

# MCLA

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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*PRESIDENT'S REPORT* 2010

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# MCLA

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT* 2010

# 2010 President's Report

Dear Friends:

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

Working together over the course of this year, we:

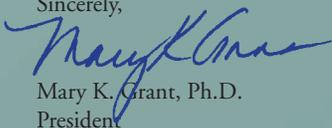
- Launched a new graduate program, the Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA) (see page 10);
- Hosted the first Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (see page 8);
- Celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Student Government Association (see page 40);
- Cheered on our trailblazing women's basketball and soccer teams as they captured Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference titles (see page 29);
- And, as the culmination of many years of advocacy, planning, and collaboration, hosted a site designation ceremony for the MCLA Center for Science and Innovation (see page 4).

These are just a few highlights of a year in the life of this truly remarkable institution, one where the hard work, dedication, and innovation of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, supporters, and friends helps us face every challenge with confidence and maximize every opportunity. In particular, we will continue to look to our elected officials, and all our friends and supporters, to be our advocates as the economic recovery proceeds and opportunities to raise funding levels for public higher education emerge.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the 2010 MCLA achievements presented in the pages of this report. I'm confident that this brief look at our work and our accomplishments will whet your appetite for all the great things ahead in the coming year, including breaking ground on the Center for Science and Innovation!

Thank you for everything you do for MCLA, our students, and the community each and every day. I invite you to visit us on campus for a performance, lecture, or game to experience the milestones that happen daily here. I also encourage you to share with others the story of this vital, vibrant, and important living and learning community in the heart of the Berkshires.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.  
President

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# Planning and Purpose



MCLA is a place where lives are changed every day. For many students, this process of transformation begins before they first step into a college classroom. It may start with their initial contact with an admissions officer that sets them on the path to MCLA and to the endless opportunities available here. It may be rooted in the bonds of community and friendship that form at orientation and are nurtured through shared experiences.

Other students find power and purpose through the Individual Enrichment Summer Seminar program or the college success and community service opportunities available as part of the Leadership in Education, Action and Development Academy (LEAD). Monique Symes '11 notes, "LEAD was one of the most inspirational experiences I ever had. Through the program, I learned what it takes to be a good community leader."

Once students begin their academic journey, change takes place in the classroom as well. Exposure to excellent teaching and fresh ideas may inspire students to view the world in a new way and lead them in a direction they might not have found on their own. It happens through undergraduate research, internships, international travel, and service learning projects as students are challenged to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it with effective, innovative, and powerful results.

Change takes place when students explore their interests in clubs and organizations, become leaders in the Student Government Association (SGA), work to help others in community service projects, and learn about competition and teamwork on intramural sports and athletic teams.

For Jade Prickett '10, her experiences as a student-athlete and her service as the College's Student Trustee were an integral part of the successful foundation she built at MCLA. "I learned how to be a leader on and off of the playing field," she said. "The words respect, communication and teamwork were often applied and used. Leaders must communicate, have respect for each team member, and work as a team to be successful. I know I will achieve my career goals applying what I learned at MCLA: communicating, respecting my co-workers and myself, and working together towards a common goal."

Student life opportunities foster the development of communication, leadership, problem solving, and teamwork skills—qualities and characteristics essential to successful careers and engaged citizenship.

The power of MCLA to change lives continues after graduation as alumni sustain lifelong friendships, make new friends and connections through the Alumni Association, return to the College for reunions and other special events, and support the Annual Fund to give back a measure of what they received from the institution.

2010 Convocation speaker Xavier Jackman '00 says, "I received a great education at MCLA, one that has allowed me to continue to change and grow in an ever-changing society. I learned to honor my responsibilities and to respect the

diversity of experiences and opinions of others, and the way our differences and discussions foster understanding and knowledge."

For some alumni, their connection to the college is generational, as alumni parents help guide their children to the opportunities a public liberal arts education provides, and encourage them to look closely at MCLA when making their college decision.

Of course, you don't need to be a student or alum to have your life changed by this vital institution. MCLA offers a variety of public programs that reinforce our standing as a community resource. The College's cultural programs, including exhibitions at MCLA Gallery 51, Fine and Performing Arts department plays and student theater productions, and MCLA Presents! Concerts and performances connect MCLA with the rich cultural resources of Berkshire County. Thought-provoking lectures in journalism, public policy, and environmental issues provide opportunities for learning and engagement with nationally and internationally renowned speakers. And our Division III athletics teams give everyone a reason to cheer.



## WHAT DO ALL OF THESE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES HAVE IN COMMON?

Their connection to MCLA's strategic planning process. Some programs resulted from ideas and suggestions put forth through the process. Others have been reviewed, refined, and reinvigorated over the course of the planning cycle that has been ongoing since 2005.

"Through the strategic planning process, the College has launched new academic programs; expanded collaborations regionally, statewide, nationally, and internationally; developed initiatives to enhance student recruitment and retention, residence life, service learning, and the diversity of our campus community," says President Mary K. Grant. "We have intensified the focus on high impact experiences, including the annual undergraduate research conference, a reinvigorated first-year experience program, the implementation of an ePortfolio learning and assessment tool, the creation of a Center for Student Success and Engagement, and investments in facilities and technology."

The list of achievements, progress, and life-changing opportunities resulting from the strategic planning process is impressive and ongoing. These accomplishments are the result of the hard work, dedication, and engagement of faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, and community partners and stakeholders. "Working together, the MCLA community has set goals, developed strategies and action



## STRATEGIC PLANNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through the strategic planning process MCLA has seen a range of powerful results, including:

- New majors in art, arts management, athletic training, political science and public policy, and our newest graduate program, the Professional Master of Business Administration.
- The Berkshire Compact for Education and the Berkshire Readiness Center, programs to increase access and raise aspirations to higher education.
- Connections with the cultural community through MCLA Gallery 51, the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP), and the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC).
- Enhanced First Year Seminar program.
- Growth in undergraduate enrollment and retention, supported by enhanced recruiting strategies, including gains in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) majors, student diversity, and the resident student population.
- Student engagement and leadership programs including Orientation Leaders, Peer Advisors, Resident Assistants, and the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC).
- Facility improvements, including new student space in Berkshire Towers, creation of the Office of Institutional Advancement on East Main Street, and over \$2 million in energy efficiency upgrades.
- Growth in funding support for students, including over \$2 million raised to support financial aid and the endowment of 10 new scholarships.
- The Center for Science and Innovation, soon to be the first new academic building at MCLA in 40 years, and a resource for faculty, student, and community learning and engagement.

plans, and piloted new and innovative ideas,” says Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education Richard Freeland. “With open communication and shared investment in results, faculty, staff, administrators, students, alumni, trustees, and other stakeholders continue to move this important institution forward.”

2010 marked a milestone in the planning process. As we move into 2011 we have the opportunity to close one chapter of strategic planning, pause to take stock of where we have been, and to launch the next cycle of strategic planning. As with the work that brought the College successfully to this point, the next phase of the planning process will involve the entire MCLA community. Like the last stage of the plan, our new efforts will be grounded in a careful assessment of where we are as an institution, while also being highly aspirational. Our updated strategic plan will reflect the forward-looking vision of this community and provide a roadmap for where we want to be as we continue to strengthen and sustain our role as the Commonwealth’s public liberal arts college.

This role is rooted in a demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, a commitment that rests at the heart of all our strategic planning efforts. This is a bedrock principle of MCLA’s identity, that all members of the MCLA community will have access to opportunities and experiences that are transformative, and that last a lifetime.

As we move into the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, MCLA’s strategic planning process will continue to guide the institution forward, building on the achievements and lessons of the past to plan for and achieve new success in the future. We know that today’s students are preparing themselves for tomorrow. They will be the leaders, the innovators, the educators, the lifelong learners, and the citizens who will inherit the challenges and opportunities of previous generations, and carry forward that torch, lighting the way for the generations that will follow them.

We are proud that MCLA is a place dedicated to the important work of changing lives.

# College to Break Ground on New **SCIENCE CENTER**

A new \$54.5 million Center for Science and Innovation is one step closer to construction with the announcement last October that the facility will be built on Blackinton Street, between Montana Street and the Office of Admission. Construction is slated to begin in September.

Local and state officials praised President Mary K. Grant for her vision and persistence in pursuing funding for the project over the last six years.

State Secretary of Education Paul Reville said Massachusetts' investment in the Center will ensure that students have the opportunity to explore careers in high-demand science fields, which will strengthen the state's economy. The Center will be a magnet for faculty and students and a proving ground for new research.

Former State Representative Dan Bosley spearheaded the 2008 Life Sciences Bill, a 10-year \$1 billion investment in the industry. "When we're trying to educate students today, we need to have state-of-the-art labs," he said. "We need to have a building where we can integrate different sciences."

State Senator Benjamin Downing said that the Center's value comes down to employment and preparing a workforce for the jobs of tomorrow: "This is a game-changer for the Berkshires as a whole."

Both students and faculty are excited about the new science building. "Having so many of the sciences in one building will make it easier for departments to work together," Anita Parker '11, a biology major, said. "The building also will provide great opportunities for future students, such as a lab solely for research. The new science building will provide the room the science departments need to grow."

In mid-December, MCLA signed off on certification documents for a feasibility study of the Center. This, too, was an important milestone in the project: it triggers the beginning of the design phase and sets the stage to break ground on construction this September.

Housing the College's biology, chemistry, environmental science, physics, psychology and computer science departments, the Center not only will be an integral part of the campus, it will serve the local community as it offers space and programming for teachers and students from area elementary and secondary schools.



L-R: President Mary K. Grant, Secretary Paul Reville, rendering of new science center



# THE MANY FACES OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

At MCLA, students engage in high-impact learning from the get-go. They collaborate with faculty members on scientific research projects, present their findings at national conferences, and travel abroad for academic exchange programs that increase cultural competency, a critical piece to success in a global economy.

Students come from diverse backgrounds and capitalize on their personal experiences to explore their passions. They are empowered to serve the community on a local, national, and global level through internships and experiential learning programs. And they become leaders through their involvement in more than 30 clubs on campus. Most important, students share a zeal for learning.

Seniors Danielle Morrissey and Jamal Ahamad and graduate student Tim Herene are quite different from each other, but they all demonstrate this sense of excitement, which has fueled their commitment to academic excellence.

Morrissey is a biology major with a chemistry minor from Westfield, Mass., who has conducted some impressive research on the biochemistry of plants. Ahamad, a dancer and an English major from Brooklyn, N.Y., found his direction through the College's arts management program. And Herene is a Vietnam War veteran from the Berkshires who worked in a factory for years before becoming an educator in 2003. He will complete his master's degree at age 62.

Each of these students has followed a unique path, but they all share a passion for learning.

As a freshman, Morrissey's professors recognized her potential and recommended she apply for a summer internship at Williams College. Her work there was published in *Plant Cell*, a scientific journal, in November 2008.

After her sophomore year, she interned at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, Pa., doing research with MCLA's Dr. Emily Mooney. At MCLA, Morrissey continued

that research, which included an examination of the Japanese knotweed, an invasive species, and how caterpillars affect the plant. Morrissey is fascinated by the plant's ability to create chemical compounds that defend against predators such as the caterpillar. "I'm really interested in the biochemistry of what these plants are producing," she said.

Morrissey never contemplated a career in research, but the internship was so engaging and challenging that she has decided to pursue graduate study in her field. "It was so much fun to be drawing up these problems and figuring out how to make them work," she said. "I came back and I said, 'This is what I want to do for the rest of my life.'"

## MCLA OPENS DOORS THAT STAY OPEN

For Ahamad, a Brooklyn native, MCLA provided an opportunity to escape the limitations of a neighborhood and peer group not focused on academic success. Early on, Ahamad shunned street life in favor of his studies. "I pretty much stayed at home and just studied," he said. "I paid attention in class. I listened to my parents. I saw the lifestyle that other people lived and I didn't want to be part of that."

Once he arrived at MCLA, the doors of opportunity swung open, and they stayed open. Ahamad got involved in everything. He served as a student senator with the Student Government Association (SGA). He was on the Student Activities Council, joined the boxing club, and participated in the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP). Like Morrissey, he is an MCLA ambassador who shares his passion for our campus with prospective students.

During a "Grants and Fundraising" class, Ahamad worked on a proposal to restore the Mohawk Theatre in downtown North Adams. Also a talented artist, his work was part of North Adams Open Studios' "Passages and People" exhibition. And he drew comics for the student-run newspaper, *The Beacon*, where he was on staff for two years.

Ahamad also dances in a company with students at nearby Williams College and teaches dance to local high school students. On Saturdays, he includes the high school dancers in MCLA Dance Company workshops. "I want them to know that College is a good option, because opportunities will open up for them," Ahamad said.

Ahamad has benefited from MCLA'S commitment to the arts and the many opportunities to engage with prominent



Danielle Morrissey '11

A close-up portrait of Jamal Ahamad, a young man with a bright smile, wearing a dark blue baseball cap and a dark jacket. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

## Jamal Ahamad '11

artists inside and outside the classroom. Located in the cultural epicenter of the Berkshires, the area offers unparalleled art resources to students and faculty. Ahamad worked to bring Black Violin, an African-American hip-hop duo comprised of two classically trained string instrumentalists, to perform last fall as part of MCLA Presents! and performed with the dance company for the opening act. Ahamad also has met and worked with leading dancers such as Cleo Parker Robinson.

Ahamad said that growing up in Brooklyn, he never dreamed he would be interacting with world-class artists, dancing on stage, and teaching other young people how to dance. MCLA has given him an opportunity to explore and cultivate an interest in the arts in a profound way and that has enriched his academic experience. "Being able to talk to the artists—the dancers and the choreographers and the artistic directors—is amazing," he said.

### *FROM THE FACTORY FLOOR TO THE HEAD OF A CLASSROOM*

When Tim Herene of Dalton, Mass., enrolled in MCLA, he was 47. A car accident had left him unable to return to his factory job and he found himself making deliveries for an auto parts store.

"I'd had an interest in teaching when I was in high school, but after the Vietnam War, I worked in a factory all my life," he said.

After considering his options, Herene decided to attend college full time to pursue teaching. "I was serious and committed to get through it. I persevered. I rarely missed a class, and only when it was absolutely necessary. I wanted to

learn," he said.

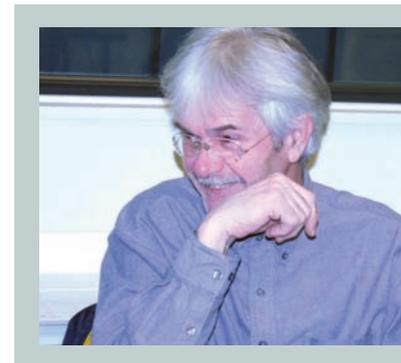
He graduated cum laude in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in history and a teaching certificate. For the past seven years, Herene has worked as a special education teacher at the Hillcrest Education Center in Pittsfield, Mass.

Now he is back at MCLA, in pursuit of a master's degree in education, which he expects to complete in the spring. At age 62, it feels like quite an accomplishment, he said: "It's surpassed even what I thought I could do."

MCLA's close-knit community, small class sizes, and easy access to professors made what might have been a daunting transition back to college easier for Herene. Many nontraditional students find the campus to be welcoming and accessible, with high value placed on the experiences of older students.

"I like the feeling of community at MCLA," Herene said. "It's not a big university. I always found it necessary to talk to my professors and I wanted that relationship so they could help me. When they said, 'Call me up,' they meant it, and I took them up on that because I needed the support and guidance, which was always there."

That close relationship with professors helped Herene stay the course and do well academically. Herene said MCLA gave him the confidence and skill to switch gears at mid-life and pursue a career that is more interesting, challenging, and rewarding. "This is my last career, of course, but I love it," he said. "It's fun to go to work. It's a lifelong ethic that's helped me to succeed."



Tim Herene '11

# Undergraduates from Northeast Gather at MCLA for RESEARCH CONFERENCE

**DEVIN KIBBE '11**, an English literature and secondary education major, researched 16th-century British miniatures—small-scale paintings that were worn around the neck, pinned to clothing, or stowed away secretly.

Her research, conducted during a class trip to England last spring, “opened a world of understanding, both to the technique and unique materials that were mastered to create a new and brilliant style,” Kibbe explained. As part of the project, she produced her own miniatures, modeled after those created by Nicholas Hilliard, an artist she discovered while conducting research at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The conference provided a unique opportunity to see what other student scholars are working on across the Northeast, Kibbe said. She called the conference a “fantastic resume booster” and her paper was published in COPLAC’s online journal, *Metamorphosis*. Kibbe also was invited to apply to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research at Ithaca College in New York. she gained significant public speaking experience through the conference, a skill that will be useful in her planned career as a teacher.

Early on in their academic careers, students have the opportunity to work alongside professors in intensive hands-on research projects in all disciplines. At the annual Undergraduate Research Conference, hundreds of students present and share their original research and creative projects in a scholarly setting.

Held in April, the conference provides tremendous educational opportunities, both for the student presenters and their peers, who get a chance to learn from their friends and classmates. In October, MCLA built on the success of that event when it hosted the inaugural Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference for the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). For the first time, MCLA students shared their academic achievements with peers from five other COPLAC campuses—Eastern Connecticut State University, Keene State College in New Hampshire, Ramapo College of New Jersey, University of Maine-Farmington, and SUNY Geneseo.

“One of the main goals of the regional conference was to bring together students from public liberal arts colleges, where undergraduate research is a recognized ‘high impact’ practice,” said COPLAC Director Bill Spellman. “At this, the first conference of its kind in the Northeast, students connected with their peers from other COPLAC campuses.”



**BRETT HINCHLIFFE '12**, a political science and public policy major, studied colonial administrations of Nigeria and Algeria from 1870 to 1914. “I argued that the different administrations were primarily a result of the differing attitudes towards colonization between Great Britain and France,” he said.

Hinchliffe relished the opportunity to meet students from various schools, diverse backgrounds, and with different academic interests. The presentations were “interesting, informative and entertaining,” he said, and he gained a lot from having to present his own work in a professional and public forum. “The conference prepared me for future research-based assignments that I could encounter in graduate school or my career,” he said.





**JESSE ROBILLARD '11**, a biology major with a pre-medical concentration, conducted research that is important to the survival of coral reefs throughout the world. He worked to identify a type of bacteria that grows inside the *aiptasia pallida*, a species of sea anemone, and investigated its antibiotic components.

According to Robillard, the bacteria in reefs have a symbiotic relationship with the coral and are essential to its survival. "They can prevent diseases from coming in and help give them nutrients," Robillard explained. He said the discovery of critical protective roles in this bacteria is exciting and will be useful to scientists working to protect coral reefs internationally, a hot topic in the field of climate change.



**ALEXANDRA NICHIPOR '12**, a sociology and philosophy major, followed her interest in world religions to research a text from the Hebrew Bible, the Song of Songs.

"It was my theory that the Song, traditionally interpreted as love poetry, was in fact a prophetic work. I strove to prove this by identifying the similarities between motifs in both the Song and known prophetic texts," she explained.

Nichipor, who plans to attend graduate school and become a professor of religious studies, said the Song of Songs was of particular interest because of its conflation of sensual and spiritual desire. "These are two things that modern people think are totally exclusive, but reading the Song shows you there is another way to think," she said.

"The conference was a wonderful experience, and highly beneficial to my career goals," said Nichipor. "I learned much from other presenters and I think the whole experience will make me a more confident presenter at future conferences."



# New GRADUATE PROGRAM Will Meet Regional Need

In response to demand from the Berkshire County business community, MCLA has launched a Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA) program geared towards busy professionals.

The Professional MBA joins two other programs of advanced study: the Masters in Education (M.Ed.) and the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS).

Campus officials determined a need for a professional advanced business program for area employees in middle management and above to strengthen their credentials. The PMBA is an accelerated part-time program designed to meet the needs of the working adult learner. The program offers a variety of classes in both online and face-to-face formats and can be completed in 24 months. The PMBA was developed specifically for full-time working adults and includes weekend courses. Successful applicants to the program must have a four-year Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, as well as at least five years of business or professional experience.

Students will gain knowledge and skills immediately relevant to their work. The program combines the strengths of MCLA business faculty at the doctoral and Professional MBA levels with those of managers actively

involved in day to day decision-making in the field. MCLA's strong connection to the business community has provided the foundation for the College to engage an external advisory board of leaders from the Berkshires to Boston to lend experienced and valuable support to the students, and to help keep the program's curriculum current. Graduates of the Professional MBA program will earn an important credential that will prepare them to assume increased responsibilities at work and to move into leadership roles.

Area professionals responded positively to the new program, and slots in the first cohort of students filled quickly.

Tara Ferriter, a certified public accountant, said earning a Professional MBA degree is essential to her career. She expects the program will provide her with the skills and knowledge necessary to build her business and to establish a powerful presence in Berkshire County.

"I expect the Professional MBA will broaden my knowledge beyond taxation and help me help my clients make better business decisions," she said. "This is very important, as many small businesses rely more and more on their accountants for a broad range of services."

Ferriter appreciates the program's flexible schedule, close proximity to her home and business, and an opportunity to work closely with other area professionals, as well as business faculty. "The structure of the program fosters the building of important relationships that will be invaluable in the future," she said. "An MBA and CPA will be a powerhouse combination that can take me where I want to be!"





# *Public Higher Education* **TAKES THE NEXT STEP**

In October, MCLA attained university status under a new law signed by Governor Deval Patrick to establish a single state university system for the nine public colleges in Massachusetts.

This change brings the Commonwealth in line with the 45 other states nationwide that have a unified university structure, and represents a competitive advantage for all Massachusetts institutions and students. To preserve and promote its unique identity, the College will continue as Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

According to President Mary K. Grant, “MCLA’s unique status as the Commonwealth’s public liberal arts college makes us distinctive, as does our membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), a national cohort of public liberal arts colleges and universities.”

The size and scale allow the College to engage with students and serve our region on a deeper level. It is this very distinction, based on the power of a liberal arts education, that makes MCLA so competitive today, and that provides unique opportunities such as undergraduate research programs.

More than ever, a complex global economy is demanding workers that can think critically and communicate clearly, skills that can be attained through a liberal arts education.





# PRESIDENT GRANT Receives National Leadership Award

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President Mary K. Grant was recognized for her outstanding achievements with a Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). President Grant was selected as the honoree for CASE District I.

CASE, an international membership association, advances and supports educational institutions by providing knowledge, standards, advocacy and training designed to strengthen the combined efforts of alumni relations, communications, fundraising, marketing and allied professionals.

The Chief Executive Leadership Award honors institutional leaders for outstanding contributions to their campus communities, for efforts promoting public understanding of education, and for support of advancement at their campuses. College leaders also must have worked to increase their institution's stature in the community and to establish a positive image for their institution while leading it to even higher levels of success.

"Anyone who has taken the time to observe the far-reaching impact Dr. Grant has had on the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts will immediately understand why she was selected to receive this most prestigious award," said Charles F. Desmond, Ed.D., chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. "Under her leadership, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts has broken through and emerged as a shining star, helping to lead our public system of higher education on to new heights of achievement, recognition, and stature."

Through her leadership, MCLA has expanded academic programming, recruited outstanding new faculty, strengthened educational and co-curricular opportunities for students, increased enrollment and built greater connections between the College and the community. This includes the Berkshire Compact for Education, a countywide initiative that serves as a model for regional collaboration for educational access, readiness and aspirations to higher education.

Dr. Grant also has been a strong advocate of the essential role that science and technology play in securing the future of the Commonwealth and the nation. Among other leadership roles in this area, she serves on Governor Patrick's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Advisory Council. In October, MCLA announced the site for its new Center for Science and Innovation. Most recently, Dr. Grant joined the governing board of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's John Adams Innovation Institute, which works to enhance the role of innovation within the Massachusetts economy.





## GOVERNOR APPOINTS PRESIDENT GRANT TO STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

President Mary K. Grant was appointed to the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Advisory Council, chaired by Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray.

This advisory body—which consists of advocates in the public and private sectors, legislators and educators—brings together public and private sector stakeholders involved with STEM planning and programming, with the goal of increasing student interest in, and preparation for, careers in the STEM fields.

The council will assess how best to increase the number of STEM programs in schools in Massachusetts and provide advice regarding the creation and dissemination of a statewide STEM plan over the next five years. The group

also will present recommendations on a campaign to build public support across the Commonwealth for the STEM disciplines.

“The STEM Advisory Council is bringing together members of the public and private sector, dedicated to investing in STEM education across the Commonwealth,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray. “Members of the Council will be great partners as we continue to promote STEM education and encourage our students, who are the future leaders of the Commonwealth’s innovation economy, to study science, technology, engineering, and math.”



President Mary K. Grant with Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray and MCLA students



# THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

At MCLA, educators recognize that preparing young people for success in an era of globalism means exposing them to other cultures and languages, including China, the fastest-growing economy in the world.

Last year, the college signed a five-year articulation agreement with Hebei University in China, paving the way for a cultural exchange program between the two institutions. Chinese students travel from Hebei University to study at MCLA, adding a vibrant multiculturalism to the campus and surrounding communities. Recent MCLA graduates also travel to Hebei University to teach English language classes.

Ben Kahn, professor of business administration and economics, said students in his classes have benefited from the international perspective the Chinese students bring to classroom discussions and presentations. “The Chinese students exhibit serious commitment to their educational goals and studies,” he said. “Our students are realizing the importance of a global education and the potential it has for advancement.”

Sharon Zavattaro, who coordinates MCLA’s study abroad program, said students are learning about each other’s social customs and way of life. “Students experience a different culture, including varying points of view, based on Chinese ethnicity,” Zavattaro said. “The most beneficial thing, I believe, is an understanding of each other and a willingness to engage in conversations.”

For the Chinese students, life at MCLA provides a window into American culture and exposure to a very different educational system. Ren Wenshuo, a broadcast media student, said she loves MCLA, where she has joined the dance company, the TV broadcasting club and the photography club.

Wenshuo appreciates the close relationship that MCLA students have with professors and the small student to faculty ratio. “Professors here treat me really well,” she continued. “They always welcome me to contact them when I have problems with my studies. Students here are open and passionate. Their positive attitudes inspire me, and they are so helpful.”

Guo Yong, who is majoring in finance, said the experience has been eye opening. “The values, culture and many things are different here from China,” Yong said. “I would suggest that my friends





in China come here to learn business from Professor Kahn. He knows much about China, to some extent even more than me.”

Julie Ashton '11 said having the Chinese students on campus has helped her to better understand their culture. In addition to learning some Chinese, she and other MCLA students taught the exchange students some new English words and phrases.

“We have talked about the different schooling systems and governments of our countries and it has really opened my eyes to how other cultures view the world,” Ashton said. “As a sociology/anthropology major, I have been able to apply my interactions with the Hebei students to what I am studying in class about how different cultures interact. But perhaps most importantly, they have taught me a new way to look at the world. They have taught me to look at my own American customs and at the world in a new way.”



Vandana Shiva

# Bringing *PUBLIC POLICY* to Life

Through the annual Public Policy lecture series, students have a chance to connect with ideas and people who are making a difference in the world. This year, the series featured thought-provoking discussions with four prestigious speakers on issues of race and socio-economic inequality, and on the ecological value of traditional farming.

The Oscar award-winning movie, *Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push'* by Sapphire, was the topic of a panel discussion for MCLA's fourth Public Policy Lecture, sponsored by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. The discussion, "Changing Lives: Precious, Policy and Education," was moderated by Emmy Award-winning journalist Carole Simpson. The panel also included the film's executive producer, Lisa Cortés, and Jonathan Kozol, educator, social activist and author.

The discussion was an opportunity to engage in the complex conversation about social, economic and racial issues as students, faculty and community members shared their thoughts after they read the book or saw the movie.

While some critics of the film felt that the story supported racial stereotypes, Cortés argued that the story told just one facet of the African-American experience. "Others, who are not African-American, have come up to me and said, 'Wow. This is my story.' Precious is symbolic in many ways of many nationalities who have experienced these unfortunate conditions of poverty, of illiteracy, of abuse. It's not specific to one community."

Kozol has devoted the last four decades exposing issues of inequities in public education and social injustice in the United States and has written



L-R: Carole Simpson, Jonathan Kozol, and Lisa Cortés

numerous books on the subject. He said that tens of thousands like Precious are not saved because of a lack of adequate federal support to treat drug abuse and mental illness, prevent child abuse, and adequately fund public education in inner-city schools.

In addition to moderating the panel discussion, Simpson talked about her career as a top broadcast journalist. English/communications professor Dr. Joseph Ebiware said, "Like the first-class broadcaster and communicator that she is, Carole Simpson mixed humor and entertainment while moderating the panel discussion, and students found her to be witty and funny."

Petra Hejnova, a faculty member in the political science and public policy department, said the event presented a wonderful opportunity for students to see an interdisciplinary approach in practice.

"The moderated discussion bridged the fields of sociology, political science and education as it dealt with a multitude of topics," Hejnova said. "Our students appreciated the depth of the movie and related discussion between the three panelists."

We were joined by world-renowned environmentalist Vandana Shiva of India, a leader in the International Forum on Globalization and recipient of the 2010 Sydney Peace

Prize, who brought a global perspective to issues such as sustainability, climate change and food production.

According to Shiva, a shift away from oil-driven economies would help solve world economic and climate problems. Calling for a change to a soil-based economy, she told students that a dependence on oil creates unemployment and a centralization of power.

Neither genetic engineering nor the "green revolution"—chemical farming and industrialized agriculture—are the path to food security, Shiva said. Only ecological farming will provide enough food to feed the people of the world and meet the needs of a growing population.

"The figures are very clear on a global scale. One billion people on the planet are hungry. Of them, five million are growers of food. They are trapped in a negative economy where the cost of production is higher than what they earn."

The solution, Shiva said, must begin with individuals and communities. Whether they are in the Berkshires or India, small farms need to be defended, she said.

Made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust, both events were free and open to the public.

## JOURNALIST LAURA LING INSPIRES STUDENTS

A big part of the educational experience at MCLA is the opportunity to hear from leading thinkers in fields ranging from public policy to journalism to politics and environmental science. The Hardman Lecture Series invites noteworthy individuals to discuss journalism and communications, careers and the impact of the media.

This year the college welcomed Hardman lecturer Laura Ling, a journalist who was sentenced to 12 years of hard labor in North Korea after being captured while filming a documentary along the Chinese-North Korean border. In China to tell the story of North Korean women being trafficked into that country, Ling's experience unexpectedly turned into a fight for her own freedom. Five months into Ling's captivity, she was granted a special pardon after former President Bill Clinton traveled to North Korea to speak on her behalf.

Despite being viewed as the enemy, Ling had occasional conversations with her guards. "I think it's a testament to what can happen when people of enemy nations get to

connect face to face. Our perceptions of each other grow," Ling told a standing-room-only crowd in the MCLA Church Street Center.

Throughout her ordeal, Ling never lost her passion for journalism. She has since sought to shine a light on the issue of trafficked women, as well as to bring greater attention to the plight of other imprisoned journalists around the world. Ling has reported from dozens of countries and has covered subjects including slave labor in the Brazilian Amazon, Mexico's drug war, Internet censorship in China, and women's rights in Turkey.

This free public lecture series, which draws many people from the wider community, is part of an engaging campus life at MCLA and is made possible through the generosity of the Hardman Family Endowment.



# ANITA HILL: EDUCATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Attorney Anita Hill, professor of law, public policy, and women's studies at Brandeis University and a prominent advocate for educational, social, and racial equality, told graduates of the class of 2010 that they are the "best hope" for our country's future.

Hill, keynote speaker at commencement, urged graduates not to be satisfied with the status quo and to work for social justice.

Holding her commencement program from 1977, she said she believed then that "we were on the verge of monumental change for the better. We were on this fast track—a sprint if you will—to equality for all . . . we were going to say goodbye to sexism and racism, that poverty was going to be a thing of the past."

But Hill said she has learned that the "short race" for social, racial, gender, and economic equality was more of "a marathon" that still needs to be run. Hill said her generation "fought in the streets and the courts" as outsiders, but said the 2010 graduates will "fight as insiders." MCLA graduates "have all the solutions in their heads, thanks to the excellent education they received," Hill said.

An outspoken advocate for political and social justice, Hill received an honorary doctor of laws during the ceremony. Also honored at commencement were business executive and former MCLA Trustee Foster Devereux, who received a doctorate of public service; Academy Award-winning painter Stephen Hannock, recipient of a doctorate of fine arts; and international volunteer Josetta Owen '65, who received a doctorate of humanities.

During the commencement ceremony, 323 undergraduate students received their degrees. Another 38 received a master's of education degree, and two were awarded Certificates of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS).

Hill received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1980. She began her career in private practice in Washington, D.C., focusing on banking law and litigation. Before becoming a law professor, she worked as an advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Education Department and the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1989, Hill became the first African-American professor to be tenured at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

Professor Hill recently received the Ford Hall Forum's First Amendment Award for her promotion of gender and race equality. She is especially proud of receiving the Fletcher Fellowship for her work aimed at ending educational disparities among poor and minority students. That award was created in 2004 on the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and is given to institutions and individuals working to fulfill the goals of that landmark ruling.





# WHY SERVICE MATTERS

P

Public service is an important facet of a liberal arts education as we teach our students to become engaged global citizens. Each year MCLA students spend many hours helping others on campus, throughout the community and around the world. Here are just a few of their contributions:

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the men's basketball team and other students went door to door, collecting food and empty bottles and cans to benefit TargetHunger and Northern Berkshire Community Action. Players also collected food items for a women's shelter at a local supermarket.

Also on MLK Day, the women's basketball team spent the day at the Louison House homeless shelter in Adams, sorting through items that needed to be recycled or thrown away, and made mittens for those in need.

Annually, a group of students forgo traditional recreational opportunities to participate in Alternative Spring Break. Through this program, they have traveled nationally and internationally to complete a service project for people in

need, including replacement of a ceiling in a Belize school.

During a Community Day of Service in May 2010, 220 MCLA volunteers and community members committed a total of 765 hours of service at over a dozen sites around North Adams. This included the removal of more than 9,000 pounds of trash from neighborhoods and parks. The students also installed a new playground and equipment at Brayton Elementary School.

In recognition for their work, the North Adams City Council issued a resolution in recognition of the collaborative community service efforts between MCLA and the city.

As part of the First Days fall program, 80 incoming freshmen volunteered at 10 service sites where they worked with non-profit organizations and social agencies throughout North Adams.

Students collaborated with the North Adams Public Safety Department to distribute public health and general safety information to residents of the community.

## Site of the Center for Science and Innovation

Division of Capital Asset Management  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architects

### DAN BOSLEY: A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

As a longtime state representative and alumnus of MCLA, Dan Bosley '76 has always been a fierce advocate for the College. Bosley, a Democrat who has served in the State House for 24 years, recently completed his tenure in the state Legislature.

There is little doubt that Bosley will continue to play a role in the future of MCLA. Over the years, he has been a true friend to the College, exemplifying what it means to be a public servant. He has been an advocate and supporter of funding for the College, including Murdock Hall's historic renovation, Adult Basic Education programs, and ongoing operations, to name but a few. Bosley also played a pivotal role in leading the Berkshire delegations' efforts in partnership with Governor Deval Patrick to secure funding for the new MCLA Center for Science and Innovation.

"Dan has been an important voice for MCLA and public higher education," said MCLA President Mary K. Grant. "He views education as both a civic and economic development priority. He has a deep understanding of the issues and how policy affects communities and individuals."

"As a graduate of the College, and also a neighbor, MCLA is extremely important to me," Bosley said. "MCLA is a hub for innovative education and community engagement. It is also one of the region's largest employers and a primary driver of the economy. It's important that investment in MCLA continues so that we can make the campus as strong as possible and it can continue to do what it does so well."

Bosley is most proud of his efforts to successfully secure \$54.5 million in bond funding for the Center for Science and Innovation. "I have always looked for opportunities to



Rep. Dan Bosley '76 and Student Trustee Jameek Clovie '11 share a laugh at the Center of Science and Innovation Site Designation Ceremony

support MCLA's ongoing work to educate and prepare students for the future of Massachusetts. MCLA graduates are our future public servants and community leaders. They are our future entrepreneurs and business owners. The Center for Science and Innovation is key to the future of our workforce and the future of innovation."

Bosley's legislative track record is significant, including leadership in the Life Sciences and STEM fields, Adult Literacy and the Creative Economy. He also has been a valuable and ready mentor, helping to launch careers of a number of MCLA alumni who had the opportunity to work as members of his legislative staff or as interns, gaining valuable hands-on experience and insight into the crafting of legislation and public policy.

"When I think about MCLA in my legislative career, it was an ongoing work of art and something that I will continue to work hard to support."

Thank you, Dan, for your many years of public service and leadership!

# Alternative Spring Break: SEEING THE WORLD, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

While some students head to places like Cancun and Fort Lauderdale for spring break, many opt for a travel experience with a little more meaning. Last spring a group participating in the Alternative Spring Break program traveled to Belize for an in-depth cross-cultural experience that included community service projects.

Through the Monkey Bay Education Conservation Center, the students stayed with local families in a Mayan village in southern Belize where they worked to replace a rotted-out ceiling in the kitchen of a local school.

Spencer Moser, coordinator of the Center for Service and Citizenship, said the trip provided students with incredible insight into traditional Mayan culture and allowed them to experience everyday life in the community.

“We take running water, hot showers and electricity for granted, and to live without some of these commodities was very different,” said Dylan Glaser '12 of New Paltz, N.Y. “I also gained people skills.” Glaser said it can be challenging to

live in a developing country where people speak a different language and lack basic services, but he was pleased to “figure out common ground” and find ways to communicate. Despite the challenges, Glaser said he really came to appreciate the local culture.

During their time there, students became a part of the village community, contributing “sweat equity” to the local children’s future by repairing the school.

Students also had time to visit Mayan temples, explore caves, take hikes through the rainforest, and attend hands-on ecological lectures about the use of vegetation in Belize. But Glaser said the most rewarding part of the experience was the impact they had on children and their families.

“To see how happy our presence made them was incredibly touching,” Glaser said. “Obviously, finishing the roof left a great sense of achievement, but we got to see an immediate impact on the people of the village through our interaction with them. It was truly special.”





RONALD McDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES  
of the Capital Region  
Albany, NY

XC  
Paw  
Pride

Y  
FAMILY & YMCA  
MALLANTINE

# LEARNING AROUND THE WORLD

Students recognize they are not just rooted in the Berkshire hills, but are citizens of a new global economy. As a result, they are increasingly drawn to study abroad programs that extend the learning experience well beyond the classroom.

Last year, students traveled to England, Ireland, Japan and Spain to learn about other cultures and gain fluency in a foreign language.

Just prior to the start of the spring semester, a group of students visited Spain. Olivia Bolner '13 had studied Spanish for a number of years and wanted to visit a country where she could use her language skills.

"I was always fascinated with Spanish history since so many historical time periods centered in Spain," Bolner explained. The January trip marked her first time abroad. "I enjoyed being in another country and seeing what was different. Being surrounded by ancient history was also the best part because you cannot get that same feeling in the U.S."

Dr. Rosanne Denhard's "The Arts of Medieval and Renaissance Britain" class explored medieval and Renaissance British literature, history, and culture through on-site experiential learning and research in England. Denhard sums up why it's important for students to travel abroad in three words: high impact learning.

Her students also met with others at York St. John University for an Intercultural Symposium. "The students used Facebook for several weeks to communicate as they planned their presentations," said Denhard. "They shared research on language and dialect, educational systems, their local histories, and campus life with their counterparts from across the pond. It was a rich learning opportunity."

Kimberly Capriola '11 explained, "Since we were an American class going abroad, meeting students from a different country and culture was a must. The presentations from both universities were thoroughly researched and well executed. I loved comparing and contrasting our lives in America with theirs in the United Kingdom."

Those enrolled in Dr. Anthony Daly's "Ireland Travel Course" traveled to the Emerald Isle. "Students benefit from exposure to new experiences, especially in a culture which is different from our own," Daly said.

He and his students visited three cities—Derry and Belfast in Northern Ireland, and Dublin in the Republic of Ireland. In the months before the trip,



York, England



Antrim coast, Ireland

the class studied Irish culture, history and society.

Chris Skutnik '11 said his education was enhanced by the experience. "There is much that the classroom can teach us," he said. "But to see these places in person—that is an experience that simply cannot compare."

Perhaps one of the most memorable experiences had by history professor Dr. Kailai Huang's students was the opportunity to observe the differences between ancient Japan and the modernity the country's people enjoy today. They stayed in a traditional Japanese inn, took a communal hot-spring bath, and sampled Japanese cuisine as it has been enjoyed for centuries.

In contrast, the students learned of Japan's achievements in modern technology at the Toyota factory and visited Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park. "The students not only reflected on the horrible nature of the nuclear weapon, but also commented on how they were inspired by the observation that this park was not made as a memory of bitterness and hatred, but rather a dedication to world peace," Huang said. "They return to campus with a deeper appreciation for their own culture and society, and an increased enthusiasm for learning."



Japan



Italy



# MCLA Presents! Brings Performers Into the Classroom and On Stage

Through the MCLA Presents! program, members of both the college and wider community hear topnotch performers in various artistic genres while students get to meet and work with artists in the classroom.

The popular performance series opened in the fall with an outdoor concert on the quad by Black Violin, an instrumental hip-hop duo.

The campus also welcomed violinist, composer, and MacArthur Fellow Regina Carter, who presented her new compositions of traditional African folksongs and melodies at the 2010 Margaret A. Hart '35 Scholarship Concert held during Reunion and Fall Family Weekend in October. Carter, a violinist whose band includes one of the top African Kora players in the world, performed both traditional jazz and African music.

In addition, the work of Irish avant-garde writer, dramatist and poet Samuel Beckett was performed by Conor Lovett in *First Love*, a one-man show seen by audiences worldwide. Lovett spent several days at MCLA, working with directing and acting students and teaching a master class. Lovett shared a specific method of acting based on physicality and fully

understanding one's body, showing student actors how to use their bodies as well as words. Students also ate dinner with Lovett and heard about his career in the theater.

In January, the series presented *Edge*, which delved into the mind of American poet Sylvia Plath. And in February, we held our annual Blues and Funk Festival. Also that month, MCLA Gallery 51 exhibited *The Amazing Acoustaphotophonogrammitron*, a group show featuring work by makers who find themselves somewhere between visual artist and musician.

The season also included an evening of poetry and spoken word with award-winning poetry slammer Iyeoka Iyie Ookoawo, as well as other performances fully programmed and produced by students. Student-produced events included performances by a Senegalese and an Islamic hip-hop group.

The program gives students an unprecedented opportunity to meet esteemed performers in an informal setting and talk about their own interests in performance careers. Students also perform in opening acts for the series. For example, *The Allegrettos*, an a cappella group on campus, opened for the Sweetback Sisters and Regina Carter.



# The Boston Globe

**Berkshires country goes its own way, home-growing food, cuisine, art, fun**



(Wendy Maeda/Globe Staff/File 2007)

By Victoria Abbott Riccardi  
Globe Correspondent / November 28, 2010

**Page 2 of 2 -- Galleries and museums** "While the Berkshires has always been a place to see art, over the last decade there's been a dramatic growth in the number of young, contemporary artists who have made the Berkshires their home," says Jonathan Secore, director of the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Art (MCLA) in North Adams. "North Adams, in particular, now has over a dozen year-round galleries."

MCLA's nonprofit **Gallery 51** hosts 10 shows a year featuring the works of national and international contemporary artists, and **Studio21South**, in the historic Beaver Mill in North Adams, shows works from regional artists.

An enchanting place to base yourself is The Trustees of Reservations property, **The Guest House at Field Farm** in Williamstown. The property houses 13 modern sculptures, including works by Richard M. Miller and Herbert Ferber. Another artsy option is **Stonover Farm** in Lenox, where you'll find a bounty of contemporary artwork to view and buy both in the main house and the adjacent **Barn Gallery**.

In an effort to redefine itself, Pittsfield has boosted its art scene, in part through **Artscape**, an annual display of 20 plus works of public art. For galleries, a noteworthy newcomer is **Ferrin Gallery**, featuring a stunning collection of ceramics, paintings, mixed media pieces, and photographs. Another charming spot is the **Berkshire Museum**. The 26th annual "Festival of Trees" exhibit, through Jan. 2, has a "storybook forest" theme.



## G51 FEATURED IN BOSTON GLOBE

The Boston Globe highlighted MCLA Gallery 51 in a special travel section featuring an overview of the arts in the Berkshires. The gallery hosts 10 shows a year and features the works of national and international contemporary artists.

Quoting Jonathan Secor, director of special programs and the head of the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center at the College, the article stated, "While the Berkshires has always been a place to see art, over the last decade there's been a dramatic growth in the number of young, contemporary artists who have made the Berkshires their home. North Adams, in particular, now has over a dozen year-round galleries."



# TRAILBLAZER

## CHAMPIONSHIP SEASONS

The Trailblazers provided some exhilarating games for sports fans this year as they continued to represent the College and themselves with distinction. Student-athletes not only perform on the courts and playing fields; they are standouts in the classroom. Among the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC), MCLA had 45 percent of student-athletes named to the All-Academic Team, which requires a 3.2 or higher grade point average.

The women in particular stood out this year as their basketball, volleyball and soccer teams experienced outstanding seasons. All three coaches agreed: their success was fueled by exceptional leadership on the part of their senior players.

“I think we had great leadership,” said Holly McGovern, women’s basketball coach. “They wanted to go out and accomplish something they hadn’t accomplished before. They wanted to start making a name for themselves in the conference. They just gained their confidence at the right time and they did it.”

The team—led by captains Jade Prickett ’10 and Laura Silverman ’10—finished fourth in the conference and were the fourth seed going into the MASCAC tournament.

“We upset number-one Bridgewater State at their campus,” said McGovern. “We then went on to beat the number-three seed, Worcester State, and that propelled us to our MASCAC tournament win and moved us into the NCAA tournament.”

According to women’s soccer coach Deb Raber, “We had four fantastic four-year seniors who set the tone from day one.”

Samantha Miller ’11, Danielle Parenteau ’11, Elizabeth Ryan ’11 and Jess Tietgens ’11 were instrumental in leading MCLA to 15-game unbeaten streak, Raber said.

The women won the regular season MASCAC championship, earning them the top seed for the conference tournament. Though they lost a heartbreaking semifinal match to Bridgewater State in a shootout, they earned an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference bid, reaching the semifinal round.

“This season stands out for the fact that we worked hard from day one and we made it a goal that every single time we had an opportunity to step out on the field—be it for practice or for a game—we were going to give everything we had,” Raber said.

The captains of the women’s volleyball team—Amanda Borsotti ’11, Christina Kidd ’11 and Amanda Lane ’11 (who was ranked 17th for digs per set nationally in Division III)—also led the Trailblazers through the best season they’ve had in

years, said women’s volleyball coach Amanda Beckwith ’03.

Beckwith, who played volleyball throughout her entire MCLA career, said the team prides itself on its relentless defense.

“We were fourth in the MASCAC Volleyball Championship. We also were at a place where we had upperclassmen. I had four seniors and three juniors that really led the way and have all fully bought into the system that I’ve put forth. They were able to guide the underclassmen and lead by example and help them do the same thing we’re all trying to achieve together,” Beckwith said.

Borsotti, Kidd and Lane, all of whom have played at MCLA for four years, were proud of the progress the program has made, Beckwith said. “That was their one, big last goal—to make the postseason.”

Other teams to post winning seasons included the men’s soccer team, which had its second consecutive winning season under Coach Adam Hildabrand. Adam Tarsa ’11, Mitch Maselli ’11, and Israel Diaz ’11 contributed to their 8-7-1 overall record.

“We have continued to build upon the previous seasons’ successes, culminating with our back to back winning seasons. We expect to continue this upward trend through successful recruiting and hard work,” said Hildabrand.



*MCLA PRODUCED 13 MASCAC ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS IN 2010:*

**First team**

Hadley Ameen '12, softball  
 Jon Greenberg '11, basketball  
 Kayla Koumjian '12, softball  
 Amanda Lane '11, volleyball  
 Mitch Maselli '11, soccer  
 Samantha Miller '11, soccer  
 Jess Tietgens '11, soccer  
 Jen Wehner '12, basketball

**Second team**

Kayla Bromback '12, volleyball  
 Chris Harris '12, basketball  
 Samantha Miller '11, soccer  
 Danielle Parenteau '11, soccer  
 Joe Parillo '11, baseball



**JON GREENBERG '11** has put more than 1,000 points on the scoreboard over the course of his MCLA career. He's been ranked ninth in the nation for rebounding in 2009 and fifth in 2010 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and has made the All-Conference first and second teams.

He is a two-time, soon-to-be three-time All-MASCAC Academic team member. In addition, he was selected as a second team All-American by the Jewish Sports Review in 2008-09 and a first team All-American in 2009-10.

It's hard to believe that the 6-foot, 6-inch student never played basketball until late into his high school years.

Greenberg spent his youth in Belgium before his father brought the family to Cape Cod, Mass. "I didn't even hear of basketball until I came over here," he said. "My friends told me, 'You're wasting your height,' so I started playing, but I was terrible. I worked on it every day until I got better."

He chose MCLA because he liked the campus atmosphere and the members of the basketball team. He describes the relationship he has with his teammates as a "brotherhood."

"We all look out for each other. You become really good friends with everyone. That draws people here," Greenberg said. "I think anybody who's looking for an environment where they can come in right away and have a group of people who will make sure they have everything they need will find that at MCLA. The members of the basketball team are here for you. There's a real camaraderie."



# MCLA MEETS THE MET



Students and staff had the experience of a lifetime when they got a behind-the-scenes look at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Sandy Fisher, a Met board member and former chairman of the board of the Berkshire Opera Company, hosted the event.

“The trip to the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center in April was exciting and inspiring,” said Michael R. Dilthey, doctor of music at MCLA. “I was impressed with the high level of openness and warmth from our host Sandy Fisher and the depth of enthusiasm from our students—many of whom had never before seen an opera. From this and other experiences, we faculty have a growing eagerness to teach opera and other genres of high art, and we know that Mary Grant and the administration support us. Our students are growing in their understanding of opera, high art and the world.”

The group enjoyed a performance of *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi. After the show, Fisher led the group backstage to the Green Room to meet the three leads, all internationally known opera stars. He then took them onstage, where the head carpenter explained how the Met works behind the scenes.

Kate Adams '10 said the trip was an amazing experience: “I’d never seen an opera before in the United States, and to see one at the Metropolitan Opera is as good as it gets.”

Adams said as a music major, she had heard a lot about the famed venue, but did not have the means herself to attend a performance there. “*La Traviata* is a fantastic opera, and I enjoyed every second of the show,” she said. “Words can’t describe our backstage tour. As I stood on the Met stage, I definitely had some tears in my eyes, I felt so lucky to stand where the greatest productions of music, dance, and theater in the world happen.”



# STUDENT

Physics major **Max Eve '12** assisted physics professor Dr. Emily Maher, with her work on the national Main Injector Neutrino ExpeRiment v-A (MINERvA) research project. Specifically, Eve looked at a particular type of neutrino interaction which produces another fundamental particle called a “pion.” Very little is understood about pions, which are produced when a neutrino interacts with a proton or a neutron. Maher and Eve are writing codes on the computer to examine such events and to select the ones they are interested in studying.

**Esther Fan Fan '11** enhanced her college experience when she attended the National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership New England 2010 Summer Institute at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. The institute—which offers college women a unique opportunity to hone their leadership skills, learn about civic engagement and meet with successful women—was a perfect fit for Fan Fan, who is from Boston, Mass. She is majoring in sociology with minors in women’s studies and child and family studies.

**Merritt Fletcher '11** and **Gregor Sacchetti '11** were selected by the Berkshire Art Association to participate in its spring Fellowship Show. The exhibition was held at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield, Mass.

Political science majors **Jason Phelps '11**, **Chris Skutnik '11** and **Nicholas Altonaga '11** spent the spring semester interning with local government. Phelps and Skutnik worked for the City of North Adams, Nick with the Town of Adams, Mass.

**Charles Schnitzlein '10**, host of the Charlie in the Morning program on WJJW, received a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The citation, presented by Representative Dan Bosley '76, was given “in recognition of your four years of tremendous dedication and service to WJJW, the College, and the entire community.” On Friday, April 23, Schnitzlein interviewed Gov. Deval Patrick on the air.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

Frances Jones-Sneed's students looked at census records from North Adams from 1790 to 1930 to begin to trace the histories of local African Americans. They found out who they were, where they lived and what types of occupations they held. The student presenters and their topics included **Jeannie Gilson '11** about 19<sup>th</sup> century interracial marriage; **Christopher Hess '11** about William G. Massey, **Kailey Maloy '11** about African-American occupations; **Kenneth Recore '10** about African-Americans servants in post-emancipation Massachusetts; and **Jared Sprague '10** about "African Americans in North Adams 1790-1930: An Overview."

The National Council of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for First Year Students recently recognized MCLA with a Delta Award at the gold level in recognition of its 81 percent growth in society membership during the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Rebecca Oleson '10** was the recipient of the Wall Street Journal Award from Delta Mu Delta honor society. This award is given to the senior whom business department faculty members believe best represents academic excellence and professionalism in his or her major program work.

Soccer player **Jess Tietgens '11** was MASCAC's Player of the Year.

Basketball player **Lucy Tremblay '13** was named MASCAC Rookie of the Year.

Hundreds of students from campuses of the nine Massachusetts state universities, including MCLA, canvassed the State House in Boston, calling on state representatives and senators to continue to support the state universities at a time of record demand. MCLA students **Michael Obasohan '11**, **Cody Romano '12**, **Hawa Umarova '12**, **Jaynelle Bellemore '12**, **Maggie Rolla '10**, **Brandon Clinton '10**, **Kristen Banks '10**, **Amanda Borsotti '11**, **Katie Collins '11** and **Costia Karolinski '11** all made the early morning trip to Beacon Hill to represent their fellow students and campus community.

**Tiesha Twomey '10** participated in the Salem Poetry Seminar which offers students at the Commonwealth's public institutions of higher education the opportunity to study poetry intensively with accomplished teachers and writers, and to share their work at a public reading.

**Eileen Coughlin '11**, **Brittany Cochrane '11**, and **Corey Silveira '11** were part of a team that participated in a Global Business Strategy Game project assigned by business professor Greg O'Connor. The team tied for first place internationally from among 2,192 teams representing 172 colleges and universities.

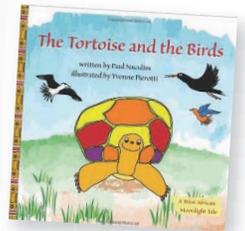


MCLA's business department recognized achievements of students and MCLA trustee Tyler Fairbank as they were inducted into the business department honor society. Delta Mu Delta recognizes and rewards scholastic achievement in business subjects and promotes scholarship in training for business. All inductees must be enrolled in the business administration program. Inductees included Chelsey Burke '10, Justin Dolan '10, Elaine Haytko '10, Melanie Neyland '10, Jessica Tietgens '10, Ryan Tusko '10 and Vincent Wixsom '10.

# Faculty & Staff

**Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed**, history professor, 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*, a four-week summer institute in June 2011.

**Dr. Paul Nnodim**, philosophy professor, was awarded the American Philosophical Association (APA) Edinburgh Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at The University of Edinburgh in Scotland for 2010-2011. Nnodim recently had his children's book *The Tortoise and the Birds* published.



Physics professor **Dr. Adrienne Wootters** served a Fulbright Fellowship in Rwanda. On sabbatical during the spring 2010 semester, she taught physics to students at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST). Wootters also worked with the KIST physics department on program review and wrote a lab manual for their introductory labs.

For the third consecutive summer, physics professor **Dr. Emily Maher** traveled to the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Illinois to be part of the Main Injector Neutrino Experiment v-A (MINERvA) research project.

Biology professor **Dr. Emily Mooney** spent the summer of 2010 at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Crested Butte, Colo., studying osha, a relatively unknown plant that one day could help prevent a flu pandemic. Native Americans have used the plant for thousands of years.

In his retirement, **Dr. C. Barre Hellquist**, biology professor emeritus, continues to teach classes at the College and conducts research all over the world. This puts our biology students on the cutting-edge of the aquatic plant world, which is his specialty. Hellquist has spent the summers of 2008 and 2010 at Yellowstone National Park, surveying the aquatic flora in that region with his son, C. Eric Hellquist, an assistant professor of biological sciences at SUNY-Oswego.

Education professor **Dr. Roselle Chartock** was featured in a *Berkshire Eagle* profile about her new book, *Strategies and Lessons for Culturally Responsive Teaching: A Primer for K-12 Teachers*.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the recipient of the Switzer Environmental Fellowship environmental studies professor **Elena Traister** was one of 30 to attend the exclusive federal policy training sessions in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Switzer Foundation. The purpose of the intensive training was to assist participants as they work with environmental issues of national significance.

Art professor **Melanie Mowinski** presented a workshop on bookmaking and narrative to K-12 teachers in collaboration with the education staff at the Williams College Museum of Art. She also was invited to do an artist's residency at Bascom Lodge at the summit of Mt. Greylock over the summer.

Director of Counseling Services **Erica Forrest** delivered the presentation "What Works? How We Misread the Evidence" at the annual Northeast College Counseling Center Directors (NCCCD) Conference at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

Residential Programs and Services (RPS) Director **Dianne Manning** was a trainer for the Regional Entry Institute (RELI) during the summer of 2010. RELI is designed to strengthen the skill sets of new residence life professionals. She also delivered a presentation on accountability for early career residential life professionals at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Entry Level Institute (RELI), held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

Sociology professors **Dr. Maynard Seider** and **Ed Curtin**, Adam Forrester '10, and **Dr. Steve Green**, former MCLA vice president of academic affairs, presented "Changing New England Mill Towns: The View From the Berkshires" at the New England: Social, Political and Economic Perspectives Conference at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. Sociology professor Dr. Myles Whitney moderated the presentation.

The "Why Do Educated People Use Bad Words?" discussion on the "Room for Debate" blog on the web site of *The New York Times* featured psychology professor **Dr. Tim Jay** as a commentator.

Fine and Performing Arts professor **Dr. Tony Gengarelly** contributed the article "The Artists of Pure Vision" to the spring 2010 issue of the *Folk Art Messenger*.

Vice President of Enrollment and External Relations **Denise Richardello** was the featured speaker at the All-Massachusetts Academic Team presentation of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for community college students, held at the State House in Boston, Mass.

History professors **Dr. Anthony Daly** and **Dr. Ely Janis** presented at the national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS), held at the Penn State Happy Valley campus. Daly presented "Before Home Rule: Reformers, Radicals, and Nationalists in England and Ireland." Janis presented "Why Have We No Leaders like Parnell? African-American Leaders and the Irish," and moderated the panel "Slavery in the Irish Atlantic."

Business administration professor **Paulette Remillard** was elected to the position of state treasurer of the Massachusetts Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/MA).

In recognition of his work to advance the partnership between MCLA and the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT), business professor **Ben Kahn** was invited to participate in a celebration of SIFT's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Shanghai in October. During his time in China he presented at the "China and America in the Next Decade" workshop, organized by the Hong Kong - America Center, hosted by the East China Normal University in association with the Fulbright program in China.

Biology professor **Dr. Anne Goodwin** and education professor **Dr. Emily DeMoor** participate in the "Bridging Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) for Elementary Educators" program, developed by the Museum of Science in Boston, Mass., and funded by the National Science Foundation.



Dean of academic affairs **Monica Joslin, Ph.D.**, dean of students **Charlotte Degen**, psychology professor **Dr. Deb Foss**, and vice president of academic affairs **Dr. Cynthia Brown, Ph.D.** presented “An Holistic Approach to Student Learning and Engagement” at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) annual conference in Asheville, N.C. in June 2010.

MCLA Women’s Soccer Coach **Deb Raber** was named the 2010 MASCAC Coach of the Year following her team’s regular season conference championship. The Trailblazers earned the title on the heels of a 11-3-6 record, including a program record-tying 15-game unbeaten streak. The award was Raber’s second consecutive honor, and her third in the past four seasons. The coach of the year award is voted on by her fellow league coaches.

In her capacity as a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), Assistant Athletic Director **Dot Houston** helped welcome keynote speaker **Mary Mazzio**, documentary filmmaker and former U.S. Olympian in rowing, during the Massachusetts celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration on February 5th at Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mass.

Head women’s basketball coach **Holly McGovern** was inducted into the Westfield State College Athletic Hall of Fame on October 22. Coach McGovern also received the 2010 Frank A. Zoltek Passion for Coaching Award at the Zoltek memorial golf tournament.

MCLA sociology professor **Len Paolillo** who is currently working with the National Education Association Executive Committee, participated in Read Across America day at the Library of Congress with First Lady Michelle Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on March 2.

Political Science and Public Policy professor **Petra Hejnova** travelled to Prague in the Czech Republic, where she instructed young women from throughout the world at the Women and Leadership Program organized by Charles University in Prague and by the Global Institute on Leadership and Civic Development of Bloomington, Ind. Hejnova also presented the paper “Women and the State: How State Policies Shape Women’s Movements in Transitional Countries” at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) held in Chicago, IL.

## RETIREES

### CALENDAR YEAR 2010

Bonnie Bishoff	Fine & Performing Arts	25 Years
Peggy Brooks	Psychology	20 Years
Michael Champney	Facilities	32 Years
Roselle Chartock	Education	24 Years
David Hyde	Facilities	9 Years
Elizabeth Loholdt	Sociology/Computer Science/Biology	20 Years
Janice Messer	Advancement	15 Years
Irene Miller	Health Services	19 Years
Walter Mille	Facilities	28 Years
William Minardi	Education	24 Years
William Montgomery	Interdisciplinary Studies	24 Years
Judith Ozolins	Student Affairs	16 Years
Leon Peters	Graphics	40 Years
Barbara Petro	Business Administration	30 Years
Maynard Seider	Sociology	32 Years
Richard Whitman	Facilities	28 Years
Myles Whitney	Sociology	34 Years

## NEW FACULTY

### Dr. Ingrid F. Castro, sociology

B.A., psychology and women’s studies, State University of New York

B.A., sociology, University of Delaware

M.A., sociology, Northeastern University

Ph.D., sociology, University of Delaware

### Toni Diamond ’70, education

B.A., education, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

M.Ed., Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

### Dr. Rita Nnodim, interdisciplinary studies

M.A., African studies, linguistics and literature, social anthropology, education, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

Ph.D., socio-cultural anthropology/West African studies, University of Birmingham, UK.

### Laura E. Standley, fine and performing arts

B.A., theater and communications, University of Central Oklahoma

MFA, drama, University of California

### Dr. Jennifer Zoltanski, sociology

B.A., French, University of Denver

M.A., sociology, Brandeis University

M.S., sociology, Portland State University

Ph.D., sociology, Brandeis University



# REMEMBERING

## Dr. James T. Amsler

Dr. James T. Amsler, the College's seventh president, who spearheaded major development of college facilities, died on November 23, 2010. He served then-North Adams State College from 1969 to 1979.

MCLA President Mary K. Grant said Dr. Amsler led the College with distinction before he went on to serve as president at Salem State College.

"As president of North Adams State College, he advanced a great deal of the construction—and more—that forms the foundation upon which we build," Grant said. "More than that, Jim was a very good, wise, compassionate and gentle man. He will be missed. He loved his time in North Adams and felt, like we do, that this is a very special place. His leadership helped to make that so."

Under Dr. Amsler's leadership, the College expanded its footprint, adding several new buildings and facilities including Berkshire Towers, Bowman Hall, Eldridge Hall, Freel Library, the Flagg Townhouses, and the Campus Center that now bears his name.

During his tenure, the College's Center for Resourceful Living was created. The Center was an innovative program that served as a precursor to many of MCLA's environmental programs, including the environmental studies major, the Berkshire Environmental Resource Center and the annual Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture.

Dr. Amsler also had the vision to establish a foundation to raise funds to support the College, its programs and our

students. Now, over three decades since its founding, the MCLA Foundation plays a vital role in supporting the College. More than that, it continues to build and strengthen relationships with alumni, friends and other supporters.

In 2006, the MCLA community welcomed Dr. Amsler back to campus to celebrate the reopening of the renovated Murdock Hall.

He is remembered fondly by faculty and staff members who who taught and were employed during his tenure.

"President Amsler was usually a man of few words, but he led and spoke with authority," said Dr. Robert Bence, political science and public policy professor.

Psychology professor Dr. Timothy Jay recalled going to Amsler's opening day ceremonies, where he would talk openly to the faculty about what was on his mind. "He was the first president to tell us that we need to employ more humor in our teachings and I always liked him for saying that."

Vice president of enrollment and external relations Denise Richardello recalls the connection and deep professional respect between President Amsler and President Grant. Richardello said, "He was continuously interested in the progress of the College and he enjoyed following and celebrating in MCLA's milestones and accomplishments. It was great to see that President Amsler took extra care and was deliberate in connecting with President Grant for updates on the College."



Alumni from the 60s gather at the Distinguished Alumni Award ceremony held during the 2010 reunion.

# *ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE*



Alumni Board Vice President Tony Dolan '84



Alumni Board member Carol Cushenette Corrigan '76



Class Agents Charlotte Miczek '70 and Anita Palmeri Overgaard '84

MCLA's Alumni Association Board of Directors is a group of volunteers committed to serving the alumni body and creating more opportunities for alumni involvement. From fundraising for the Annual Fund, which provides critical support for student scholarships, to promoting attendance at alumni and College events, and representing the College at important functions, the 19 members of the Board are active advocates for MCLA and its alumni. New members include alumni from greater Boston and California: Marjorie Belizaire '07, Anthony Dedrick Jr. '06, Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey '99, and Michele Kostka Rugo '77.

While reviewing and assessing the goals of the Board this past year, the Board decided it was important to play a role in student engagement. How could former students, now graduates pursuing graduate degrees, engaged in professional enrichment, or establishing careers, give back to current students? Through career networking, Board members and other active alumni have stepped forward to provide mentorship, resume review, and professional advice to students and young alums looking to secure jobs.

At a recent Alumni Office career networking event, participants received one-on-one mentoring and heard from

alumni involved in a variety of fields. Informally, alumni have offered to review resumes, support students as they apply for internships, and provide feedback on the job application process. "Many of us who have succeeded in our fields are interested in opening up opportunities for other MCLA graduates, just like alums of private colleges often host internships for students of their alma maters," says Andy Zaback '80, a managing member of Longmeadow Capital Partners, LLC. Andy has helped current students plan for graduate school and research internships.

Students were very enthusiastic about the event, "I really enjoyed meeting the Alumni but my favorite part was talking one on one. I took a lot of great information about resume building and job preparation from this day. I really enjoyed myself," says Kristy McCluskey '11.

Plans are underway for a spring 2011 event. If you are interested in becoming a career mentor, contact director of alumni relations and annual giving Jocelyn Merrick at [J.Merrick@mcla.edu](mailto:J.Merrick@mcla.edu) or 413.662.5193.

# A CENTURY OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT

In 2010, the Student Government Association (SGA), marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. SGA was formed to facilitate, supervise and unify campus student governance, and for the past century it has provided a means for students to develop leadership skills and express themselves in professional and social environments.

In addition to learning how to balance a large budget, work together in small and large groups, and negotiate disputes, “SGA has helped me prepare for many other leadership roles I have held on campus,” said Katie Collins ’11.

Ben Warren ’11 said participation in student government brings home the fact that people working together can achieve a lot, a lesson he has applied to his academic studies, personal relationships, and job. “By participating in SGA, I learn more about my school, seeing issues that face MCLA and how they

affect the student population,” Warren said. “I have a responsibility to be a voice for the student body that I represent.”

As a member of the SGA, Natasha Rothrock ’13 has the opportunity to speak in front of large groups of people, which benefits her as she studies to become a teacher.

“I have become a more well-rounded person who can handle varying situations with more intelligence and grace than if I had not been a part of SGA,” Rothrock said. Volunteer work through the organization gave Rothrock the opportunity to both help MCLA and develop important skills which will be invaluable to her future.





# *Building Relationships,* **STRENGTHENING SUPPORT**

In 2006 the MCLA Foundation announced an ambitious fundraising initiative to raise \$10 million in support for the College by June 30, 2011. Despite a challenging economy and a national trend of decreased philanthropic support for nonprofits, MCLA is well on its way to meeting the goal. At the close of calendar year 2010, a total of \$9.1 million had been secured, leaving six months to close the gap and achieve this significant target.

Support of MCLA is even more critical right now as students select MCLA as their first choice school. With an increasing enrollment, more students are coming to MCLA with a need for financial support.

At the heart of MCLA's extraordinary ability to provide access is the College's effort to keep its tuition and fees within reach of most families. Despite this, many of the College's undergraduates need some financial help, based on criteria that takes into account family income, work and savings as well as other factors. In recent years there has been intense pressure on MCLA resources to provide student support. As federal and state backing for tuition assistant programs decreases, students turn to private loans to make up the difference, dramatically increasing student indebtedness. Contributions to the Annual Fund, 100 percent of which supports financial aid, and the establishment of endowed funds provide much needed scholarship assistance.

Alumni and friends as well as businesses and organizations have responded to the call to action to help and have stepped forward with gifts to support the annual fund for scholarships, create named endowed scholarships, fund unique travel experiences, bring powerful speakers to campus, and enhance program needs—to name just a few examples. Please join us in this important initiative and help secure the future of our students and this very special institution!

**PLEASE MAKE A  
GIFT TODAY AT  
[WWW.MCLA.EDU/GIVING](http://WWW.MCLA.EDU/GIVING)**

or call the Advancement Office at 413.662.5229 to speak to Chief Advancement Officer Marianne Drake regarding specific initiatives you would be interested in supporting. Help us make a difference.

# ENROLLMENT

## at MCLA on the Rise

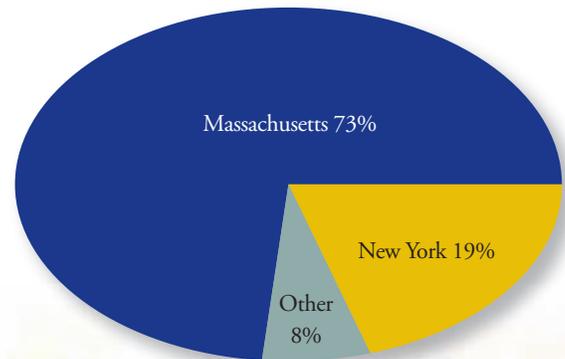
More and more students are discovering that MCLA offers a first-class educational experience at an affordable price. As a result, enrollment is thriving. In the last five years, undergraduate student enrollment increased by nearly 18 percent, a figure that reflects both new enrollment and an improved focus on retaining current students.

MCLA now has the highest number of students living on campus since 1991, with more than 1,000 students—68 percent of the student body—opting for residential life.

Increasingly, students also want to live on campus and take full advantage of the myriad of arts and recreational opportunities in the Berkshires, as well as a supportive living/learning environment that stimulates personal growth.

MCLA also has seen greater interest from out-of-state students. As the state's designated public liberal arts college, in-state students represent 77 percent of enrollment. Another 23 percent come from 17 other states, both from within New England and across the country. MCLA's total enrollment, including graduate students, was 1,974 students.

WHERE MCLA STUDENTS HAIL FROM:



# MCLA: A Leader in the REGIONAL ECONOMY

MCLA is more than an excellent liberal arts college, it is also a major employer in the Berkshires and a driving force behind the economic health of the region, contributing millions of dollars to the local economy.

The College also is committed to supporting the downtown business community in North Adams by participating in special events and showing the work of regional artists at MCLA Gallery 51, a college-operated art gallery located on Main Street in the heart of downtown North Adams.

On the employment front, the College has an operating budget of \$38.6 million and employs nearly 400 faculty and staff. According to calculations from the U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics, those workers spend \$8.5 million a year at area businesses.

Student spending is equally vigorous. The nearly 2,000 students on campus contribute an estimated \$5.1 million annually at area stores, restaurants, coffee shops, and other businesses. Additionally the numerous concerts, performances, lectures, and exhibitions hosted by MCLA help draw 36,000 visitors to the city, generating another \$2.4 million in spending to the local economy.

The College also made many improvements to its physical plant last year, stimulating the local economy through the purchase of labor, supplies, and materials. Recent energy upgrades funded by the state, coupled with improvements to cooling and electrical systems, amounted to \$495,267 in spending.

The renovations included \$143,389 to improve energy efficiency; \$106,836 for a new chiller in Freel Library; \$22,595 to replace the roof on the power plant; \$19,605 to renovate Sullivan Lounge; \$37,161 for new lighting and renovations to Venable Hall; \$33,913 for an electrical upgrade in the Venable Hall Theater; \$98,559 for fume hoods in the chemistry lab at Bowman Hall; \$15,597 to upgrade the lobby in Bowman Hall and \$17,612 to install solar-powered crosswalk signs on campus.

MCLA also contributes much to the regional economy through the volunteer work of faculty and staff. MCLA places a high premium on student engagement; and through the Center for Service and Citizenship, students put in more than 13,000 hours of volunteer service annually to nonprofit groups and the City of North Adams. Overall, the volunteer work of both students and staff is valued at nearly \$350,000 each year.

While the College contributes \$55.4 million directly to North Adams and surrounding communities of the Northern Berkshires, its overall economic impact is estimated to be much greater. According to the Regional Industrial Multipliers System from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, which applies a conservative multiplier of 2.28 to total spending, MCLA has a real economic impact of nearly \$130 million.



All data is for the fiscal year 2010 unless noted.

### Total Operating Budget **\$38,555,766**

Source: MCLA Annual Report

College Employees 271 Full Time  
115 Part Time

Salary and Benefits	\$23,188,099	Payments to Employees
	\$16,231,669	After tax (70%)
	\$9,739,002	Employee Spending (60%)

Source: College Employees from 2009 IPEDS Human Resource Survey  
Salary & Benefits from MCLA Annual Report  
Employee Spending Rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Total Visitors Spending **\$2,355,840**

Admissions	5,000
Orientation	800
Graduation	2,500
Athletics	4,500
Arts/Music/Speakers	3,200
Gallery 51/Downtown Art	20,000

Total Number of Visitors 36,000  
Visitor Spending \$65.44

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

### Undergraduate Student Spending **\$5,152,212**

(\$2,626 x 1,962 Undergraduate Students)

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

### Total Volunteer Hours **\$350,188**

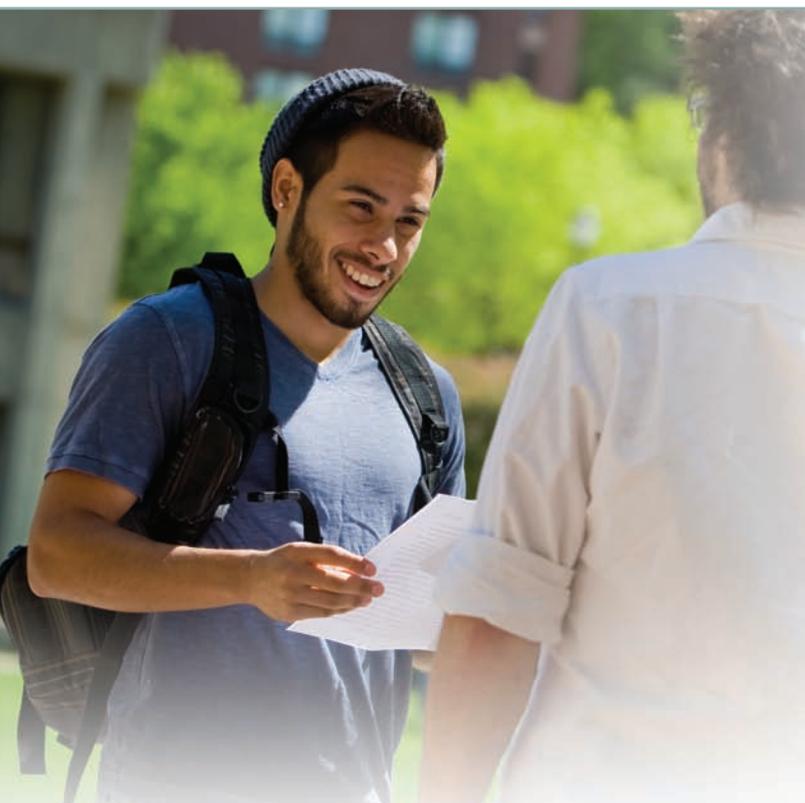
Volunteer Hours	= 13,305
Volunteer Time Value	= \$26.32 (Massachusetts 2009 Value)
Volunteer Hours Value	= \$350,188

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

### Total Major Renovations **\$495,267**

Energy Performance Upgrades	\$143,389
Freel Library Chiller	\$106,836
Power Plant Roof	\$22,595
Sullivan Lounge Renovation	\$19,605
Venable Hall Renovation and Lighting	\$37,161
Venable Hall Theatre Electrical Upgrade	\$33,913
Bowman Hall Chemistry Lab Fume Hoods	\$98,559
Bowman Hall Lobby Upgrade	\$15,597
Campus Solar Crosswalk Signs	\$17,612

Source: MCLA Audit FY201



### Grand Totals

	Total	Total x RIMS
Operating Budget	\$38,555,766	\$88,273,426
Employee Spending	\$9,739,002	\$22,297,444
Undergraduate Spending	\$5,152,212	\$11,795,989
Visitors Spending	\$2,355,840	\$5,393,696
Major Renovations	\$495,267	\$1,133,914
Volunteer Time	\$350,188	\$801,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,648,274</b>	<b>\$129,696,224</b>

RIMS Multipliers 611A00 – Colleges and universities  
Massachusetts Value = 2.2895  
Source: RIMS Multipliers from U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis