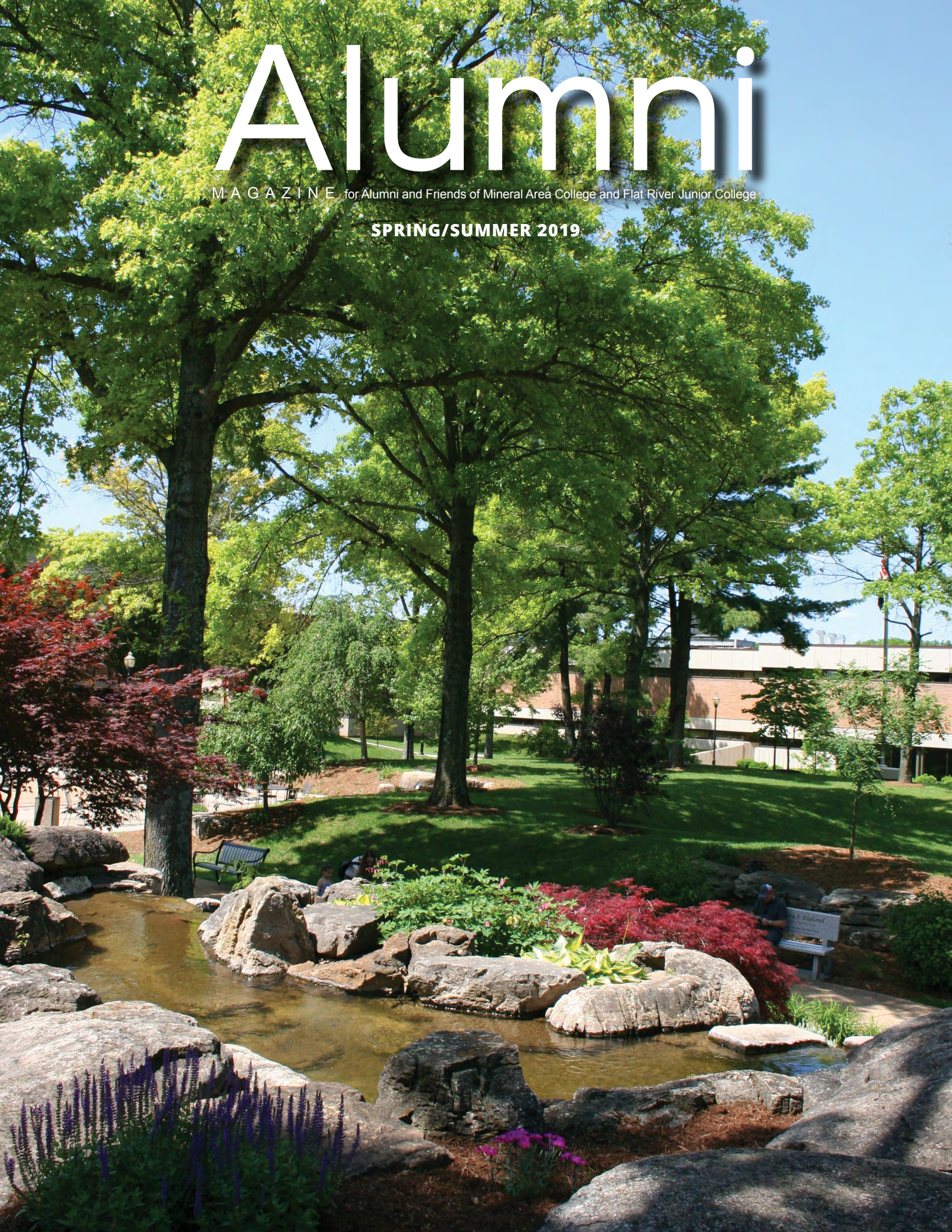


Alumni

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

SPRING/SUMMER 2019





College trustees welcome President Joe Gilgour. Pictured are Lisa Umfleet, Camille Nations, Scott Sikes, Alan Wells, Dr. Joe Gilgour and Mit Landrum.

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MAC Welcomes **New President**

On July 1, Dr. Joe Gilgour officially became Mineral Area College’s new president. He is the seventh president since 1965 when Flat River Junior College became Mineral Area College. He follows past presidents Dr. Tudor Westover, Dr. Richard Castor, Dr. Dixie Kohn, Dr. Terry Barnes, Dr. Steven Kurtz and Shirley Hofstetter.

A Presidential Search Committee consisting of trustees, students, employees and community members convened in November 2018. The nationwide search drew 50 applicants from which six candidates were interviewed. In February 2019, campus forums were held to introduce the four finalists to MAC’s stakeholders and to solicit feedback. At the March Board of Trustees meeting, Board President Alan Wells announced Dr. Joe Gilgour was the unanimous choice.

The Chillicothe, Missouri, native holds degrees in theatre and psychology from Southwest Baptist University; a master’s degree in college student personnel from Arkansas Tech University; and a doctorate in higher education administration from Saint Louis University. Dr. Gilgour most recently served as the Dean of Student & Academic Support Services at State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Missouri, and brings 14 years of community college experience. Complementing his leadership experience is his knowledge of Higher Learning Commission accreditation and active involvement with the Missouri Community College Association.

His colleagues praise his passion for students. Dr. Gilgour identifies community colleges, specifically, as the answer to bridging the skills gap in our state and the best way to reach those who are less likely to attend or be able to afford college. Since he’s served in faculty positions, he’s also in tune with faculty and student perspectives.

One of his priorities is boosting student enrollment. He notes enrollment has been a statewide concern for several semesters. Since enrollment is a key revenue source, it directly impacts the college’s financial well-being and its ability to continue offering quality higher education. “I’ve been in community colleges all my professional career. I see opportunities in the service region for Mineral Area College,” says the new president.

He shares, “Our family really likes this area, especially the rural, small-town setting. I’ve got two young kids and look forward to getting them enrolled and involved in school. My wife and I are interested in getting active in the community.”

Alumni, business leaders and community members will have opportunities to make Dr. Gilgour’s acquaintance on campus and in the community.



In May, students finishing degrees and certificates celebrated their accomplishments in MAC's 95th Commencement ceremony.

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On the Cover

The Quadrangle is home to spring picnics, club activities, the paver brick tribute area, and Commencement processions. The beautiful waterfall feature is a backdrop for many prom, graduation and senior class photos. Most of all, the Quad is a place where alumni, students and employees have enjoyed natural beauty, solitude and memories shared with friends.



Know someone who needs career training? Tell them about MAC's new programs.

Be Marketable in 2025

High Demand Career Training Programs

Choosing a career with the potential for long-term earning capacity and employment options can be challenging. So, if you're making a career choice—for the first time or for re-training—take a serious look at MAC's four new high demand career training programs.

Cyber Security

It's obvious why these jobs are high demand. A 2017 *Forbes* article states, "Behind every new hack or data breach, there's a company scrambling to put out the fire. That's good news for job seekers with cyber security skills. Employers can't hire them fast enough. ISACA, a non-profit information security advocacy group, predicts there will be a global shortage of two million cyber security professionals by 2019. Every year in the U.S., 40,000 jobs for information security analysts go unfilled..." It is critical for cyber security professionals to have a firm foundation in networking to fully understand the attack infrastructure that cyber criminals target.

IT Specialist

It's one of today's hottest careers in a booming technology industry. Because technology is intertwined in most aspects of life, the demand for IT (information technology) jobs are expected to grow

substantially during the next decade. Think, for an instant, about the reaches of technology—colossal amounts of data, software/mobile/app development, online shopping, social media, cloud computing—in our daily lives. To that, add the worldwide web and the vast potential for information security threats. Organizations and businesses—small and large—rely on well-trained and highly-specialized IT professionals. Individuals with an interest in computers and problem solving should explore IT careers. Positions offer earning power, and often some generous perks such as educational benefits, promotion options and working remotely.

Medical Lab Technician

While the majority of medical lab technicians (MLT) work in the laboratory settings in hospitals, employment options exist in physicians' offices, medical and diagnostic labs and outpatient clinics. Medical lab techs are specially-trained medical professionals who perform tests on tissues, blood and other bodily fluids to assist physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses. They use specialized equipment such as microscopes, cell counters and computerized analyzers to conduct various testing procedures.

Sometimes, MLT skills are utilized to assist scientists with research, experimentation and testing. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of MLTs to increase through 2024.

Sports Management

Too often sports management is aligned with sports agents representing big-time professional athletes. But, in reality, the sports management field includes a variety of career options such as coaching, sports marketing, managing fitness centers, providing personal training, and operating golf courses. Sports management careers exist anywhere there are sports and athletes, and include everything from coaching/managing teams to event management to sports venue management to recreation management.

An intense passion for sports is a common characteristic for individuals who pursue the sports management field. Sometimes, this sports passion develops from an individual's amateur athletics involvement. A willingness to work hard can open doors to lucrative opportunities.

For more information about these programs, visit www.MineralArea.edu, email Admissions@MineralArea.edu or call (855) MAC-4YOU.

Making the Impossible, Possible

Amazing student-instructor relationships which focus on student success are longtime hallmarks of Mineral Area College and Flat River Junior College. Countless alumni recall that certain instructor who was a difference-maker during their college years. Such is the case for Interpersonal Communications instructor Laura Glasbrenner and her student April Farmer. April says, "When I was overwhelmed, Ms. Glasbrenner was a friend to talk to when I had no one else to listen."

Laura and April are inspiring each other. "Ms. Glasbrenner is a special teacher who makes learning interesting and fun so it can apply to everyday situations we all understand," says April. "Outside the classroom, she makes time for her students if we need extra help. It

has been a true pleasure to have met Ms. Glasbrenner." Laura says it's rewarding as she watches April build confidence and excel as a student.

April explains, "I am a 51-year-old freshman and found starting college intimidating. Though I dropped out of high school, I succeeded in working my way into many management positions, but I never had the education to advance further. MAC is changing all of that for me. MAC is giving me the opportunity to make the impossible, possible for me. It's given me self-confidence, a chance to earn my degree and a sense of pride I have never known."

Caring teachers and staff are the difference-makers. "Helpful employees are with me every step of my journey," continues April. "My teachers really care

about helping me be the best I can be. Student Services assists with financial aid and choosing my classes. And, the kind souls in the writing lab offer advice with my essays. And, when life just gets to be too much, counseling services are available. I am grateful for all these people who keep me going."

Laura explains the importance of her courses. "Communication is extremely valuable in all our lives. Nowadays, it's very important for students to effectively articulate their thoughts and ideas. My courses focus on saying your message in an appropriate and respectful way which your audience can easily understand. This also applies to relationship building in the workplace and in our personal lives. Every job posting emphasizes strong written and verbal communication skills. We need to communicate well via emails, texts, and through social media accounts in addition to our nonverbal messages. We can't take back our words; for example, we can't un-send a text message (yet) and social media posts can be screenshot before they're deleted. Words have consequences; just because we can say something in a certain way doesn't mean we should."

She continues, "It's so fulfilling to watch students who were hesitant to speak in front of their peers in the first week of class gain confidence to give a good speech by semester's end. We talk a lot about communicating as a leader or supervisor at work and how you can get people to follow you and respect your decisions."

Of MAC, Laura adds, "These past eight years have been wonderful. I'm spoiled by having so many talented faculty peers who work incredibly hard and care so much about our students. Our administration is extremely supportive of me and has mentored me as I work towards earning my PhD. I'm grateful to be a MAC Cardinal!"

"MAC has given me self-confidence, a chance to earn my degree and a sense of pride I have never known."

Laura Glasbrenner (right) is inspired by April Farmer's progress as a returning adult student.



Work Study is Awesome



The ageless question—How will I pay for college?—is always on the minds of college students. According to a 2014 study by the National Center for Education Statistics, nearly 85 percent of students receive some financial aid to help pay their college expenses. MAC students rely on a combination of sources to fund their college education.

"...my bosses are the best, they're my home away from home."

One is the Federal Work Study program, created by Congress in 1964, that funds a need-based, part-time employment program for enrolled students who qualify.

According to MAC's Work Study Coordinator Beth Mell, "Approximately 45 to 50 students participate annually in the federally-funded Work Study program. Student eligibility is based on financial need. In 2017–18, MAC was awarded \$71,216 in Work Study aid. Students who qualify get an opportunity to work on campus for up to 19 hours a week. Typically, students work between 10-15 hours per week and earn \$8.60 hour. Work schedules are created around the students' classes, offering lots of flexibility

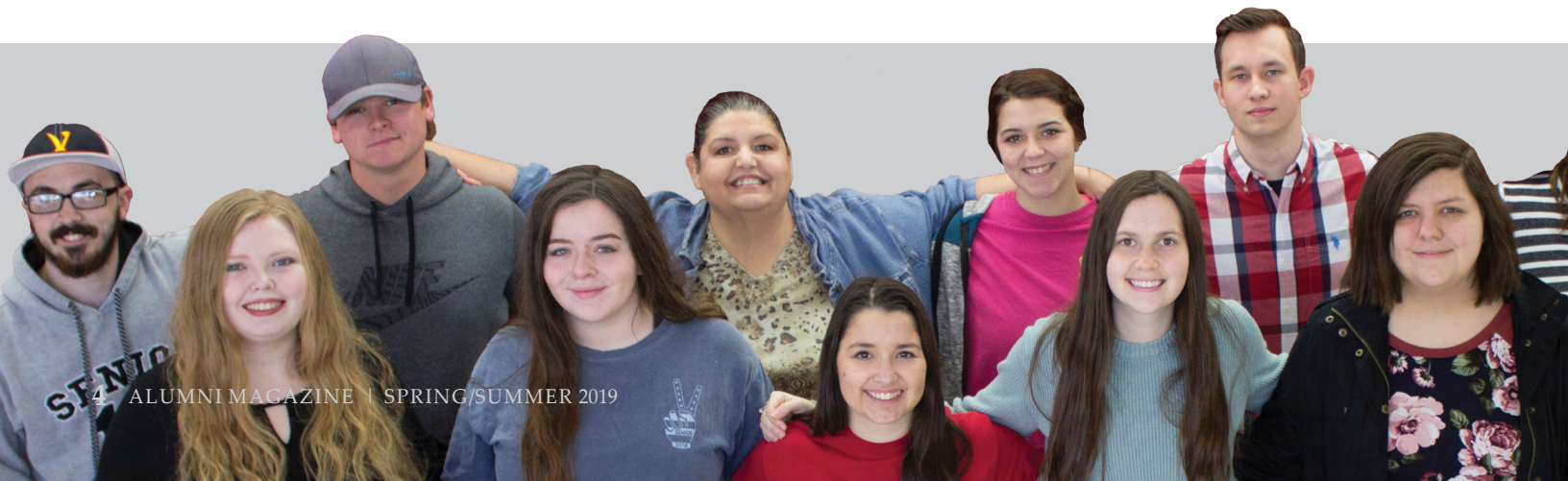
so students can work before, after or in between classes. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain work experience—sometimes in their specific career fields. Networking with MAC staff creates good rapport with professionals who can provide references for resumés, and letters of recommendation for college and scholarship applications.

Sophomore **Chelsey Terry**, of Steele, tells about the perks of being a Work Study student, "My bosses have taught me so many organizational skills and great clerical skills I can use throughout my profession after I get my teaching degree. When my work is done, I have time to do homework. So, it's the best choice I've ever made! Plus, an added bonus is my bosses are the best, they're my home away from home."

As the students confirm, the Work Study program is more than a paycheck. On-campus employment experiences often impact students' academic and career success. In their roles as paid employees, students develop an understanding of workplace culture and learn general workplace expectations, such as time management, customer service, confidentiality, communication and dress code. Students assigned to a department which aligns with their career field might acquire insight into their field, learn from teacher-mentors

◀ **Chelsey Terry**

▼ **Back row: Zach Gamble, Jake Thompson, Christine Vogler, Jessica Asher, Drew Marler, Taylor Goodson, Andrew Crawford, Billie Voyles, Trevor Sutton, Alysa Massey, Ashley Barker, Tabitha Slaughter; Front row: Kathleen Spradling, Lydia Dean, Isabel Legg, Chelsey Terry and Gina Bannister**





▲ Lance Maria De Marzo, Alysa Massey and Drew Marler

and participate in interesting projects.

Irondale sophomore **Lance Maria De Marzo** says, "My gains go beyond monetary. Each job has given me different work experiences I may not have encountered. Since moving to the U.S. two years ago, socialization hasn't been easy. As a student worker, I've interacted with many new people I would have not otherwise met. This work study opportunity expedited and enhanced my understanding of American culture. Moreover, the Work Study program has made me self-reliant in my academic life, as all my expenses are fulfilled by a job that respects my academic priorities."

Farmington freshman **Alysa Massey** says, "I am proud to be in the Work Study program because it is a phenomenal stepping stone for making connections in the community and learning administrative skills that can give me the upper hand in almost any

"...it is a phenomenal stepping stone for making connections in the community."

career field. There is so much more to college than going to class, and this program is beneficial to getting involved around campus. It is a really good way to make some money for other college expenses besides tuition, books and housing."

Drew Marler, of Park Hills, explains, "I absolutely love the Work Study program because it enables me to learn the campus better, meet new people and even get paid for it. One reason I like the program is its flexibility. Since I'm fairly busy during the week, it's really awesome how willing my supervisor is to work around my schedule. Being a Work Study student has been such an amazing opportunity, and I am so blessed to be a part of it!"

Work opportunities are campus-wide.

Some areas students might consider include the MAC Ambassadors, Bookstore, Career Services, Continuing Education, Disability Support Services, Food Pantry, IT, Learning Center, Maintenance, Outreach Centers, and Student Services, as well as departments such as Agriculture, Allied Health, Art, Athletics, Biology, Chemistry, Education, Music, Theatre, and more.

Since the Work Study program is financially based, students must first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before they can apply.

Students interested in the Work Study program are invited to contact Beth Mell at bmell@MineralArea.edu or (573) 518-2193.





In MAC's greenhouse, Billie Voyles is immersed in the growing, experimentation, production and retail aspects of horticulture.

First Hydroponic Harvest

Horticulture major Billie Joann Voyles has recorded a MAC greenhouse “first”—the first-ever hydroponic harvest. “Buttercrunch and Bibb lettuces were our first harvest. I collected 31 rockwool squares from the systems which yielded about two gallon-sized bags of lettuce,” explains Billie, the steward overseeing the project. “I’ve had a desire to grow vegetables. So, growing here in our hydroponic setting has launched an amazing learning opportunity for me. I operate three different systems

now. Of the two float tables, my favorite so far is the Versaponic set. This system runs on a timer and uses an atomizer to mist water on the roots. It differs from float tables systems where the roots are suspended in water. The harvest was incredibly exciting but left me with questions and a yearning to plant, grow and harvest again. I couldn’t stand it! By the following Tuesday, I broke down, cleaned and reseeded—purple basil, Bibb lettuce and cherry tomatoes. By mid-April, sprouts

poked through and everyone was excited to see how things can improve.”

Whether it’s in MAC’s greenhouse or at her workplace, Billie is inspired by practical experiences. “As a Work Study student, I have a great opportunity to turn my classroom studies into a magnificent hands-on greenhouse management experience. It’s been amazing! I’ve learned about the technical side of operating a modern greenhouse, the pros and cons of the different greenhouse environments and

how they impact the crops,” explains the sophomore originally from Texas.

“This year, one major perk for me has been the trial and error with our hydroponic and aeroponic systems we have on campus. Growing in water is fascinating to me. Controlling the environment and yielding more crops in less time seems to be a win-win for us. I believe sustainability is a possible solution as our world’s population grows.”

Billie says the potential benefits of hydroponics are limitless, “For me personally, it’s the ability to grow in small areas with a controlled environment away from the risk of pests and the fluctuations in weather. I’m fascinated when I read and learn how fast lettuce can be harvested in indoor vs. outdoor settings. The freshness factor is unique—the fact you can wait to harvest until you are ready to eat that very day. Many people are growing microgreens at their homes. Microgreens (harvested before maturation) are more nutrient-dense because all of the nutrition found in the mature plant is crammed into a miniature package. They offer a consistent source of lettuce for dinner. And, the excess can be sold for a profit.”

Some of the original hydroponic and aeroponic systems were donated by the Missouri Highway Patrol through a program that recycled items seized from illegal operations. Other, newer technologies have been donated or purchased via Enhancement Grant funds.

Greenhouses and horticulture are Billie’s new career path. She explains, “After several years in customer service work, I felt eager to do something that was more personally rewarding as well as beneficial to people and our local communities. That motivated me to investigate MAC since it was within a reasonable distance of where I was living. After a visit with agriculture instructor Dr. Chad Follis, I knew horticulture was the right option for me.”

To learn more about MAC agriculture and horticulture classes, contact Dr. Chad Follis at cfollis@MineralArea.edu or (573) 518-2323 or visit www.MineralArea.edu.



Levi Mills (right) assumed the Lodge Chief position from his role model and scouting friend Hayden Rosenthal.

Order of the Arrow Recognition

“Since I was a child, I’ve always wanted to graduate from college,” says Levi Mills, the recipient of the Greater St. Louis Boy Scouts Scholarship. “MAC has given me the foundation not only to graduate but also transfer to my dream college. The amazing and understanding instructors and staff are really good working with students and potential concerns they may have.” He will earn his Associate of Arts and begin St. Louis College of Pharmacy this fall.

Levi, who began scouting as a first-grader, says, “Scouting and education are lifelong passions. My mom is a West County science teacher, so that’s one reason my Eagle Scout project was to create an outdoor classroom at West County High School for students and teachers so they can conduct some

classes outdoors.”

His scouting work earned him the honor and title of Lodge Chief for the Shawnee Lodge in the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. In the Lodge’s 89-year history, Levi is the first Lodge Chief from the local area. Shawnee Lodge represents all of St. Louis and the surrounding areas and has about 2,500 members, making it the sixth largest lodge in the nation.

Levi, of Irondale, says, “Being elected Lodge Chief is one of my biggest accomplishments so far—an amazing opportunity very few people ever have. I am honored and humbled by our local scouting community’s response. Without the scouts and leaders from this area, I would not be where I am today, and I am forever grateful.”

Striving for Personal Best

Teammates Madison DeClue and Sam Toppins are charter members of MAC's track and cross country teams. Before MAC, track was Sam's sport—specifically the 1500-meter, 800-meter and 5K events. "I run long distance and was excited when Coach Davis invited me to join MAC's teams," explains the Fredericktown graduate. "Since cross country is new for me, I

was extremely nervous about the first meet. Even though I'm comfortable with long distances, it was nerve-racking to think of three miles turning into five or six and competing against established programs. Somehow I managed to turn my nervousness into energy and, then, finally into a kind of calm. I was relieved the first race was behind me." Sam placed in the top ten finishers that day.

Madison DeClue is pursuing early childhood education. Sam Toppins plans to become a physical therapy assistant.



Later, he qualified to compete in national competition. However, due to a stress fracture in his foot, he was unable to compete.

Endurance, stamina and strategy are key facets of track and cross country. Cross country adds the challenges of the terrain. Sam says, "Cross country surfaces—woods, mud, rocks, slippery slopes—require different strategies than running track. Steep hills are brutal. When running downhill, you can go too fast and fall or cause an injury."

Madison says, "For me, the timing was perfect. I could use my A+ benefits for classes and participate in MAC's first track and cross country program. Coach Davis was my high school coach. So, I know how much he cares about all of us, each in a different way and on a different level as he analyzes and charts our training and improvement plans. He always wants us to do our best. As this program grows, he will definitely cultivate a family atmosphere."

The Potosi grad, who runs the 800-meter and recently added the 1500-meter, explains, "These sports require year-round training to be effective. I paid the price for slacking off over the summer. It felt so good when I was slacking off, but my return to training was brutal both mentally and physically. I learned a lesson about just how hard I had to train to regain what I lost." To other young women, Madison pleads, "I'm the only girl on the team. I'm trying to recruit a few more so I have other girls as running companions who will push me to improve."

Now Madison and Sam better understand the levels of their competition. They say, "Our goals focus on improving our personal best times in preparation for next season."

Coach Davis invites individuals interested in these programs to contact him at sdavis@MineralArea.edu or (573) 210-7972.



Liam Hicks refined his baseball skills at MAC and is eager to begin play at Arkansas State in the fall.

Baseball Ambitions

Being drafted into Major League Baseball is Liam Hicks' dream. The sophomore grew up in Toronto, Canada, playing baseball with hopes to play in the U.S. With the help of a recruiter and YouTube videos, Liam caught the attention of assistant baseball coach Jordan Thompson (MAC 2009-11). "It's a dream come true to be here," says Liam who plays catcher and infielder. "I wanted to see how I stacked up against players in other countries. University sports in Canada are not a big deal. They're not

supported like they are in the U.S. There aren't any scholarships."

His early 2019 season stats ranked him nationally in the home runs and average on-base percentage categories. He was named Region 16 Offensive Player of the Week for his four home runs, 11 RBIs and seven runs scored. When asked about his hitting power, Liam says, "I've always been a good, consistent hitter. Now, combining some maturity with tips from MAC's coaching staff and friends in the pros and at the D1 level, I've learned to be

"Though our backgrounds differ, we're all here for the same reason—baseball."

a smarter hitter."

MAC's coaching philosophy inspires Liam. "Our coaches' knowledge of the game and great personalities create an upbeat environment to develop our potential. They let us be ourselves with regard to developing our skills and don't have a pre-determined mold they want us to fit. Their trust and belief in us gives us the freedom to develop our strengths. And, they're willing to listen to suggestions we have. All this breeds confidence in us as players."

When the post-season rolled around, Liam's hard work and commitment were recognized. He was named Region 16 Player of the Year. He and teammate Caleb Fuerstake were named to the All-Region 16 First Team. And, he earned NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention. Athletic Director Jim Gerwitz believes Liam is the first baseball player in recent program history to earn All-American Honors.

Liam and his teammates learn about one another's cultures. Leaving Toronto—population over 6 million—to come to St. Francois County, just shy of 67,000, was one transition. "It's really different here, but I like it. My teammates have introduced me to many new experiences. For the first time, I went raccoon hunting!" he says. "I've gained different perspectives on life. One of my roommates is from the Netherlands and another's family is from the Dominican Republic. By sharing our diverse backgrounds, we learn from each other. Though our backgrounds differ, we're all here for the same reason—baseball. Baseball demands high levels of competition, so we push each other to get better as individuals and as a team."

Next year, a baseball scholarship will take Liam to Arkansas State. Though his goal is major league baseball, Liam knows it's important to complete his degree in sports management.

From Rookies to World Championships

A robotics challenge sparked an interest among MAC's Upward Bound (UB) students. They never dreamed their robot, UB Ignite, would inspire personal and academic confidence as well as future educational and career choices.

In January, the UB Ignite concept emerged when 15 students along with technical advisors and lead mentors—Dane Korenak, Chad Majeske and John Nicholas—began plans to enter the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). FIRST—For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology—is an international not-for-profit organization founded to inspire young people's interest and participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. This year's competition drew about 70,000 students, mentors and supporters from over 70 countries and inspired the next generation of inventors.

According to UB advisor Chad Majeske, "We were rookies to this competition. We had six weeks to design, build and troubleshoot the robot. UB Ignite made its community debut at MAC's Homecoming before heading to actual competition."

Not only did they compete, they excelled! The UB Ignite rookie team

journeyed to St. Louis to compete in the regional FRC where it earned the Highest Rookie Seed and Rookie All-Star Awards and qualified for the FIRST World Championships in Houston, Texas. At the World Championships, UB Ignite finished 25th overall in its division and was the second highest seeded rookie team in its division. UB Ignite finished in the top half of all the teams that competed in the World Championships.

UB students Emma Holdman and Jacob Drennen summarize what UB students gained from the robotics experience. Emma says, "The FRC challenge strengthened my passion for STEM and has been critical in the development of my communication skills. Last year, I was home-bound for severe social anxiety and depression. I was convinced I'd never be successful in my chosen career due to my poor communication skills. Upward Bound and FRC completely changed this by giving me the opportunity to be a part of an amazing group of people. I can confidently say the skills I've used and the memories I have had will stay with me for the rest of my life."

Jacob adds, "The UB Ignite robotics team has been an amazing, transforming

experience. Now, I'm inspired with the complexity of engineering and how science and math interact to make great things. The competition has given me unforgettable memories. I'm sharing my experience with others by mentoring my school's new robotics team that plans to do VEX Robotics. Joining Upward Bound is by far the best decision I have made in my life. The opportunities we've had and the lessons we've learned are unrivaled to anything I would have done in my life without the program. Being involved with the robotics team and the Upward Bound program are my biggest and greatest accomplishments."

Upward Bound students who participated are Ian Bacon, Alex Bridgeman, Lilith Chapman, Jasmine Cochran, Amy Cook, Hunter Curdt, Jacob Drennen, Hunter Grebe, Tyler Hambrick, Emma Holdman, Daniel Kimmel, Madison Laan, William Laan, Dalton Pinson and Josie Warden. Other MAC staff involved with the project are Dr. George Saum, Scott Sebaugh, Rebecca Neighbors, Connie Hester, Michelle Dane and Melissa Stetina.

"...an amazing, transforming experience..."

The Upward Bound Team Ignite competed at the FIRST World Robotics Competition in Houston and had extraordinary results.





Shirley Hofstetter, Cathy Hawn, Nancy Petersen, Dr. Rhonda Gamble, Mary Bauwens, Beverly Hickam and Richard Lindsey start new chapters in their lives.

Seven Announce Retirement

In June, seven Mineral Area College employees retired. All will most miss their colleagues and the students with whom they created many wonderful memories. Their career accomplishments far exceed what is shared here.

Dr. Rhonda Gamble joined the Science Department in 1982. Her primary teaching responsibilities were the nursing program's human anatomy, human physiology and microbiology. She has published several scholarly works, including *Mosby's Anatomy & Physiology Coloring Book*, been a contributing author to *The Human Body in Health in Disease* 5th and 6th editions by Mosby, and reviewed Elsevier's 2014 *Anatomy & Physiology Study and Review Cards*. Rhonda's many on-campus positions included department and Faculty Forum chair, chapter chair for the college's accreditation reports for the Higher Learning Commission, and co-chair of the Funding for Results and Curriculum committees.

In 2001, **Cathy Hawn** joined the Math Department. She organized the annual Elementary School Math Contest which brought hundreds of 4th through 6th graders to campus. She says, "The most fulfilling part of my job is helping my students succeed in their classes so they can move on in their chosen fields. Knowing I have had even a tiny part in making that happen is a wonderful thing!" Her retirement plans include

relocating to Kimberling City so she and her husband are closer to their three children and nine grandchildren.

Nancy Petersen joined MAC's faculty 19 years ago to teach biology. Before MAC, she taught at Poplar Bluff and Arcadia Valley. She was the 2000 Missouri Teacher of the Year, has flown with the Blue Angels, and met President Clinton. Nancy helped design the new science wing and served as Science Fair coordinator and as Faculty Forum vice-president and president. Besides time with family, travel is in Nancy's retirement plans including Albuquerque's Balloon Festival and New York City.

Since 2000, Workforce Development Director **Beverly Hickam** has worked to expand services offered to area employers which advanced careers and strengthened the region's workforce. Prior to MAC, Bev was an adult education supervisor at the Cape Girardeau Career Center. She plans to remain active on the Southeast Missouri Workforce Development Board and in Cape Girardeau Chamber and several customized training organizations. Bev also plans to travel and see the world.

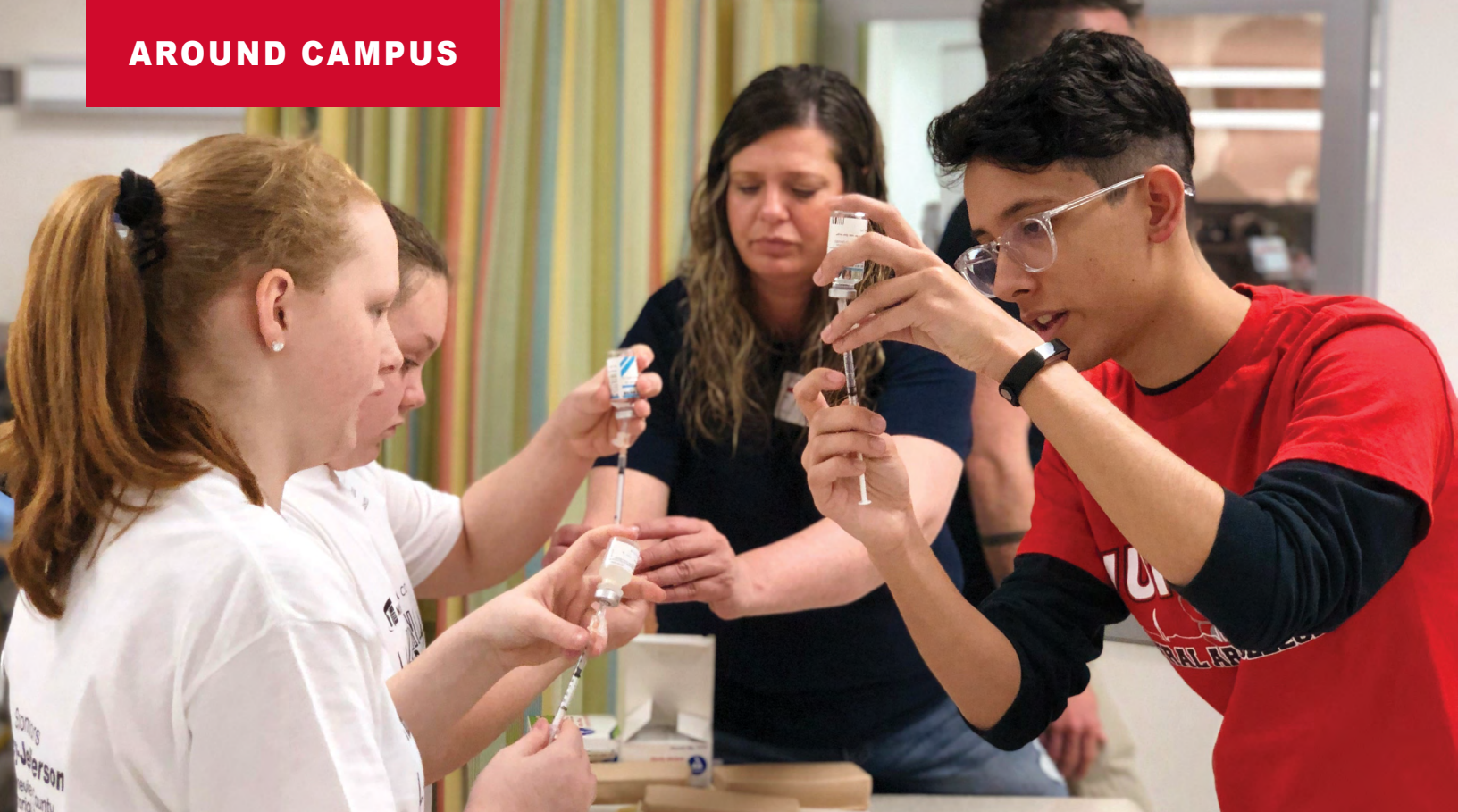
Perryville Higher Education Center Coordinator **Mary Bauwens** spent 33 years as an elementary teacher before coming to MAC in 2012. She is a Perry County District 32 School Board member. She says, "Having the Perryville Higher Education Center in our community has

changed countless lives for students who wouldn't have otherwise taken that first step toward their education." In retirement, Mary plans to spend time with her family and friends, and enjoy gardening, boating, and traveling across the U.S. in her new motor home.

In 2015, **Shirley Hofstetter** became MAC's Chief Financial Officer, but she says her biggest career highlight has been serving as Interim President. She and her husband are retiring this year and have plans to return to farming on a limited basis. They have a grass airstrip at their home and a small plane for recreational travel and plan to do some sightseeing and visit their children and friends.

Prior to joining MAC's General Services Department in 2008, **Richard Lindsey** worked for SuperValue and Yellow Transportation. His primary role was room set-ups and arrangements for campus needs and various community activities. Faculty, staff and community members appreciated his attention to details which assured participants would be comfortable in the classrooms. Colleagues were surprised to learn Richard writes poetry. He did some poetry readings at the campus Word Fest Poetry Reading.

Thank you for your years of service, and congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful retirement.



Nursing students teach middle and high school students during MAC Health Camps designed to introduce students to health careers.

Camps Explore Health Careers

"...a wonderful learning opportunity..."

Enhancement Grant donors should be pleased to learn their contributions are helping with student recruitment activities. In April, the Allied Health Department hosted two Health Camps, activities which utilized medical equipment purchased via the Enhancement Grant, to introduce the nursing and health professions to middle and high school students with anticipation it may recruit future MAC students.

Director of Allied Health Angie Erickson explains, "Our Health Camps served several purposes. First, it was an avenue for the sophomore RN students to achieve the leadership component of their curriculum. They were tasked with organizing the camps and involving the freshmen RN and LPN students to successfully execute the plan. Secondly, since MAC is so close, it made sense to bring young people here to explore health careers. And, thanks to past Enhancement

Grant donors, the students practiced on equipment used in today's health care settings. Finally, the registration fees will be donated to the next Enhancement Grant fundraiser which brings the \$3-for-\$1 match."

The nursing students agree the Health Camps were valuable. Mandy Lowrie explains, "Students had a quick view of different aspects of the nursing field. We hoped to foster an accurate image of nursing to help youth achieve their career goals and to direct students on the right track for nursing school success or a different career path."

Zach Dane says, "It is never too early to explore careers. Knowing you want to be a nurse as early as middle school puts you at an advantage because you can prepare for nursing school by taking more difficult courses such as math and science in high school."

Emilee Kay says, "The Health Camps

brought rewards for us nursing students, too. Since most of our clinical patients are adults, we had a great learning experience communicating with a different age group. Since I strive to be a pediatric nurse, this was a wonderful learning opportunity that also looks good on a resumé."

Tawny England explains, "The motivation behind the Health Camp was to give a realistic view of health careers to students who have an interest in the field. Students learned how important leadership and teamwork are in this line of work. We hope they left with a revamped or new passion for the nursing profession."

The Health Camps received financial support from Parkland Health Center, Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center and Ste. Genevieve Memorial Hospital.

To inquire about Health Camps, contact Angie Erickson at (573) 518-2176 or aerickson@MineralArea.edu.



"I had a lot of fun and will definitely come back next year with friends."



"SimMOM was my favorite station - I liked how realistic it was."



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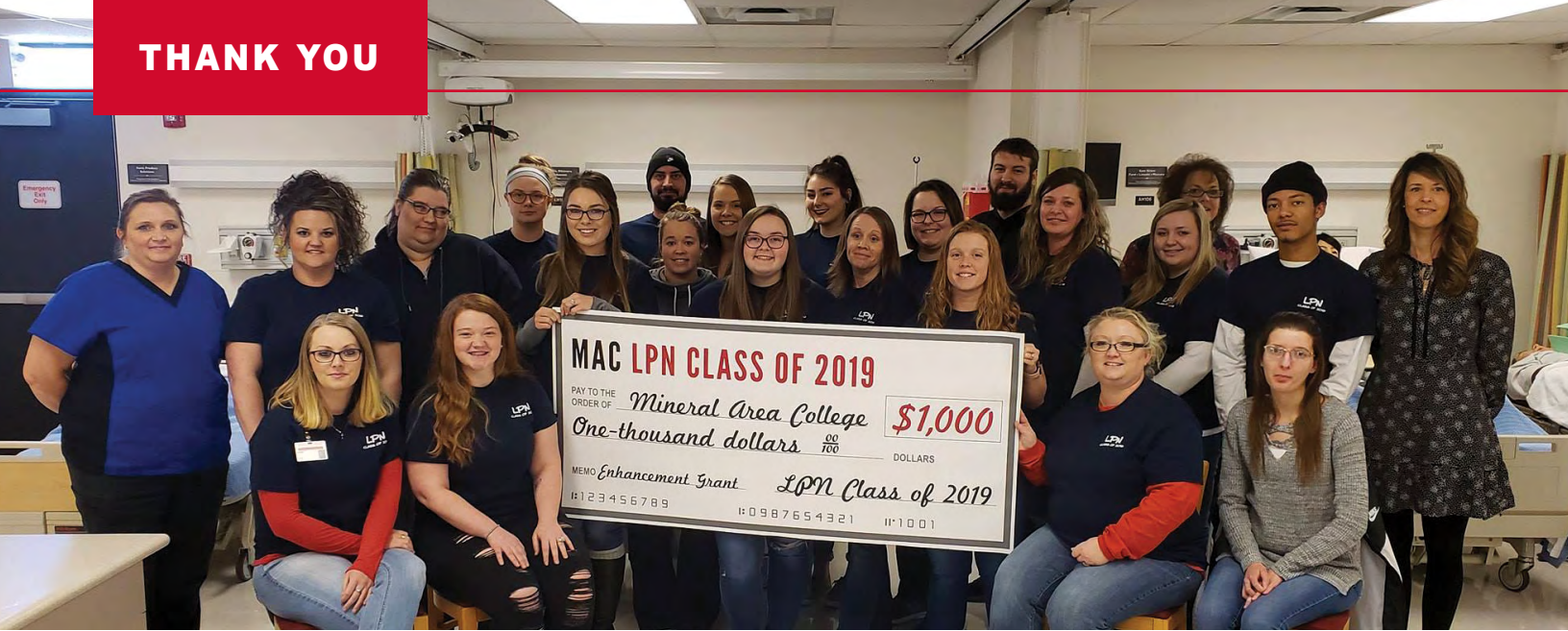
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This list recognizes donor gifts received between October 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019.



Giving Back

Donors who support the Enhancement Grant's Matching Gift Campaign have set an example for MAC nursing students. Enhancement Grant funds have purchased Allied Health Department training equipment that otherwise may not have been possible. Nursing students fully understand the value this equipment adds to their nursing education. So, this year the LPN Class of 2019 held a tee shirt fundraiser to support next year's Enhancement Grant. The LPNs raised \$1,000. A second fundraiser through Health Camps raised an additional \$2,186. Their combined gifts and the \$3-for-\$1 match provide \$12,744 of purchasing potential.



Nurses Make Health Care Happen

Nurses are natural leaders and are a significant component in the nation's health care delivery system. They are the pulse, smile and heart of the hands-on care given to patients and their loved ones. It seems logical that if nurses are trained to lead, health care can benefit. Thus, academia and its healthcare partners must create innovative, forward-thinking paradigms which ensure graduates successfully complete the necessary competencies to work in current

and future health care environments. The Allied Health Department supplies the region with a variety of professionals including practical and registered nurses, EMTs, paramedics, radiology technicians and medical lab technicians. For this reason, regional employers support MAC's health care education programs. **Jefferson Foundation** and **BJC HealthCare Community Grant** invested a combined \$48,334 to provide current allied health training equipment.



Regional employers support MAC health care education programs.

My Dream Back on Track

“I am a single mother of four girls, ranging from 9 to 17 years old. I grew up in Park Hills and graduated tenth in my class from Central R-III in 2000. I had many dreams at that age, but God decided he wanted to take me a different route for my life,” explains nursing student Amy Courtney. “Like others at that age, I learned I was pregnant with my first baby girl just three months after high school graduation. After much deliberation, I decided to postpone my education until my daughter started school. Finally, after three more baby girls and getting out of an abusive marriage, I started my dream at Mineral Area College in 2016.”

MAC is perfect for Amy because she is close to her girls while pursuing her academic dreams. “My first career choice was the pharmacy technician program because I realized it could offer more opportunities for my family and me,” she explains. “Quickly, I realized my love for helping others and decided I wanted to push myself to help as many people as I possibly could. So, I applied for the LPN program, knowing the instructors would empower me to reach my goal.”

The demands of the nursing program are substantial, so encouragement and support are important components to academic success. Amy says, “What an amazing support system I have, both at home and at school. My four young amazing daughters help out as much as they possibly can. Then, an incredible group of people are helping me financially with scholarships or grants. I am forever grateful to those who provide the PEO Chapter HJ, Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation and the Displaced Homemaker scholarships. Because I am putting myself and my two oldest daughters through college, there is absolutely no way I could do this without their scholarship help.”

The LPN student continues, “At school, the amount of love and support is

overwhelming. From my first instructor, Jenny Majeske, to my academic advisor, Julie Sheets, and now all of my nursing instructors, everyone has been exceptional in helping me find my way

through this sometimes scary journey. I am now in the LPN program and will graduate in July and have been accepted into the RN program for next year.”

“...there is absolutely no way I could do this without their scholarship help.”

At the Community Ladies Luncheon, Amy Courtney shared her story about never giving up on her dream to attend college and become a nurse.





Crystal Ford supports small town shopping and enjoys Ally Sue, one of downtown Farmington's fashion boutiques.

You Always Have Me

She always knew she wanted to help people, but choosing a career path was baffling to Crystal (Minor) Ford. As she poured over MAC's course descriptions, social work piqued her interest. "I didn't even know what social work was!" exclaims Crystal. "But, the more I read, the more social work sounded right for me."

She began her career as a school social worker. However, her inclination to have a greater impact on young people prompted her to transition to a community specialist position for the BJC Behavioral Health Children's Team in Farmington. Now, she shares her enthusiastic, bubbly personality with children who suffer from a mental illness. She spends considerably more time with each child and devises an individualized plan which teaches them how to cope with the barriers associated with their personal, social, physical and emotional development. Crystal believes spending more time with the children leads to more trusting relationships and better

"My motto is 'If you have no one, you have me.'"

outcomes. She also coordinates services between the doctor, parents, guardians, school and any agency that may be involved in the child's life.

"My mom was a DFS case worker, and from her I gained insight into the obstacles young people face and how their mistakes sometimes leave them with little or no support system," explains Crystal. "I feel compassion and empathy for these kids. Life's tough without a support system under any circumstances. These kids have some greater challenges, and I want to be the one to help them succeed. I want to walk through life with them and help them change their lives for the better. My motto is 'If you have no one, you have me.' Seeing kids succeed is the best reward I could ever ask for."

"I definitely appreciated my wonderful MAC instructors," recalls Crystal. "When I was attending MAC, my mother passed away unexpectedly. My instructors Jill

Wolk and Mr. Otto showed so much empathy towards me during such a difficult time. I will never forget them. And, now Jill and I work together—it's totally a full circle!"

Crystal shares this message with students of all ages, "NEVER give up. College is hard and there are days you want to quit, but you have to persevere. In the end, you will look back and laugh because what seemed hard then, was not really too hard at all. Believe in yourself at all times. Never let someone tell you, you can't do something. Only you can define your future. Get out there and make yourself proud!"

Crystal says, "Not only was MAC the start to my college career and earning my AA degree, it's where I learned about UMSL's outreach program which enabled me to complete my BSW degree right on the MAC campus." She is currently working on her MSW degree.

He's Taking New Patients

Dr. August Schwalenberg considers surviving and graduating from dental school as one of his major challenges and greatest accomplishments. "I had no idea what I was in for!" he exclaims. "Endless hours of class and studies. I recall sleeping in the library to just save more time to study." After earning his degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, August returned to Farmington and sees patients at Farmington Family Dental.

August says, "It's great to be home near family and friends. It's been amazing to reacquaint with the very people who watched me grow up, my teachers and mentors who helped mold who I am today, and many more. The reaction has been awesome. And, jaw-dropping for some patients as they hesitate and ask, 'August?' I'm delighted to be a part of this growing, patient-focused practice where I am a partner in my patients' dental health."

His story demonstrates the power of a scholarship and how it can return to benefit the community. August, one of the Beulah M. Gray Memorial Scholarship recipients, says, "That scholarship was huge! I was short-sighted at that time and only saw it as a way to pay my college expenses. It assured I could stay in college, provided many opportunities, and created a foundation for my future. Now, I see the scholarship for what it really was...an investment in my future."

He continues, "I had some incredibly amazing MAC instructors and staff who had a hand in my classroom and life successes. I'm especially grateful for EXCEL's Elaine Belovich and Rachel Nuemeier and my chemistry instructor Dr. Margaret Williams. They inspired me and pushed my limits to help me develop the potential I didn't even know I had. Dr. Williams was not only an outstanding instructor, she knew how to connect with us

and took a special interest so we learned and understood how to apply scientific principles. She prepared me for the demands and expectations of dental school. Each gave me the tools and lit the spark I needed to believe in myself. Over time, I've come to realize it takes a whole community to support, teach, push and guide young people to develop as productive citizens. I thank all you

'cheerleaders' who helped me."

Like others, August emphasizes persistence, "Never give up. Don't let a bad day or semester cause a regrettable decision. Sometimes it's not so bad to step back, analyze the situation and take a little detour if necessary. Persistence paved the way for my dreams to come true even though it took a little longer than I originally planned."

"I had some incredibly amazing MAC instructors..."

Dr. August Schwalenberg (MAC 2007-09) credits MAC as his springboard for reaching his personal and professional goals.





Carissa Rawson's stepson visits her after school as she prepares for the next day's lessons.

Kindergarten is a Big Deal

While cadet teaching in high school, Carissa (Brewer) Rawson fell in love with the way young children learn, particularly kindergartners. Bismarck Elementary School provided her an opportunity to realize her childhood dream to be a teacher.

"Teaching kindergarten brings many rewards," explains Carissa. "Those *Ah-ha!* moments are amazing like when we study the alphabet and children recognize a particular letter in their name. I'm especially moved when I see kids who struggle, and they finally catch on. Honestly, I get as excited as they do."

The first-year teacher adds, "Every day brings exciting, and sometimes unexpected, opportunities to teach new things. I get daily hugs and am told someone loves me. And, kindergartners notice everything—a different hairstyle, jewelry or shoes. I feel their admiration

towards me as a teacher and role model when they tell me they want to be a teacher just like me."

There are challenges, too. She explains, "For me, I have to be caring, but I still need to be disciplined so they gain an understanding of how life is. For the kids, developing a routine is paramount, and the adjustment to school can be difficult for some. School and my classroom are calm, safe places for some kiddos. I know how important it is to be sure my kindergartners are prepared to succeed and create good school memories."

Carissa emphasizes, "One purpose of kindergarten is to prepare students to transition to a structured school environment and develop a foundation to enter school life in first grade. Kindergarten is a really big deal. It's evolving as the expectations of what kindergartners learn expands. Since many

kids enter kindergarten already knowing the alphabet and numbers—which used to be first-grade curriculum—more time is spent on reading, math, writing, appropriate behavior and social skills. Though nap time is no longer part of the day, snack time is a valuable time to refuel their brains for more learning."

Though Carissa loves spending time with her family, she's equally as giving to her students. She explains, "Teaching isn't just an 8:00-3:00 job. Spending weekend and after school hours is an investment in making sure my students have everything they need to succeed. I consider each and every one of my students my responsibility."

Carissa credits her awesome advisor, Dr. Shawn Young, who provided her the help she needed to complete her Associate of Arts in Teaching in 2015 and prepare for her BS in Early Childhood Education.

Basketball Enriched My Life

At MAC, Lamar A. Morgan earned All-Conference, All-Region 16 and NJCAA Academic All-American basketball honors. He understands how basketball helped sculpt his life. "MAC welcomed me with open arms. I felt accepted by not only the school but the community as well. I felt like I was at home," he reflects. "MAC kept me focused and encouraged me to work hard in every aspect. I wanted to continue my education and basketball career, so hard work was necessary to achieve these and other longer-term goals."

His basketball skills unlocked many possibilities. His education and basketball career continued at Coppin State University where he will soon complete his computer science program. "My basketball scholarships have blessed me with the opportunity of a lifetime. I've attended college and worked to obtain an education while playing the game I love. Besides the on-court experience, college basketball has given to me so many things. I have built great lifetime

friendships with coaches and teammates who I will cherish forever. I can't wait to share a ton of memories with the people close to me. Lastly, it tremendously prepared me for the professional world via the interviews, the learning and the discipline. All these qualities helped me become the man I am today and readied me to take on anything in the professional world. The game of basketball has truly brought so much to my life. It's such a blessing."

Special people impacted Lamar's time at MAC in 2015-17. "Quite a few people played huge roles in my life," he explains. "Mrs. Lisa and Mr. Larry (Underwood) were very important because they took a special interest in me. They even prepared special dinners for me. I'll not forget the memorable Thanksgiving team dinners. And how nice Ms. Page was to make meals for me and a fellow

teammate. These people just made me feel so accepted. Also, the College Park and campus events helped me make friends and have fun while being away from home. Of course, the coaching staff—Coach Strege, Coach Spriggs, Coach Kassa and Coach Penno. I can't thank Dean Jean enough for everything she did. I'm sure I missed a few, but they will always be remembered for their special contributions to my life."

Lamar dedicates time for community service, too. "I still read to kids in schools," he explains. "Coach Strege had us do this at MAC, and I naturally continued because it was a satisfying experience. Kids are the future and I want to be as great a positive influence as I possibly can be to them. The personal satisfaction I get from believing I influenced a youth in a positive manner is a GREAT feeling."

"My basketball scholarships have blessed me with the opportunity of a lifetime."

Lamar A. Morgan continued his education and basketball career at Coppin State University where he pursued a computer science degree.

LAMAR MORGAN PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY QUEEN COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY



A 40-year Nursing Career



Billie Klesch-Sheeran made her parents very proud when she was the first of her siblings to graduate from college.

“Nursing has been one of the greatest joys of my life,” exclaims Billie (Calvert) Klesch-Sheeran, RN, BSN, MSN. “It’s one of the most trusted professions and serves people when they are the most vulnerable. It is a humbling yet gratifying experience. My nursing success rests on the great academic and clinical foundation built at MAC. The outstanding nursing faculty proved invaluable in not only achieving my career goals but inspiring the drive to pursue personal goals.”

Billie’s 40-year nursing career started at Farmington Community Hospital where she gained valuable experience as a staff

nurse and a house supervisor. There, she published her first national nursing journal article related to emergency room patient care.

“Next, I worked as a full-time staff nurse at Southeast Missouri Hospital’s general surgery unit while pursuing my BS degree,” she explains. “During my ten-year tenure, I served as a nursing education coordinator and a medical staff quality assurance coordinator. Here, I published my second article in the *Joint Commission’s Quality Review Bulletin*.

In 1991, after obtaining my master’s degree, I was recruited for several chief nursing officer positions. At Our Lady of

Lourdes, I prepared the hospital for its triennial Joint Commission survey. At Shannon Medical Center, I helped develop a comprehensive preceptor program for new registered nurses.”

Billie’s interest in patient safety and quality improvement always remained a priority. In 2003, she became a nurse surveyor with The Joint Commission which accredits more than 21,000 U.S.

“I absolutely loved this job...nursing was indeed a divine calling.”

healthcare organizations and programs. She visited all 50 states and Puerto Rico surveying hospitals for compliance and offering consultation on patient safety and quality care. “I absolutely loved this job, and I realized my work in nursing was indeed a divine calling,” says the Bonne Terre native. “Every single hospital visit gave insight about issues to improve patient care.” Only because of the grueling travel schedule, Billie left this position.

“I wasn’t ready to retire, so I chose to teach clinical nursing at Angelo State University,” she continues. “I love being able to influence and role model for nursing students. Also, I was honored to be nominated for a position on the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice in Washington, D.C., a council that provides Congress with recommendations for nursing education and practice.”

Billie says, “Nursing was a great accomplishment, but the accomplishment I am most proud of was the birth of my son, Charles Paul Klesch. He watched me study nightly and hung in there during my pursuit of my advanced degree. His patience and understanding were more than any mom could ask for.” Billie lives and teaches in San Angelo, Texas.

College Wasn't Part of the Plan

"FRJC played an important role for local students as well as kids from the surrounding counties," says Gene "Sleepy" Martin, FRJC 1957-59. "I earned a basketball scholarship and had good teammates. Most are gone now. But, Gene Cozine, Doug Berry, David Arnett, Fred Goad and Dale St. Gemme are still around. Our teachers—Dr. Gayle Simmons, Charles Bess, Carl Painter and Laura Wadsworth—were excellent."

He continues, "I married Patsy Ashby when she was just 17, and I was barely 19 years old. We spent over 57 years together. I was the last person in my class I thought would go to college. First, I didn't think I was smart enough. And, finances were a problem. A back injury in the service changed my plans. Thankfully, I had the GI Bill and a beautiful wife to help since I had to find a way to earn a living."

Gene took his SEMO teaching degree to the small town of Cooter in Southeast Missouri. He explains, "I was hired as the shop teacher at Cooter High School—the last stop before Arkansas—and had the summer to requisition tools and machines to start an Industrial Arts program. When the machines and tools arrived, they were just pieces piled in boxes without assembly instructions!"

He recalls, "Cooter offered few sports for kids, and none for girls. I was offered a coaching job. The boys' basketball team had not won a game in four years. The first year we won three and by the third year we won 15 games. Often, we only had nine players so I played so we could practice. All the players lived on farms, so I drove two trips to pick up and take boys home after practice and games." Gene returned to the local area and taught 23 years in the Central District where he also served as JV coach for Denny Mills and Terry Noble for about 11 years.

Gene says, "I'm a real avid fan of MAC's great volleyball and basketball teams. I'm amazed at the tremendous

athletes who come to MAC. I also deliver meals for the Park Hills Senior Center because it's a way to give back to the community and have good conversations with community members."

So, what about the nickname? "Heck, some don't even know my real name," chuckles Sleepy. "I'm not sure how I got it, but I'm not the only family member with the nickname! As one of 12 kids, it was just passed down because two

brothers also are called Sleepy. Some think our older brother, the original Sleepy, may have slept in class, and that's how the nickname started, but we're not sure."

"I'm amazed at the tremendous athletes who come to MAC."

Gene "Sleepy" Martin enjoys volunteering for the Park Hills Senior Center.



Forging Entrepreneurial Interests

John Wigger, a 2010 Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Technology graduate, and fellow alum Joe Nipper worked together at Union Pacific Railroad and were surprised to learn they lived on the same street in Desloge.

One day Joe stopped to see John's progress on the garage he was building and noticed an anvil. From there, their blacksmithing friendship began. John explains, "Joe used to be a blacksmith under Tom Clark, one of the world's best. So, when Joe offered to 'show me some stuff,'

I was eager for him teach me."

Fast forward a year or two... "Joe was back in full swing, and I was getting good. We decided to start our business, Hawthorne Forge, and sell our products at shows. Customers asked if we made knives or watched *Forged in Fire* on The History Channel," explains John. "We were committed to traditional blacksmithing, but we agreed making a few knives couldn't hurt. The response to the knives was phenomenal. Surprisingly, we found making knives more rewarding

than we thought. Many knife makers use grinders to form their knives instead of forging them. Our blacksmithing experience and understanding of the metals really put us ahead of the pack."

Soon, Hawthorne Forge knives hit social media. An Instagram post caught the attention of the *Forged in Fire's* casting director who requested they submit an application for the show. They were skeptical at first, but after a lengthy casting process both Hawthorne Forge owners were selected.

John Wigger evaluates the details of the custom knife he is making for Adam Wainwright.



John appeared in "The Bardiche" episode where he competed against veteran smiths with over 20 years of experience making knives, compared to John's two years. John says, "In 106-degree heat index temperatures, we battled it out. My advantages were youth and experience working in Missouri's heat and humidity."

John advanced to the next round and was one of three smiths remaining. His knife performed best and landed him in the final round. "This meant I came home and had five days to forge the bardiche as my final weapon to submit to the judges," John explains. "My weapon outperformed the competitors, and I was declared the winner which brought the title 'Forged in Fire Champion' and a \$10,000 check!" For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/2Ig0teE>.

"I know my whole Forged in Fire experience is, without a doubt, what God had planned for me!"

Though John's TV episode is finished, new doors have opened for Hawthorne Forge. One of John's competitors, Tim Troyer, operates a non-profit, The Reckoning International, which teaches orphan men in Uganda how to blacksmith and make knives. John says, "I am thrilled Tim invited me on his next trip. I am most excited about Uganda because I feel this is what God wants me to do. I know my whole *Forged in Fire* experience is, without a doubt, what God had planned for me. All the prayer that I saw actually work through this whole process, I know there is no other explanation...but God!" Currently, John is raising money for tools and supplies to take with him to Uganda. Learn more at www.thereckoning.org/john-wigger-project.

Hawthorne Forge knives' reputation continues to grow and includes a





"We are beyond excited about the opportunities we've had. We are just two small-town guys, plain and simple."

variety of people for whom they have forged custom knives and products. St. Louis Cardinals fans are likely familiar with some of their customers, including shortstop Paul DeJong, pitcher Adam Wainwright and former Cardinals pitcher

Ryan Franklin.

John says, "We are beyond excited about the opportunities we've had. We are just two small-town guys, plain and simple. We love what we do. We feel very fortunate for the recognition we received

by so many amazing people, and we look forward to making more amazing, handcrafted pieces for our customers."

From the employment and business standpoint, John says MAC has proven indispensable, "My degree combined with my experiences positioned me in the job market so I edged out other applicants without degrees. It was a catalyst to help pursue my goal of being an entrepreneur. In addition to Hawthorne Forge, one of my best friends and I started Ridge Events, LLC, an event planning business. My degree enabled me to leave my railroad job for a position closer to home in the Central School District, giving me more time with my family, and time to focus on my businesses."

Hawthorne Forge and the St. Louis Cardinals. John Wigger (right) visits with former pitcher Ryan Franklin, business partner Joe Nipper, and current pitcher Adam Wainwright. John has forged custom knives for both pitchers.



Through the Grapevine

• Congrats to MAC Director of Choirs **Harry Cecil** who has been published in the *Choral Journal*, the international journal of the American Choral Directors Association. Its mission is to inspire excellence in choral music through education, performance, composition and advocacy. Harry's article about *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray appeared in the December 2018 issue. Harry's MAC Singers group performed *Gospel Mass* at the association's conference. He described the conference as the "Super Bowl" of choral experiences. Additionally, the MAC Singers are the only community college invited to perform in this collaborative ensemble.

• **Mike Douglas** (MAC 2002-03) works in St. Louis for ICS Construction Services — one of the premier contractors in the St. Louis metropolitan area and the Midwest.

Mike is the project director for the ICS Flooring & Ceramic Tile Division. He says, "Shortly after MAC, I became a union floor layer in St. Louis and have been in the flooring industry ever since. ICS is a large commercial construction company, and I run the flooring division. I'm responsible for estimating and bidding projects and overseeing them until they are completed. Even though I got into a trade after graduating from MAC, I'm certain my college credentials combined with my industry experience is what helped me get where I am now. Paul Fritch taught my Microsoft Excel class. Even though it may sound pretty basic, I use Excel skills every single day at work...multiple hours per day. It's actually a major part of my job. I've been in flooring and construction for about 13 years, and at ICS for the last six years."

Mike and his wife, Ashley, have been

married for 11 years. Ashley is a high school English teacher at North County and coaches the Raiderettes dance team. Their seven-year-old daughter, Isla, is a blossoming athlete—basketball and softball—who enjoys coming to MAC basketball games. The Douglas family lives in Park Hills.

• MAC Lady Cardinal **Holly Forbes** leaves MAC with an impressive basketball career and will continue her education and play basketball at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh. Holly was instrumental in the team's 21-8 season with her season's best performances of 32 points and 18 rebounds. Her hard work and play earned several honors. As a freshman, she earned NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention. This year, she was named NJCAA First Team All-American and the 2019 Region 16 Player

MAC choirs led by Harry Cecil performed at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Kansas City.



of the Year. Her stats were tops in many categories. She averaged 16.5 points per game, ranked 24th in the nation with 10.4 rebounds, and shot over 58%, ranking her in the top 18 in the country.

- Real estate agent **Anna Hatridge**, an alumni of MAC and Liberty University, works at Goodson Realty in Farmington. She recently has become a Sterling R investor in the Realtors Political Action Committee, a national bipartisan grassroots-based political advocacy organization that works to protect the real estate industry and the dream of homeownership for Mineral Area residents and across the country. Anna has been a member of the National Association of Realtors since 2002. She resides in Terre Du Lac where she is owner of Treasure Emporium and editor-in-chief for the *TDL Lifestyle* paper.

- ADN graduate **Brandy Pratt** (MAC 1990-94), of Bonne Terre, completed her BSN at Central Methodist and her MSN at Liberty University. She's enjoyed a successful career in healthcare and currently serves as regional vice president of palliative care for Compassus (Nashville, TN) serving the Greater St. Louis Area. Prior to her current position, she was the nurse liaison at VITAS Innovative Hospice Care and program director at Aegis Orthopedic Center of Excellence. She has two children and spends her leisure time at the lake, listening to live music and traveling.



◀ **Ashley Bales**, of Fredericktown, began her college program at MAC as a night class student while working full-time. She holds a Master of Business Administration and works as an independent financial professional for Reese Financial Group, Money Concepts in Farmington.

▼ **Outstanding Employees**

Each spring, MAC employees and administration submit nominations for Employee of the Year honors. Forty-four employees were nominated for their amazing campus contributions. Meet the four award recipients.

The Faculty Member of the Year is **Dr. Margaret Williams**. Margaret has been teaching chemistry on campus since 1995. Colleagues describe her as a "go to person" who is always willing to listen. Margaret will also be recognized as a Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award winner at the fall Missouri Community College Association Convention.

Shaun Braswell is the Classified Staff Employee of the Year. Shaun came to MAC in 2001. Peers appreciate Shaun's work to connect the college to our community. As a member of the IT Department he has expanded his role with creative video and social media to ensure campus events are publicized.

Mark Easter is the Non-Teaching Faculty Professional Employee of the Year. He began at MAC in 1998. His peers recognize how hard Mark works to make MAC a better place for students

- **Michelle Richee**, an ordained minister, missionary and evangelist from Farmington, attended MAC and Rhema Bible Training College. Her ministry work is varied and includes 30 international mission trips. She has been featured on Pat Robertson's *The 700 Club* and the Trinity Broadcasting Network. In addition to spreading the Gospel throughout North America, Michelle's work has taken her to the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe. In November 2018, Michelle embarked on a three-month mission to Pakistan, India, Uganda and Kenya. Her plan was to educate, start an orphanage, roof a church, bring food to the hungry, distribute Bibles, and communicate with church leaders. Her motto is, "When you mean business with God, God will mean business with you." For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/notes/michelle-richee>.

Dr. Margaret Williams, Scott Collinworth, Shaun Braswell and Mark Easter received special recognition for their contributions to MAC this year.





David Aubuchon, Melissa Avendaño Toro, Isabel Legg, Kathleen Spradling, Victoria Cunningham and Emma Govreau received Outstanding Student Awards.

and employees. Mark impacts students daily in his role as counselor and advisor.

Scott Collinworth was awarded the 2019 Leadership Award which is presented by administration to one campus employee who exemplifies the mission of MAC. Scott began working on campus in 2000. His knowledge of campus IT infrastructure is vast and his problem-solving skills are top-notch.

▲ Outstanding Students

Congratulations to the 2019 Outstanding Student Award recipients.

David AuBuchon, of the Arts & Sciences Division, is a Phi Theta Kappan, Honors student and active in the Community Band. David will attend Southeast Missouri State to complete his teaching degree and intends to teach high school English.

Victoria Cunningham, the Career & Technical Education Division recipient, made the Dean's List, and is very active in the Student Nursing Association, an Honors student, and an EXCEL tutor. Victoria holds her bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. Though she worked many years as an electrical engineer, her desire to help people always remained. After her children were grown, she decided to pursue a nursing degree.

Isabel Legg, the Campus Leadership & Service recipient, is a pillar of MAC's Professional Agricultural Students Organization, serving in various leadership roles including chapter

president, Missouri's state vice president and the organization's national secretary. Isabel plans to attend Southeast Missouri State with a goal to earn a master's degree and teach agricultural education.

The outstanding student for Art is **Emma Govreau**. She served as the Art Club president and exhibited her work in the college's fine arts show. Emma is a member of EXCEL, the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa. Emma plans to attend the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she will pursue a bachelor's and master's in fine arts.

Phi Theta Kappan **Kathleen Spradling** is the Music Department's outstanding student who served as president of the MAC chapter of the National Association for Music Education. She is active in Community Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Studio Music and the Honors Recital. Kathleen plans to complete her bachelor's and master's degrees in music.

The Athletics Department selected **Melissa "Mel" Avendaño Toro**, of Columbia, South America. She is a standout member of the Lady Cardinals Volleyball Team, and her contributions led the team to Top Ten national rankings during her freshman and sophomore years. She earned First-Team All-Region 16 and First-Team MCCAC All-Conference recognition.

► Congratulations to **Amy Keller**, MAC's 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient. She earned her associate's in nursing from MAC in

1997 before beginning her career as a registered nurse. She then completed her bachelor's in nursing in 2009 through Central Methodist University. Amy opened A1 Home Care in 2012, which employs 120 caregivers and serves 180 clients in numerous counties. Her passion to help others led her to open A1 Adult Day Care Center in 2015 and A1 Transportation Services in 2017. She is currently active with the Missouri Alliance for Home Care and Adult Day Care Association and works with the backpack program, which donates to local school districts.

Amy says nothing brings her more joy than giving, and she encourages others to have hope, be their best self, and act as a light to others. She believes success is important, but becoming a person of value is even greater. One of her favorite quotes is by Helen Keller: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved."

Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Amy Keller was honored during Commencement.



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