

A photograph of four individuals in professional attire. From left to right: a man in a dark suit and gold tie, a woman in a light blue patterned blazer and glasses, a man in a dark vest over a white shirt, and a woman in a patterned top. They are all looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a blurred, colorful abstract pattern.

MCLA

INNOVATION HAPPENS

HERE

2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 2 Letter from President Grant
- 4 Innovation is Transformative
- 9 Leadership Academy Rises to the Challenge
- 11 MCLA Hat Trick: "Top 10" three years in a row,
ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*
- 12 New Scholar Designation for Undergraduate Researchers
- 13 Leading in Early Childhood Education
- 14 Study Abroad
- 16 Commemorating Civil Rights: MCLA's *Creating Equality* Program
- 18 MCLA's First Summer STEM Academy
- 20 Concentrations Added in Computer Science and Interdisciplinary Studies
- 21 NEASC Visit
- 22 MCLA Organizes COPLAC Undergraduate Research Conference
- 23 COPLAC Soccer Match
- 25 Allegrettos Collaborate with Craig Harris
- 26 MCLA's New Art Classroom: MASS MoCA
- 28 Innovation is an Engine for Growth
- 32 Dynamic Speakers Bring the World to the Berkshires
- 34 New Faces at Center for Student Success and Engagement
- 35 Using Technology to Showcase Learning Outcomes
- 37 Commencement
- 39 Giving Veterans a Boost
- 40 Athletics Roundup
- 43 Mountain Lion Mascot
- 47 Sowing Seeds for Success...with Generosity of Extended MCLA Family
- 48 Successful Alumni Highlight Value of Liberal Arts Education
- 50 Student/Faculty/Staff Achievements
- 57 New Faculty
- 58 Remembering Avaz Hajizadeh, Ph.D.
- 59 Economic Impact

*On the cover:
Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation
ribbon cutting: pictured left to right: Governor
Patrick, President Mary K. Grant, Stephen
Hannock, and Asia Andrews '14*

I N N O V

BEGINS HERE.

A T I O N

It Starts With a Vision...



Dear Friend of MCLA,

2014 marks the 120th anniversary of the founding of the North Adams Normal School, the first public higher education institution in North Adams. The past 120 years have been good to us.

In 1894 the decision to locate the school in North Adams wasn't without debate, but the founders held fast to a vision of innovation, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement that would have a lasting impact on the community.

Though the institution has evolved since 1894, MCLA remains faithful to our core mission and we are keenly aware of the College's role in the community. This President's Report recognizes the many ways MCLA advances its role as a vital and growing educational resource. As the Commonwealth's designated public liberal arts college, MCLA enjoys a unique and serious responsibility.

A decade ago we shared the vision that a state-of-the-art center for science and innovation belonged on MCLA's campus – truly a center that would position the College to harvest opportunities in the Commonwealth's world-class biotechnology and life sciences sector. Thanks to the efforts of friends and supporters on campus, community members, our legislative delegation, and members of other state offices and agencies, that vision was realized on Friday, October 4, 2013, when, to the delight of the hundreds of people assembled, MCLA student Asia Andrews joined Governor Patrick and me to cut the ribbon for the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation.

In 2013, MCLA was selected as a Top Ten Public Liberal Arts College by *U.S. News and World Report* for the third year in a row. This honor places MCLA in good company among fellow institutions within the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), a national coalition positioned at the forefront of the conversation on the value of a liberal arts education. Moreover, MCLA was recognized in *The Boston Globe* last fall for the College's significant contributions to the revitalization of North Adams.

CLICK
TO READ
MORE

A team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visited our campus last November, as part of the College's accreditation process, and saw this work firsthand. Their observations affirmed the powerful work done over the last ten years as reflected in the success of our students, the College's many collaborations in the Berkshires, and as a valued member of the Massachusetts State University System. Faculty, staff, and the MCLA Board of Trustees worked diligently to prepare for the NEASC visit, and our work here has been lauded by the NEASC team. We have accomplished much since the last NEASC visit ten years ago, and we have much more to do.

On and off campus, MCLA students build upon a strong interdisciplinary foundation. Programs such as MCLA's LEAD Academy, the Berkshire STEM Academy, and the Center for Student Success and Engagement encourage strong study habits and offer comprehensive resources critical to student success. MCLA offers engagement through collaborations such as MCLA at MASS MoCA where art students and faculty enjoy classroom space connected to the museum's campus.

We innovate through intentional partnerships – 2+2 programs with Berkshire Community College in business and biotechnology; a 3+2 engineering program with UMASS; Nuclea Biotechnologies, and the medical technology program with Berkshire Medical – to accomplish shared goals.

As MCLA moves into 2014 and beyond, I am proud of the College's 120-year history serving the region and the Commonwealth, and I remain excited about the many opportunities that the future holds for the MCLA community to deepen and expand innovation and creativity across the Berkshires.

Sincerely,



INNOVATION IS TRANSFORMATIVE

On Friday, October 4, 2013, MCLA welcomed Governor Deval Patrick and a host of dignitaries and stakeholders as we cut a bright blue and gold ribbon to officially open the College's new Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation. Amid the high spirits, speeches, and wonder at the sheer beauty of the new 65,000-square-foot complex, a common theme emerged: transformation.



“What this building and project, and this university, represent is our commitment to invest in ourselves and our own future.”

Governor Deval Patrick



For MCLA, the significance was obvious. The Feigenbaum Center is the first new building on the MCLA campus in 40 years. The center enables science students and faculty to collaborate on advanced research projects. It provides a new center of gravity to the campus, a visual and academic point of focus, and a gathering place for learning that will go well beyond the hard sciences.

Governor Patrick eloquently summed up the significance of the new science center. "This building is important for the MCLA campus," he said. "But it's also important for North Adams, for Berkshire County, for western Massachusetts, for the whole region and the whole Commonwealth, because it shows that growth will come from the blend of education, innovation, and infrastructure. What this building and project, and this university, represent is our commitment to invest in ourselves and our own future."

The spirit of the Berkshires was very much in evidence at the ribbon cutting. The Feigenbaum Center atrium is punctuated by two-story windows that frame the Berkshire Hills in all their glory, looking northwest toward the heart of North Adams and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA). Set within the space is a glorious homage to North Adams and the Berkshires: a 12'

by 8' canvas by renowned, Academy Award-winning Williamstown painter Stephen Hannock entitled *A Recent History of Art in North Berkshire County; ...and then Along Comes Mary*. Upon first glance, the painting is a magnificent landscape showing the Hoosic River Valley. The canvas demonstrates Hannock's trademark luminosity – the painting seems to glow from within. Close up, the canvas also employs another signature Hannock touch: wispy, almost hidden painted messages about residents of the region, including President Grant and Governor Patrick.

Equally dramatic was the announcement that the building would be named in honor of Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum and Donald S. Feigenbaum. Dr. Feigenbaum, developer of total quality management, was chief executive officer of General Systems Co., Inc., of Pittsfield. Together with brother Donald S. Feigenbaum, who passed away in March 2013, Dr. Feigenbaum popularized total quality management and revolutionized manufacturing and corporate oversight the world over. Through their foundation, the Feigenbaums have contributed generously to the Berkshire Museum,



Read more about the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation on page 28.

the Berkshire Athenaeum, University of Massachusetts Medical School, and the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, among many other causes and projects. President Grant acknowledged the transformational nature of the Feigenbaum Foundation's \$5 million pledge.

There was no hyperbole. For not only has the gift emblazoned the Feigenbaum name on the Center for Science and Innovation, it is the single largest gift in MCLA's history and a magnificent contribution to the College's first-ever comprehensive capital campaign, *Sowing the Seeds for Success: The MCLA Campaign for the Future*. The gift will support an endowed professorship, an annual prize awarded to recognize the achievements of distinguished innovators or thought leaders from business, education, nonprofits, or other fields. Separately, Feigenbaum scholarships will eventually provide financial assistance to promising students attending MCLA to support both scholarship and research.



"Dr. Armand and Donald Feigenbaum devoted their lives to improving the quality and performance of corporations around the world," said Emil George, president of the Feigenbaum Foundation. "They established the Feigenbaum Foundation to improve the quality of life primarily in their beloved Berkshire County. This is the Foundation's first major gift since the death of Donald Feigenbaum and Dr. Armand Feigenbaum's retirement from active involvement in the Foundation. The Feigenbaum brothers admired and respected President Mary Grant on many levels. They were quick to recognize persons of real quality, and considered Mary Grant a member of their 'family.' Touring this magnificent academic center for science and innovation validates their judgment. We at the Foundation are delighted that MCLA is honoring the generosity and philanthropy of Dr. Armand and Donald Feigenbaum by naming this great facility after them."

Indeed, the impact of the Feigenbaum Center will reverberate throughout Berkshire County and beyond. MCLA students are using the new facility to hold lab workshops for students from North Adams public schools. The Feigenbaum Center also hosts professional development workshops for teachers from school districts throughout Berkshire County. Most recently, teachers learned about teaching with a Starlab, a portable, inflatable planetarium they can borrow from MCLA and use in their own schools. In addition, school groups can propose their own ways to use the new center for learning experiences they can't get at their own facilities.

"The nice thing is the students and teachers get to use equipment they may not have at their own schools," said Christopher M. Himes, Ph.D., Program Manager for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). "It also gets them onto a college campus, which is a great

"We'll never be able to put a number to the kinds of ripple effects that will come from the Feigenbaum Center, but this community deserves it, this college deserves it, and this commonwealth deserves it."

Senator Benjamin B. Downing

experience for the students."

"We'll never be able to put a number to the kinds of ripple effects that will come from the Feigenbaum Center," said state Senator Benjamin B. Downing at the ribbon-cutting, "but this community deserves it, this college deserves it, and this commonwealth deserves it."

The Feigenbaum Center also serves as an example of sustainable development that will inspire builders throughout western Massachusetts. In addition to its pending LEED designation by the U.S. Green Building Council, the building features rooftop-mounted photovoltaics and a small wind

turbine that are used as learning tools. Energy exchange wheels recover heating and cooling energy within the building. Landscaping reduces the impact of rainwater runoff. In addition, data points throughout the building enable students and visitors to monitor the facility's energy efficiency in real time. Building designers EYP Architecture and Engineering are leaders in green design, with many LEED-certified buildings to their credit, and an active research program to discover new ways to make new and historic buildings more energy efficient.

Governor Patrick summed up the architects' achievement succinctly. "It's gorgeous," he said.

The Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation also serves as tangible evidence of President Grant's eleven years of leadership at MCLA. Her vision – of expansion, revitalization,

integration into the larger community, and innovation – is evident in the Center's soaring public spaces, state-of-the-art classrooms, and novel use of indoor and outdoor locations. At the official opening for classes, President Grant said, "It's wonderful to see this building come to life. We began with a series of conversations imagining how we want to teach and learn and engage. That was all translated into this physical space."

Governor Patrick, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, underscored how the Feigenbaum Center is a symbol of government in action, focused on making a difference for young people. But he said it is also concrete evidence of the leadership President Grant has brought to MCLA. It was President Grant's unflagging efforts that led the state to include \$54.5 million in funding for the Feigenbaum Center and other MCLA projects in its \$2 billion higher

education capital bond issued in 2008.

"The reality is this," said the governor. "You cannot resist Mary Grant. If you want to, just give up trying. I didn't want to and I'm proud to be with you all today."

As innovation is embodied throughout the Feigenbaum Center, it is also the theme of this year's President's Report. In the pages that follow you will explore how innovation is touching all of MCLA's students. In addition to its newest building, MCLA has much to celebrate – artistic and athletic achievement, expanded academic programs, and new interaction with North Adams and the other communities of the Berkshires. Underscoring all is a spirit of innovation, evident to all who visit the school's new Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation.





LEADERSHIP ACADEMY RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

In 2013, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education revised its standards for professional teacher licenses and required all institutions in the Commonwealth offering educator preparation programs to outline how their program would adapt to meet the new standards. While some institutions dropped their programs in response, and others were not able initially to meet the threshold for certification under the new standards, MCLA rose to the challenge.

Under the new state standards, MCLA's innovative Leadership Academy is offering a new blend of academic and practical learning experiences that enable educators in Massachusetts and New York to advance their careers and become directors, principals, and superintendants.

"The new program is dramatically different from what we've been doing since we launched

the Leadership Academy in 1997," said Dr. Jake Eberwein III, dean of graduate and continuing education. "We are offering more diverse experiences to our students to ensure they're practicing elements of leadership. There's a level of rigor and a set of expectations that have been significantly upgraded."

The program works around a unique "low residency" model in which licensed teachers with at least three years of experience spend two weeks at MCLA in the summer and two weekends at the College in the fall or spring. In between, there is a mix of online coursework and field work with educators. "Our courses reflect some of the new competencies that school leaders are expected to know," said Eberwein. "Our educators leave our program ready to access and apply new evaluation systems for teachers. Principals need to know how

to employ data from the state and local levels to ensure their teachers are performing at a high level and their students are meeting higher standards."

At the same time, Eberwein and education professor Dana Rapp, Ph.D., Leadership Academy program director, worked to ensure that MCLA's Leadership Academy retained the attributes that made it stand out: a feeling of community, a belief in two-way dialogue between educators and participants, an appreciation for the creative arts in education, and the need to instill ideals of social justice and environmental sustainability. This year's participants will complete the new program with a conference at MCLA in July. "They will present themselves as prepared candidates with a wealth of course and field experiences," said Eberwein.



INNOVATION IS RECOGNIZED

MCLA Hat Trick: “Top 10” three years in a row, ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*

To earn a spot on the *U.S. News & World Report* list of the Top 10 Public Liberal Arts Colleges in the nation is a significant achievement. To earn it three times running? That is an even more extraordinary confirmation of the impact, quality, and value of the education provided by an institution.

That’s what MCLA achieved in 2013, when it maintained its top-ten ranking. MCLA was recognized alongside such notable institutions as the United States Military Academy at West Point and the University of North Carolina Asheville, an MCLA peer within the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC), a network of institutions that promote the value of liberal arts education. Including MCLA, the *U.S. News* ranking honored five COPLAC campuses.

“Through exceptional undergraduate research opportunities, diverse study away programs, abundant service learning opportunity, and many other programs, MCLA’s first-class public liberal arts education equips our students with a diversified skill set in an increasingly complex world,” said President Mary K. Grant. “This prepares them to succeed in graduate school, in careers, and as informed and engaged citizens.”

NEW SCHOLAR DESIGNATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

MCLA has long championed the role of undergraduate research as an innovative, High Impact Experience that builds skills beyond traditional classroom learning. Now, the College has developed a new recognition for students who take time to work independently with a faculty advisor and produce original research. Beginning in the 2013-2014 academic year, students engaged in research for at least one year who are in good academic standing and present their findings at an undergraduate research conference will be designated as undergraduate research scholars. This honor will be noted on their transcripts.

“We want to recognize that these students are working at a higher level,” said Monica Joslin, Ph.D., dean of academic affairs. “It’s a powerful experience for the student to work with the faculty advisor one-on-one.”

Student scholars may present their research at MCLA’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference (URC), at the annual URC hosted by the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, or another URC in Massachusetts. MCLA supports research in the hard and social sciences, and in fine and performing arts.

“We have continued to grow and expand our undergraduate research program,” said Joslin. “More students are getting involved and more faculty are getting involved.”



LEADING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

MCLA is a lead partner in early childhood education throughout Berkshire County. Since 2009, it has hosted the Berkshire Readiness Center (BRC), one of six such centers that work to provide all regional educators with professional development and tools to improve instruction. Last year, the BRC began to focus on providing additional programming to early education and those who provide instruction to youngsters from toddler to kindergarten levels.

The Readiness Center sponsored a series of engineering, science, and math workshops for early childhood educators in the spring of 2011, supported by the Department of Early Education

and Care (DEEC) and taught by three faculty from MCLA's Education and Math Departments at the Intermodal Center in Pittsfield. The leadership of DEEC viewed these workshops as exemplary and subsequently invited professors Chris Thomas (Mathematics) and Dale Fink (Education) along with Douglas McNally, coordinator of the Berkshire Readiness Center, to coordinate a session for early childhood educators at the annual statewide STEM forum at Gillette Stadium in the fall of 2012.

A new Early Childhood degree completion program will enable educators with associate's degrees to earn their bachelor's degrees in a little more than two years, while continuing full-time

work. The first cohort of seventeen students are midway through their studies, and are expected to graduate in the spring of 2015.

Separately, early childhood educators in several Berkshire County school districts and educational organizations will participate in a three-year Improving Teacher Quality grant focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instruction. An initial program under this grant was hosted at MASS MoCA to explore STEM activities for pre-kindergarten youngsters. "We're trying to take the early educators who shy away from math and science and who are word-oriented-type people and empower them to teach kids to be inquisitive about the world around them," said McNally. "We're going to tap into the innate curiosity of young children."

Fink said, "Science is not the 'stuff' that scientists have in their labs like beakers and Bunsen burners. Science is the process that children engage in every day, trying to figure out how the world works."

McNally credited President Grant with moving MCLA toward helping early childhood educators. "Because of the smallness of the Berkshires community, if these educators aren't going to get their training from MCLA, they're not going to get their training, period. President Grant has made it her mission to ensure that early childhood educators have the resources they need, and the Berkshire Readiness Center grew out of that."



Third graders from Berkshire County learn about television production in MCLA's television studio at a Berkshire County Goes to College event.

STUDY ABROAD

For three groups of MCLA students, one of the most profound experiences of their educational year took place far from North Adams. Travel courses over spring break allowed students to voyage to Japan, Spain, and Ireland.



In Ireland at Dunluce from left are, Jessica Gamari, Jim Claffey (non-student), Brittany Galipeau, Alyson Carey, Gabriella Prata, Hannah McClearnen, Mina (Jeri) Beeler, Glenn Lawson (non-student), Courtney Keefe, Rhea Werner, Devon O'Dowd, Peter Scattareggia, Lindsay Green, Chloe McGrath, Kristcha DeGuerre, Chris Goodell, Kate Moore (blue hat), Rebecca McCauley (light blue jacket), Brycen Waters, Katie Fitzgerald, Rebecca Geraci, Jake Powers, Jason Brown

In Japan, Dr. Kailai Huang and eight students visited Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kanazawa, and Tokyo. Seventeen students accompanied Dr. Graziana Ramsden to Barcelona and Madrid. Finally, Dr. Anthony Daly led 21 students as they visited sites in Ireland from Belfast to Dublin, with numerous stops along the way.

For each group, the trips were a way to take learning far beyond the classroom. In Spain, Elaine Previl '14 was able to use her Spanish language skills, and found herself repeatedly complimented on her accent. And, according to Adam Tobin '14, "Seeing Picasso's 'Guernica' in person was probably the most emotional art experience I've ever had."

Andrew Martin '14 said the best part of his trip to Japan was the sense of adventure he felt at seeing so many new things, and being in a country where the language – and the writing – was so completely foreign to him.

Lindsay Green '13 participated in the trip to



In Kentucky on an Alternative Spring Break are Dominique McCoy (second from left) and Jasmin Cespedes-Meija (third from left) with David school teacher Giovanni Dulcio and other David students.

Ireland to learn about her family's roots and immerse herself in Irish culture. She summed up the magic of travel as a key to learning. "There's only so much that a textbook can teach," she said. "The trip brought to life many of the things that I learned in class. I was able to experience the

culture and history that I read about, and while a textbook is replaceable, the experience is not. After my trip to Ireland, it is impossible for me to forget anything that I learned in class."

While some of their peers headed over seas for the spring break, a group of 10 MCLA students traveled to the mountains of Appalachia with Center for Service and Citizenship Coordinator Spencer Moser on an Alternative Spring Break to provide academic tutoring and mentoring to high school students at The David School in David, KY.

For Kate Abbott '13, "Working with the students and helping out in the community was extremely rewarding. We learned about ourselves and others, and gained a greater appreciation for what we have." Ben Hoyt '16 agreed: "After seeing the different kind of lives lived by The David School students and teachers, it makes the privilege of a college education seem all the more important."

Over the 2014 spring break, professors Dr. Sumi Colligan, Dr. Kailai Huang, Ben Kahn, and Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed will take students on travel study trips to Hawaii, Japan, China, and the Southern states where key events in the civil rights movement occurred. And Spencer Moser, coordinator of MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship, will lead students on an Alternative Spring Break to Belize, where they will volunteer their time to those in need.

In addition, students in Dr. Anne Goodwin's "Field Study in Biology" class will conduct advanced research in the Bahamas, Dr. Robert Bence's political science class will consider matters of critical global concern at the North American Model United Nations Conference in Toronto, Canada, and Dr. Rosanne Denhard's "Arts and Medieval Renaissance" class will continue their studies in Britain.



In Japan's Golden Pavilion Temple are from left: Kailai Huang, Youlin Shi, Ciara Gerena, Andrew Martin, Nikki Kratounis, George Dunbar, Connor Robbins, Duncan Baxter, Fiona Wilson, and Sara Bouchard.



COMMEMORATING CIVIL RIGHTS: MCLA'S *CREATING EQUALITY* PROGRAM

For MCLA, the 50th anniversary of landmark events in the U.S. civil rights movement provided the impetus for a year-long program of academic and artistic programs that shine a spotlight on the momentous changes of a half-century ago and the challenges that still face us today.

Entitled *Creating Equality*, this vibrant series was conceived and led by the history department under the leadership of history professors Dr. Ely Janis and Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed. It celebrates the progress made in securing civil rights and underscores MCLA's commitment to social justice.

"We tried to link and celebrate the past civil rights struggles with current issues such as marriage equality and poverty that are still being played out," said Professor Janis. "Working with students, faculty and staff, we were able to marshal resources to present this in a way that's really dramatic and puts the issues front and center."

Added Cynthia Farr Brown, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs, "We thought it was important to draw attention to these anniversaries and to use them as a jumping off point for further consideration for where the larger civil rights movement is today."

The program began in September 2013 when author and musician James McBride and his band presented a reading, lecture, and performance inspired by his recent book, *The Good*

“We tried to link and celebrate the past civil rights struggles with current issues such as marriage equality and poverty that are still being played out.”

Professor Ely Janis



Dr. Ely Janis and Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed

Lord Bird. The 2013 National Book Award-winning historical novel provides an irreverent look at white abolitionist John Brown, whose anti-slavery efforts, in part, sparked the Civil War.

In November, civil rights leader Andrew Young delivered the third annual Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture – A Continuing Legacy – made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. Young is a remarkable American who was a friend and ally of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was present during many of the key campaigns in southern cities that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. He went on to serve as U.S. congressman from Georgia, ambassador to the

United Nations under President Jimmy Carter, and mayor of Atlanta.

A documentary series illuminating important milestones on the road to ending slavery and achieving equal rights for African Americans is being presented as part of the *Creating Equality* program. The films are part of a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to promote discussions across the country about “the changing meanings of freedom and equality in America.”

The year-long look at civil rights extends through MCLA’s visual and performing arts venues. MCLA Presents! offered a unique mixture of spoken word, dance, and live music – *Word Becomes*

Flesh – in which a young, single father documents nine months of pregnancy and awaits the birth of his son. The performance was preceded by a discussion entitled “Trayvon, Race, and Being a Black Man in America.”

The program will continue during the spring of 2014 with a lecture by feminist icon Gloria Steinem as part of the MCLA Public Policy Lecture Series; an MCLA Presents! production of *Who’s Hungry?*, which examines the issue of food insecurity in the United States; and an MCLA Theatre production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*. In addition, plans are underway to extend the *Creating Equality* program through the 2014-2015 academic year.

PREPARATION

INNOVATION TAKES

MCLA's First Summer STEM Academy

Christopher J. Himes, Ph.D., was the first person in his family to attend college. This experience gave him the perspective to appreciate that the transition to campus life isn't always easy for students who don't have family members to guide them through the process.

But now Himes, along with Amanda Beckwith '03 BS, '13 M.Ed., coordinator at MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship and its Women's Center, is helping MCLA make that transition easier for students pursuing majors in the key disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, popularly known as STEM.

In August, they led MCLA's first Berkshire Bank STEM Academy, a program for incoming freshmen pursuing STEM majors. The innovative program is aimed at students who are the first in their families to attend college, and those from low-income households. STEM Academy is designed to help acclimate students to college life and build strong relationships with faculty and their peers, which contribute to student retention and success.



“It’s inspiring to see first-semester freshman already dedicated to helping others.”

Professor Chris Himes

“The STEM Academy is envisioned as a jump-start program for college students who may need a little extra preparation before fall classes begin,” said Himes, assistant professor of science education and MCLA’s STEM program manager.

Over the course of the five-day program, students attended classes taught by MCLA faculty in mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics, including the chemistry department’s Dr. Rob Harris and Jeremy Smith, Dr. Ann Billetz and Dr. Justin Golub from the biology department, and Dr. Chris Thomas of the math department. In addition, Jennifer LaForest from the Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School (BArT) also instructed the participants.

The STEM Academy is more than classes, however. It also provides an opportunity for STEM major explorations and expectations, as well as

STEM career awareness. Participants took a field trip to North Adams Regional Hospital and met with local professionals from nearby Raytheon and General Dynamics, who gave them insight into careers that can be built around STEM majors.

Students also worked with STEM Academy Fellows – current or recently graduated MCLA science students – on skills they’ll need to be successful, such as time management, organization, and ways in which to study and prepare for classes.

“Thank you for the wonderful experience,” wrote Breana Gladu ‘17, in an email to Himes shortly after the program. “I’m honored that I was a part of the first generation of students in your camp, and will be sure to spread the good word throughout the campus of this amazing program. I’ll definitely be making room on my dorm wall for my certificate.”

Thanks to sponsorship from Berkshire Bank, the STEM Academy is free to students who qualify. It is part of MCLA’s larger mission to serve the surrounding communities of Berkshire County and to provide access and support to students from every background. Finally, it is one of MCLA’s signature “High Impact” learning experiences that supplement traditional coursework.

“I see the 19 academy students still interacting with each other,” Himes said. “A lot of close friendships were made. But what is most surprising is those students are already telling me they want to become STEM fellows and help with tutoring in the future. It’s inspiring to see first-semester freshmen already dedicated to helping others,” he said. “I didn’t expect that they’d already be so committed to giving back.”



CONCENTRATIONS ADDED IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Learning and teaching options continued to expand at MCLA in 2013, as new concentrations were added to two programs – computer science and interdisciplinary studies.

As businesses increase their reliance on technology, knowledgeable computer science professionals are needed across many industries. This includes cutting-edge fields like bioinformatics and other fields that need computer science graduates to help lead the way.

New Computer Science Concentrations:

- Bioinformatics
- Business Information Systems
- Information Technology
- Software Development

Concentrations added to interdisciplinary studies address society's increasing awareness of connections between the corporate world and questions of social and environmental responsibility. They also focus on global shifts in population and immigration as questions of diversity and social justice affect people around the world.

New Interdisciplinary Studies Concentrations:

- American Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Green and Sustainable Business Management
- Immigration and Diversity Studies
- International and Global Studies

MCLA WELCOMES NEASC VISITING TEAM

In November 2013, a team of nine distinguished educators representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) spent four days touring the MCLA campus, meeting with faculty, administrators, students, trustees, and community members, and observing the powerful results realized over the past decade by the College community.

The purpose of their visit was to consider and validate the story of progress recounted in MCLA's institutional self-study to better understand the accomplishments and challenges of MCLA during this period, and to certify that the College meets the standards of accreditation established by the NEASC Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE).

NEASC is the nation's oldest accrediting association and an organization that establishes high standards for education for all levels, from pre-kindergarten to doctoral programs. The NEASC team visit was the culmination of nearly two years of planning and reflection during which faculty, staff, and students participated in a comprehensive self-

study that responded to each of the eleven NEASC Standards. During the process, members of the MCLA self-study team found much to praise – and saw much hard work ahead as the College seeks to further distinguish itself.

"We wanted to talk about how we've come so far in ten years," said Cynthia Farr Brown, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs and co-chair of the reaccreditation process. "We found it hard to tell the story in the space allotted. My sense of the accreditation team is they are very impressed with what they saw."

The final accreditation decision, including recommendations from CIHE, will not be completed until sometime in the spring of 2014. But the chair of the reviewing team, Dr. Theodora Kalikow, president of the University of Southern Maine, left little doubt as to the ultimate outcome.

"You've made amazing progress," said Kalikow at a final open meeting at the end of the four-day visit. "You're a lot better than you said. We will be reporting to NEASC on the very favorable condition of this institution."





MCLA ORGANIZES COUNCIL OF PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

In October 2013 MCLA hosted the Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). The conference provided the opportunity for MCLA students and faculty to showcase our undergraduate research program, and to network and learn from COPLAC peers representing institutions in Connecticut (Eastern Connecticut State University), Maine (University of Maine, Farmington), New Hampshire (Keene State College), New Jersey (Ramapo College of New Jersey), and New York (SUNY Geneseo). The event also served as an academic kick-off for the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation,

which celebrated its official ribbon-cutting just a few weeks earlier.

During the conference, students showcased their work through poster presentations, oral presentations, performances, and exhibits. “Many of the projects were just amazing – really, they were graduate level work,” said Monica Joslin, Ph.D., dean of academic affairs. “Presenting results and discussing research with faculty members and peers from other institutions is a powerful experience for students. It prepares them for graduate school or entry into the workforce.”

“Undergraduate research projects highlight what students have learned in the classroom, but,

“Students who do research at the undergraduate level gain important skills that are fundamental for their development as scholars. In addition, the skills they acquire while conducting research become irreplaceable in everyday situations in the workplace.”

Dr. Graziana Ramsden

Pictured with Dr. Monica Joslin (right). Ramsden organized the Fourth Annual COPLAC Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference, which was held at MCLA in October.





more than that, participating in undergraduate research projects demonstrates what students can do, the applied knowledge, critical thinking, and communications and presentation skills they have developed through this work," said President Mary Grant.

Macy Fredricksen '16, an environmental studies major from Ballston Spa, New York, presented a poster entitled "Red-Backed Salamander Population Dynamics," which looked at the habitat preferences of the common woodland amphibian and how individual creatures defend their territory. "In a short period of time, Macy became an expert on red-backed salamanders, learned how to deal with the demands of field-work, and presented her work at multiple conferences," said

Elena Traister, professor of environmental studies, who advised Macy on the project.

The conference underscored the unique role of liberal arts education in promoting applied knowledge, critical thinking, and communications and presentation skills – the benefits of what are known as High Impact Experiences for students. "Our campuses share a focus on developing these skills, which national surveys tell us are in demand among employers," said Grant.

MCLA hosted the first COPLAC Northeast Regional Conference in 2010 – the kind of innovative educational programming for which MCLA is known.

COPLAC SOCCER MATCH

In addition to the strong academic benefits – academic exchange, mutual support of a shared educational mission, professional development, and study-abroad programs – MCLA's membership in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) brought an added bonus this year: an opportunity to compete on the soccer field against a team from the University of Minnesota Morris, a COPLAC peer.

The match in August marked a new chapter in MCLA's COPLAC collaborations. Ultimately, the Trailblazers prevailed 3-1 behind the electrifying performance of Natalie Caney, who scored three goals in her first outing with the team. (Read more about Natalie's remarkable first semester at MCLA on page 45.)

The opportunity for COPLAC competition was the brainchild of MCLA's women's head soccer coach Deb Raber, and coach Dan Magner from Minnesota Morris. The coaches, friends and colleagues through their work together in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, organized the match. When Magner brought his team on a New England swing, they decided to kick off the tour in North Adams.



INNOVATION YIELDS

CREATIVITY

Allegrettos Collaborate with Craig Harris

The Allegrettos, MCLA's award-winning *cappella* performance group, had more than voices on their minds in 2013. In November, they collaborated with renowned avant-garde trombonist and composer Craig Harris to present his new work, *50 Years after the Fire*, at the Eleanor Furst Roberts Auditorium at the Church Street Center as part of the MCLA Presents! series.

The production brought the Allegrettos together with Harris' group, Nation of Imagination. Together, the musicians joined forces on a composition that evoked the civil rights movement, the protests against the Vietnam War, and the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X.

For the Allegrettos, it was a chance to work with a groundbreaking musician who has been at the forefront of jazz innovation for four decades. It was also a fitting piece to present for the Margaret A. Hart '35 Scholarship Concert, which celebrates the legacy of MCLA's first student of color and supports a scholarship fund in her name.

“We are surrounded by artwork. It is all my mind is focused on.”

Shelagh Conley '14



MCLA'S NEW ART CLASSROOM: MASS MOCA

MCLA's strong ties to the creative economy and the cultural community in North Adams were further strengthened this year when faculty in the Fine & Performing Arts (FPA) department began offering art classes at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) complex. The move – a temporary one during the renovation of Bowman Hall – is proving to be inspiring to students, faculty, and MASS MoCA visitors.

“Nothing brings art techniques and ideas to life more quickly and more effectively for the student than seeing artworks in real life,” said Gregory Scheckler, professor of art, who now teaches at “MCLA at MASS MoCA.”

Students are enthused about the new arrangement. “We are surrounded by artwork,” said Shelagh Conley. “It is all my mind is focused on.” She finds the museum a perfect place to work without distractions.

MASS MoCA Director Joe Thompson said the new collaboration is equally beneficial to his visitors. “We love having MCLA art students here,” he said. “There is nothing more exciting in a museum than coming across an artist working at an easel – unless it is coming across an entire studio classroom. With



the arrival of MCLA, this has become an almost daily phenomenon. And it's even better than that, because instead of copying some painting, the classroom will be perched on a bridge, drawing details of our boiler plant, or [conducting] strange studies of 'industrial nature.' In short, casting fresh eyes on this factory campus."

MASS MoCA is a vast, 13-acre campus that takes up nearly one-third of North Adams' downtown business district. Many of the brick buildings were built in the 19th century for the Arnold Print Works, which printed cloth and other textiles. That firm moved to a smaller facility in another town in 1942, and the site was purchased by Sprague Electric Co., which manufactured electronic components. Sprague closed its operations in North Adams in 1985.

The site was redeveloped as the nation's largest contemporary art museum, and has served as a major engine for the city's artistic revival since MASS MoCA opened in 1999. In addition to exhibition galleries, theaters, workshops, rehearsal

space, and classrooms, the complex includes space leased to office and retail tenants.

The classes at MASS MoCA also give MCLA students additional opportunities to explore the 21 galleries and museums throughout North Adams, many developed through or connected with MCLA's *DownStreet Art* initiative. Those galleries also are giving students employment opportunities curating and planning events.

One of the latest downtown galleries is PRESS Gallery, a space built around a Vandercook Universal III, a classic printing press that uses metal type. Though computers made metal type obsolete in the 1980s, classic Vandercooks are coveted by artists and used to produce fine hand-printed books, prints, woodcuts, and other media.

"Being downtown, in a space dedicated to book arts and printmaking, students have developed a greater sense of ownership and are producing some of the best work I have seen," said Associate Professor of Art Melanie Mowinski, who owns the

Vandercook. "Even in introductory courses, the composition and designs are sophisticated and complicated, and everyone is doing it well."

PRESS, located next door to MCLA's Gallery 51 on Main Street in downtown North Adams, holds several student exhibitions each year and also hosts curated shows displaying work from professional bookmakers and printmakers. Students say creating and displaying their work in a real retail gallery makes a big difference. "Being so closely involved with a successful art gallery and print shop has influenced the way I make my art, as well as how I intend it to reach people," said Marlie LaGrone, a former intern at PRESS. "Having the unique atmosphere at PRESS as a part of my daily campus life has definitely steered me forward in both my fields of visual arts and arts management."

INNOVATION IS AN

ENGINE FOR

The Center for Science and Innovation is the College's first new academic building in almost 40 years.

*micro
wind
turbine*

*photovoltaics
(solar panels)*

*Lab and research areas
visible to students and visitors
throughout the building*

Outdoor classroom

Technology-rich lecture hall

*Vivarium, designed to safely and humanely
house animals for observation and study*

*Central atrium that also
serves as programming and
gathering space*

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL



GROWTH

roof garden and rooftop greenhouse

energy exchange wheels (enthalpy wheels) to recover heating and cooling energy within the building

bioswale landscaping to improve drainage and run-off filtration

Seven-hundred "data points" provide wireless access, climate control, and building displays that enable students and visitors to monitor the facility's energy efficiency performance in real time.



The key to the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation is in its name. It's not just a new space – the first new building at MCLA in 40 years – it's an innovative space. The spirit of innovation is evident the moment you set foot in its atrium. A glorious canvas by Berkshires painter Stephen Hannock, who devised his own novel method to bring depth and luminosity to his work, provides a focal point. The innovation continues throughout the building, with lab and research spaces that put science on display to students and visitors. Innovations that reduce energy usage make the building a paradigm of sustainability. There are even innovations outside, in the design to control rainwater runoff, and an open-air classroom that incorporates the environment into learning. Here are just a few things to know about the Feigenbaum Center, and how it is bringing a renewed spirit of innovation to MCLA.





The Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation is home to a new work by world-renowned artist Steve Hannock. Steve's stunning painting was rendered in his traditional luminist style. This magnificent work of art and generous gift to the College makes the Center for Science and Innovation a worldwide destination, and places MCLA in prestigious company. Steve's work is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, among others, and in the private collections of individuals including Bill Belichick, Tom Brokaw, Katie Couric, John McEnroe, and Sting. In addition, Steve received an Academy Award for Special Visual Effects in 1999 for the film "What Dreams May Come."

INNOVATION IS ENGAGING

Dynamic speakers bring the world to the Berkshires

MCLA continued the tradition of bringing exciting, thought-provoking speakers to campus to share their life experiences and inspire our community. This year's outstanding visitors included former congressman, mayor and civil rights leader Andrew Young; author and musician James McBride; conservationist, author and activist Jeff Corwin; and author Irshad Manji.



Irshad Manji, Public Policy Lecture

Manji, a Canadian author and advocate for reform of Islam, spoke about the future of Islam. She is the author of *The Trouble with Islam Today*, which has been published in more than 30 languages, and the founder and director of the Moral Courage Project at New York University's Robert E. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. This lecture was made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.

Jeff Corwin, Hardman Lecture

Dr. Michael Birch – along with Dr. Joseph Ebiware, Dr. Zack Finch, Dr. Anne Goodwin, and event host Dr. Daniel Shustack, coordinated a visit to MCLA by Jeff Corwin, an Emmy Award winner. Corwin has produced several series for Animal Planet, served as a special correspondent on science and the environment for NBC News, and hosted the ABC series *Ocean Mysteries*. The Massachusetts native is a voice for endangered species and environmental preservation. The Hardman Lecture Series is made possible by the Hardman Family Endowment.



James McBride, Creating Equality Program

History professors Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed and Dr. Ely Janis, in collaboration with faculty members who teach in the first year program, were instrumental in bringing author and musician James McBride, a frequent presenter at MCLA, back to campus in the fall. McBride read excerpts from his latest book, *The Good Lord Bird*, which speaks about the life of 19th century abolitionist John Brown. MCLA's Creating Equality Program is a yearlong celebration and examination of the civil rights movement and a look at the current challenges for social justice.

Andrew Young, Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture

Andrew Young's fascinating life includes time working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement in the 1960s. He went on to become mayor of Atlanta, a congressman, and an ambassador to the United Nations. This lecture was made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust.



Marion Stoddart, Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture

In November, environmental studies professors Dr. Elena Traister and Dr. Daniel Shustack arranged for citizen leader and local environmentalist Marion Stoddart to come to campus to speak about her lifetime of environmental activism and her role in the cleanup of the Nashua River, once one of the dirtiest rivers in the United States. Starting in the early 1960s, Stoddart successfully lobbied for state legislation to clean up the river, won federal funding for a cleanup, and founded a non-profit, the Nashua River Watershed Association, to continue her work. The river is now clean enough to swim in, and Stoddart went on to found a worldwide travel adventure business.



From left to right: Dr. Michael Birch, Professor of Broadcast Media, Michelle Ridgeway, Jeff Corwin and Amy Mendes.

NEW FACES AT CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Established in 2010, MCLA's Center for Student Success and Engagement (CSSE) continued to make progress in 2013 with the addition of three dedicated, engaged, and talented new staff members. Suzanne Hunger, associate dean of CSSE, coordinates the diverse programs that help MCLA students succeed in their studies and participate in the High Impact Experiences that enrich their undergraduate experience. Manat Wooten joined CSSE as assistant director and coordinator of career services, with a focus on preparing students for career opportunities, promoting internships, and demonstrating the connections between a public liberal arts education and professional success. Finally, learning specialist Katie Sutton will work with students and faculty to increase campus awareness of the needs of students with learning disabilities and will assist students in advocating for the accommodations that will help ensure their academic success.

"CSSE is a place where a team of professionals assist students as they progress towards graduation and position them for various opportunities, with a goal of enabling every student to graduate," said Charlotte Degen, vice president of student affairs. "These new additions to our team bring a broad background in higher education and their particular fields. They will help ensure that this center supports our students and moves them toward success."



An experienced professional in higher education administration, specifically in the field of student affairs, Manat Wooten is CSSE's assistant director of career services. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, where she studied history and film studies, Wooten went on to earn her master's degree in film studies from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA, where she worked for seven years as the director of student activities. In addition to her higher education experience, she has worked in both the non-profit and the corporate sectors.

After Katie Sutton '09 completed her bachelor of arts degree in sociology at MCLA, she went on to earn a master's degree in education, with a concentration in school adjustment and mental health counseling, from Cambridge College in Cambridge, MA. Before coming to MCLA as CSSE's learning specialist, she was a career coordinator and head student advisor at the Berkshire Center's College Internship Program (CIP), where she worked for four years with young adults who have various learning differences.



Suzanne Hunger, CSSE's associate dean, brings to MCLA expertise as a former faculty member of The Pennsylvania State University, Eureka College, Carroll College, and Helena College University of Montana, where she taught composition, literature, and teaching writing at the post-secondary level, as well as classes in college success. At Helena College, she supervised new student advising, placement testing, the learning center, career services, and retention efforts. Hunger holds a master's degree in English from the University of Delaware in Newark, DE, and bachelor of arts degrees in English composition and psychology from Beloit College in Beloit, WI.



USING TECHNOLOGY TO SHOWCASE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning and college completion are central commitments of MCLA's dedicated and talented faculty and staff. Our faculty are dedicated educators, and our commitment to engaged learning in the liberal arts tradition recognizes the influence faculty have outside the classroom.

Through their service as academic advisors, for example, faculty members help guide students along an educational pathway that will enable and empower them to make successful and timely progress toward graduation.

Increasingly, technology plays a key role in this relationship. Our learning management system (LMS) provides data and information to faculty to support the advising process. MCLA's ePortfolio helps students document their educational journey at the College, helping to ensure they graduate as successful, engaged learners prepared for careers, continued study, and citizenship.

Canvas, the College LMS, provides a platform for advisors and students to manage the administrative – and often time consuming – aspects of advising and integrate them into students' existing digital workflow. The result is a richer and more successful advising relationship that students consider to be an integral and invaluable part of their MCLA experience.

"Faculty have spoken very positively about using Canvas to manage the administrative part of advising – having students preview their course choices for example – so that they can spend more time during advising appointments on conversations about each student's interests, plans, and aspirations," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Cindy Brown.

In a similar way, MCLA's ePortfolio initiative recognizes that students of this generation are "digital natives." The ePortfolio provides them with an online platform to document their academic and co-curricular experiences and highlight their progress toward graduation. In this way, the ePortfolio provides evidence of classroom learning; documents the application of knowledge through participation in High Impact Experiences such as undergraduate research, study away, and internships; and highlights the influence of campus life activities on the holistic student experience.

"We want students to document their learning from their first class to their Capstone project at the College. That includes academic as well as out-of-class activities. Each student has the opportunity to customize and tailor their ePortfolio to document their unique achievements," said Monica Joslin, MCLA's dean of academic affairs. "Whether it is a class assignment, an undergraduate research project, service learning, a performance, or other activity, the ePortfolio is an excellent repository for documenting student learning, and for helping ensure students are hitting key milestones on their path to graduation." In essence, the ePortfolio serves as an electronic "resume" that will help students prepare for graduate school or employment.

According to Dr. Gerol Petruzella '01, coordinator of academic technology, having a well-designed ePortfolio demonstrates student learning and preparedness in a way no traditional resume can. "It gives students a platform designed to showcase the important work they do throughout college, including those experiences that don't fit neatly into a traditional transcript, but which, as a

liberal arts institution, we believe are integral to a student's complete education."

As part of this commitment to developing well rounded and prepared learners, MCLA's use of the ePortfolio created an opportunity for peer leadership and mentorship among students. Since 2012, the College has offered ePortfolio fellowships to enable students to study the ePortfolio technology and to create exemplary portfolios to showcase for their fellow students. This program not only demonstrates powerful out-of-class learning, it establishes students as champions of this educational tool.

Beyond the benefit to students, the ePortfolio provides a repository of student work samples that help faculty, CSSE staff, and College administrators to identify patterns that might affect persistence and graduation. This creates evidence to strengthen effective programs, strategies, and opportunities to provide focus in areas where more can be done to enhance student success. This data is central to MCLA's commitment to learning outcomes assessment and long-range planning.

In addition to providing new tools, the College offers faculty professional development opportunities to help them become effective users of these resources. A highlight of these efforts is the annual TechFest, presented each spring by MCLA's Center for Academic Technology. This day-long, professional development conference enables faculty to learn about new and effective uses of technology in higher education, and share their own experiences and expertise. The relaxed TechFest environment provides a welcoming venue to introduce new teaching resources and showcase to faculty how they might use them effectively with students.



INNOVATION IS REWARDING

Commencement

On May 19, as the class of 2013 completed the latest stage of their individual educational journeys, MCLA celebrated its 114th commencement exercises with moving speeches by extraordinary speakers who spoke of hope, courage, and overcoming obstacles – both large and small.

President Mary K. Grant delivered the charge to the Class of 2013, and Emily Schiavoni spoke on behalf of those receiving master's degrees. In addition, honorary doctor of laws degree recipient Diane Patrick, an accomplished lawyer and public figure, urged the 427 graduates to face life's inevitable struggles with bravery and confidence, while Elizabeth Mullen, class president, joined Patrick in striking a similar chord with graduates, family members, faculty, and administrators.



“I want to encourage this class to open your eyes and minds to new ventures and to not be afraid of closed doors or doors that seem too unusual, too different, or too foreign.”

Commencement Speaker Diane Patrick



Patrick, the keynote speaker, reflected on her personal journey as the first in her family to graduate from college and her long road from teaching public school in Queens, New York to becoming partner at the prestigious Boston law firm Ropes & Gray, to the public profile she experienced as the wife of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Along the way, she has struggled with depression.

“I want to encourage this class to open your eyes and minds to new ventures and to not be afraid of closed doors or doors that seem too unusual, too different, or too foreign,” said Patrick. “To take risks to step through and see what’s behind those doors, [and to] understand that not every door is the right one for you and to feel free to walk out that door and walk in another one.

“This commencement recognizes that many of us did not grow up with the assumption that we would go from high school right into college or graduate school. For many of you, I imagine, it appeared that doors to new horizons were limited. This [ceremony] recognizes the struggles large and small that each of you has had to deal with, as well as the strength and determination of each of you.”

For Mullen, the class president, graduation provided a moment to ponder struggles that lay ahead for her classmates.

“Some days there will be fog,” she said, choking back tears. “Some days the road will seem to disappear beneath us. Some days it will appear that we are alone on the journey.

“Do not despair. Do not be afraid...you are never alone on the journey. Take a look around. In this very gymnasium there are people that care about you and would gladly go with you wherever

your journey may lead...There will be a new horizon every day when you wake up, just waiting for you to catch it before you go to sleep.”

Other distinguished individuals honored at the 114th graduation were Elizabeth Coleman Ph.D., a former president of Bennington College of Vermont for more than 25 years, who received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree; Jack Downing, chief executive officer of Soldier On, a non-profit that has become a national model in the cause to end veteran homelessness, who received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree; and Mardi Crane-Godreau Ph.D., a 1998 MCLA alumna and an assistant professor at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth University, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

GIVING VETERANS A BOOST

MCLA's tradition of support for students who have served our country has increased and broadened. Student veterans now have the opportunity to live in campus housing in a supportive environment with other veterans of similar age, who have the same needs in returning to college after serving in the military. The housing is located in the Flagg Townhouses, a garden apartment complex with fully furnished units that accommodate between three and six students in single and double rooms. The apartments provide easy access to the library, the Center for Success and Engagement (CSSE), dining hall, and the Veterans Resource Center.

Veteran students got another boost from the gift of Andrew H. Mick Jr., whose generous \$10,000 donation, made in conjunction with his father, Andrew H. Mick Sr. '09 and Laurie Mick, will support a scholarship program for veterans of U.S. military service. The scholarship will help veteran students who have financial need as determined by the Financial Aid office. "Today's veterans deserve more than our praise. Providing veterans

scholarships is a tangible way of saying thank you and giving a meaningful assist in achieving their educational goals," said Andrew Mick '09.

MCLA also helps veterans with a variety of tuition benefits and waivers, including those provided through state and national programs, and offers potential college credit for military training programs. In March, 2014, MCLA will open a veterans resource center, to provide veteran students a space of their own. When opened, the Veterans Resource Center will provide academic support, professional and peer advising, computer training, and other essential services. "MCLA has mounted a concerted effort to support veteran students," said Theresa O'Bryant '86, associate dean of students. "We are working hard to both increase admissions of veteran students and retention of those students until graduation."

Anyone interested in supporting the veterans related initiatives, including the scholarship fund, should contact Christine Naughton at 414.662.5074 or c.naughton@mcla.edu.

"MCLA has mounted a concerted effort to support veteran students. We are working hard to both increase admissions of veteran students and retention of those students until graduation."

Theresa O'Bryant '86

INNOVATION TAKES

TEAMWORK

From powerful competitive performances to athletic leadership and academic innovation, the past year was indeed trailblazing for MCLA's student-athletes and their coaches.



ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

CLICK
TO READ
MORE

Athletic options increased with the announcement that MCLA added lacrosse as a club sport, the first step toward a Division III team within the Massachusetts Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC). The burgeoning popularity of lacrosse in Massachusetts and particularly in Berkshire County – where high schools added varsity lacrosse in 2012 – sealed the deal. The current academic year serves as a recruiting season, with lacrosse being played with club status under the leadership of interim head coach Kaylyn Smith, assistant to Athletic Director Scott Nichols, in preparation for the transition to varsity play.

MCLA coaches continued to excel. MASCAC named men's basketball head coach Jamie Morrison as its 2012-2013 Head Coach of the Year, the fourth MCLA head coach to be so honored by the statewide college athletics organization.

“More and more individuals are realizing what an athletic trainer can do.”

Ryan Krzyzanowicz,
MCLA's Athletic Training Program

Morrison modestly attributed his success to his players. “It’s a fine line between winning and losing most nights,” he said. In the 2011-2012 season, “we lost a ton of close games in MASCAC play, and this year we were able to win most of those. So really I am just the beneficiary of the guys making plays in critical spots this season.”

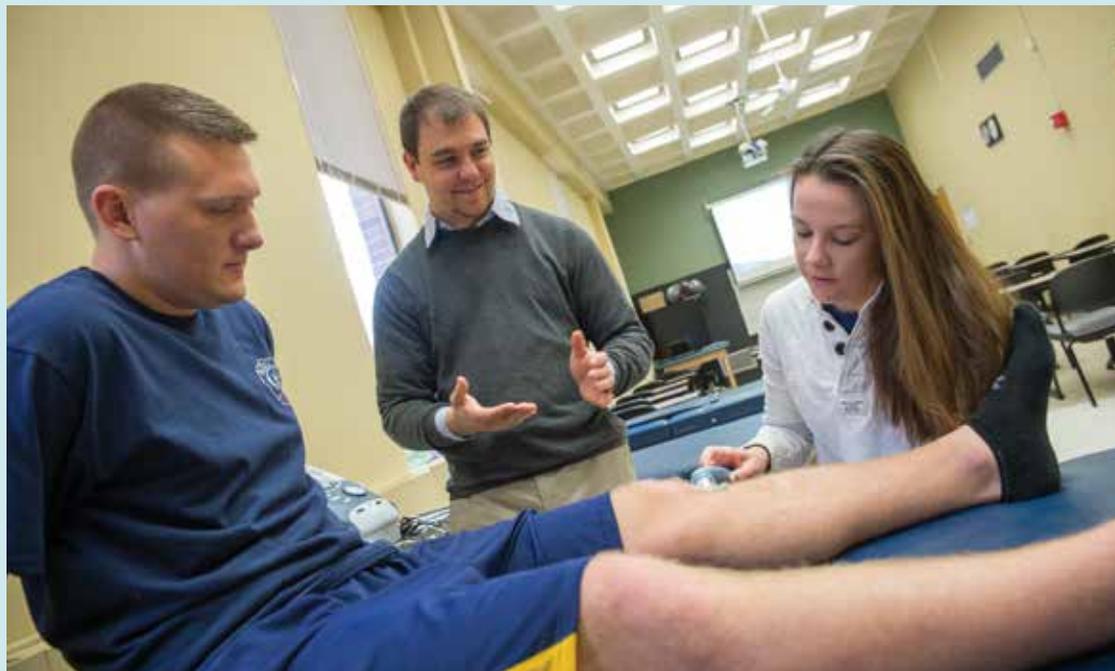
The players certainly made good on their end of the bargain, with a thrilling 14-13 season that ended with a playoff game for the MASCAC championship against the Fitchburg Falcons. In a

tense, back-and-forth game, the Falcons prevailed in an upset, 80-72.

Speaking of the fans' incredible support for the Trailblazers at the championship game, Nichols said simply, “I’ve never seen a crowd like that in the 17 years I’ve been here.”

In the classroom, athletics reached a new peak when MCLA's athletic training major was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

continued on page 44



Ryan Krzyzanowicz with students in the athletic training program.



Lucy Tremblay Reaches 1,000 Points

Senior Lucy Tremblay capped her stellar college basketball career by reaching 1,000 points. The shooting guard was an offensive and defensive threat throughout her time with the Trailblazers, and helped the team to the semi-finals and finals in her sophomore and junior years. To top it off, she was named to the Massachusetts Collegiate Athletic Conference's All-MASCAC Second Team.



Mountain Lion Mascot

Do you hear that ferocious growl? It's the sound of the mountain lion – the new mascot for MCLA's Trailblazer athletic teams.

The mountain lion mascot was chosen after an extensive outreach process that involved students, alumni, staff, faculty, and fans of MCLA's many teams. It complements the Trailblazer name that our student-athletes have used since 2002. The new symbol was unveiled to the campus community in September.

Adam Hildabrand, men's soccer coach and chair of the mascot search committee, explains why the big cat came out on top. "The mountain lion has become a part of Berkshire County legend and folklore," he said. "And a trailblazer, quite simply, is one who makes new trails. The mountain lion is the animal that first blazed trails in the Berkshires. So, the mountain lion is number one, which is what we strive to be as a college and as an athletics department."

After extensive online polling, the mountain lion emerged as, by far, the most popular suggestion, according to the search committee. When the "finalist" mascots were presented to MCLA stakeholders across the campus, the mountain lion again climbed to the top. John Broderick '86 worked with the team to develop the mountain lion logo which is a great image to represent MCLA's student-athletes. The mountain lion – also known as the cougar, catamount, and puma – is a fierce hunter that can leap 18 feet into a tree pursuing prey. It is known for agility, keen eyesight, and a deadly pounce.

"We have come a long way since 2002, when we adopted the Trailblazer name," said Hildabrand. "We know who we are and what we want to be. By incorporating the mountain lion with our Trailblazers mountain logo, we will have a story and a strong image to represent who we are."



Mike Ameen Coach of the Year

Our head softball coach Mike Ameen was honored as the Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC). The Trailblazers posted a 19-20 record for the year but soared to 10-4 in MASCAC conference play.

According to Dr. Peter Hoyt, athletic training education program director and a biology professor at MCLA, the accreditation benefits students because they will be eligible to take the Board of Certification (BOC) exam for the athletic trainer upon their graduation from MCLA, and prior to entering graduate school." Those who pass become Certified Athletic Trainers, and are better able to compete for jobs or graduate school.

"More and more individuals are realizing what an athletic trainer can do," said Ryan Krzyzanowicz, instructor in the biology department for MCLA's athletic training program and the clinical education coordinator. "We can provide initial first aid, evaluation of injury and general medical conditions, and rehabilitation and biomechanical evaluations. Recently, the Department of Defense has started contracts with athletic trainers to work at military bases such as Quantico, Fort Benning, and even with the Navy Seals in Virginia Beach," he added.

Moreover, MCLA's athletic training major provides students strong opportunities for hands-on practice in diverse clinical settings, including the school's Dance Company. With the accreditation, MCLA becomes the only college in western Massachusetts – as well as eastern upstate New York and southern Vermont – to offer a program that conforms to CAATE's high standards.

MCLA women's soccer coach Deb Raber – a Hall of Fame athlete at her alma mater, Green Mountain College of Vermont – continued to excel. She has earned recognition as MASCAC's Coach of the Year three times, in 2007, 2009, and 2010. Now, she has brought her insight and experience to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). As a member of NSCAA's National Coaching Staff, she helps instruct other soccer coaches on theory and

technique, helping them to earn diplomas from the national professional group.

Most recently, Raber has shared her thoughts and experience about team leadership with other members of NSCAA. She explained how sometimes she breaks from traditional practice of appointing a single team captain from the student-athletes. One year, the leadership role was spread among five seniors on the soccer team. "Sometimes you need to break tradition and really look at what team leadership is all about," she said.



Deb Raber



Natalie Caney '17 with Rebecca Pike '15

Natalie Caney '17

Natalie Caney '17 burst onto the women's soccer scene in her first outing as a Trailblazer. In the team's season-opener in August 2013, she scored all three of the team's goals and immediately established herself as a force to be reckoned with.

By the end of her first semester at MCLA, the freshman had already written herself into the record books, scoring 17 goals and tying the freshman record set in 1987. She repeated her hat trick twice, scoring three goals in two other games. She was named women's soccer Rookie of the Week five times by the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC). Finally, she was chosen for the All-MASCAC First Team and earned recognition as MASCAC Rookie of the Year.

Perhaps most importantly, the freshman from Belchertown had found a home at MCLA. "I love playing for this team," Caney said. "I was really nervous about playing and I was worried the upperclassmen would be intimidating. But everyone on the team was so welcoming and encouraging. We became very close in a short amount of time."

Caney started playing soccer at age three, and came to MCLA with impressive credentials, playing on a high school team that won three sectional titles and went to the state finals. Being on the field is more than an athletic experience for Caney. "When I play soccer I feel like I am in my own world, like nothing can touch me," said Caney. "Soccer provides me with so much freedom. I can forget about everything and just be me. I love how I can look for ways to become a better player. Every time I play, I learn something new. Soccer has taught me how to work with others, what it is like to be on a team, to never give up, perseverance, dedication and hard work."

Soccer coach Deb Raber, who has worked closely with Caney since her arrival at MCLA, said "Natalie's soccer ability speaks for itself and she plays with such a passion for the game. She works hard every day in practice not only to make herself better but her teammates as well. To be named conference Rookie of the Year speaks volumes about her playing ability, and she has the personality to match the honor. She's proven to be a pleasure to coach and I am excited to see what the future brings."



INNOVATION IS BELIEF

Sowing Seeds for Success...with Generosity of Extended MCLA Family

CLICK
TO READ
MORE

Sowing Seeds for Success, *The MCLA Campaign for the Future*, MCLA's first-ever comprehensive capital campaign, has begun to flower. The campaign was launched in fall 2012, with an initial goal of raising \$22.5 million. But with the \$5 million pledge from the Feigenbaum Foundation, recognized in the naming of the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, the campaign is now aiming higher.

Marianne Drake, the College's chief advancement officer and president of the MCLA Foundation, said "The \$5 million pledge from the Feigenbaum Foundation has really pushed us over the top and accelerated momentum for the campaign. Based on that, and knowing we have a lot of work to do to raise funds for other initiatives

on campus, we have raised our goal to \$30 million, which we hope to meet by June 30, 2015."

The gift from the Feigenbaum Foundation, in honor of brothers Donald S. and Armand V. Feigenbaum of Pittsfield, was the largest single gift ever from a private donor to MCLA. It was also the largest gift of its kind within the state university system in Massachusetts.

To reach the new, higher goal, Drake and other MCLA officials are reaching out to alumni, businesses, community members and other stakeholders in the future of the college. Currently, about 12 percent of MCLA graduates contribute to the college, which is in line with peer institutions. Drake is working to increase that to 20 percent of graduates.

"It's not about how large the pledge is," said Drake. "Even five dollars makes a difference. We're working closely with the Alumni Board and alumni volunteers to increase our level of participation."

Sowing Seeds for Success is intended to do more than help MCLA reach its goals for growth. Funds raised through the campaign will leverage the \$54.5 million contributed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for construction of the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation and Bowman Hall renovation. Ultimately, the campaign hopes to advance the Berkshires as a hub of innovation, educational excellence, and economic growth.



Left to right: Joanne R. White '85, Andrew M. Zaback '80 and Doreen Yale Zaback '79, President Mary Grant with Cynthia Normandin '76, and Jim Wetzel '13

SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT VALUE OF LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION



MCLA alumni continue to excel in their fields, highlighting the value of a liberal arts education and underscoring the unique benefits of the school's high-impact approach. Here are just a few of MCLA's graduates who have carved successful paths.

Joanne R. White '85 is an English language arts consultant at the Connecticut State Department of Education where she primarily coordinates enacted literacy legislation, and serves on state leadership teams for assessment. Since graduating from MCLA, she has earned a master of science degree, K-12 reading specialist, from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a second master of science degree in education administration from the same institution. She is a doctoral candidate studying education policy and leadership at the University of Massachusetts

Amherst. In addition, her brother Bruce L. White graduated in 1984 with a bachelor of science in computer science and is a Senior Applications Developer at Electric Insurance/GE in Boston.

In 2012 Joanne delivered MCLA's Convocation address. When asked how she hoped to influence students, White explained, "My goal is to impart an understanding of the significance of the undergraduate college experience: developing lifelong friendships, taking advantage of internships and study abroad programs,

applying newly acquired knowledge, and as incoming freshman students, debating concepts well beyond limits allowed in most high school classrooms. Additionally, I want to encourage students to find a sense of balance early on in their academic careers, to ensure necessary attention to studies and a positive and safe social experience. Finally, self-advocacy is important. Students must realize assistance is available for both academic and social concerns, and be familiar with how to locate such services."

“My goal is to impart an understanding of the significance of the undergraduate college experience: developing lifelong friendships, taking advantage of internships and study abroad programs, applying newly acquired knowledge, and as incoming freshman students, debating concepts well beyond limits allowed in most high school classrooms.”

Joanne R. White '85

Andrew M. Zaback, a 1980 graduate, has had an outstanding career as a venture capitalist, portfolio manager, and medical entrepreneur. He is managing member of Longmeadow Capital Partners, LLC, a firm that invests in small to mid-sized companies with both venture capital and private equity. He also serves as a director of Post-N-Track Corp., a Connecticut firm that helps healthcare providers simplify administrative and clinical record keeping through cloud-based software services, and Envoy Health of Florida, which provides diabetic supplies and helps diabetic patients manage their disease more effectively.

Previously, Andy was a managing director at Next Generation Ventures LLC, where he identified new opportunities and managed portfolio investments. He also helped launch MyKidsDoctor.com, and has consulted with many companies on issues ranging from business development to capital procurement, and strategy.

Andy serves on the MCLA Alumni Board. Along with receiving a great education from the College, Andy also met his wife Doreen Yale Zaback, who graduated in 1979. After NASC, Doreen continued her education and obtained an M.S. in geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas, and her Ph.D. in geology from Indiana University, which was followed by a 26-year career working as an environmental scientist.

Cynthia Normandin '76 is vice president of Braun's Express, a freight company based in Hopedale, Mass. with eight terminals that serve the Northeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic regions of the country. She started her career as a teacher, having earned a degree in education from what was then North Adams State College and uses her skills from the classroom every day working with her employees, from the drivers to the operations personnel. She purchased the company with her husband in 1982. Since then, she has played a key role in making Braun's Express one of the most environmentally sensitive trucking companies in the U.S., with the adoption of fuel efficiency strategies, which have earned the recognition of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Cynthia founded a separate company, Normandin Transportation Services, which promotes women's participation in a traditionally male-dominated industry. Normandin serves the Northeast states with delivery and logistics services. Cynthia delivered MCLA's 2009 Convocation address, and serves on the school's Professional MBA advisory board.

Jim Wetzel graduated from MCLA with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 2013. As a student, he was a dynamic leader, serving as a residential advisor, teaching assistant, and treasurer of the Student Government Association. Shortly after graduation, Jim brought his leadership skills to General Dynamics, a leading defense contractor, where he works as a software engineer. Jim is also pursuing his master's degree in computer science at Purdue University.



STUDENT
FACULTY
STAFF

ACHIEVEMENTS

MCLA STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

Whether they are out in the local community, across the country, or around the world, our students make a difference – not only as a benefit to their own lives and learning, but as a help to others.

For example, nine students traveled to the mountains of Appalachia on an Alternative Spring Break trip to provide academic tutoring and mentoring to high school students at The David School in David, Ky. They included: Kate Abbott '13, Corinne Blake '13, Sam Boyden '14, Nicole Desaintphalle '16, Giovanni Dulcio '16, Hannah Ewing '16, Ben Hoyt '16, Dominique McCoy '13, and Jasmine Cespedes-Mejia '15.

Over the summer, Andrew Martin '14 participated in the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) program along with Emily Mooney, assistant professor at MCLA and coordinator of undergraduate research at RMBL, in Crested Butte, Colo. There he conducted undergraduate research and fieldwork. The Laboratory's mission is to advance a deep understanding of nature, which promotes informed stewardship of the Earth.

Eight students – Andrew Cross '13, Lauren Feeney '15, Jessica Jean-Charles '13, Helena Kemper '15, Emily Minns '13, Rachael Nichols '14, Natalie Pozzetti '13, and Jessica Wheeler '13 – journeyed to Haiti, where they learned about the country's heritage, art, and culture, and about a group of Saint Soleil artists when they



Trip to Haiti

visited their homes and studios to see how they work and live. News of their visit appeared on the U.S. Embassy's home page, and they participated in a press conference that aired on Caribbean CNN, where they spoke about the growth they witnessed in Haiti. Their reports supported efforts by the Cultural Attaché to see that Haiti is portrayed as a country with a rich cultural history.

Other students to travel over seas included those who took part in travel courses. A group of eight, including Bridgette Reiss '11, Francisco Lichauco '11, Timothy Range '12, Megan Cronin '12, Rebecca Ramos '13, and Kirsten Young '13 explored Japan, while 21 students – including Chris Goodell '13, Lindsay Green '12, and Chloe McGrath '13 – traveled to Ireland on a tour that began in Belfast and concluded in Dublin.

Finally, 17 students visited Barcelona and Madrid in Spain. They included Ivy Krofta '11, Elaine Previl '14, and Adam Tobin '14.

Closer to home, Jerry Kiahon '14 represented MCLA and public higher education in Massachusetts as a presenter at the Department of Higher Education's GO PUBLIC! event at



Jerry Kiahon

Springfield Central High School in September. There, he talked to 450 high school students about the advantages of attending MCLA, one of the state's public universities, and challenged them to work hard and prepare for college.

Within the Berkshires, Felipe Aedo '14 and Richard Doucette '14 – along with their classmates from the "Green Living Seminar" course – presented *Eagle Street Rising*, a "Better Block" project, on Eagle Street in downtown North Adams. *Eagle Street Rising* was a part of a larger effort of Better Block projects to improve streets across the country with the goal of implementing changes that spur downtown revitalization. As a Better Block project, the students demonstrated how Eagle Street might be improved by redesigning pedestrian infrastructure and creating a vibrant atmosphere.

Doris Behanzin '13 co-facilitated two workshops on "The Art of Negotiation" at Youth Alive in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where she worked with a group of girls who attend high school in that city. Likewise, Skyla Seamans '13 and Carrisa Sacherski '15 also taught Pittsfield girls about negotiation in a workshop at Girls Inc., at the Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center.

These projects were directed toward the topic of pay equity for women, and were funded by the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Campus Action Project (CAP).

In addition, about 450 MCLA students participated in Northern Berkshire's Martin Luther King Jr. day of service event, volunteering at more than 14 sites across North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown. Activities included various projects at the Louison House homeless shelter, local churches, the Salvation Army and Goodwill, cleaning up at the local skating rink, and recycling efforts at grocery stores in the area.

Conferences

MCLA students attend and present research at numerous conferences – both at home and abroad, and this year was no exception. Here are just a few examples:

From international piracy and cyber warfare to the problem of Korean independence, a dozen MCLA students traveled to Canada's University of Toronto with Dr. Robert Bence to consider matters of critical global concern at the North American Model United Nations Conference, where they joined students from more than 20 countries, and representing over 50 universities and colleges. They included: Doris Behanzin '13, Catherine Chaput '13, Dominick Cooper '14, Steven Danowitz '13, Alexandra Elwell '13, Gregory James '14, Laura Laureano '13, Chloe McGrath '13, Ben Raimer '14, Stephan Rochefort '14, Corban vonOhul '13, and Brycen Waters '13.



Model U.N.

Also in the spring, eight MCLA students presented their research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse in April. They included Bryan Acton '13, Felipe Aedo '14, Julia Ashton '14, Miranda Benjamin '13, Corinne Blake '13, Olivia Bolner '13, Richard Doucette '14, Gabrielle King '14, Alexa O'Neil '13, Stephan Rochefort '14, Brianna Vear '13, and Ashley White '14.

Chris Cozzaglio '14, Liz Doughty '15, Lucille Germain '16, Mark Henneberry '14, Abby Law '16, Brendan Peltier '15, Gabriella Prata '16, Rhea Werner '15, and Brittany Wood '14 participated in the Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) spring conference at Northeastern University in Boston.

At this conference, MCLA was awarded second place for their interactive, 3-D display illustrating the personal interests of the delegates. Senior Chris Cozzaglio's program, "Show Some Heart" was recognized as a top-10 program, and Brendan Peltier '15 was elected to serve on the 2013-2014 NEACURH Regional Board of Directors.

In the State House

Our students are effective ambassadors for MCLA and advocates for public higher education. In 2013, two groups went to the State House in Boston to speak with those who lead the Commonwealth.

In March, Jason Brown '13, Catherine Chaput '13, Shauna Dacus '13, Nathan Gutmann '16, Emily Minns '13, Brendan Peltier '15, Dan Peluso '13, and Aloysius Street '15 joined

students from public higher education campuses across Massachusetts to take part in "Public Higher Education Advocacy Day" at the State House in Boston. In addition to representing MCLA, they shared with legislators and state leaders their experiences at the College, and the impact of public higher education on their lives.

In November, Asia Andrews '14, Samantha Beaton '17, Danielle Bloh '16, Alexandra Kadell '16, Taylor Krowitz '16, Lucas McDiarmid '16, and Alyson Stolz '15 joined students from public higher education campuses across the Commonwealth to take part in "State University Appreciation Day" at the State House in Boston. During the visit, the students met with legislators and other public officials to thank them for their investment in public higher education in the FY 2014 budget, and to request additional new dollars in the FY 2015 budget.

Awards and Recognition

Whether it's the arts, athletics, academics, or the work they do throughout the community, MCLA has no shortage of stand-out students, a number of whom were recognized for their efforts. They include our award-winning student a *cappella* group, the Allegrettos, who made a strong showing at the International Championships of A Cappella (ICCA) Northeast Semifinals Competition in Boston on March 23. In addition, first-year student Jasmine Garcia '16 earned best soloist recognition for her performance of "Breath of Life."



Vasilis Kostantinidis '15 and Marli LaGrone '14 were among 13 Berkshire County college art students to receive awards and exhibit their work at the 2013 Berkshire Art Association (BAA) Fellowship Show at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield. They were recognized at an awards reception there.

In addition, Alex Butfilowski '15, Shannon Fox '13, Ben Mancino '14, Becca McBrien '14, and Searra Papuga '16 curated an exhibition of artwork by MCLA students and faculty, *A Sense of Place*, at the Becket Arts Center.

In October 2013, Abigail Egan '15, Kaitlin Straut '14, Adam Tobin '14, and Michael Vogt '14 were

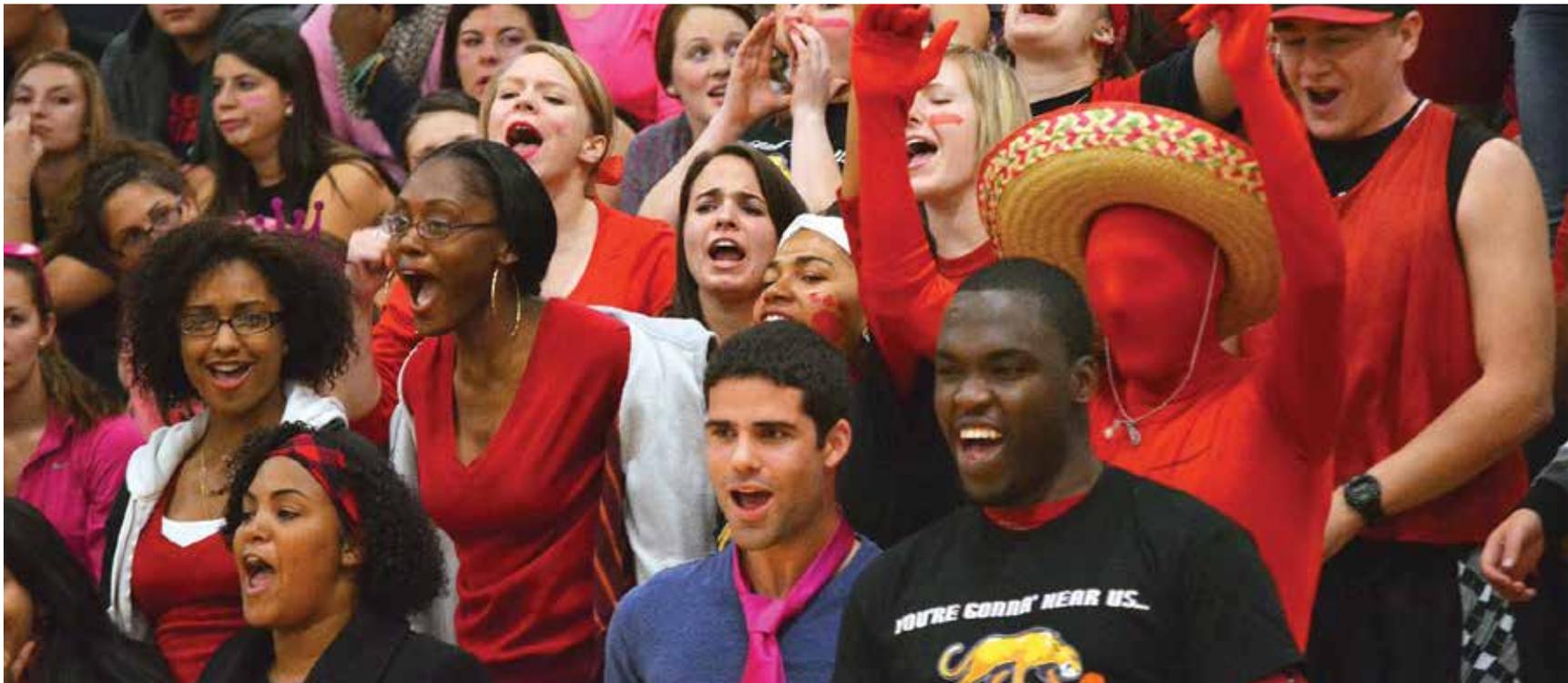
recognized for their community service work at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's "Neighborlies" ceremony.

Members of the Hoosac Hall Advisory Board Brianna McDermott '17 and Annie Gagnon '17 received an award certificate for their work on MCLA's annual "Boo Bash" and for their overall involvement on campus at the spring Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) conference in the spring.

At our annual Athletics Banquet this spring, men's basketball player Bilal Shabazz '13 received the Louis Parisien Award, given annually to an outstanding male student-athlete in memory of

Louis Parisien, a 1952 graduate of the College who demonstrated excellence in both academics and athletics. Also at the Banquet, women's basketball player Lucy Tremblay '13 received the Sue Getchell Award, which is given annually to a senior, female student-athlete who has demonstrated excellence in both academics and athletics.

Tremblay also participated in the New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) All-Star Classic at Western New England University, and Ama Adwetawa-Badu '16 – who plays women's tennis for MCLA – represented the Trailblazers in November at the Annual NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Providence, R.I.



Midnight Madness

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Our faculty and staff continue to reach out far and wide with their scholarship, service, and expertise. Here's a sampling of their 2013 activities:

Professional Service

In January, President Grant delivered the keynote address at the College Board's New England Regional Forum in Boston, MA. Her presentation, "Access, Aspirations, and Opportunity" presented the Berkshire Compact for Education as a model for educational access and student aspirations.

Following a one-year appointment in 2012, Executive Vice President Denise Richardello was voted to a three-year term on the New England Regional Council of the College Board.

Psychology professor Dr. Timothy Jay was elected vice president of Division III Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA), and continues his service on NCAA's FARA executive committee.

Charlie Cianfarini of computer support services was named interim statewide vice president of the Association of Professional Administrators.

Biology professor Dr. Anne Goodwin, education professor Dr. Nick Stroud, and STEM program manager Dr. Chris Himes work with Boston's Museum of Science on their National Science Foundation-funded Bridging Engineering, Science, and Technology (BEST) project.

Biology professor Dr. Emily Mooney serves as coordinator of undergraduate research at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Sociology professor Dr. Ingrid Castro serves on an American Sociological Association section committee, and attended its annual meeting in New York City, N.Y., in August.

Kaylyn Smith, assistant to the athletics director, represented the Trailblazers at the annual NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Providence, R.I., this fall.

Awards and Accomplishments

The following faculty members were awarded tenure by MCLA's Board of Trustees in 2013: Dr. Sharon Claffey, psychology; Dr. Peter Hoyt, athletic training; and Melanie Mowinski, fine and performing arts.

Fine and performing arts faculty member Jeff Link was selected as a quarterfinalist for the inaugural music educator award established by The Recording Academy and the Grammy Foundation.

English/communications professor Dr. Zack Finch won the Wallace Stevens Society prize for his essay on Stevens.

Assistant to the President Roberta McCulloch-Dews was appointed to the Berkshire County Commission on the Status of Women for a three-year term.



Holly McGovern

MCLA women's basketball coach Holly McGovern won her 100th career game in November 2013, as the Trailblazer's women's basketball team defeated Becker College, 63-60.

Student Government Office Manager Diane Collins, along with Amanda Beckwith and Spencer Moser of the Center for Service, were recognized for their service work in the community at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's "Neighborlies" ceremony in October 2013.

Hoosac Hall Residence Director Griffin Labbanco wrote a Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) "Of the Month" award submission, which was selected for regional honors.

MCLA art professor Greg Scheckler exhibited work in the *Free Fall* show at the Soo Rye Art Gallery in Rye, New Hampshire.

Publications

Physics professor Dr. Emily Maher contributed to two physics results papers published in *Physical Review Letters*. The papers provide the first neutrino and anti-neutrino cross section results from the MINERvA (Main Injector Neutrino

ExperRiment v-A) project at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois.

Computer science professor Dr. Mark Cohen's manuscript, "Uncoupling Alice: Using Alice to Teach Advanced Object-Oriented Design," about a teaching technique he used in his "Object-oriented Programming" class, was accepted for publication in Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) *Inroads* magazine.

Political science and public policy professor Dr. Petra Hejnova had a manuscript accepted for publication by the International Leadership Association, for a volume on women and world leadership.

Biology professor Dr. Emily Mooney was part of a team of co-authors on a paper to be published in the journal *Bioscience*. The publication stems from a project in her 2011 Conservation Biology class.

STEM coordinator Dr. Chris Himes had the article "Delimiting Geographic Distribution and Population History of Jumping Mice (*Zapus trinotatus* and *Zapus princeps*) in the Pacific Northwest" published in the spring 2013 issue of *Northwestern Naturalist*.

Dr. Gerol Petruzella, academic technology coordinator and philosophy professor, published



Dr. Emily Maher

his book, *Durable Goods: Pleasure, Wealth and Power in the Virtuous Life (Studies in Theoretical and Applied Ethics)*, a comprehensive linguistic and ethical analysis of key terms and arguments across several centuries of ancient Greek ethical thought.

Arts management professor Dr. Lisa Donovan has been working on a book series focused on integrating the arts into the K-12 curriculum. She completed the final two volumes (arts integration in science and social studies) in the five-book series this year. In addition, she had a paper published, "I am From Poems" in the International Journal of Education in the Arts, which highlights a cross-cultural project done at Lee Elementary School and an elementary school in South Korea, using VoiceThread, an innovative technology tool.



Dr. Chris Himes

Music professor Dr. Michael Dilthey was interviewed and quoted in a Berkshire Eagle Health Quarterly feature, "Talking About Good Vibrations: How We Learn Music by Ear." His original piece, *Church Street*, was presented during the MCLA spring concert program in May 2013.

Head women's soccer coach Deb Raber and the MCLA women's soccer program were profiled in the feature "A Year without Captains" on the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Web site.

Conferences and Seminars

Campus and community members have the opportunity to learn about our faculty's interests and research through a "Brown Bag Lecture Series," where they present and discuss their scholarly activities. This year's lectures included those by Dr. Robert Bence on "The Dream and Reality of North American Integration," Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning Kris Bendikas, who presented "Assessments," Dr. David Langston, who discussed "What Pity? Whose Fear? How Emotive Theories of Art Destroy the Ozone Layer, Frighten Horses, and Will End Medicare as We Know It," Dr. Emily Maher, who explained "Neutrinos and the MINERvA Experiment," Dr. Gerol Petruzella on "Copyleft and Copyright: Should Scholarship Have a Price Tag?" and Dr. Jennifer Zolantanski, who presented "Undergraduate Happiness: Some Preliminary Field Notes from the Classroom."

Sociology professor Dr. Sumi Colligan facilitated the "Queer Caucus" session at the Society for Disability Studies in Orlando, Fla. In addition, she participated in a Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) faculty development seminar on "French Notions of Disability and Difference" in Paris, France. She also was part of a discussion at the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) annual meeting at Shepherd University on long-distance mentoring within COPLAC, funded through a Teagle Foundation grant.

Psychology professor and MCLA Faculty Athletics Representative Dr. Timothy Jay attended the fall annual meeting and symposium of the NCAA's Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA), where he presented "A Student-Athlete Mentor (SAM) Program," based on the development of the SAM program at MCLA.

In addition, Dr. Jay delivered the address "Foul Language and Sportsmanship" at the NCAA annual convention in Dallas, Texas. While there, he also attended the annual winter meeting of MASCAC. Dr. Jay also presented the closing plenary session "Getting Students Interested in Swearing" at the Association for Psychological Science (APS) annual convention in Washington, DC.

STEM Program Manager Dr. Chris Himes was an organizer of the STEM career fair held at Berkshire Community College (BCC) in November.

Residential Program Services Director Dianne Manning and Emily Schiavoni, assistant to the director, attended the Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers Residential Operations conference at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. There, Schiavoni presented a workshop, "Engineering Positive Communities: Reducing Residence Hall Damage" with John Zocco, a residence director from Westfield State University.

MCLA head women's soccer coach Deb Raber attended the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America's (NSCAA) annual convention in Indianapolis, Ind., in January 2013, where she led a roundtable on team leadership, co-presented a field session, and co-facilitated a coaching session for new coaches.

Dr. Gerol Petruzella was selected to be part of the panel "Building Learning Community with Purpose and Joy" at the 2013 South by Southwest conference in Austin, Texas. He also presented "Dungeons and Discourse" at the Digital Classics Association conference *Word, Space, Time: Digital Perspectives on the Classical World* at SUNY in Buffalo, N.Y.

Dr. Petruzella also presented a workshop, "Modding the LMS: There Is No Spoon," at the THATCampGames (The Humanities and Technology) unconference at Case Western Reserve University

in Cleveland, Ohio. And, he discussed his course, "Dungeons and Discourse," in a kick-off Webinar for the micro-MOOC course Game Elements for Learning (GE4L) offered through Faculty eCommons.

In addition, Dr. Petruzella joined Dr. Lisa Donovan in leading the Faculty Center Teaching Roundtable "Digital Humanities: Beyond Dead Trees."

Sociology professor Dr. Jennifer Zoltanski presided over the paper session, "Understanding Sexual Assault," presented the paper "Undergraduate Happiness: Fieldnotes from the Classroom," and conducted a workshop called "Teaching Happiness" at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference held in Boston.

Biology professor Dr. Ann Goodwin presented "Illustrating Bridges Between Science and Engineering" at the *Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers for STEM: Sharing the "BEST" Model* conference at the Museum of Science, Boston.

Education professor and department chair Dr. Susan Edgerton presented "'The Crack of Doom': Psychoanalysis and Climate Change Education" at the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies in San Francisco.

Dr. Edgerton also served as a panelist and presenter at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in San Francisco, and she served as facilitator for discussions at a conference in New York City, N.Y. on the theme "Reclaiming the Conversation in Education."

Interdisciplinary studies professor Dr. Rita Nnodim chaired a panel on "The Nigerian Writer, History, and the State" at the African Literature Association's conference at the College of Charleston, S.C. At the conference, she also presented the paper "Pens, Guns, and Words: Postcolonial Liberation Struggles and the (Re-)Making of History in Helon Habila's *Measuring Time*."

Other professors who presented their work

included: English/communications professor Jim Niedbalski, at the National College Media Convention held in New Orleans, La.; Physics professor Dr. Adrienne Wootters, at the Massachusetts STEM Summit.; Math professor Dr. Liz Hartung, at the Canadian Discrete and Algorithmic Mathematics Conference (CanaDAM); Psychology professor Dr. Maria Bartini, at the Undergraduate Research and Change in Higher Education symposium in Raleigh, N.C.; Psychology professor Dr. Becky Benjamin, at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Out and About

A new exhibition, *The Healing Arts: Navajo Words and Images*, which features poetry and art collected by art history professor emeritus Dr. Tony Gengarely, from poetry/art/bookmaking workshops at the Little Singer Community School on the Navajo Nation during the last 12 years, was installed at the 94 Porter Street Gallery at MCLA.

Visual arts assistant professor Melanie Mowinski and Jonathan Secor, director of MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center, led a group of students on an educational and cultural immersion trip to Haiti, supported in part by Center Stage, a program of the U.S. State Department.

Through the continued generosity of the Alice Shaver Foundation, Arts Management Associate professor Dr. Lisa Donovan and Jonathan Secor, director of MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center, along with a group of arts management students attended the annual conference of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) in New York City in January.

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Mariana Bolívar Rubín, modern languages
 B.A., English and Afro-American literature,
 Colorado State University
 M.A., foreign languages, Colorado State University
 Ph.D., 20th and 21st century Latin American literature,
 University of Colorado



Dr. Karen Cardozo, interdisciplinary studies
 B.A., Haverford College, Haverford, Pa.
 M.Ed., higher education administration, planning and
 social policy, Harvard University
 Ph.D., English/American studies, UMASS-Amherst



Dr. Carolyn Dehner, chemistry
 B.S., University of New York-Geneseo
 Ph.D., biochemistry, University of Notre Dame,
 Notre Dame, Ind.



Dr. David Zachary Finch, English/communications
 B.A., English and creative writing, Dartmouth College,
 Hanover, N.H.
 MFA, poetry, Warren Wilson College MFA Program for
 Writers, Asheville, N.C.
 Ph.D., English, State University of New York-Buffalo



Dr. Duy Nguyen, mathematics
 B.S., math and computer science, Ho Chi Minh City
 University of Science, Vietnam
 M.S., Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
 Ph.D., mathematics, University of Georgia



**Dr. James B. Taylor, history/political science
 and public policy/geography**
 B.S., political science, Georgia State University
 Ph.D., political science, Georgia State University



From left: President Mary Grant, Leonard F. Paolillo, Ph.D., Elizabeth A. Garcia, Kathleen Mazanec, Marion E. Segalla, Deborah C. Forgea, and Dianne L. Hajdas.

RETIREES

In 2013 we said goodbye to a number of good friends and valued colleagues upon their retirement from MCLA, many of whom had been at the College for decades. The longevity of their service is a testament to them, as well as the close-knit community we share. We wish them our very best and offer them our thanks.

Marion E. Segalla,
Human Resources

Donald E. Washburn, Ph.D.,
English/Communications

W. Anthony Gengarely, Ph.D.,
Fine & Performing Arts

Leonard F. Paolillo, Ph.D.,
Sociology/Anthro/Social Work

Gerald F. Desmarais, B.S., M.A.,
Treasurer, Admin. & Finance

Robert E. Bence, D.A.,
History/Political Science/Geo

Elizabeth A. Garcia,
Academic Affairs

Kathleen Mazanec,
Administration & Finance

Deborah C. Forgea,
Student Accounts

Dianne L. Hajdas,
Financial Aid

Phyllis Lora,
Human Resources

William B. Keen,
Administrative System

Carl O. Villanueva,
Media Services

Nettie Joy,
Residential Programs & Services

Jody Tierney,
Director, Health Services

Edith V. Pye,
CSSE/Academic Support

Remembering Avaz Hajizadeh, Ph.D.

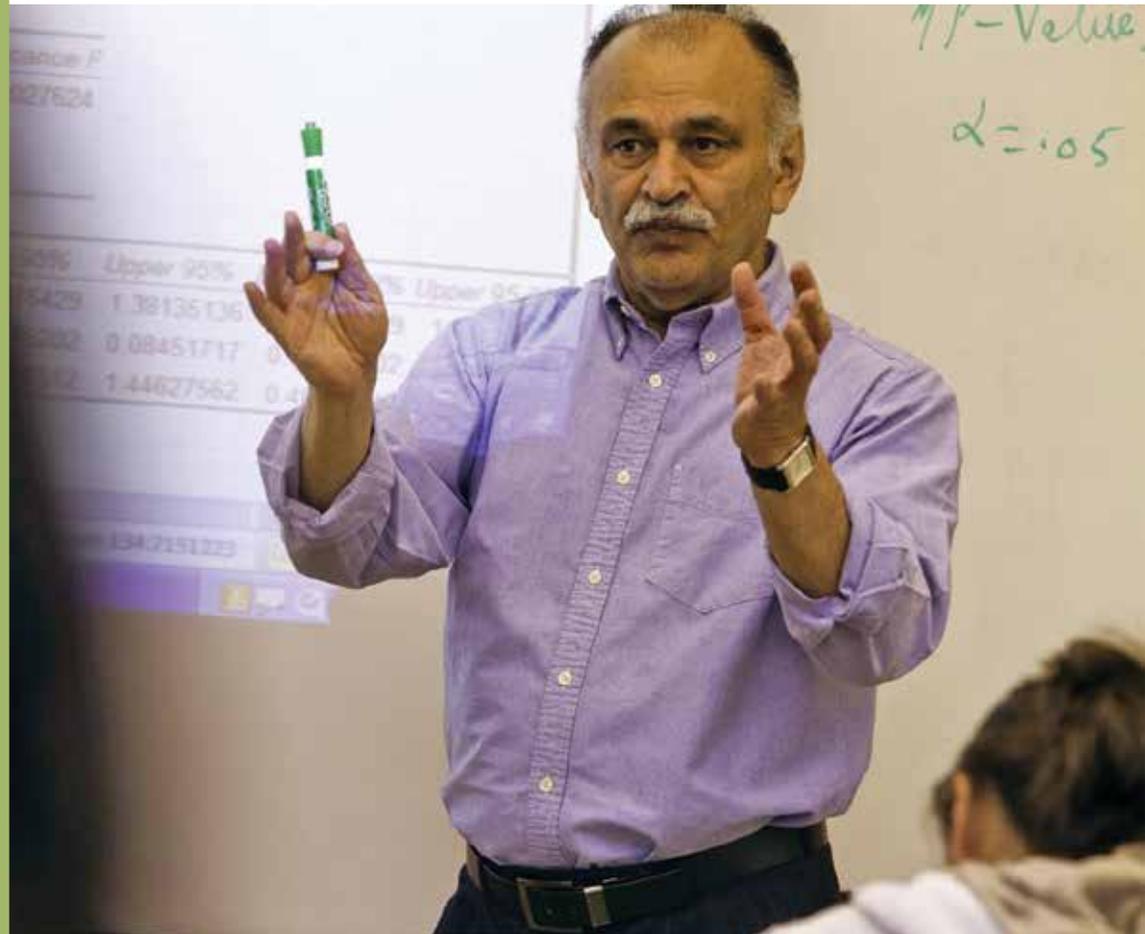
MCLA lost a scholar, colleague, and friend when Avaz Hajizadeh, emeritus professor of business administration, passed away in September 2013. He had only just retired from MCLA after 30 years of service.

Hajizadeh was born in Iran and earned his bachelor of science degree from Pahlavi University in Shiraz. He emigrated to the United States in 1976 to pursue a career in economics, and earned his master of business degree from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., and his doctorate in economics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.

Hajizadeh was an active member of the MCLA community, serving as faculty marshal, a member of the college strategic planning task force, a member of the MCLA Foundation Board of Directors, and to many, a trusted mentor, advisor, and friend.

“On a personal note, I will always be grateful to Avaz for serving as a member of the search committee that helped bring me to MCLA,” said President Mary K. Grant. “I am thankful to have had him as a wise, kind, and generous friend.”

Hajizadeh’s family honored his life and legacy by establishing a scholarship fund in his name through the MCLA Foundation.



“On a personal note, I will always be grateful to Avaz for serving as a member of the search committee that helped bring me to MCLA. I am thankful to have had him as a wise, kind, and generous friend.”

President Mary K. Grant

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MCLA is an essential civic, educational, and economic development engine for the City of North Adams, Berkshire County, and the Commonwealth. The activity, energy, and vitality of MCLA’s students, faculty, staff, and visitors, and the capital investments we make in our campus and region, are transformative and irreplaceable. The College has a direct economic impact in our community of nearly \$83 million, and a total impact of over \$157 million. This is a powerful return on the annual investment the Commonwealth makes in direct state appropriation to MCLA, and our civic, cultural, and community impact in the region is nearly incalculable.

2013 MCLA Economic Impact Value Updates

All data is for the fiscal year 2013 unless noted.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Operating Budget | | \$42,615,388 | |
| <i>Source: MCLA 2013 Audit</i> | | | |
| College Employees | = | 282 Full Time | 128 Part Time |
| Employee Salary & Benefits | = | \$26,366,804 | Salary & Benefits |
| | | \$18,456,763 | After tax (70%) |
| | | \$11,074,058 | Employee Spending (60%) |

*Source: College employees from 2012 IPEDS Human Resource Survey
 Salary benefits from MCLA 2013 Audit
 Estimated employee spending rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Undergraduate and Graduate Student Spending | | \$4,590,663 |
| | | (\$2,293 x 1,891 Undergraduate Students) |
| | | (\$475 x 536 Graduate Students) |

*Source: 2012-2013 student spending data from MCLA Financial Aid office
 Undergraduate students total from 2013 Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) annual enrollment file*

Number of Visitors

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Gallery 51/DownStreet Art | 34,000 |
| Athletics | 10,000 |
| Admissions | 4,000 |
| Performances and Presentations | 4,000 |
| Commencement | 2,500 |
| Alumni Events | 1,500 |
| Orientation | 1,000 |
| Total | 57,000 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Estimated per Visitor Spending | \$65.44 |
| Total Spending | \$3,730,080 |

*Source: Visitors counts from department reports/estimates 2013
 Visitor spending from Tanglewood Economic Impact Study*

Capital Projects

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Center for Science and Innovation | \$19,541,576 |
| Facilities Building / Ashland Street Parking Lot | \$399,282 |
| Bowman Hall Renovation Planning | \$188,121 |
| Campus Center Marketplace Renovations | \$134,904 |
| Campus Center Gym Patio Repair | \$56,353 |
| Murdock Hall Generator | \$48,373 |
| Energy Efficiency Upgrades | \$42,929 |
| Mark Hopkins Hall Exterior Upgrades | \$39,983 |
| Highland House | \$25,870 |
| Smith House | \$20,743 |
| Total Major Renovations | \$20,498,134 |

*Source: MCLA 2013 Audit
 Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning*

I N N O V

CONTINUES HERE.

A T I O N

COLLEGE OFFICERS

Mary K. Grant, Ph.D., *President*
Cynthia F. Brown, Ph.D., *Vice President of Academic Affairs*
Denise Richardello, *Executive Vice President*
James A. Stakenas, Ph.D., *Vice President of Administration and Finance*
Marianne Drake, *Chief Advancement Officer and President, MCLA Foundation, Inc.*
Charlotte F. Degen, *Vice President of Student Affairs*
Monica Joslin, Ph.D., *Dean of Academic Affairs*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tyler H. Fairbank, *Chair*
James C. Clemmer '86, *Vice Chair*
Mohan Boodram
Jondavid (JD) Chesloff
Stephen Crowe
William C. Dudley, Ph.D.
Shirley Edgerton M.Ed. '07
Susan Gold
Buffy Durringer Lord '98, *Esquire*
Denise Marshall '81
Alyson Stolz '15, *Student Trustee*

FOUNDATION, INC. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Marianne Drake, *President*
Tim Dolan, *Chair*
Andrew Mick '09, *Vice Chair*
Dan Trombley '90, *Treasurer*
Kathleen Therrien '97, *Clerk*
Kevin Barbary '85
Mike Barbieri '95
Joyce Bernstein
Michael Christopher '73
Anthony Dolan '84
Isanne Fisher
Mary K. Grant '83, Ph.D., *MCLA President*
Judy Grinnell
Buffy Durringer Lord '98, *Esquire*
Michael A. Reopell '85
Billie Jo Sawyer
Gary Thomas '72, *Esquire*

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pamela Kenny Connolly '82, *President*
Cheryl Starr Boillat '79, M.Ed. '97, *Vice President*
Lisa Blackmer '99
Lauren Mauriello Burm '03
William J. Caprari '75, M.Ed. '80
Rachel E. Dayton Churchill '06
Ashton Darrett '11
Dave Flint '78
Laura-Jean Griffin Hickey '99
Xavier Jackman '00
Cecelia Hamrock Kennedy '78
Ben Lamb '07
Joanne Ricker Maynard '82
Sherry Morrison '03
Michael A. Reopell '85
Natasha Robinson '11
Jennifer Schimmel Stanley '99
Dan Summers '07
Todd Vroman '91
Andrew Zaback '80
Dennis Zicko '65
Alma Benedetti '37, *Emerita*

**MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE
OF LIBERAL ARTS**

375 Church Street
North Adams, MA 01247
www.mcla.edu

President's Office 413 662 5201
Office of Institutional Advancement 888 677 6252 413 662 5224
Office of Admission 800 969 MCLA 413 662 5410

Member of the Massachusetts State University System

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
North Adams, MA
Permit No. 9



STAY CONNECTED!

