Center to parking lot repairs, campus signage and upgrades to classroom media.

Beyond the activity that takes place on campus, and the direct economic impact of the College's operations and associated spending, MCLA is an important resource and an essential partner with the city of North Adams, and the greater community of Berkshire County and

Western Massachusetts. During the 2010-2011 academic year, MCLA students, faculty and staff contributed over 16,000 hours of service to the community. A conservative estimate of our commitment to public purpose and engagement values this service at approximately \$425,000.

As a result of the operating budget (\$40 million), employee, student and visitor spending (\$18.1 million), capital investment (\$5.7 million) and community service activity (\$425,000), the College has a direct annual impact of more than \$64 million.

In order to determine the total impact of a dollar spent in a local economy, the Bureau of Economic Analysis applies a multiplier based on the number of times that the dollar is expected to be re-spent as it circulates within that community. Applying a conservative multiplier of 2.2 times to MCLA's direct impact amount results in a total financial impact of more than \$141 million a year on North Adams and Berkshire County.

This estimated \$141 million in economic benefit represents a more than tenfold return on the annual investment the Commonwealth makes in direct state appropriation to MCLA.

# MOHAWK

**WELCOME MCLA  
ALUMNI FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS**

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts contributes an estimated \$141 million in annual economic activity to the City of North Adams and Berkshire County.

All data is for the fiscal year 2011 unless noted.

### College Employees

268 Full Time      125 Part Time

#### Employee Salary & Benefits \$24,372,640

\$17,060,848      After tax (70%)

\$10,236,509      Employee Spending (60%)

Source: College Employees from 2010 IPEDS Human Resource Survey;  
Salary & Benefits from MCLA Annual Report;  
Employee Spending Rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

#### Undergraduate Student Spending \$5,191,680

(\$2,560 x 2,028 Undergraduate Students)

Source: Student Spending from MCLA Financial Aid; Undergraduate  
Students total from MA Board of Higher Education Annual Enrollment

### Visitors

Admissions	5,000
Orientation	750
Graduation	2,500
Athletics	5,000
Arts/Music/Speakers	3,500
Gallery 51/DownStreet Art	24,000
Visitor Spending	\$65.44
<b>Total Spending</b>	<b>\$2,666,680</b>

Source: Visitors counts from department reports/estimates.  
Visitor spending from Tanglewood Economic Impact Study June 6, 2008

### Major Renovations

Flagg Towhouse Improvements	\$1,878,315
Hoosac Hall Renovation Phase I	\$700,440
Facilities Building Purchase and Renovation	\$690,847
Berkshire Towers Efficiency Upgrades	\$683,509
Center for Science and Innovation	\$593,199
Campus Center Marketplace	\$412,866
Campus Center Gym Floor	\$338,738
Mark Hopkins Parking Lot	\$71,568
Fitness Center Upgrade	\$61,210
Energy Performance Evaluation	\$48,105
Athletics Field Access Road	\$46,331
Campus Center Fire Alarm System	\$46,000
Campus Signage	\$36,000
CSC Heating Control Upgrade	\$23,335
Classroom Media Installation	\$21,374

**Total Spending**      **\$5,651,837**

Source: MCLA Audited Financial Statements, Fiscal Year 2011

#### Total Volunteer Hours \$ 424,744

Volunteer Hours = 16,224

Volunteer Time Value = \$26.18 (Massachusetts 2009 Value)

Source: Volunteer Hours from the Center for Service and Citizenship;  
Time Value from Independent Sector, Value of a Volunteer Hour 2009  
State Value

### Grand Totals

	Total	Total x RIMS
Operating Budget	\$39,988,329	\$87,974,324
Employee Spending	\$10,236,509	\$22,520,319
Undergraduate Spending	\$5,191,680	\$11,421,696
Visitors Spending	\$2,666,680	\$5,866,696
Major Renovations	\$5,651,837	\$12,434,041
Volunteer Time	\$424,744	\$934,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,159,779</b>	<b>\$141,151,514</b>

RIMS Multipliers Value = 2.2  
Source: RIMS Multipliers from U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

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