After much planning and construction, MCLA’s Center for Science and Innovation is a reality. During a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony, MCLA announced a $5 million endowment from The Feigenbaum Foundation, the largest donation in the history of the college. The building has been named the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation in honor of brothers Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum and Donald S. Feigenbaum.

The 65,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility promotes learning, teaching, research, and collaboration for MCLA’s science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students and faculty. The Center houses the college’s biology, chemistry, physics, environmental sciences and psychology programs. It features dedicated research space which allows students to collaborate with faculty on major research projects. This provides students with hands-on experience of working in a modern research lab – experience which is in high demand from biotech and other technology companies. The building also includes an incubator laboratory that provides opportunities for life sciences companies to work directly with faculty and students on sponsored research. The Center’s benefits extend beyond the campus – it’s also a regional science resource center for the community, K-12 educators and students, and for the community.

What’s it like to take art classes at a museum of contemporary art? MCLA students are finding out at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) while Bowman Hall is renovated. It’s another example of the wonderful partnership and collaboration that exist between MASS MoCA and MCLA.

In addition to countless rotating shows of contemporary art, MASS MoCA’s exhibits include works by Sol Lewitt and Anselm Kiefer. For those who prefer the renaissance era, just down the road The Clark has a vast collection of various American, French, Italian academic and impressionist works, as well as a complete anthology of Albrecht Duerer engravings.

In addition to remaining a classroom building for study and learning, Bowman’s new design includes customized spaces to create, meet, observe, share, reflect and relax. Art majors will enjoy labs for design and print making, painting, drawing, mixed media and sculpture; computer graphics and student art studio spaces; an art gallery; the art department’s faculty offices; as well as multiple soft areas for both students and faculty.
Dr. Stephanie Frost ’00 gives convocation address

An expert on childhood obesity and the factors that influence obesity-related health behaviors, Dr. Stephanie Frost ’00 — who majored in biology at MCLA — works for ICF International. As part of the Community Transformation Grant Program, she evaluates how communities have changed over the past 50 years with regard to people’s access to healthy foods, as well as the environments that promote a healthy weight.

This fall’s convocation speaker, Frost spoke on the theme of “community,” and how various communities have made important contributions to her personal and professional growth — from her time at MCLA and throughout the course of her career. “I had been at a private institution, and transferred to MCLA — where I thrived. I received a lot more mentoring and attention here than where I was paying three times as much per year. MCLA made it happen.”

New Programs of Studies

Options continue to expand at MCLA, as new programs were added this fall in computer science and interdisciplinary studies. These exciting areas of study meet both student interest and the needs of employers across Massachusetts, the nation, and beyond.

With new technological innovations driving up the demand for skilled graduates in computer science, students who major in this program have a number of exciting career opportunities available to them. As businesses increase their reliance on technology, knowledgeable computer science professionals are needed across many different industries. In addition, cutting-edge fields like bioinformatics are new frontiers that need computer science graduates to help lead the way.

Our interdisciplinary studies program focuses on educating students to become critical thinkers who can understand, analyze research and write about complex issues in society. The new programs address society’s increasing awareness of connections between the corporate world and questions of social and environmental responsibility. They focus on global shifts in population and immigration as questions of diversity and social justice affect people around the world.

Hands-On Learning

JERRY KIAHON ‘14
Biology Major / Worcester, MA

Biology major Jerry Kiahon ’14 of Worcester, MA, recently represented MCLA as an ambassador for public higher education’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs when he spoke about the benefits of public colleges at the “Go Public!” rally with Massachusetts Education Secretary Matthew Malone.

At the rally, he challenged the audience of honors and AP students from Central High, Springfield High School of Science and Technology, and Putnam Vocational Technical Academy to prepare for college and STEM careers by taking harder courses in math and the sciences. In addition to answering questions, Kiahon also talked to the high school seniors about the STEM majors, certificate programs and many internship opportunities available to them at MCLA.

CECILIA WRIGHT ’16
Assistant Manager, MCLA Gallery 51 / New Haven, CT

MCLA’s Associate Gallery Manager Program allows recent graduates and current students in art and arts management to obtain real-world experience as they run a gallery for our Berkshire Cultural Resource Center’s DownStreet Art initiative. It’s the perfect combination: MCLA’s best and brightest not only run the galleries, they thoughtfully market the art to interested visitors and encourage them to purchase the works on display. In the process, these students learn the day-to-day responsibilities needed for a successful gallery.

“This experience gave me the hands-on training I needed to be a manager. Everyone asks, ‘How does someone become an arts manager?’ The simple answer is, by doing. That is how you learn.”
Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers for the U.S. STEM Workforce

BETSY CLIFFORD ’06
Elementary Education & Environmental Studies, Biology minor / President of the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers

“...The demand for highly qualified science teachers in this state is increasing as students must pass the MCAS science test to graduate. Elementary school teachers are expected to teach higher-level science concepts. There, and in middle school, the need for general science teachers is the highest; however, biology, chemistry and physics teachers also are needed at the high school level. School administrators want teachers with strong science backgrounds and education experience: they prefer to hire those with both science and education degrees. MCLA’s a great place for both.”

ALEXANDRA FOWLER ’14
Biology & Elementary Education / Pittsfield, MA

“...MCLA’s biology and elementary education programs are both very challenging and rigorous. They make you think critically and allow you to try new things while you work with great professors and gain experience in the field – whether that’s in the forest or a first grade classroom. Every kid is a big fan of rocks and dinosaurs – I can’t wait to do a geology or fossil segment! I want to get elementary students excited and thinking about science and technology.”

Honors Program

Thinking of taking your education to the next level? Consider MCLA’s Honors Program. During any given semester, between 125 and 150 intellectually curious students – who want to approach their studies in an interdisciplinary and deep way – take at least one honors course that’s designed to look at major questions from the perspective of two or more disciplines. Some honors students elect to take their work a step further and complete a Commonwealth Honors Thesis, a process of research and writing that is almost identical to what a graduate student would do in a master’s program.

Co-directed by Dr. Susan Edgerton and Dr. Matthew Silliman, the honors program sponsors interesting speakers and events aimed to engage honors students, but which are open to all. According to Edgerton, “It’s a wonderful opportunity for a student to engage a topic about which she or he is passionate, and to experience exchanges with faculty and peers at a very high level of critical discourse.”

To learn more, go to WWW.MCLA.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/EXPERIENCE/HONORSPROGRAM

High Impact Opportunities for New Students

Incoming students who participate in our summer LEAD (Leadership in Education, Action and Development) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) academies get a jump start on their education as they prepare for success at MCLA. During both of these five-day residential programs, students not only get to know the faculty and staff, they also form friendships with like-minded freshmen, who can provide peer support in the years to come.

LEAD Academy prepares students to distinguish themselves as campus leaders as they gain confidence in their scholastic abilities.

BRIANNA MCDERMOTT ’17
Arts Management Major / Haverhill, MA

“...LEAD Academy prepared me academically, emotionally and mentally, and created an immediate support system. I really enjoyed the team-building activities that pushed me right out of my comfort zone, but in the best possible way. I made so many friends and opened up to people in such a short amount of time. I’d been extremely nervous about college, but I know that I can go to any of the 32 people who did LEAD and ask for help or advice. We all grew so close, and that is not something that can easily happen in five days. LEAD was amazing!”

STEM Academy is designed for incoming freshmen who plan to major in science or math – or who are interested in science. They attend classes in chemistry, physics, biology and math to get a taste of the type of work they’d be doing as science majors.

JOSHUA MORIN ’17
Biology/Pre-professional / Shrewsbury, MA

“The STEM Academy helped me to get ready for college by introducing me to what my science and math classes would be like before I actually took them. As a result, I feel better prepared, which has given me an edge in all of my classes. The best part of STEM Academy, however, was the opportunity to meet MCLA’s wonderful faculty, staff, advisors, and other STEM students.”

Research in the Rockies

Biology professor and coordinator of undergraduate research, Dr. Emily Mooney recently returned from Colorado, where she and two MCLA students participated in a research program at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. Andrew Martin ’14 of Glendale, Mass. was one of 38 student chosen out of 180 to participate in the 10-week summer program. This type of authentic and inspiring research experience sets students apart from other grad school applicants as they gain tangible skills with scientific communication, experimental design and time management.

MCLA adds women’s lacrosse club

MCLA is pleased to announce that it will now feature one of the fastest growing sports in the country – women’s lacrosse. It’s one of the newest clubs at MCLA. Soon, it will become a varsity sport, as plans are in the works to make lacrosse our seventh women’s team. Women’s lacrosse will join the men’s and the women’s soccer programs competing on our state-of-the-art turf facility at Ron Shewcroft Field.

MCLA unveils new mascot

The mountain lion was the most popular suggestion submitted to the College’s Mascot Search Committee, which requested input from the diverse community of those connected to MCLA – including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and fans throughout the Berkshires and beyond.
MEET OUR NEW ADMISSIONS STAFF!

TERRELL SMITH
Assistant Director of Admission for Multicultural Recruitment / Wingate, NC

“Born and raised in the South by a single parent who did not finish high school, I am a first-generation college graduate of a small, liberal arts institution, and I am passionate about students who really want to go to college. Employers look for graduates who can synthesize and conceptualize data, write, and contribute positively to their growth. These three qualities are the core of MCLA’s Mission Statement. Students who attend MCLA don’t just make a four-year decision – they make a life decision. MCLA reciprocates with a lifetime commitment to them.”

KAYLA HOLLINS ’12
Admission Counselor / New York City, NY

“From the second I stepped foot on campus, everything about MCLA was the perfect fit. As an undergraduate, I was immersed in the MCLA culture through various clubs and student activities. Your MCLA education will go far beyond the four walls of your dorm room or the classrooms. My job in Admissions allows me to show others MCLA’s endless resources and opportunities. Set in the culturally rich Berkshires, North Adams helped make this campus my home long after graduation.”

DAYNE WAHL ’09
Admission Counselor / Delmar, NY

“I still remember my first tour of MCLA; it was my first tour of any school, and I immediately felt at home. ‘My College. Right from the Start.’ is not just a tagline. You truly can join clubs immediately after stepping foot on campus. Not many other schools let you have your own radio show your first semester, but that’s exactly what happened to me. By my junior year, I’d held several jobs and joined many clubs. I love spreading the word about this gem of a school.”

FALL SPEAKERS

Public Policy Lecture: Politician, diplomat, activist and pastor Andrew Young

Vadnais Environmental Lecture: Marion Stoddart, who mobilized the clean-up of what was once one of the 10 most polluted rivers in America, New Hampshire’s Nashua River.

Admission Application Deadlines

Early Action: December 1
Priority Application Deadline: March 1

After March 1, application review will continue on a rolling basis, space permitting.

Cost of Attendance

For residents of neighboring states, MCLA is less expensive than private colleges and comparable in cost to most in-state public colleges.

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* New York & NHBHE Tuition Reductions in the majors listed below offer students an 85% reduction in tuition, a savings of approximately $8,480 per year.

- ME, RI: English/Communications (media) majors
- RI: Athletic Training majors
- CT, NH, RI, VT: Arts Management majors
- Southern VT: All majors, based on “proximity rule” or distance from MCLA

www.mcla.edu/finalaid Phone (413) 662 5219  Fax (413) 662 5105

Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid must receive the following by February 1st for priority review:

- Completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (Title IV Code 002187)
- Verification materials, as requested

Scholarships

MCLA honors superior academic achievement by offering merit and need-based awards. Students are encouraged to apply early to be considered for merit scholarships. www.mcla.edu/value/scholarships www.mass.edu/masstransfer

MCLA offers an Early Action admission deadline of December 1. Early Action is a non-binding, accelerated, application deadline designed for students that are prepared to submit all required credentials by December 1. Early Action applicants will receive an admissions decision by mid-December.

Take advantage of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool available on the FAFSA to avoid delays.