



MAKING AN IMPACT

ACHIEVEMENT AND INNOVATION AT MCLA

MCLA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017



#MCLAbowties

Since I arrived at MCLA, we have had fun with my fondness for bow ties. You can see the evidence of that by searching the #MCLAbowties hashtag on Twitter.

COMMITMENT, CONFIDENCE, AND EFFORT

I started wearing a bowtie after I earned my Ph.D. It was a reminder that I had accomplished something important, something special. Bow ties are different from other neckwear because it takes a special effort to tie them. You have to be confident to wear one — especially for the first time or in new settings. And you have to make a commitment to wear one.

Shortly after I arrived at MCLA, Trustee and MCLA Alumna Buffy Lord '98 suggested that I have lapel pins made in the shape of a bowtie and in the colors of MCLA. She suggested I should give them to people who have exhibited those qualities of commitment, confidence, and effort.

Not only is this a great idea, it fits perfectly with the values we seek to instill in MCLA students. Periodically, I'll award these bow tie pins to members of our community as acknowledgement for their demonstrated commitment to or care for MCLA; their promotion of the values of MCLA with others; and for their experience committing great deeds of kindness. I will not always make the award publicly, but names of the awardees will be registered in the President's Office as having been acknowledged for their commitment to MCLA.

DEAR FRIENDS

WHEN I ARRIVED ON CAMPUS in March 2016 to assume my duties as the 12th President of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, there was much to be excited about. I immersed myself in learning all that I could about this phenomenal institution, our wonderful campus community, and the vibrant Berkshires that surround us.

I began by listening. As I met with faculty and staff, I was delighted with what I heard. Simply put, our students come first. I could not agree more! The results of this approach are clear to see throughout the campus as a high level of achievement manifests itself in multiple and diverse ways. Creativity is a chief strength at MCLA. The accomplishments of our students and faculty are most impressive, from the pioneering theatrical productions to the scientific innovations and undergraduate research.

It's our mission to provide these opportunities to all who seek them. We were thrilled to learn last August that the campus was awarded nearly \$2.2 million in Title III funding from the United States Department of Education. Through the Strengthening Institutions Program, we will continue to increase retention and graduation rates of students.

I am proud of our excellent programs, which support learning and teaching, innovative scholarship, intellectual creativity, public service, applied knowledge, and active and responsible citizenship. One of the stories in this President's Report focuses on our commitment to volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement. As a result of this commitment, the College was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS),

an honor that's especially close to my heart (see page 58). MCLA has a rich tradition of helping others as we work together to benefit a variety of communities, not only on this campus, but throughout the world. What a treat it has been for my wife Lisa and me as we have rolled up our sleeves and immersed ourselves in the activities of our fine undergraduates — whether it has been to support them by delivering milk and cookies as they studied for finals in their dorms, to join them in making holiday ornaments to benefit the local Habitat for Humanity, or by getting muddy as we joined in their enthusiasm to clean up the Hoosic River on the 25th Annual Spring Day of Service.

This spring also marked my inauguration, the culmination of a week of festivities that showcased MCLA's commitment to academic excellence and the community. One of the highlights was the first-ever Feigenbaum MCLA Leads Initiative Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge, which matched some of our best and brightest students with the people, resources, and networking opportunities necessary to help them transform their ideas into realities.

As I listened to their ideas, I was struck by the potential that each MCLA student holds. There is no limit to what they might achieve, especially with the help of the many mentors — on and off campus — who seek to guide and support them.

This includes our amazing faculty, who freely give their time to assist and advise our students in many different ways, guiding them through undergraduate research, taking them on travel study trips across the country and around the world, and much more. Their expertise is second to none. You can read more about their research and scholarship, as well as many other accomplishments, in the faculty and staff achievement section on page 66.

Our faculty also coordinate a fascinating lineup of inspirational speakers each year who further advise and encourage our students. This year, we listened to Al Jazeera Satellite Channel's Washington, D.C., bureau chief, an ABC and NPR news political commentator, a former governor, and a number of other distinguished visitors, whom you will read more about in this report. At our wonderful Commencement celebration, we were honored to hear from the keynote speaker, U.S. Rep. John R. Lewis, D-Georgia, a leader of the Civil Rights Movement. In his address, noting that America needs them more now than ever before, Rep. Lewis counseled our graduates to follow the examples of Martin Luther King Jr. and other inspirational civil rights leaders of his youth by embracing peace, love, and the philosophy of non-violence: "You have a moral obligation to stand up, speak up, and speak out. Be brave. Be bold. Be courageous, and never let anything get you down." I am confident that these new alumni will do just that.

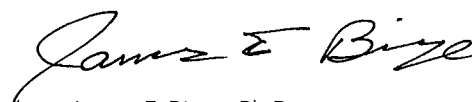
I also am proud of our faculty and staff who teach and run our graduate and continuing education programs. This fall, we are poised to begin the sixth year of our Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. Thus far, about 100 graduates have earned their MBA degrees at MCLA. Our programs are delivered through a very successful cohort model that is highly praised by students. They advance quickly in their professions as they provide more value to their organizations and become more satisfied with their careers.

While the past year has been filled with many wonderful events and milestone achievements, there also have been challenges. The 2016 presidential election sparked fear and concerns among many of our students. As I listened, I was extremely proud of the students who expressed their thoughts and feelings. I am equally proud of the students, faculty, and staff who reached out in support. This campus is a place where people are free to voice their feelings and differing opinions as we work together for peace, inclusion and democratically held values.

You can read more about our plans to ensure that MCLA is a supportive and inclusive community on page 12, where you will learn about our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force. It is part of a Strategic Plan that reflects the overlapping concerns, converging hopes, and good ideas of all MCLA constituents — faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, community partners, and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE). My thanks to our Strategic Plan co-chairs, Director of Admission Gina Puc '07 and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Adrienne Wootters, Ph.D., for their hard work on this effort.

When people ask me about a Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts education, I am happy to share with them the benefits, values, and outcomes of this important educational institution. I hope you will visit us very soon. Please join us for a lecture, concert, a performing arts event or to see our Trailblazers in action at one of our many sporting events!

Sincerely,



James F. Birge, Ph.D.
President

WELCOME, PRESIDENT BIRGE!

The MCLA community celebrated the inauguration of our 12th president on April 21, 2017.





Among the many to celebrate the inauguration of President James F. Birge were his family, including (lower right, from left) his daughter Siobhan, his wife Lisa, and his daughter Caitlin. Daughter Maggie watched the celebration remotely from Greece, where she was studying abroad.

LOOKING AHEAD

MCLA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

After months of intensive work that engaged many on campus — through surveys, round table discussions, brainstorming sessions, open forums, and task forces — our Strategic Plan will launch this fall. As we developed this plan, we strived for a transparent, inclusive process.

We are confident that the guidelines and practices it contains will reflect the overlapping concerns, converging hopes, and good ideas of all MCLA constituents — faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, community partners, and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE). The plan will be our road map for the next five years, as it outlines our goals and the strategies we will use to achieve them, and gives us a clear sense of direction as we move forward.

The co-chairs of this significant planning effort, Gina Puc '07, director of admission, and Dr. Adrienne Wootters, associate dean for academic affairs, appreciate the time and careful consideration taken by those who participated in the process to develop this Strategic Plan: "From the bottoms of our hearts, thank you to all of you who took time to participate in the process and share your views and ideas."







BELONG





DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

In response to the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, students gathered to support one another during a time of uncertainty, particularly for marginalized populations. After hearing loud and clear the concerns from the MCLA community, President Birge set about working with staff, administrators, and students to refocus and expand diversity work through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force (DEI). A clear charge was established for that group to enhance work with a distinct set of actions.

Since then, the DEI has embarked on re-envisioning, listening, and researching in order to address community concerns. All of this work (see list at right) has been initiated in the last 12 months by faculty, staff, and students working together.

CommUNITY Education Social

MCLA community members connect during the CommUNITY Education Social April 29. Organized by students, the event was designed to bring awareness to social issues, taboo topics, and injustices that aren't always taken seriously or talked about.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS MULTI-FACETED PROCESS INCLUDE:

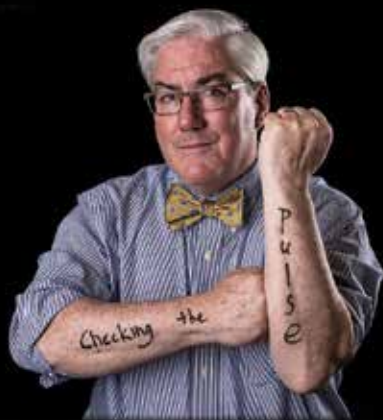
- Administering a supportive and inclusive community survey that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force (DEI) will use to recommend changes at MCLA.
- Plans to recruit a Chief Diversity Officer in the 2017-18 academic year to inform, guide, communicate, and implement the goal to enhance and strengthen diversity and inclusion.
- The call to strengthen and demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion — a major goal that immersed from the strategic planning process.
- The first annual student-initiated COMMUNITY Education Social, held in April, which brought the campus together to discuss a variety of diversity topics and social justice issues, and to listen to each other's perspective on these issues.
- An additional, part-time counselor hired in response to student need for expanded services in the MountainOne Wellness Center.
- Ongoing monthly training for faculty, staff, and students to become Safe Zone trainers, who guide others on what it means to be a supportive ally.
- A two-phase plan developed to provide “all-gender” bathrooms in every campus building. Phase 1 will convert all single-user bathrooms to all-gender by mid-June, in time for Orientation.
- A team of MCLA faculty, staff, and students who attended an InterGroup Dialogue workshop in Springfield.
- A meeting with administrative leaders and representatives from the Transgender Advocacy Group (TAG) to discuss measures to enhance transgender students' experiences. This includes proper use of pronouns for all students on rosters and access to gender neutral bathrooms.
- Ongoing training for new faculty, staff and students and additional training for campus police officers on cultural diversity, fair and impartial policing, bias crime and procedural justice.

DEAR WORLD

MCLA participated in the Dear World portrait and story-telling project this spring. Members of the campus community were asked, "If you had one story to share with the world, what would you say?"

Dear World is an interactive project that explores the subtle and powerful connections between students, faculty and staff at college campuses around the world. To date, the organization has taken more than 50,000 portraits.





Equal Opportunity

In spring 2016, the U.S. Department of Education acknowledged MCLA as one of 13 institutions nationally for graduating students from low-income families at the same rate as students from high-income families.





MCLA RECOGNIZED FOR LEADING ON OUTCOMES, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

As the Commonwealth seeks to fulfill the Massachusetts Vision Project, the state's agenda for higher education in Massachusetts, MCLA has much to be proud of.

Thirty percent of MCLA students who receive financial aid are from families that earn less than \$30,000 a year — the highest percentage in the state university system — and 43 percent receive Pell grants, a federally funded grant program for low-income students.

In fall 2017, MCLA was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 26 four-year public and private colleges with low costs and high salaries in a report, "Fulfilling the Promise, Serving the Need," that identified institutions that are successful in enrolling low-income students who go on to graduate.

Previously, MCLA was awarded a \$2.2 million Title III Strengthening Institutions Program grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase retention and graduation rates of students from low-income families and students of color over five years.

President James F. Birge heralded the news of this recognition, which was announced just prior to the start of the fall semester: "This funding will support and promote the success of MCLA students by letting them graduate with minimum debt and with a degree that provides the foundation for a successful career."



SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN THEATRE

The Fine & Performing Arts Department's 2016-17 theatre program focused on gender-blind casting and plays written by women. Shows highlighted female roles both on and off the stage, including Shakespeare's "Henry V," which featured an all-female cast. All productions were directed by women. In addition — for the first time — this season featured a student director, Brianna McDermott '17, for "The Best of Everything."

2016 Productions

"The Best of Everything," by Julie Kramer
"Henry V," by William Shakespeare

2017 Productions

"Riot," by The Wardrobe Ensemble
"Our Country's Good," by Timberlake Wertenbaker



NORTH ADAMS, MA

A walkable downtown. Beautiful historic buildings. Green space and many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Active community citizens. A major art museum. And a highly rated public liberal arts college. Those elements are often cited as major drivers of economic development and city quality across the United States—and North Adams has everything on the list.

10 charming American towns that aren't famous yet (but will be soon)

—*Travel & Leisure*



Top 10 Worldwide Destination
"The Berkshires have the right balance of picturesque towns, arts offerings, and well-protected natural beauty."

—National Geographic Traveler

"North Adams is definitely one of the coolest small towns you'll ever visit."

—Only In Your State

North Adams, MA ranked #2 of 15 Cities for Creative 20-Somethings

—PolicyMic

DISCOVER



SHARE YOUR VOICE **HERE**

MCLA's community—from the students who live here for four years, to the alumni who decide to stay, to the staff who call North Adams their permanent home—has always contributed to making North Adams what it is, and what it will be.

In the past year, MCLA's efforts to expand its presence downtown and in the community coincide with other big changes on the horizon for North Adams, including a major expansion of MASS MoCA, preparation for two new museums within the city limits, and the renovated Greylock Works mill on the city's west end.

"Our students provide unique perspectives, engage in important community service and economic development efforts, and play an important role in the life of the Northern Berkshires," says President Birge. "I'm proud to see the extent of their impact on the area—whether it's by coordinating their own public service projects, attending City Council meetings, or just getting a bite to eat downtown."

A creativity round table

North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright, President Birge and other city leaders discuss how to get students engaged in the wider city community at a student round table discussion in early spring.



BIG MOMENTS DOWNTOWN

After a viral social media campaign, North Adams won a \$25,000 matching grant from the Levitt Foundation to present a 10-week concert series at Colegrove Park during the summer of 2016. Working with the city government, MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center booked high-profile bands and local support acts for the outdoor series, which helped bring students and city residents downtown and drew attention to the green space of Colegrove Park.

The opening of Design Lab at 49 Main Street (see story on p. 40) gave students another way to connect downtown. Three professors held classes there in the past academic year; the MCLA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge process played out in the lab, with teams of student entrepreneurs meeting regularly with local business mentors in the evenings. The space is also a community gathering area, booked regularly by nonprofits and other organizations for meetings, concerts, and panels.

In the spring semester, a new College shuttle service provided students with an easy way to travel to Main Street and MASS MoCA; students also regularly make the 15-to-20-minute walk from campus to downtown North Adams.

The city saw increased visibility as a contestant in the Small Business Revolution challenge, presented by small business consulting firm Deluxe. Although North Adams did not win, the community pride on display was inspiring. Early on in the challenge's timeline, MCLA students met at Design Lab with President Birge and community leaders, including North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright and MCLA alumni and City Council President Ben Lamb '07 to brainstorm ways to involve students in the voting process.

And as usual, more than 100 students scattered across the Northern Berkshires April 29 as part of the 25th Annual Community Day of Service—just one way MCLA's Center for Service ensures students are actively involved in the North Adams community. Read more about community service on page 58.

FUELING PARTNERSHIPS IN THE BERKSHIRES

Tucked into the Berkshires' beautiful vistas are some powerful economic development drivers—and MCLA alumni and students can be found at every one of them.

"We collaborate a lot with MCLA," says Laura Thompson, director of education at MASS MoCA in North Adams. The museum hires lots of interns from MCLA, as well as recent grads, in just about every department. "It's a great, fertile ground for them starting out."

Off the top of her head, Thompson names a handful of MCLA alumni she's worked with who've gone on to other arts jobs in the Berkshires: Brielle Rizzotti '11, now materials coordinator at IS183; Jeff Gagnon '12, now a program manager at Community Access to the Arts; Krystal Henriquez '16, who coordinated North Adams' first FIGMENT event as a student, then returned as a new graduate to coordinate it in its second year; and Kayla Quinn '16, who's now at MASS MoCA's box office.

That's in addition to the current students Thompson teaches as an MCLA adjunct, including a "Museum Studies" course. Her class helped install a 450-piece exhibition of teen art at MASS MoCA this year. And she's in close contact with other professors, who routinely use the museum as a teaching tool. MASS MoCA artists have given critical feedback to students



in art professor Melanie Mowinski's classes; Professor Josh Ostraff had students create boxes for the Art Bar at MASS MoCA's Kidspace; and Thompson says she and Professor Lisa Donovan are "connected at the hip."

"Students are at the core of MASS MoCA's long history with MCLA," says MASS MoCA Director Joseph Thompson. "Student interns, student performers, student volunteers, and, increasingly, students become part of our staff. Our box office, intern program, and artist services are all run by MCLA alumni."

Other, more traditional industries also count MCLA grads as strong employees and organizational leaders. General Dynamics routinely hires graduates from the College's computer science program; many MCLA alumni work at Crane and Co. in Dalton; alumni start and maintain small businesses all over the Berkshires.

MountainOne Bank is particularly fond of hiring MCLA graduates, and many successful interns have gone on to become full-time employees there. "I've been

really impressed with their preparedness and level of professionalism," says Kelli Kozak, assistant vice president and community engagement officer. With a declining population of young people in the area, "we're focused on insuring there are opportunities here. How do we provide a nurturing, rewarding environment for this generation?"

MCLA alumni at MountainOne include Mary Morrow '82, vice president of community banking; Lynne Carlotto '12, executive vice president and senior risk management officer; Sarah Gaffey '02, community development lender; and Isaiah Butler '14, who works in the bank's IT department, and started there as an intern.

MountainOne has branches all over, so interns and alumni aren't limited to work in the Berkshires. Students going home for the summer can intern at a branch near their hometown. "It broadens the college's opportunity to support students outside the Berkshires," says Eva Sheridan, senior vice president of human resources. "And we give them an opportunity from which to reach out into the world."



Prepare for success

MCLA's liberal arts education provides essential preparation for professional and civic life. As Massachusetts' designated public liberal arts college, MCLA is committed to helping students develop the critical thinking and communication skills that employers seek in today's complex global economy.

NEW PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES TO MARK DOWNSTREET ART'S FIRST DECADE

Over 10 seasons, more than 150,000 people have been drawn to Main Street in North Adams on the last Thursday of every month for DownStreet Art (DSA). Originally conceived to occupy and incubate empty downtown spaces, this year's DSA finds itself with an interesting problem: Most downtown spaces are now occupied by new businesses and galleries, standing on their own.

So this year, much of DSA happens in the community itself, with 10 new projects to mark the anniversary. New parklets—one featuring the student entrepreneur winners of MCLA's Innovation Challenge—will appear; photographer Jamie Diamond will work with student photographers to document the people that make North Adams unique; a new mural, "Imaginarium," by Yu-baba, will be unveiled; and "kidstops" will keep children busy and engaged in art.

While DSA occurs on the last Thursday of every month from June through September, many of its aspects always stick around for the summer season. This year, the city's steeples will light up courtesy of MASS MoCA, dozens of artists' work will be displayed in galleries downtown, and new public spaces to interact with will be established.

DownStreet Art 2017 Season June 29 / July 27 / August 31 / September 28





GET DOWN!

DownStreet Art is a program of MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC) that provides professional development training, resources, and support to the artists, art managers, and creative workers of Berkshire County run by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, Mass. Founding partners are the City of North Adams, Massachusetts Cultural Council, and MASS MoCA.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

First and foremost, MCLA is an academic community. Our students engage in high-level research, contribute to local industry and economic development, improve their surroundings through community service, learn through travel courses, and more.

LIVE &

A man in a broadcast studio is shown in profile, looking at a document he is holding. He is wearing a headset. In the background, a large monitor displays a video production interface with multiple camera feeds and control panels. The word "LEARN" is overlaid in large, blue, semi-transparent letters across the center of the image.

LEARN

HIGHLIGHTING STUDENT RESEARCH

Undergraduate research is a hallmark of an MCLA education, and in October we were proud to have 10 of our students represent the campus at the COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges) Northeast Regional Meeting at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, N.J.

There, our students presented research papers and posters on topics that ranged from The March on Washington and the Rise of Martin Luther King, Jr., to Exploring the Genetic Mechanisms of Exfoliation Syndrome and Glaucoma.

At the conference, these young researchers also had an opportunity to discuss their work with peers and faculty members from other institutions.

According to Annie Gagnon '17, a biology major from Seekonk, Mass., "Seeing other students present their research has helped me improve my presentation skills and made me more interested in incorporating research into my plans for graduate school and my future career."

In the spring, English/Communications student Bryanna Bradley '17, biology and computer science major Daniel Heinen '18 and computer science student Peter

Chase '18 traveled to Memphis, Tenn., to participate in the 31st Annual National Council of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) conference, with MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) organizers Dr. Justin Golub and Dr. Jenna Sciuto.

Just two weeks later, they joined the rest of the campus to celebrate MCLA's 15th Annual URC on April 20, when 125 students presented 130 research projects. True to the liberal arts tradition, research included art projects, literary analyses, the psychology of immigration, and studying how natural communities may be impacted by invasive species and a changing climate.

"MCLA's annual conference," says MCLA President James F. Birge, "provides an excellent opportunity to spotlight the extraordinary work students and faculty have done both on and off campus, and exemplifies what a liberal arts education is all about."

"Research is a great experience for students," Golub says. "It fosters their curiosity and interests, and helps them become critical thinkers. The opportunity to present their research allows students to shine and showcase their skills."







MCLA AND NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPERS' JOURNALISM PIPELINE

When New England Newspapers Inc. (NENI) came under local ownership in May 2016, the company had a limited time to assemble a team that could take over its newsroom's news page production, which previously was outsourced. This meant building a "design hub" from scratch at *The Berkshire Eagle* office in Pittsfield, Mass., which serves as NENI's headquarters.

"This was no small feat," says Kevin Moran, editor and vice president of news for NENI.

But it turns out, all he needed to do was look north. There's a long history of good will between the *Eagle* and the *MCLA Beacon*, as well as a good rapport with *Beacon* staff advisors and the College's communications professors. Moran knew just where to go to find the team he needed.

From left: Juanita Doss, Jessica Gamari, Gionna Nourse, Erik Sokolowski, Kevin Moran (in back)
Photo credit: Ben Garver

Now, NENI's entire design hub consists solely of MCLA alumni and students. Together, they build and proof the news pages for *The Eagle*, *Bennington Banner*, *Brattleboro Reformer* and *Manchester Journal*, making sure that they look their best and are easy for readers to navigate.

"The fact that this team had been a team at *The Beacon* and MCLA, and stayed a team here, is a big reason why that transition went — and continues to go — so smoothly," Moran explains. "They have a bond that has been forged in fire. They communicate really well together, and rely upon one another. And, while they are quite busy at work, they also share laughs."

The Beacon's editor, Mitch Chapman '18 of Pittsfield, Mass., works part-time alongside the other designers, all of whom are full-time employees. He says his experience at the *Eagle* has a great impact on his work at the campus newspaper. Its design continues to improve, and he's raised the bar for the types of stories the reporters cover.

"Using my design hub experience as a basis, one of the first things I did as editor was author a 40-page design manual for *The Beacon*," Chapman points out.

Because of their relationship with the College, *Berkshire Eagle* staffers often are asked to give presentations about their profession in MCLA's journalism classes and to *The Beacon* staff. A number of MCLA students also serve internships in *The Eagle* newsroom.

Moran explains, "It's that familiarity and working relationship with the College that gives me a great deal of confidence in the MCLA students who express an interest in coming to work for NENI."

"It's a privilege to be able to work in my field at such a young age," Chapman says. "The fact that New England Newspapers is willing to hire so many MCLA students says a lot about the quality of the education here, specifically our journalism program."

Over the past 12 years, Jenifer Augur, assistant professor of English/communications and *Beacon* advisor, worked to build a bridge for young writers, to show them they were capable of reaching their dreams. As she approaches her retirement, she looks back on her career with great satisfaction.

Her students work as journalists throughout the world, such as Jen Thomas '07, who lives and works in Abu Dhabi. As the home page editor at *The National*, a government-owned, English-language, online newspaper, she's responsible for content viewed by millions.

Closer to home, Jack Deming '11 is a legal reporter at ALM Media, LLC, in New York City, N.Y., who recently had an article published in the *National Law Journal*.

"There are more students, all over the state, working for news organizations, including wickedlocal.com and Gatehouse Media," Augur says. "They practiced their skills in the *Beacon* newsroom, each got the \$4,000 Ellen J. Bernstein/Gadsby Fund for Journalism scholarship, then showed their clips to editors who hired them because they'd learned how to be reporters. I taught them that," Augur says.

LEARNING ON THE GO

Our students traveled across the country and around the globe as their studies opened up new worlds through some remarkable experiences.

Kayaking through a mangrove forest, exploring cypress domes, and observing wildlife such as manatees, alligators, and crocodiles in their natural habitats were just a few of the activities a group of environmental studies majors experienced with Dr. Daniel Shustack when they took a trip to southern Florida over their winter break.

With Dr. David Cupery on a once-in-a-lifetime journey through Peru, Edith Sherburne '18 of Saugerties, N.Y., arrived at Machu Picchu at 6:30 a.m. just in time to see the clouds rolling off the mountains. "Then, what seemed to be all at once, the ruins appeared below me, and I was breathless."

Dr. Sumi Colligan grew up in San Francisco, Calif., so it was only natural that she would take her students there, where she shared the city's rich LGBTQ history. The "Queer San Francisco" trip included an intergenerational dialogue with LGBTQ seniors, who gave their firsthand accounts of events such as Harvey Milk's assassination and the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

Finally, this year's Alternative Spring Break group headed to Haiti with MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship Director Spencer Moser and The Haiti Plunge of Adams, Mass., to perform a variety of service projects that included building raised garden beds for a women's cooperative in a rural community.

Of that experience, Milena Casamassima '17 of Mansfield, Mass., says, "There is something so challenging and so rewarding about throwing yourself out of your comfort zone into a place where you don't speak the language, are unfamiliar with cultural norms, and are away from your friends and family."

Exploring natural habitats

Students kayak on the Kissimmee River in January, as part of a class trip to South Florida to study its ecosystem.





TALKING POLITICS, JOURNALISM, AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Cokie Roberts

MCLA was proud to welcome an outstanding lineup of speakers to campus as part of our 2016-17 Speakers Program.

Fall semester lectures began with Abderrahim Foukara, Al Jazeera Satellite Channel's Washington, D.C., bureau chief and host of "Min Washington," who presented the 2016 Hardman Lecture, "Media Portrayal of Islam."

ABC and NPR political commentator Cokie Roberts discussed the 2016 Presidential Election at the Sixth Annual Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture, and Dr. John Harris spoke about his latest book, "Returning North with the Spring," when he delivered the Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture.

In the spring, MCLA welcomed author and journalist Dolores Barclay to campus as Hardman Journalist-in-Residence. Her lecture was titled "Truth on the Battlefield: The War against Fake News." Our second public policy lecture was given by former Massachusetts Gov. Jane Swift, who spoke on the political implications and lead-up to the Trump Presidency.

The Hardman lectures are made possible through the generosity of the Hardman Family Endowment. The Public Policy lecture series is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust. The environmental issues lecture series is named for Professor Lawrence H. Vadnais, and is sponsored by the Vadnais Endowment.



Abderrahim Foukara



REMEMBERING LAWRENCE VADNAIS

Members of the MCLA community gathered in early 2017 to remember Professor Lawrence H. Vadnais, who passed away in February. Professor Vadnais joined our faculty in 1968, and with his wife, Elizabeth, went on to create The Center for Resourceful Living as a branch of the Sociology Department in the 1970s. In 2005, MCLA established the Berkshire Environmental Resource Center (BERC) to promote environmental awareness while advancing student and faculty research. The establishment of this center and the popularity of the Annual Elizabeth and Lawrence Vadnais Environmental Issues Lecture series led to its endowment in October 2008, when it became a permanent part of MCLA's long-term lecture offerings.

REVOLU

INNOVATIVE SPACES SPARK CREATIVE THINKING

MCLA is on the move with forward-thinking initiatives and transformative changes that inspire our students to dream bigger and reach further. From green-build technologies utilized in our renovated Bowman Hall and the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, to a new challenge designed to stimulate inventive ideas, you can find it here.



TIONIZE

TURNING DESIGN THINKING INTO ACTION

The Feigenbaum MCLA Leads Initiative, an exciting new project that marries community space with academic involvement and liberal arts leadership, brought much excitement this year not only to campus, but also to the greater community.

Made possible by the generosity of the Feigenbaum Foundation, the initiative centers its mission around innovation, leadership, entrepreneurship, design thinking, and community development.

Key components of this project include Design Lab, a brand-new classroom and community space at 49 Main St., in North Adams, and the MCLA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge, during which student teams worked with mentors to pitch their ideas to local business leaders for a cash prize of \$10,000.



DESIGN LAB

The goal of Design Lab is to provide an ecosystem in which students and community members are free to explore ideas and master skills together through action — by immersing, designing and doing. Walk into the space at any of its open hours and you'll see tables pushed together and sheets of paper hung in-between short-throw projectors — rainbows of sticky notes presenting ideas as part of a process called design thinking.

Design Thinking is a perfect classroom tool at a liberal arts school; it's an interdisciplinary means of problem-solving that borrows elements of ethnography, humanities, and the natural sciences in order to gain insight and test solutions in the real world.

Outfitted with five separate workstations, each equipped with interactive short-throw projectors and ample whiteboard space, Design Lab is uniquely suited for collaborative problem-solving, while its open, flexible floor plan lends itself to receptions, concerts, lectures and community forums. More than 1,000 people from the MCLA and Northern Berkshire community have used the space since it opened in late 2016.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

Over five months, student teams worked with business mentors from the community on pitch plans for ideas ranging from a Pokémon Go-esque tourism app to a nonprofit providing science-oriented after-school programming. The prize: \$10,000 to make their idea a reality, plus an internship with North Adams-based business incubator LEVER, Inc.

Participants in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge were coached through a series of deliverables, including an idea abstract, a pitch deck, a business model canvas and a business plan, before they pitched their ideas to judges J.D. Chesloff, an MCLA trustee and director of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable; Nancy Fitzpatrick, who oversees a hospitality business that includes The Red Lion Inn, Elm Street Market, and the Porches Inn at MASS MoCA; and Jack Wadsworth, honorary chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, an advisory director of Morgan Stanley, and the founding director of Lever.

The winner, LoCal, a locally sourced, healthy food truck that aims to test its products locally during the North Adams summer festival season, was the brainchild of Mackenzie J. Shannon '17, and team

And the winner is...

The winning team, LoCal, pictured left to right: Avery Woodbury '18, Katrina Staaf '17, Mackenzie J. Shannon '17, Anthony J. Cote '17

members Avery Woodbury '18, Katrina E. Staaf '17 and Anthony J. Cote '17.

Design Lab and the Innovation Challenge were made possible by the Donald and Armand Feigenbaum Foundation and Jack and Susy Wadsworth. The Wadsworths' commitment to community and their business acumen continue to provide opportunities for others as they work to enhance this region and its economic viability. MCLA is grateful for their generous support to encourage our students' innovation.

MCLA is honored to reflect the legacy that Donald and Armand Feigenbaum established through their leadership, innovative spirit, and commitment to community.



GOING GREEN — AND GOLD

Sustainability is extremely important to MCLA, so when the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification by the United States Building Council (USGBC) in the fall, the news was particularly meaningful.

This state-of-the-art facility stands as a shining example of how investments in public higher education infrastructure and the use of green-build technologies are both essential and cost-effective. A model of sustainability, the Center's photovoltaic solar panel array is just one feature that helps make the 65,000-square-foot, high-tech building exceptionally energy efficient.

Like the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, our recently renovated Bowman Hall is a LEED-certified building. The renovations to this high-tech classroom building also include heat- and cooling-efficient devices, new windows, and digital controls that will provide savings in operational costs.

"MCLA's LEED certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," says Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and founding chair of USGBC. "The urgency of USGBC's mission has challenged the industry to move faster and reach further than ever before, and MCLA serves as a prime example of just how much we can accomplish."





FACILITIES STAFF MAKE MCLA SHINE

All day and all night, MCLA's facilities staff are present or on-call, ready to keep the College's campus neat, its infrastructure working, and its students safe. The team, many of whom have worked together for decades, are ready for anything, and happy to answer the call.

Many facilities staff hold multiple licensures as electricians, plumbers, etc., and their collective knowledge of the campus — and all the secrets its buildings hold — is unparalleled.

"No two days are the same," says groundskeeper Neil Kupiec, who's worked at MCLA for 31 years. A campus with lots of buildings always will present a challenge, but "we're very adaptable, and we all work together."

Those challenges include keeping MCLA's walkways clean and safe when snow hits the Berkshires, and ensuring campus infrastructure works smoothly. Whatever situations may arise, "Everyone works together," says Kupiec.

Working with students is a highlight of the job. "I love what we do here, and always have," says Frederick Ferris '04, M.B.A. '16, facilities manager (and an MCLA alum himself). "We're helping young people, and in a sense, we're shaping the future."

In 28 years at MCLA, Ferris has served in many facilities positions, and has connected with and helped more students than he can remember. Notably, he's helped a student change his alternator belt in a College parking lot, and learned about theory from a student psych major, which inspired him to take psychology courses himself.

Joe Dzbenski, a painter/locksmith who's worked at MCLA for 25 years, usually hires four students to work with him full-time every summer. At least one ended up starting a painting business of his own. "You nurture them along," he says. "Some of them still come back and see us. I always tell my students, 'You may not be a painter after you leave here, but these are skills you're going to keep.'"

The students share their skills, too — one year, a student created a chart in his free time that made easy work of calculating the dimensions between angles, a help for lots of facilities tasks, says Dzbenski.

The hardest part of this work? Saying goodbye to those student workers — though social media has allowed staff to keep up with MCLA alumni as they grow their careers, get married, and have children. The facilities team "is like a family," says Ferris, "and the students are like our extended family."





GO FURTHER



Above and Beyond

From left, Director of Athletics Laura Mooney, Kayla Hotaling '17, Anthony Basile '17 and President Birge at the 2017 Athletics Banquet.

TRAILBLAZER HIGHLIGHTS



TOP STUDENT ATHLETES

Among a legion of tremendous players, two student athletes stood out at our 2017 Athletics Banquet. The top awards of the evening were presented to soccer player **Anthony Basile '17** and basketball player **Kayla Hotaling '17**.

Basile, who received the Louis Parisien Award - Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, previously was named MASCAC Player of the Year after an outstanding senior season in which he scored 10 goals for the Trailblazers. He is the first MCLA men's soccer player to claim the conference's Player of the Year honor since Dave Pereira in 1992.

A two-time Most Valuable Player, the senior mid-fielder ended his college career with 29 goals and 63 points in just three seasons as a Trailblazer. Basile also excelled academically, earning a 3.32 GPA, for which he made the All-Academic Team and the Dean's List.

Hotaling, who was awarded the Sue Getchell Award - Female Scholar Athlete of the Year at the banquet, reached her 1,000th career point this February and was named to the All-MASCAC First Team All-Conference. In addition, she was selected to

play in the New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) All-Star Classic Game.

Hotaling not only led in scoring and rebounding as the Trailblazers advanced to the MASCAC semi-final round; she stood out in the classroom by making the Dean's List and MASCAC All-Academic Team, graduating with a 3.76 GPA.



GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

This year marked the second season at MCLA for men's baseball coach Mike Gladu, who was selected by his peers as the 2017 MASCAC Coach of the Year. For the first time since 2009, the baseball team — seeded fifth this year — made it to the semi-finals.

NEW COACHES

MCLA welcomed two new head coaches when **Derek Shell** joined the campus as the head men's basketball coach, and **Loren Stock** came on board as the head women's basketball coach.

Under Stock's direction, the sixth-seeded Trailblazers advanced to the MASCAC semi-finals following a 64-54 win over third-seeded Worcester State.



Derek Shell



Loren Stock



SHWCRAFT FIELD LIGHTS

During Reunion Weekend in October, the campus celebrated a newly illuminated Shewcraft Field. The field's new lights, representing an approximate \$350,000 investment garnered through a two-year campaign, afford Trailblazer programs more flexibility with the addition of night games and evening practices.

Besides enhancing our facilities, the new lights provide a superior fan experience and increased attendance through greater flexibility in game scheduling, says Director of Athletics Laura Mooney.

"The lights directly impact men's and women's soccer, lacrosse, and campus intramurals programs," she says. "They also benefit the department by providing the ability to host a wider range of external athletic events, which promotes the College in our surrounding communities."

In addition to the new lighting, facilities upgrades over the past year included the installation of new in-field material for the softball field, as well as resurfaced tennis courts and a new tennis scoring system.

TRAILBLAZER SUCCESS PROGRAM

The new Trailblazer Success Program supports MCLA's goal that all student athletes achieve at least a 3.0 GPA. Made possible through the NCAA's Ethnic Minority and Women's grant, the Trailblazer Success Program is the main responsibility of Erica Li, a recent Williams College grad. Once a student athlete herself, Li was a standout on the softball field.

Through her two-year, grant-funded position as the coordinator of academic success and diversity, Li works to provide our student athletes with academic support through consistent check-ins, required time in study hall, and connections with campus academic resources.

The program is off to a good start: During the fall semester, half of MCLA's student athletes excelled academically. Forty-five earned a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA, and 53 earned a 3.5 or higher.



Erica Li



VOLLEYBALL TEAM IS MASCAC CHAMPIONSHIP FINALIST

Amanda Beckwith coached the third-seeded women's volleyball team into the MASCAC Championship game after the Trailblazers defeated the second-seeded Westfield State Owls. With the win, MCLA avenged an early season loss to the Owls and advanced to the MASCAC title game.

Although the team's seven-match winning streak ended in the championship game, Allison Clark '17 put in eight kills and 12 digs, and Sam Anderson '17 ended with five kills. The match was the last game of both players' careers, and marked the second time in the last two seasons that the duo led the Trailblazers to the conference finals. Clark, the all-time record-holder for kills, ended up with 803 in just two seasons. Anderson will rank among the best blockers in school history.

Rebecca Godbout '18



ACHIEVE

“FIND A WAY TO GET IN THE WAY”

U.S. Rep. John Lewis, MCLA's 2017 commencement speaker, shared inspiration from Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks: "I say to you the graduates of the Class of 2017, you must go out and get in trouble... good trouble, necessary trouble to help make our country and make our world a better place. When you see something that is not right, not fair ... you have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to stand up, to speak up, and to speak out."



COMMENCEMENT 2017

We celebrated our 118th Commencement with keynote speaker U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a leader of the Civil Rights Movement. In addition, Anne W. Crowley '77, a corporate executive and communications strategist, and David E. Phelps, president and CEO of Berkshire Health Systems, received honorary degrees.





POWERFUL RESULTS

WHY MCLA?

- Kiplinger's *Personal Finance Magazine* voted MCLA in the 100 best colleges that combine outstanding academics with an affordable cost for 2015
- Received a \$2.2 million federal grant over five years to support student success
- 1:12 faculty-student ratio
- Undergraduate Research Program focusing on independent scholarly work, driven by interactions between students and faculty mentors
- Campus-wide honors program and honors residential community
- A member of COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges), MCLA is recognized for championing the cause of liberal arts education of superior quality in the public sector, providing students of high ability and from all backgrounds access to an outstanding education.
- MCLA is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Inc. through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. MCLA received our reaccreditation by NEASC in April 2014.
- The Berkshires were named a Top Ten Worldwide Destination by *National Geographic Traveler* in 2016.

High-impact experiences
prepare MCLA students for success

200

Internship Opportunities

30+

Countries in MCLA's
study abroad and
travel course programs

130

Students participated
in MCLA's 2016
Undergraduate
Research Conference

50+

Student clubs, activities,
and organizations

20,000

Annual
hours
of civic
learning

93%

of the Class of
2015 are employed
or attending
graduate school

40%

Completed an
internship

12%

Studied abroad

Graduate School Acceptances

Adelphi University
American University
Bentley University
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bridgewater State University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
College of Saint Rose
College of William and Mary
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Elms College
Fordham University
Gallaudet University
Georgetown University School of Law
Harvard University
Howard University
Hunter College
Michigan State University
Northeastern University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Sage College
Salem State University
Simmons College
Smith College
Southern New Hampshire University
Springfield College
SUNY Albany
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Stony Brook
Suffolk University
Touro College
Trinity College
Tufts University
UCLA
Union College
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Connecticut
University of Florida
University of Maryland
University of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Pennsylvania
University of Vermont
Vermont Law School
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Western New England University
Westfield State University
Wheelock College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Yale University Drama School

Employment

Associated Press
Berkshire Engineering
Boston Herald
Business Insider
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CNN Headline News
ESPN
Florida Department of Agriculture
General Electric
General Dynamics
Goldman Sachs
Harvard Medical School
Home Box Office (HBO)
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Los Angeles Kings Hockey
NESN
(New England Sports Network)
MASS MoCA
MCLA
Massachusetts State House
MTV Network
Shakespeare and Company
State Street Bank
Storey Publishing
Teach for America
The Clark Art Institute
U.S. Department of Treasury
Verizon
Walt Disney World

A COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Before he could imagine that he one day would lead MCLA, President Birge, through his work with the National Campus Compact, provided input into the development of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Shortly after he arrived, and much to his delight, MCLA was once again named to this national honor roll for community service in recognition of the campus's commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"I could not be more pleased that MCLA was recognized with this honor," Birge says. "Our students, faculty and staff engage in volunteer work through the year, which fills important needs not only here at MCLA and throughout the greater community, but beyond our campus."

Community service is a hallmark of a liberal arts education: MCLA takes great pride in its robust and diverse programming.

According to Spencer Moser, director of MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship, MCLA's inclusion on the national honor roll is a reflection of the thoughtful and strong partnerships the campus enjoys with organizations throughout the community and recognizes the powerful and passionate abilities our students use to leverage their academic experience toward a larger, positive social good.

Last year, Rebecca Godbout '17 of Springfield, Mass., co-created KEEP (Keeping the Elderly Engaged Program). This year, she created the "Colegrove Mentoring

Program," which benefits local youth who attend nearby Colegrove Elementary School.

She coordinates 25 MCLA student-volunteers in this effort. It's a three-pronged approach to mentoring: the program includes a literacy lab for first- and third-graders; a classroom assistance program where MCLA students tutor students; and one-on-one mentoring with those who need social or academic help.

"Participating in these experiences made a great impact on my time here at MCLA," Godbout says. "Each program and job helped me to grow more and more as a person, and let me learn something new every day."

After graduating from MCLA, environmental studies alumnus Jason Brown '13 was inspired to join the Peace Corps and serve in Senegal, Africa. Over the past year, he has lived and worked with the members of the farming village of Sarre Samba Diaba.

"Jason is dedicated to making sure that we have a sustainable planet and treat the environment well," Moser says. "He has a desire to make change, be part of the solution, and make the world a better place."

Rachel Durgin '18 of Winchendon, Mass., strives to improve both the campus and the community that surrounds it. As this year's Steve Green Community Engagement Scholar, she embarked on a community service initiative, funded by an endowment established by MCLA Professor Emeritus Steve Green and his wife, Sue Walker.

Her idea was to research and explore how the Center for Service might reach out to and attract additional student volunteers. As a result of her efforts, the College took

Dedicated

Jason Brown '13 with some Sarre Samba Diaba villagers in Senegal, Africa.



a big step forward in identifying which students want to volunteer, what they'd like to do, and how often they might find time to serve.

MCLA recently celebrated the 25th Annual Spring Day of Service, when about 150 students joined approximately 70 community leaders and volunteers at more than a dozen volunteer sites throughout North Adams.

The event began in 1992 after Lorraine Maloney, assistant to former MCLA President Thomas Aceto, wished to blur the lines between the campus and the community with a day of service. Her work led to the creation of a volunteer center in the Campus Center, known today as the Center for Service and Citizenship.

Lorraine Maloney passed away earlier this year. Her son, Glenn Maloney, recalls when his mother proposed this day of service.

"It was really neat to watch her do this, and build this event," Maloney says. "Now, students have a genuine interest in learning about the service projects they do. It's a culture they've learned. They see it as, 'This is my obligation,' and 'It's just what you do.' And I think that was the hope for what she laid forth 25 years ago."

President Birge was involved from start to finish. He began by welcoming the volunteers.

"An hour later, he wasn't just talking the talk. He was walking the walk by helping to clean up the Hoosic River, along with his wife, Lisa," Moser recalls. "It's incredibly inspiring to have the president of the College and his wife make it a point to volunteer and participate in that day. It's just one example of President Birge's dedication, not only to support student programming, but the city of North Adams."

MCLA HAPPENINGS



HONORING JARVIS ROCKWELL

In May, President Birge welcomed artist Jarvis Rockwell (son of Norman) and his wife Nova to campus for a celebration honoring Rockwell's donation of untitled artwork to the College. The three pieces highlight odds and ends calling to the past, present and future of North Adams; they now all hang in Bowman Hall for students to admire. Jarvis and Nova are pictured here with President Birge and Prof. Melanie Mowinski.



WHY ART MATTERS

State Sen. Adam Hinds (D-Pittsfield) came to MCLA in April to visit with a group of our arts management students, faculty and staff, who shared with him their thoughts on the importance of continued state support for the arts. They are, from left: Erin Milne of Academic Affairs; Sebastian Conrad '17; assistant professor of arts management Diane Scott; Tannya Romero '18; Katrina Staff '17; Katherine Rowell '17; Cheyenne VanBramer '19; Berkshire Cultural Resource Center Program Manager Michelle Daly; Sen. Hinds; Fine & Performing Arts associate professor Dr. Lisa Donovan; Cassandra Lavoie '18 and Amanda Romanelli '18.



PRESIDENT BIRGE IN D.C.

President Birge attended the Council of Presidents Joint Regional Alumni Event and legislative meetings in Washington, D.C. From left: Vincent Pedone, executive officer, Council of Presidents, Massachusetts State University System; President Birge; Barry Maloney, president of Worcester State University; U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.); and Jake Oliveira, assistant executive officer, Council of Presidents, Massachusetts State University System.

NEW 3-YEAR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE PROGRAM

MCLA announced an exciting new degree program in January that will allow highly motivated and hard-working students to complete a general business administration degree in three years, instead of the traditional four.

Our Three-Year Business Administration Degree Program takes place across six regular semesters, plus two summer semesters, and includes on-campus, hybrid and online courses, as well as summer internships. Participants will save a full year's worth of room and board, as the program's general business

concentration allows them the flexibility to earn a business degree in a shortened time frame.

"Completing the Three-Year Business Administration Degree Program makes college more affordable, and lets you join the workforce a year ahead, or start a graduate degree more quickly, all with the same high-quality educational experience as a four-year degree student," says Dr. Thomas Whalen, assistant professor of business administration.



AN ARTFUL INAUGURATION GIFT

Rebecca Patterson '17 presented President Birge with a painting of the gates in honor of his inauguration on April 21.

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES

The MCLA Board of Trustees celebrated President Birge's inauguration. They are, from left: Denise Marshall '81; new trustee Robert Reilly, Ed.D.; new trustee John Barrett III '69, M.Ed., '72; Mohan Boodram; Buffy Lord '98; Vice Chair JD Chesloff; President Birge; student trustee Brianne O'Rourke '17; Chair Susan Gold; Lisa Chamberlain and new trustee Kathleen Therrien '97.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Jonathan Couper '15, Joelle Dumont '16, Andrea Fachini '16, Zachary Feury '16, Annie Gagnon '17, Katie Glaubitz '17, Daniel Heinen '18, Cassandra LaChance '16, Amanda LeBarron '16 and Jenna O'Connor '16 attended the COPLAC Northeast Regional Meeting at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, N.J., where they presented the results of their undergraduate research.

Brianna Lord '17 was named to Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success. She also was recognized by the U.S. Achievement Academy for academic performance, leadership, enthusiasm, and a constant motivation to learn and improve. On the dean's list, she plans to pursue a master's degree in social work.

Sociology major **Maggie Whited '19** was selected by the Campus Compact as the College's 2017 Newman Civic Fellow for her work around mental health issues. In receiving this award, she joined 200 other student leaders who represent Campus Compact member colleges and universities from 36 states and Washington, D.C.

Shelby Gauthier '17 of the women's tennis program was selected to the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) All-Academic Team. She joins a total of 207 student athletes from other institutions that have been named to the NAC All-Academic Team after the fall 2016 semester.

Men's basketball player **Keiland Cross '18** was named the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Rookie of the Week seven times, MASCAC Player of the Week once, and MASCAC Rookie of the Year.

Women's basketball player **Kayla Hotaling '17** scored her 1,000th career point and made the MASCAC first Team All-Conference. She also was selected to play in the New England

Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) All-Star Classic game.

Lee Nunez '18 and **Sara Peck '17** attended the 37th Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy Conference in Amherst, Mass., in October, when they presented original research conducted at MCLA. In addition, **Benjamin Johnston '17** received authorship credit for one of the projects.

Sarah Peck '17 also co-authored an article last year with her professor, Dr. Thomas Byrne, which appeared in an issue of the *Behavioral Processes* journal.

MBA students **Yuliya Baver '18, Jessica Lagess '17** and **Samantha Ritcher-Portio '18** received scholarships from Berkshire Business and Professional Women.

Nick Bassett '19, Miles Bierylo '18, Sam Broderick '18, Nikki Logiudice '17, Mike McAndrew '18, Victoria Munoz '19, Makayla Parkin '18, Sam Payne '18, Anika Pommers-Dear '17, Justin Therrien '19, Drew Weisse '18, Charlie Weissefellner '18 and **Kaitlin Wright '18** participated in the North American Model United Nations Conference in Toronto, Canada.

In the lead-up to the U.S. Presidential Election, **Joseph Carew '18, Siobhan Greene '17, Michael McAndrew '18, Madeleine McKeon '18, Taylor Parece '20, Brittany Polito '18, Kate Vogel '18** and **Morrison Robblee '20** visited a special exhibit at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass, with Dr. David Cupery and Dr. Samantha Pettey. The exhibit, "Presidents, Politics and the Pen," was a collection of the works of political cartoonist Thomas Nast, considered by some to be the "Father of Modern Political Cartoons."

Rosine Manzan Ahoba Anwobor '16, Selena A. Barber '17, Michael Sean Connors '18,

Stefania Coppola '16, Trevor Daniels '16, Nicholas DiSanti '18, Melanie G. Herzig '17, Keslie P. Lewis '17, Jessica Amanda Lovellette '17 and **Ellen Marie Rufo '17** were inducted into the Zeta Zeta chapter of the Delta Mu Delta national honor society in November.

In April, six business administration students were inducted into the Zeta Zeta chapter of the Delta Mu Delta national honor society: **Jordan R. Meredith '17, Brianne Murray O'Rourke '17, Brian Harper '17, Nicole Hastry '18, Tyler V. Panetti '17** and **Liza Scranton '17.**

Senior artists **Amber Coldwell '16, Angela Digennaro '16, Patrick Engle '16, Nathan W. Massari '16, Elaine Myers '16** and **Sarah Tefft '16** presented "Conviction" for the 2016 Senior Art Show in MCLA Gallery 51. In 2017, **Elizabeth Erdeski '17, Samwise Fox '17, Kaitlyn Russell '17** and **Isaac Wood '17** presented "INSIGHT" in the Gallery for their Senior Art Show.

The 2016 recipient of the state's "29 Who Shine" award was **Grace Ngobo Toko Mbonda '16**, a biology and chemistry major who grew up in Cameroon in Central Africa. She aspires to provide medical care to young girls and women. She is a two-time recipient of the ALANA Academic Achievement Award, a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and served on the executive boards of the Biology Club, the African Student Association, and the ALANA Club Council.

The 2017 recipient of the "29 Who Shine" award was **Kayla LaVoice '17**, a math major who was a Lead Academy participant and mentor, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Academy mentor, a resident advisor, and treasurer of the Student Government Association (SGA). She is the creator of the Pathways to College program, which sends MCLA students to nearby Drury High School to help students with professional development and college access-related activities.

Both Grace Ngobo Toko Mbonda '16 and Kayla LaVoice '17 were recognized in Boston at a State House awards ceremony.



29 Who Shine

Kayla LaVoice '17 with Spencer Moser, director of the Center for Service and Citizenship, in Boston, Mass., where she received the "29 Who Shine" award for 2017 from Governor Charlie Baker.

Kayla LaVoice '17 and **Anthony J. Cote '17** were the 2016 recipients of the Lorraine Maloney Award for Service, which is given to those who embody a spirit of service. This year's recipient of the award was Rebecca Godbout '17.

Sociology major **Alyssa St. Franc '19** was honored by the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) when the organization selected her as a recipient of this year's Society State of Mind Award. St. Franc, who represents the state of Massachusetts within the group of 50 NSLS award recipients, received a \$1,000 scholarship as part of the honor.

Biology majors **Andrea Fachini '17** and **Daniel Heinen '18** participated in the Third Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Institute, where they worked on research related to endosymbiotic bacteria from sea anemones and an augmented virtual reality laboratory simulation, respectively, under the director of Dr. Ann Billetz, associate professor of biology.

Bryanna Bradley '17 studied dance at the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Mass., during its Improv Traditions & Innovations program after being selected for the two-week summer intensive following her audition in New York City. She was one of 24 dancers from around the globe selected among hundreds to participate.

This summer, **Brandon Valdes '18** will attend the NYU Summer Music Technology Intensive, a two-week program that will engage in topics such as field recording, sound design, mastering, mixing, and physics of sound. Participants will have access to NYU's state-of-the-art recording facilities.

Rachel Capek '19, E.D. Bibbins '20, Alexandra David '17, Gillian Fournier '20, Alex Gaspar '20, Kaitlin Russell '20, Samantha White '19 and **Isaac Wood '17** collaborated at MCLA in the fall with a group of their peers from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, on a project centered on the time period and activities of men and women involved in the Suffragist movement. The collaboration, made possible by a grant from the Hardman Initiative Fund, features

the artwork of students and faculty from both campuses. The results of their creative exchange were on display in "BEE IN HER BONNET: Works in Progress," in the Design Lab, 49 Main St. in North Adams in November.

Samantha Bedell '17, Alexandra David '17, Guy Francois '17, Gillian Fournier '20 and **Katrina Staaf '17** traveled to Utah at the end of the spring semester with Melanie Mowinski, associate professor of visual arts, to continue MCLA's collaboration with Brigham Young University.

Seven MCLA journalism students — including **Harmony Birch '16, Aryel Brosnan '18, Emily Gabert '19, Luke O'Brien '19, Mitchell Chapman '18, Emma Monahan '18** and **Reagan Smith '19** — headed to the *Berkshire Eagle* newsroom in Pittsfield on election night in November, where they collected and posted poll results for the newspaper's live, online coverage.

Amber Coombe '17 joined students from across the country through The Washington Center's Academic Seminar to attend the Democratic National Convention (DNC). As part of the Access Control Team, she worked with the DNC Committee and other students stationed throughout the convention center to ensure that those in attendance understood their credentials and what areas of the building they were allowed to access.

Izzy Heltai '18 was joined by Secret Creature band members Matt Shiebler, **Tim Shiebler '14** and **Mike Vogt '14** at MASS MoCA's Freshgrass Festival, where they performed contemporary folk music at the event last fall.

It was a first for both MCLA and **Brianna McDermott '17** when she directed the fall production of *The Best of Everything* on the Venable Theater's main stage. "Now that I have directed a production, I can definitely see myself committing to a profession like that in the future," she says.

MCLA recognized the achievements of 10 business administration students when they were

inducted into the Zeta Zeta chapter of the Delta Mu Delta national honor society in November: **Rosine Manzan Ahoba Anwobor '16, Selena A. Barber '17, Michael Sean Connors '18, Stefania Coppola '16, Trevor Daniels '16, Nicholas DiSanti '18, Melanie G. Herzig '17, Kessler P. Lewis '17, Jessica Amanda Lovellette '17** and **Ellen Marie Rufo '17.**

Two MCLA students who participate in the campus's honors program were elected to serve as the president and the vice president of the Statewide Commonwealth Honors Program's governing committee. **Jackie Ordway '18** was elected as the committee's president, and **Nicole Hastry '18** was selected as the group's vice president.

Annie Gagnon '17, Monique LeMay '16, Evan Patev '16 and **Sara Peck '17** presented their research at the National Council of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) conference, held at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, N.C., in spring 2016. In 2017, **Bryanna Bradley '17, Peter Chase '18** and **Daniel Heinen '18** also presented their research at that conference, held at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tenn.

Amanda Hoag '16 and **Taylor Manning '16** were acknowledged for their assistance with data collection in a manuscript by psychology professor Dr. Thomas Byrne, which was published in the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, the psychology field's flagship journal.

Kircys Canela '18 and **Miesha Adams-Mclean '18** led the E3 (Effort, Employability and Essential skills and knowledge) program, run out of MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship. In addition to planning all of the activities, they served as mentors for youth, most of whom are high school seniors who struggle with traditional studies.

In addition, **Kircys Canela '18, Rebecca Godbout '17** and **Kayla LaVoice '17** were recognized at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Fall Neighborhoods Ceremony in November. LaVoice works with

area youth, Godbout developed a new mentor program and Canela works at the ROOTS Teen Center in downtown North Adams.

In spring 2016, **Alexander Lopez '16** was the winner of the Student Development Award and the Student Leadership Achievement Award as the "Outstanding Senior Leader." **Allie Kadell '16** was honored with the Vice President's Award for her outstanding dedication and service. **Timothy P. Williams '17**, who served as SGA president during 2016-17, was named the Club Executive Board Member of the Year.

On Mother's Day, **Allison Clark '17** and **Rachel Mills '17** could not be with their moms, so they did the next best thing: they went to celebrate with some of the women who live in the Williamstown Commons nursing home, who otherwise might not have enjoyed a visit that day. Both knew most of the women from previous visits through the "Keeping the Elderly Engaged Program" (KEEP). Coordinated by Rachel Mills and **Rebecca Godbout '18**, and run through MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship, KEEP was organized to integrate the lives of college students with those of senior citizens.

Brianne O'Rourke '18, MCLA student trustee, attended the National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership New England residential program for undergraduates at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, on the campus of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. She also worked as an accounting intern with Brazee Huban CPAs in Pittsfield, Mass.

Members of MCLA's NeXXus step squad competed in the RHO SIGMA PHI and PHI BETTA SIGMA Reconstruction Step Competition at UMASS-Dartmouth in March and brought home the second-place prize of \$1,000.

Abigail Casian '17 was selected from more than 80 applicants to serve a full-time, paid summer internship in accounting with General Dynamics in Pittsfield, Mass.

Milena Casamassima '17, Katie Howe '20, Caitlin Hunt '19, Henrietta Koramoah '20

and **Abbie Walsh '19** traveled to Haiti with Spencer Moser, director of MCLA's Center for Service and Citizenship, for Alternative Spring Break. Along with The Haiti Plunge organization of Adams, Mass., they performed a number of service projects, which included building benches and some raised garden beds for a women's cooperative in rural Haiti.

The winners of MCLA's First Annual Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge were **Mackenzie J. Shannon '17** and team members **Barbara Reeves '18**, **Avery Woodbury '18**, **Katrina E. Staaf '17** and **Anthony J. Cote '17** for "LoCal," low-priced, healthy snacks for on-the-go consumers. In addition to the \$10,000 prize, they received and were matched with resources and networking opportunities.

Other finalists in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge were **Tenzin Khunkyen '19** and **Austin Thompson '19** with AquaBob, an aquatic GPS tracking system for fishing equipment designed to reduce "ghost fishing"; **Elizabeth Dawson '19** and **Dylan Girouard '19** with Taproot, whose idea was to create three individual science centers in south, central and north Berkshire County to support and complement K-12 public education by offering educational resources; and **Rebecca Waterhouse '17**, **Nicole Hall '18**, **Daniel Heinen '18**, **Peter Chase '18** and **Joe Berardis '20** on Team WiseEye. Their aim is to create a technology company that specializes in the development of applications that combine augmented reality with storytelling designed to attract people to nature.

After a very competitive process, theatre majors **Conner Norblit '17** and **Erin D'Entremont '17** were accepted into the Disney Program, a paid internship and apprenticeship, which will take place this summer at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Mikaela Serrano-Moore '18 conceptualized the CommUNITY Education Social which took place throughout the campus on April 25. This event was designed to bring awareness to social issues, taboo topics and injustices that aren't al-

ways taken seriously or talked about. MCLA's Diversity Equity and Inclusion Task Force had implemented the event that comprised stationed tables throughout campus. Each table addressed topics, from LGBTQIA+ vocabulary and social constructions of race, to immigration/refugees and disabilities.

At the 2017 Athletics Banquet, **Rodger Coryell '17** (men's soccer) and **Annie Gagnon '17** (women's cross country) achieved the highest individual grade point averages, and were recognized for this accomplishment at the 2017 Athletics Banquet. **Dan Wohler '17** received the Student Service Award.

The Team MVPs recognized at the Athletics Banquet were **Natalie Caney '17** (for women's soccer and lacrosse), **Nate Gutmann '17** (golf), **Anthony Basile '17** (men's soccer), **Avery Woodbury '18** (men's soccer), **Annie Gagnon '17** (women's cross country), **Allison Clark '17** (volleyball), **Keiland Cross '18** (men's basketball), **Kayla Hotaling '17** (women's basketball), **Samantha Gawron '19** (women's tennis), **Rob Wabshinak '17** (men's tennis), **Eamonn Andre '17** (baseball) and **Ericka Quackenbush '17** (softball).

Also at the 2017 Athletics Banquet, Athletes of the Year were: Top Underclassmen, female - **Meg Richardson '20** (women's soccer); Top Underclassmen, male - **Joe Toledo '20** (baseball); Top Upperclassmen, female - **Allison Clark '17** (volleyball) and Top Upperclassmen, male - **Anthony Basile '17**.

This fall, men's soccer advanced to the MASCAC tournament quarterfinal, **Eddie Boateng '17** was named to the All-Conference 1st team and **Anthony Basile '17** was the MASCAC Player of the Year recipient. Dylan Pereira '17 was also selected to play in the New England All-Star Game.

Natalie Caney '17 and **Meg Richardson '20** were named to the All-Conference First Team.

For golf, **Matt Lawrence '18** was placed on the All-Conference Second Team and

Nicholas Bator '20 received NAC Rookie of the Week honors.

Trevor Grimshaw, our men's tennis coach took the helm of the women's program this fall.

Emily Deaso '18 and **Mariza Sfakianaki '18** were both named to the All-NAC Team.

Our volleyball team had a very successful season, returning to the MASCAC championship game. The team finished as the conference tournament runner up and **Allison Clark '17** was named to the All-MASCAC First Team, as well as a Player of the Week honor.

In addition to being named MASCAC Player of the Week and Rookie of the Year, **Keiland Cross '18** was named MASCAC Rookie of the Week seven times.

The lacrosse team tallied 131 goals for the season. **Kim Granito '20** was named MASCAC Rookie of the Week — a first for an MCLA lacrosse player.

Men's tennis returned to the NAC East semifinals. **Aaron Goldsmith '18** and **Rob Wabshinak '17** were selected as all conference players, in both singles and doubles competition. **Jeffrey Mason '17** was tabbed as the Senior Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Kaitlyn Berghela '19 (softball), **Morgan Watson '20** (softball) and **Christian Seariac '20** (baseball) received MASCAC All-Conference honors.



FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Laura Mooney, director of athletics, was appointed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division III Management Council, on the NCAA Division III Membership Committee, and on its Playing and Practice Season Subcommittee.

Associate Athletics Director **Dot Houston** participated in MIAA National Girls & Women in Sports Day in Boston, and organized MCLA's National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD), held early in the spring semester.

In addition to presenting at the NSCAA Convention this year, Women's Soccer Coach **Deb Raber** earned her 100th win at MCLA last fall, when the Trailblazers beat SUNY Poly, 2-0.

Three faculty members presented Brown Bag Lectures in fall 2016: **Dr. Daniel Shustack**, chair of environmental studies, presented, "Stay Put, Move Out, or Trade Up: Birds Have Options

when Choosing a Nest Site" in September; **Dr. Sharon Claffey**, psychology, presented "Cinema and the Psyche: Development of a New Course" in October; and **Dr. Nick Stroud** presented "What Undergraduates Learn by Teaching Science" in November.

Three faculty members presented Brown Bag Lectures in the spring: **Dr. Justin Golub**, assistant professor of biology, presented "Things That Go Bump in Our Past: Evolutionary Insights into How We Learn to be Afraid" in February; **Dr. Elizabeth Hartung**, assistant professor of mathematics, presented "Carbon Molecules and Mathematics" in March; and **Dr. Karen Cardozo**, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies, presented "Canaries or Surgeon Fish? IDST Majors as a Litmus Test of MCLA's Future" in April.

Dr. Karen Cardozo, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies, along with faculty

who taught first year courses, organized a panel discussion on the fall 2016 Community Reading, "Reclaiming Conversation," by Sherry Turkle. The discussion was attended by faculty, students and guests.

Dr. Rita Nnodim, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies, presented "Performing the Urban," at the 16th Triennial European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies conference, at the University of Oviedo in Northern Spain, in April.

Dr. Daniel Shustack presented at the North American Ornithological Congress in August in Washington, DC.

Dr. Ingrid Castro, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, attended and presented with students at the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in Seattle, Wash., in August.

Office of Admission staff members attended various conferences in fall 2016: **Dayne Wahl** attended the National Association for College Admission Counseling's annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, in September; **Kayla Hollins** attended the College Board's Institute on Financial Aid in October; and **Gina Puc** attended the Strategic Enrollment Management Conference, sponsored by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, in November.

Diane Scott, assistant professor of arts management, chaired a session at 1Berkshire Creative Resources Conference, held at MASS MoCA in January. In addition, she wrote a new chapter, "Using Curriculum Design," to be published in a book, *Preparing Educators for Arts Integration: Placing Creativity at the Center of Learning* by Teachers College Press, which was launched at the National Arts Education Association Conference in April.

In addition, Dr. Diane Scott was a featured presenter at Art Works for Virginia 2017 — A New Virginia Renaissance, where she moderated a panel and lead two workshops on assessment and evaluation of arts education programs.

Executive Vice President **Denise Richardello** was honored for her efforts to make the Berkshires a better place to live, work and play when she received the Esther Quinn Award in April. With more than 25 years of experience in leadership at MCLA, Richardello works with community leaders, government officials, local and statewide education leaders, as well as major donors, to create partnerships to broaden access to high-quality public, liberal arts education. She serves on a variety of local boards, including 1Berkshire, Berkshire Regional Employment Board, LEVER Entrepreneurship and Innovation Board, and the North Adams Partnership.

History professor **Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed** presented at the Association for the Study of African American Life and Culture in Richmond, Va., in October.

Dr. Lisa Donovan, associate professor of fine and performing arts, traveled to Maine over the

Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend to work with two cohorts from that state's Department of Education on how to use the arts as a strategy for forming formative and summative assessments for creative arts. She did this after completing research on rural education, funded by a National Endowment of the Arts "Collective Impact" grant. She also shared the results of that research at the Arts Education Partnership in Denver, Colo., in September.

In addition, Dr. Lisa Donovan went to Iowa City, Iowa, to attend the first rural-focused, creative place-making conference in the United States in October. In November, she participated in large professional development conferences in southern and northern California, where she gave the keynote address, "Literacy Across the Curriculum — Engaging All Learners." In the spring, she headed to Virginia as the featured presenter at Art Works for Virginia Renaissance.

Dr. Lisa Donovan also received the Massachusetts Friend of Art Education of the Year Award for 2017 at the 2016 Massachusetts Art Education Association (MAEA) Conference, "Redefining Art Education," at Lesley University in Cambridge, in November. In March, she joined the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Berkshire Readiness Center to participate in a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) program to support a collective impact project, "Leveraging Change: Improving Access to Arts Education for Rural Communities."

An affiliate of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) since 1975, MAEA is Massachusetts' professional association for art educators. MAEA's mission is to advance high-quality visual arts education throughout the state by empowering art educators to excel in the practice, instruction, promotion, and celebration of visual art.

Psychology professor **Dr. Thomas Byrne** published a manuscript describing a project conducted in the vivarium in the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, the psychology field's flagship journal. He also attended the 37th Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy Conference in Amherst, Mass.

Dr. Thomas Byrne, along with **Kara Gulotta '09** and **Sara Peck '17**, gave a symposium at the 7th Annual Massachusetts Association for Applied Behavior Analysis Conference, in Marlborough, Mass., in May. The paper presentations were all data-based presentations resulting from research conducted in Dr. Byrne's lab.

D. Gilson, assistant professor of English/ Communications, was featured on the Poetry Magazine podcast on May 8, when he read "Where the Wild Things Go" and "Harold and the Purple Crayon." He also was featured in the May 2017 issue of *Poetry*. He previously attended a workshop entitled, "Strange Art, Uncivil Inheritance: Reading Beyonce and Butler Where 'We' Are," at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., in November.

Dr. Dale Borman Fink, an associate professor in the Department of Education, presented at the 2016 Annual Conference of the American School Health Association in Baltimore, Md., in October. His presentation was on "Elementary School Recess: Perspectives of Teachers and Children." Dr. Fink also spoke on this topic on WAMC's "The Academic Minute," in February.

Dr. Nick Stroud, associate professor of technology and science education, recently was appointed to the Evelyn H. and Arlindo Jorge Professorship in Education. He also is part of a \$10 million effort, "Bringing the Universe to America's Classrooms," which is developing new resources for teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for students across the country. As a project advisor, Dr. Stroud provides guidance on plans for videos, interactive projects, data visualizations, lesson plans and student activities that are part of the endeavor. The project is headed by WGBH in Boston, Mass., and funded by NASA.

As its principal investigator, Dr. Nick Stroud also continues to direct the National Science Foundation's (NSF) "Teaching to Learn" grant, which is funded through the NSF's Improving Undergraduate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education program. The collaborative, four-year project effort with

Williams College and North Adams Public Schools and Williams College, which runs through August 2018, allows undergraduates at MCLA and Williams to work with college science professors and teachers in North Adams Public Schools to develop science units based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and to teach curriculum to students in grades K-7.

Dr. Nick Stroud also attended the Association of Science Teacher Education Regional Conference in October, in New York, N.Y.

Assistant professor **Dr. Jenna Sciuto**, English/Communications, had her book chapter, "For Fear of a Scandal: Sexual Policing and the Preservation of Colonial Relations in William Faulkner and Marie Vieux-Chauvet," published in the volume, *Faulker and the Black Literatures of the Americas*, published by the University Press of Mississippi. Dr. Sciuto also received the Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellowship in American Literature, to work with William Faulkner's papers in the Albert H. Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia, during a month-long residency fellowship through the University of Virginia.

Dr. Jenna Sciuto attended the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute, "Ernest Gaines and the Southern Experience," at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in May.

Dr. Michael Birch, professor of English/Communications, presented a lecture for the *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Distinguished Speaker Series*, entitled, "Situating Stigma: Mental Health in News and Social Media," at Berkshire Community College (BCC), in June. **Barbara Kotelnicki**, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program manager, attended the Statewide STEM Summit in Worcester, in November.

Associate professor of history **Dr. Ely Janis** attended the Doing Digital History summer institute at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., in summer 2016. He also attended the Organization of American Historians' annual meeting in New Orleans, La, in April.

Dr. Eli Janis also published *A Greater Ireland: The Land League and Transatlantic Nationalism in Gilded Age America*, the culmination of research he began in graduate school, when writing his dissertation at Boston College about 10 years ago. His book tells the story of the Irish National Land League that began in Ireland and spread to the United States.

Associate professor of physics **Dr. Emily Maher** continued her work on the MINERvA experiment with scientists and engineers from across the globe as they aim to learn more about the neutrino, the most abundant, but least understood, particle in the universe. To work on this project, she regularly travels to Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Chicago, Ill. At Fermilab, she collaborates with some 15 institutions, where she brings MCLA to the forefront of the very latest work in physics.

Dr. Emily Maher also was awarded MCLA's Research Award for Senior Faculty for her work at Fermilab, and was present when the observation of a second gravitational wave was announced. In this experiment, for the first time, scientists observed ripples in the fabric of space-time. These "gravitational waves" arrived to the earth from a cataclysmic event in the distant universe, and confirmed a major prediction of Albert Einstein's 1915 general theory of relativity. This allowed her to attend a colloquium about the event, which was given by one of the experiment's founders.

Dr. Elizabeth Hartung, an assistant professor of mathematics, traveled to Nankai University in Tianjin, China, last summer, where her research on "Pairwise Incompatibility," conducted at MCLA using the campus supercomputer, was presented. In addition, she presented new information from her innovative research in mathematical chemistry and graph theory.

At the Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry, and the 2016 International Conference on Mathematical Chemistry, Dr. Elizabeth Hartung offered a presentation on "Internal Kekule Structures for Graphene and General Patches," a result of joint work with mathematics

professor Dr. Jack Graver of Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y.

English professor **Dr. Rosanne Denhard** headed back to England in the fall to continue her interdisciplinary literary and historical-cultural research. Her return to the United Kingdom comes on the heels of her participation in the World Shakespeare Congress 2016, held this past summer in London, where she presented a paper and led a workshop. And, at the World Shakespeare Congress, Dr. Denhard participated in "Global Shakespeare: Creating and Re-Creating Shakespeare," which was sponsored by the International Shakespeare Association and academic institutions and theatre companies.

On sabbatical during the fall semester, Dr. Rosanne Denhard presented at the London meeting "Shakespeare Studies in the Undergraduate Classroom: Performance & Context," which bridged what often is seen as a tension between performance and scholarship, she explained.

Every week since Inauguration Day, and continuing through the end of 2017, **Melanie Mowinski**, associate professor of visual arts, will print a new letterpress card in a limited edition of 100, using vintage letterpress type, cuts and other printing matrixes, as part of her "The 50 Card Project." As they are completed each week, she sends 15 to 20 to key players in Washington, D.C., including to President Donald Trump and other key figures in the Trump Administration.

In the fall, Melanie Mowinski, along with Joshua Ostraff, assistant professor of art, welcomed eight students and five faculty from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah, to collaborate on a project centered on the time period and activities of men and women involved in the Suffragist movement in a collaboration, which was made possible by a grant from the Hardman Initiative Fund. The collaboration continued in April, when she took students from MCLA to visit BYU.

In January, Bowman Hall opened a new makerspace with a technological bent, thanks to physics professor **Dr. Adrienne Wooters**, its creator and director. In this space, students, faculty and staff may learn Arduino electronics, 3-D printing and machine shop basics to create a wide variety of technical and artistic projects.

Dr. Shawn McIntosh, assistant professor of digital journalism and communications, published "Jiangshi Wenhua: Dianying Zhongde (Zombie Culture in the Movies)," in Chinese. The book, co-authored by Marc Leverette, and was published by the Beijing World Publishing Corporation.

Dr. Dana Rapp, education professor, participated on a panel at a forum offered by the Berkshire Compact for Education and MCLA, along with MassINC, on opportunities that coincide with the "Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to Improve Education Accountability in Gateway Cities," at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Mass., in February.

Dr. Jake Eberwein, dean of Graduate and Continuing Education, and **Zachary Feury '17**, project facilitator for the Feigenbaum MCLA Leads Initiative, traveled to Phoenix, Ariz., to speak at the American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) conference on Design Thinking for Student Learning during the spring semester.

Dr. Jenna Sciuto, assistant professor of Global Anglophone Literature and English Language Studies, organized a panel, "The Poetics of Peripheralization: Shifting Spaces and Temporalities in Global South Literature," at the Global South Southern American Studies Association conference in Williamsburg, Va., in March. Her presentation will be included as a chapter in the upcoming volume *Southern Comforts: Drinking and the U.S.*, to be published by Louisiana State University Press.

Dr. Jenna Sciuto received the Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellowship in American Literature to work with the William Faulkner Collection at the University of Virginia, and was awarded a grant to participate in the NEH Summer



HONORING DR. AVAZ HAJIZADEH

We gathered in Murdock Hall in February to honor Dr. Avaz Hajizadeh with a student space within the Department of Business Administration and Economics dedicated to his memory. Professor Hajizadeh, who passed away in 2013, was a distinguished faculty member in that department for more than 30 years, and was known for his passion for the College and his devotion to his students.

During his time at MCLA, Professor Hajizadeh served as Faculty Marshal, as a member of the MCLA Strategic Planning Task Force, and as a member of the MCLA Foundation Board of Directors, working toward a bright future for the students and the College. Also an activist, he was involved heavily with both local and national political campaigns.

In addition to the student space dedicated to his memory, a scholarship was named in Professor Hajizadeh's honor, to acknowledge his contribution to the excellence of MCLA, and to continue his legacy at the College.

Institute, "Ernest J. Gaines and the Southern Experience," at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Dr. Jenna Sciuto's article, "Postcolonial Palimpsests: Entwined Colonialisms and the Conflicted Representation of Charles Bon in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*" was published in *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* in October, and she is a collaborating teacher on *The Digital Yoknapatawpha Project*, digital mapping of William Faulkner's fiction funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Along with **Dr. Anthony Daly**, associate professor of history, Dr. Jenna Sciuto organized the "Of Ebony Embers: Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance" performance in January. In addition, she organized two screenings of the Global Film series: *Thirteenth* in February, with the help of **Michael Obasohan '11**, interim assistant director of multicultural education resource center and programming, and **Bryanna Bradley '17**, as well as "Maya Angelou: Still I Rise" in March and "Pelo Malo" in April.

Dr. Benjamin Wood, assistant professor of psychology, presented "Employing a Social Justice Perspective when Counseling People about Race-Related Violence" at the National Multicultural Summit and Conference in Portland, Ore.

Anthropology professor **Dr. Sumi Colligan** presented at the American Association of Anthropology in November, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Professor of Modern Languages **Dr. Graziana Ramsden** attended the Council on International Educational Exchange Conference in November, in Los Angeles, Calif., and the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society Convention in Louisville, Ky., in April.

Elaine Nickerson joined MCLA as the Title III Project Director in Academic Affairs.

Head Tennis Coach **Trevor Grimshaw** was named as the North Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year.

Philosophy professor **Matthew Silliman** presented at the Annual Meeting of the North American Society for Social Philosophy in Ottawa, Canada, in July.

Dr. Richard Yanow, professor of business administration and economics, attended the Annual Conference of the Eastern Finance Association in Jacksonville, Fla., in April.

Dr. Mark Miller, professor of English/Communications, presented at the Robert Penn Warren Circle, Bowling Green, Ky., in April.

Dr. Ruby Vega, assistant professor of psychology, attended the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in April.

Associate Librarian **Pamela Contakos** was accepted into the Librarians Active Learning Institute (LALI), held at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., in July. The competitive program, which accepts only about 15 participants nationwide, aims to help librarians become better teachers and focuses on active learning pedagogy and practice.

Fine & Performing Arts Department faculty member **Katherine Carroll**'s paper, "Nashville: City of Pioneering Medical School Design, 1925-1931" was accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn., in May. Carroll also received the Opler Membership Grant for Emerging Professionals by the Society of Architectural Historians.

Several MCLA staff were recognized at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition's Fall Neighborlies Ceremony in November. **Christopher Hantman '14**, MCLA's community engagement coordinator, received three awards, including one in recognition of his time as a Community Outreach Volunteer. **Amanda Beckwith**, MCLA women's head volleyball

coach and coordinator of MCLA's Center for Service and its Women's Center, was honored for her help to build a volleyball court at Windsor Lake.

Neighborlies recognitions also went to **Brian Gallagher**, coordinator of student conduct and community standards, who volunteered at the Mt. Greylock Hill Climb cycling event; **Francesca Shanks**, MCLA's social media and marketing manager, for supporting local music through Sounds and Tones Records; and **Corinne Case**, an employment readiness coach and instructor for the Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Program, for being a champion for addiction recovery in the community.

Working with the Queer Student Union in summer 2016, **Amanda Beckwith**, MCLA women's head volleyball coach and coordinator of the College's Center for Service and its Women's Center, opened the Identity and Gender Equality Resource Center and Women's Center at MCLA. She is now the coordinator of the Identity and Gender Equality Resource Center.

NEW FACULTY

Tara Barboza MBA '13,

Business Administration and Economics
B.S., Accounting, University of Phoenix
M.B.A., Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Eric Doucette, Biology

B.S., Botany, University of Maine
Ph.D., Botany/Plant Systematics, University of Maine

Dr. Anna Jaysane-Darr,

Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work
B.A., New York University
M.A., Anthropology of Media, University of London
Ph.D., Anthropology, Brandeis University

Dr. Erin Kiley, Mathematics

B.S., Mathematics and Statistics, University of New Hampshire
B.A., Russian Language, University of New Hampshire
M.S., Applied Mathematics, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Ph.D., Mathematical Studies, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Marisa Mickey, Biology

B.S., Kinesiology, University of Rhode Island
M.S., Exercise Science, University of Rhode Island
ABD, Science Education, Syracuse University

Dr. Chali Nondo, Business Administration and Economics

B.S., Industrial Technology, California University of Pennsylvania
M.S., Business Administration, California University of Pennsylvania
Ph.D., Natural Resource Economics, West Virginia University

Dr. Samantha Pettey,

History, Political Science, and Public Policy
B.S., Political Science, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
M.A., Political Science, University of Rhode Island
Ph.D., Political Science, University of North Texas

Andrea Williams,

Fine and Performing Arts
B.A., Theatre, History and Classical Studies, Ripon College
M.F.A., Costume Design and Technology, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville

Jeremy Winchester,

Fine and Performing Arts
B.F.A., Theatre, University of Oklahoma-Norman
M.F.A., Lighting Design, University of Washington-Seattle

Molly Fannon Williams joined MCLA this spring as Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement, filling a key role until the College fills the position on a permanent basis. She has held several development leadership positions, including Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation at Bridgewater State University from 2003-2011.

RETIREES

Timothy Jay 40 Years
Professor, Psychology

Anthony Mirante 39 Years
Assistant Director, RPS/Facilities

Mary Levitt 35 Years
Instructor, English/Communications

Patricia Goman 31 Years
Maintainer I, RPS/Facilities

John Greenbush 31 Years
Head of Grounds, Facilities

David Langston 31 Years
Professor, English/Communications

Sharon Thomas 30 Years
*Professor, History/Political Science/
Public Policy*

Jacque Marling 28 Years
Staff Associate, Counselor

Dennis Tash 26 Years
Librarian III, Freel Library

Annette Allen 22 Years
Clerk IV, Office Assistant, Advancement

Susan Birns 18 Years
*Professor, Sociology/Anthropology/
Social Work*

Jenifer Augur 12 Years
*Assistant Professor, English/
Communications*

Harry LaGesse 11 Years
Maintainer I, Facilities

MCLA ECONOMIC IMPACT

All data is for the fiscal year 2016 unless noted.

Total operating budget: \$47,806,271

Source: MCLA 2016 Audit

College Employees = 294 Full Time 117 Part Time

Employee Salary & Benefits = \$24,456,128 Salary & Benefits
 \$17,119,290 After tax (70%)
 \$10,271,574 Employee Spending (60%)

Source: College employees from 2015-16 IPEDS Human Resource Survey
 Salary benefits from MCLA 2016 Audit
 Estimated employee spending rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Spending

\$3,147,552
 (\$2,308 x 1,337.8 Undergraduate Students FTE)
 (\$300 x 199.7 Graduate Students FTE)

Source: 2015-2016 student spending data from MCLA Financial Aid office
 Undergraduate students FTE total from 2016 Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) annual enrollment file.

Volunteer Hours

Service/Volunteer Hours 3,200
 Volunteer Time Value \$29.00 (Massachusetts 2015 Value)
 Service/Volunteer Hours Value \$92,800

Source: Student Volunteer Hours from the Center for Service and Citizenship
 Time Value from Independent Sector, Value of a Volunteer Hour 2015 State Value

Number of Visitors

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Gallery 51 | 12,800 |
| Athletics | 6,750 |
| Admissions | 5,000 |
| Performances and Presentations | 1,500 |
| Commencement | 2,500 |
| Alumni Events | 300 |
| Orientation | 1,500 |
| Total: | 26,850 |

Estimated Per Visitor Spending: \$63.32
 Total Spending: \$1,700,142

Source: Visitors counts from department reports/estimates 2015-2016
 Visitor Spending from MASS MoCA Economic Impact by Center for Creative Community Development



Capital Projects

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Bowman Hall Renovations | \$ 2,721,776 |
| Energy Performance Project (CIP) | \$ 2,165,854 |
| Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment for Bowman Hall | \$ 834,447 |
| TV Studio Equipment upgrade | \$ 357,380 |
| Network Upgrade Phase IV | \$ 279,267 |
| Athletic Complex Lights (CIP) | \$ 222,908 |
| Bond St. & Ashland St. Land (Donated from the Foundation) | \$ 212,475 |
| Venable Hall Water Filtration Project (CIP) | \$ 72,571 |
| Campus Center Elevator Upgrade | \$ 72,026 |
| Total Major Renovations: | \$ 6,938,704 |

Source: MCLA 2016 Audit



Economic Impact - 2016

| | Total | Total x MV |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Operating Budget | \$ 47,806,271 | \$ 96,061,921 |
| Employee Spending | \$ 10,271,574 | \$ 20,639,700 |
| Undergraduate Spending | \$ 3,087,642 | \$ 6,204,309 |
| Graduate Spending | \$ 59,910 | \$ 120,383 |
| Visitors Spending | \$ 1,700,142 | \$ 3,416,265 |
| Major Renovations | \$ 6,938,704 | \$ 13,942,632 |
| Volunteer Time | \$ 92,800 | \$ 186,472 |
| Total | \$ 69,957,043 | \$ 140,571,683 |

Multiplier Value (MV) 2.0094

RIMS Multiplier (UD Dept. of Commerce RIMS II Multipliers) - Regional Data 2015
611A00 - Junior colleges, colleges, universities, and professional schools (Type II)



MCLA students Kaitlin Short '17 and Kayla LaVoice '17 put together a school-wide art mural project on campus as part of a Service Leadership Capstone. With the help of art consultant Halie Smith '19, the purpose of this mural is to bring the community together through art. Art can be open and unbiased. By using student, staff, and faculty ideas, we aim to endorse a closer community.

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