

## Charitably



## Speaking

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**A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION**

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### President's Message

I am so pleased that MCMA and the rest of the country can begin returning to normal. After fifteen months of not meeting in person, we can look forward to a July Quarterly together, a return to Board of Government meetings at our office, and a Triennial in December.

The pandemic has challenged us all in so many ways. Thanks to the support of many in our organization, we have weathered this event well. We converted to zoom meetings for the Board of Government and Planning Committee and managed to have Quarterlies and some special speakers online. Despite all this, it will be wonderful to be back together in person. Details on our July event will be coming soon.

Thank you to the officers, board members, and committee chairs who helped keep MCMA moving forward during these trying times.

Our model steam engine, recently returned to us from the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., is now with the Charles River Museum of Industry in Waltham, Mass. This excellent museum houses a number of other steam engines and ours will fit in there nicely. The model steam engine is on loan from MCMA. Thanks to Rick Ryan, History Committee chairman, and Past President Arthur Anthony for helping to place this valuable artifact.

On a sad note, we lost member Tom Crowdis, Jr. in March. Tom, father to Function Committee chair Tom Crowdis, III, was a longtime active member. Tom served on the Board of Government, the Planning Committee, and was chairman of the History Committee before me. His father, Tom, was also an active MCMA member. Tom's contributions and friendship will be missed.

See you soon! – **Peter**

### Helping Others

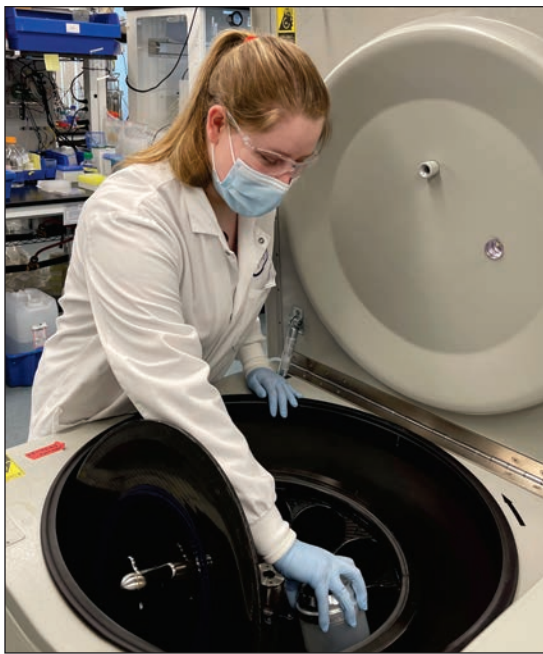
This past year we made the acquaintance of an organization not only new to MCMA but new in real terms. The **Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute** was founded as a nonprofit in 2013 following several years of planning and coordination with scientific, commercial, and public entities. Its aims were to (1) establish and operate a marine biotechnology research institute based on genomics (the study of genetic materials, or DNA), (2) develop a local biotechnology workforce through a science learning environment, and (3) promote conditions that create a robust science community on Cape Ann. They have made pretty impressive progress in just seven years, opening the Gloucester Biotechnology Academy in 2016 and a world-class research institute on Gloucester Harbor in 2018. But it is the Academy that got our attention.

Designed to serve local high school graduates ages 18 to 26 with limited resources and no clear path to college or a career, the Academy's hands-on technical training offers these young people a STEM pathway to meaningful jobs in a growing industry. Its 10-month "lab immersion" curriculum consists of two semesters of hands-on training, learning biotech workflow and methods on state-of-the-art equipment, followed by a paid industry internship at a biotech firm or research institute in Greater Boston or the

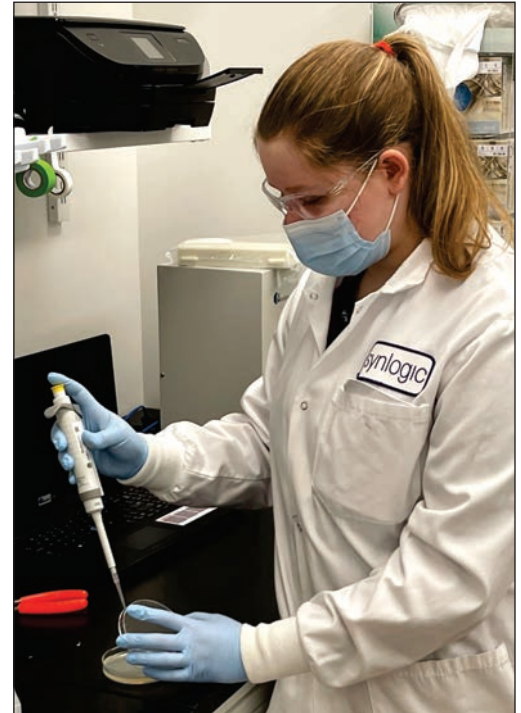


**GLOUCESTER MARINE  
GENOMICS INSTITUTE**

North Shore. Though still a young program, it has had considerable success in its first five years, graduating 74 young people from Cape Ann and the North Shore, many of whom have gone on into well-paying careers as professional biotech lab technicians. And it is an expanding program, as this year the Academy will add a biomanufacturing lab and curriculum, doubling its enrollment capacity from 20 to 40. The opening of this new lab was delayed by COVID, but they will be welcoming the first class of students into the new lab space this September. The incoming class will be the first to make use of the equipment funded by the MCMA. The Academy also offers one-week summer programs for students age 14-18 that provide the students the opportunity to experience hands-on science in a biotechnology laboratory, analyze DNA to identify different species of fish (the program is called Fish Fraud Forensics), gain knowledge of how modern science is being used to solve real-world issues, and hopefully even pique their interest in science.



The technical training the Academy's students receive on state-of-the-art equipment makes them incredibly attractive to employers, but the Academy has developed an added layer of support by developing partnerships with several nonprofit organizations to assist students while at the Academy and during their first year of employment. They include, among others, tutoring services in math and English, leadership skills training, and following graduation a mentorship program that pairs each student with a mentor from a local biotech company to help navigate searching for a job or a new work environment. Further, they have developed agreements with local colleges which award credit or course waivers for having completed the Academy curriculum. Overall, the unique features of the Academy design – hands-on immersive curriculum, paid industry internships, strong mentoring, and emphasis on career skills – produce graduates well prepared to enter jobs in the area's fastest growing industry. To date, nearly 80% of students who enrolled went on to graduate, and at six months after graduation 88% were either working in biotech or were enrolled in college science programs – both career paths well outside their reach beforehand. This is a program with which we are very pleased to be associated.



## MCMA History

MCMA's Annals record that the statue of Benjamin Franklin which stands in front of the Old City Hall on School Street in Boston is actually there as a result of MCMA. Honorary Member Robert C. Winthrop suggested in a lecture before our members in 1853 that a statue of Franklin should be made and publicly displayed in Boston. *[Winthrop was a lawyer, politician, and philanthropist. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives (where for one term he was Speaker) and the U.S. Senate. He was a strong early patron of the Boston Public Library, and was president of the Massachusetts Historical Society for 30 years.]* Our Board of Government at the time took this suggestion into consideration and, with a committee of the citizens of Boston, raised the necessary funds and carried the work to a successful completion.

On the 17th of September, 1856, the 226th anniversary of the settlement of Boston, the statue was unveiled with huge ceremony, following a 5-to-7-mile procession through the streets of Boston by military and fire units; politicians and notable public and business leaders; bands; and members of various trades, professions, associations and societies. Honorary Member Robert C. Winthrop delivered the inaugural address, and MCMA President Frederic Lincoln delivered an address and presented the statue to Boston Mayor Alexander H. Rice on behalf of the citizens of Boston.

The bronze statue is 8 feet 4 inches tall, and stands on a 9-foot pedestal that is 7.5 feet square. The statue was sculpted by Richard Saltonstall Greenough and cost \$20,000. (It was cast by the Ames Company, whose owners were members of MCMA. Company employees marched in the procession carrying a smaller bronze version of the statue.) On each side of the base is a panel with a bronze relief depicting a phase in Franklin's life – mechanic, philosopher, patriot, and statesman. The front and back panels, Franklin working in his print shop and experimenting with electricity, were designed by the sculptor. The side panels, Franklin at the Paris Peace Treaty and Franklin at the Declaration of

Independence, were designed by Thomas Ball. (MCMA selected the subject for the "mechanic" panel, and it chose Franklin working in his brother's print shop in Boston.) The statue originally stood before the Bulfinch Court House in Boston before being moved to what was then Boston City Hall. *[It is also on the site of the original Boston Latin School building. Franklin attended the school for two years, but did not graduate, making him possibly the school's most famous dropout.]* MCMA can take pride in this contribution to Boston, but in keeping with our being the Quiet Philanthropy, not many know of our crucial role in making this sculpture possible. But there is actually more to this story.

In 1717 Benjamin Franklin's older brother James opened a print shop on Court Street in Boston, using a printing press he had acquired in England.





Franklin at the signing  
of the Treaty of Paris



Franklin "at the kite shop"  
experimenting with electricity



Franklin at the signing of  
the Declaration of Independence

Young Benjamin was apprenticed to James at age 12, and he worked in this shop and learned the printing trade from his brother before "running away" (he still had several years remaining on his apprenticeship) to Philadelphia at age 17. James printed *The Boston Gazette*, and later the *New England Courant*. Because his brother would not let him write articles for the *Courant*, Benjamin regularly sent letters under the pseudonym Mrs. Silence Dogood ... "her" letters were published and became popular topics of conversation around town. But in Boston James' opinions were considered radical, and he was jailed for several weeks for printing material unflattering to the governor. In 1727 James relocated his business (and printing press) to Newport, Rhode Island, where the climate was less puritanical. He and his wife Ann became Rhode Island's first printers and publishers, and Ann carried on their business for many years following James death in 1738.

Over a century later the press was discovered in storage by a Mr. John Murray of New York. Upon determining its important history, Mr. Murray sought a suitable organization to which he could donate it. He chose MCMA after learning of our work, our history, and most significantly our role in honoring Benjamin Franklin with the statue described above. [Mr. Murray owned a similar press that Franklin was known to have worked on while in London in the late 1720s ... that press is now at the Smithsonian in Washington.] The press was presented to us in 1864 through the good offices of the same Honorary Member Robert C. Winthrop, whose accompanying letter described the press and its operation in fine detail, and it is now one of our most treasured artifacts. It was displayed for many years in Russell Hall in the Mechanics Building. Following the close of that building in 1958 it was loaned in turn to the Museum of Science in Boston, the Rhode Island School of Design, the Heritage Museum in Lexington, and then on a long-term loan to the Benjamin Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

In the early 1990s we were approached by the Newport Historical Society with a request to move the press to a new museum they were constructing in Newport. As the press had a historical connection to Newport, and as it would be a featured exhibit in the Newport museum, whereas it was somewhat lost in the vast amount of Franklin memorabilia in Philadelphia, our Board agreed to the request. Unfortunately, as the press was being prepared for shipment from Philadelphia, powder post beetles were discovered in the frame, and it was determined that a full restoration was required. An agreement was worked out whereby MCMA assumed the cost (\$5,000) to disassemble the press, pack the parts in computer-designed, foam-lined crates, and ship them to Newport, while the museum paid for the restoration and reassembly (\$14,000). Almost 95% of the original materials were able to be re-used. The press is now prominently displayed in the Newport Museum of History, under temperature and humidity controlled conditions, and both the press and the museum are well worth a visit.

