

excellence

TOP 10

innovation

creative

MCLA

2014 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

twelve incredible years



SHE'S GOT SPIRIT.

Midnight Madness
Thursday, October 24, 2013

FROM THE
President



Dear Friends of MCLA,

When I reflect on my 12 years as president of MCLA, I have a treasure trove of fond memories, but there is one particular moment that will always be special to me. The day I was sworn in was a remarkably beautiful spring day. The campus was filled with a vibrant energy and spirit. I remember just how welcome my new colleagues made me and my husband Jim feel. Sitting in the front row was my entire family – my dad, mom, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews, and people from different parts of my life. It was a poignant moment in time, and I felt like anything was possible.

Today, I am proud of how many of those possibilities were realized as shared achievements.

Over the years, there has always been plenty of work to move the College forward, but with each project and goal, we came together as a community. We increased the number of academic programs, created more study away opportunities, filled the dormitories, created a presence on Main Street in downtown North Adams, enhanced our scholarship funds, and increased diversity on campus.

Today, this sustained work, effort, and commitment is reflected in an institution that has been transformed. I see it in the athletic fields that have been restored so our teams can truly play home games. I witness it in the growth of our incoming classes. I experience it in the fervent team spirit at our athletic matches. I watch it as growing numbers of students volunteer their time to support the city of North Adams during our Service Days and in service learning courses that combine learning and action. And of course, I admire it each day when I see the curved façade of the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, along with the whirling turbine on the roof.

Perhaps the achievement I am most proud of is MCLA'S national recognition as a leader in public liberal arts education. It is a recognition that took many years of hard work and continued advocacy. At open houses, I hear that MCLA is now a first-choice school among applicants. When talking with prospective students and their parents, there is a vivid enthusiasm and appreciation for MCLA, our mission, and our values. There is a deep sense of pride knowing that MCLA is held in such high regard, and that it serves to inspire all those who have played a role in its growth and progress.



**ALONG THE WAY,
WE ACHIEVED THIS WORK TOGETHER...
EACH OF YOU HAS MY PROFOUND THANKS.**



Our achievements are products of shared commitment and dedicated collective effort. I am proud to have worked alongside a committed staff, nationally recognized faculty, and scores of alumni who are now more connected and dedicated to MCLA than ever before. I have relied on the guidance, trust, and support of our Trustees, faculty and staff, Foundation directors, friends and colleagues in North Adams, the Berkshires, and throughout the Commonwealth. And I have always appreciated and been energized by the support and affection of our incredible students. Each of you has my profound thanks.

While part of this year's President's Report looks back at the accomplishments we have made since 2002, the report also highlights the many achievements of the past year. It celebrates the two grants we received from the National Science Foundation (NSF), a major breakthrough for MCLA. It shares the news that we expanded our athletics program with the addition of women's lacrosse. It showcases important capital projects, including our new facilities building on Ashland Street, and the renovations to Bowman Hall that currently are underway. It looks back on the remarkable speakers who shared their stories at MCLA, including the legendary Gloria Steinem and Nicholas Kristof, award-winning journalist and human rights advocate.

As Jim and I embrace the new opportunities ahead, please know that I am deeply grateful for the honor of serving this extraordinary College. The Berkshires – the place I've been blessed to call home for more than a decade – will always be a part of me. I'm excited about the next chapters for MCLA, and the great opportunities on the horizon. As president emerita and as an alumna, I'm truly excited to see what will happen next, and I am confident you will continue to build on the progress we made together.

We did good work together. Thank you.

Sincerely,

President Mary K. Grant

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20 02

The MCLA Board of Trustees appointed Mary K. Grant '83, as the College's 11th president. She became the first alumna, and only the second woman, to serve as president.

Dr. Eugene Leibowitz, chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee, said of Grant's selection, "Dr. Grant brings with her the familiarity and experience with the state's system of public higher education that is necessary to bring the College to the next level of becoming a public liberal arts institution of distinction." Leibowitz added, "She was the top choice of the campus and surrounding community members who had the pleasure of meeting her during her visit. We look forward to working with her in the coming years."



20 03

It has been just over a year since I returned to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts as its 11th president, and quite a year it has been. While there have been many changes on campus from when I was a student, we still pride ourselves on our close-knit environment, caring faculty and staff, bright students, engaged and committed Board of Trustees, and top-notch over-all educational experience. I have spent most of my first year talking with members of the MCLA community both on and off campus about their hopes and dreams for the institution. Now we are ready to achieve some of these goals; much has already begun.

President Grant is inaugurated in a ceremony themed 'Our Past. Our Future. A Celebration.'

Undergraduate Research Conference is launched.

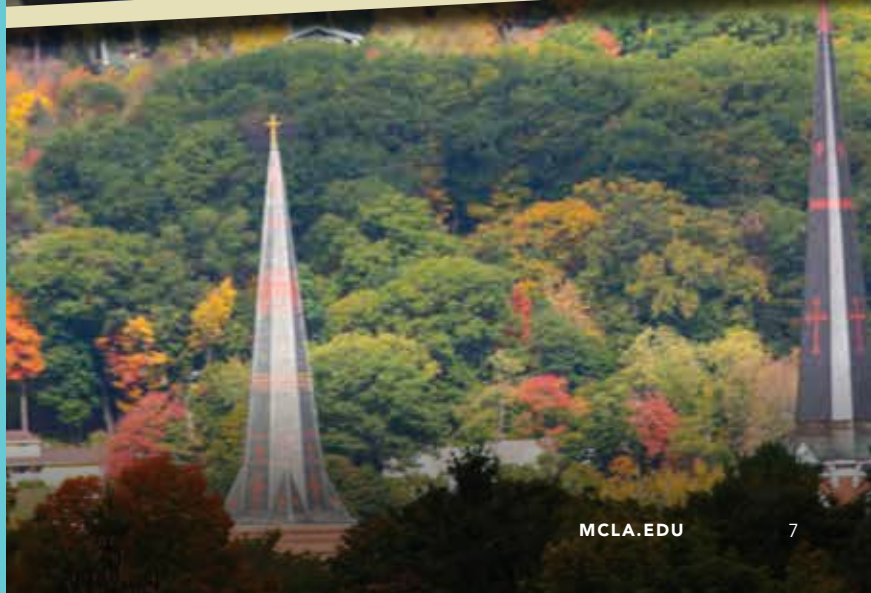
New Alumni Lecture Series kicks off with inaugural speaker Henry Reynolds '58, former deputy mission director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

A Boston Business Advisory group is formed to assist the business administration program with recruitment and program development.

Pictured, from left, President Mary K. Grant with her parents, Walter and Mary Grant, and her husband, Jim Canavan

Dear friends...

The following pages feature selections from the President's letters in past President's Reports.



20 04

We are on a path of growth, thanks to the commitment and dedication of alumni, volunteers, friends, faculty, staff, and students. This past year, the entire campus became actively engaged in a strategic mapping process that includes the implementation of specific plans to help us become an even stronger institution.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) fully reaccredits MCLA for the next 10 years.

College holds 110th Anniversary Celebration.

Murdock Hall renovations begin with a groundbreaking ceremony.

MCLA hosts High School Science Fair for the first time.

Dr. Alan Chartock delivers inaugural lecture for the **Hardman Visiting Scholar-in-Residence/Lecturer Program**. Made possible by a very generous gift to the College from the Eleanor Furst Roberts estate and the Hardman Family Endowment, the series has brought regionally, nationally, and internationally known individuals from the field of journalism to campus.



20 05

We have made great strides across the institution, not the least of which is technology resulting in a fully wireless campus. In the classroom and in the labs, on the playing fields, and in the community, 2005 was a busy and especially energizing year.

The Berkshire Wireless Learning Initiative, a Massachusetts pilot program that provided middle school children with new classroom technology, launched with MCLA as a lead partner.

The Center for Academic Technology opens.

MCLA earns a **\$1.8 million federal Title III grant** to support technology initiatives and professional development.

New academic programs developed: Sport & Event Management, Business Information Systems, and a Certificate in Advanced Graduate Study in Education (CAGS) program.

The Berkshire Compact for Higher Education convenes to identify the higher education needs of residents and employers in the Berkshires.

MCLA earns a **"We the People" grant** from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to explore African American history in Berkshire County.

LEAD Academy (Leadership, Education, Action, and Development) program begins.

Gallery 51 opens.



20 06

More than ever, we are taking advantage of our unique location in the Berkshires – using the rich cultural and natural environment as a strategic partner in shaping new programs. This energy, excitement, and commitment to excellence have caught the eye of private donors and foundations who regard MCLA as a wise investment. This was most evident with the exciting opening of our 21st century Murdock Hall.

Newly renovated Murdock Hall is unveiled.

U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy addresses graduates at Commencement.

With MCLA as lead partner, the **Berkshire County STEM Pipeline Network** encourages innovative learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

The College receives **Regional Legacy of Leadership Award** from Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM).



20 07

For a little over five years, I have served my alma mater as her president. The time has flown by and, as I reflect upon this time, I cannot thank you enough for your support. We are engaged in important work towards a sustainable campus while focusing on the innovation economy. We are investing time, energy, and money in science and technology, in both teaching and operations, to reposition the College and to prepare our students for the future.

Massachusetts State Attorney General Martha Coakley serves as Commencement speaker.

Advocacy and planning for a new Science Center continues.

MCLA launches **Fast-Track degree program** to serve working adults in degree completion.

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Pipeline Fund awards \$310,230 to the **Berkshire STEM Pipeline Network**.



20 08

As a country and as a Commonwealth, it has never been more important to invest wisely in our future, a future that will be greatly dependent on innovation. This is not a time to hunker down; rather it is imperative that we find entrepreneurial approaches to the challenges we will face in the coming year and beyond. Fortunately, innovation and creativity are hallmarks of the culture of MCLA.

College announces new majors in Art and Political Science & Public Policy.

Berkshire Compact hosts first **Berkshire County Goes to College** program.

Governor Deval Patrick signs a **\$2 Billion Higher Education Bond Bill** that includes \$54.5 million for the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation.

With generous support from the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust, MCLA launches the **Public Policy Lecture Series** with Bob Woodward as the inaugural speaker.

The MCLA Foundation purchases the former Notre Dame Rectory downtown to serve as space for the **Office of Institutional Advancement**.

The MCLA Berkshire Cultural Resource Center organizes the first season of **DownStreet Art**.

The Annual Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture is endowed.

The College rebrands the patrons of the Arts series **MCLA Presents!**

U.S. Senator John Kerry delivers the Commencement address.



20 09

2009 marked our 115th anniversary! With an increase in student enrollments and our largest on-campus resident population in years, there is a palpable energy across the campus. The members of our staff and faculty do important work connecting with and inspiring students every day. The College's scholarly reputation grows with every book and article our faculty publish, with every traveling art exhibition they develop and curate, with every presentation they deliver, and with each honor and fellowship they earn. Throughout this milestone year we are reminded of the importance of student engagement in a liberal arts education.

Humanitarian **Paul Rusesabagina**, presidential adviser **David Plouffe**, and journalist **Charlayne Hunter-Gault** speak at MCLA.

\$4 million state bond supports renovations to **Berkshire Towers**.

Athletic Training major launches.

The state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) provides MCLA **\$1.3 million to support energy upgrades** and conservation.



2010

2010 was a banner year indeed as our unique role as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college continued to drive growth in enrollment, with more students choosing MCLA than we have seen in many years. This energy is one of the reasons the students and families who visit MCLA for open houses and information sessions have such a positive impression of the institution, and of the people who make up our community.

Professional MBA program is launched.

MCLA names the annual fall Public Policy Lecture **The Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture** in recognition of their public service.

MCLA hosts **Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC)**.

Students celebrate the **100th anniversary of the Student Government Association (SGA)**.

College establishes **Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE)**.

MCLA holds **site designation ceremony** for the Center for Science and Innovation.

MCLA signs five-year articulation agreement with **Hebei University** (China) to create a cultural exchange program.

MCLA attains university status when the legislature establishes the Massachusetts State University System.



2011

When MCLA's old friend "Hubie" Jones, a renowned social justice advocate and educator, and dean emeritus of the Boston University School of Social Work, took to the podium to speak at Commencement, he donned his well-worn MCLA ball cap. Hubie said, "I wear my MCLA ball cap all over Boston, and when people ask me what 'MCLA' stands for, I tell them 'MCLA stands for excellence!' Indeed, we have come to expect excellence in everything MCLA. I use the word so frequently that oftentimes I look for another word to characterize the MCLA experience. But Hubie Jones, as always, is right. Excellence is the word."

MCLA breaks ground on its first new academic building in 40 years: the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation.

Renovations transform the cafeteria and Marketplace in the **Amsler Campus Center**.

New Chemistry major launches, connecting MCLA more closely to the STEM Pipeline in Massachusetts.

MCLA welcomes first students from **Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade**.

College names Church Street Center auditorium in honor of Eleanor Furst Roberts, benefactor of Hardman Endowment.



2012

The institution we are today represents our focused, intentional, and unwavering commitment to our students, this campus, and the community. Our progress is marked in the many new academic programs we have launched over the years. We celebrate progress in the form of renovated spaces. We affirm progress through our support for our students and we become inspired to build on that progress through the example of the speakers who share their experiences with us. We steward progress by participating in and leading national conversations about the power and the value of the liberal arts.

Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future is launched.

Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) creates “MCLA in 4” roadmap for students.

MCLA partners with Nuclea Biotechnologies to support development of a bioinformatics program.

The College completes a **\$5 million renovation of Hoosac Hall.**

New Faculty Center is established.

Campus community celebrates milestone with a **“Topping Off” ceremony** to mark the placement of the final steel beam on the Center for Science and Innovation’s framework.



20 13

To the delight of hundreds of people assembled, MCLA student Asia Andrews joined Governor Patrick and me to cut the ribbon to officially open the College's new Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation as our vision of a state-of-the-art science center was realized. Amid the high spirits, speeches, and wonder at the sheer beauty of the new 65,000-square-foot complex, a common theme emerged: transformation.

Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation opens.

Diane Patrick delivers Commencement address.

MCLA achieves "Top 10" recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* for third consecutive year.

Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Studies concentrations added.

*Pictured: Asia Andrews '14
with Governor Deval Patrick*



a few words

As President Mary Grant prepared to leave MCLA to assume her new post as chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, she sat down with Makayla-Courtney McGeeny, editor-in-chief of *The Beacon*, to discuss her time in North Adams and her legacy at the college she led for 12 years. In addition to her role at *The Beacon*, McGeeny is the recipient of the 2014 James A. Hardman Scholarship and several other scholarships for studies in journalism.



MCM: What were your expectations when you began your tenure as president of MCLA in 2002?

MKG: It seems like such a long time ago! I think my goal right out of the gate was to learn this community: who lives here, what's on their minds, what's in their hearts, and how do we go forward. We had a lot of work to do because we were the smallest school in the state college system, the furthest from the state capital, and my expectations were that I would work really, really hard, but that I could maybe make a great difference. My feeling was, "Wow, what an opportunity and a privilege to come back to this place." That was a great way to come in.

I was very hopeful and energized about the work ahead. And that hasn't changed. Even as I'm changing my role I'm hopeful and energized and excited about the future of the college.

MCM: What were some surprises over the past 12 years?

MKG: I didn't expect but was pleasantly surprised by just how powerful it would be to have MCLA on Main Street at Gallery 51. I knew it was important, we all knew it was important, we knew it was the right thing to do, and we had the support of the business community. But I think it exceeded our wildest expectations about how successful that would be and what a mainstay it would become on Main Street.

The difference between where it started and where it ended up – that was just greater than I could have imagined. At the time, there were empty storefronts on Main Street and we were asked to help and we said sure.

Here we are 10 years later and it's a vital part of the institution and the community. It's a foothold on Main Street and an educational resource for the community and a gathering spot for the local arts community. We have openings on Thursday nights

and people come out from across the Berkshires. It's so much more important than we thought it would be. I call it The Little Engine That Can and Does on Main Street.

And I think another surprise was being able to open the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation. Of course, it was a surprise that was eight years in the making. But what I've learned over and over again is never underestimate the ability for a community to come together and work in a focused direction to make a profound difference.

That's how we got this building. Every member of the MCLA community and our extended community, from folks living in North Adams to business leaders to legislators and the governor all began to just say, "This has to happen." It's a life lesson about how we should do our work: having a clear message and a distinct vision for where you're going to go.

The day we cut the ribbon – I'm not one who surprises very easily, but the energy in this building was astounding. On that day, every floor in the atrium was filled with people cheering. We had more than 400 people, including the governor. I looked up and I saw the entire women's soccer team up there in the balcony giving me a thumbs up. That level of enthusiasm blew me away.

MCM: What are some of the major accomplishments you achieved during your time as president?

MKG: Listing greatest accomplishments is not something I'm really comfortable with. But if I had to, I'd say that making MCLA a first-choice school for students is something I'm very proud of. And when I think of the financial support we've received from donors, that's a huge accomplishment. People give to organizations and institutions they trust and they believe in. They see it as an investment, not as an expense.

Another thing I'm proud of is how we've been able to improve our athletic facilities. For my first few years, when our team was playing a home game, it was never at home. We'd go to local high school fields.

Athletes and coaches care about that. We restored the existing fields with artificial turf. We relied on private donations to get them restored and to build a press box. Now we bring in community groups to our fields. We also restored the tennis courts, and now our tennis team is winning. There's a connection between those things. We now have some of the best fields in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

And I'd also have to mention our new building on Ashland Street for our Facilities Department. Now our facilities employees have a place to do their very best work.

I also think about the caliber of the faculty and staff that choose to be here, that's an accomplishment. People have choices just like students. We have faculty who are experts in their field and passionate about engaging with our students. They choose to be here because of the mission of the institution and the work they get to do, that's something I'm very proud of.

And finally, I think about when I received an honorary doctorate from Williams College two years ago. It wasn't about me, it was about MCLA. That felt like a pretty good day.

MCM: Did you create the tagline “My College, Right From the Start”?

MKG: That happened on my watch, but I did not sit down and think it up. We went through a branding exercise.

The other thing that has been very encouraging is that in the last several years we’ve been able to get alumni to reconnect with the College. That is so important. They’re the folks that can be advocates, owners, supporters. The generation of students who are here now – you guys are leaving here feeling connected to the place.

Last year at graduation I was so confused. I kept seeing students who I thought had already graduated. They said, “We did! We’re just back for graduation.” That’s just fantastic.

MCM: Why are you going to the University of North Carolina?

MKG: It’s a great institution. When a great opportunity finds you, and you find it, you really have to explore it. UNC Asheville is an incredibly strong institution. Like MCLA, it’s one of the top 10 public liberal arts colleges in the country. The values feel alike. People care about it: deeply committed faculty, hardworking staff, and students who believe they’ve found the right place.

It’s an opportunity for me to learn some more and to challenge myself in new ways. Traveling and living in a new part of the country – talk about a challenge! I won’t know where I’m driving. You can put me in any city or town in Massachusetts and I can find my way around. My GPS will be a very close companion as I get started in North Carolina.

MCM: Can you tell us about some of your memorable interactions with students?

MKG: I attended a lot of theater productions. There were a couple of shows I went to over the years when the students knew I was in the theater. One time, I was watching a performance of “Rent” and the students gave me a shout-out from the stage, which totally blew me away. I felt a sense of pride as well as respect and affection.

You know, something interesting happened in 2008 when Bob Woodward of *The Washington Post* delivered one of our public policy lectures. We had a chance to have a cup of coffee before his lecture, and I asked him if he would mind autographing my book. And he said sure. And later in the day, I was looking at the book, and I saw he wrote, “To PMG, from Bob Woodward.” Now, I never told him that the students call me “PMG.” He had heard it from the students during the day. And that really touched me.

And I remember when I recently went to Midnight Madness, which kicks off the men’s and women’s basketball seasons. I have a big line, which I practice all year, which is, “Go Trailblazers.” This one year, I was in the gym, and the cheerleaders were wearing blue and gold ribbons and they ran over to me and promptly put my hair in a ribbon. Now I’m not much of a ribbon person, but it was all done with great spirit, and I wore it on my wrist. They were just excited and filled with school spirit. I thought it was really kind of neat they were bringing me into the moment.

This year, I met with the students who retraced the steps of the Freedom Riders during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The students had made a book of photos of their experiences and they had written me a beautiful note. I almost wept when I read it. You don’t do this kind of work because you expect that. You do it because you want the students to have the right educational experience. When the students say, “Let’s do something more,” that’s the unexpected bonus you get.

MCM: How do you want to be remembered at MCLA?

MKG: I want to be remembered for having made a difference and for having really cared about the place and its people and for doing my very best to take some great ingredients and make it even stronger. That’s the best any of us could do. The goal is to leave it better and stronger than you found it, with people ready to take next steps. I hope to be remembered as someone who made a difference and genuinely and authentically cared.

MCM: What are MCLA’s ongoing challenges?

MKG: It’s public higher education, so there are always going to be challenges with funding cycles from year to year and what’s going to happen with the next budget or the next election cycle. The difference is we’re stronger and better positioned to weather those ups and downs.

And you have to continue to grow. If you stay where you are you get stagnant. But it shouldn’t just be growth for growth’s sake. It’s about really understanding how to build on your strengths. MCLA also has to adapt to a changing marketplace. There are fewer traditional-age college students, and greater numbers of older students and students returning to higher education.

MCM: What is your advice to your successor?

MKG: Build relationships. Trust the people you work with every day. Have fun with it. Go out and get to know the students. Listen – but remember you don't have to follow everybody's advice. Be careful about separating long- and short-term goals. There's an impatience to try to get everything done right away, but you have to take the long view. Identify where you want to go. And always know that you're in a special place.

MCM: What will you miss most about the Berkshires?

MKG: The Hairpin Turn – and always being thankful that my brakes are working [laugh]. Really, it's the people. We are in the best part of Massachusetts. This is the most beautiful part of the state. We are so fortunate, and then you take this beautiful part of the state and you put all these great people in it. I'm going to miss the graciousness and warmth of this community – and then the beauty. Every season. If you get out in the winters, you'll enjoy it. Last winter, which was one of the coldest we've had for a while, almost every day I tried to get my dog out for a walk, in knee-deep snow in the woods. You have to embrace it. I'm sure there will be times that I enjoy the warmer weather but other times when I will really miss it. I'm giving away down jackets, by the way.

MCM: What are some of your fondest memories of MCLA?

MKG: I think back to the crucial women's championship basketball game at Bridgewater State University in 2010. We packed the stands and won, advancing to the state finals. After winning the championship, the girls asked me to come out of the stands and help cut down the net from the basket. It could have been a dangerous moment because I was holding scissors, climbing a ladder, and crying all at once.

That was poignant. It was symbolic of how far we'd come as an institution, the strength of our athletic programs, and school pride – it was a lot more than a simple championship game.

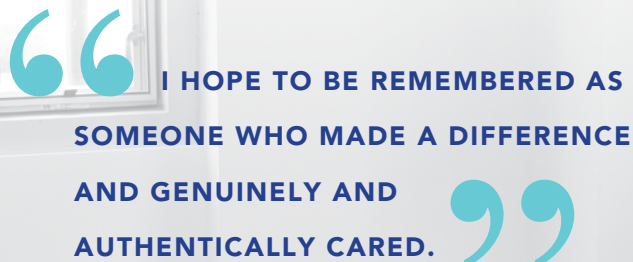
I also remember something that happened recently. I was on my way home from the Boston area and I really needed a cup of coffee. I went to a Barnes and Noble store in Braintree to buy a CD for the ride home – Earth, Wind and Fire – and while I was getting my coffee, two graduates came up and started hugging me. Those moments really tie things together for me.

MCM: Is there anything else you'd like to share with the MCLA community as you embark on your new journey?

MKG: I want to thank the members of the MCLA community for the opportunity to serve in this role for so many years. And for how welcome they've made me and my husband Jim feel here.

Things are different here from when I started. We have hard-won financial stability. Three endowed faculty chairs. We've brought in money to support civic engagement, and financial aid for students. We just had one of our biggest freshman classes come in. We have two brand new buildings. We have faculty who are nationally recognized experts, and MCLA is a leader in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges. These are the markers of success.

When I came here 12 years ago, individuals on campus were connected to the community and making a difference. Now, all of MCLA is committed to the community and the community is connected to us. The community thinks of MCLA as a whole. They know the institution and that is vital to the community. That really matters.



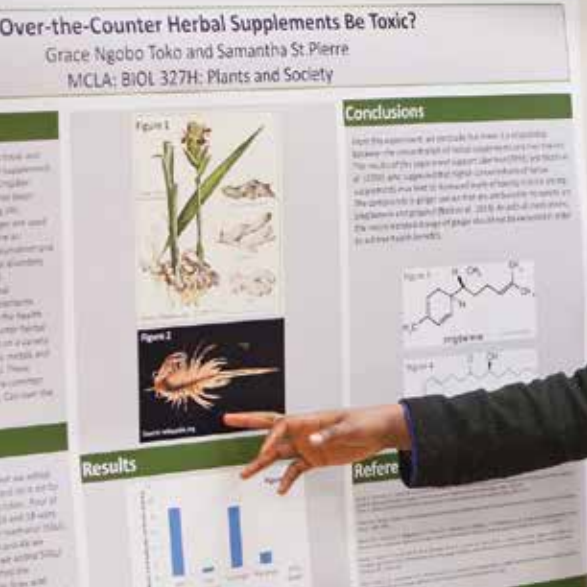
**I HOPE TO BE REMEMBERED AS
SOMEONE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE
AND GENUINELY AND
AUTHENTICALLY CARED.**



The Year in Review **2014**



*A bird joins the 114th
Commencement festivities in 2013*



College Hosts First Summer Undergraduate Research Institute

According to Dr. Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs, “Undergraduate research provides students with multiple benefits, including sharpening critical thinking and problem-solving skills.” She added, “It promotes a culture of innovation.”

That innovative spirit was on display in 2014 when MCLA held a summer undergraduate research institute. Through the institute, students had the opportunity to pursue independent research while working with faculty mentors. The science-themed program enabled students to work closely with MCLA faculty members on projects the students ultimately will present at the spring 2015 Undergraduate Research Conference.

Elizabeth Pitroff '15 worked with Dr. Justin Golub, professor of biology, to examine learning in embryonic zebrafish. They exposed the unhatched fish to smells that might represent predators and other non-threatening chemical smells. They examined the behavior of the fish after hatching, to determine whether the embryos were able to learn.

“I learned to formulate an experimental design and carry out the procedure,” said Pitroff, who hopes to be a pediatrician. “I also learned techniques in animal care, breeding, and maintaining an experiment.”

12th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference Celebrates Student Inquiry

From a new approach to teaching students science to an examination of the tactics employed by abolitionists in antebellum America, innovative student research projects shined at the 12th annual Undergraduate Research Conference held in April 2014. Student projects – and presentations in the form of posters, talks, and performances – reflected a range of interests in the arts and humanities, as well as sciences.

“Our students pursue their academic interests in collaboration with dedicated faculty, and they gain confidence and experience as they prepare for life after college,” said Dr. Anthony Daly, professor of history at MCLA.

English major Rachel Maher of North Bennington, Vt., presented a paper examining author Toni Morrison and her novel, *Jazz*, set in 1920s Harlem. “I examined dualities within the novel and also within Morrison herself,” said Maher. “The more I learn about Morrison, the more fearless I feel about my own writing.”

MCLA Adds Women's Lacrosse

Lacrosse continues to grow in popularity at the high school level, with many players interested in continuing to play in college. Capitalizing on this opportunity, MCLA this year added women's lacrosse to its NCAA Division III and Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) lineup.

"Lacrosse is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country," said Director of Athletics Scott Nichols, noting that lacrosse has grown faster at the high school level than any other varsity sport. "It's a perfect fit for us, for MASCAC, and for our region." Several Berkshire County high schools added lacrosse in 2012.

Considered America's first game, lacrosse originated among Native American tribes. College students began playing lacrosse in the 19th century. "Lacrosse is a fast-paced game with lots of scoring and running," said Dr. Maria Bartini, professor of psychology and the Trailblazer lacrosse coach. Bartini, who holds a U.S. Lacrosse Level Two coaching certification noted that, "our students have been eager to be able to play competitively since we began our women's lacrosse program as a club last year."

With the addition of lacrosse, MCLA currently fields seven NCAA Division III women's teams, including soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, softball, and cross-country.

Building Continues

at MCLA

The state bond that funded the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation also included funds to renovate Bowman Hall, designed in the 20th century Brutalist architectural style that once was extremely popular on university campuses. The \$15 million renovation project will transform the 1970 building with enhanced classroom spaces, new windows, lights, installation of an elevator, updated heating and cooling systems, and a new art gallery space.

The renovated Bowman will house classroom and office space for the art, computer science, and mathematics departments. As part of the classroom renovations, classroom technology will be upgraded, serving as a template for academic technology across the campus. In addition to academic departments, the office of Academic Affairs will move into Bowman following the renovation.

While Bowman Hall is expected to open in 2015, several new campus spaces opened their doors in 2014. In March, the facilities department moved into a new, \$2 million building on Ashland Street. At the ribbon cutting for the building Thomas DeGray, a maintenance foreman who has worked at MCLA for 30 years, noted "Now we have a place of our own." In addition to providing administrative and meeting space for the facilities team, the new building features shop spaces for the grounds, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and motor crews.

The 12,000-square-foot building features extensive use of green technologies, including LED lighting, skylights, and high-efficiency heating, air-conditioning and hot water heating systems. It features colors and shapes that echo the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, which opened in 2013.

President Grant said that when the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) completed its accreditation review of MCLA in early 2014, it cited the facilities team for the quality of their work and the pride they took in the campus. "That's the difference they make in this living, learning institution," she said.

Another group welcomed into a new campus home in 2014 was student veterans. The College opened a new Veterans Resource Center in Venable Hall as a gathering and resource center for those who served in the military. Student veterans make up the fastest-growing segment of the statewide higher-education student population. "With the opening of the center, we now have a space to get together, work together and support each other," said Brian Nelson, a student veteran and a member of the Class of 2015.



MCLA

MCLA Receives Prestigious Grants

In a development that further strengthens MCLA's commitment to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, the College earned a Scholarship in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The nearly \$640,000 grant will fund MCLA's STEM Pathways program, which provides scholarships and academic, enrichment, and career development support to students.

"An increasing number of the College's students are graduating with STEM degrees," said Dr. Monica Joslin, dean of academic affairs. "Extending access to our STEM programs to talented students with financial need is an important part of MCLA's mission as the Commonwealth's public liberal arts college. Providing scholarships for academically strong STEM students who may not otherwise be able to afford college will positively impact the number of STEM graduates prepared to help Massachusetts companies as they generate life-changing innovations."

Through the S-STEM scholarships, the agency is working to help the country address a deficit of graduates in the STEM disciplines. STEM graduates are considered crucial to maintaining the nation's lead in science and technology-based fields in the global economy. MCLA's S-STEM grant will last through July 2019.

Separately, MCLA received a grant from Berkshire United Way to help support Berkshire County Goes to College, a unique program that enables sixth graders to get their first glimpse of higher education. An event organized by the Berkshire Compact for Education every April, Berkshire County Goes to College brings approximately 1,200 sixth graders to a college campus in the County. During their daylong visits, students get a taste of academics, extracurricular activities and campus life, and learn about the importance of a college education. Participating institutions include MCLA, Bard College at Simon's Rock, Berkshire Community College (BCC), and Williams College.

Science Education Collaboration

MCLA has embarked upon on a collaborative, four-year project with Williams College and North Adams Public Schools (NAPS) that allows the undergraduates at both colleges to work with science professors and NAPS teachers, as we continue to fuel the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) pipeline. Funded by an \$810,876 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), this partnership allows our undergraduates to develop science units based on the Next Generation Science Standards, and teach curriculum to youth in grades K-7.

President Mary Grant Wins NEBHE State Merit Award

President Mary Grant was awarded the Massachusetts State Merit Award from the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) in March. The award recognized Grant for her leadership on behalf of higher education and the advancement of educational opportunity in the Commonwealth.

In announcing the award, the board said, "Under Grant's leadership, MCLA has expanded academic programming and facilities; provided students with new study away, internship, research, and service opportunities; overseen growth in enrollment; strengthened the connections between the College and the community; launched the College's first comprehensive capital campaign; and become part of the Massachusetts State University System. In response to these initiatives, MCLA has been designated a top ten public liberal arts college for the last three years."

The board also cited Grant's pivotal role in funding and building the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, and her efforts to promote the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines throughout the Commonwealth.

"Mary Grant's tireless efforts have helped MCLA stand out as one of the top public liberal arts institutions in America," said NEBHE president and chief executive Michael K. Thomas.



President Mary K. Grant with Jim Canavan





Artists at MCLA

Traveling more than 5,000 miles to North Adams, Egyptian artist Alaa Awad faced one of his greatest challenges. Not only was he mounting a one-person show at MCLA's Gallery 51. He was also called upon to paint his largest work ever – a 60-foot-long mural on the Route 2 overpass adjacent to the Berkshire Juvenile Court.

The outdoor setting was appropriate. Awad gained international fame for graffiti art and murals made during the Tahrir Square protests in Cairo during the 2011 revolution against Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak. Awad left his post as a teacher at the Luxor Faculty of Fine Arts – he is also a graduate – and painted numerous graffiti murals to commemorate the spirit of the revolution.

Awad uses a visual lexicon that draws heavily on ancient and traditional Egyptian symbols and figures from the time of the pharaohs. While these are familiar images, they tell contemporary stories. In *Marching Women*, Awad adapted a painting inside a temple in Luxor, Egypt, to show the strong role that women played in Egypt's past and to remember those women who participated in the 2011 uprising. "We cannot know our future if we forget our past," said Awad. The North Adams work is his first commissioned mural in the United States.

Awad's mural and exhibition was just one highlight of the exceptionally rich DownStreet Art season in 2014. Organized by MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC), DownStreet Art continued its mission of economic revitalization in North Adams through events, exhibitions and new public art in vacant spaces.

In addition to Awad's mural, Washington, D.C., artist Corwin Levi unveiled *Circumnavigating Through*, a mural on the Route 2 overpass above Marshall Street. North Adams artist Jarvis Rockwell, the eldest son of beloved illustrator Norman Rockwell, presented a new installation at the CONcourse Gallery at 85 Main Street. Other artists featured in exhibits included John Michael Bird, Julia Forrest, Angela McQuillen, Leah Grimaldi O'Ryan, and Doug Paisley.

DownStreet Art creative and economic development missions received support and recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2014. NEA awarded the project a \$10,000 "Art Works" program grant. "Receiving funding from the NEA validates in a very public way the hard work that so many are doing to revitalize North Adams, utilizing the creative economy and the arts as a tool," said Jonathan Secor, MCLA director of special projects.



Nicholas Kristof Gives Hardman Lecture

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Nicholas Kristof presented "Reporting the Truths of the World" as this fall's Hardman Lecture. Kristof spoke about his life as an activist and journalist, and discussed the ways he has worked to make a difference in the world through the written word.

A *New York Times* journalist, Kristof co-wrote 'Half the Sky' with his wife, Sheryl WuDunn. Their best-selling book explores the challenges and oppressions that face women and girls around the globe.

In 1991 Kristof and WuDunn became the first husband and wife team to win a Pulitzer Prize for journalism for their coverage of China's Tiananmen Square democracy movement. Kristof won his second Pulitzer in 2006 for what judges called "his graphic, deeply reported columns that, at personal risk, focused attention on genocide in Darfur and that gave voice to the voiceless in other parts of the world."

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



Dr. Yu Wang of Shanghai Visits MCLA

MCLA deepened its partnership with the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics (SUIBE) when visiting scholar Dr. Yu Wang taught the course "Chinese and World Literature" in the summer of 2014. "I really wanted to teach a course here on Chinese culture," said Wang, associate professor at SUIBE's School of Languages. "It helped MCLA students get to know my university and my country, and it was a good starting point for more exchanges between our two institutions."

Vice President of Academic Affairs Cynthia Brown with visiting professor Yu Wang and her daughter, Jiazhen Chao

Gloria Steinem Lecture

Gloria Steinem, the legendary feminist, journalist, author, activist and organizer, spoke to a capacity crowd at the Church Street Center in March 2014, as part of MCLA's Public Policy Lecture Series. Throughout her long public career Steinem has challenged established concepts of gender roles, advocated for equality, and spoken out against inequality and violence. She enthralled the MCLA audience with a forcefully delivered social critique, stating "Hierarchy is based on patriarchy, and patriarchy doesn't work anymore."

Steinem is perhaps best known as co-founder of *Ms. Magazine* and has been the public face of *Ms.* for many years. She also was instrumental in founding the Women's Action Alliance, the National Women's Political Caucus, and Take Our Daughters to Work Day.

Steinem's Public Policy Lecture Series presentation was made possible by the support of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. The lecture also served as part of MCLA's Creating Equality series, "a celebration and exploration of the legacy and the continued currency of movements for social justice and change."



Jose Antonio Vargas Delivers Public Policy Lecture

For more than a decade, Jose Antonio Vargas wrote stories for some of this country's most prestigious news organizations as he lived a double life as an undocumented immigrant. As the featured speaker for the Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture, this Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist discussed the debate surrounding immigration.

Part of the *Washington Post* team that won the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 2008 Virginia Tech shootings, Vargas also has written for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Rolling Stone*, among others, and has appeared on CNN, ABC News, and "PBS NewsHour."

The Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture is supported through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.







Expanding Opportunities for Service

With a strategic commitment to public purpose and engagement, MCLA provides students with opportunities to get involved and to make a difference in their communities. MCLA's service programs offer students a wide array of choices to pitch in a block away – or in another country. "There's a huge cadre of civically engaged students at MCLA," said Spencer Moser, director of the Center for Service and Citizenship. "We work in partnership with community organizations to address local needs, whether they are here in North Adams, across the country, or globally." Increasingly, said Moser, service opportunities are combined with academic experiences, providing "very transformative, out-of-classroom high-impact experiences."

For instance, students pursuing careers in teaching often participate in a program that puts them in elementary school classrooms in North Adams, assisting teachers by helping young students who need extra attention. "I work with the MCLA faculty to ensure that service learning has an academic component that is clearly tied to the content of a course the students are taking," said Moser.

Vice President of Student Affairs Charlotte Degen and Director of the Center for Service and Citizenship Spencer Moser

Adventurous students have participated in Alternative Spring Break programs that have taken them to Navajo reservations, New Orleans, Belize, and Mexico. Those volunteering close to campus have helped out at local shelters, worked in the local food pantry, cleaned North Adams parks, and tutored local students. The common denominator is the generous spirit of service present in MCLA students. Last year, as many as 2,000 MCLA students participated in service activities; the estimated value of their time and their commitment exceeded \$500,000.



B-HIP Marks Tenth Anniversary

The Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) celebrated its tenth anniversary during the summer of 2014. B-HIP, a transformative experience for students pursuing arts management careers, has now enabled more than 135 students to work and learn their trade at the many world-class cultural landmarks in Berkshire County, including the Berkshire Museum, the Clark Art Institute, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), Shakespeare & Company, and Tanglewood, as well as MCLA Gallery 51 and PRESS Gallery.

The program, part of MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC), provides unique training for students outside of large urban art centers such as New York and Los Angeles. "We continue to attract a broad range of people in different stages of their careers," said Jonathan Secor, director of BCRC. "Importantly, more than 30 percent of B-HIP graduates stay in the Berkshires, working in culture and the arts. B-HIP is a true success story in terms of training, job placement, and professional development."

Celebration, Remembrance at Commencement 2014

President Mary Grant capped off a spirited commencement celebration for the Class of 2014 when she whipped out her cell phone, turned her back on the crowd, and snapped a quick selfie with more than 400 graduates.

President Grant also remembered Rebecca Haskell, a student who passed away just days before commencement. She presented Haskell's diploma to her mother and two sons.

Dr. Charles Desmond, chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, inspired students with a tale of personal redemption in his commencement address. He recounted how he dropped out of Boston University and later was drafted and served in the Vietnam War.

"I promised God that if I survived, I would try to do something better for the rest of my life," said Desmond.

"There's something about being close to death that makes you think differently about life."

A celebrated educator and champion of educational access, Desmond was awarded an honorary doctor of public service degree.

Others awarded honorary degrees included Lila Berle, a dedicated land conservationist and lifelong farmer from Berkshire County, who received an honorary doctor of humanities; Michael Christopher '73, former president and chief operating officer for Legacy Banks, who received an honorary doctor of public service; and Michael Conforti, director of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, who received an honorary doctor of fine arts.





*Vice President of Student Affairs
Charlotte Degen with students*

A Lifetime of **Service**

The campus was different when Charlotte Degen of Astoria, N.Y., arrived at MCLA – then called North Adams State College – as a freshman in 1969.

“It was tiny,” recalled Degen. “There was Murdock Hall and Bowman Hall and that was about it. There was a girl’s dorm and a boy’s dorm. There was so little space that students were living in the lounges.”

Degen came with a vision to pursue a career in teaching. However, after earning a master’s degree at Springfield College, she was invited to interview for a position at North Adams State. She got the job and built a career.

Degen retired in 2014 after 40 years at MCLA, leaving a powerful and profound legacy. “Charlotte created many programs and participated in many initiatives that have

become part of the fabric and culture of the campus,” said President Mary K. Grant.

Among Degen’s many contributions were the First Year Experience, the Student Development Program, the Susan B. Anthony Women’s Center, and the Multicultural Resource Center. But it was during a period of relationship building between students and residents of North Adams that Degen launched one of her most impactful programs on the school and the community.

“Undergraduates are at an age when they are particularly interested in contributing to make things better,” she said. “We created a volunteer center that capitalized on students’ generous spirits, and created an environment where students could develop leadership skills.”

Established in 1993, the volunteer center grew into the Center for Service and Citizenship. Its flagship program of community days of service has had a profound impact on the city of North Adams. Today, MCLA students contribute more than 21,000 hours of community service each year; each of three annual community service days attracts hundreds of students and community members. Volunteers have worked at a North Adams food pantry, helped maintain a local cemetery, painted playgrounds and bleachers, and read stories to children. Under a program called The Write Stuff, middle school students from North Adams come to MCLA classrooms and work with undergraduates to improve their speaking and writing skills.

"Students appreciate North Adams as a special place in the world, very different from home for most of them," said Degen. "They feel good about being here."

North Adams mayor Richard Alcombright said Degen and the programs she launched have had a big impact. "As part of her mission, Charlotte was instrumental in making certain that her students understood that they were not just students at MCLA but also residents of the City of North Adams and the greater region," said Alcombright. "Charlotte worked hard to have students understand their importance and relevance both on and off campus. This is shown by the numbers of students who mentored children in our schools, spent time working on community projects, worked on youth programming with the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and so much more." Alcombright noted, "I always thought Charlotte's greatest asset is her ability to truly care about each and every student she has served."

Degen has given thought to writing a book and spending more time with her husband, who retired several years ago. But she said she'll miss the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with others to improve life on campus and in North Adams.

"There's no replacing the privilege of working with a team," she said. "To pull together each person's contributions and then see the whole actually come to fruition. It's exciting, and I'm going to miss it."



Curtain Call

It's been a decade of growth and innovation for MCLA's arts and cultural programs. The College's commitment to creativity as an economic development engine resonates on campus, in the local community, and across Berkshire County.

Jonathan Secor came to the College because of President Grant's vision for the arts. As director of special projects, he helped establish MCLA Gallery 51, launched the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP), and worked to secure the grant funding that established the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC), where he served as director.

Today, as Secor pursues a new endeavor in New York City, his dedication and expertise have offered MCLA students access to myriad educational and professional development opportunities; provided presenting opportunities to nationally and internationally known visual and performing artists; and connected the College to the city of North Adams, attracting new visitors – and new businesses – to Main Street.

As we look forward to the promising next chapter for MCLA's cultural programs, we are grateful to Secor for his many contributions. President Grant put it best: It takes the seed of an idea and the right person, at the right time, to make surprising – and powerful – things happen.



Transitions

Our colleagues at MCLA continue to step up wherever they are needed. As we search for our next president, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Cynthia Brown, vice president of academic affairs, interim president.

In addition to sharing President Mary K. Grant's vision for MCLA, Brown has a comprehensive understanding of the projects ahead for the campus. She also brings to this new responsibility a genuine caring for each student at MCLA and for the entire campus community, which will serve MCLA well as the College moves forward.

Dr. Monica Joslin will serve as interim vice president of academic affairs, while she continues to serve as dean of academic affairs. In addition, she will provide leadership to the Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) and the Registrar's Office, both of which have been realigned with the Academic Affairs division.

Joslin demonstrates a genuine passion, unyielding energy, and enthusiasm for MCLA's students and their success. Her steadfast commitment and dedication ensures Academic Affairs will continue to be well-served during this time of the transition.

Following the retirement of Charlotte Degen, Theresa O'Bryant '86, associate dean of students, has assumed the role of interim vice president of student affairs. Also an attorney, O'Bryant brings to this role a keen understanding of MCLA's students and their needs within the campus community.

The search for the Vice President of Student Affairs will overlap the search for the new president of MCLA, with goal of the next president making the final decision.

We appreciate and look forward to the leadership of these fine colleagues during this time of transformation.



From left, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Theresa O'Bryant, Esq., Interim President Dr. Cynthia Brown, and Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Monica Joslin.

The Retirees

We said farewell in 2014 to some good friends and valued colleagues, all of whom served the College for decades. We deeply appreciate their service and their dedication to MCLA. We will miss their camaraderie and their contributions to the campus community. We thank them for their many years of service.

Charlotte Degen, student affairs

**H. Benjamin Jacques,
English/communications professor**

Edward Miano, accounting professor

Welcome

New Faculty

Dr. Sarah Herrick, biology

*B.S., physical education, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Conn.
M.S., exercise physiology, Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.
Ph.D., physical education, Springfield College, Springfield, Mass.*

Dr. Kerri Nicoll, sociology/anthropology/social work

*B.A., English creative writing, Connecticut College, New London, Conn.
M.A., social work, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practices,
Philadelphia, Pa.
M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.
Ph.D., social work, University of Michigan Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and
Political Science, Ann Arbor, Mich.*

Dr. Jenna Sciuto, English/communications

*B.A., literature and cultures in English, Brown University, Providence, R.I.
M.A., English and American literature, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Ph.D., English, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass.*

Diane Scott, fine and performing arts

*B.A., communications/speech and theater, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan.
M.B.A., Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan.*

Dr. Thomas Whalen, business administration

*B.S., systems engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
M.S., management, Troy University, Troy, Ala.
Ph.D., leadership studies, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash.*



MCLA Welcomes New Trustee Lisa Chamberlain

This year the College welcomed Lisa Chamberlain as the newest member of the MCLA Board of Trustees. A managing partner of the Chamberlain Group, based in Great Barrington, MA, she plays an integral role in the Berkshires' innovation economy, and brings with her specialized experience and management skills that blend artistry with technology. We look forward to the contributions she will make to our campus as a member of this Board, and appreciate her commitment to public higher education in the Commonwealth.

The background of the image is a whiteboard filled with handwritten mathematical work. It features a coordinate plane with several points plotted and labeled. The points are: (0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2), (2, 3), (3, 2), (3, 3), and (3, 4). The labels for these points are written in a mix of Arabic and English characters, such as 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H', 'I', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'M', 'N', 'O', 'P', 'Q', 'R', 'S', 'T', 'U', 'V', 'W', 'X', 'Y', 'Z'. The word 'achievements' is overlaid in a large, bold, blue font across the center of the whiteboard.

achievements

A view into one of the state-of-the-art classrooms in the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation

Students

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Margaret Allen '18

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Volleyball
Rookie of the Week

Ryan Baker '18

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Soccer
Sportsmanship Award

Anthony Basile '17

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Soccer
Player of the Week
Second Team All-MASCAC

Edward Boateng '17

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Soccer
Second Team All-MASCAC

Natalie Caney '17

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Soccer
Second Team All-MASCAC

Emily Deaso '18

North Atlantic Conference, Tennis
Second Team All-NAC Doubles

Michaela DiNicola '16

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Softball
Second Team All-MASCAC

Paige Fairman '17

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Soccer
Sportsmanship Award

Sarah Mikutowicz '18

North Atlantic Conference, Tennis
First Team All-NAC Doubles
Second Team All-NAC Singles
Player of the Week
Rookie of the Week

Sarah Murphy '15

North Atlantic Conference, Tennis
First Team All-NAC Singles
First Team All-NAC Doubles
Player of the Week

Brianne O'Rourke '18

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Volleyball
Rookie of the Week

Jackie Paluilis '16

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Volleyball
Sportsmanship Award

Brendan Peltier '15

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Cross Country
Sportsmanship Award

Dylan Pereira '17

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Soccer
Player of the Week
Second Team All-MASCAC

Chase Preite '15

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Baseball
Second Team All-MASCAC

Rachel Quakenbush '17

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Softball
First Team All-MASCAC

Mariza Sfakianaki '18

North Atlantic Conference, Tennis
Second Team All-NAC Singles
Second Team All-NAC Doubles

Rory Slattery '15

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Baseball
Second Team All-MASCAC

Rob Wabshinak '17

North Atlantic Conference, Tennis
Second Team All-NAC

Nick Young '18

North Atlantic Conference, Golf
Second Team All-NAC
Rookie of the Week
Rookie of the Year

CONFERENCES & INSTITUTES

Jessica Baglione '14

Poster Presentation
National Conference on Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Danielle Bloh '15

Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

James Chapman '15

Poster Presentation
American Astronomical Society
Washington, D.C.

"Chemical Graph Theory Research"

MCLA's Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Institute

Chris Cozzaglio '16

2014-15 Regional Board of Directors
Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
Elizabeth Diaz '16
National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Liz Doughty '15

Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

Tanisha Drysdale '17

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Intervarsity Fall Retreat with MCLA

Christian Fellowship
Toah Nipi, Rindge, NH

Joelle Dumont '16

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Macy Fredericksen '15

Poster Presentations
Northeast Natural History Conference
Springfield, MA

National Conference on Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Brittany Gallacher '16

National College Merit Convention
Philadelphia, PA

Dahlia Gallagher '16

Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Alison Gilbert '16

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Kyla Graves '16

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Justina Jordano '16

American Sociological Association's
Honors Program, Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA

Intervarsity Fall Retreat with MCLA
Christian Fellowship
Toah Nipi, Rindge, NH

Alexandra Kadell '16

Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Kurtiss Keefner '14

Poster Presentation
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Alexander Lopez '16

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Andrea Martin '16

Intervarsity Fall Retreat with
MCLA Christian Fellowship
Toah Nipi, Rindge, NH

Andrew Martin '14

Poster Presentation
National Conferences on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Lindsay Maselli '17

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Michael McCormick '14

Poster Presentation
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Kelsey McGonigle '16

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Makayla-Courtney McGeeney '16

National College Merit Convention
Philadelphia, PA

Bentley Munsell '15

Poster Presentation
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Andrew Nelson '15

"Chemical Graph Theory Research"
MCLA's Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Institute

Devon O'Dowd '14

Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Rebecca Patterson '17

Northeast Affiliate of College and University
Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

Intervarsity Fall Retreat with
MCLA Christian Fellowship
Toah Nipi, Rindge, NH

Brendan Peltier '15

Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Elizabeth Pitroff '15

"Assessment of Embryonic Learning &
Response to Chemical Stimuli Inside the
Egg by Zebrafish"
MCLA's Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Institute

Samantha Pierre '14

Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Gabriella Prata '16

2014-15 National Communications
Coordinator
Northeast Affiliate of College and
University Residence Halls
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

National Association of College and
University Residence Halls
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Francesca Rodriguez '16

National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Stephan Rochefort '14

Poster Presentation
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Aunna Shamlan '17

Northeast Affiliate of College and
University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

TaylorJae Taber '17

Northeast Natural History Conference
Springfield, MA

Abigail Torrey '16

Northeast Affiliate of College and
University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

Ashley White '14

Poster Presentation
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Timothy Williams '17

Northeast Affiliate of College and University
Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Daniel Wolfe '18

Intervarsity Fall Retreat with
MCLA Christian Fellowship
Toah Nipi, Rindge, NH

Brittany Wood '15

Northeast Affiliate of College and
University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

AWARDS**Deanna Boucher '15**

Newman Civic Fellow

Dominick Cooper '15

Best Position Paper
Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Lucille Germain '16

Top Ten Program Award for Presentation
North East Affiliate of College and
University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

Jerry Kiahon '14

29 Who Shine
State House, Boston, MA

Makayla-Courtney McGeeney '16

James A. Hardman Scholar
MCLA

Stephan Rochefort '14

Outstanding Delegate
Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Faculty & Staff

AWARDS

Dr. Ellen Barber, Education
Susan B. Anthony Women's Center
Inaugural "One of Us" Award
MCLA

Jennifer Craig, Student Affairs
National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

Dr. Mary K. Grant
Cultural Competence Award
Multicultural BRIDGE Cultural Competence
& Community Stewardship Awards
Lenox, MA

Positive Youth Development Award
Berkshire United Way
Lenox, MA

Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed, History
Berkshire Award
Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

**Dr. Robert Bence, Political Science
& Public Policy Emeritus**
Model United Nations Conference
University of Toronto, Canada

Dr. Ann Billetz, Biology
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

Dr. Cynthia Brown, Academic Affairs
Discussion Leader: Unpacking the Standards –
Advancing Educator Preparation
Department of Higher Education &
Department of Elementary and Secondary
Education
Westborough, MA

**Dr. Sumi Colligan,
Anthropology/Sociology**
Presentation
Society of Disability Studies
Minneapolis, MN

Pamela Contakos, Freel Library
American Library Association Conference
Las Vegas, NV

Marianne Drake, Advancement
Presentation: Ethics in Fundraising
Association for Fundraising Professionals
Holyoke, MA

Dr. Elizabeth Hartung, Math
Presentation
Society of Industrial & Applied Mathematics
Minneapolis, MN

Dr. Christopher Himes, Education, STEM
Leading for Change Conference
Bridgewater State University

Dr. Ely Janis, History
Presentation
American Conference for Irish Studies
Dublin, Ireland

Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed, History
Women's Studies Technology Workshop
College Park, MD

**Glenn Lawson,
Library Circulation Services**
Irish Rugby Football Union
Collegiate Rugby Club & Team Development
Conference
Dublin, Ireland

**Spencer Moser, Center for Service
and Citizenship**
Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges
Summer Institute
University of North Carolina-Asheville

**Prof. Melanie Mowinski,
Fine & Performing Arts**
Paper Presentation
Design Principles and Practices Conference
Vancouver, Canada

Michael Obasohan, Student Affairs
National Association for Campus Activities
Hartford, CT

**Dr. Gerol Petruzella,
Academic Technology**
Supporting Faculty Teaching Online Workshop
Northeast Regional Computing Program
Norwood, MA

Deb Raber, Athletics/ Soccer
Roundtable Discussion Participant
National Soccer Coaches Association of
America, Annual Convention
Philadelphia, PA

**Dr. Graziana Ramsden,
Modern Languages**
National Conference on
Undergraduate Research
University of Kentucky-Lexington

**Dr. Ben Taylor, Political Science
& Public Policy**
Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges
Summer Institute
University of North Carolina-Asheville

Dr. Elena Traister, Environmental Sciences
Northeast Natural History Conference
Springfield, MA

INSTITUTES, MEETINGS & SEMINARS

Dr. Ann Billetz, Biology
Annual Council of Public Liberal Arts
Conference
Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO

Annual Meeting, Association of
American Colleges and Universities
Washington, D.C.

Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Institute
MCLA

Dr. Mariana Bolivar, Modern Languages
Annual Council of Public Liberal Arts
Conference
Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO

Dr. Cynthia Brown, Academic Affairs
Annual Meeting, Association of
American Colleges and Universities
Washington, D.C.

**Dr. Karen Cardozo,
Interdisciplinary Studies**
National Women's Studies Association
Curriculum Institute
Cincinnati, OH

Dr. Mark Cohen, Computer Science
Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Institute
MCLA

**Dr. Sumi Colligan,
Anthropology/Sociology**
Panel Discussion Participant
Annual Meeting, Association of American
Colleges and Universities
Washington, D.C.

Council on International Educational Exchange
Faculty Development Seminar
"Women, Tradition and Revolution"
Amman, Jordan

Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges
Summer Institute
University of North Carolina-Asheville

Dr. Justin Golub, Biology
Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Institute
MCLA

Dr. Elizabeth Hartung, Math
Annual Summer Undergraduate
Research Institute
MCLA

Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges
Summer Institute
University of North Carolina-Asheville

Kayla Hollins, Admissions
Presentation, Professional Development Panel
Higher Education and Student Affairs
Graduate Department
University of Connecticut

Dot Houston, Athletics
Massachusetts Celebration for National
Girls & Women in Sports Day
Boston, MA

NCAA Career in Sports Forum Facilitator
Indianapolis, IN

Dr. Christopher Himes, Education, STEM
Society for Advancement of Hispanics/
Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
Summer Leadership Institute
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Dr. Monica Joslin, Academic Affairs
Annual Meeting, Association of American
Colleges and Universities
Washington, D.C.

Deb Raber, Athletics/Soccer
Soccer Champions Coaches' Clinic
Presentation with
World Cup Champion & Olympic Gold
Medalist Tony DiCicco
Mohegan Sun Convention Center,
Uncasville, CT

**Prof. Laura Standley,
Fine & Performing Arts**
MICHA/Michael Chekhov Association
International Workshop & Festival
New London, CT

Dayne Wahl, Admissions
Presentation, Professional Development Panel
Higher Education and Student Affairs
Graduate Department
University of Connecticut

PUBLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS

Dr. Lisa Donovan, Fine & Performing Arts
"Where I'm from: Cultural Exchange through
the Arts"
International Journal of Education and the Arts

Prof. Michelle Ethier, Sociology
Portfolio Handbook
Handbook for PTR

Dr. Tim Jay, Psychology
Opinion Piece on Public Swearing,
Time Magazine

Interview on National Public Radio's Weekend
All Things Considered

Dr. Jennifer Zoltanski, Sociology
"Happiness=healthier: studies suggest
optimists live longer"
Quoted in the *Berkshire Eagle*

HONORS & RECOGNITION

Dr. Mariana Bolivar, Modern Languages
Elected to a Three-Year Term
Assembly Delegate to the Modern
Language Association

Dr. Sharon Claffey, Psychology
Discussion Presenter & Moderator
National Institute on the Teaching of
Psychology
St. Pete Beach, FL

**Instructor Laura Christiansen, Adjunct
Faculty/Fine & Performing Arts**
Group Exhibition Participant
Brattleboro Museum and Art Center
Brattleboro, VT

**Dr. Jake Eberwein,
Graduate and Continuing Education**
Keynote Speaker
Williamstown Rotary Club Meeting
Williamstown, MA

**Dr. Petra Hejnova,
History and Political Science**
Boren Scholarship Winners Selection Panel
Member
National Security Education Program
Washington, D.C.

Griffin Labbance, Residence Halls
Advisor of the Year
Northeast Affiliate of College &
University Residence Halls Conference
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY

Holly McGovern
North Atlantic Conference (NAC)
Coach of the Year, Tennis

**Prof. Melanie Mowinski,
Fine & Performing Arts**
Guest Artist-in-Residence, Big Read!
New Bedford, MA

**Dr. Gerol Petruzella,
Academic Technology**
Nomination, Multimedia Educational
Resources for Learning & Online
Teaching Project
"My Dungeons & Discourse"
Game-based Curriculum

Dr. Dana Rapp, Education
Guest Lecturer
Common Folk: Ted Talk Tuesdays at
the Parlor Café
North Adams, MA



Our Department of Public Safety did an exceptional job this year to keep our campus safe and secure. Many of our officers went above and beyond in their positions, which earned many of them various awards in recognition of their service.

Economic Impact

2014 MCLA Economic Impact Value Updates

All data is for the fiscal year 2014 unless noted.

Total operating budget: **\$45,012,176**

Source: MCLA 2014 Audit

College Employees = 286 Full Time; 120 Part Time

Employee Salary & Benefits = \$26,877,489 Salary & Benefits
\$18,814,242 After tax (70%)
\$11,288,545 Employee Spending (60%)

Source: College employees from 2013 IPEDS Human Resource Survey; Salary benefits from MCLA 2014 Audit; Estimated employee spending rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Spending

\$4,334,687
 (\$2,316 x 1,782 Undergraduate Students)
 (\$475 x 437 Graduate Students)

Source: 2013-2014 student spending data from MCLA Financial Aid office; Undergraduate students total from 2014 Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) annual enrollment file.

Number of Visitors

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Gallery 51/DownStreet Art: | 34,000 |
| Athletics: | 10,500 |
| Admissions: | 5,000 |
| Performances and Presentations: | 5,000 |
| Commencement: | 2,500 |
| Alumni Events: | 1,500 |
| Orientation: | 1,500 |
| Total: | 60,000 |
| Estimated per Visitor Spending: | \$65.44 |
| Total Spending: | \$3,926,400 |

Source: Visitors counts from department reports/estimates 2014
 Visitor Spending from Tanglewood Economic Impact Study

Capital Projects

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Center for Science and Innovation: | \$8,136,303 |
| Facilities Building / Ashland Street Parking Lot: | \$2,315,913 |
| Bowman Hall Renovation Planning: | \$913,268 |
| New Telephone System: | \$628,380 |
| Campus Center Drainage: | \$105,870 |
| Campus Center Bleachers: | \$92,319 |
| Freel Library Elevator: | \$58,337 |
| Total Major Renovations: | \$12,250,390 |

Source: MCLA 2014 Audit.
 Office of Institutional Research, Assessment Planning.

COLLEGE OFFICERS

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Executive Vice President

James A. Stakenas, Ph.D.
*Vice President of Administration
and Finance*

Marianne Drake
*Chief Advancement Officer and
President, MCLA Foundation, Inc.*

Charlotte F. Degen
Vice President of Student Affairs

Monica Joslin, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Affairs

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vision

“Without this school I would never be a college president. This institution opened new doors for me. It is a privilege to lead MCLA, because I want to ensure that the next generation of students has the same kinds of opportunities that I have enjoyed.”

– PRESIDENT MARY K. GRANT

**MASSACHUSETTS
COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS**

Office of the President
375 Church Street
North Adams, MA 01247
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