Science Research Flourishes at MCLA

Reunion 2010

SGA Celebrates 100 Years
Dear Alumni,

**This Has Been An Exciting Fall Semester. Enrollment Continues**

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

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

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

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

On the heels of our successful Undergraduate Research Conference last spring, where over 200 students presented posters and papers, MCLA hosted the first Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) in October. Faculty and students from MCLA joined with their peers from five other COPLAC schools in the Northeast to learn from one another and to build new networks of collaboration.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.
President
The summer after his sophomore year, Jon Cavanaugh ’10 got his first taste of academic research. Under the direction of Dr. Ann Billetz, professor of biology, Cavanaugh was awarded a fellowship to design and implement a research project studying the neural pathways of songbirds. The experience was transformative.

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

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

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

Cavanaugh is one of many students who have found robust research opportunities on the MCLA campus. Indeed, undergraduate research has expanded dramatically at the College in recent years; today, students can choose from hundreds of independent study opportunities in many disciplines—the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities—and they can design their own research projects as independent studies. The College supports these students by offering small research grants, dedicated faculty mentors, and a dynamic campus-wide undergraduate research conference for presenting their work.

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

Evan Hermann ’07, a doctoral candidate in the human behavioral pharmacology department at the University of Vermont (UVM), notes that there is another advantage to doing
research at a school like MCLA, the small student-faculty ratio (currently 13:1).

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

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

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

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

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

and math (STEM) careers. Undergraduates who participate in scientific research are twice as likely to pursue STEM careers as similar students who haven’t participated in research projects.

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

“It shows them what science is all about,” says Billetz. Jon Cavanaugh agrees.

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

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

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MCLA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

Identification of Dinoflagellates in the Sea Anemones
Aiptasiapallida and Diadumene lineata
PRESIDENT: Anita Parker  FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Anne Goodwin

The Effects of Estrogen Concentration and Elevated Temperature on Population Structure, Reproduction, Survival, and Heart Rate of Daphnia magna
PRESIDENTS: Katie Collins, Kate Grady, Jesslyn Schnopp
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Emily Mooney

Unlacing the Corset: Imperial Feminist Ideology
PRESIDENT: Jeannie Gilson  FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Anthony Daly

Packaging Discoveries of Infinite Supplies, an Exploration of Mathematics and Global Supply
PRESIDENT: Robin Clapper  FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Alla Kucher

Husserl’s Phenomenology: Philosophy’s Coup de Grace
PRESIDENT: Jacob Wheeler  FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Paul Nnodi

The Effects of Academic Stress on Test Performance
PRESIDENTS: Rachel Barrett, Benjamin Johnson, Kaitlyn Wood
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Deborah Foss

Exploring Disabled Characters in Children’s Literature: A Critical Analysis
PRESIDENT: Sarah Maust  FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Sumi Colligan

Rheumatoid Arthritis as a Health Issue in an Aging Population
PRESIDENTS: Molly Watson, Dale Veratti Jr., Kelly Lindberg
FACULTY SPONSOR: Dr. Diane Louise Balduzy

FACTS ABOUT RESEARCH AT MCLA

- In 2003, 35 students presented at the first Undergraduate Research Conference.

- At the 2010 Undergraduate Research Conference, over 200 students presented independent research undertaken in conjunction with 34 faculty mentors, demonstrating academic achievement from across the College.

- MCLA hosted the 2010 Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, Oct. 1-2. The conference featured 72 presentations of research in the humanities, the arts, the social sciences and the natural sciences, from all six northeastern COPLAC colleges: Eastern Connecticut State University, Keene State College in New Hampshire, Ramapo College of New Jersey, University of Maine-Farmington, SUNY Geneseo, and MCLA.

- MCLA students also participate in the Massachusetts Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference and in the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research.

- The College recently received a $40,000 grant for its science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programming from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts STEM Pipeline Fund.

- MCLA hosts the annual Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair (MSSEF) Region I Fairs for middle school and high school students.
Center for Science and Innovation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It opened up a whole world,” says Janschewitz.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Those first research experiences put me on a pathway,” he adds. “It’s what I want to do. I love it.”

Massachusetts Education Secretary Paul Reville attended the site designation ceremony.
SEAN DONOVAN ’11 UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE OF HARD WORK.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clearly, it has paid off.

“I couldn’t ask for a better situation,” he added. “I have just loved being in the lab; it’s where my home is. I’m loving every day at Nuclea and trying to get as much out of the experience as I can.”
REUNION 2010

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

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


Young alumni celebrate at the SGA reception. Back row: Melissa Gumlaw Ortendahl ’05, Josh Ortendahl, Ben Lamb ’07, Kristen Hurley ’06, and Annie Kirkpatrick ’06. Front row: Nicole Lasavio ’03, Michelle Hansen ’08.

Joe Joseph ’50 and Danny Foster ’61.
The Class of 1960 celebrates 50 years: Paula Bousquet Dobeck, Glenn Sheldon, Suzanna Wilber, George Lazaros, Paul Kolodziejczak, Annette Chouinard Cohen, John Farmer, Paul Zendzian, Starr Baker and President Mary K. Grant.

Kathleen O’Rourke ’76 and Tom O’Rourke ’76 talk with MCLA Treasurer Jerry Desmarais ’74.

Kevin Giroux ’63 and his wife Anne Marie.

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

Paul Kolodziejczak ’60 then and now.

The Class of 1960 celebrates 50 years: Paula Bousquet Dobeck, Glenn Sheldon, Suzanna Wilber, George Lazaros, Paul Kolodziejczak, Annette Chouinard Cohen, John Farmer, Paul Zendzian, Starr Baker and President Mary K. Grant.
In the 100 years since the Student Government Association (SGA) was founded, SGA has grown to represent more than 100 student clubs and to serve as a strong voice for students on campus. This fall, over Reunion and Fall Family weekend, SGA held a reception to celebrate.

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

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

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

Hurley got involved in SGA after she founded a cheerleading club on campus. She ran for SGA senate to help other students launch clubs they were passionate about. As a senior, she was elected coordinating vice president. Hurley worked to ensure that clubs were open to all students, sat on a finance committee that oversaw the funding of clubs, and helped advise clubs on how they could raise and budget money.

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

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

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

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

MCLA Celebrates 100 years of Student Government Association

The 2010 Student Government Association is marking the 100th anniversary of SGA by establishing an SGA scholarship in honor of SGA Office Manager Diane Collins. Back row: Student Trustee Jameek Clovie ’11, Stephanie Esposita ’12, Kate Collins ’11, and Kevin Seely ’11. Front row: Coordinator of Student Activities Jenn Craig, SGA President Jessica Krason ’11, Jaynelle Bellemore ’12, Ashley Franco ’11, and SGA Office Manager Diane Collins.
His political experience led Doran to pursue a career in higher education. He earned a master's degree and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from the University of South Carolina. “I have been a stronger leader at work, in business, and on volunteer boards because of my SGA experience. It is the foundation for much of what I have accomplished and the success I have enjoyed.”

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

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

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

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

Collins said it has been a pleasure to see SGA grow and change over those years. She noted that with every year, students seem to become even more motivated, she said. “They take a lot more initiative now,” Collins said. “If they have an interest in something and it’s not here, they make it happen.”

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

Krason hopes future SGA members continue the tradition: “I hope SGA continues to be an effective voice for the students along with staying involved on campus and in the community.”

This year’s SGA is working to establish a scholarship for future student leaders in honor of Diane Collins. If you would like to make a gift toward the SGA scholarship, please contact Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu.
MCLA graduates continue to distinguish themselves as leaders, as teachers, and as members of the College's thriving community. MCLA is honored to count this year’s Alumni Association Award recipients among the ranks of our many distinguished alumni making a difference in the world every day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dennis was presented with the Class Agent of the Year Award in 2009.

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

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

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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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

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

WOMEN’S SOCCER HONORS ALUMNI WHO SERVE

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

“We brainstormed together and thought, why don’t we have a flag flown for the women’s soccer program? It was flown over the base in Afghanistan, ceremonially folded, and Sarah sent it to us. It helps to keep her in our thoughts, as well,” said Deborah Raber, head women’s soccer coach.

Lapine was one of the alumni profiled in the previous issue of Beacons & Seeds. She currently serves with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, stationed in Afghanistan, which supplies troops with fuel and water. September 18 was designated “Sgt. Lapine Day” at MCLA in her honor.
Dear Alumni,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Buffy Lord ’98
Interested in becoming a class agent?
Please contact Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu about getting involved in our volunteer program.

1936
Ida Maino Trabold
212 Franklin St
North Adams, MA 01247-2713

1937
Alma Benedetti
54 Bradford St
North Adams, MA 01247-2339

1941
Margaret Benedetti Davenport
1 Lyman St Apt 117
Westborough, MA 01581-1438

1950
Joseph Joseph
15 Bank St
PO Box 508
North Bennington, VT 05257-0508

1951
William Grady
7924 Woodsbluff Run
Fogelsville, PA 18051-1537

1952
Katherine Canidio Mogavero
150 Sherwood Dr
Pittsfield, MA 01201-5914

1953
Graham Andrews
6835 Post Oak Dr
West Bloomfield, MI 48322-3835
GAndPat@aol.com

1954
Harriet Peck Hunt
25 Rubin Dr
Pittsfield, MA 01201-9111
ujhmhunt@cs.com

1956
Joan Karstler Sampson
10 Grays Beach Rd
Kingston, MA 02364-1722

1957
Mary Richards
740 Farna Bush Rd
Delmar, NY 12054-9789
real14mt@localnet.com

1958
Nancy Alting Stewart
614 E Rose Ave
Santa Maria, CA 93454-3158
NancyCarrs@uol.com

1960
Patricia Bousquet Doebert
27 Saddle Ct
Schwenksville, PA 19473-1884
richardnurse@paahu.com

1961
Daniel Foster
78 Gates Rd
Eagle Bridge, NY 12057-2020

1962
Carolyn Donan Cheesbro
23 Marion Ave
North Adams, MA 01247-3711
Jean Kent Swift
42 Olds St
North Adams, MA 01247-3233
jeanmaryswift@verizon.net

1963
David Hathaway
27 Beverly St
Pittsfield, MA 01201-7303
skonauer61@uol.com

1964
Dorothy Giusti Ransford
620 Daniels Rd
North Adams, MA 01247-2904
dottransford@roadrunner.com

1965
Ronald Alpert
509 Calle Libertad
Granada, Nicaragua
ronalpert@hotmail.com

Martin Perlmutter ’60 and Diane Galiese Parsons ’61 shared in the discussion at an event at the Advancement Office in August, where faculty emerita Dr. Lea Newman talked about growing up Italian in Chicago.
Jo Knopf Owen ’65, here with Chief Advancement Officer Marianne Drake, hosted a gathering at her beautiful home on the Cape in July.

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

Kenna Andrews Hoellrich
287 Main Rd
Savoy, MA 01256-9203
ruhelil@verizon.net

Robert Iannitelli returned to his chemistry classroom at Mount Greylock Regional School after a four-year retirement. The school was unable to find a qualified replacement, so they contacted Robert and he accepted the one-year appointment.

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

Jeanne Slaney Peterson
21 1/2 Inman St
Cambridge, MA 02139-2406
jpeterson@bu.edu

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

Paul Egan
73 Falmouth Rd
West Springfield, MA 01089-2168
WSAndrew@comcast.net

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

Larry Ryan
1874 Commonwealth Ave Apt 15
Brighton, MA 02135-6018

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

Timothy Foley
Fairview Ave
Newbury, MA 01951-1203
muck68@hotmail.com

Linda Publicover O’Neill
39 Fox Run Rd
Bellingham, MA 02019-2906
jandloneill@comcast.net

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

Ron Cimini, Brian Steady, Wayne Collins (seated), and Sheila McCloskey Galow (not pictured) attended the Pittsfield High School Class of 1965 Reunion in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in August and had a mini NASC Class of 1969 reunion. Ron and Wayne came back to campus for a visit in September continuing the trip down memory lane!
1974

Stephen Bailow
311 Joy Ln
West Chester, PA 19380-5109
sfb99@verizon.net

Susan Recker Carney
46 Charles St.
Natick, MA 01760-2828

James Gibson
7 Tulia Ave
Metuchen, NJ 08840-2729
rsvpus@optonline.net

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

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

1975

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

Carol Cashenette Corrigan
31 Highland Ave
Adams, MA 01220-1811
cactj@yahoo.com

1976

Mary Beth Allen
352 Manning Blvd
Albany, NY 12206-1814
mb2x@aol.com

1977

Ann Keough Fragomeni
5 Grant Rd
Enfield, CT 06082-5707
Annfr@aol.com

Douglas Frazier
35 Weston St
Carver, MA 02330-1253
dugan350@comcast.net

1978

Michael Rooney
11 Josiah Dr
Upton, MA 01568-1452

1979

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

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

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

1980

Carol Kushenette Corrigan
35 Revere Cir
Greenfield, MA 01301-9748

1981

Charlene Kilgour Houghton
35 Revere Cir
Greenfield, MA 01301-9748

1982

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

1983

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

A bumper sticker on Donna Delrosso’s car reads—“Hingham Women’s Hockey: Why Should the Kids Have All the Fun?” As recent New England Women’s Hockey League cup
Elizabeth Barbara Jacobs married Michael John Stottle '85 in July in Washington D.C. Both descendants of patriots, Michael John Stottle is a member of the Charles Carroll of Carrollton Chapter, MDSSAR (Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution). They were married at the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters in Washington, D.C., in the Kansas Chapel. Michael is a staff officer serving in the executive branch of the United States government.

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

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

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

Elizabeth Barbara Jacobs married Michael John Stottle on July 16th, 2010. What makes this marriage unique is that Jacobs is a member of the Arlington House Chapter, Virginia NSDAR (National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution), and Stottle is a member of the Charles Carroll of Carrollton Chapter, MDSSAR (Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution). They were married at the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters in Washington, D.C., in the Kansas Chapel. Michael is a staff officer serving in the executive branch of the United States government.

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1999

Laura Jean Griffen Hickey
66 Spruce St
Acton, MA 01720-2434
lgryff76@yahoo.com

Beth Howard Sombronsky
115 Gotham Hill Dr
Marshfield, MA 02050-5514
bethhoward@mptd.org

2000

Kelly Taylor Kandesos
5 Barber Ter
South Burlington, VT 05403
Teachkind@hotmail.com

Jennifer MacMillin
184 W Main St Apt A3
Ayer, MA 01432-7334
jennmac99@hotmail.com

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

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER DELIVERS PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE

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

Founder and Director of the Research Foundation on Science, Technology, and Ecology in India, Shiva is one of India's leading physicists, holding a master's degree in the philosophy of science and a Ph.D. in particle physics. Shiva has authored numerous books on international environmental issues, including Water Wars: Pollution, Profits, and Privatization; Biopiracy: The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge; Monocultures of the Mind; The Violence of the Green Revolution; Staying Alive; and Soil, Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis.

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

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

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

//CAMPUS UPDATE

CLASS OF 2000 XAVIER JACKMAN’S DAUGHTER GETS HER MCLA ON.

Class of 2000 Xavier Jackman’s daughter gets her MCLA on.
2002

Martha Andrews
77 South St
Plainville, MA 02762-2613
andrewsm222@hotmail.com

Rachel Bancroft
18 Woodside Ter
Lynn, MA 01905-1239
russub702@yahoo.com

Autumn May
34 Whittenly Ave
North Adams, MA 01247

Diane Thompson
77 South St
Plainville, MA 02762-2613
diane_m_thompson@hotmail.com

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

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

2003

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

Lauren Masiello Burn
807 E Broadway Apt 3
South Boston, MA 02127-2389
lburn1@maaps.org

William David Halbert
247 Everett St # 3
East Boston, MA 02128-2270
greenconet@uol.com

Peter-Greg Sison
263 Forest St
North Andover, MA 01845-3207
pgassion@hotmail.com

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

2004

Robert Black
1911 Avalon Dr
Hull, MA 02045-3433
aspx135@yahoo.com

Lynn Brennan
5024 State Rd, 36
Canistota, NY 14823
lynnbrennanphotography@yahoo.com

Amanda Hasden
amanda_bunny@yahoo.com

Holly Grant Herring
21 Village Rock Ln Apt 4
Natick, MA 01760-3714
floyqantas@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We recently learned that James Blake is engaged to Monique Gasson. James is a project manager/estimator with Allegrone Construction Company in Pittsfield. Monique is human resources manager at Marvin and Company PC. in Latham, NY. A wedding is planned for October 8th at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield.

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

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Martha Andrews
77 South St
Plainville, MA 02762-2613
andrewsm222@hotmail.com

Rachel Bancroft
18 Woodside Ter
Lynn, MA 01905-1239
russub702@yahoo.com

Autumn May
34 Whittenly Ave
North Adams, MA 01247

Diane Thompson
77 South St
Plainville, MA 02762-2613
diane_m_thompson@hotmail.com

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2003

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

Lauren Masiello Burn
807 E Broadway Apt 3
South Boston, MA 02127-2389
lburn1@maaps.org

William David Halbert
247 Everett St # 3
East Boston, MA 02128-2270
greenconet@uol.com

Peter-Greg Sison
263 Forest St
North Andover, MA 01845-3207
pgassion@hotmail.com

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Jennifer A. Maynard has been hired to manage Clinton Savings Bank’s West Boylston branch. Jennifer will be responsible for overseeing operations including customer service, lending, security, and products. Congratulations, Jennifer!

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

2004

Robert Black
1911 Avalon Dr
Hull, MA 02045-3433
aspx135@yahoo.com

Lynn Brennan
5024 State Rd, 36
Canistota, NY 14823
lynnbrennanphotography@yahoo.com

Amanda Hasden
amanda_bunny@yahoo.com

Holly Grant Herring
21 Village Rock Ln Apt 4
Natick, MA 01760-3714
floyqantas@yahoo.com

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

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2001

Melissa Sharmaud Daleasio
4405 Gallatreece Ln
Raleigh, NC 27616-0733
Lumnhlab2@hotmail.com

Amanda Gerhart DiCesare
8515 Ringlenont Dr
Charlotte, NC 28269-2300
manda3279@hotmail.com

Kristin Lamontagne
65 Strathmore Rd Apt 7
Boston, MA 02135-7740
Kristin8779@uol.com

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

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

Michelle Hansen ‘08 at the NEAC Residential Programs and Services, and Dianne Manning, director of MCLA’s Residential Programs and Services, at the NEAC Director Brendon Goodridge and Hoosac Hall Residence Director Emily Schiavoni.

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

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

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

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

As part of the Massachusetts State University system MCLA, along with Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Massachusetts Maritime Academy, will retain their names to reflect their unique missions and special statuses.
Matthew Dunne is a post-production assistant at Howcast Media in the greater New York City area.

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

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

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

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

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

Tyna Burda Senecal was recently named branch manager for Williamstown Savings Bank. Williamstown Savings Bank is part of MountainOne Financial Partners, which includes Hoosac Bank; Williamstown Savings Bank; South Coastal Bank; Coakley, Pierpan, Dolan & Collins; and True North. Congratulations Tyna!

Jessica Sokol “At the moment, I’m the alumni relations and events assistant at Hampshire College. I absolutely love my job, but I’ll be leaving soon. I was just accepted to the UConn higher education and student affairs master’s program with an assistantship in the Office of Community Outreach. I begin working with community outreach this June and start classes in September. I’m still dating Kevin Sullivan ’06. Kevin is working as both a senior videographer at E-TV, the town of Enfield’s television station, and a library assistant at the UConn law library. He’s pursuing a master’s degree in library and information sciences at Southern Connecticut State University. Thank you!”

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

Jacquelyn Ferguson Fetherston 1953
October 7, 2010

Gertrude Peck Finck 1949
June 1, 2010

Christine H. Dyson Hughes 1966
July 21, 2010

Tracy B. Jahn Jr. 1973
July 15, 2010

Dawn M. Alcombright Kelton 1997
July 4, 2010

Bob Moulton 1965
July 29, 2010

Catherine Oldham 1965
October 3, 2010

Dennis E. Rivers 1982
August 28, 2010

Edward M. Rurak 1973
June 1, 2010

Patricia Bates Stephenson 1947
September 19, 2010

David P. Wall 1972
November 6, 2010

Robert J. Wellspring 1980
June 23, 2010

2008

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

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

2009

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

Two MCLA employees, Amey Blackburn and Stanley Spiewak, were recently wed. Amey is an executive assistant for the chief advancement officer and Stan works as a campus police officer for the MCLA Department of Public Safety.
Frances Jones-Sneed, Ph.D., history professor at MCLA, was awarded a third major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to continue her exploration of African-American history in the region.

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

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

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

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

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

THE ROLE OF PLACE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

MCLA FACULTY UPDATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Physics professor Adrienne Wooters returned from a prestigious Fulbright scholarship this summer teaching physics to college students in Rwanda’s capital city Kigali.
MCLA hosted its 14th annual Golf Classic on September 20th at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, MA. The event raised more than $18,000 for the College’s athletic programs and awakened the competitive spirit in many!

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

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

Sincere thanks to the community members and local businesses that support the College’s athletic program! A special thank you to this year’s President’s Club title sponsor, Covidiem.
Class agent Dennis Zicko ’65, a retired teacher and coach living in Marshfield, MA, recently led his classmates in an effort to raise $10,000 for an endowed scholarship fund in honor of the class of 1965.

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

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

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

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

Considering establishing an endowed fund in honor or memory of someone?
Contact Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Jocelyn Merrick at J.Merrick@mcla.edu.
Save the Date
Upcoming Campus Events

February 4
MCLA Presents! 6th Annual MCLA Blues and Funk Festival

February 5
Alumni Board meeting

February 13
MCLA Presents! Waiting for Godot

March 3–7
Spring FPA production Lysistrata

March 4 & 5
MCLA Presents! Nora Chipaumire: lions will roar...

April 8
Faculty Brown Bag Lecture: Bill Montgomery will present “Did Technology Drive the Nuclear Arms Race?”

April 13
MCLA Presents! Dala

April 16
Alumni Board meeting

April 19
Taconic Society reception

May 1
MCLA Presents! PAM! Show

May 20
Baccalaureate

May 21
Commencement

Calling All Snowbirds!

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

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