

**Campus Update
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 15, 2011**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Public Policy Lecture

Dr. Robert Gates presented the inaugural Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Lecture on November 1st.

Presentations and meetings

Art professors Melanie Mowinski and Greg Sheckler have work featured in *The Birding Life*, a group exhibition at the Ferrin Gallery (Pittsfield) that runs through December 31st.

Professor Sheckler also published the article “The Darkness and Brightness of Teaching: Portraits of College Drop-Outs,” in the Fall 2011 edition of *Thought and Action*.

English/Communications professor Mike Birch’s book, *Mediating Mental Health: Contexts, Debates and Analysis* was published recently. The book “looks across fictional and factual genres in film, television, and radio examining media constructions of mental health identity.”

Psychology professor Thomas Byrne and student co-author Bryan Acton presented the poster “Contingency management improves attendance and performance for students enrolled in a GRE tutorial” at the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy Conference at UMass Amherst October 13th -14th.

The Fine and Performing Arts department launched their ENCORES performance series October 20th and 21st with a concert performance of *Threepenny Opera* at Public Eat+Drink in downtown North Adams.

Fine and Performing Arts professors Michael Dilthey and Melanie Mowinski attended the American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) regional meeting in Providence, November 3rd-5th.

Education professor Ann Scott attended the New England American Studies Association Conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts, November 3rd-6th.

Psychology professor Tim Jay, who serves as MCLA’s Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), participated in the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA) Annual Meeting and Symposium in San Diego, California, November 9th-12th.

Sociology, Anthropology and Social work professor Sumi Colligan presented a paper at the American Anthropological Conference in Montreal, Canada, November 16th-20th.

Political Science professor Bob Bence attended the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States in Ottawa, Canada, November 17th-19th.

Vice President Cindy Brown, Dean Monica Joslin, Associate Dean Kris Bendikas, and Professor Paul Lesage, who becomes Associate Dean in January, attended the NEASC Annual Meeting in Boston December 7th-9th.

Undergraduate Research

A team of students from MCLA participated in all aspects of the 2nd annual COPLAC Northeast Region Undergraduate Research Conference, held at Keene State College, October 28th-29th. The MCLA students presented papers, posters, art works, and a dance performance at the conference, which also included students from Keene State College, Eastern Connecticut State University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, SUNY Geneseo, and the University of Maine Farmington. Professors David Langston and Graziana Ramsden led the group at the conference.

MCLA has established a Center for Undergraduate Research. Professor Maria Bartini, Psychology, will serve as the first director of the center, with Professor Ann Billetz, Biology, serving as associate director. Together with a faculty-led Committee on Undergraduate Research, they will lead in planning for the 10th annual Undergraduate Research Conference, to be held in April, 2012.

Brown Bag Lecture Series

On November 18th, Berkshire Environmental Resource Center (BERC) coordinator Caroline Scully presented “A Survey of Bumblebees in Northern Berkshire County.”

STEM Programs

On December 9th, Pat Muraca, President and CEO of Nuclea Biotechnologies, provided an overview of the company and the high performance computer cluster Nuclea donated for the use of MCLA, Berkshire Community College (BCC) and Clark University.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Facilities

Site preparation work for the Center for Science and Innovation is underway. The site has been cleared and leveled for the new building foundation.

The Campus Center marketplace project is nearing completion. The bookstore opened in its new space in the renovated Campus Center marketplace on Monday, December 12th.

The Campus Center fire alarm upgrade project was completed with a successful system testing and acceptance on December 8th.

Human Resources

The annual Giving Thanks reception was held November 21st. Twenty-seven employees were recognized for their years of service.

An external review of Human Resources took place November 29th-30th.

On December 5th, the state's new Open Checkbook program went live. Open Checkbook will provide online access to public employee earning and salary information. This is information that already is available on selected media Web sites. What's new is that additional government spending information, including vendor payments, will now be available to the public through Open Checkbook.

Information Technology

Limited wireless internet is now available at Zavattaro Athletic Complex, and will allow for real time statistics to be sent from the field. Ultimately, Athletics hopes to stream game video and audio to viewers online.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Admissions

During the fall, MCLA admissions counselors represented MCLA at 532 high school visits and college fairs, a 41% increase over last year's travel activities.

Over 470 students and families attended fall open house sessions on campus.

On December 3rd, Admissions hosted a reception for the Berkshire County recipients of the John and Abigail Adams scholarship.

The College hosted an Early Transfer Orientation program for students enrolling in the Spring 2012 semester on December 9th. The program included orientation sessions, advising, and course registration.

Third graders from St. Stan's School in Adams, Sullivan School in North Adams, and Clarksburg Elementary School were on campus on December 9th for campus tours and interactive presentations as part of the Berkshire Compact's "Berkshire County Goes to College" program.

ALUMNI/ADVANCEMENT/MCLA FOUNDATION, INC.

Updates

A Campaign kick-off event is planned for April 17th in conjunction with the Taconic Society Reception.

MCLA's annual Holiday Alumni Social in Boston was held on December 7th. Over 50 alumni and friends of the College attended, including State Representative Gail Cariddi, and former Hardman lecturer and current College parent Derrick Z. Jackson and his wife Dr. Michelle Holmes.

A luncheon was held on December 9th for faculty emeriti and retired alumni with Dr. Barre Hellquist, emeritus professor of biology, as the featured presenter.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Achievement, Recognition, and Training

Student Affairs staff, and staff from the Center for Student Success and Engagement, participated in a professional development webinar support program for new students and students at risk.

A team of MCLA student leaders and student affairs staff attended the annual Regional National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) Northeast conference in Hartford November 17th-20th.

The President's Athletic Advisory Council (PAAC) met to review the great progress in the athletic department, including an update on the process to advance the selection of a new mascot for the Trailblazers.