



## 'Teaching diversity' is topic of Teaching Roundtable Nov. 20

**TR**  
Teaching  
Roundtable

Chris Himes, STEM program manager and physics instructor, will lead a Teaching Roundtable on Wed., Nov. 20 at 1

p.m. in the Faculty Center.

The focus will be on teaching and learning in a diverse educational environment. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Come to learn and share approaches to effective teaching in demographically diverse classrooms.

Discussion topics include "micro-messages," in- and out-of-class interactions with students, unconscious bias, and positive messaging in multicultural education.

Teaching Roundtables will continue each month through the academic year. Upcoming roundtables will focus on reinforcing literacy across the curriculum and best practices in academic advising. To recommend a topic, call or email Ben Jacques, x5468.



*Morning at Windsor Lake*

## Seven faculty 'pilot' Canvas for academic advising

Seven members of the faculty are trying out Canvas, the course-management tool, for advising this semester, reports Gerol Petruzella, academic technology coordinator.

Along with their course pages, they each have a "class" of their advisees. They are using the Calendar-scheduling tool for appointment sign-ups, and other Canvas tools to make announcements and post advising resources and information.

The pilot project is one of the initiatives of the Advising Task Force, convened this summer to find ways to support and strengthen student advising.

In other action, faculty from English & Communications, Interdisciplinary Studies and Education held a coffee hour in the Faculty Center to review curriculum requirements that affect double majors.

The goal was both to increase awareness of requirements affecting double major and to strengthen inter-departmental relations.

The Advising Task Force met twice during the summer, and reconvened last month. Faculty members include Susan Birns, Ingrid Castro, David Eve, Deb Foss, Justin Golub, Ben Jacques, Rita Nnodim, and Ann Scott.

## AAUP invites conference proposals and journal submissions

The American Association of University Professors invites submissions of proposals for the AAUP Annual Conference on the State of Higher Education, June 11–14 in Washington D.C.

Topics may include campus equity issues, online education, pedagogical techniques, strategies for improving conditions and academic freedom protections for contingent faculty—or other current topics in higher education.

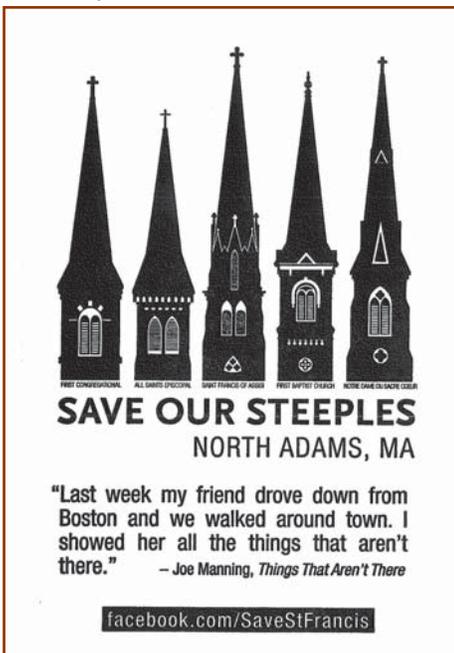
Proposals will be accepted through November 30.

The AAUP also seeks articles on academic freedom for the *Journal of Academic Freedom*--a peer-reviewed, online, open access publication--relating to --seeks scholarly articles relating to three clusters of topics:

- Electronic communications and academic freedom
- The abridgement of academic freedom in instruction
- The increased use of suspensions

The due date for papers is January 31, 2014.

For more information and details, visit The American Association of University Professors' [ <https://online.aaup.org/>



Poster printed at *The PRESS*, used in the campaign to save St. Francis Church, one of the historic churches in North Adams, built in 1863.



*Ambassador Andrew Young, Nov. 13, Church St. Center, 7 p.m.*

## Faculty Incentive Awards Announced

Faculty Incentive Awards for 2013–2014 were announced last week by Cindy Brown, vice president for academic affairs.

Open to full-time faculty, the reorganized awards “are meant to stimulate and support existing and new lines of research, teaching and learning opportunities, and creativity among the faculty,” Brown stated.

The selection committee may recommend up to three awards. Each award is either of a course release for the following academic year, or of an honorarium at \$3,000. The faculty member can elect either option.

Brown also announced the addition of a new category—service, including advising—to recognize significant projects that may fall into this category.

The Faculty Lecture Award, made every other year, will be given this year as well, at a value of \$1,500.

The awards may fall into any one of the following categories: Research, Curriculum Development, Creative Projects, and Service, including advising.

Awardees will be chosen in consultation with a selection committee. Faculty may offer to serve on this committee, to be announced.

For award guidelines, see attachments to the announcement memo from Cindy Brown on First Class, or contact Academic Affairs. Deadline for submissions is March 17. Finished essay, not to exceed 20 pages, so that a final selection can be made. The essays will be due Monday, April 14, 2014.

## Thank you, NEASC Self-Study Team

“Thank you to the nearly 100 members of the campus community—faculty, staff, and students—who have served on the self-study Standard teams. These teams worked for over a year and half reflecting on the eleven NEASC Standards and responded to each standard.

“The self-study reflects our shared understanding of the work we do, the progress we have made, and the challenges and opportunities ahead of us as we look ahead to the next ten years.”

—Celia Norcross and Cindy Brown, NEASC Study Co-chairs.

*FC News adds its appreciation to all the faculty who served during the two-year self-study process.*

## More Credits

Thanks to the following for volunteering to lead their respective domains in the Core Curriculum studies: **Lisa Donovan**, Creative Arts; **Sharon Claffey**, Self and Society; and continuing domain leaders **Ely Janis**, Human Heritage; **Emily Mooney**, Science and Technology; and **Adrienne Wootters**, Tier III Capstone.

New history/political science professor **Ben Taylor**, was heard recently in an interview aired on WAMC-Northeast Public Radio segment on regional politics.

On Oct. 25 and 26, coinciding with the opening of the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, MCLA again hosted the COPLAC conference, showcasing the work of MCLA students and their peers from Eastern



Connecticut State University, Keene State College, Ramapo College of New Jersey, SUNY Geneseo, and the University of Maine at Farmington.

Thanks to **Graziana Ramsden**, modern languages professor, and conference co-director, and all faculty and staff who made the conference possible.



*Time to put the boat up for the winter. Do you have seasonal photography to share. Send photos to us and we'll post them in the Photo Gallery on our ePortfolio web site.*

## Got News? Got Pics?

Send your news and updates for the *Faculty Center News* by email to Ben Jacques, English/Communications, h.b.jacques@mcla.edu, X5468.

We also welcome your photos. Share your photos in the Gallery on our Faculty Center “Web” page in ePortfolio. Send news and “pics” to Ben Jacques or Gerol Petruzella.

## The Faculty Center

### Advisory Board

Susan Birns  
Lisa Donovan  
Michele Ethier  
Petra Hejnova  
Ely Janis  
Melanie Mowinski  
Nancy Ovitsky  
Graziana Ramsden  
Gerol Petruzella  
Dana Rapp  
Adrienne Wootters

Ben Jacques  
Program Director/Editor  
h.b.jacques@mcla.edu,

## Forum



October sunset

### Retirement “bonus” is a bad idea

The state plan offering faculty \$10,000 to retire by the end of the year sounds good at first. The faculty member would get a lump sum bonus.

I’m thinking of all the Christmas presents I could buy if I took the state up on its offer to retire by the end of December. \$10,000! Presents for everybody, and maybe enough left over to go on a cruise. What’s not to like?

On second glance, however, the Board of Higher Education offer is deeply flawed. I can understand where the state is coming from. Get relatively high-salaried faculty to jump ship early, and save the rest of their salary for the year. Looks good on the bottom line.

But what about the spring semester. Faculty are already scheduled for spring courses. Who’s going to pick those up? Rev up the search committees. We’ll find someone to cover the courses—even if we have to meet during the holidays, and we can pay them half of what we paid the retiring professor.

At the least, we can hire more adjuncts. Doesn’t matter that they may have little or no experience teaching the specific courses. Doesn’t matter that the departments will have a bunch of students wondering what happened to their instructor and advisor. Doesn’t matter that this will cause turmoil and disruption.

How, then, could the BHE turn this into a good offer? Simply, offer the retirement incentive at the end of the academic year. Wouldn’t this make sense? It would cause little disruption, allow departments to prepare, and allow for a smooth transition.

The current BHE retirement offer is a bad deal. Bad for faculty and bad for departments. And, most importantly, bad for students.

—Ben Jacques, FC News Editor

### Help! I’m trapped in 2009!

OK, I realize that time is relative and 2009 really isn’t that long ago. I know some of you reading this have been at MCLA since before I was even born (1978). Some of you were already tenured faculty when I was carefully considering Reagan vs.. Mondale in my elementary school mock-election (1984). I think some of you even reached retirement age while I was still skipping my college biochemistry class (1999). These are all great milestones and I commend all of my senior colleagues!

But my concern isn’t for you. It’s is about me! I’m trapped in 2009! Don’t get me wrong. I liked 2009. The problem is that I’m kind of still there. Yet, the part of me that is in 2013 is in my sixth year at MCLA and is being reviewed for tenure!

Warning to the Committee on Tenure: Please do not look at my MCLA webpage. If you look there you will think I am still in 2009 or you will think I haven’t done anything since 2009! Please, believe me! This is not true! I have done lots of things since 2009.

Warning to the NEASC: Please do not look at my webpage. Truly, I and the whole MCLA faculty are much more current and active than this. We really do great stuff all the time!

Warning to the American Mustache Institute: 1 Please DO look at my webpage. There is an awesome picture there of me and my bulky mustache in front of a sign for “Bombay Hook.” Nice! You can link to that ‘stache photo because it is not going anywhere.

So there it is. That is the part of me, mustache and all, that is trapped in 2009. The webpage that Amy Stevens helped me make in 2009 is still exactly the same today. Sure, it still looks OK. It is just old. In Internet years, it might as well be from 1994! I guess I should title this article “Help! I’m trapped in 1994! That makes me think I need to post another warning.

Warning to the prospective MCLA students interested in Environmental Studies: I realize my webpage is from 1994 and may be from before you were born. But please believe me; we at MCLA are much more up-to-date than that. I don’t even have a mustache anymore! And my hair is well on its way to a respectable professorial gray!

Perhaps this is part of some sort of test for tenure. Do I have the capacity to update my webpage? Well, back when Amy Stevens helped make my webpage, she offered to show me how to log in and make edits myself. When I realized this password would include access to pages other than just mine, I immediately declined. What if I accidentally did something that put us on this list? I’m not ready for that kind of responsibility!

The word on the street is that someone in each department is supposed to be a web champion to take care of updating the MCLA website. Surely, MCLA’s web presence is so much more important than this. If not, my web presence will certainly age gracefully! Cheers to 2009 and 1994!

—Dan Shustack, Environmental Science



*November in  
the Berkshires*  
Seasonal Photos  
by Ben Jacques

