

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 2017



Solar Eclipse
AUGUST 21, 2017



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Dear Alumni & Friends,

My favorite time of the year is the exciting seven or eight weeks following Spring Break. That time passes quickly as faculty, staff and students prepare for our annual commencement. This year, for the 93rd time.

We're very grateful Zora Mulligan, commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE), accepted the trustees' invitation to be our commencement speaker. She became very familiar with Mineral Area College as the executive director of the Missouri Community College Association (2010-14) and as the general council and legislative liaison for the MDHE (2007-10). Her remarks reiterated her tremendous support of higher education and provided our graduates with words of wisdom as they celebrated their academic accomplishments.

The year has not been without challenges. The college is in a pattern of reduced spending due to a \$440,000 withholding by Governor Eric Greitens who faced difficult fiscal decisions due to a state revenue shortfall. Indications suggest further reductions may be required over the next year.

A stronger economy generally correlates to a downward trend in enrollment at community colleges. MAC is following the national trend. Recently, the nation's unemployment rate reached a low of 4.9 percent. Translation: the availability of work encourages some students to choose work instead of an extra course or even delay college. Career and technical education students are finding employment in the specific career fields in which they are enrolled. This sometimes delays completion or perhaps results in the termination of their studies.

In response to declines in state funding and tuition revenue, the Board of Trustees authorized a voluntary, early-retirement incentive with the goal of avoiding layoffs. This year, we wish Happy Retirement to ten highly-valued and respected employees who dedicated 225 combined years of outstanding service, and we recognize their invaluable contributions to the college and our students.

On a personal note, I thank Vice President Gil Kennon for his 23 years of service and leadership which spurred several important campus-wide initiatives. As one of the region's most senior community college administrators, Gil is highly respected by his peers. His work ethic and accomplishments reflect his dedication and high regard for his alma mater and our community.

In conclusion, budget uncertainty and hiring decisions remain two challenges for the upcoming year. I am confident MAC's resilience will continue just as it has for the past nine decades. And, in 2022, we as a community will celebrate MAC's centennial. We invite you to participate by sharing your photos and memories. (See page 13.)

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President

Come to MAC's Hal Loughary Field to enjoy fall baseball.

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Your financial support makes a lasting difference for MAC and changes lives for future generations of students.
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On the Cover

Physics instructor Dr. George Saum shares information about the upcoming August 21 total solar eclipse. Of the 12 states in the path of totality, Missouri ranks first in the number of residents (3.4 million) living directly in the path. Join MAC's celebration! See back cover for more information.

The Human Body is Fascinating

“I was intrigued by the interconnectedness of bones and other systems.”

In sixth grade, the chapter on bones mesmerized Alyssa Ward. “I was thrilled when I scored 110 points on the test,” she says. “I suppose that’s when I began to perceive the complexity of the human body. I was intrigued by the interconnectedness of bones and other systems. From there, I just became fascinated with the body’s anatomy and physiology. It all seems so beautiful.”

The Farmington resident is a work study student for science instructor Dr. Rhonda Gamble. Alyssa’s work includes photographing deer hearts so the photos can be placed in lab manuals. “Dr. Gamble’s an excellent teacher, and her physiology class is mind-blowing,” exclaims the freshman. “It’s amazing we’re even alive because so many things need to go just right

from conception to being born! Then, everything else it takes to live life outside the womb...sometimes the tiniest things can get biological systems out of sync.”

Alyssa continues a family tradition. Her father Jason Helvey is a MAC nursing graduate, and her mother, Laura, is also a nursing student.

“Originally, I planned to be a physician, however, money determined my career path,” says the Elks Scholarship recipient. “So, nursing was my stepping stone to an MD degree. But, now I find nursing really exciting. My recent clinical experience has me interested in mental health nursing. You get to know patients over a longer period of time, take a holistic approach to their care, and have a real hope of them returning to society. That inspires me.”

Alyssa is enrolled in the Honors Program as a way to enrich her knowledge and explore subject matter areas via additional coursework and hands-on experiences. “The program is motivating,” says Alyssa. “By associating with the other students and seeing their projects, I’ve gained insight into many areas like protein testing, in-depth use of scientific equipment, and lots of application-based research. You have to be really dedicated because it’s a time-demanding program, and it’s also very rewarding.” Upon completing program requirements, she will be recognized at commencement and receive her honors medallion symbolizing she’s graduated with honors.

Alyssa Ward prepares to photograph deer hearts for inclusion in the human anatomy lab manual.



Although he was just seeking a paycheck, Garrett Sellars found valuable experiences, encouragement and support at MAC and Park Hills River Mart.

Career as a Traveling Nurse

“...when you’re deep in the rigors of nursing school, you can’t be distracted by financial worries.”

“When I was 11 years old, I helped my grandma care for my grandpa who was very ill. That experience spurred the idea of being a nurse,” explains Garrett Sellars of Park Hills. “Nursing gives so many options. For now, I’d like to work as a traveling nurse specializing in trauma or cardiac care.” He’s already completed his LPN degree which earned his spot in the Advanced Placement LPN to RN Hybrid Program.

“Flexibility is the reason I chose the hybrid program,” says Garrett. “The lecture-based curriculum is completed online similar to an independent study. So, I can listen to lectures whenever I want, 9:30 in the morning or midnight. We come to campus for our labs, simulation experiences and check-offs. Our clinical rotations are scheduled in area hospitals. Although the program is only about nine months, you have to be super disciplined to succeed.”

The flexibility allows Garrett to work to pay for college. “I am very grateful for the financial help I received through the A+ Scholarship Program. But, I was thrown a curveball when the government reduced those benefits,” explains the sophomore. “So, I learned a life lesson and had to figure out how to pay for college. One thing was unmistakably clear...when you’re deep in the rigors of nursing school, you can’t be distracted by financial worries.”

Park Hills River Mart, owned by MAC alum Theresa Bauman, came to Garrett’s employment rescue. She employs many MAC students. “We consider her our mentor and biggest cheerleader!” exclaims Garrett. “She knows we’re MAC students and lets us build our schedules around our classes. She wants us to grow and be successful at River Mart, in school and in life. She teaches us about business operations, being a responsible leader, and creating an upbeat place where

people want to be. One of her biggest things is giving back to the community like holding events for local schools and the United Way. When I was short on funds and looking for a paycheck, I never expected to learn so many things that will help me in my career.”

Of MAC, Garrett says, “It’s so student-oriented with all the activities to get us involved. The Learning Center provides great tutoring services and is really geared to meet individual student’s needs. I personally value the library. Not only does it have an excellent selection of resources, it sets an atmosphere for studying. When I really need to concentrate and focus, I use the study rooms and quiet tables because they eliminate distractions.”

Although Garrett looks toward completing his degree and embarking on his nursing career, his sentiments are bittersweet about leaving River Mart. He feels confident his MAC and River Mart experiences are preparation for his next chapter in life.

More than I Expected

Tabitha “Tabby” Freeland is finding more to MAC than she anticipated—she’s making discoveries about herself. The sophomore enjoys the academic environment and is generating a different perspective on a life fraught with challenges.

“I really didn’t know what to expect from college since I didn’t like high school. I wish I would have enrolled

sooner,” says Tabby. “But, without the Pell Grant paying for most of my books and tuition, I doubt I could ever be here.”

Tabby’s straightforward about her life’s challenges. “My mom was always great, but having an alcoholic father exposed me to some terrorizing experiences as a kid that warped my views about what life is supposed to be,” she says. “Children of alcoholics

Tabby Freeland rescued Theodore, her sulcata tortoise, from an unhealthy caged living space.



can have some major issues. I’ve had addiction issues, and I’m proud to say I’ve been drug-free for six years. Controlling my emotions has always been difficult. I have trust issues, and sometimes I’m kind of self-destructive. All this adversely impacts relationships with people I really care about.”

MAC’s turning out to be a case study for Tabby. She is pleasantly surprised by how much she’s learning about relationship building simply by being in MAC’s positive environment and surrounded by people with behaviors she can observe and model. It’s allowed her to think about personal growth, career plans, and the potential it’s ignited for her daughter’s future.

“What I didn’t expect is everything I’m learning about myself...”

She’s also in a relationship she wants to keep. “We respect and care for one another. I want this to work. But, I worry about how I react sometimes,” she says. “My psychology classes give me insight about some of my issues and behaviors and make me realize others are in similar situations. At MAC, I’ve grown, and I’ve come to learn I’m an adult with choices rather than someone who is constantly reacting. I don’t want my daughter to see me as the person I grew up as. I want to set a good example for her.”

Tabby’s interest in psychology, especially the forensics area, is shaped by movie and book characters. She sees herself working in the field.

“I enjoy the campus and am learning so much in my classes,” she explains. “What I didn’t expect is everything I’m learning about myself and that my four-year-old daughter loves coming to MAC with me. She loves the Quadrangle and learning some Spanish words and elements on the Periodic Table with me. I’m so glad she feels comfortable here. I know she’s young, but I hope she gets ideas about education and what she may be capable of.”

HR Mission: Investing in Employees

In 2008, in response to MAC’s growing workforce, a Human Resources (HR) Department was established to take on the responsibilities of recruiting, orientation, training, benefits administration, compliance, communication and morale. Kathryn Neff was hired as its director.

“It’s our mission to recruit and retain enthusiastic, talented staff and faculty who care about MAC students!” she exclaims. “It’s also important for the HR office to be a safe space for employees to bring up concerns. No matter what the issue is, if we have any opportunities to solve problems, we can remove obstacles for people so they can focus on their jobs.”

Finding good employees is crucial to the college’s mission. Kathryn explains, “Community colleges face intense competition. More students take college classes while in high school. Online options let students take classes from any institution they choose. State budget cuts and federal financial aid restrictions present challenges. MAC focuses on what it can control: selecting the best people to attract and retain the best students. MAC needs faculty and staff who aren’t satisfied with good but continuously work to provide better instruction, more opportunities and more services to our students and community.”

Kathryn says, “Motivation is powerful. People are capable of so much more when they really set their minds to something. Think about the best boss you’ve ever had. I had a boss I’d walk through fire for. She invested in me, challenged me, and I did not want to let her down. This concept translates to faculty and staff. Our helpful staff are often the first to greet students and make a good impression. Amazing teachers inspire students and challenge them to achieve more than they believe is possible. At MAC, student success is at



Recruiting quality employees is one responsibility for HR Director Kathryn Neff.

the heart of our employees’ workday.”

During her tenure, Kathryn has instituted several programs for employees. Two of her favorites are the Leadership Academy and the Employee Awards. The Leadership Academy provides resources and develops the skills of employees who might seek future leadership opportunities by becoming a committee chair, department chair, a dean or a future college president.

“Our annual spring employee awards event is when the Employee of the Year honors are announced,” explains Kathryn. “Colleagues nominate their peers with an accompanying statement of why their peer deserves the award. I love reading those ‘whys’ because it reveals all the great behind-the-scenes work people are doing that may otherwise go unnoticed if colleagues

didn’t openly appreciate them. MAC has so many amazing employees.”

Kathryn never thought her degrees in journalism and business would land her in an academic setting. “Since I love to learn, MAC is a great place for me,” she says. “I’m so lucky to be here. Now, my inner nerd shows as I admit that faculty interviews are one of my absolute favorite experiences. Each prospective faculty member teaches a mini-lesson. I’ve brushed up on everything from calculus to chemistry. It’s so much more fun to sit in a classroom when there’s not an upcoming exam.”

Now, nearly a decade later, the HR services flourish amidst almost 200 full-time and more than 250 part-time employees. And, Kathryn considers herself the luckiest person on campus because she gets to meet every single employee.

English is Different Here

Imagine visiting a country where you only know a little of the language. Now, imagine you're in a classroom, expected to take notes and test in that language. Learning Center Director Dan Jaycox works with some international students to lessen their anxiety and reduce the obstacles to comprehension. In turn, they're able to better enjoy their studies in America.

Freshmen athletes Anica Popadic from Serbia and Dominika Skrocka from Russia are two students who Dan describes as intelligent, motivated and fairly fluent in English; however, they found keeping up in class challenging.

"Language gaps can create a disconnect for students, especially in the classroom when the lecture and conversation are fast-paced and colloquialisms are used," explains Dan. "Students are generally surprised when conversational English seems to

differ drastically from the English they learned from lessons and textbooks. Conversational speed, itself, can hinder learning for students who use English as their second language. Reading text is done at an individual pace. But listening depends on keeping pace with the information as it's given."

"Much of the emphasis is usually placed on reading and speaking, but learning how to listen critically is essential. There must be focus on non-verbal cues and understanding what is actually said rather than merely hearing the words," he says. "So, Anica, Dominika and I set out to improve their listening skills to understand subtleties of the language." Dan incorporated TED-Ed lessons and videos, taking notes for difficult biology lectures, practice quizzes, and a lot of discussion about techniques to fortify their skills. After a semester, they were more

confident in the classroom, having made significant leaps in vocabulary, reading and writing skills.

Language wasn't their only challenge. Initially, Anica and Dominika were homesick and unimaginably lonely. Fortunately, they visit with family back home using FaceTime and WeChat. As they met their coaches, teammates and dorm friends—even boyfriends—they developed a local family.

Anica and Dominika plan to advance their volleyball and basketball play at four-year schools and, hopefully, at the pro level. When contemplating life after sports, Anica thinks her art talents—photography, painting, sculpture and drawing—may bring her to the classroom as a teacher. Dominika, whose mother and grandmother played professional basketball, excels in math and thinks business may be her field.

Anica Popadic and Dan Jaycox discuss how their work helps her succeed in her classes.



Djibril Diallo and Pam Jaycox visit about his plans to earn an electrical engineering degree in the United States.

Students are Teaching Me

English Department Chair Pam Jaycox, teaches various composition and literature classes. During her seven years at MAC, Pam says, "I've watched the student population change and the range of programs increase. This diversity can present classroom challenges because most students enroll in composition classes. It's possible a single classroom could have 24 students with as many different majors. To that, add different personal goals and learning styles, and international students who have English as a second language. Each student brings a unique experience. Often I'm amazed at how much the students are teaching me!"

Djibril Diallo, of Guinea, West Africa, was one of Pam's composition

students. He values his fortuitous chance for access to higher education. "I am the first in my family to attend college, and I am very grateful for the opportunity. I would like to earn an electrical engineering degree in the U.S.," says the sophomore basketball player. "I only had three days to decide when Coach Strege invited me to come. So, I said yes. MAC was a good choice for me and has prepared me in my academics and basketball to move to a Division I school."

Pam says, "Djibril is a super motivated, intelligent guy who plans to earn his bachelor's degree. Even though English is not his native language—and he speaks three—he easily achieved the class expectations. So, I challenged

"Often I'm amazed at how much the students are teaching me!"

him with more difficult assignments. He used his critical thinking to develop ideas into effective compositions. This written work will be beneficial as he moves forward." If basketball road trips caused Djibril to miss class, Pam says his work was always done before the trip.

Pam enjoys hearing from former students. "Their stories reinforce that our students leave MAC with more skills and more confidence than when they arrived. It is an indicator that MAC's role continues to manifest in the community."



The new range prioritizes safety and is a place to learn the appropriate habits and mindset when handling firearms.

Range Serves Multiple Audiences

“Its primary purpose is a safe, controlled environment for shooters—novice and experienced alike—to practice their sport.”

For 12 years, MAC officials, local politicians, government employees and private citizens met, dreamed, worked and found solutions. In December 2016, the dream came true when the Sgt. Darrell S. Cole Memorial Shooting Range opened, its name honoring the local Marine who earned the Medal of Honor for his valor during WWII.

Giovanni "Gio" Carollo, law enforcement instructor, says, “The shooting complex serves MAC, the

region’s law enforcement, Missouri State Park Rangers and the recreational interests of local gun enthusiasts. It’s really a dream come true.”

The range results from a partnership. Missouri State Parks provided land in St. Joe State Park and contracted for the shooting range’s construction. MAC is responsible for daily operations, expenses and staffing the facility with certified range instructors. The \$900,000 project is located near the Missouri Mines State Historic Site,

two miles west of Leadington on Highway 32. The five-acre complex is ADA-compliant and available to the public on designated days for a fee. It features a 100-meter, no-blue-sky rifle/pistol/shotgun range, 12 covered booths, and target placement at 3, 7, 15, 25, 50 and 100 yards, and 100 meters. There is a 30-space parking lot, an office and restrooms. Additional range information is available on MAC’s website.

Gio was named the range supervisor and says, “Wow! This fulfills two dreams. Besides the range itself, working here is a personal dream come true. Though I’m not a hunter, I’ve always enjoyed the shooting sports.

Helping others get better and learn about the sport is a big reward for me.”

Gio explains the range’s benefits, “Its primary purpose is a safe, controlled environment for shooters—novice and experienced alike—to practice their sport. I’m available to answer questions and provide some assistance. It’s a location for hunter education classes to promote safe firearms practices and where individuals can practice and become proficient with their equipment. The close proximity to MAC works well for the law enforcement programs. And, I consider the range a relationship-builder since it has the potential to draw a new population of community members who may never otherwise have an association with MAC.”

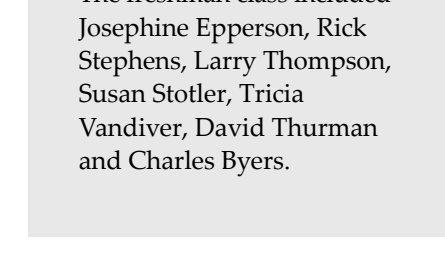
As if Gio’s not excited enough, stop by the range to visit with him about plans for the future pistol range, trap and skeet range and 3D archery range with a woods course.

Meet Gio

Gio’s four years in the Marines refined his shooting skills. In addition to his new post, he is still a MAC law enforcement faculty member and an instructor for firearms and CCW classes. Gio worked in law enforcement for about 30 years before coming to MAC Law Enforcement Academy ten years ago.

“Law enforcement is a true, undeniable brotherhood which takes a certain kind of person to stick with it,” reflects Gio. “Working the streets is prone to burn-out because you generally see people at their worst and the outcomes are often not good. Also, you put your life, and maybe your family’s life, at risk. The money’s not all that good. So, officers are motivated by a call to service or the challenge of the career. I’d do it all over again.”

Gio Carollo instructs community members on safe practices while using the range.



Flashback

1967

The freshman class included Josephine Epperson, Rick Stephens, Larry Thompson, Susan Stotler, Tricia Vandiver, David Thurman and Charles Byers.



The women's basketball team displays the Region XVI first place championship plaque: (back) Dominika Skrocka, Assistant Coach DJ Hardy, Jolee Carswell, Olivia Casey, Makenzy Smith, Hayley Winter, Laura Dick, Hannah Taulien, Olivia White, Alexia Perry, Coach Gary Koch, Assistant Coach Briley Palmer, Assistant Coach Todd Koch, (front) Khiandra Perry, Allie Golden and Shelby Moon.

Sports Recap

It's been a very rewarding year for MAC sports teams including championships, national honors and awards, and volunteering in the community.

Women's Basketball

Despite the Lady Cards' up-and-down season, the team play exploded in the Region XVI tournament as they defeated three higher seeds to win the Region XVI Championship. They defeated Moberly in the quarterfinal match-up. In the semifinal game, they toppled the top-seeded Three Rivers, 72-62. In the Championship game, MAC defeated Crowder by a score of 65-51. Gary Koch, the Lady Cards head coach, is assisted by Briley (Milfeld) Palmer and Todd Koch.

Men's Basketball

The nationally-ranked Cardinals, led by Coach Luke Strege who is in his second year, offered fans an exciting basketball season. The team caught the attention of the NJCAA polls which landed them in the Top 25 all season, ranking as high as 4th. For eleven weeks, the Cards were in the Top 10 and finished the season ranked 9th in the country. In addition to a 28-2 season record, other highlights include four First Team All-Region selections and eight players earning scholarships to play Division I basketball next season.

Coach Strege stresses academics and the community as part of his game plan. The team GPA is above 3.0 for the year, with all eight sophomores on track to graduate. His players participated in a youth reading

program and shared their talents serving as mentors for area youngsters. The team held a coat drive and raised money and awareness for Visions of Hope, a local charity providing job training for individuals on the autism spectrum.

More Basketball Honors

Region XVI is a competitive basketball venue. So, achieving post-season recognition is an accomplishment. Hard work on and off the court earned basketball honors and scholarships for several MAC players. Lady Cards' Hayley Winter earned NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team honors and a scholarship to Siena College. Five men's players received honors. Devin Thomas,

MEN'S BASKETBALL PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON SCHELDT

All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team, will play at Indiana State University. Darius Thompson, All-Region Honorable Mention and All-Conference Second Team, signed with the University of Tennessee-Martin. Lamar Morgan, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team, is heading to Coppin State University. Shawn Roundtree, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team, signed to play at Central Michigan. Zac Cuthbertson was named to the NJCAA All-American Third Team, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team.

Men's Baseball

- All-Region XVI First Team Honors: Kenton Crawford

Women's Softball

- All-Region XVI First Team Honors: Samantha Ratledge, Ali Law and Kaelan Bradley
- MCCAC Softball All-Conference Honors: Samantha Ratledge - First Team and Lilly Pecaut - Honorable Mention

Men's Golf

- Region XVI Team Championship
- Tyler Fieser finished 36th at the NJCAA Division II National Championship and was named to the Ping All-Region Team
- All-Region XVI First Team Honors: Tyler Fieser, Ricardo Devoto and Dylan White

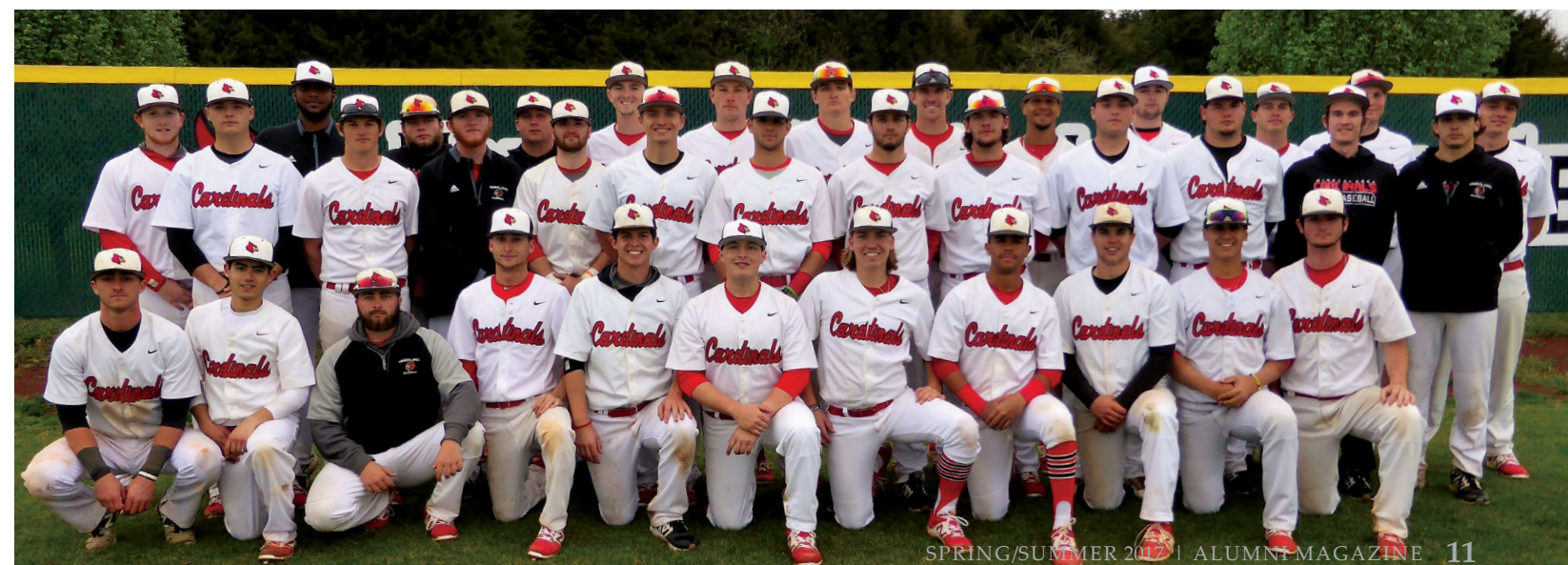
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT KING, DAILY JOURNAL



The men's basketball team: (back) Darius Thompson, Djibril Diallo, Justin Storey, Lamar Morgan, Shawn Roundtree, Amar Miller, (front) Tyler Kohl-Ross, Zac Cuthbertson, Devin Thomas, Mark Laros and Tony Chukweumeke.



Above: To kick off the season, MAC's baseball team enjoyed working on baseball skills with students at Special Acres School in Park Hills. Below: The 2017 Cardinals baseball team finished the season with a record of 36-20 and third at the regional tournament.





One of Nathan Werremeyer's goals is to educate athletes about the benefits of proper training techniques and injury prevention.

In the Player's Best Interest

He enforces the critical "return to play" decisions and educates athletes on injury prevention and conditioning.

Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who work in the areas of injury prevention, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation, while collaborating with physicians. "In 2010, the college invested in the certified athletic trainer position," says Student Services Dean Jean Merrill-Doss. "Many community colleges were hiring a trainer, and recent research surrounding undiagnosed concussions was a concern. Our trustees expressed a

need. Then, Nathan Werremeyer joined the athletic staff as part of the Athletico Physical Therapy outreach program. He works with approximately 140 athletes in seven sports."

As the college's first athletic trainer, Nathan's challenge was to build the program and get everyone accustomed to what an athletic trainer does. He explains, "Unfortunately, people don't realize the importance of athletic trainers until they need one. In the past,

coaches were completely responsible. Most say they were qualified to coach but not too skilled with injury assessments and treatment. On-site trainers can provide prompt assessment and suitable treatment which can lessen recovery time and are in the best interests of the athletes."

When athletes sustain injuries, Nathan's role is to recognize and evaluate the injury, administer emergency treatment as needed, and determine the need for physician referrals. Additionally, he enforces the critical "return to play" decisions and



Andrew Anderson, John Bowman and Allison Law practice taping techniques in Nathan Werremeyer's Care & Prevention of Athletic Injury class.

educates athletes on injury prevention and conditioning.

He is also an advocate for the athletes. Since he attends team practices and is present at games, he establishes rapport with the players and coaches. "Athletes strive to be on the field or court," says Nathan. "Sometimes they don't recognize or are reluctant to self-report symptoms, or they don't understand the potential risks associated with injury. Because I interact with them, I may have some insight to recognize subtle signs in an athlete's behavior and demeanor. I can be a voice for the

injured athlete with coaches, physicians and sometimes family members."

Women's basketball player Hannah Taulien says, "On the way down from a rebound, I heard a loud crunch and immediately knew something was wrong. I sprained my right ankle badly. Nathan worked with me to be sure I didn't try to start back too early." Basketball player and future traveling nurse Laura Dick says, "When I fractured my wrist, Nathan really helped. He found a doctor who arranged X-rays. He accompanied me to my appointments which was

reassuring since I'm an international student. Then, he devised a plan for my successful return to the game. Nathan definitely speeds our recovery."

Nathan says MAC has exceeded his expectations. In addition to his athletic trainer duties, he is the assistant athletic director and helps manage the department's website, promotional efforts and Twitter account. He says, "MAC's given me experiences I never thought I would have. I've grown so much professionally and personally within this dual role."



Seeking Yearbooks & Memorabilia

Did you know MAC will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary? It's hard to believe Flat River Junior College, MAC's predecessor, was founded in 1922—nearly 100 years ago! To mark the occasion, we're collecting memorabilia to document the college's century of service. Do you, your parents or your children have any *Chats* yearbooks, MAC newspapers or commencement programs in a closet or stored in the basement? *Chats* yearbooks were published during school years 1922-23 through 1975-76. We would like our collection to include all 54 volumes. Maybe you have one of these missing yearbooks and care to donate it to MAC..

Missing yearbooks: 1924, 1925, 1927, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1945 and 1956.

To donate items, please drop off or mail items to Rodney Wilson at Mineral Area College, P.O. Box 1000, Park Hills, MO 63601. If you have photographic or paper items you want to keep but would allow the college to digitize, contact Rodney at (573) 518-2353 or RWilson@MineralArea.edu.



Approximately 500 students graduated in May, the largest class since the first Commencement in 1924.

Donor Honor Roll

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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 Cummings, Joel
 Davidson, Charlena
 Dobrzeniecki, Christie
 Doss, Bob and Merrill-Doss, Jean
 Douglas, Ken and Teri
 Eads, Sharon
 East, Mary
 Eaton, James and Carol
 Faircloth, Harvey and Mary Lee
 Faries, Clyde and Liz
 Farmington Dental Care, LLC
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 Farmington Lions Club
 First State Community Bank
 First State Financial Management
 First State Insurance Agency
 Flotron, Richard and Susan
 Foshee, Dave
 Fox, Ron and Norma
 Freeman, Mary
 Fridley, Doug and Schaper-Fridley, Betty
 Gawf, Bob and Marty
 Gerli, Barbara
 Gifford Lumber Company

Glore, Annette
 Good Earth Tools
 Hahn, Marvin and Karen
 Hart, Jim and Anne
 Hart, Richard and Patricia
 Harter, Ellen
 Hassell, Jim and Jeanniece
 Hedrick, Debbie
 Hefner Furniture and Appliance
 Heimburger Construction, Inc.
 Heisel Equipment Sales and Rentals
 Henry, Janet
 Hickam, Bev
 Hoener Associates Inc.
 Hofstetter, Michael and Shirley
 Huff, Don and Christa
 Humphrey, Kenneth and Shalma
 IBEW, Local No.1
 International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc.
 Interstate Imaging
 Jaycox, Dan and Pam
 Jinkerson, Lana
 Johnson, Cliff and Cynthia
 Johnson, David and Alice
 Johnson, John, and Ortega, Andrew
 Jones, Kinch and Joyce
 Jones, Tom and McKenna-Jones, Amy
 Jost Greenhouses
 Karl, Donald and Ellen
 Karl, Tom
 Keen, Danny and Gerry
 Kevin Ball Auto Body
 Kiwanis Club of Farmington
 Kline, Todd and Melissa
 Konchel, Kenneth
 Kreitner, Vivian
 Krodinger, Larry
 Kurtz, Steven and Reneé
 Lawson, Floyd
 Leadco Community Credit Union
 Lee, David and Frances
 Lee, Joe and Deborah
 Lowry, James and Lynn
 Lowry, Keith and Rita
 Madison County Chiropractic
 Magic Basketball Academy
 McCaskill, Claire
 McCord, Irma
 McIntosh, Dennis and Carla
 McKenna, Bill and Debbie
 McMillian, Roger and Jane
 MFA Foundation
 Miller, Gary and Kathleen
 Mineral Area Council on the Arts
 Mineral Area Heritage Tractor Club
 Mineral Area Office Supply
 Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation
 Mineral Area Retired Teachers Association

Missouri Baptist University
 Missouri Child Care Resource
 Mitchell, Lynn
 MTC Truck Driver Training
 Murphy, Stan and Margie
 Nancy Weber Garden Club
 New Era Bank
 Nifong, Terry and Henson, Amy
 O.D.A.C.S., Inc.
 Ozarks Federal Savings & Loan
 Park Hills Lions Club
 Parker, Ken
 Parkland Health Center
 Parkland Health Mart
 Pasternak, Stephen and Joyce
 Pautler, Ruth
 PEO Chapter HJ
 Plaza Pool & Spa
 Portell, Arthur and Jo Ann
 Potosi Elks Lodge #2218
 Pratte, Barron and Joann
 Precision Eye Care
 Rauls, Gary and Joan
 Redfield Collision Center
 Rehkop, Marcella
 Roderick, Gregory
 Romine, Gary and Kathy
 Rosenbaum, Pat
 Royer, Dick and Ann
 Ruble, Craig
 Rudroff, Greg and Susan
 Sago & Street Eye Care
 Saum, George
 Schnapp, Fall, Silvey & Reid, LLC
 Senior Citizen Aid Association
 Shaner, Beulah
 Shaw, David and Trish
 Sherrill, Marianna
 Show Me Dental
 Skaggs, Randy and Kimberly
 Skeeter Kell Sporting Goods
 Slinkard, Bruce and Clara
 Snider, Karl
 Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health
 Southern Reynolds Co. School District R-2
 Spitzmiller, Anne
 St. Francois County Board for the Developmentally Disabled
 St. Francois County Sheriff's Association
 St. Francois County Rotary
 STL Communications
 Stuart, Jeff and Diana
 Sullivan, Al and Nancy
 Sundhausen, Michael and Laurel
 The Baptist Home, Inc.
 The Daniel and Henry Company
 The Doe Run Company
 The Pasta House Company
 Theta Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma

Thurman, Kevin and Karri
 Tittman, Betty
 UMB Bank
 United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas
 US Bank
 Valle Catholic High School
 Van Loenen, James and Barbara
 VFW Post 5741
 VMPC Resources
 Wade, Donald and Anna Jean
 Watkins, Pamela
 Watson, Dorothy
 Westbrooks, Mark and Mara
 White Castle of Farmington
 Williams, Paul and Lila
 Wright, Dale and Denise

In Memory

Alyson Black
 Carolyn Chastain
 FRHS Class of 1942
 Ralph Dickenson
 Carl Dobrzeniecki
 Robert Eads
 Eric Faircloth
 Dale Harter
 Dennis House
 Larry Kelly
 Lois Koch
 Saudra Rogers Marler
 Valerie Faenger Marler
 Harvey McCord
 Ruth McCord
 Larry Shaner
 Terry E. Shaner
 Gayle and Rowena Simmons
 Fraizer Stewart
 Monroe Stewart
 TJ Stewart, Jr.
 TJ Stewart, Sr.
 Walter Stewart
 Bob Ward

*"In memory of my six siblings who graduated from MAC, which was FRJC then."
 — Betty (Boyd) Tittman*

In Honor

Glenda Hendrix
 FRHS Class of 1942
 Dr. Barron Pratte
 Julie Sheets
*"Great Granddaughter"
 — Gene and Maxine Archer*
*"Eight grandchildren who all went through MAC and all graduated from police academy and others from four-year colleges."
 — Bob and Marty Gawf*

Donor gifts received between September 30, 2016, and April 30, 2017.



Christie Dobrzeniecki, sponsor of the Carl Dobrzeniecki Memorial Scholarship, was pleased to meet recipient Abby Matthews.

Big on the Constitution

“It’s important not to overlook the community college option because there are many routes to be successful.”

“I’m really big on the Constitution,” asserts Abby Matthews. “Of the three branches, I’m most interested in the judicial branch because it interprets and applies the laws and ensures their constitutionality. This is where I see major impacts being made, and I want to be involved in the process.”

The sophomore explains, “My dad

may be the reason I’m passionate about the law and serving others. We have lively discussions about current events and the legal system because he’s really into history and politics. I just know I wanted to be a lawyer or work in public service since I was about eight.”

High school leadership roles provided Abby initial career direction.

Then, her high school teacher, Ms. Watson, inspired her to apply for other leadership experiences such as Missouri Girls State and to understand the value and satisfaction of volunteer service. Service to others is a component Abby will integrate into her career.

“Although my ultimate goal is to someday serve as a public official, I

want to first practice as a corporate attorney. So, I’ll earn my MBA before my law degree,” explains the Honors Program and Dean’s List student. “I’m working as a legal assistant and gaining practical experience at the Layton & Southard Law Firm in Cape Girardeau. I see first-hand what the attorneys do and observe aspects of the public defense work, criminal cases, divorce, family, custody, disability and corporate law. It’s confirmed this career is for me.”

Regarding her decision to attend MAC, Abby had some second thoughts, but they were short-lived. “When all my friends were applying to universities and buying things for their dorms, I worried I might regret not having that experience,” says the Oak Ridge High grad. “I couldn’t have been more wrong. First, all the credits I earned before graduating high school applied to my degree. I’ve taken most of my courses at the Perryville Outreach Center because it is closest to me. My advisor helps schedule classes that work best for me. Flexible scheduling allows me to attend college, work and get valuable experience.”

Abby is very grateful for the Carl Dobrzeniecki Memorial Scholarship and A+ Program benefits to help ease her financial worries. “It’s important not to overlook the community college option because there are many routes to be successful,” says Abby, the Phi Theta Kappan. “MAC’s lower costs and scholarships will enable me to graduate debt-free with my associate degree and be two years closer to my MBA. I haven’t even graduated, and I have a great job, nice car, and I’ve positioned myself for my advanced degrees. Most importantly, I’m getting a very good education and have developed strong relationships with the teachers and other students in my small classes. MAC is the smart choice!”

Benefits of Investing in Education

Over the years, MAC’s commitment to accessibility and affordability in higher education has been instrumental for countless students and a wellspring for the region’s workforce by providing highly-skilled graduates.

The benevolence of MAC Foundation supporters makes a lasting impact for the progress of the college, its students and the region. Director of Development Kevin Thurman says, “Many donors use planned giving to arrange larger charitable gifts to the college. They are a powerful way to show your commitment to education.”

Some ways to support MAC’s mission include:

- **Create a Bequest**—Make a gift that doesn’t affect your cash flow or portfolio now, by adding a bequest to your will or trust.
- **Donate Appreciated Stocks or Bonds**—Donating stocks you have owned for more than one year that have also increased in value may yield significant tax advantages.
- **Other Gifts**—Consider a charitable gift annuity, life insurance, deferred gift annuity or real estate gift.

Donor generosity leverages opportunities to ensure MAC graduates achieve success. Many students tell how their lives are irrevocably changed and their dreams are fulfilled through education.

A nursing graduate tries to quantify the impact, “Without the MAC Foundation scholarship, I wouldn’t have completed my degree. I was a young single mother trying to make a better life. I’ve worked as a registered nurse for years, and I’ve never worried about how I would support myself or my child. It’s incredible how far I’ve come and how my education transformed my life. There is no way



to put a price on a gift that precious.” Donor investments cannot be measured in dollars.

Gifts to MAC Foundation create a ripple effect. When donors support higher education, they create change in individuals which positively impacts families who, in turn, contribute to our workforce and regional prosperity.

To learn how you can contribute to a life-changing experience for students, contact Kevin Thurman at kthurman@mineralarea.edu or (573) 518-2261.

The Infamous Road Trip

Coaches Loughary and Sechrest recruited Doe Run's Terry Huff as a member of MAC's 1968-70 baseball and basketball teams. In April 1970, he joined the Army and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Terry returned to

MAC and used the GI Bill to complete his general studies degree.

"I attended when the college burned down," explains Terry, referring to the 1970 fire that destroyed a temporary building that housed classes while the

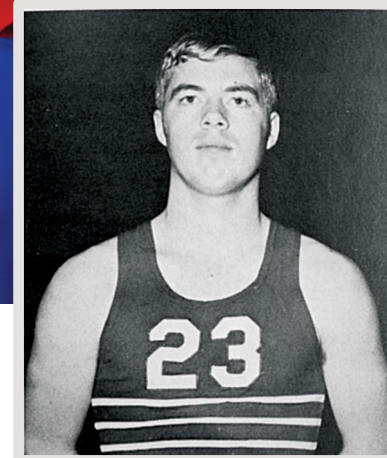
Former MAC athlete Terry Huff enjoys coming to campus for basketball games.



Flat River campus's four main buildings were being constructed. "I was blessed to have played varsity basketball for Murphy Thomas and then for Coach Sechrest and Coach Loughary at MAC. The players were really close, looked out for one another and created some special memories." Terry is proud to have started every basketball game, averaging at least ten points per game, and earning Region XVI Honorable Mention recognition. According to the 1969 *Chats* yearbook, "The best ball handlers in the conference are Terry Huff and Jerome Freeman."

Terry smiles as he shares an infamous road trip story. "Few will forget the trip to the basketball tournament in New York in the middle of winter. We didn't have buses...our road trips were in two station wagons. Coach Sechrest took the lead in his Mustang. Next, came the station wagon driven by teammate Larry Price, and Coach Loughary followed in the second wagon. I was in Larry's car. We were cruising along when Coach Loughary pulled up next to us and every one pointed at the back of our car. We saw

"I saw first-hand the struggles some of my teammates had to deal with."



Almost 50 years ago, Terry Huff (center) earned All-Region recognition for his play on the hardwoods. This season, Devin Thomas, Darius Thompson, Zac Cuthbertson and Lamar Morgan also earned post-season honors.

sparks flying which turned to fireballs. We pulled over and Coach had us throw snow to douse the flames. We just watched as the car burned. Needless to say, Coach Sech was quite surprised when he came back to find us. Fortunately, someone had enough sense to take out the luggage. So, we all squeezed into two cars for the rest of the trip. On the way back, the 'tall guys' got to fly home."

Years later Terry realized the significant step MAC had taken amidst the nation's racial unrest. "I was very fortunate to be part of MAC's first integrated basketball team in 1968," says Terry. "I saw first-hand the struggles some of my teammates had to deal with. Coach Sechrest and

Coach Loughary were the perfect men to usher in this new era."

Terry continued playing basketball in town leagues with local guys like Bob Sechrest Jr., Evan Williams and Gary Boyer. If there was a 3-on-3 tournament, they were there. They dominated the St. Louis Hoop-It-Up tournament for ten years, finishing with two first-place and six second-place finishes. They played in Columbia, MO, and Knoxville, TN. Now, he's a regular at MAC and area high school basketball games.

Terry's career as a painting contractor spans more than 40 years. He works part-time, lives in Farmington and enjoys time with his four grandchildren.



Sports Camps

Baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading and volleyball—MAC offers multiple youth camps throughout the summer months.

Camp information and registration: MineralArea.edu/ce/MACKids.htm

Knowing Someone Cares

Debra (Hill) Hoffman says, “Steve Easter was my best MAC instructor. Besides building a solid accounting background, he prepared me well to transfer to SEMO.” She borrowed a page from Steve’s lesson plans. Since 1976, Debra’s made an impact on many students while teaching business education at Jackson High School in Jackson and at Southeast Missouri State University.

“Jackson suited me well with its traditional hometown environment,” explains the Potosi native. “Our department was a close-knit team of six teachers who collaborated well. That cohesiveness cultivated wonderful experiences for our students to succeed. I enjoyed teaching students of all abilities. Sometimes it was very challenging. But, bigger challenges brought greater

rewards. I’m a firm believer that students can accomplish more when they know someone cares. When students accomplished more than they ever dreamed, we all succeeded. Sometimes, it even energized their attitudes about school work.”

Training student teachers is something she enjoyed. “I considered developing the intangibles—like teaching style and attitude—as important as the daily lesson plans,” explains Debra. “I stressed community involvement and even considered it an extension of my job. As teachers, being seen by your students and community members is incredibly valuable. Therefore, I made a point to encourage student teachers to join me at all the extra-curricular events so students could see our support.”

Debra attended MAC in 1971-73 and recalls meeting Kathe (Hawke) Ramsey in the registration line. They remain friends today. She also remembers Kim Plummer and Vicki Scott. She recalls PTK activities and sponsor Ginny Rosenstengel. And, she was pleased Pat O’Brien asked her to accompany her voice students for rehearsals and recitals.

Her BS and MA degrees are in business education. She earned the Southeast Missouri District Business Education Teacher of the Year award.

She retired from Jackson in 2007 and just finished part-time university teaching. Spending time and traveling with her family top her retirement plans.

Debra lives in Jackson and invites friends to contact her at dhoffmannr2@yahoo.com.

Debra Hoffman has always believed students can accomplish more when they know someone cares about them.



Baseball and Fatherhood

“Being a dad is a pretty awesome feeling.”

Want to bring a smile to Logan Bradley’s face? Mention baseball or his 8-month-old baby girl.

As for baseball, Logan says, “My dad instilled in me his love for the game. He coached me since I could walk and demanded excellence in my work ethic and performance. He pushed me harder than the others, and we butted heads more than once. He taught me never to settle. Looking back, I realize everything he demanded developed my knowledge of the game and my skills as a player.” Now, Logan coaches his younger brother with a similar style.

MAC coaches Stan Walden, Blake Jones and Mike Overman advanced the foundation Logan’s dad designed. “Mike really improved my swing,” says the 2014 alum. “We watched films and spent time in the cage to identify some imperfections in my swing. Mike’s adjustments were a huge turning point which gave my swing a new look, incredible power and contributed to my confidence as I moved forward.”

Logan and three of his teammates—Brad Cuyos, Jeff King and Jalen Miller—accepted baseball scholarships to Central Methodist University (CMU) in Fayette, where their memorable highlights culminated in winning the 2016 NAIA Baseball World Series.

“Before the season even began, the seniors knew this was our last run and defined our season’s goals,” recounts the team captain. “In our last home game, the opponent deliberately tried to take out our second baseman with his cleats. That kind of play totally disrespected my teammate and the game itself. I stood up for my teammate, and a bench-clearing brawl followed. Brad hit the game-winning,



Winning the 2016 NAIA Baseball World Series, a championship ring and setting a new RBI record were highlights of Logan Bradley’s CMU baseball career.

12th inning home run, and he pointed to me in the parking lot as he rounded third. For my actions, I was ejected and served a four-game suspension. Despite the consequences, I still stand by what I did. That suspension prevented me from playing in our conference tournament where we had four come-from-behind victories. Next was the World Series, an unbelievable experience. It was surreal to win the championship, but even better to realize we had become like brothers, made unbelievable memories and created lifelong relationships.”

Logan set a new CMU season RBI record at 76, and Brad edged Logan by two home runs to establish a new season home run record at 18.

While Logan played baseball for most

of his life, fatherhood is a brand new experience. “It’s a totally unbelievable feeling,” he says with a huge smile. “I don’t even know how to describe how wonderful she is and how she makes me feel. I didn’t know what to expect, but there are lots of emotions... joy, love, nervousness, happiness, uncertainty, laughter and lots of responsibility. It’s scary, too. On her second day home, she was rushed to the hospital with jaundice. When we saw her little face in a mask, she seemed so helpless. An eerie feeling kind of hovered around us, and I realized as parents we felt helpless, too. She relies on us for everything. Being a dad is a pretty awesome feeling.”

Best of My Career So Far

The entertainment industry often means a life on the road. One man's road began at MAC. Brett Pruneau, of Bonne Terre, enrolled at MAC in 2008 to pursue a music degree. Just short of completing his degree, he seized an opportunity and launched his performing career. "I signed an artist development contract at 18 and moved to Ireland, where I worked extensively and exclusively with David Downes, the creator of the multi-platinum Irish group, *Celtic Woman*," he says. "I spent four years training, developing and touring as a vocalist around Europe."

"Education is supremely important, but seizing the moment is critical in my line of work."

He credits Greg Graf, former MAC choral music instructor, with helping him decide when to launch his career. "Not only was Greg a fantastic musician and teacher, he became a trusted colleague and mentor," Brett says. "Deciding to leave college to pursue music was an incredibly scary and monumental decision. Greg offered insight and the right levels of advice—factoring in practicality along with the pursuit of a dream. Education is supremely important, but seizing the moment is critical in my line of work. Greg's guidance helped me understand the pros and cons to the opportunity I had in front of me, all the while letting



Brett Pruneau (left) is currently focusing on vocal group, Parallel 3, with Marc Devigne and Cody Karey.

me make the decision completely on my own. Ultimately, I know I made the right decision."

After Europe, Brett settled in NYC. "I can't imagine a better place than New York City to live the starving artist lifestyle and to learn a lesson in perseverance," reflects Brett. "Despite the hardships, I learned so much about myself and developed part of who I am today."

After two years of pounding the NYC pavement, Brett landed a headlining role in Las Vegas with *Piano Man*, a concert tribute to the great Elton John and Billy Joel. His next role was as principle vocalist in the iconic Las Vegas showgirl act, *Jubilee!*

"Since *Jubilee!* closed a year ago, my focus shifted back to the recording-concert-touring world and the creation of Parallel 3, a three-person male vocal group that blurs the lines between crossover and pop music," he explains.

Brett says he and fellow, classically-trained soloists Cody Karey and Marc Devigne would frequently compete for the same gigs. "About a year ago, we were all in Vancouver and decided to

sing together, to make a YouTube video for the fun of it," Brett says.

"Our combined vocals sparked this unbelievable synergy and the most amazing thing happened. None of us had the right words, we just knew it was the coolest, most surreal feeling we ever had. Right then, we talked about collaborating. Over the next few years, we'll continue developing and pushing Parallel 3 to the next level."

Parallel 3's Facebook page describes the trio as "a unique blend of elite male vocals and modern pop flair." Brett describes, "Parallel 3's music as a mix of Josh Groban meets Michael Bublé. We adhere to the essence of true vocals. It's a new kind of contemporary music that appeals to the adult contemporary and younger audiences."

"This venture feels so right," adds Brett. "Besides the music itself, I find some relief in sharing the responsibility. As a solo artist, you do everything and it's exhausting. With P3, all of us collaborate and are actively engaged in the decision making, execution and the synergy of the project. Yes, this

is a major risk, but I'm feeling very optimistic."

The trio has gigs scheduled in the U.S. and Canada and is open to radio and other mediums. "P3 is the project I am most proud of so far in my career and is the culmination of a decade of my experiences and hard work," Brett says. "Search 'Meet Parallel 3' on all social media outlets and YouTube for a little introduction to who we are and some of our cover videos."



"Never Forget You/Don't Let Me Down"
Zara Larsson/The Chainsmokers Cover
youtu.be/vnuCSsXEybQ

"Cold Water" Cover
Parallel 3 and Trevor Hoffmann
youtu.be/kFqbHR0xSQA

"The Future Looks Good" Cover
Parallel 3 and The Katherines
youtu.be/n8PjyZ7IfQ4



Wendy Hicks pauses in Mother Goose Corner which is home to favorite day care memorabilia.

Happiness Rekindled

“I love, love, love kids!” exclaims Wendy Hicks. “My mom started Mother Goose Day Care in 1977. I began volunteering at 11 and finally got hired when I turned 18. In 2003, I bought the business in Farmington. Those are 40 memorable years giving kids a good start for life.”

After earning her childcare certificate and general studies degree from MAC, she completed her BSE degree in 1992. Before purchasing Mother Goose, Wendy taught special needs students and considers it the pinnacle of her teaching. “Oh, my goodness, this was such a different experience than day care—and that was already great!” she exclaims. “I felt this invisible connection with these awesome students and

discovered such satisfaction in everything I did with them.”

Wendy reflects, “When the time came to close Mother Goose, it was an incredibly difficult decision. But with the steadily increasing paperwork requirements, I was chained to a desk instead of educating and shaping lives of the kids I enjoyed. I felt my stress skyrocketing and my happiness dwindling. As much as I would miss the kids, I felt a change was inevitable to restore my happiness.”

What came next? Teaching is what she knew, but she was ready for a change. Her first idea—a gigantic salad bar, organic fare and fresh smoothies—was stifled when she realized it wouldn’t pay the bills. Wendy asked a

trusted friend for advice, “What can I put in here to make some money?” His answer was swift and simple—brick oven-fired pizza. The idea dazzled her.

“I loved my time working with kids, and brick oven pizzas rekindled my happiness.”

Within several months of researching brick oven pizza-making, different flours, and lots (and lots) of pizza crust experiments, Nana’s Brick Oven Pizza opened in the former Mother Goose Day Care building. “A great crust was the biggest challenge,” says Wendy. “I tasted lots of pizzas. Then, I found ‘THE crust’ and set out to figure out how to make it. After three months of creations, I felt confident. Next, we had to learn to bake in the brick oven...which, by the way, is totally different than your kitchen oven. WOW, the first crust we baked over the wood fire at 650 degrees was unimaginably good. It was 100 times better than the regular oven.”

Wendy hosted Nana’s Pizza Night for former day care families and friends which served as the perfect network to get the word out. “It’s a special feeling to know about 50 percent of my customers were former students,” she says. “Many were sentimental when they saw Mother Goose Corner displaying some learning tools and toys they used as kids. I loved my time working with kids, and brick oven pizzas rekindled my happiness.”

In March, health concerns forced Wendy to close Nana’s. “It was a very sad decision because I really liked what I was doing,” says Wendy. “I never dreamed I would retire early. I’ll have more time for my organic gardening. And, I’m excited to be able to spend more time with my two preschool grandsons...I’d just love to homeschool them for their kindergarten year.”

Jim's Homecoming

Coming to rural Flat River was quite a change for former MAC Cards basketball player Jim Smith, who grew up near Chicago. This February, Jim returned to attend the MAC-West Plains basketball game. At halftime, Jim took center court once again and was introduced to the audience. He says, “I can’t tell you how much the welcome and special recognition meant to me. It’s remarkable to visit and find that Flat River still has the kindest and friendliest people ever. It was a very special honor to meet Coach Sechrest’s grandson and George Boyd’s son. George was our center and my closest friend and teammate at MAC.”

As Jim cruised downtown Flat River, he was surprised to see his old dorm is now the Park Hills Senior Center. “So many memories stirred when I looked up at the third floor window of my room. I’m amazed the building is still there,” says Jim, 1966-67 alum. “I remember moving in and my mom asked when I would get my room key. The answer was simply stated, ‘We don’t use keys around here, ma’am.’”

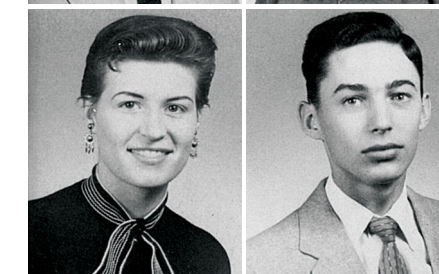
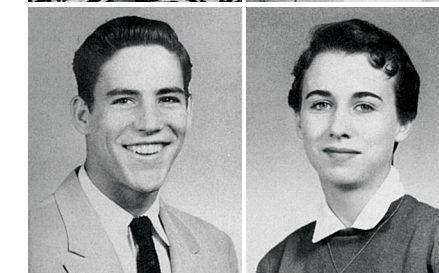
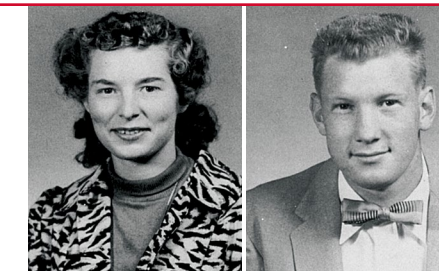
He guesses his teammates—Preston

Mills, Joe Lee, Bruce Blake, Barry Mitchem, Chuck Henson, Gary Ross, Phil Klinkhardt, Ken Flick, George Boyd, Ron Dunning and Gary Cobb—still remember the Moberly game. Jim recalls, “Moberly was always tough. They were the number-one nationally ranked team. We beat them at our field house, 70-69. I don’t remember ever being cheered on by more excited fans. That was a special memory for all of us.”

He continued basketball at Northern Illinois University. In 1969, Jim entered the pros. “I was drafted in the ninth round by the Los Angeles Lakers and the Miami Floridians,” says MAC’s first basketball player to be drafted into the NBA. “On the advice of my agent, I selected the Lakers. Being drafted was a career highlight as was playing alongside Hall of Famers Jerry West, Elgin Baylor and Wilt Chamberlain.”

“...my mom asked when I would get my room key ...‘We don’t use keys around here, ma’am.’”

Athletic Director Mike Overman welcomes former LA Lakers player Jim Smith at halftime.



Flashback

1957

The freshman class included Isabel Carlyon, Larry Jennings, James Green, Joan Blanton, Maureen Lewis and Gary Clark and Nancy-Sue Blunt.

From Protégé to Mentor

Missouri State Bears' Head Baseball Coach Keith Guttin, MAC 1974-75, has many memories from his time at MAC, and Baseball Coach Hal Loughary features big. The University City native completed his AA at MAC, his BS in Education from UMSL and MA in Sports Administration from Truman State.

"To me, MAC is Coach Loughary," says Keith. "Baseball was one dimension. But, ultimately, he was a life mentor for us. He always made his points in a calm and collected manner. Coach Loughary treated us like men and that's one reason we respected and admired him. We were confident he had our backs when we deserved it."

Among others, Keith quickly praises his teammates—Bob Horn, Dennis Vanderbush, Dennis Greene, Louie Lucas, Tom Bloemke, John Harness, Ron Rhodes and Larry Goessling, to name a few.

"One memory was the 1975 brawl at the Flo Valley game," smiles Keith. "MAC had a runner on first and the

batter's swing hit Flo Valley's catcher. Tempers flared, dugouts cleared, players threw punches, and I was on the ground with players pounding me. Greene, Horn, and Vanderbush, along with Coach, were pulling players off me. I don't even remember who won the game."

"Coach Loughary treated us like men and that's one reason we respected and admired him."

Another baseball memory involves teammate Jerry Poston. "We hosted the sub-regionals at Wilson-Rozier Park and Coach Bill Rowe (of Southwest Missouri State University) came to scout Jerry and sign him to play," recalls Keith. "Instead, he recruited me. Jerry was recruited by the University of South Alabama and had a very productive season and hit many home runs. I, on the other hand, only hit

two runs, but did earn honorable mention."

Keith played second base at SMSU. Eventually, he realized his playing days were over. "I decided coaching could keep me close to the game I love. My former coaches and mentors—Loughary and Rowe—influenced my coaching pursuits and provided me the platform for coaching," he says.

In 1982, Keith returned to SMSU (now Missouri State University) to assume the head baseball coaching position vacated by his former coach. Keith's affiliation with the university's baseball program as a player, graduate assistant and head coach spans 39 of the program's 53 years.

His career is filled with personal and team accomplishments, including the school's first-ever NCAA Division I College World Series appearance and multiple Coach of the Year honors. Additionally, five first-round draft picks and 15 players have advanced to the Major Leagues.

One of his greatest rewards is the interaction with his players. "Working with them in their growth and development as baseball players brings immense fulfillment," he says. "Then, learning about their careers in and out of baseball yields additional contentment. Now, many stay in touch and that's a superior kind of satisfaction. I've come to realize I've developed a mentor role with my players just as Coach Loughary did with me. The intangible merits of mentorship are profound. I'd guess many successes in life are a result of a mentoring experience."

Keith's contemporaries may contact him at Keithguttin@missouristate.edu.

Read more about Keith's amazing coaching career at: missouristatebears.com/coaches.aspx?rc=1

Work Ethic Second to None

"You can't believe what a kid can do if pointed in the right direction."

The family farm in Lesterville is where Gene Cozine first learned the merits of a good work ethic. "My mother (who was a Funk) and dad raised us with a work ethic second to none, and it stuck with us," says Gene, the middle of nine siblings. Gene led by example as he worked to instill that same moral compass in his students. To them, he explained, "You just hold yourself to higher standards and all the attributes that successful people share."

Gene served in the Marines before attending Flat River Junior College on a basketball scholarship and the GI Bill. Later, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. "The Junior College was the best decision in my life at that time," praises the 1957-59 alum. "We had great instructors like Mr. Bess, Mrs. Clark and Miss Wadsworth. I'm not sure I'd have finished Trig class without help from my classmate Joe Turner and Dr. Painter. Coach Meyers was the fairest and best coach I ever played for."

Gene earned the 1959 FRJC Most Valuable Player Award.

Just as it is today, beating Moberly at home was a memorable victory. Gene's long list of classmates and teammates include Gene Martin, Dale St. Gemme, Red Jennings, Bud Adams, Jim Boyer, Gary McCloud, David Arnett, Jim George, Keith Black, Joe Turner, Bob Ward and Ted Boyer.

For 28 years, Gene impacted umpteen students as a teacher, athletic director,



Gene Cozine and his wife Melba have shared many wonderful experiences.

principal and community volunteer. He also coached basketball, volleyball, track, cross country and baseball. His teams won numerous basketball and baseball conference and league titles. In nine years, his South Iron teams made three trips to the Missouri State Basketball Championships, earning a first and second place finish. His Special Olympics teams also were champions. And, Gene was inducted into the Lesterville R-IV Athletic Hall of Fame.

The personal relationships Gene built with his students—which included helping them develop a positive work ethic—brought satisfaction. "It was a great joy to watch their improvement and growth," says Gene. "I made a point to have a positive conversation with every student on the way to class. You can't believe what a kid can do if pointed in the right direction. My

goals were to create a positive learning environment, treat students fairly and draw the best out of them. I believe I accomplished that."

In lieu of summer vacation, Gene opted to work. For 50-plus summers, he was a union carpenter. He also worked on freight docks, learned to weld, supervised a youth corps program, and even spent a summer as a lumberjack. In 1984, he started a very successful gymnasium bleacher repair business. This summer Gene will sell the business and retire at age 82.

Gene and his wife live in DeSoto. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Some grandchildren share grandpa's athleticism. Grandson Mike Kickham pitches for the Florida Marlins organization, and granddaughter Jane Kickham plays volleyball for MAC.



KEITH GUTTIN PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI STATE PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES





Congratulations, retirees! Ellen Ketcherside, Denise Wright, Phil Roth, Sheila Beard, Gil Kennon, Marcy Rehkop, George Killian, Cindy Burnett and Jim Killian (not pictured).

Looking Forward to Retirement

Nine employees retired at the end of the Spring 2017 semester with a combined total of 196 years. They will be missed by students and colleagues alike. Into retirement they take fond memories and lifelong friendships.

For 26 years, **Sheila Beard** helped maintain the operations of the Allied Health Department. As administrative assistant, she served the needs of the faculty and students. "MAC has been an extraordinary part of my life," she says. "I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with wonderful people, the times we shared and the friendships forged. I also will miss the nursing students. The truth is, I feel like a second mom to some of them. I really enjoyed helping them in their journey to pursue their dreams." Sheila looks forward to time and freedom to pursue her hobbies and interests. She plans

to spend more time with friends and family, especially her two sons, two teenage granddaughters, and Steve, her husband of 47 years.

"While I'm looking forward to retirement, leaving MAC brings a touch of sadness," says **Cindy Burnett**, director of Educational Talent Search. "Interacting with students was incredibly rewarding. I got to see them nervously begin college and see the excitement and confidence when they graduated. The best part was seeing students suddenly understand a concept or have their eyes opened to a new perspective. Educational Talent Search gave me the unique opportunity to work with sixth graders until they graduated from high school. Many of those students came to MAC so I also got to see them graduate. It's truly amazing how the students grow into

confident young adults. Since 1988, I've worked with some truly wonderful colleagues from whom I learned many lessons that have served me well. I hope they know how much I value the impact they had on me."

For 19 years, **Ellen Ketcherside** has impacted the lives and careers of many nurses as an Associate Degree in Nursing instructor. She says, "The best part is the pride I have in our graduates and their accomplishments. Our nursing program offers so many the opportunity for a great career in a great profession. I have also sponsored our Student Nurses Association." Ellen holds a BSN, a master's in Health Service Management, and a national certification in critical care nursing. "For 39 years, I worked at Mercy-St. Louis in various positions such as staff RN, manager of critical care units, process

improvement coordinator and currently as a nursing supervisor on weekends." Ellen and her husband plan to travel, fish and boat as much as possible and spend time with their children and grandchildren.

In 1994, **Gil Kennon** was hired to lead the customized training initiative, and retires as Vice President of College Affairs/Dean of Career and Technical Education. He says, "I've had the privilege of leading several college projects and developing several new CTE programs. I've enjoyed seeing many student successes and always considered my personal interaction with students to be one of the biggest satisfactions. My time here has been extremely rewarding. I will miss the daily association with staff and students and being a part of the behind-the-scenes operations and decision making for the college. Retirement includes serving on the Missouri Community Industries and Parkland Health Center boards, golf, restoring a 1960 VW pickup, and time with my family and a group of friends at Table Rock Lake."

Phil Roth and brothers **George** and **Jim Killian** retired from General Services. Phil, who joined the staff in 2005, worked primarily outdoors and took pride in knowing the campus grounds were well-maintained and appealing to campus visitors. He says, "My wife and I will travel south and be plenty busy with our six grandchildren. Then, our gardens and mowing will keep me pretty occupied this summer."

George says staying ahead of plumbing, carpentry and ground maintenance needs was a challenge. He's been at MAC for 27 years and says he's enjoyed the staff and his co-workers. "I'll spend time with family and do some camping, fishing and hunting," says George. "Plus, I've got a large farm and 30 head of cattle to keep me busy."

Jim joined the General Services staff in 1990. As evening division supervisor, Jim managed the overnight maintenance needs on campus. Another

employee said, "One notable thing about Jim is he always cared for and protected the campus property the same way he cared for his own." The Killian brothers enjoy nature's serenity, so retirement is a grand opportunity to add more fishing and hunting to their routine.

In 1991, **Marcy Rehkop** was hired, and her personal journey provided insight as the Fredericktown Outreach Center director. She says, "I was working in a garment factory, decided to attend MAC, and then was hired at MAC. So, I can attest to the great difference education can make. I find satisfaction in knowing I have had a role in helping students improve their lives through education. I'll miss advising students, the faculty and staff, and being part of this great institution that has contributed to our region through our graduates and services. It's also rewarding to know I had a small role in the passage of two bond issues that afforded the building of the Fredericktown Outreach Center." Marcy's retirement plans include travel, winters in Tucson, family and friends, and reading to her heart's content.

Prior to her full-time employment, **Denise Wright** taught dual credit and English classes for MAC. In 2010, she joined the full-time faculty in the English Department. She reminisces, "When our youngest was in grade school, I came back to MAC to take a computer class—then a Spanish class, then another computer class, then a German class—and decided to continue my education. MAC helped me become an English teacher, but I also met some wonderful colleagues and memorable students, both traditional and non-traditional, along the way. I have commiserated and celebrated with my colleagues, and I have learned something from my students nearly every day as they share their perspectives and their lives. It has been a good journey."

Best wishes in retirement!

Author & Playwright

Steven Clark, a Bonne Terre native, attended MAC in 1970-72 and served in the U.S. Army. He earned his BA in English from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1980. He now lives in St. Louis and is an author and playwright. His new suspense thriller, *The Saint Louisans*, involves an affair, greedy relatives, a buried corpse and lots of St. Louis originality. He is working on another book covering the history of the Flat River region, including some bits about the college in the 1970s. At www.goodreads.com, Steven's bio shares, "I'm eclectic. I've written short stories, novels, plays, screenplays and memoirs. In 1985, my play *The Love Season* won a national award. My stories have appeared in *Black Oak Presents*, *Mozark Press* and *UMSL Litmag*, and a story of mine won honorable mention in a Glimmertrain contest. My adaptation of the 1799 gothic novel *Edgar Huntly* was a finalist in the 2012 St. Louis Cinemaspoke screenwriting contest. In 2014, my screenplay *Searching for Jesse* was a finalist in the Missouri Stories contest, earning me an internship with three pros from Hollywood. I do what I must to keep you turning the page and to enjoy the worlds I've built with my words."

For more info, visit: amphoraepublishing.com/ missouri-author-clark-explores-st-louis-family-struggles-new-novel



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Summer Camps for Kids and Teens

College For Kids & Teen Academy
July 5-28

Baseball
June 27-30

Basketball
Coach Briley Palmer Camp
* Fundamentals: June 19-22

Coach Luke Strege Camps
* Skills: June 17
* Shooting: July 1
* Fundamentals: July 17-21

Cheer
July 10-14 or 17-21

Soccer
July 12-21

Softball
June 12-15

Theatre
July 17-21

Volleyball
Individual: June 5-8
High School: June 5-July 17
Middle School: June 6-July 18
Specialty: June 12
Team: July 15

★ For a complete schedule: www.MineralArea.edu/CE or call (573) 518-2280.



Solar E(lipse)

AUGUST 21, 2017

Everyone's Invited!

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 10:00 am Festivities, Food & Games (MAC Quadrangle)
- 11:52 am Eclipse Begins
- 1:16 pm Totality — 2 Minutes 18 Seconds

- ✓ **Viewing Glasses**
Purchase safe viewing glasses for \$2 at the bookstore: (573) 518-2106.
- ✓ **Schools & Communities**
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 - Live Stream (Theater & Library)
 - Reserve Bus Parking: (573) 518-2323.
- ✓ **Scientists & Professionals**
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