

# MCLA

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

NOV/14



THANK YOU PRESIDENT GRANT '83

## DEAR ALUMNI,



When I accepted the opportunity to return to my alma mater as the president of MCLA in 2002, I was overjoyed and full of anticipation to lead this fine institution. Each year since, I have had the privilege of being a part of a college where powerful and transformative experiences happen each day in the lives of our students.

By now, many of you know of my appointment as chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, effective January 5th.

MCLA is a special place that will always be in my heart and an important part of my life. Thank you for your excellent efforts and allowing me to serve with you during this period of great accomplishment for the College. Today, MCLA has a focused, intentional, and unwavering commitment to our students, the campus, and the community at large. I am proud to share that we, once again, were recognized by *U.S News & World Report* as a Top Ten Public Liberal Arts College for the fourth consecutive year.

Additionally, the College has now been awarded two major grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which supports MCLA's work with STEM initiatives on campus and in the community. These awards mark a major breakthrough for a small, public liberal arts college such as ours, and serve to recognize the important work that we do each day.

But we also know that these advancements affirm the legacy of the College's 120-year history of serving the region and the Commonwealth. At every step and

with every advancement, sustainable progress has been made thanks to the dedication, investment, and support of faculty, staff, students, trustees, Foundation directors, members of the Alumni Board, alumni friends, and colleagues. We are a community that supports one another, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has been a part of this tremendous and collaborative experience.

Our campus continues to expand in many dynamic ways. A year ago, we opened the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, a state-of-the-art facility which provides students, faculty, and the education community of Berkshire County with new opportunities for teaching, learning, and discovery. In 2014, we opened the Veterans Resource Center, an important campus space for our College's veterans, and major renovations continue on Bowman Hall, which is slated to open summer 2015. Once completed, Bowman will house a student-centered art gallery, as well as the math, computer science, and visual arts departments.

At the heart of what we do each day are the students' lives, which are changed through the power of a liberal arts education. We are privileged to have dedicated

and engaged scholars who believe in the mission of the College, and who value our community. Our faculty challenges our students to rise to their potential so they can be fully equipped with the critical thinking and leadership skills for the journey of life ahead.

The paths that MCLA alumni have taken involve important and meaningful work, not only in Berkshire County, but across Massachusetts, throughout the country, and around the world. Many of our alumni were first-generation college students. Some of you started as interns and have rose in the ranks within your companies, some of you went on to start your own businesses, and others found happiness in their callings.

As many of you already know, I can personally relate to this journey. At this institution, I, too, received the knowledge and tools that prepared me to continue my education, embark on an enriching professional career, and ultimately help create the opportunity to return to MCLA as its president.

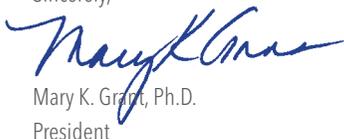
Reflecting back on my first year as president, it was a time of continued engagement, both on campus and off, to understand the community's hopes and dreams for the institution. Much was said, and we worked together to advance many of the initiatives.

The work of moving the College forward and writing the next chapters of the MCLA story is an opportunity and a responsibility we all share. As an alumna, I will always be connected to MCLA. I am grateful to have served as the president of this wonderful institution and bear witness to this transformative power. Thank you for all the ways that you serve MCLA, our students, and our community.

I look forward to returning to campus, as I hope you will, to connect with the MCLA community. Thank you for caring and for your continued support to MCLA.

*Once a Trailblazer, Always a Trailblazer.*

Sincerely,



Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.  
President

# MCLA

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# Farewell President Grant

As President Grant prepares to leave to become chancellor of the University of North Carolina, Asheville, in January, it is hard to imagine MCLA without her. She not only was the first alumna to lead this institution, but a stellar chief executive whose actions have been with the eye of a true visionary.

One of President Grant's greatest achievements is the palpable institutional pride – on campus and off. Stop by any day, walk across the quad, and you will be met by sweatshirts, T-shirts, hats, and pants emblazoned with "MCLA." She achieved this marketing coup by setting the expectation that we all would do this (students, family, and staff, too!), and by acting as a role model herself and always wearing MCLA "swag."

And then there is her role as cheerleader-in-chief; always at the games rain or shine, at the Zavattaro Athletic Complex or in the bleachers in the Amsler Campus Center Gym with her husband Jim Canavan and a few guests in tow, cheering the Trailblazers on and spreading the pride.

The pride in MCLA also has gone national. Through her work on the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, where she played a leadership role

with her peers, MCLA's profile continues to rise dramatically. For the fourth consecutive year, MCLA was named a Top Ten Public Liberal Arts College by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Mary Grant is bursting with pride for our students, who graduate to become engaged, smart, caring citizens and alumni. Each day she gets up, puts on her shoes, and heads out the door, living what she espouses: every young man and woman deserves to have a seat in the classroom, no matter what their challenges may be, and their dream to obtain a college education can come true here in North Adams. Her core values have become embedded in the College's mission in a very deep way.

When our students walk across the quad, it also is evident that this is a place which embraces diversity in all ways – a reflection of society. Just as you remember the College as a warm, inviting community, our current students also enjoy that in a more expansive way, with 29 percent of our entering freshman identifying themselves as multicultural.

As a visionary, the President has worked hard to increase resources through private philanthropy,

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**1)** Conferring degrees at the annual Commencement ceremony **2)** Sharing a walk with Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick at the groundbreaking for the Center for Science and Innovation in 2011 **3)** Catching up with Maura Mills '05, keynote speaker at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Conference **4)** Sharing a laugh with alumna Shabori Burton '11, who came back for the 2014 Commencement ceremony **5)** With Mary Lou '62 and Herbert Humphries at a reception for MCLA Baseball during the 2011 Spring Break trip to Florida **6)** Seen here kicking off the start of the basketball season at the 2013 Midnight Madness, President Grant has been a strong supporter of MCLA Athletics throughout her tenure.



**7)** With Ambassador Andrew Young at the 2013 Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture **8)** With Gloria Steinem before the 2014 Public Policy Lecture **9)** Visiting with Golden Graduates Kathy Mogavero '52 and Carolyn Baier Siano '52 at the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Luncheon. **10)** Celebrating Commencement with Jamal Brown '12 and Tim Fish '12. **11)** From left, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Governor Deval Patrick, President Grant, Commissioner Richard Freeland, Trustee Steve Crowe, and Senator Benjamin Downing, among others, broke ground on the Center for Science and Innovation in 2011.



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12) From left, Campaign Co-chair Andy Mick '09, Laurie Mick, President Grant, Jim Canavan, parent Derrick Jackson with his son Tano Holmes '13, and Williams College President Adam Falk at the 2012 kickoff to *Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*

“Mary Grant is bursting with pride for our students,  
who graduate to become engaged, smart,  
caring citizens and alumni.”

– MARIANNE DRAKE, CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

raising the most money ever in the history of the College. *Sowing Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*, in its third and final year, has blasted past the \$30 million goal, creating a legacy of endowments in its wake. The crowning glory is a \$54 million bond for facilities upgrades throughout campus, including the construction of the 65,000-square-foot Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, and a pledge from the Feigenbaum Foundation to support a body of work focused on scholarship and entrepreneurship.

Now, as President Grant puts on her shoes to head to North Carolina, we know her heart is still with us as she looks over her shoulder to see if she has accomplished everything she not only set out to do, but knew she needed to do; as an alumna whose personal life was transformed here, for the community, and especially for the students yet to pass through the gates.

Thank you Mary K. Grant, Class of 1983.  
Marianne Drake, Chief Advancement Officer



Peter Hoyt, director of athletic training education, and Elizabeth Doughty '15

# Recognizing Excellence

When the notice seeking nominations for MCLA's 2014 Faculty Association Student Award came across his desk, Peter Hoyt, director of athletic training education, immediately thought of Elizabeth Doughty '15. Although the award typically is given to a graduating senior, he couldn't think of any student more deserving than this hard-working junior with an athletic training major and biology minor.

"Liz is one of those special people who can fit 48 hours worth of work and activity into 24 hours," Hoyt says. "She exemplifies the ideal student, not only for her accomplishments in the classroom and lab, but for all her positive contributions both on campus and within the community. Liz puts 110 percent into everything she does."

The selection committee agreed, and Doughty

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“She exemplifies the ideal student, not only for her accomplishments in the classroom and lab, but for all her positive contributions both on campus and within the community. Liz puts 110 percent into everything she does.”

– DR. PETER HOYT

was presented with the award last May. While she is proud of this achievement, she credits her professors, particularly Hoyt, for all their help and encouragement.

Since her freshman year, Doughty has been enrolled in a number of Hoyt's classes. She quickly found that in addition to being an effective and engaging professor, Hoyt had all the qualities of a great mentor. “He never turns students away,” she says, recalling a semester when she had a particularly challenging class with him. “He came in at 6 or 7 in the morning, and I was waiting outside his door when he arrived every day for a week. He genuinely cared and was always willing to help.”

Hailing from Westford, MA, Doughty attended Lowell Catholic High School, where she was actively involved in sports. Her interest in athletic training began during her senior year, when an injury threatened to end her basketball season. An athletic trainer not only helped get her back on the court, but also inspired a future career. This led her to MCLA, one of the few Massachusetts state universities that offers a nationally accredited athletic training major.

“I'm grateful for all of the opportunities I've been given at MCLA,” she says. “The faculty truly cares and wants to see students succeed. My professors have helped me realize that I'm capable of so much more than I ever thought possible.”

What Doughty is capable of is, indeed, impressive. President of the class of 2015, Doughty says that being actively involved keeps her on the straight and narrow. Last year, she served as president of MCLA's chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), a nationwide organization that recognizes students who make outstanding contributions to their campus and residence halls. This year, she is serving as a third-year resident advisor, secretary on the Biology Club Executive Board, a member of the LEAD Academy staff, and an admissions ambassador. “My activities force me to stay focused,” Doughty laughs. “Procrastinating is just not an option!”

As her time at MCLA draws to a close, Doughty finds herself at a crossroads. While graduate school is in her future, possibly to become a physician assistant, she may serve as a resident director before taking that step. “I honestly think I'd like to get my doctorate at some point, but right now I'm just trying to figure out my next move,” she says.

Wherever the future takes her, Doughty no doubt will enjoy much success. For his part, Hoyt is just proud to be a part of her amazing journey.

# A SSHAR

In the 23 years since graduating from MCLA, Lizz Furtado '91, has been living her dream in New York City. In addition to serving as the director of production at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts, she is a working actress and comedian whose extensive resume includes appearances in *The Accidental Husband* (featuring Uma Thurman); *Law & Order*; *30 Rock*; *All My Children*; *Rescue Me*; and *Saturday Night Live*. Through it all, Furtado has maintained a deep appreciation for MCLA. She shares a close bond with her Berkshire friends and with retired theatre professor Bonnie Bishoff, "the glue" who holds them all together.

Furtado credits MCLA, in general, for providing all the tools she needed "to survive in NYC," but it was Bishoff, in particular, who had the greatest impact on her future. Because the fine and performing arts degree had not yet been established, Furtado majored in English, but quickly became involved with the theatre. She met Bishoff during an audition her first semester. "Bonnie had an incredible energy," she recalls. "I could just feel her love of theatre."

The next semester, Furtado spent every free moment at the theater. "I found my niche with the people involved in drama. They became a family to me, and that was all because of Bonnie. She had a magic about her that made us all feel like we had found a second home," she says.

In the years that followed, Furtado appeared in numerous theatrical productions. She developed close friendships with her own class and cast mates, as well as with former students who frequently came back to visit. Ever humble about her role in bringing so many students together, Bishoff says, "I just feel lucky to have had the kids I did and that we all stay in touch... Theatre is a very communicative art, and the people who are in it have to trust each other and communicate honestly and face-to-face in the work that they do. Once you establish that kind of trust with someone, they become part of your life, and you can't just let that go."

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On a personal note, Furtado says that Bishoff was the first person, aside from family, who truly believed in her. She goes on to say, "She is one of those amazing people who make everyone feel special. She embraces, encourages, inspires, scares, and believes in you, all at the same time."

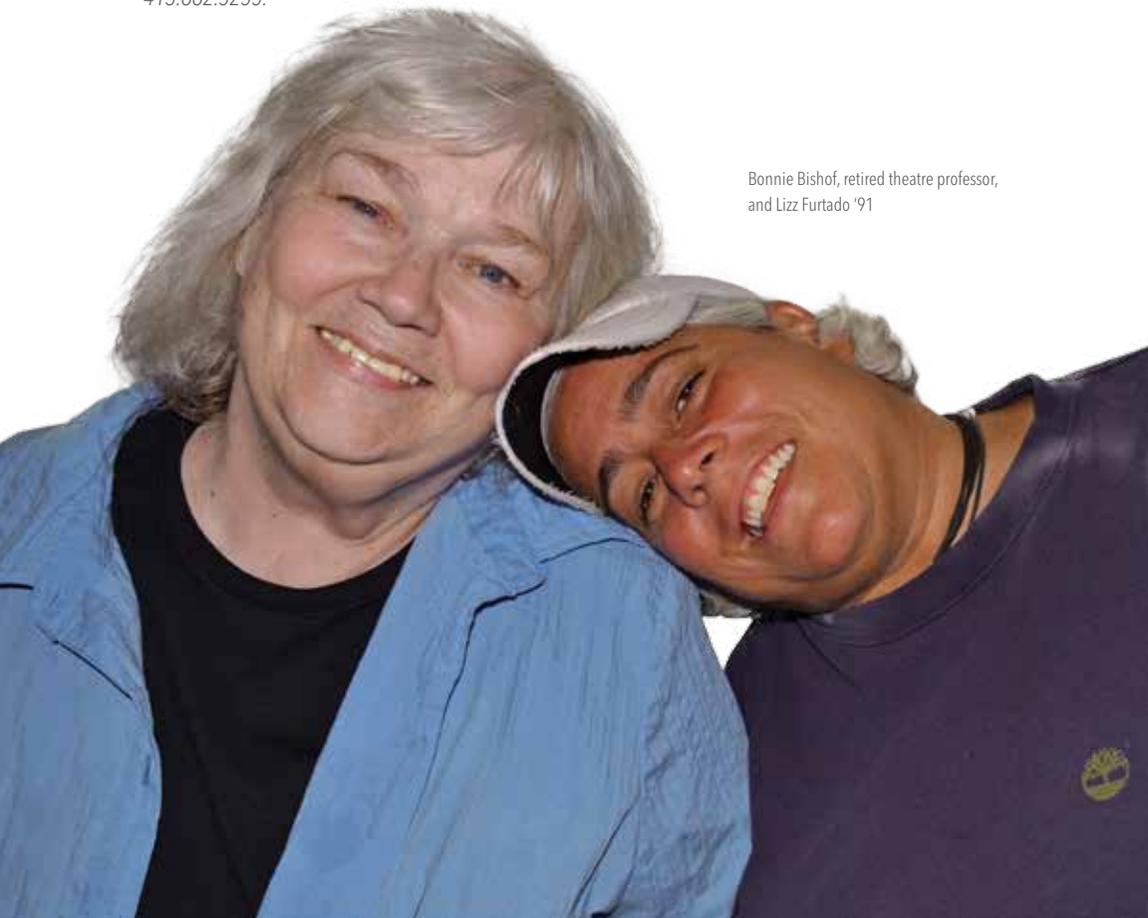
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# ED BOND

Furtado credits Bishoff with pointing her in the direction of AMDA, which she attended as a student prior to joining the staff. To this day, Bishoff's influence remains a significant factor in her life. "I like to think that I am a little like her now," she says. "I try to create that same family-type atmosphere for my students and let them know – you have a home here."

When Bishoff retired in 2009, many former students, including Furtado, returned to North Adams and flocked the stage of Venable Hall following her last MCLA production. It was a touching display of appreciation for a woman who brought countless students together under her wing; prepared them to soar to new heights; and provided a warm, safe landing place to which they could always return.

*For information about current theatre productions, contact Terrie Pratt at [fpa@mcla.edu](mailto:fpa@mcla.edu) or 413.662.5255.*



Bonnie Bishof, retired theatre professor,  
and Lizz Furtado '91



Bentley Munsell '15 and Sharon Claffey, psychology professor

# TRAVELING COMPANTONS

Bentley Munsell '15, a biology and psychology double major, never considered the prospect of academic research, but a little nudge during his sophomore year set him in motion on a journey leading to the completion of his senior thesis by the end of his junior year.

With each small step, Munsell made big strides in recognizing and appreciating his own capabilities. Reflecting on his experience, he extends his gratitude to Psychology Professor Dr. Sharon Claffey, whom he most respectfully refers to as "an amazing tour guide."

Munsell first met Claffey after another professor, Dr. Rebekah Benjamin, encouraged him to consider a thesis and suggested Claffey as a potential advisor. During their first meeting, the two spoke of Munsell's

interest in learning about the effects of the Internet on transgender individuals' ability to cope. Claffey, intrigued by Munsell's ideas, accepted the challenge under the condition that Munsell begin laying the groundwork right away.

That summer, Munsell investigated the literature on his topic and submitted his research proposal. Upon return to MCLA, he sat down with Claffey and created a timetable. "I had never done independent

academic research before, so this was a new experience," he says. "Dr. Claffey insisted that the timetable be self-directed, although she held me accountable for my deadlines. She really fostered a sense of independent scholarship in me."

Claffey and Munsell worked closely to formulate the final research question. Building on Munsell's ideas and research, the question became: "What is the relationship between self-esteem and the likelihood that trans\* individuals experience shame, and how do these two factors together impact trans\* individuals' willingness to seek social support?"

During the fall semester, in addition to carrying a full course load, Munsell developed his assessment tool, posted it through the Consortium of Higher Education Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Resource Professionals website, and recruited participants through a variety of online venues. A total of 126 participants completed the assessment, which enabled Munsell to begin writing his thesis in the spring. Claffey gently guided him through, helping him maintain focus, process the research, ask the right questions, and refine his scientific writing skills. "It was

the best and most meaningful faculty interaction I've ever had," says Munsell.

Munsell's academic research journey culminated with a successful presentation at MCLA's 2014 Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) and a thesis defense. "In the end, I became a better researcher," explains Munsell. "I learned that independent research is like peeling back an onion, always trying to find more information so you can ask the next question. Sometimes it takes a lot of failed questions to find valuable information."

In her role as thesis advisor/"tour guide," Claffey enjoyed traveling alongside Munsell as he completed his thesis. "Bentley is everything you hope for when you take on a student – conscientious, responsible and reliable," she says. "He worked independently and with enthusiasm, and it was awesome to be able to see the research through his eyes."

*\* For the purpose of this project, trans\* referred to all people who identify as transgender, transexual, gender variant or those with a transgender history.*

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At the 2014 Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), Munsell was presented with the first annual Pamela P. Dennis '82 Scholarship by Diane Sammer '81, supported by the newly endowed Pamela P. Dennis '82 Achievement and Triumph Fund. Named in memory of a former psychology graduate and partner of Diane, the scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate high potential, have overcome adversity in their lives and participate in the URC.

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President Mary Grant, Bentley Munsell '15, Diane Sammer '81, and Monique Hoeflinger at the 2014 URC.



# Chance Encounter

Deb Foss, psychology professor,  
and Jerry Kiahon '14



**W**hen Jerry Kiahon '14, a biology major, found himself failing botany during his freshman year at MCLA, he paid a visit to the Advising Office. That particular day, the office was staffed by psychology professor Deb Foss, serving in her dual role as coordinator of Academic Advising. "We instantly clicked," recalls Kiahon. "She encouraged me to continue in the class. She said, 'Take the F and make it into whatever you want it to be.' She didn't know me at all, but she believed in me."

Four years later, that first meeting is as memorable to Foss as it is to Kiahon. "I don't often recall the details of first conversations, but I remember that one," she says. "Jerry was thinking about withdrawing from the class, so I asked him why. Listening to him describe his work ethic and study habits, it was clear to me that he was special."

At Foss' urging, Kiahon spoke with his botany professor, who told him that the best outcome he could hope for was a B-. Kiahon accepted this as a challenge and, week after week, his grade rose steadily. He stopped by to update Foss regularly and, in the end, surpassed expectation, achieving a solid B.

Kiahon continued to keep in touch with Foss. He appreciated her support and encouragement, and she enjoyed getting to know this determined young biology major. She learned that Kiahon had moved from Liberia as a boy, and that his mother, who worked hard to put herself through nursing school in her 40s, was a major source of inspiration. "Jerry has very strong values," she says. "He was raised to believe that giving up is not an option. You don't give up as long as you have a fighting chance."

Foss became a significant influence in Kiahon's college experience. During his junior year, as Kiahon struggled financially to complete his degree, she encouraged him to apply for the John M.C. Hess

Scholarship, awarded annually to a rising senior in the sciences. Kiahon received the scholarship, which covered his expenses for his final year. Hess, a chemistry professor who passed away in 1999, had been a friend and mentor to Foss. "John would have enjoyed Jerry," she says. "It was fitting that he received this scholarship."

Foss also assisted Kiahon in securing a position as a supplementary instruction leader through Student Support Services. This was an opportunity to earn money, while also giving back to the campus community. "It was very satisfying to help students who were struggling, because I knew how they felt," Kiahon reflects.

Last year, Kiahon was selected to be honored at the Boston State House during the prestigious "29 Who Shine" Recognition Ceremony. Students representing Massachusetts' state and community colleges are selected for this celebration based on outstanding records of academic achievement, student leadership and community service. Kiahon invited Foss to attend as his mentor.

"I was touched to learn that he thought so highly of me," says Foss. "It just goes to show that MCLA is not a place where students are confined by their academic course of study. If a psychologist can be a mentor to a biology student, anything is possible."

Asked about his decision to invite Foss, Kiahon simply responds, "Deb helped me when I was struggling with courses and pushed me to never give up."

With his Bachelor of Science in biology now complete, Kiahon has his sights set on a career in healthcare. His dream is to attend the University of Massachusetts Medical School, although he also is considering pharmacy school. Those, like Foss, who have witnessed Kiahon's dedication and perseverance firsthand, know that no matter what direction he takes, he will forge his own path to a bright future.



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## REUNION + FALL FAMILY WEEKEND

Alumni and families descended on the MCLA campus October 17-19, 2014, for the Annual Reunion and Fall Family Weekend. This year's Reunion honored classes ending in 4s and 9s, especially the 50th Reunion Class of 1964. Highlights of the weekend included the Distinguished Alumni Luncheon, Athletic Hall of Fame, Athletic Alumni Games, and the Family vs. Alumni Corn Hole Tournament. Thank you to all who returned to campus for the weekend. We hope to see you back here soon.



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**1)** Celebrating our 2014 Distinguished Alumni: Outstanding Educator Cynthia Roper-Patenaude '04, Young Alumnus Monique Symes '11, Distinguished Alumnus Mary K. Grant '83, Outstanding Service to the College James Clemmer '86, Humanitarian Janis Coulson McGrory '76, and Outstanding Educator Emeritus Dennis Zicko '65. **2)** Dennis Zicko '65 looks through an old yearbook at a class of 1964 dinner at Freight Yard Pub. **3)** ALANA (African, Latino, Asian, and Native American) students serve dinner to alumni at the annual ALANA Club Council Multicultural Potluck Dinner. **4)** The Class of 1964 joined the ranks of our golden graduates at the Distinguished Alumni Luncheon. From left: Alumni Board President Cheryl Starr Boillat '79, M.Ed. '97, Roger Eurbín, Friderika Vogt, Ruth Lambert Zicko, Dorothy Giusti Ransford, Bernie Belouin, Robert Taylor, Director of Alumni Relations and Development Christine DeMasi Naughton '99, Ben Morandi, Judy Patashnick Gentile, Elizabeth Laino Brennan, and Nancy Rice Bassi. **5)** Coach Al Sokaitis '76 speaks on behalf of the 1989-1990 Men's Basketball team who were inducted into the MCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.



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## Champion of Students Retires

In recognition of over 40 years of service at MCLA, the College has named the *Charlotte F. Degen Student Aid Fund* in honor of Charlotte Degen, vice president of student affairs and member of the Class of 1973 who retired on Oct. 10, 2014. Charlotte wrote the first Student Support Services Grant more than 34 years ago, and has had a role in the award of six other grants. She has been a tireless champion for equal opportunity in accessing higher education, and has spent her career at the College committed to fostering an atmosphere of excellence for students. The fund, which was established to aid students in moments of temporary hardship, encapsulates the core of Charlotte's commitment to MCLA students.

When President Grant announced Charlotte's retirement, she said, "Charlotte is a dedicated and

passionate student affairs professional whose thoughtful and intentional approach to advancing student learning has resulted in a significant and meaningful body of work that has and will continue to have a lasting impact on the College, our extended community, and most importantly, our students."

Congratulations and best wishes to Charlotte as she enters this new phase of her life.

*If you would like to make a gift in honor of Charlotte to the Charlotte F. Degen Student Aid Fund, please go to <http://give2.mcla.edu> and under "Other Designation" designate the Degen Student Aid Fund.*



Charlotte Degen '73

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## Presidential Transition

In September, the Board of Trustees announced the search committee members who will undertake the important work of identifying candidates for the next president of MCLA, to bring to campus for visits in the spring 2015 semester.

The search committee will be led by co-chairs Mohan Boodram and Susan Gold of MCLA's Board of Trustees. Its members include JD Chesloff and Shirley Edgerton M.Ed. '07, trustees, and representatives from the MCLA campus community; Ama Bemba Adwetewa-Badu '16, Rachel Churchill '06, Esq., Charlie Cianfarini, Marianne Drake, Tom DeGray, Christopher Himes, Brendan Peltier '15, Dana Rapp, and Adrienne Wootters.

The Trustees also appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs Cindy Brown as interim president during the period of time following President Grant's departure, up until the arrival of the next president of MCLA in early summer.



Interim President  
Cynthia F. Brown

# CONNECTIONS HAPPEN HERE

We are delighted to announce that our new and improved alumni online community is live! In an effort to provide opportunities for our alumni to engage and connect with each other and the College, we have created *The Alumni Community* with features such as:

- **ONLINE ALUMNI DIRECTORY** – View and edit your personal alumni profile and search for friends by major, city, or class year to reconnect to past friends or introduce yourself to someone in the city you are living in. Update your profile today so that your fellow alumni can reach out to you!
- **CLASS NOTES** – View your previous class notes, submit a class note, or read class notes from fellow alumni.
- **JOB BOARD** – Do you have a job opportunity you would like to share with your fellow alumni and our graduating students? Are you currently looking for a job? Post and view employment opportunities on our job board. You can also link from our job board to the Center for Student Success and Engagement/Career Services (CSSE) for additional employment resources.

This tool will provide easy access and allow you to connect with the College and each other. Please visit [alumni.mcla.edu](http://alumni.mcla.edu) to get started today!

*Please note: In an effort to protect the privacy of our alumni, we have chosen to display Name, Former Student Name, Class Year, and Major as our automatic default in our Alumni Directory. If you would like your classmates to be able to contact you, please login and set permissions for the additional information you would like made publicly available.*



## CHALLENGE 120!

For more information about giving to Challenge 120!, contact annual giving program manager Nikki Lothar '06 at [n.lothar@mcla.edu](mailto:n.lothar@mcla.edu), 413.662.5193 or go online to make a gift at [give2mcla.edu](http://give2mcla.edu).

This year, MCLA celebrates its 120th anniversary, the accomplishments that have taken place over the past 12 years through the leadership of President Mary K. Grant, and new beginnings as our institution continues to thrive and flourish while we turn the page to the next chapter in the College's history.

As a way to celebrate the College's anniversary and President Grant's service to MCLA, the Alumni Association is happy to announce Challenge 120! Challenge 120! is an initiative to increase alumni participation and overall giving. We are challenging each and every member of the Alumni Association to join us in increasing overall alumni participation to 12.0% and increase the average gift size from \$100 to \$120. Thank you for your support of the College.

## MCLA ATHLETICS

# Golf Classic



Conserve Thru Control, Inc. and owners Matt, Tina '91, M.Ed. '01, and Stephanie Pitoniak were honored at the 18th Annual MCLA Athletics Golf Classic on September 15, 2014 for their commitment and partnership with athletics over the past several years. The event was held at Berkshire Hills Country Club with 128 participating golfers in the tournament, and was followed by a banquet dinner. The tournament raised close to \$18,000 for the Department of Athletics, \$5,000 of which will be dedicated to the Shewcraft Field Lights Initiative. We would like to thank all of our sponsors, players, and guests for making the 2014 MCLA Golf Classic a great day for everyone involved.

To make a gift to the lights initiative, contact Jeff Puleri, assistant athletic director, at [j.puleri@mcla.edu](mailto:j.puleri@mcla.edu), 413.662.5403 or go online to make a gift at [give2mcla.edu](http://give2mcla.edu).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER 6

*MCLA Presents!*

A Very Special Holiday with Dala

### DECEMBER 10

Boston Alumni Holiday Social,  
Intercontinental Boston Hotel

### JANUARY 31

Men's Basketball Alumni Game

### FEBRUARY 6-7

*MCLA Presents!*

Blues and Funk Festival

### MARCH 3

Public Policy Lecture:  
Former MA State Senator  
Cheryl Jacques

*Part of the Creating Equality Series*

### MARCH 10-16

Spring Break

### APRIL 16

Undergraduate  
Research Conference

### MAY 15

Baccalaureate

### MAY 16

Commencement

# MCLA

We hope you enjoy the new format of the *MCLA Alumni Magazine* (formerly *Beacons & Seeds*), now coming to you three times per year. This transition is an effort to increase the frequency of our communications with alumni and improve the relevancy of shared news.

**MASSACHUSETTS  
COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS**

Alumni Office  
375 Church Street  
North Adams, MA 01247  
(866) 677 MCLA  
(413) 662 5260 fax  
alumni@mcla.edu

**MCLA.EDU**

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**CREDITS** Managing Editor: Ashley Berndge • Graphic Design: Julie Hammill • Writer: Lee-Anne Sprague  
Member of the Massachusetts State University System



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