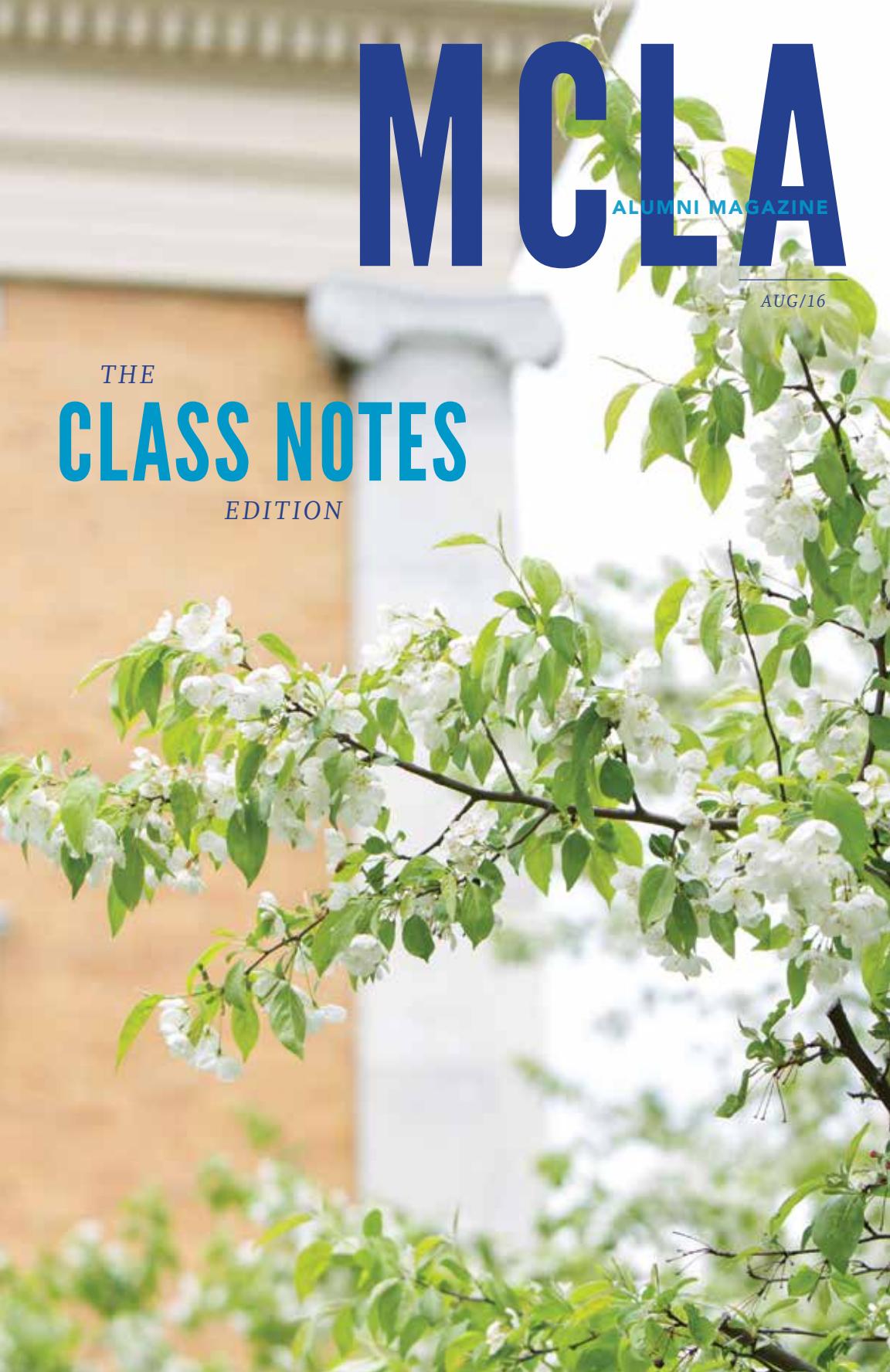


MCLA

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

AUG/16

THE
CLASS NOTES
EDITION



DEAR ALUMNI,

It is a great privilege for me to read about your accomplishments, highlighted here in the pages of Class Notes. After graduation, you took different paths throughout the world, achieving professional goals, performing high-level public service, and adding new members to your family. You are shining examples of the values we champion here at MCLA, and I thank you for sending your news back to your alma mater.



Mary F. Hastings and MCLA President James F. Birge.

I have some news to share as well. This summer, Mary F. Hastings joined us as the vice president of institutional advancement. Her experience in development and fundraising, as well as her roots in the northern Berkshires, make her ideally suited to lead MCLA's Office of Institutional Advancement.

Before serving as executive director of the American London Symphony Orchestra Foundation, Mary served as acting chief development officer for The Boys' Club of New York; director of development for The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music and The New School for Drama; director of special events for The Foundation for Jewish Culture, and director of education and community outreach at the Bloomingdale School of Music.

Mary is also deeply familiar with values and principles in higher education. A professional

trumpeter, she has served on the faculty of Queens College and Hunter College. She continues to teach trumpet and is an active Broadway and classical music performer.

The accolades MCLA has received in recent years place the College in an excellent position for further development and recognition, and I am proud to have Mary help lead those efforts. I encourage you to come back to MCLA for Reunion, October 14–16, 2016, or to attend one of our regional alumni events. You will be able to meet Mary, connect with old friends, and make new ones, too.

With best wishes from all of us here at MCLA.

Sincerely,

James F. Birge, Ph.D.
President

DEAR ALUMNI,

For the past two years, it has been my great privilege to serve as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. After serving as vice president for two years, I was honored to be elected as president and help the board move to a broader mission in serving the college's most valuable assets — our current students and talented alumni.

The role of the board continues to evolve, and we are constantly looking for new, energetic members to support the students and the alumni community in a variety of ways. Our members work to support students through participation at career fairs, scholarships, mentoring, class engagement, alumni reunions, and, of course, fundraising in support of College initiatives and unrestricted scholarship aid for current students.

My involvement with the College has continued to grow since I was first elected to the board seven years ago. My husband and I believe in the value of education and service to the community and, as part of that, have set up an endowed scholarship fund in memory of my mother, Norma Lorell Starr, to benefit future teachers. As an educator myself at North Adams public schools, I continue to see the needs of all students and the importance of supporting the College's commitment to making a degree economically possible for all who seek it.

I encourage you to engage with our amazing students through athletic events, mentoring programs, reunion events, and alumni-supported activities. I know you will find it as rewarding and worthwhile as I have.

MCLA students have made the right choice to start here, and it is important that we support them on their path to becoming amazing alumni with promising and successful futures like those featured in this edition.

As a proud member of the MCLA alumni community, I am asking you to consider how you can get involved. Please visit our alumni website at alumni.mcla.edu, contact Christine Naughton, director of alumni relations and development at 413-662-5074 to consider running for election to the Alumni Association Board of Directors, or sign up as a class agent. And, please, always give whatever you can to the Alumni Fund in support of student scholarship aid. Current students need you today to support their tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Starr Boillat

Cheryl Starr Boillat, '79, M.Ed. '97
President Alumni Association Board of Directors



ALUMNI GO THE DISTANCE... but Always Have a Home at MCLA

Countless paths lead from MCLA out into the world, some well-trodden, others more obscure, many more yet to be discovered. Each year, a fresh crop of graduates choose their paths to a bright, rewarding future. No matter which path they choose, how far it leads, or what unexpected turns they may take, these grads will always have a home at MCLA.



"IT MIGHT JUST BE YOUR ELECTIVES THAT UNLOCK THE DOOR TO A FUTURE BETTER THAN YOU COULD'VE IMAGINED." —Valerie Ugrinow '02

VALERIE UGRINOW '02, a native of central Massachusetts, journeyed to California shortly after leaving MCLA. With a degree in psychology, she conducted clinical work and research at group homes and hospitals. Although happy to help others, Ugrinow wasn't quite content. "Something was missing," she recalls. "I wanted a more direct impact and larger reach."

While at MCLA, Ugrinow had taken yoga as an elective. Remembering how the course made her feel, she started practicing yoga more frequently. "I was better able to help others when I took care of myself first," she discovered.

This revelation led to a change in direction. "I went from wanting to help others feel better to wanting to

help others be in a place to help others," Ugrinow explains. "I realized that becoming a yoga instructor would give me that larger reach I had been looking for in a pay-it-forward kind of way."

Today, as an instructor at Yoga Six California, Ugrinow is grateful for her first exposure to yoga back at MCLA and encourages others to be open-minded in choosing electives. "It might just be your electives that unlock the door to a future better than you could've imagined," she advises.

MICHELLE KIRBY '90, originally from Massachusetts' South Coast region, was an English/communications major on the path to becoming a radio personality, but experiences at MCLA revealed a world of other possibilities. Her biggest epiphany came in 1988, when she spent a semester in Spain as part of the study abroad program. "It made me realize how big the world is and how many places, people, and opportunities exist," she explains. "It broadened my world and helped foster the courageous spirit inside me."

After graduating, Kirby relocated to Seattle, Wash., where she interned at a radio rock station, waitressing and bartending to pay the rent. When she began to feel frustrated, she booked a Baja California Sur vacation through Green Tortoise Adventure Travel. "I had a you-only-live-once realization on that trip," she says. "What really made me happy was adventure and travel. I didn't need a career to make me happy."

Kirby went to work for Green Tortoise, where she met her husband, Andy Hammerman. The two eventually embarked on a backpacking adventure through Central and South America, during which they "fell in love with a tiny little farming village, Chugchilán, perched at 10,500 feet in the Andes Mountains."

The couple returned to the U.S. with a dream of purchasing land in that little village, and



"MCLA CONTINUES TO BE A PART OF MY LIFE, AND I LOVE IT!"

—Michelle Kirby '90

that's just what they did. In 1994, they relocated to Chugchilán and built The Black Sheep Inn, an internationally acclaimed, award-winning ecolodge offering an "off the beaten path" experience in rural Ecuador. Through volunteerism and philanthropy, Kirby and Hammerman have become integral members of their community. Kirby has volunteered as an English teacher for 19 years, and they have recently supported humanitarian relief efforts following the April 2016 earthquake in Ecuador.

In 2005, The Black Sheep Inn was honored with *Smithsonian Magazine's* Tourism Cares for Tomorrow Sustainable Tourism Award. Kirby was touched to receive a note at that time from MCLA President Emerita Mary K. Grant '83, telling her how proud she had made the MCLA community. "MCLA continues to be a part of my life," she says, "and I love it!"

Although distance makes it difficult to visit regularly, both Ugrinow and Kirby have maintained contact with MCLA. Ugrinow hopes to participate in this year's Reunion Weekend soccer game. Kirby is grateful for the Internet for enabling her to feel "at home," even from "another hemisphere."

2016

CLASS NOTES

68

Ralph Hicks retired as the superintendent in the Ashburnham Westminster, Mass. Regional School District, concluding a 47-year career in education.

69

John Barrett was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to serve on the MCLA Board of Trustees for a five-year term.

72

Gary Thomas was appointed a trustee of Western New England University.



Diane Sammer '81 and daughter Karina presented the Pamela P. Dennis '82 scholarship at the 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference.



Members of the Class of 1966 were welcomed by members of the Classes of 1965, 1964, 1963, and 1961 as our newest Golden Grads as they joined in celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2016 during the May Commencement exercises. From left to right: Ronald Pollone '66, Major Bernard Dunn '61, Martha Hathaway '63, David Hathaway '63, Alice (Joey) Shepard Beaudreau '66, Gregory DeBlois '66, Ann Koopman Dunn '61, Donald Pecor '66, Sandra King '65, Peter Abuisi '66, Julia Kurpiel '64, Harry Urban '66, Margaret Kurpiel '65, Michelle Barile Sweet '66, and Donald Wilkinson '66.

76

Janis McGroarty continues her work on opioid abuse prevention and is part of Gov. Baker's panel. She also did a commercial for the Department of Public Health.

Anne Crowley was the 2015 MCLA Convocation speaker. Anne encouraged the students to take advantage of all that the College had to opportunity and not to be afraid to go through unexpected doors.

83

Donna Guerrera rejoined JEOL (Japan Electron Optics Laboratory) USA, Inc. as assistant product manager in the Metrology and Inspection Group in Peabody, Mass. In her new capacity, Donna will support the College of Microscopy, the education division of The McCrone Group in Westmont,

Ill., and will work to establish an applications lab there. Donna will divide her time between Peabody, Mass., and the College of Microscopy.

After 10 years as executive director of Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce, **Sarah Fletcher** is leaving to become marketing outreach manager at Westford Community Access Television.

Dr. Mary K. Grant was installed as the seventh chancellor of UNC Asheville on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

84

Pamela J. O'Leary has been promoted to executive vice president, chief operating officer, and chief technology officer at South Shore Bank. She joined the bank in 2004 and was promoted to executive vice president and chief information officer in 2013.



From left to right: Jim Clemmer '86, Jill Clemmer, Paul Degnan '86, Laurie Degnan '85, Michael McCormick '86, Amy Stone, Dan Jewett '90, and Yvan Levesque '86 at MCLA's 2016 Commencement ceremony.

86

James C. Clemmer was MCLA's 2016 Commencement speaker and received an honorary doctor of business degree. In addition, Clemmer assumed a new position as president and chief executive officer of AngloDynamics, a provider of innovative medical devices, headquartered in Latham, N.Y. He is also a member of the board of directors for Lantheus Holdings, Inc. of North Billerica, Mass., the parent company of Lantheus Medical Imaging (LMI), Inc., which develops, manufactures, sells, and distributes diagnostic imaging agents and products.

89

Christy Butler self-published his guidebook, *Rockachusetts: An Explorer's Guide To Amazing Boulders of Massachusetts*, in January 2016.

Michele L. Bush-Rondeau, a fifth grade mathematics teacher at Greylock Elementary School in North Adams, received a Berkshire County Educator Recognition Award in 2016.



'91

87

Peter Mirante, senior vice president of branch administration at Greylock Federal Credit Union, was appointed to the board of trustees at Berkshire Community College.

Paula Bennett '91 was named partner at Orsinger, Nelson, Downing & Anderson in Dallas, Texas, in March 2016. She earned board certification in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in January 2016.

93

Peabody Wealth Advisors, an independent financial planning firm based in Danvers, Mass., has named **Michael P. Murray, AIF®** as its new managing partner.

95

Zip 'N Sort Mail Services, a division of Berkshire County Arc in Pittsfield, Mass. has hired **J.G. Ivy** as general manager.

99

North Adams City Councilor **Lisa Blackmer** will lead the Massachusetts Municipal Association in 2016, the first city resident to do so. She's also the first from western Massachusetts to hold the office of president in more than two decades.

00

The Berkshire Farm Center Board of Directors has appointed **Jim Dennis** as the new chief executive officer of the statewide youth services agency. Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth is one of New York state's leading nonprofit child welfare agencies, serving 8,500 children and their family members.

01

Deanna Lohnes is director of public relations and marketing at both the South Shore Music Circus in Cohasset, Mass. and Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis, Mass.

Class notes



Valerie Ugrinow '02 and partner, Rob, welcomed baby Nikolai on January 11, 2016.

April Wright began her new position at MCLA as administrative assistant in the Student Affairs department in July 2015.

02

Sara Luczynski received the 2015 MCLA Outstanding Educator Award. In addition, she became one of eight educators to be recognized, one from each of the education programs at the Massachusetts State Universities in a ceremony at Framingham State University to honor this achievement.

03

Karl Mirke was named assistant vice president, store manager of TD Bank in North Adams in January 2016.

In May 2016, **Kelly Krok** was named director of human resources at Community Health Programs for Great Barrington,

Lee, Pittsfield, Adams, and North Adams, Mass.

04

Danielle Rose married Shane Bender in summer 2015.

Lynn Brennan represented MCLA at the inauguration of Heidi Macpherson, Ph.D. as the seventh president of the SUNY College at Brockport on April 29, 2016.

05

Erin Baffuto, Chris Baffuto, and Jaxon Baffuto welcomed Jace Jonathan Baffuto on June 29, 2015.

06

John Maguire married Tressah Bean of Middleboro, Mass., in September 2015.



Barbara Sherwood '04 participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Baja in summer 2015.

Celeste Roeller became engaged to Dan Harp in October 2015.

Samantha Cesario joined the Free Library staff at MCLA in September 2015.

State Representative **Michelle DuBois** was honored with MCLA's Susan B. Anthony Women's Center "The One of Us" Award on March 28, 2016. DuBois was recognized for her public service as a city council member and state representative advocating for open and transparent government, environmental policy, working to enhance educational opportunities for children, develop protections and services for the elderly, and create solutions for local infrastructure needs and public safety resources.

07

Lenny Giardino was named director of early childhood services at Upstate Cerebral Palsy in September 2015.

Katrina Cardillo joined the MCLA MBA Advisory Board in July 2015.

09

Kevin Pink came back to campus on March 21, 2016, to work with former STEM program manager Chris Himes on STEM pathways, to present with Center

On March 24, 2016, the following alumni received one of Berkshire Community College's inaugural 40 Under Forty Awards, recognizing Berkshire County's most outstanding young professionals.



1) Pete White '05
MA Rehabilitation Commission



2) Benjamin Lamb '07
Williams College



3) Jonah Slattery Sykes '08
Berkshire United Way



4) Jamal Ahamed '11
BerkshireWorks Career Center



5) Nathan Girard '13
Adams Ale House and Greylock Realty



6) Christina Barrett '13
Berkshire Community College



7) Darcie Sosa '14
Berkshire South Regional Community Center

for EcoTechnology EcoFellows
Claire Cuozzo and Diana Vasquez.

10

Jade Prickett successfully completed the April 18, 2016, Boston Marathon.

11

Ashton Darrett joined the staff at Berkshire Community College as an academic counselor in the Academic Advising Center.

Class notes

12

Alex Marshall joined the Freel Library staff at MCLA in September 2015.

Molly Guest joined the MCLA MBA Advisory Board in July 2015.

Shelby Giaccarini became a customer service manager in the Registrar's Office at the University at Albany in March 2016.

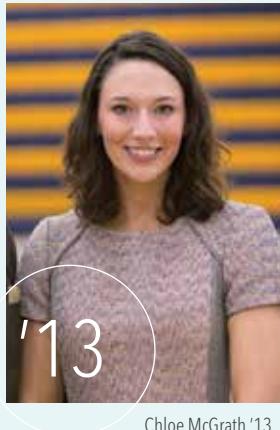
Jill Gregorou joined VentureFizz as a new customer success specialist where she is responsible for the onboarding and ongoing success of the company's BIZZpage customers. You can follow Jill on Twitter @jillgregorou.

13

Angela Saltmartini became a MCLA campus police officer in June 2015.

Amanda Zieminski has been engaged to Scott O'Connell since July 2014. The engagement was announced in February 2016 and the wedding will take place in fall 2016.

Max Roman Dilthey, currently in graduate school at University of Massachusetts Amherst studying sustainability science at the College of Natural Sciences, has been awarded the \$2,000 New England Outdoor Writers Association (NEOWA) Scholarship.



Chloe McGrath '13

Elaine Previl works for The New England Center for Children and was approved to work for a year and a half at its sister center in Abu Dhabi.

15

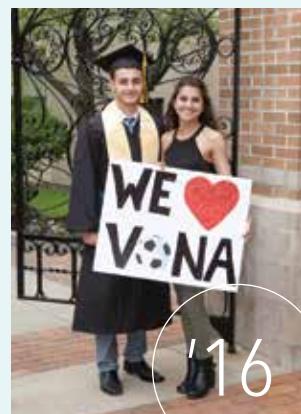
Deanna Boucher now works at Shire City Sanctuary in Pittsfield, Mass.

Haley Manson joined Teach For America in August 2015.

Osakpolo Igiede is development assistant at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. As development assistant, he directly supports the associate vice dean of campaign and development. He is also supporting directors of development that oversee individual giving and other directors as needed.

16

Tyler Vona is the newest member of Hudson Valley's semi-professional Kingston Stockade Football Club. A friend



Tyler Vona '16

who scouted players for the club urged him to try out. He went on to secure a spot on the team after beating out more than 120 players in multiple try-out sessions.



Alexandra (Allie) Kadell '16 was the winner of the Who's Who Among Students national scholarship competition. The former SGA president will take home \$5,000.



A swing bench behind Bowman Hall donated to the students of MCLA by the Class of 2016.



IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

David H. McGrath

Helena Kennedy Tacy '39

Rose K. Butterly Stewart '41

Hollis Whitman '43

Alice Galusha Weil '44

Beverly Nichols Canales '47

Doris Knechtel Minardi '50

Ruth Cummings Boisvert '53

Frederick G. Hubbard '54

Alan R. Murray '58

Alfred Dougherty '60

Elizabeth J. Brice Neveau '61

George Pellerin '62

Thomas P. Loftus '64

Norman D'Amico '65

Edwin Stevens '65

Kathleen Disco '70

Persis B. Caverly '71

Daniel F. Dupuis '71

William Donovan '73

Anne P. Patterson Gehring '73

Allyn F. Basel '74

David H. Colburn '75

Claire E. Gamari '76

Joyce E. Gilmartin '76

Nancy R. Farber Mula '76

Ann H. Ressijac '76

Robert F. Jette '77

Philip J. Wasel '77

David S. Bodenstein '78

Sandra Miller Sullivan '80

Richard D. Forte '81

Lillian E. Tobin '81

Elaine M. Boland Bertoli '82

John W. Brazill '85

Jean A. Rodovick '86

Jean A. Rice '87

Patricia A. Lebeau-

McDonough '93

Phanarath Siv '95

Justin Filiault '01

Maureen E. Goodreau '04

Caitlyn E. Robert '09

Robert B. Grote '10

FACULTY

James M. Snyder

Marion Shapiro Patashnick '40



From left to right: Assistant Athletic Director Jeff Puleri, Director of Athletics Laura Mooney, MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann, former MCLA Head Soccer Coach Ron Shewcraft, Facilities Director Chuck Kimberling, Vice President of Administration and Finance Larry Behan, North Adams Mayor Dick Alcombright, and MCLA President James F. Birge.

Shewcraft Field Lights Initiative

Thanks to the support of alumni like you, the Shewcraft Field Lights Initiative goal has been reached. On June 9, 2016, MCLA President James F. Birge, joined by other members of the community, kicked off the project with a groundbreaking ceremony at Shewcraft Field. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on September 10.

MCLA MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE of Liberal Arts Alumni Association

Together you helped us make history!

Help us do it again. Fall Phonathon returns in September.

STUDENT PHILANTHROPY SPIRIT CORD PROGRAM

Thank you to those of the Class of 2016 who participated in our second year of the Student Philanthropy Spirit Cord Program. As students, these recent alumni gave at a student leadership level of \$20.16 to show their commitment to their alma mater beyond their four years at this institution. In recognition of their first gift to the Alumni Fund in support of scholarship aid, participating students received a special blue and gold braided cord worn at Commencement.



From left to right, members of Class of 2016:
Giovani Dulcio, Marra DeJesus, and Shadea Blyther.

Christiana Ampofo	Khalill Dancy	Joshua Hunter	Zack Page
Natasha Antona	Marra DeJesus	Tazia Johnson	Courtney Parent
Hayden Barber	Rachel Deschamps	Kenya Joseph	Sean Pease
Jessica Barcher	Elizabeth Diaz	Sherley Jules	Aaron Perkins
Hirit Beyene	Giovani Dulcio	Alexandra Kadell	Allison Pevay
Ashley Blevins	Kylie Dumas	Haily Kelliher	Waikhine Phu
Shadea Blyther	Daelle Exinor	Cassandra LaChance	Evan Pirnie
Marygrace Brown	Rachelle Ferguson	Chelsea Lefebvre	Erinn Rayno
Jamie Burdick	Benjamin Finley	Abigail Lucas	Alan Robinette
Sherry Burdick	Ronald Franklin	Anna Maffett	Jessica Robinson
Ashley Bushey	Alison Gilbert	Amy Marbot	Arkeem Samuel
Kelly Charest	Cassandra Goulette	Paul Maurice	Cristian Sanchez
Caitlin Chouinard	Taylor Graziola	Kelsey McGonigle	Veronica Snizek
Tanelle Ciempa	Colby Harvish	Elaine Myers	Darien Sullivan
Alexis Clay	Nicholas Hernigle	Rachel Newkirk	Eddie Taylor
Josh Colon	J. Alex Hicks-Courant	Grace Ngobo Toko	Chelsea Valentino
Kasey Conklin	Amanda Hoag	Brittany Nicholson	Ibrahim Wanu
Marisa Costain	Portia Hood	Shannon O'Hara	Chelsea Weber
Alyssa Dame	Benjamin Hoyt	Victoria Page	Cecilia Wright

Travel Program



March 2016 field study in marine biology at St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. From left to right: Kennedy Valois '17, Chad Raimer '17, Amanda LeBarron '16, Jordan Vanuni '18, Indy Jones '17, Tazia Johnson '17, Levon Hilling '17, Jonathan Saloio '17, Erinn Rayno '16, Sabrina Superneau-Gilman '18, Dominique Hyndman '16, and Evan Patev '16.

Each year MCLA offers courses that incorporate international or domestic travel away from campus. Each course creates a unique experiential and immersive setting that lends itself to significant learning related to students' majors or more broadly to their liberal arts education. These "travel courses" allow students to experience other societies, cultures, and ecosystems without the larger time and financial investment of a semester-long study abroad program, which many MCLA students find challenging to incorporate into their educational experiences. The travel component of these courses typically occurs over 7-10 days at spring break allowing students to remain in-residence and complete other coursework at MCLA during the spring term. Destinations include China, Ireland, England, France, Spain, Japan, Hawaii, Florida's Everglades, Peru, and St. Thomas.

These travel courses provide enormous benefits in areas such as intercultural learning, collaboration, undergraduate research, and writing-intensive

assignments. By participating in these courses, students not only develop academically but personally. Students learn to navigate situations, cultures, languages, and locations that are completely new to them. Students regularly report that seeing significant cultural, historical, and ecological locations allows them to make connections and deeper applications and insight to their classroom learning.

While faculty strive to make these travel courses accessible to students, the additional financial costs to participate still prove to be a barrier for many students. Student scholarship aid continues to be the College's area of greatest need. If you would like to help make opportunities like these available to today's students, please consider supporting the MCLA Travel Course Scholarship Fund using the enclosed envelope or by visiting give2.mcla.edu.

MCLA EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

MCLA Athletics Golf Classic
Berkshire Hills Country Club
Pittsfield, MA

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

Classes of 1995–1996 Reunion, Boston

SAVE THE DATE



OCTOBER 13, 2016

Hardman Lecture with
Abderrahim Foukara

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public
Policy Lecture with Cokie Roberts

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais
Environmental Issues Lecture
with Dr. John Harris

DECEMBER 7, 2016

Boston Holiday Social

APRIL 21, 2017

Presidential Inauguration

**For more information about the events
listed above, please call (413) 662-5224
or advancement@mcla.edu**

MCLA

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Director of Special Events and
Conference Planning

Mary F. Hastings
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Christina Kelly
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Vice President of Institutional Advancement

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Karen Ruiz León
Advancement Communications Coordinator

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Jade Prickett '10

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Dorothy Giusti Ransford '64

Monique Symes '11

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The MCLA Alumni Magazine is published three times a year by Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts for alumni and friends of MCLA.

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Member of the Massachusetts State University System