MCLA to Break Ground on New Science Center

This fall, MCLA will celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Center for Science and Innovation. This 60,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will foster new opportunities for collaboration and new ways of engaging students.

The demands for educated workers in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, engineering and health care have reached an all time high. The Center for Science and Innovation will serve as a central location for all of MCLA’s science and related programs and will promote research-intensive science learning and hands-on discovery.

According to MCLA President Mary K. Grant, “The College is thrilled to take the next step toward realizing this new building and the educational and economic benefits it will provide for the Berkshires.”

The Center also will serve as a community resource and will contribute to developing a robust pipeline of talent, to ensure Massachusetts retains its position as a leader in scientific innovation and research.

MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM DELIVERS

The 2010-11 Men’s Basketball team gave their best performance in over a decade. MCLA finished second in the highly respected MASCAC regular season standings while going on to earn the program’s first-ever ECAC New England Regional Championship bid. The 17 wins did not eclipse a school record; however, the team enjoyed a 10-game winning streak enroute to their strong finish.

Trailblazer Head Coach Jamie Morrison put together an athletic and talented bunch, while playing at a fast-paced tempo. Morrison reflected upon the program’s achievements by stating, “It was a very rewarding season in the sense that everyone worked very hard toward the common goal of competing for a championship. We feel strongly that we can use these experiences to continue to move the program forward.”

New Men’s Tennis Program

The College will add its 12th varsity sport, men’s tennis, beginning in the spring of 2012. Already, there is a high level of interest on campus. With our outstanding facilities, we expect to have a very competitive team in the near future.

FREEDOM RIDERS REVISITED

Fifty years ago, civil activists known as the “Freedom Riders” rode interstate buses into the segregated southern United States to challenge local laws that enforced segregation. This spring, students Ashton Darrett ’11 and Michael Obasohan ’11 joined college students from across America as they retraced the Freedom Riders’ journey.

Students participated in a conversation about civic engagement, what it means today, what has changed since 1961 and what inspires young people to “get on the bus.”

Ashton and Michael facilitated a conversation in Charlotte, N.C., as students discussed their Freedom Riders experience.

Michael said “My role was to create an environment where students can keep an open mind to help them best reflect on themselves.”
CARIBBEAN CLASSROOM

Over the 2011 spring break, six biology students in Dr. Anne Goodwin’s “Field Studies in Marine Biology” course combined the sun and surf of the U.S. Virgin Islands with advanced research. They presented their findings at MCLA’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference.

Projects included looking at the health of marine life — including sea grass and coral — from their home base at the Virgin Islands Environmental Research Station, where they lived and ate during their stay.

Morgan Chichester ’12 and his lab partner, Cassandra Lillie ’11, conducted research that helped them to understand more about corals, their diseases and their decline in the region. In addition, the trip not only allowed all the students to conduct their research; it also provided opportunities to explore the Caribbean.

“Every morning we went out and snorkeled in a new bay in the area where we took lots of pictures and identified fish, algae, animals and coral,” Chichester said. “We went on hikes some afternoons looking at ruins of old sugar plantations that were left there by the Dutch who colonized the island. Other afternoons we went back out into different bays and conducted studies that we had designed before our trip.”

“Overall, the experience was amazing,” said Danielle Morrissey ’11. “I learned so much and saw so many amazing things. Aside from seeing beautiful views and amazing animals, most importantly we gained experience in designing experiments and implementing them. It gave us research skills that will be essential in science careers or graduate school.”

POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS: INTERNING FOR SENATOR KERRY

When Todd Foy ’12 of Hadley, Mass., first arrived on campus, he majored in English. But experiences with MCLA’s Student Government Association (SGA) quickly put him on a much different path — he is studying political science and public policy, with minors in anthropology and social justice.

Recently returned from Toronto, Canada, where he took part in the North American Model United Nations, this summer Foy headed to Washington, D.C., where he is serving an internship with U.S. Senator John Kerry.

“The SGA has changed my life in so many ways,” Foy said. “I was elected to the Student Senate in my freshman year, and I loved it so much that I changed my major to political science by the end of the year. I spent two years in the Student Senate and gained so much personal experience.”

Foy’s professors have been key to his success.

“As I’ve gotten into upper-level classes, I’ve found that I can take classes with teachers I truly enjoy. I will say that my advisor, Robert Bence, is indispensable. I mean, this guy has 30-plus years of experience in teaching and advising. He has connections and insight that most professors couldn’t dream of,” Foy explained. According to Foy, the connections he’s made at MCLA will last a lifetime.

MCLA IN THE NEWS

New Minor – Cross Cultural and Social Justice Studies

Students now have the option for a new minor in cross-cultural and social justice studies as part of MCLA’s interdisciplinary studies program. According to Dr. Rita Nnodim, interdisciplinary studies professor, the minor in cross cultural and social justice studies can be combined with any major at MCLA, such as business administration, sociology and education.

Students taking this minor will acquire knowledge relating to cultural diversity and social justice issues, and develop skills in intercultural communication. This will enable them to become successful and responsible citizens in the increasingly interconnected world of the 21st century.

MCLA receives national recognition for community service

MCLA was recognized nationally as a leader among institutions of higher education for its support of volunteerism, service-learning and civic engagement throughout the community. The College was admitted to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

State House Day

Approximately 150 students from campuses of the nine state universities, including Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), canvassed the State House in Boston last spring, asking state representatives and senators to add about $11 million into the university system’s reserves.

MCLA students Tyeson Bell ’11, Janayelle Bellemore ’12, Catt Chaput ’12, Katie Collins ’11, Esther Fan Fan ’11, Rachel Kish ’14, Kris McLaughlin ’11, Stephanie Naffah ’11 and Hauwa Umarova ’12 traveled to Beacon Hill to represent their fellow students and campus community.


Educator Recognition Award

Cynthia Roper-Patenaude graduated from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in May 2004 with a degree in English and again in 2008, with a master’s of education. Now an English teacher at McCann Technical School, this spring she was presented with the first annual Berkshire County Educator Recognition Award at the College.

WTEN Anchor Lydia Kulbida Speaks on Social Media at MCLA

News anchor Lydia Kulbida of WTEN in Albany, N.Y., spoke on “Social Media—The Changes Facing Journalism.” She discussed how people seek to have their voices heard in an increasingly complicated public domain, where electronic media like Twitter, Facebook and other emergent systems of communication conflict with the interests of dominant media news networks.

“The opportunity for students to work with a successful broadcast journalist like Lydia Kulbida is rare.”

Dr. Michael Birch, MCLA communications professor
Advantage New York (ANY)
Save $34,000 Over Four Years

New York residents qualify for MCLA’s Advantage New York tuition reduction. This program provides students with the opportunity to attend MCLA at a substantial savings off the annual cost of attendance.

The annual cost of attendance including room, board, tuition and fees is $26,070 per year for students who live outside of Massachusetts. Advantage New York reduces this amount to approximately $17,125 per year. Advantage New York represents approximately $8,400 off the total cost of attendance.

First year students are eligible for the ANY tuition reduction for four years of full-time undergraduate enrollment. Transfer students are eligible for the additional semesters needed to complete one undergraduate degree at MCLA.

### Approximate Annual Cost of Attendance

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*New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) provides an $8,400 tuition reduction for Maine and Rhode Island residents majoring in English/Communications (media), Rhode Island residents majoring in Athletic Training, and Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont residents majoring in Art Management. Southern Vermont residents majoring in any discipline qualify for this reduction based on “Proximity Rule” or distance from MCLA. The New York tuition reduction applies to all New York residents who qualify for admission.