

**Campus Update**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**March 29, 2012**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

***Accreditation Self-Study Process***

A campus kickoff meeting was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The accreditation steering committee and standard team members are engaged in research and preparation work on MCLA's self-study.

***Lectures and Events***

Zainab Salbi presented the spring Public Policy Lecture on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Donahue, Vice President of News and Programming for WAMC Northeast Public Radio, was the 2012 Hardman Journalist in Residence from March 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Brown Bag Lecture Series featured education professor Dale Fink, on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with the presentation "Recess as Contested Terrain," and fine and performing arts professor Tony Gengarely on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with "Southwestern Adventures with Navajo and Pueblo Art".

The theme of the 2012 Green Living Seminar Series is "Saving Biodiversity: Protecting species in Berkshire County and beyond." The Green Living Seminar Series is sponsored by EOS Ventures, Inc. and Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort.

***Spring Break Travel Courses***

During spring break (March 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>) students and faculty participated in study away trips to Abu Dhabi, China, England, and Japan. Students in the Alternative Spring Break program performed service at the Davis School in

***Grants Received***

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) awarded MCLA a 3-year, \$250,000 grant to provide professional development courses in mathematics and education to local educators.

MCLA also received \$20,000 to continue the work of STEM Pipeline Network.

***Faculty Scholarship***

Dr. Liquan Zhang, Associate Professor at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade (SIFT), serves as a visiting scholar at MCLA during the Spring 2012 semester.

Interdisciplinary Studies professor Rita Nnodim has the paper "Human Rights in a Carceral Society: Helon Habila's Waiting for an Angel" accepted to the Annual Conference of the African Literature Association in Dallas, Texas, April 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

History professor Kailai Huang had the paper "The Impact of American Business on Sino-American Normalization and US-Taiwan Trade" accepted by the 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference of American History Research Association of China (AHRAC) to be held in Shanghai from May 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

### ***STEM Update***

The Massachusetts Region I Science and Engineering Fair for high school students took place March 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 students attended the fair, and 65 judges from across Berkshire County participated.

### ***Library Update***

New Digital Services Librarian Pamela Contakos began work at MCLA on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

### ***Facilities***

Foundation work is underway on the Center for Science and Innovation site.

The Campus Center C-Store and Subway officially opened for business on March 19, 2012. In addition, the Campus Center fire alarm system upgrade was completed.

### ***Information Technology***

New Chief Information Officer Curt King began work at MCLA on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning Kris Benidkas and Associate Dean of Information Technology Peter Allmaker attended the first New England Learning Analytics conference on January 13, 2012.

The College is in negotiations with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) related to using MCLA as an anchor institution for local broadband services.

## **ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

### ***Admissions***

MCLA in partnership with the Berkshire Compact hosted the first North County 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Fair on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Students from Pittsfield's Youth Alive program attended the women's basketball game on February 12<sup>th</sup> for a halftime performance. Following the performance, the students went out on tours of the campus and participated in an information session.

A Graduate Program Information Night was held in February for students interested in the Professional MBA and Masters in Education programs.

The Office of Admission hosted an Academic Recognition Scholarship Brunch for prospective students and their families on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A Multicultural Overnight program was held March 23<sup>rd</sup> for accepted students from New York City, Albany, and Hartford. A Multicultural Overnight for accepted students from Boston, Worcester, and Springfield will be held April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## ALUMNI/ADVANCEMENT/MCLA FOUNDATION, INC.

### *Updates*

A Campaign kick-off event is planned in conjunction with the Taconic Society Reception, to be held in late spring.

The Alumni Office launched the *iSupport* program, aimed at increasing alumni attendance at Trailblazer games.

The Alumni Office in partnership with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee presented a networking event for student-athletes on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### STUDENT AFFAIRS

Students from MCLA and 12 additional colleges participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Leadership Conference on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

MCLA students also will be represented at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual statewide Student Leadership Conference on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

A team of MCLA student leaders and student affairs staff attended a higher education advocacy day at the State House on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Student Development (with Financial Aid, CSSE and selected faculty) hosted “Moving Up from Freshman to Sophomore Year” on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. This new program was designed to encourage second semester freshmen to consider the many opportunities open to them during their second year of study at MCLA.

Thirty-nine student-athletes were named to the MASCAC all-academic team for the fall 2011 semester. This represents 45% of MCLA student-athletes.

Women’s basketball player Jen Wehner was named the D3 Hoops All New England fourth team after a nationwide vote of coaches, administrators, and sports information directors.

The Student Leadership Awards Celebration and Banquet will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Athletic Banquet will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup>.