WELCOME TO MCLA!  First Days is just around the corner and we are excited for you to join our college community. Our First Days program aims to engage you in the spirit of our campus through important academic life, educational, and community sharing experiences. First Days begins with new commuter student check in on Sunday, September 1 and continues with various academic and social programming through Tuesday, September 3. For a full list of First Day events visit our website at http://www.mcla.edu/Student_Life/First_Days. To assist you with the planning process, we have some important information which you may find helpful in this newsletter.

A Commuter Student Meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 1st in the Campus Center Room 324A. During this time we will be giving you an updated First Days schedule and your MCLA ID.

The following Offices will be open on Sunday, September 1st: Financial Aid, Academic Affairs, President’s Office, Mail Room, Bookstore and Public Safety (for Student IDs) will be open from 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Student Accounts will be open from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First Year Experience courses will be meeting for the first time this year during First Days. Get to know your professor and fellow classmates as well as review goals for the semester during these course meetings. Don’t forget to upload your information into your ePortfolio before you arrive for this meeting.

Convocation will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd at 4:00 p.m. in the Church Street Center with a Country Fair Dinner to follow, hosted by the President’s Office. Plan to participate in this tradition. Faculty and staff also come together to welcome you at this event.

We were thrilled to meet many of you at Orientation this past summer and our staff is looking forward to working with you in the coming semester. Here are some helpful reminders before coming to campus:

1. Activate your First Class Account.
   We will be using your MCLA email as your primary address and sending you information regarding your FYE courses, First Days information and campus updates.

2. Check out the First Days Schedule on-line.

3. Attend the Commuter Student Meeting at 7:00 pm, Sunday, Sept. 1st in Campus Center Room 324A.

4. Contact your Peer Advisor on Facebook or through First Class.

5. Update your ePortfolios.

CLASSES BEGIN WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4!
Mount Greylock Hike
The 19th Annual hike to the summit of Mt. Greylock is planned for Monday, September 2nd. This event began when the College first opened and has become an MCLA tradition during our First Days Program for the past 19 years. We encourage students that have hiked previously and enjoy a vigorous hike to sign up for this event. Be sure that the clothes you wear are appropriate for the hike. Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes (such as sneakers or hiking boots that are well broken in) and comfortable, casual clothing that is suited for the outdoors. A small pack to carry other useful items such as insect repellent, sunscreen and a beverage is strongly encouraged as well.

Be sure to visit the link on our First Days website titled “Hikers Tip Sheet” which will help you prepare for this adventure.

Community Service
For those of you interested in community service you will have the opportunity to participate in a community service project organized by the Center for Service and Citizenship. Volunteerism and community services are an extremely important and valuable component to the MCLA experience. What better way to begin than during First Days! At dinner on Sunday evening you will learn more about the specifics of each of the projects and will have the opportunity to sign up for the one that interests you the most. Please keep in mind that space is limited so you may not get your first choice.

Art Crawl
Students with a passion and interest in learning more about art, its history and receiving information from current artists may join in this experience. Visit various art exhibits located in our very own Downtown North Adams and be exposed to artistic culture. Look, listen and learn as talented experienced artists explain their work and about the process that led them to being known in the field.

Campus Mailbox Info
All campus correspondence is routed through the College’s Central Mailroom and as such, it is very important that you check your box often. To get your mailbox information please stop by the mailroom during the first week of school or you can stop by the mailroom on Sunday, September 1st from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The mailroom is located in Venable Hall.

E-Portfolio Reminder
Your classmates have done a fantastic job of starting their ePortfolios. If you haven’t logged in yet, there is still time! Need instructions? You can find them online.

Academic Open House Celebrations
Early in the fall semester, MCLA academic departments will host Academic Major Open-House Celebrations for first year students as well as upperclassmen within the major. These sessions will have a special invitation to all undeclared students so that they can begin looking at the many academic options. A full schedule will be available online by late August. Contact Paul Lesage at: P.Lesage@mcla.edu with any questions!