

# MCLA

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

AUG/15



**DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI,**

One of the great joys of our work in alumni relations is the ability to interact and engage with people who span the generational arc of the Alumni Association. Whether meeting with an alum from the Normal School, State Teachers College of North Adams, North Adams State College, or MCLA, we are all one—HERE as members of the Alumni Association.

Over the past couple of years, we've spoken with so many of you—in person, by e-mail, and by phone—and we now understand better why it is that you remain connected and engaged with each other and the College. When you graduated, you left, not only with an education that provided the foundation on which your professional career was built, but with lifelong friendships that shaped and molded you into the person you are today. Coming full circle, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to witness today's graduates as they complete their journey here at the College and prepare for their next adventure. As alumni, we pave the path for those who come after us, just as those who came before us did.

You each have a great story to tell about how you found your "home away from home" here at the College nestled among the hills of the beautiful

Berkshire mountains. However you discovered your passion and found your path through your college career, you remain connected as a member of one Alumni Association.

Thank you for continuing to give back to the College whether by serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, as a class agent, as a mentor to current students and young alumni, by providing internship opportunities, or by giving to the Alumni Fund. With each and every gift you have made, large or small, your collective support has helped provide today's students the opportunity to build lifelong relationships while receiving a first-rate public liberal arts education that provides a solid foundation on which they will build their lives. We look forward to welcoming you back home to visit campus and see firsthand the impact of your support. Thank you for all that you do.

Wishing you well,



Cheryl Starr Boillat, '79, M.Ed. '97

Alumni Association Board of Directors President



Christine DeMasi Naughton '99

Director of Alumni Relations & Development

**THE ALUMNI BOARD**

Sarah Flint Wood '07, Rachel E.D. Churchill, Esq. '06, Cecelia Hamrock Kennedy '78, Sherry Morrison '03, Amey Blackburn '09, Dan Summers '07, Lisa Blackmer '99, Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey '99, Vice President Benjamin Lamb '07, Joanne Ricker Maynard '82, Dennis Zicko '65, Natasha Robinson '11, David Flint '78, President Cheryl Starr Boillat '79, M.Ed. '97, Monique Symes '11, Todd Vroman '90. *Not pictured: Lynn Brennan '04, Xavier Jackman '00, David Ortendahl '05, Paula Randazza '88, Michael Reopell '85.*



## Alumnus Jim Clemmer '86 Named Interim President

At a Board of Trustees meeting held on August 6, 2015, the Board voted to appoint James C. Clemmer '86, alumni representative to the Board, to serve in the role of interim president as the College reopens its national search for the next president. Dr. Cynthia Brown resumed her duties as Vice President of Academic Affairs on August 14, which allowed her to put her name forth as a candidate for the upcoming search. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education guidelines for presidential searches state that an interim president "shall not be eligible to be considered for the permanent presidency" so this action is necessary for Dr. Brown to pursue this opportunity.

The Board is responsible for hiring MCLA's next president so they must ensure that the best possible pool of candidates is cultivated and put forth for consideration. This leadership transition will maintain the integrity of the search process and allow Dr. Brown to compete for the position.

Jim Clemmer is an alumnus of MCLA, a steadfast supporter of the College, and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 2008. Over the years, he has been honored with two Alumni Association awards—a Distinguished Alumni Award as well as last year's Service to the College Award. He served on the fiscal affairs committee throughout his Board tenure and was chair of that committee for three years. He is a true steward of the institution and is committed, along with the rest of our community, to maintaining the campus's



high standards and to providing excellent opportunities for our students to succeed.

Jim is a veteran executive with more than 25 years of varied business experience having led complex organizations. He recently retired from a career at Covidien plc, where he last served as president of the medical supplies segment, directing strategic and day-to-day operations for global business divisions that collectively manufactured 23 different product categories. In addition, he managed global manufacturing, research and development, operational excellence, business development, and all other functions associated with the medical supplies business.

The Board of Trustees has retained Korn Ferry to assist with the presidential search. The first search committee meeting was held on Tuesday, August 18 and the timeline for the search remains with an appointment expected by the end of the 2015.

# An Unexpected Connection

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At the close of the First Annual International Conference on Gliomatosis Cerebri at Institut Curie hospital in Paris, France, **Joe Arabia '18** had much of which to be proud. He and his wife, Kathleen, played a leading role in assembling some of the greatest minds in the world for a collaborative effort to fight the rare brain cancer that took their daughter's life.

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Little did he know, one of the experts at the conference had more in common with him than a desire to find a cure for rare brain tumors that strike children: **Dr. Katherine Foster Warren '82**, head of the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology division of the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD, also happens to be a North Adams State College graduate.

A 1982 graduate of the College who earned her bachelor of science degree in medical technology, Warren was at the conference because of her knowledge and research in diffuse intrinsic pontine gliomas (DIPGs), which are similar to gliomatosis cerebri.

"It's similar in that the outcomes are almost uniformly poor, and it's similar that we don't know very much about the biology," Warren explained. "So,

we thought we would take a similar approach to the DIPG world and make an international collaboration to try to study this quickly and efficiently."

Arabia retired from his job as a truck driver for MCLA's facilities department in August 2009. His daughter, Anna Yan Ji Arabia, tripped and fell a few months later. The Arabias soon discovered that she suffered from a malignant gliomatosis cerebri, for which there was no research.

"There was no treatment, prescribed protocol, or cure. Everything was trial and error," Arabia said.

After Anna's death in 2013, "We felt we needed to do something to help other people. We had so much information and material to pass on to others, we established the AYJ (Anna Yan Ji) Fund ([www.ayjfund.org](http://www.ayjfund.org))," Arabia said.

Working with Dr. Mark Kieran of Boston's Dana-



Anna Arabia and Senator Ted Kennedy after he delivered the 2006 Commencement address at MCLA. Senator Kennedy died in 2013 at the age of 77, after battling glioblastoma multiforme, one of the deadliest types of brain cancer.



Dr. Katherine Foster Warren '82



Joe Arabia '18 and his daughter Anna enjoying vacation together in 2007.

Farber Cancer Institute, Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield at the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Dr. Andrés Morales of Hospital Sant Joan de Déu de Barcelona in Spain, they put together a list of scientists, biologists, neurologists, and others involved in cancer research.

"The purpose of the conference was to get these people talking and collaborating, to come up with a plan to start the research and to find a protocol—and also a cure at some point," Arabia said.

"The parents, in general, are inspiring in all that we do," Warren said. "They push the field forward. It's their persistence and insistence that not having a cure is unacceptable. It drives us."

Warren introduced herself after noticing Arabia's North Adams address at the bottom of a conference handout.

**"There was an instant connection,"**

Warren said. "It was a pleasure to meet them."

The conference will reconvene next year. After returning to their respective institutions, revamping their studies, and beginning new investigations, Warren and the other scientists expect to have more information to present at the Second Annual International Conference on Gliomatosis Cerebri.

"The conference was inspiring. It emphasized a great, unmet need," Warren added. "You just shake your head at what a small world it is sometimes."

# CLASS NOTES

## 69

**John Richards** owns John Richards Original Oil Painting in Albany, NY.

## 74

**Diana Lane** was promoted to senior human resource consultant at Cornerstone Group in Warwick, RI.

## 77

**Mary Jane Comai Cooney** has been named the new principal of Holy Trinity School in Laconia, NH.

## 78

**Ron Burniske** is retiring from Chartway Federal Credit Union in Virginia Beach, VA.

## 81

**Cathryn Baskin** was promoted to editorial director by IDG PC World.

**Paul Carey** is now senior commercial lender at Digital Federal Credit Union in Boston.

**Michael Hagerty** retired as senior vice president of investment services at State Street Bank and Trust Company in Boston.

## 83

**Dana Stirling Ashworth** is now chief financial officer at Marian Heath Greeting Cards in Boston.

In 2014, **Katherine Walsh Bautze** was promoted to marketing director for the Green Team at Roadman & Rodman P.C. in Braintree, MA, and handles communications programs for the company's Renewable Energy and Cleantech specialty brand.

**Ellen Kennedy** was selected as the 2013 Women of Achievement by Berkshire Business and Professional Women. In May 2015, she received the She Knows Where She's Going Award during the Ruth P. Boraski Celebration evening.

## 84

**Robert Chapman** was appointed financial advisor for the Edward Jones Financial Services branch in Pittsfield.

## 85

**Christine Croteau** was appointed the director of Edith Nourse Rogers Veterans Affairs Memorial Medical Center.

**Carl McKinney** is now town administrator in Clarksburg, MA.

## 85

**Joanne White** represented MCLA at the inauguration of Joanne Berger-Sweeney as the twenty-second president of Trinity College on Sunday, October 26, 2014.

## 87

**Jan P. Myskowski** joined Cleveland, Waters and Bass, P.A. in Concord, NH as chair of its trust and estate practice area.

## 88

**Kevin Plankey** is now regional marketing manager for Americas at QSR International in Boston.

## 90

**Pamela Bolus** is now a counselor at United Counseling Services in Bennington, VT.

**Deborah Ahlman Bradshaw** is now vice president, human resources at Steward Health Care in Boston.

## 91

**Patrick Colpoys** is now sales manager, Northeast U.S. IMAGINiTechnologies in Boston.

## 92

In 2014, **Michael A. Bertino** was appointed finance director of West Newbury.

'92



**Maryellen Edwards Michelson '92** married Eric Michelson on Saturday, January 11, 2014 in the State Room, Boston. In attendance were many alumni including **Sharon Fleming Ness, Cheryl Small McCarthy, Chrisie Mahoney Fina, Jennifer Fowler Parks, Kim Yeaw Borys, and Jay Borys**, all of the class of 1992. Other alumni in attendance were **Danielle Spitzer Prigmore '91, Amy Schucard Carey '93, Kate Sullivan Feeney '93, and Brian Feeney '91**.

**Derek Colman** is now service account manager at NASDAQ OMX in Boston.

**Chris Kearney** is now president and founder of Liberty Auctions and Appraisers Corporation in Boston.

## 93

**Patricia Kennedy Barney** is now married to Keith Barney.

**Kathleen Bort** is now the library director at the Otis (MA) Library and Museum.

## 94

**Larry Cerrito** is now working at Molecular Diagnostic Company in San Diego.

## 95

**Brian Clinton** has joined Donahue Real Estate Company, located in Dedham, as a sales associate.

**Jeffrey A. Kerr** was promoted to vice president of marketing at PeoplesBank in Holyoke, MA.

**Chris Lambert** is now an applications developer/architect in Boston.

**Susannah Sapir Locketti** is currently hosting "Better with Allrecipes" on *The Better Show* in NYC.

## 96

**Susan Bullett Durocher** is the new operations manager for Hillcrest Dental Care in Pittsfield, MA.

**Kristen Ricciardelli Fales** is now manager, talent acquisition at the Hanover Insurance Group in Boston.

**Jeffrey Gagnon** is now in sales and acquisitions at Patten Sales and Marketing in Williamstown.

**John Pawelcyk** is now lead interventional radiology tech at Cape Cod Hospital.

# Class notes

## 97

**Jason Leon** is IT manager, applications support at Mintz Levin in Boston.

## 98

**Debora Rossman** was recently welcomed into the Gateway Regional School District in MA.

## 99

In 2014, **Derek Beahn** was appointed vice president and marketing manager for Fidelity Bank in Gardner, MA.

**Paul Gage** is the executive director of the Pittsfield Adult Learning Center.

**Jennifer Rancourt Civello** has been appointed director of marketing for Berkshire Family and Individual Resources, Inc. She is also an adjunct instructor in the sociology department at MCLA.

## 00

**Michelle Crawford-Cranmore** is now a third/ fourth grade teacher at Somerville Public Schools, MA.

**Stacy Parsons** will be serving as the executive director of Berkshire County Head Start and its seven classroom sites.

## 02

**Martha Andrews** is now working at Joslin Diabetes Center, Radio Disney in Boston.

**Autumn May** is now a certified Dr. Hauschka esthetician at Painted Red Nails Organic Skin Spa in Mashpee, MA.

**Diane Thompson** is now a real estate appraiser in Boston.

## 03

**Kelly Krok** has been announced as the newest member of Greylock Federal Credit Union's board of directors in Pittsfield, MA.

**Heather O'Dell** is now a primary/secondary education professional in Sandy Hook, CT.

**Krista Zanolli** is founder of ZN Communications in Pittsfield, MA. She is also in charge of PR/communications at Wave Systems Corporation in Pittsfield.

## 04

**Emily Bethel** and Jeremiah O'Sullivan were married on September 20, 2014.

**Lynn Brennan** was recently featured in an article in *The Spectator* in Hornell, NY, for her work as a photographer portraying happy couples tying the knot and newborn babies being welcomed into families.

**John E. Rivers** has been appointed the new principal of Catskill Elementary School.

**Nat Robinson** is now mechanical design test engineer at Axcelis Technologies in Eliot, ME.

**Amanda Westerlind** is now the special education department secretary at Millbury High School in Boston.

**Eric Zanconato** received his master of science at Salve Regina University in 2009. Eric is now a human capital strategist in North Dartmouth, MA.

## 05

**William Clooney** works as the new special education teacher at Fort Plain Jr./ Sr. High School in Fort Plain, NY.

**David Ortendahl** represented MCLA at the inauguration of WPI's sixteenth President Laurie A. Leshin. He also facilitated a STEM recruiting panel at the NACE conference in June with panelists from MITRE Corporation, Fidelity, General Electric, and Google.

**Sara Dyer Stefanik** is now associate director, community at Everyday Health in Pittsfield.

**Elizabeth Zepp** received her M.Ed. at Fitchburg State College. She is currently working at Worcester Center for Crafts.



**06**

**Sara Oakes** and Christopher Modena were married in July 2014.

**Kristine Speth Huggins** was named office manager at the Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club.

**Brenna Uline** was nominated for her work with establishing the New York chapter of the TEARS Foundation, an organization that provides financial help to parents with burial expenses for their infants. She also serves her Stillwater community through the Lions Club.

**Thea Yurkewecz** recently was selected to receive the Michael C. Hoffman Endowed Scholarship from the University of Albany.

**Nichole Davis Lother** was appointed annual giving program manager at MCLA in 2014.

**07**

**Monica Henry** is leading a program at the Clark Art Institute that would socially enrich head start children.

**Gina Puc** was appointed director of admissions at MCLA in 2013.



**Maureen Cherry Jolicoeur '07** married **Adam Jolicoeur '08** in Williamstown, MA, on August 23, 2014. As they are both alums, they couldn't resist taking a few special photos on campus.

**Dan Summers** was appointed director of admissions at Southern Vermont College in 2013.



**Ben Lamb '07 and Emily Schiavoni '13** opened Oh Crepe! in North Adams in May—a premier locally sourced, fast food option. Ben and Emily's mission is to fill bellies with high-quality, affordable food, fair-trade and high-quality coffee, and enhance the culinary experience of both locals and visitors alike. Ben is assistant director for student involvement at Williams College and also serves as North Adams City Councilor and a member of the Alumni Board of Directors. Emily is director of residence life at Southern Vermont College.

**09**

**Amev Blackburn** is now development manager for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in East Wareham, MA.

**Ayanna Samuel** is now assistant bursar at Roger Williams University in Providence, RI.

**Heather Senecal** and Ryan Morrissey married at Jiminy Peak in Hancock, MA.

**10**

**Laura Gibson** is now a nonprofit business and creative economy consultant in the greater Chicago area. She received her juris doctor degree, intellectual property law from Massachusetts School of Law in 2013.

**Kaitlyn Bonneville** is now working as marketing communications manager at Virgin Pulse in Boston.

**11**

**Jamal Ahamad** is a HiSET instructor/case manager at the BerkshireWorks career center in Pittsfield, MA.

**Andrew Burke** is now in ad operations at TripAdvisor in Boston.

**Chelsey Burke** is now executive assistant to chancellor **Mary K. Grant '83** at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

**Kimberly Capriola** is currently writing her thesis for the master of arts degree in children's literature at the University of Roehampton in London, England.

**Natasha Robinson** is now assistant director of admissions at Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA.

**Brittany Shea** is now Liondemand.com account manager at Lionbridge (online media) in the Boston area.

**Ben Warren** is now a kindergarten coordinator/group leader at North Suburban YMCA in Boston.

**12**

**Sarah Candee** and Tucker Gillooly were married in September 2014 in Sheffield, MA.

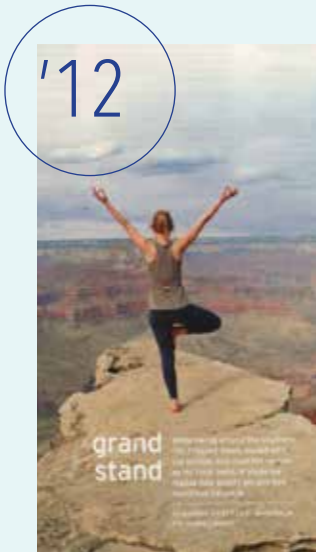
**Jonathan Greenberg** is now working in finance/ basketball operations with the Boston Celtics.

**Molly Guest** is now assistant to the vice president for administration and finance at Berkshire Community College and received her PMBA from MCLA in 2015.

**Nicolas Mendez** is now recruitment and outreach specialist at Empire State College in NY.



**Jamal Ahamad '11** and **Rebecca Clemons '11** were married on May 29 at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, NY.



**Shannon Costello '12** was recently photographed doing yoga at the Grand Canyon. This picture appeared on the back page of *Yoga Journal*.

**Lauren Sottile** is the new development associate at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA.

## 13

**David "Max" Eve** won a hackathon competition in Boston. His team (RightByte) designed a system to help children with food allergies. The team won \$3,000 and also received funding and support to implement their system and start a company to market it.

## 14

**Nic Piretti** has been hired as an athletic trainer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



**Luke "Rabbit" Davis '12** is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana. He played soccer as a Trailblazer and can be seen here sharing his love of the sport with the local people of Ghana.

## NON-DEGREE

**Courtney Cronin** is now a trainer at Putnam Investments in Boston.

## 15

**Kelsey Marini** was selected for a traveling communications internship with the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA). During the course of this summer, six teams consisting of two communications and six operations interns will travel to golf courses across the country. Out of 350 original applicants, Kelsey was selected to be one of the twelve communications traveling interns. After a week and a half of training in Atlanta, GA, in May, Kelsey's team will be traveling the East Coast from



**Kelsey Marini '15** with Assistant Athletic Director Dot Houston

June to September. Some of her duties will include setting up tournaments, conducting interviews, maintaining media, sponsors, and public relations, public speaking, blogging, and writing feature articles for the AJGA's magazine *The Insider*.

# IN MEMORIAM

## ALUMNI

Robert Browword  
Timothy J. Emswiler  
Frank W. Pidgeon  
Janet Jillson Ward '39  
Janet Broadbent '42  
Jean Senecal Downey '45  
Katherine Irwin Best '52  
Raymond B. Kavey '53

Donald E. Anderson '54  
Frank Maiorano '56  
Carol Richard McCarron '57  
Garrett Collins '61  
Robert Gallant '62  
Bernard Kelley '63  
Edmund T. Bercury '65  
Daniel P. Boyle, Jr. '65

Dorothy Carlo '67  
Louis A. Axt '68  
Peter Mulcahy '69  
Joan Lubowicz Rivers '69  
Stephen A. Wood '71  
Patricia Samoluk Rene '72  
Chester Kodys, Jr. '73  
Donald P. McMahon '73

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## Professor. Colleague. Mentor. Friend.

For 33 years, Dr. James May embodied all of these at MCLA. Joining the faculty in 1974, May became an active and highly respected member of the psychology department.

As a teacher, he devoted countless hours working with students in and out of the classroom. He was responsible for starting an undergraduate research program at the College where faculty and students would collaborate on research projects. This was the precursor of the current undergraduate research program and MCLA's Annual Undergraduate Research Conference.

A proponent of the liberal arts long before the college changed its name, May was one of the main architects of the current core curriculum. He was particularly adept at seeing the value of liberally educated professionals and the College's role in identifying what every college graduate should know.

May's work firmly established psychology as a science and he was a tenacious advocate of the



Sharon and Jim May

College establishing an institutional review board to ensure that all research work meets federal regulations.

May was devoted to the success of his students and his colleagues. He never declined an opportunity to be a mentor, advocate, or cheerleader, at times seeing possibilities in people who didn't see it in themselves.

Deeply respected and beloved by students, May's family and colleagues have established the Dr. Jim L. May Scholarship Fund in his honor. For more information or to make a contribution to this fund, call the Advancement Office at (413) 662.5229 or send a check payable to the MCLA Foundation, Inc., 375 Church Street, North Adams, MA 01247.

## STUDENT PHILANTHROPY SPIRIT CORD PROGRAM

Sigmund A. Sadzinski '73  
 Arnold S. Rice '74  
 Frank Harrington '75  
 William Murray '75  
 Wendy Kaplan Frost '76  
 Richard Holak '76  
 Joan Costello Turnbull '76  
 Janice I. O'Keefe-Billings '78  
 Paul Deame '79  
 Michael E. Pajak '79  
 Benjamin Koldys '80  
 Maureen M. Abernathy '81  
 David D. Gammans '81  
 Susan Hastings Pothier '81  
 Charles L. Gravel '83  
 Thomas F. Schmitt '84  
 Richard W. Robinson '86  
 Jennifer Sherman Keefe '87  
 Robert J. Carnes '88  
 Jane Bennett Marino '92  
 William H. Mooney '93  
 John D. Lafayette '94  
 Carol Mahar '95  
 Steven P. Tatro '97  
 Mary Hanlon Dean '98  
 Jennifer M. Sebastino '00  
 Barbara Levesque '05  
 Colleen M. Neff-Sawar '05  
 Malka Nuselovici '06

### FACULTY

William S. Anderson  
 Helen E. Brown '40  
 Bernard A. Clairmont '76  
 James L. May Ph.D.

Thank you to those of the Class of 2015 who participated in our first year of the Student Philanthropy Spirit Cord Program. As students, these recent alumni gave at a student leadership level of \$20.15 to show their commitment to their alma mater beyond their four years at this institution. Each student received a special blue and gold cord worn at Commencement this year.



Osakpolo "Osa" Igiede '15

Ama Bemba	Heather Chiros	Brenda Paulino
Adwetewa-Badu	Sarah Corley	Brendan Peltier
Jennifer	Katherine Doolittle	Darien Quick
Albuquerque	Elizabeth Doughty	Olivia Repula
Dianne Amos	Abigail Egan	Francesca Rodriguez
Juan Andujar	Cherylene Hillard	Linda Ryan
Jordan Barsamian	Priscilla Hopkins	Giselle Sabido
Britni Becker	Osakpolo Igiede	Shana Shippee
Jordyn Biagiotti	Olivia Johnson	Heather Smegal
Sharra Blache	Helena Kemper	Alyson Stolz
Deanna Boucher	Griffin Labbance	Susan Strack
Emily Boughton	Haley Manson	Melissa Tarjick
Sandra Brimage	Valerie Mercado	Cynthia Taylor
Danielle Callanan	Sarah Murphy	Rhea Werner
Michaela Carpenter	Nicole Ngoon	Brett Westbrook
Alexandra Change	Mikaelle Olivier	
Cynthia Chevett	Katrina Ouellette	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER 1, 2015

Community Reading Lecture  
with Jeff Speck, author of  
*Walkable City*



Weinberg-Clark Photography

### OCTOBER 15, 2015

Hardman Lecture with Joy Reid

### OCTOBER 16-18, 2015

Reunion Weekend



### NOVEMBER 12, 2015

Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis  
Public Policy Lecture  
with Ray Kurzweil

### DECEMBER 9, 2015

Boston Alumni Holiday Social

### SAVE THE DATE

Monday, September 21, 2015

## MCLA ATHLETICS GOLF CLASSIC

*Honoring Ron Shewcraft, Retired Men's Soccer Coach (1978-2006)  
Celebrating the Men's and Women's Soccer Programs*

Berkshire Hills Country Club | Pittsfield, MA  
<http://athletics.mcla.edu/golfclassic>





# MCLA

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Michael Reopell '85

Natasha Robinson '11

Dan Summers '07

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Dennis Zicko '65

**MASSACHUSETTS  
COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS**

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ALUMNI**

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≡ ENJOY ART MORE OFTEN ≡

“Earnestly homey and at home with irony”  
- Travel + Leisure



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