

MCLA

A Decade of Engagement 2012 President's Report



President's Report 2012

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Dear Friend of MCLA:

When I arrived at MCLA as President in 2002, Pluto was still classified as a planet. There was no Facebook, or Twitter, and smartphones were just beginning to transform the way we connect and communicate. The New England Patriots were on their way to a second Super Bowl victory, and the Red Sox were coming to the end of their 85th season without a World Series championship.

This year's President's Report highlights the progress MCLA has made over the past decade, work that will be the foundation of our accreditation self-study as we prepare to welcome a visiting team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in 2013. It provides an opportunity to make note of what has changed, as well as the things that remain constant, such as our commitment to students, our important educational and economic development role in the Berkshires, and our unique position as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college. Across each of these dimensions, our work begins with engagement.

Making connections is central to the MCLA experience. It is a hallmark of who we are and what we do. It is a process and a commitment that has deepened in dramatic ways over the course of the past decade. The institution we are today represents our focused, intentional, and unwavering commitment to our students, this campus, and the community at large. At every step, progress has been made thanks to the hard work, dedication, investment, and support of faculty, staff, students, trustees, Foundation directors, members of the alumni board, and friends and colleagues in the community and at the state level.

We mark this progress in the many new academic programs we have launched over the past ten years, from majors in Art or Political Science and Public Policy, to the Fast-Track degree completion program for adult learners or the Professional MBA for working professionals, to the ongoing success of the Leadership Academy that provides an important credential for educators.



The honorary degree recipients with President Mary Grant: (from left) MCLA Trustee Dr. Eugene Leibowitz; Sandra Burton, Lipp Family director of dance at Williams College; attorney and philanthropist Samuel "Sandy" Laitman; and Dr. Robert Rabil '87, director of graduate students and associate professor of Middle East Studies at Florida Atlantic University.

We celebrate progress in the form of renovated spaces, including Murdock Hall, the Berkshire Towers and Hoosac Hall residence areas, the Campus Center Marketplace, and, of course, the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation currently under construction.

We affirm that progress through our support for our student-athletes, performers, artists, undergraduate researchers, and student leaders. We become inspired to build on that progress through the example of the speakers who share their experiences with us, and the students, faculty, and staff who make a commitment to service in the community.

We steward this progress by participating in and leading national conversations about the power and the value of the liberal arts, and by forging new global connections through international study and the growing reputation of our amazing faculty.

We invest in future progress along with the third and sixth grade students who visit campus through the work of the Berkshire Compact for Education and the friends and supporters who help shape our future through their generous support of the *Sowing Seeds for Success* capital campaign.

The past decade has been a period of great accomplishment, and we are poised to launch a new chapter of the MCLA story. What will the next decade bring? The opportunities are limitless, and the horizon is boundless. Writing the next chapters of the MCLA story is an opportunity and a responsibility we all share.

Building Citizens: Service Learning and Civic Engagement at MCLA

Katelyn Abbott and Korinna Dennehey on a service learning trip to David, Kentucky, outside of the school where MCLA students volunteered to mentor local students.



When it comes to community volunteerism and public service, MCLA is at the center. Through the academic year 2012, 379 students — with support from 25 faculty — participated in MCLA's service learning programs.

“Service learning is an academic pedagogy, a way of teaching that involves both service and complementary academic learning,” said Spencer Moser, coordinator of the Center for Service and Citizenship. “It allows the student to go deeper into academic material while also addressing local community needs and gaining professional skills.”

In the MCLA model, student leaders help to coordinate opportunities for civic engagement in schools or community organizations, often in programs that empower young people.

Christopher Hantman '14 co-leads the Write Stuff, an after-school program for local fourth through seventh graders. A creative writing major, Hantman is gaining leadership experience as he engages in program development, curriculum building, and mentoring young people. Abigail Egan '15 volunteers as a mentor for the program, a creative writing and college access initiative that takes place weekly at the MCLA campus.

MCLA students volunteer hours of community service throughout the region, including at community-wide cleanup days. In 2012, this work extended beyond the Berkshires.



Christopher Hantman '14

When Moser took six students on an Alternate Spring Break service trip to Kentucky to help mentor students in a school in the heart of Appalachia, they found themselves to be the first outside responders to a tornado that had ripped through the area just days before. On the scene nearly a week before representatives from the Red Cross or FEMA arrived, the students quickly pitched in to help.

"Community service and engagement has always been a humbling experience, as well as an opportunity to meet new, interesting people and live unique experiences, while improving the quality of life of someone else in the process," said Hantman.

Egan, an aspiring middle school teacher, is gaining a taste of what teaching might be like.

"I love any and all opportunities to assist children of all ages," she said. "It's my passion that drives me to continue to volunteer and now begin to coordinate these service learning projects. I have seen first-hand how influential and beneficial they are to the children involved."

MCLA's service initiative fits seamlessly into the College's liberal arts mission of developing engaged citizens who are ready for the world.

Service learning study stretches across 19 courses and nine academic departments. Service learning students volunteered 21,431 hours of service learning, and 13,202 of civic engagement, for a total of 34,632 community service hours.

Through these programs students gain a sense of social justice and democratic principles, a connection between education and citizenship. When students graduate, they will have created the beginnings of a personal story that will enrich their lives and help them with future study or employment.

"Employer and graduate schools are telling us how important the out-of-classroom experience is, and many students say how much of their service experience was highly influential with job and grad school interviews," said Moser. "The College is really invested in this, and we've easily tripled the amount of student leaders. Certainly this means the culture of service is strong, embedded and supported across the campus – across academic and student affairs. It's part of everything we do."

The program involves strong collaboration among Student Affairs, Academic Affairs and community organizations that have come to depend on MCLA's unique form of outreach. Service learning and civic engagement have evolved to the point where MCLA now offers a minor in Leadership.



New Minor Concentrations Build on Leadership and Service

In collaboration with MCLA's Student Affairs division, the College introduced a new minor in Leadership, a cross-disciplinary concentration reflecting MCLA's service and leadership initiatives. The first required course, "Introduction to Leadership," was taught in the fall by Dr. Myles Whitney, professor emeritus, who remains involved with a variety of MCLA leadership and internship initiatives.

"The first class was a huge success; it brought together students from a variety of academic departments, who were highly involved and committed to civic engagement," said Dr. Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs. "There were readings, discussions, reflections, and service leadership projects, and students explored and compared theories of leadership."

Similarly, our new Cross-Cultural and Social Justice Studies minor offers students the chance to engage with key issues impacting a culturally and socially diverse world.

Students pursuing this minor explore such themes as ethnicity, race, disability, intellectual and cultural contributions of various cultural groups, and past and present experiences of minorities and other underrepresented groups worldwide. The minor can be combined with any major at MCLA.

"This minor allows students to acquire knowledge about cultural diversity and social justice issues, and to develop skills in intercultural communication," said Joslin. "This enables graduates to become successful and responsible citizens in the increasingly interconnected world of the 21st Century."

Research at MCLA: Study, Learn, Collaborate, Present

MCLA has seen a tremendous increase in student participation in its Undergraduate Research Program, due to faculty members' leadership and campus-wide support in guiding and mentoring students. In 2012, MCLA celebrated its 10th Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), with 115 students and 28 faculty sponsors participating from a variety of disciplines.

"The essential idea behind the conference has remained constant: to showcase the remarkable innovation and diverse talents of our students as they demonstrate what they have learned through papers, posters, and performance," said MCLA President

Mary Grant. "The conference also reflects the engagement, talent, and support of MCLA faculty who work with students in the classroom and provide invaluable guidance as they develop and present their work."



The Undergraduate Research Program encourages independent scholarly activity by students studying in the arts, humanities, and science. Participants have access to independent study opportunities, small research/travel grants, and participation in the annual campus-wide conference.

Our faculty get to know their students well, as they mentor students in these efforts. Over the past year, Dr. Maria Bartini, Dr. Ann Billetz, and Dr. Rosanne Denhard formed the Undergraduate Research Advisory Board, which is supported by MCLA's Office of Academic Affairs. In addition, MCLA instituted a Center for Undergraduate Research.

Bartini, Billetz, and Denhard along with Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs, joined colleagues from other Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) campuses in a summer workshop as part of a project sponsored by National Science Foundation (NSF) and Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) to strengthen undergraduate research, and to integrate undergraduate research into and across the curriculum.

According to Billetz, by conducting research, students learn how to develop, implement, collect, and analyze information. "It gives them a chance to see just what they are capable of doing by taking the information they have learned in courses and putting it into action."

In October, MCLA students joined peers from other northeast schools to present at the regional COPLAC Undergraduate Research Conference, held at Eastern Connecticut State University.

MCLA students also participate in the Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference, held each year in Amherst, and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

MCLA, which has enhanced its STEM education initiatives, also saw particular growth and interest in science research over the last few years. The College looks forward to the opening of the Center for Science and Innovation, which will be an important teaching, learning, and research facility.

MCLA + COPLAC = Opportunity

The Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) advances the goals of public liberal arts colleges around the nation, and MCLA is proud to be a member. MCLA joins COPLAC in driving public awareness of the value of high-quality, public liberal arts education in student-centered, residential learning environments.

In 2010, MCLA hosted COPLAC's first Northeastern Undergraduate Research Conference, which featured 72 presentations of research in the humanities, the arts, social sciences, and natural sciences. In October 2012, MCLA students joined with peers from other schools in the northeast to present at the regional COPLAC Undergraduate Research Conference, held this year at Eastern Connecticut State University. MCLA is looking ahead to hosting another COPLAC event in the fall of 2013.

"We are proud to join with our public liberal arts peer colleges in a shared mission that recognizes the strength and impact of a liberal arts education in academia, in the workplace, in communities, and in the world," said President Grant, who serves as a member of COPLAC's executive committee.

COPLAC includes 27 colleges and universities in 24 states and one Canadian university. The organization communicates to state and federal policy makers about the benefits of comprehensive public higher education in the liberal arts and sciences, and works with national higher education organizations such as the Association of American Colleges and Universities to promote liberal learning in an increasingly global society.

COPLAC supports member collaborations such as faculty and student exchanges, professional development opportunities, study-abroad programs, and information sharing. Students enrolled at COPLAC institutions will be engaged directly in the wider mission of public liberal arts education, which is an excellent foundation for a meaningful life and professional career.

Uniting Cultures

MCLA's growing relationships with Hebei University and the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT) continue to enrich students from both countries as they take advantage of educational and cultural exchanges and travel-study programs.





One by one, cultural and educational bridges are being built between students through MCLA's collaborations with Hebei University in Baoding City, and the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT) in Shanghai. Since 1995, the College has enjoyed agreements to promote educational, economic, and institution exchanges.

For MCLA senior Alex Mukendi '13 of Schenectady, N.Y., his travel to China with economics professor Ben Kahn was the ideal enhancement to his major in accounting and international business, with a minor in economics. His exchange trip allowed him to experience Chinese people, the economy, and its rich history and culture.

"It was riveting," said Mukendi. "We learned about Chinese history, but even learning how different things were there even 10 years ago – it was unbelievable. We went to a Volkswagen factory in Shanghai, and learned that Volkswagen was the first multinational corporation to do business in China. Now the Germans have 45 percent of the factory and the Chinese have 55 percent."

Jin Huang '14, from Hebei University, is studying for a full year at MCLA, beginning last fall. She is focusing her studies on English, sociology, and anthropology, with the goal of becoming a translator or going on to graduate school. "This is the experience that is changing my life," said Huang. "I got to know a lot I did not know before, about academics and life experiences."

Studying at MCLA has broken down some stereotypes she previously had about the United States and Americans, she said. "I had a stereotype that the U.S. is a country of white people, but it is not – it is a very special country because of how diverse you are and how accepting of differences. Also, Americans are very friendly and it's easy to make friends."

Siyun Wu '13, from SIFT, spent the fall semester at MCLA. In China, she majors in communications, and at MCLA took classes in broadcast journalism, intercultural communications, and photography. Wu worked as a photographer for *The Beacon*, MCLA's student newspaper, which boosted her confidence immensely.

"In China, a lot of colleges are very big, and we study very differently there," she said, noting that in China, college examinations are a large part of her grades, whereas at MCLA she has more assignments throughout the semester. She has developed a portfolio of her student experiences, which will help her find a job when she graduates next spring.

"Here, college life is more colorful, there are a lot of activities and clubs, there are lots of choices," said Wu. "I feel like I want to stay longer!"



Global Learning: Women Leaders Gather in Abu Dhabi

Erin “Flo” Floriani ’14 of Readsboro, Vt., stood on an international stage in Abu Dhabi in March to present her paper on “Ecofeminism: Environmentalism as a Women’s Issue.” Her audience: representatives from around the world in attendance at the “Women as Global Leaders” conference.

Nine MCLA students traveled half the world away to participate in the international student conference at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Abu Dhabi conference drew participants from more than 85 countries, who heard from such speakers as actress Sigourney Weaver and the United Kingdom’s Baroness Helena Kennedy of The Shaws.

A sociology major, with minors in anthropology and environmental studies, Floriani’s presentation argued that because environmental problems affect women and girls at a disproportionate rate, advocacy for improving women’s lives should focus heavily on environmental justice.

“I’ve always been very concerned about the tendency of environmental crises and hazards to affect disadvantaged people over others,” Floriani explained upon her return. “Last year, I took an environmental sociology course that I found really inspiring, and this

past summer I was doing a lot of reading on my own about the global feminization of poverty. I started seeing the connections between suppression of women and the exploitation of nature, and felt it was important for me to advocate for both women and the environment.”

“Flo had a terrific presentation, and I was very proud of her” said political science professor Dr. Petra Hejnova, who teaches the “Women as Global Leaders” class at MCLA and led the Abu Dhabi trip.

“As part of my MCLA experience, it was valuable to complete this research project somewhat outside of school,” said Floriani, now in her junior year. “Yes, it was presented on a school trip, but it was something extra that I elected to do, it wasn’t assigned as a requirement. I think it’s important, especially for liberal arts students, to find topics outside of the curriculum that they’re passionate about exploring on their own.”





From Campus to the High Seas: Scholarship Supports Semester-at-Sea Experience

Doris Behanzin '13, Natanael Burgos '12, and Quincy Goodwin '13 spent a semester traveling the world as they boarded a Semester-at-Sea ship in the Bahamas for a two-month-long, travel-learning experience that took them to Barcelona, Spain, then on to Rome and Naples, Italy, and continued to Croatia, Turkey, Greece, the Canary Islands, and Portugal.

It was a life-changing experience for the students, as they were introduced to new people and cultures, while the program's academic realm immersed them in European history and its languages.

For Behanzin, a native of the Ivory Coast who arrived in the United States at age 15 with her parents, it was an opportunity to explore another part of the world as she learned how Europeans live their lives, as compared to those in the U.S. and Africa. She aspires to a career with the United Nations, where she can use her native language, French.

For Burgos, too, the program offered the opportunity to learn more about the histories of each country, its languages, and the sea. With his Semester-at-Sea travels, he followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Daury Torres '10, who also enjoyed the experience when he was an MCLA student.

"The academic and extracurricular activities were wonderful," Goodwin said. "I truly enjoyed my classes and all of the programs that united our community of students onboard, and enriched our experiences in each port."

Chloe McGrath '14 saw our country's political process in action when she attended the Washington Center's academic seminar, Campaign 2012: The Democratic National Convention (DNC). The two-week seminar in Charlotte, N.C. allowed her to attend the convention and provided her with inside access to network with delegates and student activists from around the country. She also participated in work projects for CNN during the fast-paced convention.

During the process, she said, she was inspired by former Charlotte, N.C. Mayor Harvey Gantt, who told students that politics is not about fame or power, but about serving others and doing the best you can for them.

"I realized that he is completely right," McGrath said. "I want to be a policy analyst because I want to help people. I want to improve policies that improve the lives of others. This experience in Charlotte made me even more motivated to do that."

Dr. Robert Bence, MCLA political science professor, said, "McGrath's experience boosted her knowledge of how college students can be more involved in political and policy processes." McGrath agreed.

"When the opportunity came for me to participate in the DNC and experience the democratic process hands-on, I felt it was the next step for me as a student, as well as a citizen," McGrath said. "This experience has opened my eyes to an outside political world that exists and brings concepts to life. It was one of the most rewarding academic and civic experiences I have had."

She attended panels, speeches, and discussion groups, and worked in a field placement with CNN. She did sound checks and helped with other chores for the news operation. Along the way she met media personalities Wolf Blitzer, Soledad O'Brien (a former MCLA Hardman Lecture speaker) and Anderson Cooper, as well as state legislators.

"Being part of the political process like that was a dream, and made me proud to be a citizen present in a little piece of history," said McGrath.



Dynamic Speakers Bring the World to MCLA

CNN commentator Howard Kurtz.
Pulitzer Prize-winning writer
Sonia Nazario. Peacemaking U.S.
Senator George Mitchell. Global
women's activist Zainab Salbi.
Environmental business leader
Stephen Cowell.

When it comes to public speakers and campus guests, MCLA welcomes distinguished politicians, policy experts, thought leaders, journalists, activists, and writers who come to campus throughout the year. Speakers bring their world experience to the College, meet personally with students, and deliver compelling speeches in an intimate setting.

These renowned speakers have made an impact in the world, and they make an impact on MCLA's future leaders.

Zainab Salbi

Public Policy Lecture

Founder of Women for Women International, assisting more than 300,000 women in gaining access to social and economic opportunities, through rights awareness training, vocational skills education, and providing access to income-generating opportunities.

Howard Kurtz

Hardman Lecture

Host of CNN's *Reliable Sources*, *Newsweek's* Washington Bureau Chief, former *Washington Post* reporter/columnist, author of *Reality Show* and *Spin Cycle*. The Hardman Lecture series is made possible by the Hardman Family Endowment.

George Mitchell

Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis

Public Policy Lecture

Former U.S. Senator, Chair of peace negotiations in Northern Ireland, Chair of fact-finding mission during Israeli-Palestinian Crisis. Author: *Men of Zeal*, *World on Fire* and *Making Peace*. The Public Policy Lecture Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.

Stephen L. Cowell

Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais

Environmental Issues Lecture

Founder, Conservation Services Group and 30-year leader in energy advocacy, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. This annual lecture series is named for Professor Lawrence H. Vadnais and is sponsored by the Vadnais Endowment.





Sonia Nazario

First Year Experience Lecture

Author, *Enrique's Journey* as well as other reporting projects on social justice issues, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, winner of the George Polk Award, and Grand Prize Winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

10 A DECADE OF SPEAKERS



First Year Experience Lecture

2003

James McBride,
The Color of Water

2004

Sarah Erdman, *Nine Hills to
Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart
of an African Village*

2005

Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize winner,
Mountains Beyond Mountains

2006

Elizabeth Royte, *Garbage Land:
On the Secret Trail of Trash*

2007

Karen Shepard, *Don't I Know You?*

2008

James McBride,
The Color of Water

2009

Paul Rusesabagina, *An Ordinary
Man: An Autobiography*

2010

Laura Ling, *Somewhere Inside*

2011

Soledad O'Brien, *NEXT BIG STORY:
My Journey through the Land of
Possibilities*

2012

Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize winner,
Enrique's Journey

Hardman Lecture and Journalist-in-Residence

2004

Dr. Alan Chartock (lecturer and
journalist-in-residence),
president and CEO of WAMC
Northeast Public Radio

2005

Ellen Hume (lecturer), former
Wall Street Journal correspondent
Dan Harris (lecturer), ABC News
correspondent

2006

Ellen Goodman (lecturer),
Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated
columnist
Bob Simon (lecturer), CBS
correspondent and *60 Minutes*
journalist

2007

Derrick Jackson (lecturer),
Boston Globe columnist
Bill McKibben (lecturer),
world-renowned author and
environmentalist

2008

Marianne Pearl (lecturer),
international journalist
David Brooks (lecturer), *New York
Times* columnist

2009

Rex Smith (journalist-in-residence),
editor and vice president of the
Times Union in Albany, N.Y.
Charlayne Hunter-Gault (lecturer),
National Public Radio and the
Public Broadcasting Service

2010

Laura Ling (lecturer),
international journalist

2011

Lydia Kulbida (journalist-in-
residence), news anchor of
WTEN in Albany, N.Y.
Soledad O'Brien (lecturer),
CNN anchor

2012

Joe Donahue (journalist-in-
residence), vice president of news and
programming at WAMC/Northeast
Public Radio of Albany, N.Y.
Howard Kurtz (lecturer), Washington
bureau chief of *Newsweek* and
The Daily Beast



Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture

2004

Dr. John Peterson Myers, CEO of Environmental Health Sciences

2007

Shimon Anisfeld, research scientist at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

2008

William Moomaw, Nobel Peace Prize winner and director of The Center for International Environment and Resource Policy at Tufts University

2009

Scott Weidensaul, naturalist and author

2010

Frank O'Brien-Bernini, vice president and chief sustainability officer of Owens-Corning

2011

Avery H. Cook, biomass specialist

2012

Elizabeth Kolbert, writer for *The New Yorker*
Stephen L. Cowell, founder of Conservation Services Group

Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture

2011

Dr. Robert M. Gates, former U.S. Secretary of Defense

2012

Senator George J. Mitchell, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader

Public Policy Lecture

2008

Bob Woodward, legendary journalist and author

2009

David Plouffe, campaign manager for President Obama

2010

Carole Simpson, Emmy Award-winning journalist (panel moderator)
Lisa Cortes, executive producer of *Precious: Based on the Novel "Push"* (panelist)
Jonathan Kozol, educator, social activist and author (panelist)
Vandana Shiva, world-renowned environmentalist

2011

Mary Matalin and James Carville, political analysts

2012

Zainab Salbi, activist and founder of Women for Women International

Commencement

2012

Dr. Robert Rabil, author and educator

2011

Hubert "Hubie" Jones, social activist

2010

Anita Hill, attorney

2009

James McBride, author, musician and composer

2008

John Kerry, U.S. Senator

2007

Martha Coakley, Massachusetts Attorney General

2006

Edward M. Kennedy, U.S. Senator

2005

Dan Harris, journalist

2004

Dr. Catherine "Cady" Coleman, astronaut

2003

Dr. Blenda J. Wilson, Higher Education Policy Expert

2002

Richard Wilbur, Poet Laureate



Framing our Future:

Center for Science and Innovation Stimulates Economy and Study

Construction of the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation is well under way, and a symbolic “topping off” ceremony in September celebrated placement of the final steel beam, signed by both construction crews and MCLA faculty, staff, and students, as well as neighbors and community leaders. The \$40 million science center will transform teaching, learning and research at MCLA, and will bring positive economic impact during construction. The building is part of a \$54.5 million dollar investment in MCLA that will include the complete renovation of Bowman Hall.

In Dr. Mark Cohen's computer science seminar, "N-Tiered Software Development," students are at work creating "Science on Display" kiosks for the new building by developing technology to gather and analyze data from 600 different electronically monitored information points in the state-of-the-art building. Wind and solar devices, thermostats, motors, light sensors, and heating and air-conditioning units will produce data on energy usage – data that can be the basis for study. The new building will be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a designation from the U.S. Green Building Council that reflects a high degree of efficiency and sustainability.

"A science major may want to extract data to research aspects of the building, but a third-grader will want to see the wind turbine on the roof," said Dr. Jim Stakenas, MCLA's vice president of administration and finance, who is deeply and enthusiastically involved in the project. "We'll be looking for grade-level appropriate exhibits, and they may involve a true cross-section of our student community. The Fine and Performing Arts Department, for instance, might produce a YouTube video of the building, our graphic design students can work on an interface between the data and the data-users. Our psychology students can work with statistics regarding the data. The building itself is an educational tool."



Cohen said his senior-level students are working on "real world projects" that will benefit the community. Half of the class decided to tackle Stakenas' overture suggesting informational kiosks for the new building. Another group of students is collaborating with education department professor Dr. Nicholas Stroud to develop software that will track visits at scientific landmarks throughout Berkshire County.

"We try hard to get practical, real-life learning experiences in this class," said Cohen. "We are trying to connect with the community with practical applications."





From left, State Senator Benjamin B. Downing, D-Pittsfield, with Dan Peluso '13, student trustee on MCLA's Board of Trustees. Photo Courtesy Gillian Jones/North Adams Transcript.

Elbow Room: Enhancing Shared Spaces

MCLA students have a new home in Hoosac Hall following a two-year, \$5 million renovation completed in 2012. Hoosac Hall, a residence for most MCLA freshman, has newly renovated bathrooms, a new entryway and offices, more open common area space and 14 new residence rooms. Dianne Manning, director of residence life, said, "Hoosac Hall has always been a great building, and this project knocked it out of the park."

The renovation was funded by the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA), which previously financed a \$4 million improvement project for the Berkshire Towers residence.



Getting Centered: Faculty Lead Development of Collaborative Space

English/Communications professor Dr. Ben Jacques started talking with colleagues and the administration a couple of years ago about establishing a new Faculty Center. It would be a dedicated space where full- and part-time professors could gather to read, socialize, study, and engage in professional development activities. The space would allow for workshops, presentations and creative projects.

“We wanted a place for faculty development, a place to share creative arts, a place to collaborate and to talk about teaching methods,” said Jacques.

By September, a 700-square-foot space in Eldridge Hall had been transformed with furnishings, work spaces, media hook-ups and a pantry. Artwork from faculty, some from the College’s archives, decorates the walls.

Since then, the Faculty Center has hosted an opening reception, a 15-year celebration of *The Mind’s Eye* (MCLA’s journal of liberal arts), a poetry reading, three faculty roundtable discussions on teaching methods, and a fall Faculty Social. The Faculty Center newsletter, *Faculty Center News*, is distributed online.

The Faculty Center Advisory Board, representing various departments on campus, guides Faculty Center programming. “We want an ambitious program on all aspects of teaching,” said Jacques. “We hope to expand our program to include educators from off campus who will meet with us to discuss best practices in teaching.”



BCRC: MCLA's Engine for the Creative Economy

MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC) oversees scores of energetic, motivated student-volunteers and interns – students of art, arts management and related fields – as they gain hands-on experience in bringing visual and performing arts to life.

Our BCRC is the student portal to an arts and culture renaissance that has transformed the College and North Adams, and has impacted cultural organizations throughout the Berkshires, firing up the future careers of scores of students who thrive around the arts, theater, music and artistic collaborations.

Students work at MCLA Gallery 51 on Main Street as assistant gallery managers and curators for art shows and events. Working with MCLA Presents! – the College's performing arts operation – they book and plan concerts and other live performances at the College. Students organize the annual DownStreet Art collaboration with the city and its businesses, and last year they staged a downtown "Block Party."

The impact these programs have on our local economy is considerable, as they draw large crowds into the downtown. There, visitors and residents alike not only see great art; they frequent area businesses and support local merchants. This year, DownStreet Art brought nearly 13,000 visitors to North Adams, and nearly 12,000 came to MCLA Gallery 51 to see art, meet the artists, attend a workshop, or to experience a performance.

In the summer months, through the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP), students from around the U.S. and the world gain invaluable professional development experience and college credit, working with the region's world-class cultural institutions.

Arts immersion through BCRC ensures that MCLA students gain skills in event planning and management, promotion and public relations, production logistics, and business and financial management. They build unique people skills to work with artists, managers, and representatives.

"Rock the Block" was the culmination of a performing arts management class, and it was the most ambitious project to date, said Jonathan Secor, MCLA's director of special programs. "The students took over street corners and the downtown area, and they felt strongly about reaching out to the larger community. We had two separate music stages, street vendors and street musicians – it was an old-school block party with new-school performances."

MCLA's Bachelor of Arts degree in arts management serves as an entering point for BCRC interns and volunteers who seek practical experience.

Valeria Federici, program coordinator for BCRC, said MCLA Gallery 51 is increasingly active and, as a result, increasingly in need of student interns.

"For the spring semester, we will have a curatorial intern and an assistant gallery manager – both students," said Federici, a native of Italy who is a graduate of the B-HIP program. "We will have production interns, a marketing intern for MCLA Presents!, and a marketing intern for DownStreet Art. In the summer, six to eight MCLA students join the Associate Gallery Manager program – all working out of this buzzing office on Main Street!"

Rock the Block,
downtown North Adams





Holden Street Stage

- 2:00pm - Harlequin
- 2:30pm - Yoric K
- 2:55pm - NEXXUS
- 3:15pm - MCLA Dance Co.
- 3:35pm - Zumba
- 4:00pm - Allegrettos
- 4:30pm - One Way Out
- 5:15pm - Quiet Friday
- 6:00pm - DJ Leila
- 7:00pm - Debo Band

Rock the Block



Emily Minns '13
at Rock the Block



B-HIP 2012
graduating class

Being HIP:

Competitive Summer Arts Internships Draw Worldwide Participants

Each summer, the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) welcomes students for an intensive 12-week summer internship featuring work placements, arts management classes, cultural outings and networking with arts professionals. B-HIP has become a highly competitive program, with hundreds applying for the program annually. Since B-HIP was established, 105 students have participated.

In 2012, these interns came to MCLA from colleges in the U.S., Poland, Singapore and Australia. They embarked upon internships at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in North Adams, the Ferrin Gallery in Pittsfield, The Clark in Williamstown, the City of Pittsfield's Cultural Development Office, and DownStreet Art in North Adams.

B-HIP's aim is to draw students from a diverse range of colleges, and to engage motivated students. Some B-HIP interns find jobs right here in the Berkshires upon graduating; others go on to arts management jobs around the country.

"Students work in an executive office – assisting with marketing, curatorial work, and public relations," said Valeria Federici. "We now have alumni who are working

at places like The Clark, Williams College Museum of Art, and other arts venues around the country." A notable past intern, Helena Fruscio, headed the Berkshire Creative Economy Council before being tapped in 2011 to run the Massachusetts Creative Economy Industry.

"One of the great things about B-HIP is it really connects MCLA to the Berkshires and unites the county through arts and culture," said Jonathan Secor.

"Unlike other internships, I found B-HIP to be more dynamic and well-rounded. I wanted to experience all that there was in the arts, and B-HIP gave me that," said Kimberly Dulin, a 2012 intern at Shakespeare & Company, who will graduate from York College in 2013.

A B-HIP Sampler: Where Some Grads Went

Amelia Wood, B-HIP '05,
of Massachusetts
MCLA graduate
Education Coordinator,
Williams College Museum of Art

Ben Delgado, B-HIP '10,
of Indiana
Ohio State University
Master's Degree Candidate, Arts
Policy and Administration,
Ohio State University

Francesca DeBioso, B-HIP '12,
of Maryland
Gettysburg College graduate
Sales Associate/Visitor Services,
Guggenheim Museum

Monica Henry, B-HIP '06,
of Massachusetts
MCLA graduate
The Sterling and Francine
Clark Art Institute
Education Coordinator

Rebecca Wehry, B-HIP '07,
of Massachusetts
MCLA graduate
Development Associate &
Special Events Coordinator,
MASS MoCA

Julia Dixon, B-HIP '08,
of Rome, N.Y.
SUNY-Purchase graduate
Manager, Berkshire Creative

Brielle Rizzotti, B-HIP '11,
of New York
MCLA graduate
Coordinator of Programs
and Marketing, IS183

Isabelle Holmes, B-HIP '05,
of New York
MCLA graduate
Director of Finance & Administration,
HERE Arts Center

Sarah Goldstein, B-HIP '06,
of Florida
Florida State University
Director of Major and Planned Gifts,
YMCA Greater Rochester, N.Y.

Abbi Hermosa, B-HIP '08,
of Massachusetts
Merrimack College graduate
Sales Associate/Visitor Services,
ICA Boston

Barbara Rundback, B-HIP '11,
of Massachusetts
MCLA graduate
Curatorial Assistant,
Norman Rockwell Museum

Veronica Bosley, B-HIP '05,
of Massachusetts
Mount Holyoke College graduate
Director, Office of Tourism
of the City of North Adams

Gregory Shook, B-HIP '07,
of Washington, D.C.
Georgetown University graduate
Program Manager,
Smithsonian Institution

What the Interns say about the North Adams Art Scene

"After spending some time exploring the galleries and shops on Main Street, visitors expressed their desire to stay longer, or to come back again. That is what begins to define a place as a hub or haven. You possess something that not only draws people in, but also gives them a reason to come back and bring others with them so they can share in those experiences, as well. For North Adams, that draw is definitely the arts."

– **Sharbreon Plummer**, B-HIP '12,
New Orleans, La.

"North Adams is in the middle of an exciting transformation into something that is truly unique. From MASS MoCA to DownStreet Art, I think North Adams is a perfect breeding ground for artistic endeavors. The opening of galleries, the sheer number of turnouts at DownStreet Art Thursday and, more crucially, the social discourse about arts and culture in the community — these are all signs of a burgeoning cultural haven."

– **Shao Xiong Chia**, B-HIP '12,
Singapore



DownStreet Art: A Public Display of Collaboration

More than 80 artists, 33 exhibitions, three public murals, a newly designed bus stand, and public performances were on display in downtown North Adams during the summer and fall of 2012, thanks to DownStreet Art, a collaborative project in which MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC) plays a central role. The College celebrated the season with new exhibition openings, special performances, happenings, and events for visitors of all ages. Now in its fifth year, DownStreet Art has drawn 100,000 visitors to the city.

Left: muralismo publico's mural on the back of the Mohawk Theater by Marta Gil and Estibaliz Vera
Center: Pam Buchanan '12, Kristen Parker '12 and Jason Peabody '12 at a DownStreet Art opening
Right: Maya Hayuk's mural on Center Street





BioPartners:
MCLA Life Sciences Research
Enhanced with Biotech Partnership

MCLA's partnership with a Pittsfield-based biotechnology firm advanced further in 2012, with Nuclea Biotechnologies' commitment to support development of a bioinformatics research program at the College. In November 2012, MCLA President Mary Grant and Nuclea Biotechnologies CEO Pat Muraca shared their strategic vision for the Berkshire Life Sciences Center (BLSC), which would be located at the Nuclea facility in Pittsfield.

"Bioinformatics is an emergent field, and the focus on personalized medicine is of crucial importance to the life sciences," said Grant. "We are so excited to enter into this new partnership, building on our established relationship with Nuclea, and providing

our students with hands-on STEM learning."

Grant credited MCLA's faculty in the biology and computer science departments for their contributions to enhancements in MCLA's bioinformatics program. Once the new Center for Science and Innovation is



completed, Dr. Ann Billetz and Dr. Mark Cohen will head the effort to collaborate on a wide variety of initiatives between MCLA and Nuclea.

MCLA first partnered with Nuclea in 2011, when the company formed a new high-performance computing cluster arrangement with MCLA, Berkshire Community College, and Clark University in Worcester. The cluster expands computing power at the three schools and allows for complex analysis of mathematical, biological, and chemical information. The arrangement is a boost for bioinformatics and educational research west of Boston, and helps establish MCLA as a leader in the growing biotechnology field.

All three schools use the new computational capacity for educational research, and Nuclea uses the technology for commercial research.

Alum Richard Brown: MCLA is a Portal to Success



Richard K. Brown '74 is living the American dream. Ask him where it began, and he recounts a pre-college visit to MCLA, when he met with a chemistry professor to learn more about the College. The late Dr. John M.C. Hess would become the first in a series of college mentors who would inspire Brown to step through many doors on

his path to a successful future as a biochemist, entrepreneur, and business leader in the life sciences industry.

Today, sitting in his office at AVIA Biosystems in Falmouth, Mass., the biomedical technology company he co-founded and now oversees as president and CEO, he fondly recalls his journey to success and pays tribute to MCLA (then North Adams State College) for its role in helping to transform countless students' lives, including his own.

"I thought I was interested in chemistry before I met with Hess, but after meeting with him, I knew I was," said Brown. *"There was no question – this was where I wanted to be."*

He excelled at MCLA and continued on to graduate school, followed by a number of successful business ventures in the life sciences.

As a "kid from a blue collar family," Brown was the first in his family to attend college, and it was those early – and ongoing – connections at MCLA that kept him moving. He eventually earned a Masters and Ph.D. in chemistry from UMass-Amherst.

Hard work and determination were key to Brown's success through graduate school and doctoral programs, but he also credits MCLA with playing a foundational role.

"In my field, I have the opportunity to work with people from a lot of places – Harvard, MIT, Stanford – all fantastic institutions," said Brown. *"MCLA plays a role that these colleges can never play. It is such a portal – a mechanism to change your life – if that's what you want to do."*

Brown encourages today's students to be open-minded in their studies and to tap into the support of their professors. Speaking from experience, he said, *"When you find things that strike your interest, take the deep dive – as deep as you possibly can."*

Commencement 2012

At MCLA's 113th Commencement on May 19, MCLA's proud community of students, faculty, staff, guests and families gathered at Amsler Campus Center to celebrate a milestone event for 377 graduates.





Keynote speaker Dr. Robert Rabil '87, director of graduate studies and associate professor of Middle East Studies at Florida Atlantic University, told graduates that they are "standing now on the cusp of profound challenges unfolding in unpredictable ways. ...You are the new generation of leaders, professionals. Your challenges are diverse and serious and demand more than hard work."

Speaking about his history as a Lebanese immigrant, and touching on the Founding Fathers' often contradictory declarations of equality, Rabil said, "There is a Rosa Parks in all of us that we need to bring to life."

Be courageous and take a stand in the face of adversity to uphold your dignity and your right place in society."

Honorary Degree Recipients

Rabil was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Also honored were Sandra Burton, Lipp Family Director of Dance at Williams College, who received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree; attorney and philanthropist Samuel H. "Sandy" Laitman, who received an honorary Doctor of Laws, and MCLA Trustee Dr. Eugene Leibowitz, who received an honorary Doctor of Public Service.

Honoring Trustee Service

Leibowitz also was recognized for his service to the board along with three other trustees who reached the end of their terms of service: Jane Allen '61, Joelle Collins, and Richard Lamb. President Mary Grant recognized Leibowitz as an honorary degree recipient and retiring trustee, commenting on his "tireless dedication to MCLA since his appointment in 2000, his service on every committee of the board, and his support for extraordinary growth and change at the College, including new majors, expanded student life programs, enrollment growth, and deeper community engagement."

Grant said that our trustees represent the Commonwealth and MCLA with distinction and passion. Allen, Collins, and Lamb certainly are no exception.

"They are committed to the success of our students, the success of MCLA, and to the difference that public higher education makes. They bring with them an array of academic, civic and professional expertise, and they serve as stewards, champions and MCLA advocates. They are generous with their time and their resources so that we remain a strong and vibrant institution," she said.



New Faces in Key Places

MCLA welcomes a host of new faces to campus. Each brings a unique perspective, expertise, and experience that will be invaluable to the campus as we move forward to what's next.

Annette Jeffes: New Dean of Admission



As MCLA's applicant numbers grow, the Office of Admission is adapting to keep pace. Annette Jeffes was appointed Dean of Admission and Enrollment Management in 2012. She now leads the development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive enrollment management plan as MCLA builds an even larger and more diverse prospective student base.

Jeffes began her college admissions career at Syracuse University, at which she earned a B.S. in speech communications, then later worked at Tampa Preparatory School and Excelsior College. She earned an M.S. in Education, with a specialization in leadership in higher education, from Capella University.

Incoming Class

In 2012, we welcomed close to 500 students to MCLA. Of these, 70 percent were from Massachusetts. We also welcome students from New York, Connecticut, and other New England states. Nearly a quarter of these students come from diverse backgrounds, and 30 percent of the new students were awarded an academic scholarship in recognition of their impressive performance in high school or at their community college. In addition, an unprecedented number of first-time freshmen presented AP scores for credit or completed college credits.

Traditional undergraduate students from across the Commonwealth, as well as students representing 17 states across the country, transfer students, and working adults – with whom Annette has particular experience – are finding that MCLA is the right college.

MCLA Joins the Common App

MCLA is now a member of the Common Application (Common App), providing an admission application – online and in print – that students may submit to any of its member institutions. The Common App allows you to spend less time applying for admission and more time on college research, visits, essay writing and senior year coursework. An organization of more than 450 colleges and universities, the Common App is dedicated to college access by evaluating students using a holistic selection process. "The Common App works to promote equity, access and integrity in the college application process," said Dean of Admission Annette Jeffes. "MCLA joined the Common Application as a way to provide a user-friendly online application that is respected nationwide." The Common Application goes live August 1 for Fall 2013 applications. Apply today! www.commonapp.org

THE COMMON
APPLICATION
For Undergraduate College Admission

APPLY
NOW!



From left, Denise Marshall '81, Mohan Boodram, Buffy Lord '98, Dan Peluso '13, and J.D. Chesloff.

Welcoming New Trustees

Howard Jacob Eberwein III, Ed.D.: New Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education



Howard Jacob (Jake) Eberwein III, Ed.D. returned to the College in a key leadership position. After a long and productive career in K-12 public education, he was

named Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education.

Eberwein earned his Master of Education degree in 2003, after receiving principal certification through the College's Leadership Academy of the Berkshires in 2002.

Eberwein spent 18 years as an educator and an administrator in Berkshire County public schools. As superintendent of Pittsfield Public Schools, he helped elevate the city schools to a spot among the top-performing urban school districts in the state. He has been a guest lecturer at UMASS-Amherst, and an adjunct faculty member of MCLA and American International College. He has presented at the state and regional level on accountability and assessment, among other topics.

Eberwein holds his Ed.D. from UMASS-Amherst, and earned his B.A. in biology-chemistry from Skidmore College.

MCLA was pleased to welcome four new members to our Board of Trustees, who joined our latest student-trustee, Dan Peluso '13. Each brings not only great experience and valuable expertise from each of their fields, but a great enthusiasm for what's to come next for the College.

J.D. Chesloff, executive director of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, grew up in Berkshire County. He brings to MCLA extensive experience from his work with the Legislature, as well as service on significant state boards and within the U-MASS system, which provide him with valuable perspective on the policy and administrative dimensions of public higher education in the Commonwealth, that will benefit our students, faculty and staff.

Mohan Boodram, associate dean for enrollment and student services at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, brings creativity and a passion for innovation to the Board. With more than 20 years in higher education, his considerable experience includes specialization in the areas of graduate and professional school admissions, financial aid administration, student services, and enrollment management.

An attorney with a local law firm, Buffy Lord '98 brings broad professional expertise to her new role as a trustee. In addition to experience in research, mediation and arbitration, she served as president of MCLA's Alumni Association Board of Directors, and on the MCLA Foundation Board. As an alumna, she understands MCLA's unique role in the region, as well as the importance of public higher education as it provides access and opportunity to students.

Denise Marshall '81, executive vice president of Adams Community Bank, is a committed volunteer whose achievements include service on the boards of the Berkshire United Way, American Red Cross, Elder Services, and the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center. Her connection to MCLA as an alumna, combined with her business acumen, leadership ability, and community service background, make her a vital asset to the Board.

We look forward to the next five years with these Board members, as MCLA forges ahead with continued vigor as we support not only the success of our students, but also Berkshire County, the Commonwealth, and beyond with exciting new programs, growth, and innovation.



Over the Top: Trailblazers Surpass their Marks

Trailblazer student-athletes continued to make a distinctive impact on MCLA's Division III athletic program in 2012 – not only on the fields and the courts, but also in their classrooms.

And the athletic department is raising awareness and enthusiasm for MCLA's 12 sports teams, ramping up social media activity for sports events, and introducing basketball webcasts. Webcasts will expand to other sports in 2013.

In 2012, the athletic department established a new Trailblazer Varsity Club to engage athletes, the wider College community, and other supporters in raising appreciation and support for students as they compete on the courts and fields, and strive for academic success.

In women's basketball, MCLA senior guard Lucy Tremblay '13, of East Greenbush, N.Y., thrived on the court as a top-scorer: in December, she was selected as Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) player of the week, after scoring her 1,000th career point. Her achievement follows several years of stand-out leadership performance as an individual and team player.

Baseball player Joe Duncan '13 of Dalton, Mass., was among 17 student-athletes named to the spring All-Academic Team by the MASCAC. Duncan set an MCLA school record for stolen bases, finishing with 23 fast-move swipes. He is the president of Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and will be a team captain for his senior season.

Director of Athletics Scott Nichols said the Trailblazer Varsity Club is intended to stress the importance of well-rounded student-athletes.

"I see education as our primary role, so we want student-athletes to have a full experience beyond just the playing field, including the classroom and community service," said Nichols.

MCLA Wins Competitive Grant

This year, MCLA was recognized by the NCAA Division III when it awarded the College its *Ethnic Minority and Women's Internship Grant*, and we welcomed Kaylyn Smith to campus as the new assistant to the director of athletics.

A former college athlete who played field hockey and basketball, Smith – who recently earned her Masters of Education in physical education and a concentration in athletic administration – brings much enthusiasm to everything she does on campus.

"Because I was a college athlete, I can relate to what these kids are doing every day and what the coaches are doing," she explained. "At the Division III level, you choose to play. I really respect that and want to be part of it. I want to give the same joy back that I got from being an athlete at college."

Smith has a special connection to the College, as her late father, Bob Smith '90, earned his Master's of Education here – when she was just a year old. "MCLA was my college, right from the start," she said.

Smith's responsibilities during this two-year appointment include marketing and promoting our athletics and special events, sports information, compliance, home game management, and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC).

High Hoops: Lucy Tremblay '13

Lucy Tremblay hit the basketball court on Friday, Dec. 10 needing just 15 more points to become the fifth member of the women's MCLA 1,000 Point Club. Facing off against University of St. Joseph's, the 5'9" guard drove through the game and passed her 1,000-point milestone in the first half. She went on to score 39 points in a Trailblazer victory. Tremblay ended the week with another double-digit performance in a win over SUNY-Canton, and in another win over Smith College on Dec. 19. It was a good week: She averaged a remarkable 26 points, 6.3 boards, 3.7 steals, and 3.3 assists in a 2-1 performance for MCLA.

Tremblay was named to the Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Spring All-Academic Team in 2012, and is on track again for 2013 recognition. Her credentials also include membership in the 2010 Tournament Championship team.

Women's basketball coach Holly McGovern, now in her eighth year leading the Trailblazer team, said Tremblay, who is majoring in business administration, is an ideal student-athlete.

"Lucy has been a very dedicated student-athlete over the last four years and a tremendous asset on the basketball court," said McGovern. "She's very focused, primarily on academics."

She said Tremblay's "determination, intensity, and her willingness to succeed" make a big impact on her teammates and classmates, and "her peers are proud to follow in her footsteps."



Slider: Joe Duncan '13

During the spring baseball season, standout Joe Duncan '13 set an MCLA school record for stolen bases with 23 successful swipes in a single season. When it comes to a sharp, calculating instinct and lightning speed, Duncan knows when to make his moves.

In addition to his baseball field achievements as an outfielder and base-stealer, Duncan was among 17 MCLA student-athletes named to the spring 2012 MASCAC All-Academic Team, which last year included 437 student-athletes from around the Commonwealth who achieved a minimum 3.20 cumulative or semester grade point average. He is president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and will be named a captain for his upcoming senior season.

Duncan, a business major at MCLA who plans to pursue graduate education in accounting, also works in the accounts payable department at Crane and Company in Dalton.

"He worked his way into being a quality player; in the classroom and on the field," said baseball coach Jeffrey Puleri. "He's very disciplined, and seems to reach any goal he sets his mind to."

Duncan began playing baseball at age 3, and plans to play on a local adult league in the Berkshires when he graduates. He balances the sport with his academics, even if it means studying on the bus rides to away games, and sometimes sacrificing sleep.

But, he simply loves baseball.

"You're part of a team, but you're independent from the team as well," he said. "When you're chasing down a fly ball in the outfield, you're on your own. You have to get it yourself."





Honorable Mentions

In local and regional circles, Dr. Mary Grant's name is synonymous with MCLA. She has, indeed, had a transformative impact on the College with her regional and statewide higher education advocacy, leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education at MCLA, and her enhancement of college-community-business relations and partnerships.

In May 2012, Grant received an honorary doctorate degree from Williams College. At the Williams commencement exercises on June 3, Williams College President Adam Falk recognized Grant's expansion of MCLA programs and facilities, strengthening of external college connections of advocacy, civic engagement, and assertive leadership STEM education.

In presenting an honorary doctor of law degree to Grant, Falk said, "Public higher education in this country has no more passionate and effective voice, as you and MCLA show how a small college can have national clout even from the remote northwest corner of Massachusetts."

Also in 2012, Grant received the "She Knows Where She's Going" Award from Girls, Inc. of the Berkshires.

A Decade of Honors and Appointments

- 2011 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I Executive Leadership Award
- 2011 American Council on Education (ACE) Massachusetts National Network of Women Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2011 Francis H. Hayden Award, Berkshire Chamber of Commerce
- Governor's STEM Education Council, Member
- Massachusetts Campus Compact Executive Committee, Chair
- Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Executive Committee, Member, Chair 2007
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute, Governing Board Member
- MassINC, Board of Directors
- Robert H. Goddard Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Board of Directors
- The Commonwealth Covenant Fund, Member

In addition, Grant serves on a range of nonprofit boards, including the Berkshire Business Roundtable, the Norman Rockwell Museum, and the Partnership for North Adams.

From Start to Finish, MCLA Leads Education Outreach Berkshire Readiness Center Expands Higher Education Impact

Access to education and career readiness has soared since MCLA established the Berkshire Compact for Education nearly eight years ago. Now under the umbrella of the Berkshire Readiness Center, the Compact provides broad, community-based advocacy, networking, and professional development that support students' aspirations to higher education and career achievement.



“It’s vital that we continue to reach all learners and their families – regardless of economic status – to ensure that they are aware that we are breaking down barriers to higher education, that there are financial resources for affording college, and that higher education is a passport to opportunity, achievement, and strong citizenship.”

— MCLA President Mary Grant

After the first *Eighth Grade North County Career Fair* was offered to area students, applications to the Berkshire Youth Leadership Program – a career readiness initiative of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce – doubled. Indeed, through Compact-supported programs such as this, we provide our young people with unprecedented opportunities to prepare them for success in a rapidly changing world.

In addition to other STEM-related experiences, K-12 science educators receive professional development support at the College’s STEM Resource Center. Berkshire County’s K-12 educators also are supported by the Compact through the Center for Educator Excellence, where they collaborate to meet professional development needs and to expand professional learning.

To promote the importance of early childhood literacy and reading to children, the Compact again offered *Wee Read Berkshire County*, with events that centered around *Duck on a Bike*, by David Shannon. As a result, 1,500 copies of the book were distributed to the area’s preschoolers.

Sixth grade students from throughout the County once again participated in our annual “Berkshire County Goes to College Program,” when some 1,100 students explored MCLA, Berkshire Community College, Williams College, and Bard College at Simon’s Rock. Third-graders in Northern Berkshire County, too, visited MCLA and BCC. As always, they fill the campuses with great enthusiasm, as the children discover – many for the first time – what college is all about.







Expanding Access

It's easier than ever before for working professionals to fit college into their busy schedules, with classes scheduled in the early morning, during the lunch hour, and in the evening. Held at the Silvio O. Conte Federal Building in downtown Pittsfield, an MCLA class is but a few minutes away for many, making their educational and professional goals even more accessible.

Graduate and undergraduate classes are geared toward those who would opt for a course such as "Business Law," held from 7:30 to 9 a.m. just once a week. This hybrid course – where students meet face-to-face and learn online, is but one option designed to meet our students' needs.

The offerings also signal a new Fast Track opportunity for Berkshire Community College (BCC) graduates with an Associate's degree to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from MCLA, as these courses are part of the MCLA Fast Track program and the newly approved BCC 2+2 business administration degree completion program.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who wants

to continue their education," said Monica Joslin, MCLA's dean of academic affairs. "For anyone with an Associate's degree, who started college years ago or who just wants to take a class, the Conte offerings are tailored to the working professional."

The Center, which offers graduate courses in education, also houses MCLA's Berkshire Readiness Center. Here, we provide a range of higher education outreach, advocacy, and professional development programs to the K-12 public education community in the Berkshires.

MCLA students also can take classes in Pittsfield at the Intermodal Education Center, which operates at a capacity of more than 2,200 people each year.



Taking Care of Business:

Professional MBA Program Graduates First Class

MCLA's Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA) graduated its first class of 10 in August – mostly working adults from the Berkshire region seeking to advance their careers. Designed for working adult learners, the 30-credit part-time program offers both online and face-to-face instruction.

Among the graduates: Bonnie Eichorn of Pittsfield, a registered nurse and executive director of Mountain View Home Care, Inc. in Pittsfield. She credits the PMBA program with helping her achieve a successful first year in her new business.


Eichorn realized that an advanced degree in business administration was the best option for her. "The PMBA helped me to understand how to run a business financially and structurally," she said.

The program delivers a high return for the PMBA students, and serves as a resource to the Berkshire business community, according to Nancy Ovitsky,

MCLA business professor.

Students move together through the program in a cohort model, progressing in a supportive learning community and modeling the collaborative skills vital to business and organizational success.

"Years after receiving my bachelor's degree and having a family, I knew it was time to focus on my own goals and advance my career," said Kim Corey '12, community relations director at Fillmore Pond, an assisted living community in Bennington, Vt. "Based on my positive experiences with the PMBA professors and the challenging course content, it was well worth the wait."

A man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing an orange polo shirt, is looking down at a document or book. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a library or office setting with bookshelves.

Professional MBA Advisory Board

Lawrence Rosenthal, CEO,
Emanon Corporation

Osmin Alvarez,
Owner, Boxcarmedia, LLC

Michael Daly,
President, CEO and Director,
Berkshire Bank

Paul Haklisch, Retired Investment Banker

Nancy Fitzpatrick,
President, Red Lion Inn

Nancy Kalodner,
Broker-Owner, Benchmark Real Estate

Sheila Keator,
Managing Director, Founder,
Keator Group, LLC

Kim Noltemy,
Director of Marketing and Sales,
Boston Symphony Orchestra Tanglewood

Cynthia Normandin,
Owner, Braun's Express, Inc.

Bo Peabody,
Venture Partner, Greycroft Partners

Tyler Fairbank, CEO, Partner
EOS Ventures, LLC

Sowing Seeds: Growing New Roots for Alumni

MCLA is embracing a new alumni-focused model of philanthropy to build financial support for future students and to ensure the continued success of current and future programs, research opportunities and institutional achievement.

In October, the College unveiled *Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*.

With more than \$18 million contributed to MCLA during the “silent phase” of the capital campaign – mainly through direct outreach to loyal College supporters, businesses and the community -- the College embarked on a grassroots effort to meet its \$22.5 million goal. In the final push, 18,000 MCLA graduates will be invited to step in, with newer, younger alumni encouraged to play a game-changing role in redefining alumni relations.

“We are striving to inspire MCLA alumni to share what they can,” said Marianne Drake, chief advancement officer and president of the MCLA Foundation, the College’s fundraising entity. “We want alumni to know about the power-packed potential of many smaller gifts. A graduate does not need to

make a big gift to make a big difference for students following in their footsteps at MCLA.”

Engaging with alumni will bring other benefits: MCLA graduates can share their talents and connections with MCLA students through mentoring programs or workplace internships.

Contributions to the *Sowing Seeds* campaign will:

- Create and sustain growth and expansion of College initiatives, with particular emphasis on scholarship support and new programs
- Leverage \$54.5 million in state support for construction of the new Center for Science and Innovation and renovations at Bowman Hall
- Advance the Berkshires as a hub of innovation and expanded educational access, driving regional economic success




Sowing Seeds for Success
THE MCLA CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

“We are so pleased to support this important program, which will provide students who might otherwise not have an opportunity, with advanced leadership, teamwork and technical skills in these important disciplines to help them become our leaders of tomorrow.”

– PETER LAFAYETTE, Executive Director, the Berkshire Bank Foundation

A growing need for scholarship support is at the core of the *Sowing Seeds* campaign: 89 percent of students apply for financial aid, and MCLA can provide financial aid support to just 69 percent of applicants. The College’s goal is to close the financial need gap for all students, so that none are left behind. Many alumni who benefited from financial aid during their college careers will understand the value of scholarship support, said Drake.

“From the minute a student sets foot on campus, we develop a true community and kinship that we hope will carry into their future relations with MCLA,” said President Mary Grant. “We intend to build lifelong relationships with those who have grown and thrived with MCLA as their foundation. Right now, every gift that comes in goes into the *Sowing Seeds* campaign.”



How many small donations does it take to support a student scholarship?

Forty gifts of \$25 each – or
20 gifts of \$50 each – will raise
\$1,000 in scholarship funds.

STEM Immersion

The Berkshire Bank Foundation has contributed \$100,000 to establish the Berkshire Bank STEM Academy, a summer immersion program for incoming students who show interest and promise in science, engineering, technology and math.

Berkshire County students who may not otherwise have an opportunity to participate are targeted for the program, and will spend five days exploring opportunities in the STEM career and education fields.

How to Sow Seeds

The MCLA Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization, receives all charitable contributions on behalf of the College. Donors can make a general gift to the *Sowing Seeds* campaign or designate a gift for a specific purpose, such as:

- Scholarship support
- Campus improvements
- Program improvements
- Faculty enrichment
- Student and residential life
- Other MCLA activities and educational programs

For larger contributions, donors can participate in various naming opportunities for places, spaces, and equipment vital to college operations.

For more information on giving to the *Sowing Seeds* campaign, visit: www.mcla.edu/About_MCLA/howtogivetothecampaign/



Student Success: A Start-to-Finish Commitment at MCLA

At MCLA, there's more to "student success" than leaving with a college degree. The College established the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) as a holistic resource for success and graduation completion by gathering under one roof the College's academic advisors, peer advisors, financial aid and bursar staff, career and internship counselors, and special student support services. In 2012, Eldridge Hall became the Center's new home, where staff and students find "one-stop support."



"This was very intentional, and has really made a difference," said Dr. Cynthia Brown, vice president of academic affairs. "President Grant's goal was to take this concept and make it physically convenient and student-centered.

"Now there is a powerful synergy around shared goals, as staff work together to assist students," she continued. "We didn't really know how those connections among staff worked until they began working together. We are sharing data and learning about students as groups and individuals, all of which helps us as we examine our program needs."

For instance, national research shows that if a student misses classes within the first four weeks of school, he or she may need support. With various support personnel in the same office, they are more easily able to collaborate in assisting students who may need help. In addition, MCLA expects all students to achieve 30 credits per academic year in order to graduate within four years.

CSSE also runs the First Year Experience Program (FYE) and the Individual Enrichment Program (IEP), both of which are instrumental in launching students' successful college careers.

"With these programs, our goal is to integrate multiple services, offices, and programs, and to provide rich resources to enhance success, engagement, and empowerment of all MCLA students," said MCLA President Mary Grant. "Connections with the First Year Experience program and Peer Advisors strengthen our ability to identify students who need support, especially in the crucial first weeks of college life. Enrichment programs such as mentoring and major exploration deepen the undergraduate experience."



With the expectation that MCLA students will complete their undergraduate degree in four years, the College has created "MCLA in 4," a roadmap for students showing the way into and through their selected majors.

"It's our goal that MCLA students graduate on time, and not incur additional college costs beyond four years," said Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs. "We have a tremendous internal support system, and we actively reach out to our students for career exploration, work study, and to get students involved with service learning. All of this fits into the 'MCLA in 4' planning process."

"Students can review template programs for nearly any course of study at the College, and those who get on track early will achieve their college degree in four years," she added.



Student Achievements

Four senior art majors and recent graduates – Adriana Alexatos '12, Sarah Howard '12, Kim Lavigne '12 and Julia McDonald '12 – gave artist talks and presented *Captured Life*, an exhibition of their work, at the PRESS Gallery in November.

Nicole Braden '12 presented and defended her Commonwealth Scholar thesis, "Beyond Belletrism: The Philosophical Core of Literature," in December.

Students Christopher Cozzaglio '15, Zachary Day '16, Brittany Galipeaum '15, Rhea Werner '15, and Brittany Wood '15 attended a conference at SUNY-Geneseo, sponsored by the Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH). The group won first place in the display category at the conference.

Eleven MCLA students attended the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) regional conference in Hartford, C.T. At the conference, Allison Conlon '14, Kayla Degnan '15, Tess Favini '14, Osa Igiede '15, Alexander Lopez '16, Dominique McCoy '13, Dan O'Connell '16, Devon O'Dowd '14, Katie Russell '14, Andre Sheffield '13 and Morgan Taylor '14 joined more than 900 student leaders from the Northeast region and over 100 staff members from various colleges in the Northeast.

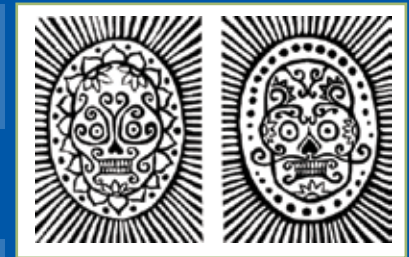
Jessay-Gayen Tomlinson '16 received the Mitchell L. West Opportunity Scholarship for his positive contribution to the College and the community.

Doris Behanzin '13 was awarded 2012's Margaret A. Hart '35 Scholarship. The scholarship, named in honor of the first student of color to graduate from the College, was presented in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the College and to Berkshire County.

Doris Behanzin also received a Lift Ev'ry Voice Pearl Fryar scholarship, along with Bradley Gradneigo '15 and Jackie Kelly '16. These scholarships encourage enrolled or recently accepted MCLA students "to dream larger than their previous academic success."

Five students – Elizabeth Doughty '15, Lindsay Green '13, Brendan Peltier '15, Brycen Waters '13 and Rhea Werner '15 – represented MCLA at the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) conference in Boulder, Colo., in June. There, Brendan Peltier received third place in the national Case Study Competition. Rhea Werner, our campus' National Communications Coordinator (NCC), participated in both the regional and national boardrooms on hall government. And Lindsay Green, the president of MCLA's NRHH (National Residence Hall Honorary) chapter, served as a representative in the regional and national boardrooms for NRHH legislation.

Brycen Waters, Berkshire Towers resident advisor, was one of 50 undergraduates from across the nation selected to attend STARS College, sponsored by the Association of College and University Housing Officers - International (ACUHO-I), in Orange, Calif., over the summer.



Adriana Alexatos '12



Students at NACA conference



Doris Behanzin '13

The work of Pamela Buchanan '12 and Justine Curley '13 was featured in the Berkshire Art Association's 2012 Fellowship exhibition. The BAA Fellowship recognizes college-level achievement in art with an annual exhibit and cash awards.

Amanda Ok '12 was selected to represent MCLA as one of the 29 *Who Shine*, a group of outstanding students that represent each of the 29 public campuses in the Commonwealth. She was recognized at a student recognition ceremony at the State House in May.

Olivia Bolner '12, Emily Burke '12 and Brittany Noyes '13 attended the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Ogden, Utah.

Alyson Carey '13 was selected as a 2012 Newman Civic Fellow. She was one of 10 students from the Commonwealth, and 162 students from across the nation, to receive this recognition.



Max Eve '12

A team of MCLA students joined with their state university, community college, and University of Massachusetts colleagues at Framingham State University for *Students United*, the 2012 student leadership conference presented by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. They included Jamal Brown '12, Catt Chaput '13, Osa Igiede '15, Kate Moore '13, Brendan Peltier '15 and Jake Powers '14.

Physics major Max Eve '12 presented his summer research at the American Physical Society Meeting held in Boston in March. His talk, "Physical Manipulation of the Na/K Pump," was selected to receive an award for outstanding presentation of undergraduate research. His presentation was awarded second place out of 400 entries.

Alyson Carey '13, Brittany (Botto) Gardner '13 and Lindsay Green '13 attended the celebration of Edith Wharton's 150th birthday, in January at the Mount, as part of their independent research project on Wharton.



State Representative Smitty Pignatelli awards Allegrettos Musical Director Juwonn Cottle.

Perfect Pitch: Allegrettos Take Prize in Carol Fest

The sweet sounds of MCLA's a capella group, the Allegrettos, earned the singers First Place in the second annual Lenox Caroling Competition last December.

State Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli awarded the happy singers a cash prize and a trophy, which will be inscribed with the group's name.

The winning groups were determined by 50 percent popular vote and 50 percent judge's vote at each location where the singers performed.

The group participated earlier in WGBY public television's *Together in Song: A Celebration of Choral Music in Western New England*.

The Allegrettos' advisor, MCLA Residence Director Emily Schiavoni, first heard a group of a cappella students singing in an MCLA residence hall lobby in fall 2009. That semester, the students decided to form a caroling group that would perform as a community service around the campus and for senior citizens living in North Adams.

Soon after, the Allegrettos became an official MCLA club and held their first concert. The energetic group has no boundaries: they perform traditional gospel and sing mash-ups of Train and Lady Gaga hits.

Now about 30 members strong, the Allegrettos have created a niche, and a buzz, on campus. Auditions are now required for interested participants, and the group is in high demand to perform at campus events.

Athletic Achievements

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) recently awarded the 2011-2012 women's soccer team an NSCAA Team Academic Award in recognition of our players' academic achievement.

Trailblazer student-athletes who were named to MASCAC All-Conference teams included Lindsay Borbolla '13, Jennifer Ferrari '15, Danielle Heinsohn '15, Tina Klich '13 and Ashlee Scofield '14 from the women's soccer team; Jake McCall '14 from men's soccer; Julia Christian '15 from the volleyball team; and Sean Cota '13 from the golf team.

Cota also was named to the North Atlantic Conference's All-Conference first team, and baseball player Daniel Gaines '12 and women's softball player Kendra Hobbs '13 were named to the All MASCAC second team.

Anthony Cancilla '14 was named MASCAC Runner of the Week in September, following his first-place finish at the Castleton Invitational.

Jamal Brown '12 received the MASCAC Player of the Week honors during the 2012 men's basketball season. This was his second consecutive Player of the Week selection, after being recognized as MASCAC Player of the Week on Jan. 22.



Dr. Emily Maher

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Work done on the MINERvA project at Fermilab in Illinois by physics professor Dr. Emily Maher contributed to it being named as one of the top 10 breakthroughs of 2012 by *Physics World*. She also presented the talk, “Anti-Neutrino Quasi-Elastic Scattering at MINERvA,” at the American Physical Society’s Division of Nuclear Physics fall meeting in Newport Beach, Calif.

In addition, Maher contributed to the paper “Demonstration of communication using neutrinos,” which was published in the journal *Modern Physics Letters A*. The paper also was profiled in *The Economist*.

In October, English/communications professor Mary Levitt, Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) Assistant Director Kate Heekin, along with student Megan Cronin '13, presented "Writing Wrong: An Experiment with ESL and the Write Stuff Staff: The Writing Associate Program at MCLA" at the Learning Assistance Association of New England conference at Greenfield Community College.

Business administration professor Dr. Shahnaz Abdullah published "Educating Women for HIV Prevention: Does Exposure to Mass Media Make Them More Knowledgeable?" in the journal *Health Care for Women International*.

Psychology professor Dr. Timothy Jay gave the address "The language of sportsmanship" at the annual meeting of the NCAA's Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA) in Indianapolis, Ind., in November. He is a member of the FARA Executive Committee and was recently elected vice president of DIII.

Dr. Timothy Jay also was featured in the *Wall Street Journal* article "Dagnabit, This Town is Fed up with Cursing." In addition, he gave a talk on "Cursing in America" at the University of Alabama, and co-authored an article, "The Science of Swearing," with Kristin Janschewitz '04. The article appeared in the May/June edition of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) *Observer*. And, he appeared in a segment on "Cursing in America" that aired on the *NBC Today Show* in January.

Recipients of Faculty Incentive Awards for 2012 include Melanie Mowinski (FPA), who received the Creative Project award; Dr. Ely Janis (history) and Dr. Jennifer Zoltanski (sociology), who received curriculum development awards; Dr. Dale Fink (education) who received a research award; and Dr. Tony Gengarely (FPA), who received the Faculty Lecture Award for his lecture, "A World Transformed: The Art of Jessica Park," which he presented in October.

Dr. Tony Gengarely also attended the meeting of the Folk Art Society of America, where he presented a report on the Jessica Park Project and its recent initiatives to expand its focus by studying and displaying the art of more artists with autism and other disabilities. He went on to give a talk about this project in November at the Good Purpose Gallery in Lee, Mass.

Melanie Mowinski also was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Martha Boschen Porter Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to support her work at PRESS gallery.

Residence Director Heather Quire developed a leadership certificate program for residents of Berkshire Towers. "BT L.E.A.D.E.R.S" provides students with opportunities to gain a better understanding of leadership and to develop their own leadership capacity.

Philosophy professor Dr. Paul Nnodim's latest book, *Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation*, which he co-authored with colleagues from the University of Edinburgh and the University of Exeter (UK), was released in October.

Five poems written by English/communications professor Mindy Dow were published in the autumn issue of the *Wilderness House Literary Review*.



Melanie Mowinski

Public Safety Director Joseph Charon and Hoosac Hall Residence Director Griffin Labbanca represented MCLA at the Second Annual "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" march in Pittsfield, Mass. With support from the campus community, they raised more than \$800 to support the work of the Elizabeth Freeman Center.

English/communications professor Dr. Rosanne Denhard and Fine and Performing Arts professor Dawn Shamburger collaborated on "Mapping New Routes for the Undergraduate Study of Early Modern Women: Collaboration, Interdisciplinarity, Research, and Academic Travel," which they presented in June at the "Attending to Early Modern Women" conference at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Computer science professor Dr. Mark Cohen published "Dimensions of Concern" in July, in the journal, *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*.



Dr. Petra Hejnova

Political science and public policy professor Dr. Petra Hejnova taught a course on human rights and international security at the 13th Annual Global Leadership Program in Rome, Italy. During the spring break, she also led a group of students on a trip to Abu Dhabi and Dubai to explore perspectives on women as global leaders.

Marc Morandi, advancement operations officer, was appointed president of the Rotary Club of North Adams.

Ashley Berridge, director of special events and conference planning, was elected president of the board of the Women's Action Movement (WAM) Theatre. At the Northern Berkshire United Way Campaign Celebration Breakfast held in May, MCLA received a Silver Award for the employees' contributions to the NBUW and its agencies. In addition, Marilyn Truskowski, director of human resources, received a Volunteer of the Year Award for her work on the NBUW campaign cabinet, and for coordinating the COMECC campaign on campus that also benefits the NBUW.

Residence Director Brendon Goodridge's work was recognized when he was one of four individuals to receive a NEACURH "Outstanding Advisor" pin.

A number of faculty and staff were honored at the Annual Triunion Luncheon. Jennifer Alibozek and John Clark received AFSCME Unit I awards, and Alan Stalker and Kyle Shepard received AFSCME Unit II awards. APA service milestones were given to Tom Alexander, Kate Heekin, Holly McGovern and Jonathan Secor (5 years); Scott Nichols (15 years); and Beth Petri (30 years). The MSCA Adjunct Faculty Award went to Jeff McRae (English/communications), the MSCA Junior Faculty Award was given to Dr. Sharon Claffey (psychology), and Dr. Michele Ethier (sociology) received the MSCA Senior Faculty Award.

MCLA Gallery 51 Gallery Manager Ven Voisey was selected to participate in the 2012-2013 Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program in Roswell, N.M. He is one of six artists from across the nation to participate in this all-expenses-paid, yearlong artist residence.

Academic Technology Coordinator Gerol Petruzella was selected to receive an award from the NEA Foundation's C2i Gaming Challenge for the "Dungeons & Discourse" online philosophy course/game he designed. The C2i initiative supports "innovative ideas that will contribute to the transformation of public education."

Petruzella also presented “Level Up - Canvas as an Educational Gaming Platform” at InstructureCon 2012 in Park City, Utah, in June.

Head Women’s Soccer Coach Deb Raber was selected as a faculty member for the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) national diploma program, which was held at Curry College in June.

The following faculty members were awarded tenure in 2012 by the Board of Trustees: Dr. Michael Dilthey, assistant professor of fine and performing arts; Dr. Dale Fink, assistant professor of education; and Dr. Elena Traister, assistant professor of environmental studies.

Dr. Dilthey also wrote music for a production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* that was presented at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.

Chief Advancement Officer and MCLA Foundation President Marianne Drake, and Vice President of Enrollment and External Relations Denise Richardello in March represented MCLA as part of a group from the State Universities of Massachusetts that attended the annual meeting of the New England Council in Washington, D.C.

Denise Richardello also was named to the New England Regional Council of the College Board. In addition, she was appointed to serve on the New England Board of Higher Education’s Regional Student Program (RSP) Advisory Committee, and on the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education’s College Participation Advisory Group (CPAG).

In March, education professor Dr. Dana Rapp took a group of students to China in a trip organized in collaboration with the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT). In addition, English/communications professor Dr. Rosanne Denhard took her “Arts of Medieval and Renaissance in Britain” class to Great Britain, and students traveled to Japan on a trip hosted by history professor Dr. Kailai Huang.

Dr. Huang also had his paper, “The Impact of American Business on Sino-American Normalization and US-Taiwan Trade,” accepted by the 14th Annual Conference of American History Research Association of China, which was held at Shanghai University in May.

In February, history professor Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed offered a presentation on the history of African-Americans in Western Massachusetts. The presentation, at the Dunbar Community Center in Springfield, Mass., was part of a community celebration that also featured remarks by Governor Deval Patrick.



Dr. Kailai Huang



Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed

A Mindful Feast

Brown Bag Lectures Share Scholarly Work

On Fridays for the last 10 years, MCLA faculty and staff have gathered for “Brown Bag” lectures, to share their interests, research, and scholarly activities. The campus community is invited, along with local faculty emeriti, and there’s been no shortage of food for thought during a decade of academic sharing.

In 2012, brown baggers heard from the following faculty, on the following topics:

Gerol Petruzella, Philosophy: “Confluence of Contemporary Neuroscience and Sociology with Ancient Eudaimonism”

Petra Hejnova, History, and Political Science, and Public Policy: “Political Dissidents in Former Czechoslovaks”

Dale Fink, Education, “Recess as Contested Terrain”

Tony Gengarelly, Fine and Performing Arts: “Southwestern Adventures with Navajo and Pueblo Art”

Barb Kotelnicki and Toni Diamond, Education: “How We Use the ePortfolio for our Licensure Candidates as they Complete their Student Teaching”

Chris Himes, Diversifying the Sciences

Sharon Claffey, Team Based Learning vs. Traditional Lecture

Joseph Ebiware, News Literacy & the First Amendment

“These informal lunches have been a way for faculty, staff and the College community to engage in conversation on Friday afternoons, and to be reminded of why we are all here: to learn, collaborate, and share,” said Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs and coordinator of the Brown Bag lectures.

Journaling at MCLA

The Mind’s Eye Marks 15 Years

The Mind’s Eye, MCLA’s journal of scholarly and creative work, has for 15 years celebrated the College’s brilliant minds and showcased outside contributors who share research, fiction, poetry, and book and art reviews. While highlighting the work of MCLA scholars, the journal has an open submission policy that brings diversity of authorship: For instance, 2012 fiction contributor Jason Wandrei is a technical editor at General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems in Pittsfield, and Michelle Gillett is an op-ed columnist and poet.



The publication is a distinguished example of MCLA’s academic and creative leadership among liberal arts colleges, and submissions are peer reviewed by an advisory board before publication. Its managing editor is history professor Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed.

“*The Mind’s Eye* has expanded from its roots as a campus-based publication to one that is now more community-based and inclusive of submissions from outside the immediate College,” Jones-Sneed said.

Each issue now centers on a theme: the 2012 theme focused on poetry, and the 2013 focus will be on education. Earlier efforts to publish the journal twice yearly proved challenging, but the once-a-year approach has ensured a robust creative and academic publication.

The 88-page, 2012 edition features the latest of 15 beautiful covers designed over the years by graphic artist Leon Peters, who, despite his retirement a few years ago, continues to lend his touch to this publication.

Its array of literary contributions includes an article by William Montgomery (Interdisciplinary Studies), explores “Liberal Scientists, ABMs, and the Nuclear Arms Race,” and Gerol Petruzella (Philosophy) writes on “External Goods and the Good Life.” There are two short stories from outside contributors: Jason Wandrei’s “Settlement” and Deborah Brown’s “Two Sides of Snow.” Gregory Scheckler (Fine and Performing Arts) and Seth Kershner (Modern Languages) review recent books from their respective academic fields.

Poetry in 2012 came from Melanie Mowinski (Fine and Performing Arts), Mark D. Miller and Jeff McRae (English/Communications), and from contributing poets Michelle Gillett, Hanna Fries, Abbot Cutler, Jill Gilbreth, and Barry Sternlieb.

The publication welcomes submissions of expository essays, including reviews, as well as fiction, poetry, and art.

New Faculty

- Dr. Shahnaz Abdullah**, business administration
B.S. – commerce in finance, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
M.S. – commerce in finance, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Ph.D. – economics, University of Birmingham (England)
- Dr. Rebekah Benjamin**, psychology
B.A. – English, Wesleyan University, Indiana
M.A. – educational psychology, University of Georgia
Ph.D. – educational psychology, University of Georgia–Athens
- Melinda Dow '95**, English/communications
B.A. – English literature, MCLA
M.F.A. – creative writing, UMASS-Amherst
- Dr. Justin Golub**, biology
B.S. – biology, Union College
M.S. – biology, Concordia University
Ph.D. – biology, Clark University
- Jeffrey McRae**, English/communications
B.A. – English, University of New Hampshire
M.A. – English/writing, University of New Hampshire
M.F.A. – poetry, Washington University-St. Louis
- James Niedbalski '82**, English/communications
B.A. – English/communications, North Adams State College
M.A. – Professional writing, UMASS-Dartmouth

Retirees

- Susan Bailey 30 Years**
Career Services
- Robert Buckley 28 Years**
Business Administration
- Wesley Burdick 29 Years**
Facilities
- Abbot Cutler 31 Years**
English Communications
- Alla Kucher 15 Years**
Mathematics
- Marilyn Truskowski 40 Years**
Human Resources
- Susan Wismer 13 Years**
Education
- Sharron Zavattaro 24 Years**
Career Services



This year's Giving Thanks honorees, from left, President Grant, Carl Villanueva, Ronald Shewcraft, Leonard Paolillo, Marion Segalla, Charlotte Degen, Jeffrey Puleri, Jana Boyer, Theresa Pratt, Anthony Mirante, Diane Balduzy, Celia Norcross, Ian Bergeron, Graziana Ramsden, Charles Oakes, Deborah Foss, Albert D. Hyers, Rosetta Sherman, Richard Yanow, and Kathleen Mazanec.

Giving Thanks: 2012 Honorees

10 Years of Service

- Ian Bergeron, Computer Support Services
Ann Billetz, Biology
Michael Birch, English/Communications
Sherry Burdick, Public Safety
Rosanne Denhard, English/Communications
Mary Grant, President
Lisa Milanesi, Registrar/Student Accounts
Celia Norcross, Student Affairs
Jeffrey Puleri, Athletics
Graziana Ramsden, Modern Languages
Daniel Rapp, Education
Ann Scott, Education

15 Years of Service

- Jana Boyer, Admissions
Jeff Hooper, Administrative Systems
Linda Lazzari, Human Resources/Payroll
Charles Oakes, Administration & Finance
Theresa Pratt, Fine & Performing Arts/History/LISP
Rosetta Sherman, Public Safety
Dennis Tash, Library

20 Years of Service

- Carl Villanueva, Media Services

25 Years of Service

- Diane Balduzy, Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work
Deborah Foss, Center for Student Success & Engagement
Albert D. Hyers, Environmental Studies
Phyllis M. Lora, Human Resources

30 Years of Service

- Avaz Hajizadeh, Business Administration
Kathleen Mazanec, Administration & Finance

35 Years of Service

- Charlotte Degen, Student Affairs
Anthony Mirante, Residential Programs & Services
Ronald Shewcraft, Physical Education
James Sweeney, Facilities
Richard Yanow, Business Administration

40 Years of Service

- Anthony Gengarelly, Fine & Performing Arts
Leonard Paolillo, Sociology/Anthropology/Social Work
Marion Segalla, Human Resources/Payroll

MCLA's Economic and Community Impact

The MCLA Strategic Plan promotes Responsive and Intentional Stewardship as an institutional goal. Among its many dimensions – human, ecological, financial – stewardship reflects the innovative, strategic, and informed development of resources, not only for the College, but for the community and the region we serve.

The construction of our Center for Science and Innovation has infused millions of dollars into the local economy; however, its economic impact has just begun. Once its doors open in fall 2013, we anticipate this Center will be among the most important assets MCLA offers.

In recent years, increasing real estate costs drove the path of innovation west, forming the “golden triangle” with Worcester and partnering with institutions in the

area. Springfield, too, established laboratory spaces to accommodate new scientific ventures. However, only a modest amount of incubator laboratory space is located in western Massachusetts.

MCLA's Center for Science and Innovation will include an Incubator Research Laboratory that will be available for rent by start-up biotech ventures. We anticipate this space will attract small, early-stage companies from



central and western Massachusetts, and from New York's Capital Region. MCLA's incubator will offer competitive pricing, the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and students, and access to a potential workforce, which further will increase the College's economic impact in the Berkshires for years to come.

MCLA is a powerful economic development engine for the City of North Adams and Berkshire County. Our presence in North Adams delivers the benefits of living in a college town, and our cultural presence downtown provides energy, vitality, and increased economic activity. The effect of our annual operating budget of over \$42 million, combined with employee, visitor, and student spending, and the benefits realized through our capital investments in the campus, is powerful and transformative.

MCLA's economic impact includes:

- \$10.9 million in employee spending in the local economy, as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics
- approximately \$5.2 million in additional direct economic activity to the North Adams economy from spending by students
- more than \$2.9 million spent by College visitors during the year
- \$9.7 million invested in a range of capital projects, from work for the Center for Science and Innovation and a new Campus Center Gym floor, to renovations in Freel Library and installation of a new high-performance computer cluster to support faculty and student research

MCLA's strategic commitment to Public Purpose and Engagement also delivers economic benefits to the community and the region. As a resource and partner with the City, and with organizations across the County, a conservative estimate of the value of MCLA's nearly 35,000 hours of community service is nearly \$930,000.

Taken together, the operating budget (\$42 million), employee, student and visitor spending (\$20 million), capital investment (\$9.7 million) and community service activity (\$930,000), the College has a direct annual impact of more than \$72 million.

Beyond this direct impact, we know that every dollar spent in the local economy continues to resonate. 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 circulate 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 \$144 million a year on North Adams and Berkshire County. This represents a more than tenfold return on the annual investment the Commonwealth makes in direct state appropriation to MCLA.



All data is for the fiscal year 2012 unless noted.

Total Operating Budget \$42,349,365

Source: MCLA Annual Report

College Employees

273 Full Time 130 Part Time

Employee Salary & Benefits \$25,983,237

\$18,188,266 After tax (70%)

\$10,912,960 Employee Spending (60%)

Source: College Employees from 2011 IPEDS Human Resource Survey; Salary & Benefits from MCLA Annual Report; Estimated Employee Spending Rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Undergraduate Student Spending \$5,182,470

(\$2,670 x 1,941 Undergraduate Students)

Source: Student Spending from MCLA Financial Aid; Undergraduate Students total from 2012 MA DHE Annual Enrollment File

Total Volunteer Hours \$929,550

Service/Volunteer Hours = 34,633

Volunteer Time Value = \$26.84 (Massachusetts 2010 Value)

Source: Volunteer Hours from the Center for Service and Citizenship Increase is due to counting of Education practicum courses being counted known as a service to the community; Time Value from Independent Sector, Value of a Volunteer Hour 2010 State Value

Major Renovations

Center for Science and Innovation	\$4,860,953
Campus Center Marketplace	\$3,558,748
Campus Center Gym Floor	\$485,596
Facilities Building / Ashland St. Parking Lot	\$401,872
Smith House Renovation	\$133,890
Energy Performance Evaluation	\$85,615
NUCLEA Server Project	\$52,804
Public Safety Relocation and Renovation	\$45,392
Freel Library Renovations	\$43,628
Eldridge Hall A/C Repair	\$21,363
Campus Signage	\$12,008
Total Major Renovations	\$9,701,869

Source: MCLA Annual Report

Visitors

Admissions	5,000
Alumni	1,500
Orientation	1,000
Graduation	2,500
Athletics	6,000
Arts/Music/Speakers	4,000
Gallery 51/DownStreet Art	25,000
Total	45,000
Visitor Spending	\$65.44
Total Spending	\$2,944,800

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

Grand Totals

	Total	Total x RIMS
Operating Budget	\$42,349,365	\$84,698,730
Employee Spending	\$10,912,960	\$21,825,919
Undergraduate Spending	\$5,182,470	\$10,364,940
Visitor Spending	\$2,944,800	\$5,889,600
Major Renovations	\$9,701,869	\$19,403,738
Service/Volunteer Time	\$929,550	\$1,859,099
Total	\$72,021,013	\$144,042,027

RIMS Multipliers Value = 2.0

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

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