

# BUILDING ON TRADITION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018-19



MCLA *125*  
1894 | 2019



## 2018-19 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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# DEAR FRIENDS,

ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR HAS PASSED, AND 354 NEW MCLA GRADUATES ARE OUT IN THE WORLD, ENJOYING NEW EXPERIENCES, WORKING AT THEIR NEW JOBS, OR PREPARING FOR GRAD SCHOOL.

Like the 19,000 alumni before them, these 354 students found—and left—a piece of themselves on this campus. They were able to take advantage of new opportunities, new relationships, and new ideas. Now, they start the next chapter of their lives. This is their moment to go make an impression on the world, but it's also our moment to celebrate together as a community.

Community has been on our minds a lot this year as we prepare to celebrate our 125th anniversary. External recognition for our commitments to gender equality, safety, diversity, and inclusion are markers that we're headed in the right direction, but also give us an opportunity to take pause and consider all the work that is left to be done. Our commitment to access and affordability endures, and we continue to build an academic environment where anyone, regardless of background, can live, learn, be inspired, and inspire others.

In a disruptive era for higher education, our community is staying strong. Next semester, we'll welcome many students from nearby Southern Vermont College (SVC), which made the difficult decision to close its doors at the end of the Spring 2019 semester. As teach-out partner for SVC, we worked to seamlessly admit students whose educational journey was interrupted through no fault of their own. We're excited to greet them as new and valued members of the MCLA family.



Meanwhile, interest in MCLA is growing, with an increase in admitted students for the next academic year—even without counting the students joining us from SVC. We're grateful for the work of our incredible admissions staff, who have traveled near and far and worked tirelessly this recruitment season under the leadership of Kayla Hollins '12, associate director of admission.

We've also had the joy of re-engaging with our alumni this year. We blew past our goal of 300 donors for the first #MCLAGIVES day of giving; 408 gifts were made to support various initiatives, raising \$66,946 in 30 hours. I'm grateful for every single one, and I was astounded by the level of alumni engagement we saw over those 30 hours.

Thank you for helping us elevate lives for years to come—and thank you for being a part of our community. No matter where you live, who you are, or what you have, you are part of the MCLA community, and you will always be welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James F. Birge". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James F. Birge, Ph.D.  
President



# TOP TEN COLLEGE

In September 2018, U.S. News & World Report again placed MCLA among the top 10 public liberal arts colleges in the United States, alongside some of the nation's most prestigious military academies and innovative public colleges.

MCLA has been consistently ranked as a top public college by U.S. News & World Report in the last decade; we're proud to be recognized as an institution that provides students with the tools they need to move up in the world, no matter where they started.

# BEST EQUITY CAMPUS

A September 2018 report from the University of Southern California's Race and Equity Center identified MCLA as one of the top public institutions in the nation for serving black students well. MCLA, along with Kentucky's University of Louisville and the University of California-San Diego, achieved the top score of 3.5. The report marks the first time that the United States' public, four-year universities and all 50 states were graded using federal data.

While the College takes pride in this news, "MCLA is not an institution defined by students' statistics," said President Birge. "We are an institution defined by students' stories, and for too many students, this ranking does not reflect their stories. We have much more to do when it comes to retaining and graduating students from under-represented populations." (See more about MCLA's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives on page 30.)





# HIGH MARKS

## FOR WOMEN IN HIGHER ED

A January 2019 report from the Eos Foundation examining gender equality at Massachusetts colleges and universities identified MCLA as the top four-year public institution among only a small handful of schools to achieve gender equality.

Titled “Women’s Power Gap in Higher Education,” the report examines the percentage of women enrolled at all Massachusetts public and private schools alongside the percentage of female college presidents, senior leadership, and boards of trustees. Of 93 schools, only 18 (19 percent of the total) were ranked as “satisfactory”—and only five of those schools, including MCLA, were identified as reaching gender parity. MCLA’s student enrollment is 63 percent women. The College’s highest salaried employees are 40 percent female; 50 percent of the College’s Board of Trustees are women, including the board chair.



# SAFE CAMPUS

In April 2019, the National Council for Home Safety and Security (NCHSS) ranked MCLA the safest college in the Massachusetts State University system, and the second-safest college in Massachusetts overall. MCLA also made it into the Top 100 list for safest colleges nationwide, coming in at number 38.

The NCHSS compiled this ranking by looking at area and campus crime rates and police adequacy, data submitted to the FBI (MCLA’s Department of Public Safety submits monthly reports), and crime data relative to the surrounding area of respective college campuses. Overall, 490 U.S. schools were ranked; the NCHSS excluded schools with enrollment under 1,000 as well as schools that do not submit data to the FBI.

# 120TH COMMENCEMENT

On May 18, 2019, MCLA marked its 120th Commencement, sending 354 graduates into the world. Whether they earned their bachelor's degree, master of education, master of business administration, or certificate of advanced graduate study, the College was proud to celebrate the close of this chapter of their lives—and the beginning of the next.





MCLA's community pride was on display at Commencement, noted proudly by Class Speaker Allison Thienel '19: "I am proud to have been your president, because you are a class who was so accepting of one another. MCLA was a place where you could be comfortable in your own skin. You could love who you wanted to love. You could voice your opinions and be heard. This institution has been a place where we can walk through the quad, recognize a familiar face... and wave. I guarantee you'll get one back. The lesson here? Be friendly. Be kind. Be the force to make a lasting impression. Be the person to remind us we are not so different from one another."

## Congratulations, Class of 2019!

President Birge (third from left) with MCLA's 2019 Honorary Degree recipients (from left): Shirley Edgerton, director of Youth Alive! and Pittsfield Public Schools cultural proficiency coach, who was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters; Commencement speaker U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal, who was awarded an honorary doctorate of public service; and former North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombright, who was awarded an honorary doctorate of public service.

## THE TRADITION OF IVY

Every year on the day before Commencement, graduates convene for Baccalaureate, a moment to give thanks and reflect on their time at MCLA. During the ceremony, students read historic “ivy poems” written by previous graduating classes, then debut their own. At the close, they receive sprigs of ivy to offer to those professors, advisors, and mentors who have positively impacted their time at MCLA.

Representing learning and growth, these ivy leaves call back to the time when Murdock Hall was adorned with vines, the result of ivy sprigs planted upon graduation each year. Like ivy reaching to the sun, our students forge their own paths toward dreams and goals that shine brightly ahead. Though the vines no longer grow on Murdock Hall, the leaves exchanged at Baccalaureate mark a moment where students pause and recognize that their accomplishments are often rooted in the support of others.

### Ivy Poem, 1911

FIRST IVY POEM ON RECORD

WRITTEN BY ANNA D. DONOVAN 1911

In the days of old, at the feet of the god they wished to worship, the Greeks placed a lamp which they kept burning for some time, frequently replenishing the oil. So, at the feet of our Alma Mater, we wish to leave our burning lamp.

It is for this purpose that a time slip is cut from the ivy every year, and carefully tended until it is ready, not to be sacrificed, but to do its own proud work, by showing to the world the feeling of the class who planted it.

The ivy, which we plant today, was cut from a vine, in the fall of 1909 and, being given careful treatment, thrived. So, too, our love, which began an independent life in the autumn of the same year, has increased slowly and surely, until today we are ready to present it to the world through the symbol which our class has nourished.

“A dainty plant is the ivy green,” and as it grows year by year, and as it climbs, it clings tightly and still more tightly to those walls of our Alma Mater, embracing her with tiny, delicate, yet strong tendrils. So may we, from this time on, live as our symbol. Every year we develop, but as we advance toward maturity, and as we climb, may we embrace our Alma Mater more tenderly, and cling to her more lovingly.

After several years, as the ivy grows, one trying to tear it from the walls will find it impossible. Thus may our love, as it becomes greater and stronger each year, never be torn from our beloved Alma Mater. Each year may we return to this home and view what to others is a symbol of our class, but to us is a symbol of our growth, our love, and all that our school holds dear to us.





## Ivy Poem, 2019

WRITTEN BY BREANNA CASTOR '19

### We Rise Up

Four years prepared us for the battles we face ahead,  
Fighting for our rightful place in a society that is  
ever changing and unforgiving.  
We grew wise in our struggles, in our defeats,  
Every closed door was a challenge we rose to overcome.

### We Rise Up

For we are more than majors, club members, volunteers, or athletes,  
We are dedicated, hardworking, and determined.  
We are leaders who strive for our futures to be successful  
and full of purpose,  
But we remember to step back to laugh, joke, and smile.

### We Rise Up

For our families, our friends and all those who will come after us,  
We built a community that stands together in the face of adversity.  
With chances to make a difference, we grasped every opportunity  
that came our way.

### We Rise Up

Because we have taught ourselves that our beliefs matter.  
That we each have a voice worth hearing and  
Individual opinions that demand attention and respect.  
We take stances against the injustices we see,  
For we refuse to live in a world that cannot accept us for who we are.

### We Rise Up

We built memories that we will cherish for a lifetime,  
Friends that remind us to never give up on ourselves.  
We have a future that is not foreseen, and it guarantees us no safety nets.  
But we are prepared,  
We are the Class of 2019.



# 125

## YEARS

### **The evolution of our community**

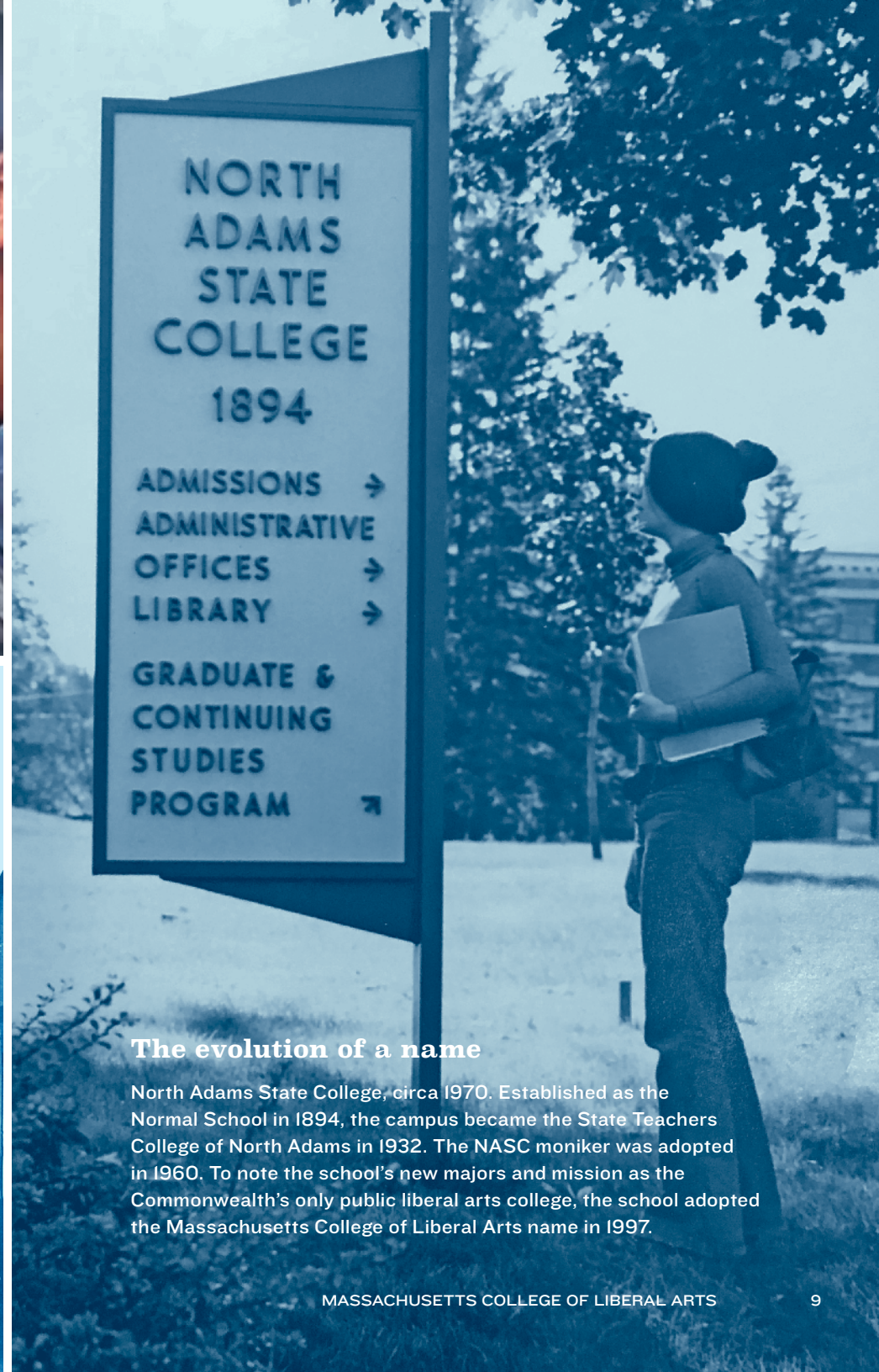
The first faculty at the North Adams Normal School, photographed in 1897. Third from right, in glasses, is Frank Fuller Murdock, who became the school's principal in 1896 (he took on the title of president a few years later). Now, MCLA has 90 full-time faculty members and approximately 100 adjuncts.





### The evolution of the classroom

A bio lab built in 1896. Above, Chemistry Professor David Levine works with a student, circa 1990. Levine still teaches at MCLA—though now chemistry classes are held in the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation, completed in 2014.



NORTH  
ADAMS  
STATE  
COLLEGE  
1894

ADMISSIONS →  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICES →  
LIBRARY →  
GRADUATE &  
CONTINUING  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM ↗

### The evolution of a name

North Adams State College, circa 1970. Established as the Normal School in 1894, the campus became the State Teachers College of North Adams in 1932. The NASC moniker was adopted in 1960. To note the school's new majors and mission as the Commonwealth's only public liberal arts college, the school adopted the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts name in 1997.

EXAMINING OUR SHARED

# HISTORY



Ely Janis

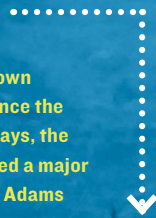



Amanda Kleintop

As interest in North Adams grows, a team of MCLA faculty and students is connecting with the community to look back, cataloguing the city's history—and the history of its relationship with the College—for anyone interested in a deep dive into North Adams lore and ephemera.

**Circa  
1900**

A view of downtown North Adams. Since the Normal School days, the College has played a major role in the North Adams community and economy.





Funded by a \$15,000 grant from Mass Humanities, Historic North Adams is a public collection of digital assets from the community, including document scans, historic photos, articles highlighting important people, events, and objects related to the city, and multiple walking tours that guide users through the area's historic roadside attractions and through MCLA's campus, connecting campus locations with College milestones.

Available as an app or at [www.historicnorthadams.com](http://www.historicnorthadams.com), the project is coordinated by MCLA history professors Ely Janis and Amanda Kleintop along with the North Adams Public Library and North Adams Historical Society.

Those looking for an even deeper dive can visit [www.northadamsarchives.com](http://www.northadamsarchives.com), a full collection of documents and

items gathered by MCLA students during North Adams History Harvest events. Held at the North Adams Public Library last fall and at MASS MoCA's Free Day in early 2019, these events aimed to collect and create an open, digital archive of artifacts gathered from the North Adams community. The archive is still growing as MCLA's Freel Library adds items from MCLA's College Archive and its Local History Collection.

"It's exciting to see our students connect with North Adams through the artifacts and experiences of its local population," says Janis, whose Historical Methods and Theory class gathered items during the fall 2018 History Harvest. "They're learning how historical archives are created as they create one themselves—and establishing a valuable community resource in the process."

PICTURE MCLA'S CAMPUS IN YOUR MIND.

# WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Whatever you just imagined, one thing is certain:  
The impact of our donors is everywhere.

Whether they give toward scholarships, capital projects, or through generous bequests, MCLA's donors have made their mark on every inch of campus and every aspect of the MCLA community. Those gifts enhance our students' experiences every day, in bright new study spaces, in funding that makes possible new opportunities for travel, and through the nearly 100 scholarships awarded to talented and deserving students each year.

2013

The Feigenbaum Center for  
Science and Innovation opens.

## Philanthropy at MCLA: Past, Present, Future

### Building for the Future

In Fall 2013, MCLA officially opened the new Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation on Blackinton Street. A LEED-certified, 67,000-square-foot building, this state-of-the-art space includes Biology/Environmental Studies, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology teaching and research laboratories, as well as laboratory support spaces such as prep rooms, general storage, chemical storage, a machine shop, animal holding areas, and a greenhouse. The Center is named for Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum and his brother, Dr. Donald S. Feigenbaum, who founded and led the General System Company, a worldwide leader in the field of Total Quality Management.

The Feigenbaum Foundation's \$5 million pledge—the largest in the College's history—established a new endowed fund that focuses on innovation and leadership.

Among other planned improvements on campus, MCLA will soon renovate its Venable Theater, thanks to a gift from the Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick Trust. This \$100,000 gift will provide for a full transformation, including improvements in seating, lighting, stage, and access.

### Many Ways to Give

In addition to capital improvement and scholarship giving, MCLA is honored to receive bequests from alumni and community members.

Recent bequest giving includes a \$348,000 estate gift from Helen Sinderman '44 which, per her will, was intended to support the priorities of the College. Sinderman's generous bequest was used for much-needed market research and branding work to elevate awareness of MCLA and expand its advertising footprint in new areas in order to attract new audiences of prospective students well into the institution's future.

Members of the community sometimes come together to establish scholarship funds to honor an individual's impact or memory. After the passing of State Rep. Gailanne Cariddi Hon. D.P.S. '18, 36 friends of Cariddi established the Gailanne Cariddi Memorial Scholarship, donating \$20,420. Julie Arnold and Rosamond Fields have been the primary donors to that fund, established to memorialize the life and accomplishments of Cariddi, who at the time of her death was serving her fourth term as the state representative for the First Berkshire District, and was the first woman to hold that seat.

The Denise C. Richardello '77 M.Ed. '81, Hon. D.P.S. '18 Honors Scholarship Fund was established upon Richardello's retirement in 2018 and has received \$26,325 from a total of 68 donors to date. Established to honor Richardello's service to the College, this scholarship is designed to ease financial pressure on highly motivated and creative students, to encourage students to remain in and complete the honors program, and to encourage and enable more students to pursue the honors program.

Collective scholarships are an MCLA tradition; one of the first was the MCLA Alumni Association Scholarship, which was established in 1972.



Rep. Gailanne Cariddi



Denise Richardello '77

### Giving to MCLA

Find out more at [alumni.mcla.edu/support-mcla](http://alumni.mcla.edu/support-mcla)

# MCLA GIVES



MCLA held its first-ever Day of Giving, #MCLAGIVES, from April 30 to May 1. With a “donors not dollars” approach, the 30-hour event raised more than \$66,000 for various initiatives, thanks to gifts and matching challenges from alumni, faculty, staff, students, the Board of Trustees, and the greater community. Notably, MountainOne Bank and Greylock Federal Credit Union sponsored mini-challenges as part of #MCLAGIVES, which supported a new scoreboard for the Joseph Zavattaro Athletic Complex and diversity, equity and inclusion programming, respectively.



**“HELPING OUT FOR  
ALL THE TIMES THEY  
HELPED ME YEARS AGO.”**

**#MCLAGIVES**

—BRAD MAGYAR '97

**30 HOURS** | **\$66,946 RAISED** | **408 GIFTS MADE**





## Mellon Grant Paves the Way for Public Humanities Institute

In January, MCLA received a \$360,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a public humanities initiative to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. For this initiative, the College will facilitate collaborative campus, community, regional, and national events for faculty, students and community participants. In addition, MCLA will launch the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, which will serve as an interdisciplinary catalyst to investigate and address contemporary and historical issues on campus and in the community through engagement with area arts and humanities resources.

Funding from the grant will cover faculty fellowships, student mini-grants, and a speaker series with an emphasis of building capacity for valuing, increasing, and sustaining diversity, equity and inclusion on campus. A summer symposium will focus on bringing an expanded audience to Berkshire County to share emerging models using the arts and humanities to serve as a catalyst for increasing diversity, equity and inclusion. A season preview featuring area arts and humanities offerings will be held each semester to foster the development of curricular connections with area assets.

This latest Mellon grant follows a \$50,000 award to MCLA in 2017. That funding allowed the College to explore curricular connections to regional collaborations and extend best emerging humanities practices in teaching, learning, and community engagement by utilizing new and deeper ways to connect resources in the area.



## Taconic Society

More than 50 donors, faculty, and students gathered on April 27, 2019 to celebrate the impact of donor philanthropy on the campus community. Taconic Society donors support the College through gifts of \$1,000 or more each year.

**“ LIKE THE TACONIC RANGE,  
BACKBONE OF THE BERKSHIRES,  
MEMBERS OF THE TACONIC SOCIETY  
ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE COLLEGE’S  
PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT.”**

— JAMES F. BIRGE PH.D.



## OPENING DOORS IN

# PITTSFIELD

The College's Division of Graduate and Continuing Education saw important strategic growth this year: MCLA expanded its footprint with a new location in Pittsfield and announced two new certificate programs in Network Security and Principles of Accounting, which will begin in fall 2019.

Dubbed MCLA-Pittsfield, the new space is in downtown Pittsfield at 66 Allen St., also home of IBerkshire and MassHire. MCLA-Pittsfield features five classrooms, offices, and a conference room. "It's an ideal location for an academic center, and easy to get to from almost anywhere in Berkshire County," says Paul A. Petritis, M.Ed., associate dean of graduate and continuing education.

Through the College's Continuing Education programs, students earn credit toward a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, or one of three Bachelor of Arts degrees: in interdisciplinary studies for early childhood educators, in leadership and business, or with a focus on health and human services. In addition, graduate students in MCLA's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program attend classes at MCLA-Pittsfield.



The College celebrated the opening with a March ribbon-cutting, using the moment to announce the new programs and salute MCLA's partnership with IBerkshire.



## New Certificate Programs

### Accounting Certificate

Students who enroll in the Principles of Accounting program will learn practical accounting skills that include both classes and hands-on learning experience.

“One of the things that makes this certificate really useful is the emphasis on the use of Microsoft Excel and the use of QuickBooks, which you don’t always see in higher education curriculum related to accounting, and which most employers value very highly,” Petritis says. “We’ve designed this program to be really appealing to employers who are looking for people to come into the world of accounting.”

### Network Security Certificate

The certificate in Network Security will provide students with a strong, undergraduate-level foundation in networking, network security, troubleshooting, and problem-solving for computer networks. This program provides excellent preparation for a variety of career paths in business, education, nonprofits, human services, or any endeavor that relies on networks and information technology.

Designed for a broad range of students, potential candidates include recent high school graduates with a background in information technology, as well as working computer science professionals who want to enhance their skill sets.

No prerequisite courses are required for either certificate program; the curriculum was designed to be inclusive and serve the needs of the region. Part-time students may complete these programs in just over a year. After earning their certificate, should students decide to seek a bachelor’s at MCLA in business administration or computer science, the associated courses and earned credits may be applied toward their degree.



What's impressive isn't just how many leading thinkers have been here.

## WHAT'S IMPRESSIVE IS HOW MANY ROUTINELY COME HERE.

- John Lewis, U.S. Congressman
- Stephanie Wilson, NASA Astronaut
- Cokie Roberts, Political Commentator, ABC News and NPR
- Diane Patrick, Former First Lady of Massachusetts
- Jeffrey Toobin, Senior Analyst for CNN and Staff Writer for The New Yorker
- Jeff Corwin, Animal Planet Host and Leading Conservationist
- Ambassador Andrew Young, Ambassador, Congressman, Mayor, Humanitarian
- Zainab Salbi, Author and Co-founder of Women for Women International
- Dr. Robert M. Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense 2006-2011
- James Carville and Mary Matalin, One of America's Best-loved Political Couples
- Nicholas Kristof, New York Times Pulitzer Prize-Winning Columnist
- Soledad O'Brien, Host of CNN's In America Documentaries
- Laura Ling, Award-winning Journalist and Author
- Anita F. Hill, Attorney and Brandeis University Professor
- David Brooks, Author, Analyst, and Columnist

2014

Gloria Steinem, legendary feminist, journalist, author, activist and organizer, spoke to a capacity crowd as part of MCLA's Public Policy Lecture Series.



## 2018-19 Hardman Lecture

This lecture series is made possible through the generosity of the Hardman Family Endowment.

FALL 2018

## MARIA HINOJOSA

EMMY AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST

"I don't need you guys to get older before you own your power. I need you to own your power now," Maria Hinojosa told an auditorium full of college students, as well as faculty, staff, and community members.

SPRING 2019

## MARIEL FIORI

JOURNALIST, TRANSLATOR,  
EDUCATOR AND ENTREPRENEUR

"The selection of a bilingual journalist for this year's Hardman residency is 'amazing,' especially since there is a persisting lack of representation of people from diverse backgrounds in medias."

— Karen Canela '19  
Hardman scholar, MCLA reporter  
and founder of BWN Español  
As quoted in The Berkshire Eagle

## Fall 2018 Michael S. & Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture

This lecture series is made possible through the generosity of the Ruth E. Proud Charitable Trust.

## TA-NEHISI COATES

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, JOURNALIST  
AND COMIC BOOK WRITER

Coates, a winner of the National Book Award and the NAACP Image Award, is the author of "Between the World and Me," a number-one New York Times bestseller in 2015, which was required or recommended reading at more than 400 colleges and universities across the country, including at MCLA.

READ MORE ABOUT TA-NEHISI COATES ON PAGE 31.

## Fall 2018 Elizabeth and Lawrence Vадnais Environmental Issues Lecture

This lecture series is sponsored by  
the Vадnais Endowment.

## GALEN NELSON

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION  
AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT AT THE  
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY CENTER

## Other 2018-19 Notable Visitors

## IEVA JUSIONYTE

HARVARD PROFESSOR

Dr. Ieva Jusionyte visited MCLA for a guest lecture titled "Wall as Weapon: Infrastructure, Injury, and Rescue on the U.S.-Mexico Border."

## RICH REMSBERG

EMMY AWARD-WINNING FILM ARCHIVIST

One of the nation's top researchers for TV, documentaries, and museum exhibits, Remsberg lives locally in North Adams and has more than 100 production credits to his name. Most recently, he worked on Marshall Curry's short documentary "A Night at the Garden," which was nominated for a 2019 Academy Award, and the Netflix documentary Bobby Kennedy for President.

This summer:

**NIKKI  
GIOVANNI**

ACTIVIST, COMMENTATOR, EDUCATOR,  
POET, AND WRITER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT MCLA'S  
FIRST CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

ANOTHER YEAR OF

# ART & CONNECTION

On Main Street in North Adams sits an unpretentious powerhouse—the headquarters of MCLA’s Berkshire Cultural Resource Center (BCRC). Comprised of Gallery 51, the College’s downtown gallery, and MCLA Design Lab, its catchall innovation space, BCRC continues to draw visitors downtown with interesting shows and exhibits that appeal to students and the wider Berkshire community. These events highlight BCRC’s commitment to presenting work that creates an opportunity for wider conversations about the world and the way we move through it.



“Material Drawing Series #7”  
by Thomas Orr. This piece was  
part of Gallery 51’s “SHEL•TER”  
exhibit in fall 2018.

## Some highlights from the 2018-19 academic year:



### **Gerald Sheffield: “pride”**

May 24–June 22, 2018

A collection of collages, drawings and prints inspired by the artist’s service in the U.S. Army and deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, Sheffield’s work explores, provides commentary on, and questions multiple perspectives on race, power, culture, and human conflict in relationship to war. A collaboration among Gallery 51, Gallery 6/67 in Santa Ana, Calif., and 36 Chase & Barns Artist Residency, this exhibit heightened awareness of MCLA’s gallery nationwide and on the West Coast.

“Sheffield’s work not only brings a new, strong, important voice to the discussion but is captivating, imposing and well-crafted at the same time,” said Gallery 51 Curator Arthur De Bow “With a masterful use of imagery and color, Gerald leads the viewer through his first-hand experiences with war.”



### **SHEL•TER**

August 30–September 23, 2018

A wide range of two- and three-dimensional art from the traditional to the experimental, this exhibit presented work from 19 regional and national artists exploring the multitude of conceptual, physical, emotional, political, and social interpretations of shelter.

“We all want to create a home, retreat, refuge, a place that affords us protection from any kind of perceived physical/emotional danger, threat or difficulties we face,” explained De Bow in the exhibition statement. “Shelter in this context is therefore an extremely complex subject, tying into relational concepts of both physical and mental space. This all adds up to the issues of shelter having stronger significance in the world today than at almost any other time.”



### **SPECTRUM: Exploring Gender Identification**

September 27–November 18, 2018

Thirty national and international artists presented work exploring masculinity, femininity, and gender identities between and outside of the binary in this juried exhibit. With work ranging from video to clothing, this show was added to class syllabi across academic disciplines, presenting opportunities for students to ponder ideas and stereotypes around gender, inclusion, and diversity.

“An individual’s identity is comprised of a multitude of intersecting factors, including gender, race, ethnicity, ability, class, and orientation,” De Bow said. “Many people now prefer to use the plural word ‘identities’ emphasizing multiplicity, fluidity and change throughout one’s life. This exhibition turns to the ability of artists to confront the status quo and challenge cultural standards, providing a framework for discussion and change through visual arts.”

## Campus Visits for Community Engagement

In addition to performances, gallery exhibitions, talkbacks, and more, BCRC invites guest artists to campus, who work with students to illuminate the creative process. This academic year brought artists from many disciplines, including:



Kyle Abraham

**Kyle Abraham**, artistic director, A.I.M (Abraham.in.Motion)

MacArthur Genius Fellow and Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner Kyle Abraham returned to Jacob's Pillow in August 2018, stopping in North Adams to share his creative process with MCLA students thanks to funding from the Hardman Initiative. Abraham's choreography has been presented throughout the United States and abroad, most recently at On The Boards, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, REDCAT, Philly Live Arts, Portland's Time Based Arts Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Harlem Stage, Fall for Dance Festival at New York's City Center, Dublin's Project Arts Center, The Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum in Okinawa, Japan, The Andy Warhol Museum and The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pa.



Aruna D'Souza

**Aruna D'Souza**, fine arts writer and editor

Acting as MCLA's Hardman Writing in the Arts Fellow, D'Souza worked with students on campus in October 2018 and delivered a public talk at MCLA Design Lab on her work about modern and contemporary art, intersectional feminisms and other forms of politics, and how museums shape our views of each other and the world. D'Souza's most recent book, "Whitewalling: Art, Race, & Protest in 3 Acts" (Badlands Unlimited) was named one of the best art books of 2018 by the New York Times. Her work appears regularly in 4Columns.org, where she is a member of the editorial advisory board, and has also been published in The Wall Street Journal, CNN.com, Art News, Garage, Bookforum, Momus, Art in America, and Art Practical, among other places. She is currently editing two forthcoming volumes, "Making It Modern: A Linda Nochlin Reader," and "Lorraine O'Grady: Writing in Space 1973-2018."



Dan Froot

**Dan Froot**, performance artist, producer, writer, composer, dancer, saxophonist

Froot visited MCLA March 13-15, 2019 to seed connections ahead of his weeklong residency and performance of "Pang!", a triptych of live radio plays based on the stories of three families living with hunger, planned for Fall 2019 (with his ensemble also joining in). Froot hosted an open rehearsal, community conversation and communal dinner at MCLA Design Lab for the occasion. Froot received a New York Dance & Performance Award (a.k.a. BESSIE) for the creation of his music/theater work "Seventeen Kilos of Garlic," and a City of Los Angeles Artist Fellowship for the creation of his gangster-vaudeville, "SHLAMMER." His music concerts, theater pieces, and performance events have been presented across the U.S. and overseas by leading art centers for over 30 years. Froot is currently professor and department chair at UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance while he continues to create and tour his work.





**“NORTH ADAMS IS IN THE MIDST OF ITS MOST SURPRISING REINVENTION YET: AS AN UP-AND-COMING ARTS HUB, WITH MULTIPLE MUSEUMS, A HIP HOTEL OPENING, MUSIC FESTIVALS AND A BUBBLING FOOD SCENE—JUST THREE HOURS FROM NEW YORK AND BOSTON.”**

— CONDE NAST TRAVELER, AUGUST 2018

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# GALLERY 51

**4,636**

Attendance (a 33.5% increase from 2017)

**9**

number of exhibitions

**5**

solo shows

1 juried show with 30  
national/international artists

**2**

large group shows  
(19 and 48 artists respectively)

**1**

Senior Art Exhibition

**107**

Total number of artist shows in 2018

62.6% women / 29.9% men  
7.5% trans/non-binary / 10.2% artists of color

MAKING IMPRESSIONS AND

# BLAZING TRAILS

One of the busiest buildings on campus is undergoing some exciting new renovations this year as MCLA builds a new fitness center, slated for completion in 2020. Over the past year, the College also added men's lacrosse to its roster, and our student-athletes provided over 700 hours of community service throughout the Northern Berkshires.



## Meet Murdock

In April, more than 500 MCLA community members voted on the new name for the Trailblazer, MCLA's mascot. Make sure you high-five Murdock the friendly mountain lion at the next game.

## Men's Lacrosse

Men's lacrosse will be the latest sport to officially join MCLA's varsity lineup in spring 2020. This 14th program is led by new coach Kevin Pezanowski, who is assisted by Paul Reif M.Ed. '13. Hired after a nationwide search, Pezanowski brings more than 11 years of head coaching experience to this new MCLA program. Named twice as North Atlantic Conference's (NAC) coach of the year, in 2015 and 2016, Pezanowski came to MCLA from Lyndon State University in Lyndon, Vt., where he was the head men's lacrosse coach. Reif previously served as the head men's lacrosse coach at Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt., and the assistant men's lacrosse coach at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz.



1912

MCLA's first athletic game was women's intramural basketball in 1901. Athletics have played an important role in a student's college career ever since. MCLA now boasts 14 teams.

### Amsler Campus Center Renovations

This summer, work is under way on the new fitness center, including an adjacent sports medicine treatment facility and renovated locker rooms. In addition, a two-lane walking track will be built directly above the fitness center. Students will also have greater access to more cardio equipment such as treadmills, elliptical machines and bikes.

Other anticipated work includes a newly designed office suite for the Department of Athletics. Plans also call for the existing dance studio to be relocated to the new space. Work on this phase of the project is projected to begin in 2019.

Funding for this \$6-7 million project, which also includes improvements to the Centennial Dining Room, comes in part from Aramark, MCLA's food service vendor. Additional funding is being provided by the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA) and the State Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM).



## MCLA Athletes Pay it Forward

Our student-athletes regularly give back to the greater community. Some notable examples:

- Volleyball players participated in the Elizabeth Freeman Center's "Walk a Mile" event in Pittsfield, and helped set up and decorate for MCLA's 24th Annual Boo Bash Halloween event for local children.
- The baseball team worked in Pittsfield with Berkshire Habitat for Humanity installing vinyl siding on a home.
- The softball team participated in MCLA's Fall Day of Service by improving trails at Windsor Lake in North Adams.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee partnered with the Berkshire Food Project in North Adams on three Saturdays during the spring semester, cooking meals for those in need, joined by members of the women's lacrosse, basketball, softball and volleyball teams.
- Also in April, the women's lacrosse team played Fitchburg State University in partnership with The Lacrosse vs. Cancer Foundation, bringing in more than \$1,000 to benefit the pediatric oncology unit at Albany Medical Center to fight brain tumors in children. Their efforts helped the national Lacrosse vs. Cancer campaign collect more than \$80,000.

Heart Rate Responses Following Moderate Aerobic Activity in Athletes and Non-Athletes ■ A Spectrum Of Opinions ■ Radical Q  
the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland Begin, and What Was to Blame for the Escalation of Violence? ■ Disrupting Binary Conception  
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# SERVING THE PUBLIC, SERVING THE COMMUNITY

## **MCLA students prepare tax returns through Berkshire Habitat program**

This spring, thirteen MCLA students were trained to prepare tax returns for those who qualified through Berkshire Habitat for Humanity's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Those students each contributed more than 78 hours of their free time during weekends and evenings—more than 1,000 hours in total—preparing hundreds of tax returns for low- and moderate-income families and elderly and disabled taxpayers.

In fact, the MCLA students were some of the top tax preparers among Berkshire Habitat's more than 10 tax prep sites, preparing approximately 75 Federal returns and 80 state returns including Pennsylvania, Vermont, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. They also earned three internship credits in the process.

In order to prepare these returns, participating students had to pass the IRS Advanced Tax Law exam and Volunteer's Standards of Conduct exam. That training came in handy when MCLA's VITA Program was subject to an unannounced IRS field visit. (The IRS routinely conducts these visits to make sure preparers are complying with tax law.) "I'm pleased to say our students earned a 100 percent compliance rating," said MCLA Professor Tara Barboza, who oversaw the program.

One student, Molly Murphy '19, prepared returns at Berkshire Habitat's Pittsfield office. While she grew up in the area and has done volunteer work for local nonprofits, this was the accounting major's first time prepping tax returns. "I loved it," she said. "Being able to work in the community where I was born and raised, seeing people's faces when I prepared their returns, and being able to calm their fears—it was really rewarding."

From left to right: VP of Academic Affairs Emily Williams; Tyler McKay '19; Devin DeLuca '21; David Flight '20; Alexander Mitchell '20; MCLA Professor Tara Barboza; President Birge; Jeremy Schnopps '19; Crystal Wojcik '21; Khalil Kareh '19; Jessica Kozak '19; Kenneth Prosper '19. Front: Molly Murphy '19. Not pictured: Yarin Gomez '20, Bielka Reinoso '19, Alison Pansecchi '19, Abigail Dumo '21.



## **Innovation Challenge**

In April, Nicholas Strezynski '20 and Owen Fitzgerald '20 won \$10,000 in the 2019 MCLA Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge with The Whet Towel, a product that uses denim to extend the life of disposable razors. Funded by generous donors, the Challenge is in its third year and is designed to support the work of student entrepreneurs. In addition to the prize money, Challenge winners also receive support from North Adams-based business incubator Lever, Inc.



## A Food Pantry for Students Who Need it

It's 8:45 a.m. and MCLA Director of Civic Engagement Spencer Moser is at the campus food pantry, checking the sign-in sheet.

"We had three come in late last night," he says, going down the list to see what students took to eat—mostly snacks like cereal and cookies. Though the food pantry isn't officially staffed late at night, there's a key at the student-run info desk at the Amsler Campus Center Market Place that can be signed out anonymously before the desk shuts down at midnight. MCLA's Volunteer Center has staff on hand on weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m.

"That's a good example of us learning as we go," Moser says. Since opening the food pantry in a closet within the Volunteer Center's third-floor campus center office, Moser and others on campus have studied the issue of food insecurity at MCLA from multiple angles, building on their work and adding options for students who could use the help.

Now located in a kitchen next to Sullivan Lounge (some alumni may remember it as the old Sharkey's kitchen), the pantry boasts an oven, microwave, and cabinets full of food options for students to take anonymously.

Recently, thanks to the work of students in Assistant Professor of Biology Nicole Porther's Research Methods in Epidemiology class, MCLA food provider Aramark has begun freezing and donating leftover meals, a more substantial dinner option for those who seek it. Meal

vouchers that can be used in the cafeteria, made possible by community donations, are available in an envelope outside the food pantry door.

MCLA students have learned from other institutions as they went through the process of establishing a food pantry here. After Moser's Spring 2017 capstone Service Leadership class worked on the initial idea, Moser took the concept to two students working in the Volunteer Center, Julie Gambill and Julianna Henault, who kept it going, spending time researching best practices and visiting other campus food pantries.

"This year was a trial period," says Gambill. "We knew by word of mouth there was need out there. We took a humanist approach—if it helps one person, this whole effort was worth it. It turns out there is a much greater need that isn't necessarily well-known."

As the pantry grew, the MCLA community added its support. A challenge within the MCLA Board of Trustees to further fund the pantry added a boost to the project; individuals and groups have made financial contributions of their own; and different clubs and organizations on campus regularly coordinate food drives.

The Volunteer Center will continue to adjust its practice based on need, feedback, and some data gathering, using anonymous identifiers in order to gather info on the number of repeat users, and to work on normalizing the pantry as a community resource. Moser says he would



**OPENED  
FALL 2018**

(with a summer 2018 soft opening)

**OVER  
600 POUNDS**

of food distributed

**APPROX.  
100 VISITS**

(including repeat guests)

also like to be able to connect those individuals with additional meal options or services like SNAP benefits or farmers market vouchers if they qualify.

The food pantry staff "have been terrific about creating an open environment," Gambill said. "Next year is going to be about making it more well-known, more accessible, and more equitable, so to speak. I think that's a really great way to move forward."

FOCUS ON

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



Good citizenship has always been part of MCLA's DNA. In the last five years, our students have donated more than 90,000 hours to volunteer efforts, community service, and service learning. MCLA consistently appears on the Corporation for National and Community Service's annual President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. But we also work within our own community, convening safe spaces to have tough conversations, learning to "talk through difference," as our Chief Diversity Officer Christopher MacDonald-Dennis says, and learning that not all dialogue can end with closure, but all must be approached with respect.

Valuing diversity and multiculturalism is an integral part of the MCLA mission. As the world of higher education grapples with tough questions surrounding race, identity, and equity, MCLA is spending time listening and responding to community concerns—and taking action through the work of our Coalition for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Since forming to refocus and expand on this work, the Coalition for DEI has embarked on re-envisioning, listening, and researching in order to create a more equitable college. All of this work has been initiated by faculty, staff, and students working together.

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**2018** The first MCLA Day of Dialogue 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. Plans are under way for this to become an annual event.



## DEI Task Force: Recent Accomplishments

- 2018 was the second-highest year for enrollment of students of color at MCLA. The 2018 incoming freshman class (MCLA's Class of 2022) is 30 percent students of color. Institutional diversity is 25 percent.
- MCLA hired its first Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Christopher MacDonald-Dennis, to inform, guide, communicate, and implement the goals of enhancing and strengthening diversity and inclusion.
- The College administered a supportive and inclusive community survey, and follow-up focus groups, that DEI is using to implement changes on campus.
- A major goal of MCLA's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan is to strengthen and demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- MCLA hired an additional part-time counselor in response to student need for expanded counseling services.
- The College offers monthly, ongoing training for faculty, staff, and students to become Safe Zone trainers, who guide others on what it means to be a supportive ally.
- MCLA developed and implemented a two-phase plan to provide "all-gender" bathrooms in every campus building.
- Administrative leaders met with 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.



The first MCLA Day of Dialogue in November 2018 brought the campus together to discuss a variety of diversity topics and social justice issues, and to listen to one another's perspectives. The day capped off with a keynote from legendary author Ta-Nehisi Coates, who conducted a question-and-answer discussion moderated by History Professor Emerita Frances Jones-Sneed as the College's eighth annual Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture. (He also met with the College's Men of Color Initiative, magnanimously signing copies of his best-selling book, "Between the World and Me.")

- MCLA is developing and implementing 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.
- Plans are under way for the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference in the Berkshires: Catalyzing 21st Century Discourse and Engagement on Race with keynote speaker Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned activist, commentator, educator, poet, and writer.



1918

Harriet Veritta Treadwell is the first student of color on record to graduate from the College. Known to her classmates as "Tread," a 1918 yearbook highlighted her interest in geography (and frequent trips to nearby Albany, N.Y.), as well as her athletic talents, calling her "one of Miss Skeele's scintillating stars" on the basketball court.

# TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

From their participation in the annual Model United Nations Conference in Toronto, Canada, to opportunities to serve a semester-long internship in Washington, D.C., and numerous travel study courses that send them all over the world during the spring semester, MCLA students have multiple options to expand their learning.



## Travel Study

The spring semester marks a particularly busy time of year for students who traveled with their professors to Europe, Africa, and Latin America. In addition, Dr. Dan Shustack, associate professor of environmental science, led his students on a series of adventures in the Florida Everglades, where they encountered alligators, sharks, and manatees as they learned about the environment of the southern region of the state.

Dr. Anthony Daly, associate professor of history, took his students to explore the rich history and culture of Ireland as they visited its vibrant cities, museums and countryside. Dr. Anna Jaysane-Darr and her students examined contemporary South Africa and diverse communities in historical and cultural context, which included a cooking class and street art.

Along with their professor, Dr. David Cupery, assistant professor of political science, another class headed south of the border to develop a more complete and nuanced understanding of Mexico through a study of its history, politics, and socioeconomics, during a week-and-a-half-long visit to that country.

In addition, Dr. Mariana Bolivar Rubin, assistant professor of modern languages, led her students on an examination of significant notions and debates regarding Latin American cultural identity in Cartagena, Colombia, where they considered historical events and cultural productions from the Colonial Period to the present.



### Washington Internship

History major Zoe Elwell '19 spent her fall semester in the nation's capital, where she served an internship through MCLA partner institution The Washington Center (TWC), which places students in internships that interest them, as well as a night class of their choice. The Center also offers numerous professional opportunities, including workshops and lectures with high-profile speakers.

Elwell, who lived on Capitol Hill during her internship, worked with Voices for a Second Chance, a criminal justice advocacy organization. Her semester away, she says, "was undoubtedly the best decision I have made in my college career."

**"I CAME HOME WITH A REASSURANCE  
IN MY CAREER PATH AND CONFIDENCE  
IN MY OWN PERSONAL ABILITIES."**

—ZOE ELWELL '19



## Model UN

Sixteen students participated in the spring 2019 North American Model United Nations course and conference, which helped them to develop strong public speaking skills, confidence in networking, and the ability to research, write, and problem solve under pressure.

A number of exceptional students participated in this experience, including political science major Corey Powers '19, who took a leading role on his committee, which simulated the complex environment of Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Powers also helped prepare a group of students to participate in a second Model UN conference, sponsored by the Five Colleges in Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley, and conducted a research project on U.S./Latin American relations during the Trump Presidency, which he presented at the New England Political Science Association Conference in April.





# ECONOMIC IMPACT

All data is for the fiscal year 2018 unless noted.

## TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET: \$51,127,658

Source: MCLA 2018 Audit

## COLLEGE EMPLOYEES = 300 FULL TIME 119 PART TIME

Employee Salary & Benefits = \$24,902,922 Salary & Benefits  
 \$17,432,045 After tax (70%)  
 \$10,459,227 Employee Spending (60%)

Source: College employees from 2017-18 IPEDS Human Resource Survey

Salary benefits from MCLA 2018 Audit

Estimated employee spending rate from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENT SPENDING

**\$2,472,500 + \$59,940 = \$2,532,440**

(\$1,905 x 1,297.9 Undergraduate Students FTE)

(\$300 x 199.8 Graduate Students FTE)

Source: 2017-2018 student spending data from MCLA Financial Aid office

Undergraduate students FTE total from 2018 Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) annual enrollment file.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

Energy Performance Project (CIP)	\$ 1,292,694
Venable Hall Water Line Repair	\$ 220,750
Bowman Hall Renovation	\$ 73,896
Physics Lab Spectrophotometer	\$ 61,900
Campus Center Pool Area Renovation (CIP)	\$ 61,400
Studies for Mark Hopkins Renovation (CIP)	\$ 19,200
<b>Total Major Renovations:</b>	<b>\$ 1,655,944</b>

Source: MCLA 2018 Audit

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Service/Volunteer Hours	3,003
Volunteer Time Value	\$31.17 (Massachusetts 2017 Value)
Service/Volunteer Hours Value	\$93,603






Source: Student Volunteer Hours from the Center for Service and Citizenship

Time Value from Independent Sector, Value of a Volunteer Hour 2017 State Value

## TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS: 37,000

Estimated per Visitor Spending: \$63.32

Total Spending: \$2,342,840

Gallery 5I: 12,000	
Athletics: 7,500	
Admissions: 5,500	
Performances and Presentations: 1,000	
Commencement: 2,750	
Alumni Events: 6,250	
Orientation: 2,000	

Source: Visitors counts from department reports/estimates 2017-2018

Visitor Spending from MASS MoCA Economic Impact by Center for Creative Community Development



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\* In April 2019, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker appointed Karen M. Kowalczyk, president of Karen M. Kowalczyk, PC accounting firm in Pittsfield, Mass., to MCLA's Board of Trustees. She takes the seat of Lisa Chamberlain, managing partner of the Chamberlain Group, whose term expired in April.

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