

MINERAL AREA COLLEGE

Alumni

M A G A Z I N E for Alumni and Friends of Mineral Area College and Flat River Junior College

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



COMMENCEMENT 2018

TO OUR READERS



MINERAL AREA COLLEGE

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Dear Alumni & Friends,

In May, we celebrated our premier event: the annual commencement ceremony. We wished all 340 students the very best as they transition to advancing their degrees or starting careers. Our faculty and staff have reason to be proud of how well they prepared our students for their future endeavors.

We are grateful to one of our own, Major General Glen VanHerck, who made time in his schedule to deliver our commencement address and share wisdom and encouragement with graduates. Last fall, General VanHerck lost his father, Dr. Don VanHerck, our longtime trustee who served over 42 years. So, it was fitting that his message emulated his father's leadership, dedication and devotion to Mineral Area College. We're so proud of the general's accomplishments and his service to our country.

Also, the audience heard about our Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Dr. James Sucharski, and the profound impact he made during his 40+ years of service to public education. Unfortunately, Dr. Sucharski passed away just after receiving his award notice. We're pleased his family was present as we honored him as one of MAC's distinguished alumni.

Our federal representatives in Congress deserve our gratitude for supporting the summer Pell Grant financial aid program which enables students to afford summer courses. Our enrollment benefitted and is up about 18% compared to last summer. As a former economics instructor, my students always heard how easily tuition rates affect the number of students who enroll in college. For many, summer is a challenge, and sometimes life gets in the way of higher education goals. Students who attend summer school—without interrupting their program of study—generally have a greater chance to finish their degrees.

Candidly, it's been a challenging, yet rewarding academic year. There were several quality improvement projects such as the revision of the 42-hour general education block, changing the curriculum to reduce the coursework necessary for our students to complete gateway courses, and restructuring our degree plans to include other courses besides College Algebra. To the leaders and committee members who invested significant efforts to assure all these changes happen this year, we are very thankful. We anticipate some inconveniences as these programs are implemented, but these collective efforts will benefit our students and the region we serve.

College friends and alumni like you who "give back" and financially support MAC play a monumental role in the college's success. We are incredibly grateful to all who contribute to our students, our faculty and our mission.

Please take time to visit campus, and feel free to stop by and say hello!

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President



Commencement is a time for graduates to look toward their futures, for families to embrace the accomplishments of their loved ones, and for instructors to feel proud as they see their students receive their diplomas.

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Computer coding may be transforming middle school students' opinions about college and careers.

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On the Cover

In May, the 340-student procession entered the filled-to-capacity Robert E. Sechrest Field House for MAC's 94th commencement. The audience—family, friends, instructors and administration—enthusiastically celebrated the students' dedication, commitment and accomplishments. Pictured are John Bowman, Roman Young and Olivia Savage.



Dane Korenak helps Central Middle School students identify a problem and an appropriate solution in the computer game they are creating.

Coding is Super Cool

Dane Korenak enjoys tutoring college students in math, sciences and computer science for the EXCEL program. And, he's most passionate about math. "It's ironic I attended MAC on an art scholarship when I'm so fascinated with math," smiles Dane. "I always look for ways to have students do more math. I find myself seeking approaches to trick them into doing math even when they don't realize it."

Also, Dane's passionate about inspiring middle school students about math, computer programming and art. For the past four years, he's been teaching a computer coding class at Central Middle School. The students say learning coding is super cool. "Our class is a fun, stress-free place where students are eager to learn without worrying about making mistakes," explains Dane. "When students make something exciting with a set of computer clicks, it breeds excitement for learning and an

"I find myself seeking approaches to trick them into doing math even when they don't realize it."

introduction to computer programming. But, what's more impressive is watching students' confidence grow. Their minds are opened to new ideas, and they really can see themselves working in a computer field. It's invigorating to know this coding class is having a purposeful impact."

Even using the most basic coding skills, students can incorporate art graphics to build simple computer games. The immediate feedback keeps them engaged. Some middle schoolers were so inspired, they entered teams in MAC's Robot & Technology Expo.

Dane explains why introducing programming to young people is important, "It's extremely beneficial because it reinforces other important subjects like math. They learn how

to find points on a coordinate system and type equations to update objects' positions on the computer screen. We talk about the differences between a variable used in mathematics and computer programming. They are being trained to think logically, which is a fundamental skill for math and science reasoning and is used in many areas in their lives. They think creatively to design a game or an application. Some have used their own artwork in their games. So, it gives them a reason to be inventive and think about ways that it can apply to many other areas. Computer programming provides an outlet for imagination and critical thinking that can apply to many disciplines. The true bonus is they really enjoy doing the programming."

Delightful Friendship Begins

“We have lively discussions about world events and the possible ramifications they may have.”

Starting college carried some extra anxiety for Megan Sullivan of Festus and Hannah Hammon of Caledonia. Both had worrisome thoughts they might not fit in or make any friends. “I had some hard times in school, and life wasn’t always easy. In high school, I finally learned good study skills and things turned around,” explains Megan. Hannah says, “I never found my niche in high school. I’m a Christian and sometimes that sets you apart. Here at MAC, I’ve found students with common interests, and I can be myself. Then, Megan and I met in Mr. Mitchell’s class and are becoming two confident college coeds!”

Lots of hard work earned Megan her A+ scholarship. She says, “I just love my parents. They have taught me so many things...like what hard work can accomplish. They’ve always been there when I needed them. They are the best thing in my life.” Megan plans to earn a psychology degree at UMKC and then work as a counselor to help children. Though undecided about a major, Hannah says, “I like so many things. Perhaps my career will be in the sciences, maybe a genetics counselor or something with the environment.”

Keith Mitchell, MAC 1970-73, is their government instructor. The girls say, “Mr. Mitchell can even make government pretty interesting. Besides his lectures about our government and the political processes, he leads class discussions that challenge us to think and encourage us to get involved. He even assigns us to go to local government meetings to learn first-hand. We have lively discussions about world events and the possible



Hannah Hammon, instructor Keith Mitchell and Megan Sullivan continue a current events discussion.

ramifications they may have. But the one thing we just can’t figure out is whether he’s a Democrat or Republican! That’s good because he is neutral in class.”

Active participation is one tool Keith uses to reinforce the textbook material. Students can earn a bonus point if they register to vote. Hannah was thrilled to see the musical *Hamilton* and says, “It was amazing, and the performance moved me to tears. I could even relate it to what we discussed in class. Mr. Mitchell has spoken about the election of 1800, and how Hamilton could never be the president because he was not natural born. Mr. Mitchell is always full of facts.”

Keith believes hearing veterans’ stories is a compelling way to learn history, so local veterans speak in his classes. He

invites military veterans interested in sharing stories about serving our country to contact him (kmitchel@MineralArea.edu) between mid-August and mid-November to discuss the possibilities.

“Good students like Hannah and Megan with their bubbly personalities, enthusiasm and eagerness to learn are reasons I enjoy teaching,” Keith says. “Dr. Gardener and Howard Noble were instrumental in cultivating my passion for 20th century U.S. History and current events. Teaching is how I can give back to MAC while educating many young people about our nation’s history.” Also, Keith enjoys the professional association with other MAC employees, including Chad Pipkin and Kevin Thurman who he coached as youngsters.



RikkiLyn Wright, Stacy Politte and Alyssa Sago describe their MAC softball experience as an unexpected, unpredictable and overall great adventure.

Continuing the Sport We Love

“Even though you feel out of place or scared, you should stay true to yourself.”

With fourteen of its eighteen players from within 100 miles of MAC, the Lady Cards softball program is a melting pot for local talent. Players who once were high school rivals are now teammates. Three players—RikkiLyn Wright and Stacy Politte (both of Park Hills) and Alyssa Sago (Bismarck)—say they opted to stay local to be close to family and save money while getting the college experience they hoped to have.

Alyssa, who pitches and plays the infield, exclaims, “MAC’s really more than I expected, and I love it more than I thought I would! Campus is easy to navigate and instructors are always willing to help us be successful. I already knew a lot of my teammates. As student athletes, we’re travelling to new places while making tons of friends and memories. I’ve been hooked on softball since I was five, so playing college softball is incredible. Our team works toward consistent improvement and a

regional tournament trophy. Personally, my goals are to better myself in all categories, help our team and play at a four-year school.” Alyssa would like to teach and coach in the local area.

Stacy, who plays first base, says, “My interest in softball probably began with T-ball when I was four. I played all through high school, and it’s quite an honor for me to play at this level. Softball gives us chances to meet new people and play in new places. As a student athlete, it’s sometimes hard to balance school and softball. So you really must be motivated and good at planning. I knew MAC was a good choice since many of my family members are graduates of the education and nursing programs.” To someone considering MAC, this secondary education major says, “Everyone is friendly. Be prepared to work hard, make some great friends and meet some really awesome people along the way.”

Pitcher and outfielder RikkiLyn says,

“I have so much respect for Coach Guemmer because he followed me through high school and watched me grow as an athlete. Also, my brother played baseball and three cousins played softball here, so I feel MAC’s been a part of my life for a while. Softball is a great way to make new friends and continue doing something you love while furthering your education.”

RikkiLyn continues, “College is a huge step for anyone. I play ball and go to school not only because I love it but also because I want to be a role model to the kids and people around me. You don’t have to be a follower and do things you usually wouldn’t, just to fit in. Even though you feel out of place or scared, you should stay true to yourself. If you follow the path your Lord and Savior created for you, then you will accomplish great things.”

New Sports Debut

Some local student athletes may be pleased to know the Athletic Department added four new NJCAA Division III level sports. Women's and men's cross country debut in fall 2018, while the women's and men's outdoor track and field seasons are slated for spring 2019. Cross country athletes have the option to participate in distance events during the spring track and field season. MAC's campus will serve as the practice and competition facilities for the new sports.

Athletic Director Mike Overman says, "Because we are currently the only community college in Missouri offering these sports, local student athletes, as well as those from the state and region, have tremendous opportunities to compete in sports they enjoy. With these additions, MAC now offers more NJCAA-sponsored sports than any college in the state. We are anxious to get the programs underway."

Steve Davis, who will coach the new programs, says, "What an honor and privilege it is to join the MAC family! And, finally the recurring question among area coaches—Wouldn't it be

great if Mineral Area had a cross country and track program?—has been answered.

Our goal is 20 to 30 participants the first year, and then watch it grow. It would be spectacular for some of our athletes to qualify for national competition in our inaugural year. My coaching philosophy is simple: Hard work and clean living will take you far in not only academics and athletics, but also lead to a very successful life. I look forward to the responsibility of building these new programs and helping mold our young men and women in their growth as student athletes."

Steve has achieved a successful career as a cross country and track coach at the high school level, most recently with the Potosi R-3 School District where his teams earned state championships. He earned Missouri Class 3 Coach of the Year recognition for cross country and the National Federation of High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year honors. Steve was inducted into the Missouri Cross Country and Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009.

For more information contact Coach Davis at sdavis@MineralArea.edu.



Coach Steve Davis is eager to begin MAC's new track and cross country programs.

MAC Cardinals Play at Busch Stadium

On Sunday, September 16, the MAC Baseball Cardinals will play in Busch Stadium following the conclusion of the St. Louis Cardinals vs. LA Dodgers game. The Cards-Dodgers game is scheduled for 1:15 pm.

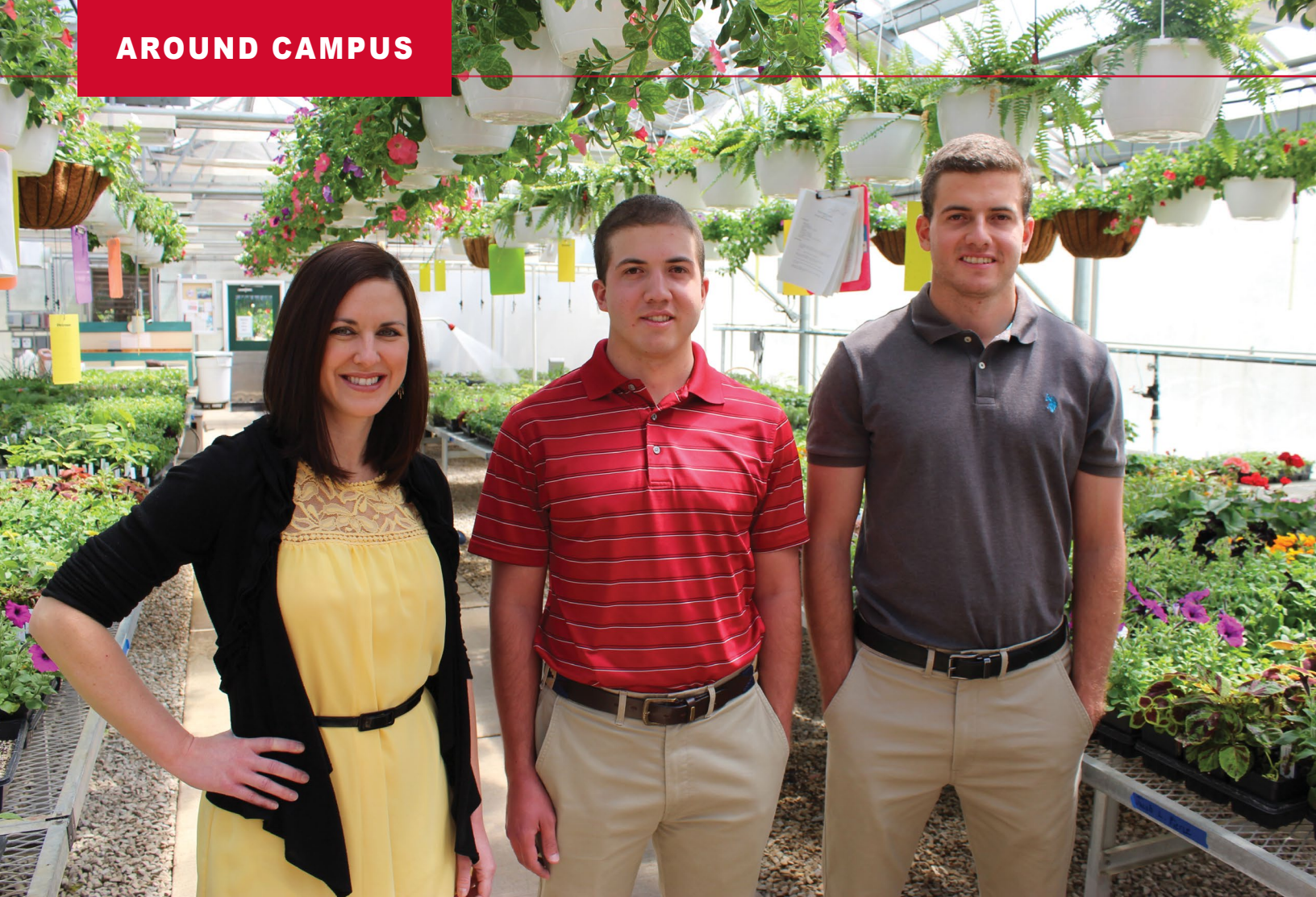


St. Louis Community College is MAC's opponent. The event is a fundraiser for the baseball team. Tickets, purchased through MAC's Athletic Department, are available through Friday, September 14.

Athletic Director Mike Overman explains, "Tickets are \$30. The tickets will get fans into both the St. Louis Cardinals game and our game, which I assume will probably start about 45

minutes after the St. Louis Cardinals game ends. This is a really special way to support MAC's baseball program. It's also a great chance for alumni, families and friends of the college to get together for a good afternoon of baseball."

Contact Mike Overman at (573) 518-2134 or moverman@MineralArea.edu to make your ticket order.



Lynne Wisdom enjoyed having international students Marcos Devoto and Ricardo Devoto in her classes and watching them thrive as college students.

MAC is Like a Second Home

“My students are my motivation,” says Business Administration Department Chair Lynne Wisdom. “I’m a people person who enjoys helping others. Also, I like to talk! Let’s be honest, most teachers do.” So, it’s not surprising that interaction with students in her business courses brings Lynne almost daily contentment.

“I love moments when I’m explaining a concept and it finally clicks and students are excited about what they’ve learned,” says Lynne, a MAC alum. “I get special satisfaction when my advisees and I build the perfect schedule that balances college, work and family. I pride myself on being responsive and approachable to students who may struggle with course material or personal issues. Helping these students

succeed is gratifying.”

Steve Easter was Lynne’s advisor and favorite teacher. She reflects, “I always admired his zeal for his teaching, students and subject matter. I remember telling him how overwhelmed I was by all the career options and that I would like to be a college business teacher someday. So for me, MAC is a dream job! It’s my opinion that MAC is the best place to work, and my colleagues are wonderful. Each day I enjoy coming to work because I am proud to be a part of an institution that cares about our students and contributes so much to our community.”

Lynne says, “Over the years I’ve had many stand-out students. Recently, two top-notch international students—Marcos

and Ricardo Devoto, brothers from Argentina—have impressed me. I greatly admire their work ethic and the excellent job they do balancing their academics with their time on MAC’s golf team. They are truly amazing students!”

Of Mrs. Wisdom, Ricardo and Marcos say, “She is one of the best instructors we’ve had. Her dynamic teaching style allows us to follow her lectures with ease, and she always makes sure everybody understands the material. She is very willing to help students and encourages us to email her or stop by her office in case we need help.”

MAC golf scholarships fulfilled the brothers’ dream to come to the U.S. to attend college and play golf. “Since colleges in Argentina don’t offer any

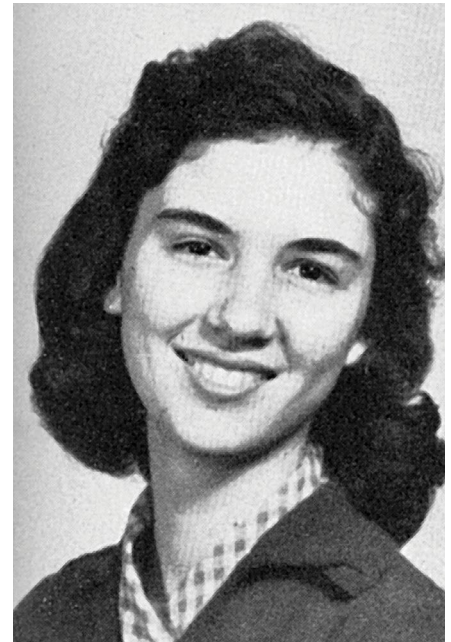
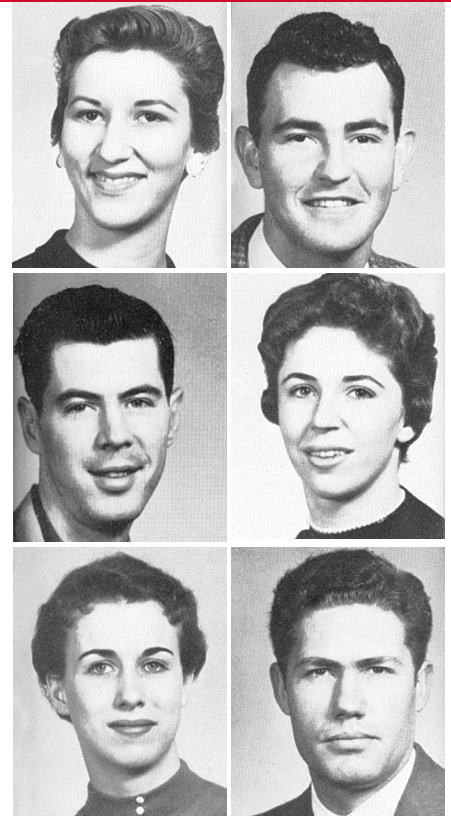
sports to students, MAC was the perfect fit to start my education," explains Ricardo. Although these two years have been a lot of sacrifice and effort, I feel a lot of satisfaction with what I have accomplished." Marcos adds, "Since I was 12, I wanted this. It's been tough to get where I am today, but I feel very joyful of all the things I achieved here. I can definitely say there are no limits to achieve anything you want in life. With discipline and perseverance, everything is possible."

Ricardo explains, "MAC feels like my second home. Everyone is willing to help. Instructors are fantastic and always give their best so we can be successful. And, since my first language is not English, I have found lots of support from the Learning Center staff." Marcos agrees, "I felt very comfortable from the first day I arrived. The staff is always very helpful. Small classes allow me to establish strong relationships with instructors who are always available for help. As an international student, the Learning Center staff is very important in

my success."

They are ambitious. Both work as student ambassadors on campus. Ricardo spoke at MAC Foundation's Community Ladies Luncheon. Their academic achievements are remarkable. Both are Phi Theta Kappans, and Marcos was named to PTK's All-Missouri Academic Third Team. Their 4.0 GPAs earned four consecutive Dean's List honors, and they hold the highest GPA of all MAC golfers. They also shine among the nation's community college golfers with First Team NJCAA All-Academic honors in men's golf for the 2016-17 academic year. And, in 2017, MAC's team was named Golf Coaches Association of America NJCAA DII Academic National Champions for the first time in the program's history.

This fall both will attend College of the Ozarks in Branson to earn business degrees, continue playing golf, and ultimately, earn MBAs. Although Ricardo is still formulating his career plans, Marcos plans to create a golf academy somewhere in the U.S.



Spring Picnic Fun

The Spring Picnic is an annual day of fun for students and an opportunity for laughs and games before buckling down for finals.



Flashback

1958 Sophomores

The class included Carolyn Smith, Freddie D. Duncan, Jack Goggins, Barbara Wulfert, Joan M. Blanton, Jesse D. Glone and Judith Smith.



CIT participants role play a situation in which two law enforcement officers approach an individual who is trying to harm himself.

Crisis Intervention Training

Training offers a preemptive perspective to better understand mental health issues.

Twice each year the Law Enforcement Academy offers a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program which equips law enforcement professionals with prevention and intervention strategies to implement when they encounter individuals in crisis.

It's a proactive approach that stresses how to deactivate potentially threatening situations, keep people with mental illness safe and out of jail, and connect these individuals with a team of professionals who can help find support and initiate a positive treatment plan.

This collaborative community policing initiative attracts professionals from various fields including law enforcement,

emergency response, mental health and hospital emergency departments as well as individuals conversant with mental illness and their families.

CIT topics focus on prevention, reduction of use-of-force and safety. Workshop participants interact with individuals and families who share first-hand experiences coping with mental illness, caring for loved ones in crisis, and pathways to treatment and recovery. Skill sets focus on body language, tactical communication, de-escalation tactics, and how to defuse a potentially violent scenario. Then, participants role play common crisis situations and gain feedback from their instructors and peers.

Awareness and training about mental health expands resources available to law enforcement in its response to crises that impact people in our community. The National Alliance on Mental Illness states CIT is founded on principles of dignity, understanding, kindness, hope and dedication. This training breeds cooperation among community professionals, creates a greater awareness of mental health issues and advances a culture to compassionately render assistance to the public.

For information about future CIT programs, contact MAC's Law Enforcement Academy at (573) 518-2308.

Questions? We Can Help

“Our reward comes when we see them at commencement getting their diplomas.”

Student recruitment efforts are more valuable than ever due to funding uncertainties, online degree programs and ramped up competition among colleges to enroll students. So, the importance of quality admissions representatives is undeniable.

College choices are influenced by intangibles like how people feel when they visit campus or those welcoming smiles from employees and students. A good first impression is critical. Often the first person potential college students meet is the admissions representative. Many students say those first impressions—kindness, humor and willingness to help—are the very reasons they chose MAC.

In their work as MAC’s admission team, Julie Sheets, Andrea Kemper and Traci Weissmueller help students and have the potential to change lives. Much of their work is individually tailored for each student. In addition to the admissions process, their repertoire

includes advising and career guidance; providing information about degree programs, housing, financial aid, and work study; and participating in high school visits, college nights and campus tours. They also work with nontraditional students and are familiar with the parameters of enrolling international students.

“Our job is to help design a smooth transition for students from their current situation—whether they’re a high schooler, nontraditional student or employee upgrading skills or making a career change—to feeling comfortable sitting in a classroom,” says Julie. “Since we do some advising in addition to recruitment, we immediately have the chance to build a relationship with that student. As long as students have the drive, we can help steer them to achieve their goals.”

Traci adds, “A friendly face and a smile do a lot to make people at ease. It’s especially true for first-generation college

students and adults returning to school because they have little understanding of the process. Generally, they’re scared. So, we ease their anxiety and help as we can.”

Andrea explains, “I speak for all three of us. When we meet these students, we never know what may happen. They enroll for many reasons. Our reward comes when we see them at commencement getting their diplomas. It’s amazing how they’ve changed while here and how their lives may change as a result of getting their education. And, we’ve had a part in the process.”

The admissions trio encourages alumni to refer potential students and spread the word about the personalized attention that’s available. They are also interested in hearing some alumni testimonials that may be used in MAC publications.

For more information about the admissions process or to share a testimonial, contact Julie Sheets at jsheets@MineralArea.edu or (573) 518-2206.

When prospective students consider MAC as a college choice, Julie Sheets, Andrea Kemper and Traci Weissmueller are often the first people they meet.





Congratulations Classified Staff Nominees. Back row: Debbie Crites, Paula Golden, Mary Sansoucic, Sandra Ivson, Aaron Miller, Chris Visnovske, Amy Matz, Erin Sites, Kim Graham, Cheri Marler, Shaun Braswell and Joy Marshall; Middle row: Tippi Seals, Robbin Stegall, Susan Kalb and Amy McKenna-Jones; Front row: Roy Henson and Lisa Johnson

Nominated by Peers

MAC faculty and staff recognized.

In the daily work environment, employees may not think about the importance of their contributions to the big picture. And, with the business of each semester, they don't always take time to share a compliment or give positive feedback to colleagues. So, each year, employees nominate their peers and celebrate their service and contributions with the Classified Staff Employee of the Year and Faculty Member of the Year awards.



Congratulations Faculty Nominees. Back row: Dr. Shawn Young, Steve Schroeppel, Todd Kline, Jennifer Sikes, and Angie Erickson; Front row: Emily Murdock, Nancy Petersen, Chris Schmitt, Alan Bayless, Jenny Majeske and Dr. Amy Henson

Behind the Scenes

They get it done.

Few realize more than the General Services staff the extent of work and coordination required to maintain the campus buildings and grounds. Whether it's set-ups for hundreds of community events or routine and not-so-routine maintenance, General Services is at the forefront. Snow and ice removal and lawn mowing guarantee extra hours to make the campus safe and presentable. To the General Services staff, your work is very much appreciated.



Night Crew. (above) Clinton Killian, Barry Wilfong, Jessica Crocker, Karen Lewis, Ken Lewis and John Smith. **Day Crew.** (below) Back row: Dylan Hodges, Richard Lindsey, Larry Agnew, Linda Ebert and Craig Hulsey; Middle row: Preston Douglas, Brandon Morgan, Larry Underwood and Jason Bohnenkamp; Front row: Lance David, Rodney Resinger, Matt Jarvis and Barry Wilfong





Instructor Brenda Colvin-Nelson (center) and her English Comp students all agree that being connected to others adds value to life.

It Has to Matter

Brenda Colvin-Nelson never knew just how transforming her career change would be for herself as well as her future students. She says, “I worked in business and travelled a lot. I recall sitting in my hotel room one evening feeling disenchanted and questioning whether my work even mattered. Almost instantly my career change was in the works, and I was going to be a teacher.”

For 17 years, Brenda has taught Public

Speaking and English Composition at the Perryville Outreach Center and is rewarded every time she steps into the classroom or hears from former students. “I feel blessed to touch the lives of these wonderful students but am more moved by the profound and meaningful impact they have on me,” she says.

Brenda’s “Make a New Friend” assignment matches her Comp students with residents at area nursing or

“Life needs to be meaningful; people need to know they matter.”

veterans’ homes. Each student prepares a narrative essay about the life of his or her new friend. With a smile, Brenda says, “When I explain the assignment, there’s not much enthusiasm, sometimes even dismay. Of course, few students



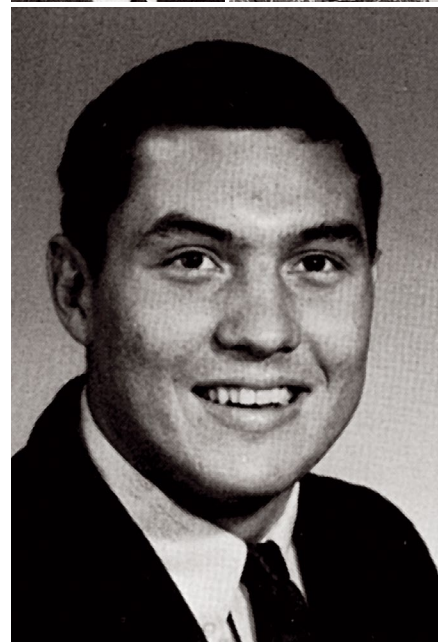
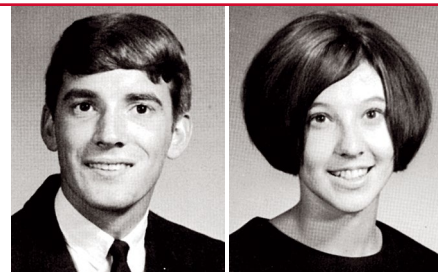
have visited a nursing home, so they're uneasy. I get it. I was the first time I visited. But the feeling you get from being connected and making a difference in someone's life is unexplainable. Life needs to be meaningful; people need to know they matter. This assignment helps students achieve their grade and so much more. And, in the scheme of things, that matters!"

This semester the students' amazing new friends range in age from 59 to 93. Megan Hotop says, "My new friends are a couple who has been married for 15 years. Both lost their spouses and hoped one day they would have a relationship so they wouldn't be alone. Their stories

are good, and sometimes they offer some relationship advice. I really enjoy them." Amelia Callier was surprised to hear her new friend's stories about his 35-year career that ended with a quick retirement once he learned gangs and drug dealing had infiltrated his workplace. Breanne Brewer's heart was warmed as her new friend told about the happiest day of her life (marrying a lifelong best friend), dealing with breast cancer, and the importance of religion in her life.

Most often this intergenerational experience positively impacts students during the assignment and in years to come. "Unsolicited comments and letters from former students remind me just how powerful this assignment can be," explains Brenda. "Recently I ran into a former student who said she hated the assignment while in class. Now, she tells what an impact it had on her perspective of her own life and the positive changes that resulted. Another student, who travelled the world as a journalist for a major New York publication, returned to our area to care for his aging parent. While here, he learned if he intended to return to his position, the company's new policy required a degree. So, he enrolled in my class. What could I possibly teach a successful journalist? A couple years later, he wrote me a long letter about the assignment. He said he wondered what he could possibly learn from an elderly woman who never spent a night away from the farm where she was raised until she came to the nursing home. Her life seemed so uneventful, so very plain. He didn't realize it then but now understands she found joy in the simplest things. He says this is a remarkable lesson he learned from her. So, comments such as these affirm how this assignment can touch lives in so many ways."

Incidentally, to give her Public Speaking students a new audience, Brenda arranges for them to deliver their speeches and discuss their topics with residents at care facilities. The care facilities' residents and administration give rave reviews to the "Make a New Friend" assignments.



Flashback

1968 Sophomores

The class included David Daugherty, Donna Poston, Linda Miller, Garland Abernathy, Glen Herbst, Sheila Wood and James Joggerst.

Donor Honor Roll

Abernathy, Garland
Adams, James
Adkins, James and Scottye
Allen, Greg and Jane
Ameren Missouri
American Food & Vending Enterprises, Inc.
Anonymous
Applegate, Ken and Melissa
Archer, Gene and Maxine
Arnett, David and Emily
Asberry, Dwain
Atterberry, Eugene and Cheryl
Barks, Tracey and Melynda
Bauche, Kurt
Belgrade State Bank
Bennett, John
Berry, William and Jacqueline
Bewersdorf, Ernst and Joyce
Bismarck R-V Schools District
Black River Electric Cooperative
Black, William and Caren
Blackwell, William and Janet
Bloemke, Thomas and Bev
Bohnenkamp, Marvin and Kim
Bosley, Bennie and Jeanetta
Brockmiller Construction, Inc.
Buchheit, Joyce
Buckman Laboratories, Inc.
Bullis, James and Nancy
Burch, Stephen and Rebecca
Burns, Dean and Chris
Busenbark, Larry and Carolinn
Busse, Marsha
Caldwell, Herb and Judy
Caledonia Alumni Scholarship Fund
Callahan, Justin and Lisa
Camelot Nursing Center
Cash, Lee and Anna
Cash, Sandy
Centene Management Company, LLC
Chapman, Glenda
City of Bismarck
Clark, Elvis
Clausen, Andrew
Clevenger, Mary
Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Coulter, Ray and Carol
Country Mart
Cox, Dennis
Cozean, Charles and Carole
Crader, Dennis and Nancy
Crocker, Michele
Cross, Gerald and Jane
Damba, Dwayne and Victoria
Defreece, Dale and Laree
DeHovitz, Bernard
Dill, Justin and Julia
Dobrzeńiecki, Christie
Doss, Bob and Merrill-Doss, Jean
Dotson, Mark
Drew, Kathleen
Dunn, Lloyd and Carol
Eads, Sharon
East, Mary
Easter, Mark and Liz
Eaton, James and Carol
Eck, Deborah
Edburg, Lisa
Eimer, Dennis and Mary
Fadler, Ronald and Sandy
Faries, Clyde and Liz
Farmington Elks Lodge #1765
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With much gratitude, we recognize generous alumni and friends who loyally support MAC's mission of quality, affordable and accessible education. Thank you for improving lives and enriching communities.

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In Honor

Gil Kennon
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Julie Sheets

Aptitude for Law Enforcement

Affordability and location influenced Mark Benson's decision to attend MAC. He says, "You don't need a big expensive college to get a quality education. MAC is very affordable and scholarships really help. I'm achieving my degree, and about the only thing I need to pay for is gas because my financial aid and scholarships pay for nearly everything."

"...I just need to push past what can happen to me so I see the bigger picture, which is how I can help others and care for their well-being."

Mark, a first-generation college student, adds, "Now that I'm on campus, I see how the smaller classes suit my learning style. Instructors are flexible and really try hard to help students when we encounter scheduling or personal issues. What's more, everyone is nice to one another."

Mark's criminal justice instructor Jim Gerwitz says, "I first met Mark at the student advising session and knew immediately he was going to excel in college. He scored very well on his placement test and had several hours of college credit already under his belt. Mark is an outstanding and dedicated student who has a bright future ahead of him in law enforcement."

This Fredericktown graduate earned 34 college credits while in high school and plans to finish his Associate of Arts in a year. Mark says, "Then, I'll transfer to CMU or SEMO for my bachelor's in criminal justice. When I turn 21, I plan to enroll in MAC's Law Enforcement



Jim Gerwitz (right) knew immediately upon meeting Mark Benson that he had the potential for a successful career in law enforcement.

Academy because I am really called to help others. Sometimes family and friends wonder why I chose this high-risk career. But, I just need to push past what can happen to me so I see the bigger picture, which is how I can help others and care for their well-being."

Jim says, "Mark's interest in law enforcement comes at a challenging time. Recent incidents and media attention don't portray law enforcement as an especially fulfilling career. The field is for people who can see the 'good' side

of law enforcement and understand that contentment comes in serving others."

In 1999, after working part-time as a MAC assistant baseball coach, Jim joined the full-time faculty as a criminal justice instructor and coach. In 2004, he was promoted to head coach, a position he held for eight years. Now, he teaches in the criminal justice program and helps in the Law Enforcement Academy as a firearms instructor.

New Job Board

Serves Alumni, Employers & Students



Looking for work? Seeking qualified employees? Now, alumni, students, employers and community residents have one more reason to connect with MAC.

Thanks to the generosity of MAC Foundation, MAC's Career Services is pleased to offer College Central Network, a new online job board and career information site at www.CollegeCentral.com/mineralarea. The site went live in mid-February and offers information on career portfolios, résumé builders, and thousands of career articles, documents and podcasts.

This free, mobile-friendly site allows our MAC alumni, students and other job seekers to:

- search for jobs and volunteer opportunities posted exclusively to the MAC service area,
- search the Jobs Central® national job board and Intern Central® national internship board,
- build a résumé and online portfolio to demonstrate best work to employers, and
- gain access to career advice documents, videos, podcasts, and articles from over 125 authors.

There is a potential gain for employers, too. The site allows them to:

- access resources,
- post jobs targeted to MAC students, alumni and community residents, and
- search résumés of our students, alumni and community residents.

"It is wonderful to see students and alumni using the free job and career search tools on our new online job board," says Alison Sheets, director of Career Services. "After attending a statewide career services meeting, I learned that other community colleges were having great success with CollegeCentral.com and similar products. I'm glad MAC brings this resource to our area employers and job seekers. It's very rewarding to share job search best practices and local and national opportunities with others."

Take advantage of this new MAC service—a powerful tool to connect talent with career opportunities. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a demonstration of services, please contact Alison Sheets at (573) 518-3848 or email asheets@MineralArea.edu.

Visit www.CollegeCentral.com/mineralarea to begin using services today.



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Consult your estate planner and financial or tax advisor to determine tax considerations for gifts. MAC Foundation, is a 501(C)(3) charitable entity.

Give today using the enclosed envelope, by calling (573) 518-2114 or visiting www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation.

MAC is the Perfect Choice

Camille (Wright) Nations, MAC 1982-84, has returned to the college in a new capacity as the newest member of the board of trustees. She represents Subdistrict 5 and fills the vacancy left following the passing of long-time trustee Dr. Don VanHerck.

Scholarships—both music and volleyball—afforded the Bismarck native a more cost-effective college option and the opportunity to participate in the

activities she enjoyed. Like many alum, Camille excelled under the tutelage of music instructors Patricia and Michael O'Brien and was recognized as the 1984 Music Student of the Year. She played for Coach JoAnn Owen, and her volleyball prowess earned her 1984 All-Region volleyball honors. "Attending MAC was a true confidence builder regarding my educational pursuits. I transferred to Southwest Missouri State University and

completed my BS in Music Education in 1986. Then, I enjoyed my 20-year career teaching music in the Central R-3 School District."

Since her retirement in 2008, Camille realized her lifelong passion for education remained. That passion urged her to seek the trustee position. "I know first-hand what MAC did for me," she explains. "So, I've always felt a calling to encourage and support students who never felt they could attend college due to financial struggles. As an educator,

"I'll have a lot to learn, but I'm excited and humbled to get on with the business of keeping our college vital and experiencing growth and success."

I was provided a platform—while in my classroom and now as a vocal instructor—to promote MAC and its many benefits. The skills needed to have a quality life as adults are dependent upon opportunities for affordable education. MAC remains the perfect choice for kids and families who didn't think college could ever be in their future. As higher education becomes more expensive, it's so important we have MAC here."

Of her new position, Camille says, "I'll have a lot to learn, but I'm excited and humbled to get on with the business of keeping our college vital and experiencing growth and success. In our rapidly-changing world, MAC needs to continue to be a leader in our community and position itself to serve its students, as well as business and industry. And, I want to be a part of that mission."

Camille Nations says, "I'm intrigued to be part of the board of trustees."





In retirement, Don and Anna Jean Wade enjoy wonderful travel experiences and St. Louis Cardinals baseball.

We're a MAC Family

Like many alumni, Anna Jean (Welch) and Don Wade proudly say, "We're a MAC family. We attended FRJC in 1952-53 prior to transferring to Missouri U. Then, 20 years later, our daughter, Kelly, chose MAC before transferring to the University of Missouri-Rolla. MAC's pre-engineering program provided a seamless transfer to her UMR engineering program."

FRJC provided far more than academics. It was a place where courtships blossomed and treasured friendships began. Anna Jean states, "It was a comfortable way to adjust to college life. It helped us understand that small choices we made were steps to overall success in our personal and professional lives. Most important of all, FRJC offered us the chance to mature socially, adjust to our newfound freedoms as we made our own 'young adult' decisions, and understand

and accept the responsibilities that accompanied our personal choices. All this in a caring and safe environment."

After Missouri U, the Wades returned to the LeadBelt. Don took a position with MoDOT and, after 40 years, retired in 1995 as a senior construction engineer. Anna Jean taught physical education and coached girls' volleyball for 32 years. This summer Anna Jean and Don will celebrate 63 years of marriage.

In retirement, Anna Jean and Don remain young at heart. For several years, they enjoyed time on their houseboat on Kentucky Lake. When the time came, they exchanged the houseboat for a condo on Table Rock Lake which they still enjoy. They travelled extensively, including international travel. They enjoyed winter snowmobiling trips with friends to Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Although life has slowed a little bit, they still make trips

"It was a comfortable way to adjust to college life."

to visit their daughter in Wisconsin, and they enjoy time with friends and the serenity of their home outside Farmington.

The Wades say, "MAC is vital to our community and region. Just as FRJC met the needs of so many students 60 years ago, we see MAC expanding and changing to meet the needs with opportunities for the young preparing for the workforce and the not-so-young who appreciate quality theatre, music and other cultural productions close to home. We will always be grateful that FRJC and MAC helped our family meet our needs while we developed the confidence and skills to set and reach the goals in our lives."



Family is one reason local athletes come to MAC. Pictured are: Allie Golden (Potosi), Assistant Coach Briley Palmer (Farmington), Makenzy Smith (Wappapello) and Holly Forbes (Bonne Terre).

Women's Basketball Changes Lives

"Honestly, I never realized what a jackpot my MAC basketball scholarship was," explains Farmington native Briley (Milfeld) Palmer. "While it's natural for kids to want to move away for college, I see the advantages of staying local. Not only did I get to continue playing a sport I love and earn my two-year degree, I left MAC debt free. Then, my MAC experience cultivated a full-ride scholarship to play NCAA D2 basketball at Christian Brothers University (CBU) in Memphis, TN. And when I graduated, I became CBU's graduate assistant coach which provided valuable coaching experience."

Even though Briley found her CBU coaching experience rewarding, she felt something was missing. "I missed my connection with MAC!" says the MAC 2007-09 alum. "I missed that sense of family and the perks that come with being in a program with Coach Koch and Coach Todd. My motivation

"We demonstrate that loyalty and working hard every day without making excuses breeds success."

is more about making a difference in the lives of student athletes than it is about Xs and Os. We instill in the girls the characteristics needed to survive in this sometimes brutal world. We demonstrate that loyalty and working hard every day without making excuses breeds success. More than not, these same student athletes call us to share family celebrations, milestones in their lives, and so much more. It's rewarding to know the connections we made with these girls and the route we helped put them on made a difference. And, for some, it's a better road than where they started. Lives have indeed been changed, and that's worth way more to us than the season record."

Briley is in her sixth year as MAC's assistant coach and says, "I feel thrilled

we won two Region 16 Championships and many players earned four-year college scholarships which helps finance their educations. I am proud to be a part of such an awesome program!"

Briley believes her choice to stay local has benefitted her financially since she's completed her master's degree, has no student debt, and is thrilled to be an eighth-grade English teacher at North County Middle School in Desloge."

But, what really influences local players to come to MAC? Three current players agree family is a significant factor. Makenzy Smith says, "We all get the point of the big college experience. But, MAC offers affordable, challenging academics and more. When I first visited the campus, it felt so homey. Everyone just makes you feel they're glad you're

here...from the great teachers to the kind maintenance guys and cafeteria ladies and all the other students." Holly Forbes and Allie Golden explain, "Just having your family close means a lot. It's super easy for families—and former high school friends—to come to home games." Allie chuckles, "Besides, I wasn't quite ready to live away from home...some practical things like my laundry skills need work!"

Post-season honors were awarded to Makenzy for Second Team All-Conference and All-Region; Allie for First Team All-Conference and Second Team All-Region; and Holly for First Team All-Conference and All-Region. Additionally, Holly was honored as the Region XVI Freshman Player of the Year and named to the NJCAA Honorable Mention All-American Team.



Basketball Camps

Coach Strege Camps

July 16-19

Ages 8-11 9:00 am - noon

Ages 12 and up .. 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Contact: lstrege@MineralArea.edu
or (573) 518-2229

MAC Lady Cards

July 25-27

Grades 1-4..... 9:00 am -11:00 am

Grades 5-8..... 11:30 am -1:30 pm

High School 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Enroll Online

<http://www.mineralarea.edu/ce/MACBasketballCamps.htm>

Busy with Two Jobs

"MAC's a great starting place, especially if you're not sure what direction you want to take."

"I keep my life simple, but I don't sit and waste time. I love trying new things and staying active," says Doug Howell of Farmington. "My two full-time jobs keep me busy and allow me to meet new people all the time. When I'm not working, I spend time with my son, family and friends. A group of friends and I enjoy being outdoors on our razor sports utility vehicles riding the area trails. If I could, I'd do that every day!"

In 2003, Doug earned his computer networking degree. Later, he completed an Associate of Arts in Teaching and transferred to SEMO where he finished a BS in Secondary Art Education. He's taught for seven years and currently teaches art at Fredericktown Middle School. Doug chuckles, "Middle schoolers provide a new experience every day—filled with high energy, non-stop talking, love it/hate it attitudes and generally some drama. But, there are some talented kids. Even if kids don't want to be in art class, I try to teach them about

personal choices and decision making because those are lifetime skills."

Three years ago, Doug started his own business, Canvases N Corks. "It's been successful so far," says Doug. "It's a casual evening of painting which focuses on giving people the opportunity to be creative while having fun. At the evening's end, participants have a personal masterpiece to take home."

Of MAC, Doug says, "MAC's a great starting place, especially if you're not sure what direction you want to take. There are many career options. The education program is very good and prepared me for my next step to SEMO. And, the wide range of art classes with Jim Wilson let me dabble in several different mediums."

When he's not working and with friends, Doug volunteers time at Central High School track and field events where he once competed.

Reach out to Doug at cancorks@gmail.com, www.canvasesncorks.com or on Facebook.

Community members enjoy an evening of fun and creativity in Doug Howell's painting class.





Coach Hal Loughary, Lyndell Gibson, Lyn Kamerman and Lynn Ledbetter return to campus for Jerome Freeman's Hall of Fame induction.

Hall of Fame Reunites Teammates

The annual St. Francois County Rotary & Mineral Area College Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony rekindles MAC friendships. This year, several teammates of inductee Jerome Freeman returned to campus for the ceremony. Now, nearly 50 years later, Lyndell Gibson, Lynn Ledbetter and Lyn Kamerman—The Three Lyns—reflected on campus life in 1969-71.

Baseball and basketball laid the foundation for The Three Lyns to become lifelong friends. In fact, after graduating MAC, they were roommates at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Lyndell Gibson. After finishing Missouri U in 1972, he moved to Colorado Springs, CO, and spent the majority of his career in management in the information technology field. The Flat River native explains, “My MAC baseball scholarship and education provided a springboard to continue at Mizzou and prepare me for my future. My professors—Miss Wadsworth, Dr. Gardner and George Hampton—were top-notch. My most memorable story was when I ran into a fence at Wilson-Rozier Park and dislocated my ankle and

broke my arm. That injury ended my freshman baseball season and put me in a wheelchair. I worried I’d lose some credits and jeopardize my scholarship. But, my truly amazing professors brought homework to my house, tutored me as needed, administered tests, and helped me complete my credits. When I tell people that story, they can’t believe it. It demonstrates how MAC cares about the community and the education of all students.”

The Freshman Class secretary/treasurer and Student Senator reminisces, “When the temporary buildings burned, we had night school at Farmington High and practiced basketball at Doe Run gym. Boy, it sure was tough to concentrate in American National Government from 9 pm to 11 pm. We saw the opening of the new buildings and the Quadrangle. Coach Loughary was the best coach I ever had. I also played basketball for Coach Sechrest and rode the bench as the second assistant coach to Coach Loughary! I had outstanding basketball teammates... amazing Jerome Freeman, just inducted into the MAC Hall of Fame... Terry Huff, the best free throw shooter and one of the

best guards ever to play at MAC...and, roommates Lynn and Linnie, there were no equals.”

Lyndell married his childhood sweetheart Carol Horn (also a MAC grad), and they have lived in Colorado Springs for over 43 years. They have two adult sons, two lovely daughters-in-law and four wonderful grandchildren.

Lynn Ledbetter. “MAC, in particular accounting teacher Steve Easter, totally changed my career path,” recalls the Flat River High grad. “I planned to be a teacher and coach. But, Mr. Easter took time to talk to me about other career options. I guess he saw I had some business potential and guided me to business classes. At Mizzou, I earned my BS in Business Administration which carved my career path. For 35 years, I worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals. I started as a territory sales rep and later was promoted to a hospital sales representative and a district sales manager. I was successful in the business and was rewarded with several sales awards including twelve Great Performer Awards which were trips to some exclusive resort destinations.”

According to Lynn, MAC offered more than academics, "We all met in the student lounge to play Hearts and Pinochle between classes. I was active in the MAC Singers and in the honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. We learned life's lessons from Coach Loughary and Coach Sechrest who were great mentors for us. Basketball road trips were eventful because we told stories, did magic tricks and played all kinds of tricks on each other. On the New York road trip, we got to play in Niagara and visit Niagara Falls."

Lynn and his high school sweetheart, Toni Raby, have been married for 44 years and live in Camdenon.

Lyn "The Kam" Kamerman.

"MAC baseball and basketball experiences taught me some life lessons," says the Fredericktown native. "Coach Loughary demonstrated that we could be very competitive and remain respectable individuals. Coach Sechrest pushed me to

work harder and develop my leadership potential. Building relationships and refining my study habits were very instrumental in establishing a mindset that served me well at work and in life. Most friends believe I am the most competitive person they know. My attitude of always being prepared, outworking others and never giving up began at MAC."

The Kam recollects, "Our basketball road trip to New York remains unforgettable. En route, one of the station wagon's tires caught fire. We threw snowballs to put the fire out, but we ultimately watched the car burn to a crisp. Since Coach Sechrest was ahead of us, he circled back to the scene. His eyes were as big as saucers and he was speechless—which rarely happened. I got to play most of one game when Jerome Freeman and Terry Huff fouled out. Mary Pallo and I were Prom King and Queen candidates.

I still can see my buddies' faces when the emcee announced my hobbies as sky diving and scuba diving...we all knew I had never done either!" Besides the two Lyns, The Kam praises teammates Frosty Copenhaver, Rick Mueller, Mike Grisham and Terry Huff with whom he remains a best friend.

His accounting career began with Continental Telephone in Wentzville. "After the GTE merger, I was the regulatory and legislative executive director for the Texas and New Mexico operations," says Lyn. "Following a merger with Bell Atlantic, I created the national Video Compliance Department for Verizon. I retired from Verizon in 2005 and now serve as president of the Texas Telephone Association in Austin." Lyn and his wife live in Kingsland, TX, and enjoy time with their children and grandchildren.

Freeman Returns to MAC

"It was great to come back and be honored as a St. Francois Rotary & MAC Sports Hall of Fame inductee," says **Jerome Freeman**, MAC 1968-70. "Being with my teammates, Coach Loughary and community members really made me feel good. MAC was a special time, and I never regretted coming here. We were great teammates and good friends. And, Coach Sechrest let me play the style of basketball I wanted to."

He laughs, "Coach Sechrest was always teaching us things. Since I was from Chicago and one of MAC's first black players, he thought I should go coon hunting with him and Coach Loughary. When the dogs got the raccoon up in the tree and Coach was taking aim, I had no idea what was going on. This city kid didn't know anything about farms or hunting. We had lots of

good laughs. I'll never forget that."

Jerome says, "The nation was dealing with the chaos of Martin Luther King's assassination when I was there. Coach Sechrest really watched out for me. My high school was 90 percent black, and I came here to an all-white area. So, there were some ups and downs. I learned to

adjust. Coach helped me understand how to manage things that were going on. That made me a better person, prepared me to fit in and taught me how to deal with adversity." Jerome was an All-American in 1969-70 and finished his collegiate career at the University of Hawaii. He resides in Honolulu, HI.

Coach Hal Loughary and Jerome Freeman recall basketball stories.





Claudia Varvera is an avid golfer who joined other volunteers at this year's MAC Foundation tournament at Crown Pointe Golf Course.

Satisfaction from Helping Others

A scholarship brought Claudia (Harrington) Varvera to MAC in 1969. Then, she continued as a part-time, self-pay student until she completed her associate degree in 1974. Claudia completed a BS in Business Management at Central Methodist University. She says, "MAC was a great opportunity for me to get my education while I worked full time. Later, I returned for some computer classes and continuing ed classes. MAC allows affordable education for all in the Mineral Area. I'm very excited my grandson is enrolling for the fall semester."

Originally, Claudia planned to be a physical education teacher. She recalls, "Coach JoAnn Owen was the advisor for the P.E. majors. One day she explained there was an overabundance of P.E. teachers and, if I had another career idea, it might be a better choice. So, that's when I opted for math."

Claudia remembers one particular experience, "Coach Owen thought all the female P.E. majors should go camping. We were to bring our own camping gear, of which I had none. Others had tents and sleeping bags. The rest of us just had to make do. Several girls put their blankets and sleeping bags on the ground. Because I was raised on a farm, I had an idea of what possibly could be creeping or slithering on the ground. So, I opted to 'camp out' by sleeping on the hardest picnic table in the park!"

For 37 years, Claudia worked as a manager for Farm Mutual. "I remember attending my first state association convention of about 600 to 700 people where there was just a handful of females. I witnessed the industry change as more women entered the field. I truly enjoyed going to work every day and got satisfaction from helping people. Selling is not that difficult when you genuinely

"So, I opted to 'camp out' by sleeping on the hardest picnic table in the park!"

believe in your product because you're helping people get what they need rather than selling them a product. Because I really loved what I did, I feel sad for people who dread going to work. I just want to tell them to find work they enjoy, even if the money is a little less."

Claudia recently retired and stays very active. She says, "Retirement is the hardest time management job trying to get all the fun things scheduled like golf and pickle ball. Living on a farm naturally brings an abundance of work. There's mowing grass, caring for my fruit trees and vegetable garden, and then finding energy for my four grandchildren that my three children graciously gave me."

Starting Life Without College Debt

Andy and Rebecca (Miller) Buchanan, of Farmington, say, “Many students fall into the same bucket we were in, you want to get a college degree, but you really haven’t figured out what you want to do. While the location and affordability are crucial, the most important thing is MAC gets you started. Then, you gain knowledge and make decisions about your future, all without racking up an insurmountable mountain of debt. We graduated debt free, so we didn’t have student loans to repay as we began our professional lives.”

Andy earned his AA in 1998 and transferred to UMSL to earn his BSBA with an emphasis in finance and accounting. After working as a credit analyst and a commercial lender, he joined First State Community Bank as a vice president loan officer. “After high school, I had no real direction and kind of figured it out as I went. I had no scholarships and no interest in obtaining student loans. I was able to attend classes and work full time. Without MAC, there is a high probability I would have never graduated,” says Andy, the first in his family to earn a college degree. “MAC is also responsible for me obtaining my four-year degree. Had I not stopped to speak to an UMSL representative who was on campus one day, I’m not sure how things would have ended up. That single conversation snowballed into me receiving (I believe) the first-ever Presidential Transfer Scholarship and an accounting scholarship, which covered my UMSL tuition expenses.”

Rebecca took college classes while in high school and completed her associate degree in 2000. After completing her nursing degrees, she enrolled in the University of South Alabama-Mobile and graduated MSN Certified as a family nurse practitioner in 2014 through the AANP. After working 14 years as a

“Coming from a smaller high school, MAC was a wonderful and supportive environment to start me on my educational journey.”

bedside nurse in the ICU and recovery room at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, she is now employed in Farmington at Midwest Pain and Spine as a family practice nurse practitioner.

“After high school, I knew I wanted a health care career but was unsure exactly what,” explains the Ironton native. “MAC allowed me to explore my options while taking the classes needed to further my goals. MAC is where I gained the confidence, foundation and experiences required to advance my education.” She adds, “Coming from a smaller high school, MAC was a wonderful and supportive environment to start me on my educational journey. Because the advisors were very knowledgeable and worked to ensure all my credits and classes would transfer, I didn’t have the added expense of taking additional classes.”

Andy, the current president of MAC Foundation, explains, “As a community banker, it goes without saying that you are expected to give back to your community. My MAC Foundation Board participation is the most satisfying and rewarding community activity I have had the pleasure

of participating in. When students and instructors explain the monumental impact that donations have, it is very rewarding and easy to be inspired to serve. When students share their MAC stories, that’s when you really understand the far-reaching influence that fundraising activities and charitable giving can have on someone’s life. Students repeatedly convey how MAC Foundation’s efforts—and more importantly the gracious individuals who generously donate—have changed their lives.”



Andy and Rebecca Buchanan encourage others to evaluate the long-term financial benefits of attending MAC.



Students spend time interacting with therapy dogs as an enjoyable way to alleviate stress and reduce anxiety related to the rigors of final exam week.

▲ Canine Therapy

For college students (and instructors), nothing cranks up the anxiety like finals week. Time is short as students put the last touches on projects and stay up late studying. This semester, science instructor **Dr. Rhonda Gamble** arranged for two therapy dogs to visit campus so students could enjoy some stress relief. As soon as they arrived, the dogs and students became fast friends. To determine the soothing impact of the canines, students were offered a digital finger pulse oximeter to note their pulse rate prior to touching the dog. Then, after playing with the dogs for 60 seconds, most students noticed their pulse rates dropped between 4 to 6 beats per minute. The dogs are part of Tails with Tales Canine Therapy, a division of Comtrea Community Treatment Center in Hillsboro.

Canine-assisted therapy is used to promote health, well-being and healing. The dogs and their handlers complete a certification program before they can visit

nursing homes, rehab centers, schools and other facilities. The non-judgmental, comforting demeanor of the dogs make them ideal therapy companions.

• Lady Cards Basketball Alumni

Molly Barnes, a 2011 alum from Farmington, earned her associate degree in pre-physical therapy. She continued her basketball career at the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science & Sports Medicine. She attended Rockhurst University and graduated with her Doctorate of Physical Therapy in May 2017. She's now in Scottsdale, AZ, working as a sports medicine physical therapist at the Center for Athletic Performance & Physical Therapy. Molly reflects, "Being a MAC collegiate basketball player opened up educational opportunities for me, introduced me to strong women who I have great friendships with, increased my interest in sports medicine and overall gave me

memories I'll always treasure."

Mary Jane Buschmann, MAC 2013-15, from St. James, says, "MAC gave me the stepping stones it took to grow as a person and as a player. The teachers and coaching staff taught me many life skills and lessons that make me the person I am today. The memories I have will be with me forever. I transferred to Northeastern State University and played basketball. I am still attending NSU in Oklahoma to finish up my Accounting BBA."

Karley Evans, MAC 2008-10, transferred to Southeast Missouri State University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She works as a leasing agent for Old Town Lofts Property Management Co. in Kansas City. Karley writes, "My MAC experience can be described in one word, family :)"

Fredericktown's **Terra Helm**, MAC 2013-14, says, "Attending MAC was great. I'm proud to have been a part of the Lady Cards basketball program. It's given me many connections and enabled me to

continue playing basketball at Culver Stockton College where I graduated with a bachelor's in physical education and health." Currently, Terra is a graduate assistant for the women's basketball team at William Woods University and is working on her master's in athletic administration.

Courtney (Knuckles) Hopping, from Poplar Bluff, attended in 2011-13 and transferred to the University of Illinois-Springfield to play basketball. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Accountancy and is currently a CPA at Kraft, Miles & Tatum CPA Firm in Poplar Bluff.

Cape Girardeau Central grad **Alayah Cooper-Johnson** attended MAC in 2013-15 and says, "My Lady Cards basketball experience made me more mature, and it connected me to a lot of great people with whom I have built lifelong relationships." She holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Central Methodist University. She currently is living in Columbia and working for the Children's Division as a case worker.

Kenzie Kay Jones, a Park Hills Central High graduate, played for MAC during the 2016 season before transferring to Christian Brothers University. "I'm finishing up my junior year at CBU and

will graduate next year with a psychology degree. I plan on attending graduate school for speech pathology, hopefully at Memphis University," she says. "MAC was a wonderful experience for me and a great transition into college academically and athletically. I developed several relationships through MAC that I will have throughout my life."

Bonne Terre's **Kourtney Kecec**, MAC 2015-16, is attending the University of Texas-San Antonio. "Playing for MAC helped me develop into the player I am today and prepare me for the division one level basketball. It made me a smarter, tougher, and overall more skilled player. Playing for coaches that emphasized the importance of being a respectable person and player was an excellent experience for me, and I learned lessons from them that will be imperative in my success going forward."

Larra Kubinski, MAC 2012-14, from Crocker, continued to play basketball at Culver Stockton College and graduated with a bachelor's in psychology and pre-occupational therapy. She is working toward her master's in occupational therapy at Cox College in Springfield and plans to graduate in December 2018. She says, "Being a Lady Cardinal opened up so many experiences and opportunities

for me. I am very thankful to have been a part of such an outstanding program."

Alex Mills, of Alton, MAC 2014-16, continued playing at Missouri Valley College. She is set to graduate in fall 2018 with a bachelor's in biology focusing on pre-med and a minor in chemistry. Alex says, "MAC helped turn me into the person I am today. Coach Koch and the rest of the coaching staff truly care about their players, and I consider them a part of my family to this day."

Chelsea Pannier, MAC 2011-13, from Cape Girardeau, transferred to Central Methodist University where she completed her bachelor's degree. Then she enrolled in Mizzou's grad school, earned a master's in education and will soon complete her educational specialist degree in school psychology. She is a school psychologist in Lee's Summit School District. Chelsea says, "Being a Lady Cardinal led to countless friendships and life experiences that I will cherish."

Riley Reddin from Parkway South in St. Louis attended in 2013-15. She continued her basketball career at Missouri Baptist University where she earned her bachelor's degree in sports management with a minor in business. She is a student assistant for the Missouri Baptist women's basketball program and is pursuing her master's degree in sports management. She says, "Being a Lady Card helped mold me into the woman that I am today! My MAC basketball program experiences will be treasured for the rest of my life."

◀ Leadership Award

Chuck Gallaher was selected as MAC's 2018 Leadership Award recipient for the countless hours he dedicated as a member of a statewide committee tasked with developing guaranteed transfer for students who take a course recognized with a MOTR number. Chuck's regular responsibilities are teaching theatre history and directing stage productions.

Theatre Director Chuck Gallaher was honored with the Leadership Award.



► **Woman Educator Award**

Reading instructor **Ellen Miller** and child development instructor **Jennifer Sikes** received the Delta Kappa Gamma Key Woman Educator Award for their work to start MAC's Food Pantry. The award recognized their efforts to address the needs of the students as well as the collaboration among community groups, student organizations and employees. The award was presented at Missouri's Southeast Area Conference of Delta Kappa Gamma International, an organization of key women educators that promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

• **It Started at MAC**

Russ Schoene, MAC 1978-1980, returned to campus to be inducted into the MAC & St. Francois Rotary Club Sports Hall of Fame. He says MAC allowed him to mature as a player which prepared him for his career at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and in the NBA. After being drafted in the 2nd round of the 1982 NBA Draft by the Philadelphia 76ers, Russ also played for the Indiana Pacers, Seattle Supersonics and in the Italian Professional League, finishing with almost 1,500 points and 735 rebounds.

▼ **Farewell MAC Retirees**

This spring, MAC bid farewell to retirees **Judy East** (Potosi Outreach Center, 1984-2018), **Teri Douglas** (Allied Health



Jennifer Sikes and Ellen Miller display the Delta Kappa Gamma Key Woman Educator Award.

Director, 1989-2018), **Patty McFarlin** (Assistant Database Administrator, 1996-2018), **Alan Bayless** (Agriculture Department Chair, 1996-2018) and **Pam Reeder** (Registrar, 2013-2018). Their contributions and presence on campus will be missed by students and colleagues. We wish them the best of luck with their plans in retirement.

► **The Power of Music**

Using the power of music to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Music Department's choral groups performed a series of concerts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement leader's death. **Harry Cecil**, the director of choirs at MAC, explains, "It was 1968 when Martin Luther

Alan Bayless, Teri Douglas, Judy East, Patty McFarlin and Pam Reeder look forward to retirement.





MAC Singers and Chamber Singers even got the chance for an informal performance on the Peabody Opera House stage in St. Louis.

King passed away, thus 2018 is a great opportunity to honor his legacy and to celebrate him with the type of music he would have used to promote freedom, equality and inclusion—music that would have centered around rights for all. People came for the music, but were also moved by the message.” For students, the concert series presented an unconventional way to learn about the Civil Rights Movement and how influential music can be as social and political initiatives. Also, the MAC Singers and Chamber Singers toured the St. Louis and Columbia areas, spreading the joy of music in a joint concert with the University of Missouri’s choirs.

Alumni Breakfast

Calling all FRJC and MAC alumni. Bring your yearbooks, friends and favorite stories to share. Spread the word to your classmates.

Wednesday, August 8

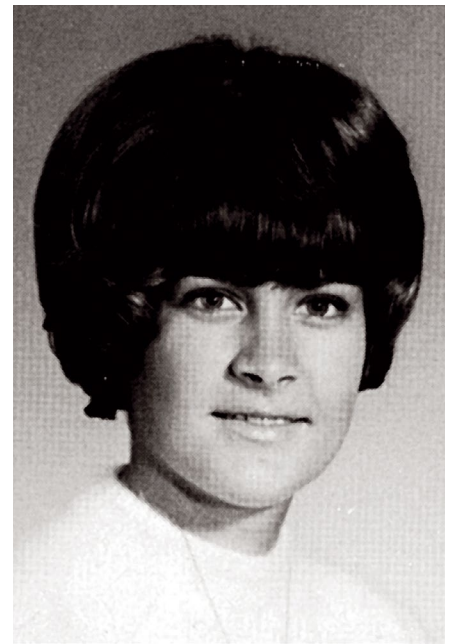
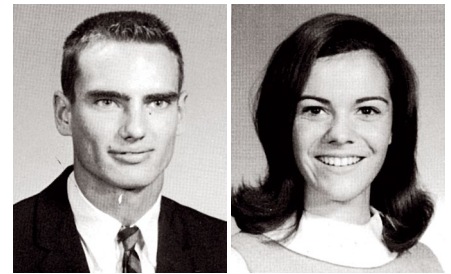
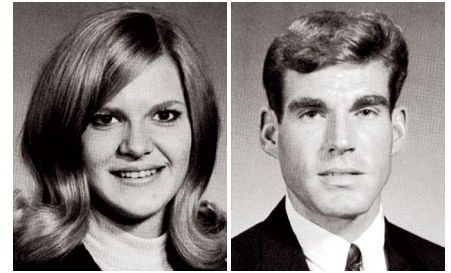
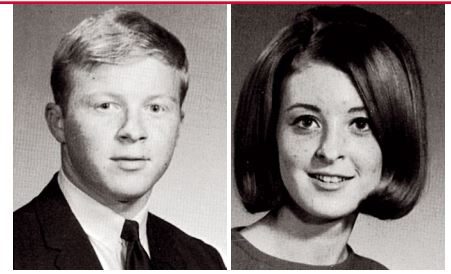
8:30 am

North College Center
MAC Park Hills Campus

RSVP by August 1

talachan@MineralArea.edu
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MAC retirees returned for this year’s reunion luncheon. Pictured are: Jim Hrouda, Betty Schaper-Fridley, Bob and Margaret Scobee, Elvis Clark, Yvonne Clay, Dennis Cox, Sandra Miller, Al Sullivan, Nancy Wegge, Sheila Beard, Ron F Adler, Donna (Doughty) White and Sue Ross.



Flashback

1968 Sophomores

The class included Jim James, Mary Mullins, Mary Wengler, Kenneth Pratte, Kenneth Ragsdale, Patricia Finnegan and Rita Sago.

P.O. Box 1000
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Please deliver to the family of:

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COLLEGE FOR KIDS

Classes run July 9-13 and July 16-20. Grades 2-3 have options including Barn Quilts, Extreme Painting, K-Nex Kids and Trash to Treasure. For grades 4-8, options include Extreme Painting, Uke it Up, Barn Quilts, Cooking and Cultures, Dazzled by Disney, Lab Rats and more.

See the full schedule at MineralArea.edu/CE/MACKids
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TEEN ACADEMY

Classes run July 23-27. Options for grades 6-9 include Cooking 101, CSI, Simply Sports, Unsinkable Titanic, Writer's Workshop and more.

See the full schedule at MineralArea.edu/CE/MACKids
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FALL CLASSES

Classes begin Monday, August 20.
Contact Admissions or an advisor today.

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