

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

FALL/WINTER 2015



# TO OUR READERS



Each Fall, Club Awareness Day informs new students of more than 25 student organizations.

## MINERAL AREA COLLEGE

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Dear Friends,

As the fall semester winds down along with MAC's 50th year, we reflect on our accomplishments and anticipate future endeavors. We look out over our main campus, and our buildings and grounds remind us of improvements we've made.

Currently, construction is happening to repair damage from the April 8th hailstorm. We're thankful for the state's financial lift mentioned on page 7, which will not only offset the cost of repairs, but make much-needed renovations to other areas. My office staff and I have enjoyed our temporary set-up in the library, but we are looking forward to moving back to the newly-renovated and repaired President's Office and Board Room. Come visit us sometime!

Another addition to the face of our campus and outreach locations has been small signs indicating MAC is now a tobacco-free institution. After surveying stakeholders, we found sizable support for the measure which the trustees asked us to pursue last year. We're happy to say, we've mostly heard positive feedback from our students, visitors and employees who enjoy the fresher air and cleaner campus.

But these are the newer, visible things a visitor sees. As you'll read, MAC was also named to the "M" List, which denotes the caliber of our advanced manufacturing program. Two faculty members have resurrected the MAC-sponsored, study-abroad trips with a visit to Cuba. We're adding three new inductees to the Rotary/MAC Hall of Fame. And while we were sorry to see former coach and alumni player Corey Tate leave for MU's basketball program, we're happy to welcome Luke Strege. These are only some of the latest updates we can't wait to tell you about.

In addition to students, we serve the community at large. We invite you to take advantage of all your college has to offer, especially during these winter months. See you at Homecoming, January 23.

This year marking Mineral Area College's half-century has been one of improvement, change and challenge. We're looking forward to seeing what 2016 brings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President

*Our heartfelt support still goes out to everyone in and around Umpqua Community College. As you'll see in our next issue, we take student safety at MAC very seriously and are constantly in the process of revamping our safety procedures. Thank you for all you do to keep our communities safe.*



Mineral Area College's tobacco-free policy was implemented August 1, 2015.



Students and community members perform with Grammy Award-winning trombonist Michael Dease (top right) during MAC's annual Evening of Jazz.

# FEATURES

## 2 Picturesque Cuba

In May, the Travel Abroad program journeyed to Cuba and gained a deeper understanding of Cuban culture, colonial history and lifestyles.

## 8 Thespians Talk MAC Theatre

Three student actresses share thoughts on community theatre, career options and their director's dedication.

## 13 A Life of Service

They've lived in jungles and bamboo-stilted huts.

## 26 Computer Security, Our New Frontier

Keeping the college's data secure presents an ongoing, round-the-clock challenge for the Information Technology Department.

# Departments

- 2 **Around Campus**
- 14 **Thank You Giving Envelope**
- 18 **Donor Honor Roll**
- 21 **Alumni**
- 28 **Through the Grapevine**

## On the Cover

The cheerleaders are 20 strong and promote Mineral Area College. Read their names and meet their coach on page 22.



"Cubans realize their country is in transition. While they're not afraid of change, they are vehement about insuring the vitality of their cultural heritage."



Traditional agricultural methods are still used along with more commercial methods to raise crops such as tobacco, citrus, rice, cassava, coffee and sugar cane.



# PICTURESQUE CUBA

In May, the Travel Abroad program journeyed to Cuba and gained a deeper understanding of Cuban culture, colonial history and lifestyles.

After a half-century of U.S. - Cuba Cold War tensions, the political climate between the two countries has thawed, bringing new opportunities for Americans to travel.

In May, Modern Foreign Language Department Chair Sarah Stahl and five area travelers explored Cuba on an eight-day Travel Abroad tour with two North Carolina community college groups. The

itinerary started in Miami's Little Havana and continued when they arrived in Old Havana, Cuba. Cultural and historical sites included agricultural venues, churches, an elementary school, arts and literature organizations, a bio-reserve, a tobacco plantation and a circus school.

MAC travelers found Cuban music, art and food impressive. "The Afro-Cuban Flamenco and salsa performances



Cuban music is invigorating and passionate, one of the richest and most influential regional genres of the world.

were fiery and fascinating. Vibrant, expressive Cuban art is everywhere, and it portrays stories ranging from personal to political,” explains Sarah. “Cuban cuisine blends the flavors of Taino (the indigenous people of Cuba), Spanish, African and Caribbean cuisines, with rice and beans—a staple of nearly all meals.”

The group enjoyed paladar dining—restaurants situated in private homes offering a unique, culturally-infused experience for tourists as well as an income source for Cubans.

The travelers confirmed classic American cars are a part of Cuba’s cultural identity. “It was like a car show every day,” chuckles Sarah. “Castro’s regime blocked American imports, and these spectacular cars are passed among generations. Family members meticulously maintain the cars using recycled and hand-made parts.”

The group noted the dedication of Cubans to community and family. They were comforted to know the crime rate is low, so they felt safe.

“In addition to observing the Cuban culture and people,” Sarah says, “the group was able to gain perspective on how Cubans viewed them. One observation was, they really noticed how tech-savvy Americans are. They have a desire to learn about the Internet and other technology.”

Sarah says the group was welcomed with true hospitality and found Cubans have a positive attitude about Americans.

“Cubans realize their country is in transition,” Sarah says. “While they’re not afraid of change, they are vehement about insuring the vitality of their cultural heritage.”

Sarah and her colleague, Economics Department Chair Stephanie Campbell, are planning to return to Cuba in May 2016. They also have plans for a Travel Abroad Spring Break adventure to Quebec City, Canada, in March 2016.

*For more information on these trips, contact Sarah Stahl at (573) 518-2128 or [SStahl@MineralArea.edu](mailto:SStahl@MineralArea.edu).*



# Boosting Employment Options

After completing their degrees or upgrading their skills, most students look for long-term employment. They try to create attention-getting résumés, land job interviews and position themselves as top candidates. But competition can be fierce.

## “It’s heartwarming to help restore a family’s income.”

Career Services helps students, alumni and community members prepare for what to expect in the job search process. Career Services Director Teresa Skaggs and Career Advisor Beth Mell urge students not to put off visiting them until after graduation but to visit their offices during the enrollment process so informed decisions can be made throughout their college life.

“We help students understand how their academic and personal interests, abilities and values relate to career fields,” Beth says. “Being committed is so important. Students who take ownership of their education generally have more successful outcomes.”

Beth enjoys when students uncover unknown possibilities and gets super excited when a career connects with their personalities and interests.

Teresa says she cultivates employment opportunities in two ways: First, she helps prepare students for employment while in college and upon graduation.

“We use various approaches such as résumé building, interviews and online searches,” she says. “We’ve had success with traditional 18-year-olds who have little work experience, returning military veterans, and community members seeking career changes.”

Second, she creates awareness about job postings. “Since MAC services complement what employers are already doing, their job postings reach



**Teresa Skaggs and Beth Mell provide career services to students, alumni and community members.**

larger audiences and generate greater responses,” she says. “Companies and non-profits contact me to list their positions for paid employment, internships or volunteer work. The positions are posted on MAC’s website for students, alumni and the community.”

Career Services also oversees the federally-funded work-study program, which provides about \$90,000 for on-campus jobs for about 60-65 students.

“Students earn more than a paycheck,” says Beth, who is also the work study coordinator. “Many students have never worked in a professional setting, so they gain valuable work experiences and references for future employment. Positions vary. Some are in clerical and customer service, while others may be in

the greenhouse or theater. One task is cleaning the science lab snake cages!”

Employers and individuals praise Career Services. A community member who asked for Teresa’s help to give her résumé a facelift, said, “WOW! It turned out beautifully. This service is so valuable. You and MAC are lifesavers.”

Teresa says it’s great to see MAC making such a powerful impact. “It’s heartwarming to know we’ve helped restore a family’s income, connected a graduate with an employer, and, most of all, instilled confidence in those who perhaps doubted their skills and opportunities,” she says.

*For more Career Services information, contact Beth at (573) 518-2193 or [BMell@MineralArea.edu](mailto:BMell@MineralArea.edu) or Teresa at (573) 518-3848 or [TSkaggs@MineralArea.edu](mailto:TSkaggs@MineralArea.edu).*



The men's basketball players have welcomed Coach Stregg's family to MAC.

# He's All about Character

The first thing people may notice about Luke Stregg is his welcoming smile and approachability. When he speaks about basketball, he speaks of character development.

This summer, Luke Stregg (pronounced STREGG-ee) was named the fourth coach in the men's basketball program history. "MAC is thrilled Luke is on board with his 15 years of experience at the Division I and Division II levels," says Athletic Director Chad Mills. "More than his ability to coach, we're excited about the high character Luke brings. He's a great family man, and he will do an outstanding job representing both the community and the college. He wants good student-athletes, both on the court and in their student lives. For Luke, graduation is an expectation, not merely a goal, for each player."

At a recent civic meeting, Luke told the audience, "I'm looking for players who are good people—people who will be respected in the community and who bring respect to MAC. People I can invite into my home to share a meal with my family and be great role models for my kids."

He added, "We are building a family

here. We're recruiting students who have placed graduating from MAC as their top priority. It's the personalities and the character of these young men that I'm most proud of."

The Stregg family, with Midwestern roots, believes it's found a permanent home. "My wife and I have moved a number of times. That comes with the business, but that's not what we want for our children. We've been searching for a

Coach Stregg, his wife Christine and their three sons are an active, fun-loving family.



home, a place where our kids can grow up and feel like they're a part of a special community and, so far, this feels like home," explains Luke, a 1999 University of Wisconsin-La Crosse graduate.

About Cards' basketball, Coach Stregg says, "I've recruited this region for years with an incredible amount of respect for the coaches. I'm well aware we will be challenged every single night, and I look forward to it. Our biggest challenge will be assembling a completely new group of players into a team ready to compete at the highest level every night."

Luke's coaching repertoire includes five seasons as assistant men's coach and recruiting coordinator at Eastern Kentucky University where he helped guide the team to a 2014 Ohio Valley Conference Championship and a berth to the NCAA National Tournament. He was voted the No. 1 basketball recruiter in the Ohio Valley Conference. During his six years at Quincy University, the team posted six consecutive winning seasons and advanced to four NCAA Division II tournaments.

Learn more about Coach Stregg and MAC basketball at [www.MineralArea.edu/athletics](http://www.MineralArea.edu/athletics).

# Family Members Inspire Art

Two art students didn't have to go far to find encouragement to pursue their talent. Madeleine Rowe and Ty DeFato, both of Farmington, found inspiration from family members.

"Mistakes aren't mistakes, they're just another way of looking at things," says Madeleine, who learned to paint and draw in her grandmother's art studio. "My grandmother always said, if you're good at something, hone your skills and become passionate about it. That shapes the way I feel about art."

**"Mistakes aren't mistakes, they're another way of looking at things..."**

Madeleine says instructor Jim Wilson "is kooky in a really good way. His flair for the unexpected helps me develop my potential beyond the hobby level of art. He's inspiring, and his classroom environment builds a camaraderie that motivates me."

Ty is fascinated by many types of art including animation, cartooning and foreign film history. He enjoys its research aspect, letting his stored knowledge express itself in his work.

His aunt and uncle worked in Disney's animation department on such productions as *The Lion King* and *Pocahontas*.

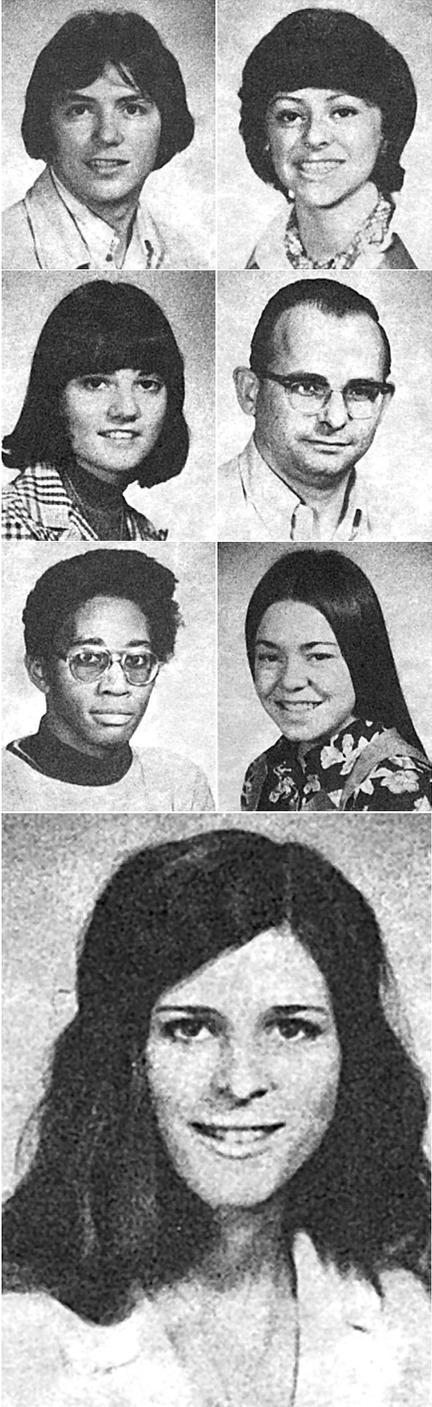
"As a young person, it was very cool to see their names in the movie credits. That got me interested in animation," he says.

Ty has experimented with comic strips, rubber hose animation, stop motion animation, and says he's very intrigued by silent, foreign and new films.



Madeleine Rowe and Ty DeFato enjoy their art classes and say they're gaining different perspectives and growing as artists.





## FRJC Flashback Sophomores 1975

The class included Alan Berry, Judy Davenport, Joan Koch, Bobby Crites, Clifton Baker, Ina Kirk and Carol Haile.



Dr. Steve Kurtz, president (at podium), introduces Governor Jay Nixon before the announcement concerning the maintenance and repair funding. Renovations began this fall.

# \$1.8 Million Announcement

A well-maintained campus is always a MAC priority. In addition to education, the campus grounds and buildings are used for such community activities as civic meetings, regional events, reunions and sports.

Maintenance and repair—planned or unexpected—is an ongoing necessity which poses continual challenges, especially with the nearly-50-year-old buildings. Mother Nature causes havoc, too. April’s hailstorm pulverized roofs on the main campus in Park Hills. Roofs are being replaced, and insurance claims are expected to reach \$3 million.

So MAC was pleased when Governor Jay Nixon visited campus to announce he signed House Bill 19, earmarking \$1.8 million for capital improvements and renovations on the main campus.

Governor Nixon said, “Education is one of the best economic tools we’ve got in the state. We will continue to invest in higher education so Missouri remains a leader in college affordability and so students graduate with the skills they need to start a career, not a mountain of debt.”

Dr. Steve Kurtz, college president, says, “We appreciate Governor Nixon and our local lawmakers supporting House Bill 19. Also, I appreciate

working with our sister community colleges and public universities to educate our lawmakers about the importance of investing capital funding in our higher education facilities. This \$1.8 million will go a long way to assure MAC’s high quality learning environment is maintained.”

The initiative makes improvements to the Arts & Sciences Building, North College Center, Fire Academy, Sechrest Field House, and other buildings. Renovation and upgrades include asbestos tile removal, repair of building settlements, multiple bathroom renovations, HVAC work, community-use kitchen upgrades, replacement and repair of walkways and stairs and investment in computer labs.

Trustee President Scott Sikes says he was particularly appreciative of the funds. “As the trustee representing the Fredericktown area of the taxing district, and as an employee of the school district there, I can tell you storm damage affects the operations of an educational institution in no small way. It directly affects the ability of students to learn. This money ensures our campus remains strong, both in terms of infrastructure and education.”



On and off the stage, Leslea Walter, Caitlyn Emert and Shiloh Burt are poised, articulate and expressive.





Little Theatre Guild performances are well-received by local audiences who appreciate having quality theatre options close to home.

# Thespians Talk MAC Theatre

MAC's theatre productions are indeed a community event. Productions showcase the talent of MAC and area high school students as well as community adults and children who share the love of music and stage. The audience is family members, students, alumni and community members who enjoy quality theatre without the drive to St. Louis.

Three sophomore students recently discussed their theatre experiences. Caitlyn Emert (Arcadia Valley) envisions herself as a director of college theatre. She's exploring different college locations and is eyeing Chicago as a possibility. Shiloh Burt's (Crystal City) next step is Lindenwood University, then to the classroom as a high school theater director. Leslea Walter (Pacific) recalls how influential her elementary school music teacher was and plans to inspire and motivate elementary students as a music educator.

Each has a passion for theatre, though none dreamed it could be a career. "I planned to be a radiologist," says Leslea. "It didn't take long to realize I was drawn to pursue music and theater. MAC helped develop my conviction to

focus on my true passion."

Caitlyn enjoyed high school theatre, yet declared elementary education as her major. She said she always wanted to work in the theater, and MAC Theatre Director Chuck Gallaher showed her theatre's many options.

"While most of my peers went to Jefferson College, I longed for new opportunities to grow and meet people," says Shiloh. "After visiting both schools, MAC just felt right and has opened so many possibilities."

These thespians praise Chuck Gallaher for his dedication to students and their success. Caitlyn says, "Chuck is my biggest mentor and inspires us all. He's all about working hard and teaching us to grow as professionals."

Shiloh adds, "He's incredibly patient. I needed to get out of my shell more, and he helped me develop different acting methods. As long as you put forth the effort, he puts stock in you, regardless of your skills."

Leslea agrees, "There's something really special about Chuck. We all sense it. He consistently encourages us to grow and wants us to succeed. He's the

best director I've worked with."

The actresses talk about how, as opening night nears, Chuck says, "I can't do any more, it's your show now." The show is theirs to do, and they're expected to take ownership of its success or failure.

Caitlyn, Shiloh and Leslea say they feel part of the "community" in MAC theatre and are inspired by the increasing number of community members who audition. They tell about a local teacher who invites her high school students to "come see her in the show" and a community member who was a mother-figure for them. Sharing the stage with community members cultivates a bigger MAC family and broader sense of community.

And, as the three reflect, "Once you do several shows, you see some regulars in the audience. People come up and say 'I saw you in such-and-such a show, but think this was your best performance.' These are memorable experiences and make you feel so special. MAC theatre is so rewarding, and it will be bittersweet to leave here."



## Cards Cast!

Listen in on the Athletic Department's new podcast. English Instructor Brandon Scheldt is the podcast innovator and host of the weekly program which focuses on the athletes and the coaches. The Cards Cast link is on the Athletic Department's home page. Click on Kirby to listen in or find directions to download a PDF file to your computer or install a phone app. Missed a game? The Cards Cast episodes will be archived.

## Multiple Magazines?

Did you receive multiple copies of the Spring/Summer 2015 *Alumni Magazine*? Our printing company removes duplicate addresses and inadvertently neglected this step. The additional costs were refunded by the printing company.

*Families of Graduates:*  
Have your graduates moved? Share their new addresses with MAC using the enclosed giving envelope.



Bill Bradley, Tim Gray and Sonny Parker will be inducted in December.

# Hall of Fame Inductees

Three men who excelled on the basketball court will be honored on Saturday, December 12, 2015, when Mineral Area College and St. Francois County Rotary Club induct Bill Bradley, Tim Gray and Sonny Parker into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The public is invited to the evening ceremony in the Sechrest Field House.

The late Bill Bradley, women's basketball coach, led the team for 19 seasons from 1981-99. His 307-127 record earned seven MCCAC Conference titles and five East Division Region 16 Championships. Bill was an educator for 30 years in the Bismarck, Valley, Esther and Central school districts and coached varsity boys' basketball for 19 years with a record of 326-170. His overall coaching record for boys and girls was 633-297 in 38 years. Bill played basketball at Hannibal-LaGrange College, University of Louisiana at Monroe and McNeese State University.

Tim Gray, men's basketball coach and athletic director, joined MAC in 1984 as an assistant coach. A year later, when Bob Sechrest retired from coaching men's basketball, Tim was named head coach. Under his tutelage, the Cards earned five MCCAC Championships and one Region 16 title. Tim became the second head basketball coach in

MAC history and, at the time, was the youngest collegiate head coach in the country. He also served as an administrator in NJCAA Region 16. In 2004, he retired from coaching with a 431-196 record and served as MAC athletic director until 2011. Tim's collegiate playing career began in NJCAA Region 16 at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, and he transferred to Friends University in Kansas.

Robert "Sonny" Parker, men's basketball player, was recruited by Coach Sechrest in 1972. Sonny was twice named NJCAA All-American and garnered honors as Midwest Junior College Athletic Conference and NJCAA Region 16 Player of the Year in 1973-74. He remains MAC's all-time scoring leader and is a NJCAA Hall of Fame member. His collegiate career continued at Texas A&M where he earned multiple basketball honors. In 1976, Sonny was drafted 17th overall by the Golden State Warriors. He is the founder of The Sonny Parker Youth Foundation in Chicago.

Bill, Tim and Sonny will add MAC's Hall of Fame to their legacies for not only their sports merit, but also for their endeavors to be role models and mentors for their teammates and players.

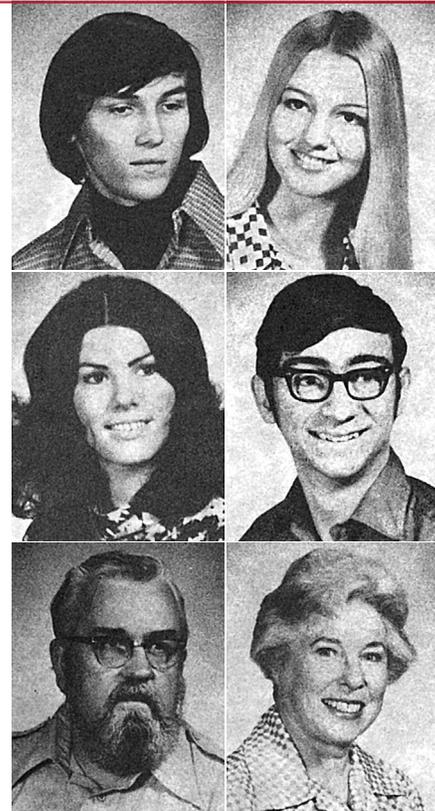
# Influential Teachers

Education major Katie Weible of Park Hills says, "The inspiring and amazing teachers I had influenced me to pursue a teaching career. I want to be like them and impact young students so they enjoy learning and have a bright future." She enjoys MAC and adds, "It is a great place to begin my college experience and is helping me with time management. I've made some good lifetime friends."

Katie says, "I have a broader understanding of how the college makes a difference. Working in the Financial Aid office has improved my people skills and helped develop my professionalism with new experiences. I see the value of being helpful and friendly and have witnessed how a small caring staff can make a big difference for students who need some guidance with the financial aid process. And, you can bet I know how to fill out a FAFSA form!"



Sophomore Katie Weible plans to complete her AA and transfer to SEMO.



## FRJC Flashback Freshmen 1975

The class included John Taylor, Pamela Murray, Jovanna Berry, Steven Huffman, Daniel Paulausky, Margaret Paulausky and Patte Campbell.

## Excellence in Manufacturing Education

MAC is one of three Missouri schools to earn national recognition from the Manufacturing Institute, an affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers.

The Institute announced: "The Manufacturing Institute is pleased to recognize MAC as the newest member of the 'M-List'... acknowledged for its outstanding manufacturing and fluid power courses. Enrolled students will be eligible to receive certifications from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and the International Fluid Power Society as

well as receive college credit."

M-List schools teach manufacturing to industry standards and present students the chance to earn NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certifications as a standard part of their manufacturing curriculum.

As a non-partisan organization, the institute is committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to U.S. manufacturers. It addresses current and future skills and workforce development gaps.

For more information, please visit [www.themanufacturinginstitute.org](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org).

# Faith, Family and Mozambique

She's pursuing her dream of becoming a cardiologist, easing homesickness by connecting with family online and leaning on her faith.

"Saying good-bye to my family in Mozambique was very difficult and a big adjustment. But, coming to the United States to be educated is an opportunity people in my country cannot pass up," says Liz Bacar. "It's critical to my future and my dream of becoming a doctor."

Liz says although everyone at MAC has been unbelievably nice, her first semester was arduous. "I knew I'd miss my family, but it was worse than I expected. Thankfully, technology

like Skype and WhatsApp lets us communicate regularly," Liz says. "Classes were challenging, and I'm proud of my 'B' in American History. I saw snow for the first time, and just to touch it was exhilarating. But, it was soooo cold! I miss the Indian Ocean beaches."

The future cardiologist says she thinks her teachers are nice, loving and caring, and provide help any way they can. "I'm kind of shy, so MAC's small, comfy atmosphere is an ideal place for

me to open up, meet people and build a support system," she says. "It's good preparation for a four-year university."

Liz's dream required an alignment of many variables and people's generosity, for which she says she is grateful. By happenstance, she met Nancy Lynch, a MAC science instructor who was doing mission work in Africa. Nancy helped pave the way—albeit a long one—for Liz to attend. The amount of paperwork was voluminous. Liz couldn't afford college on her own, so a benefactor paid her college expenses. Next, two host families kindly welcomed Liz into their homes. And, when funding ran out, Liz qualified for MAC's Buck-A-Month, William Hunter and Brian Merrill scholarships. She also found part-time employment.

As Liz explains why an American education is so prized, she talks of Mozambique's Civil War.

"After we gained independence from Portugal, a power struggle broke out and lasted until about 1992," says Liz, whose native tongue is Portuguese.

"Many atrocities were committed against people, schools were destroyed, and our country was in ruins. Scars of war still trouble Mozambique. It's been difficult to rebuild. We have the Indian Ocean's beautiful beaches, yet tourism cannot get started. We're a country of haves and have-nots. There are many street kids. Families gave away their children because they had no money to feed or care for them. Employment is low, and opportunities are few. Kids leave school to earn money for their families. So, you can see why I could not miss this chance to be educated in the U.S."

**Liz Bacar is thankful to be at MAC, but she still longs for her mom's hugs back in Africa.**





Christian and Krystle Pozo e-mailed back and forth with Sheila Beard (center) who provided encouragement and valuable resources to help them register for classes. It was wonderful to finally meet in person.

## A Life of Service

They've lived in jungles, bamboo-stilted huts, and in proximity to land mines.

From about 8,000 miles away, Krystle and Christian Pozo arranged to attend MAC.

"Technology is amazing," say the sister and brother from California. "And Sheila Beard is just as amazing."

Sheila, the Allied Health Department's administrative assistant, said she knew there was something special about Krystle and Christian. "We were like pen pals meeting for the first time," she says. "They have heartfelt aspirations to serve others. They are phenomenal people."

Coincidence brought them to MAC. "We were in Idaho at a friend's wedding and happened to talk to Alex

Johnson, a 2013 nursing graduate who told us about the program," explains Krystle. "We looked into it, and it just seemed so right for us. Our journey to MAC started with no place to live, no jobs, and very limited money. We just trusted things would work. An apartment became available. We got enrolled and found on-campus jobs. Then, we were awarded the Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation and Melvin DeHovitz Memorial scholarships. We are blessed."

The Pozos come from a missionary family and have had experiences the average person can hardly imagine. They've lived in jungles, in bamboo-stilted huts and in proximity to land mines, walking miles to get food and serve others.

"Living a life of service is extremely satisfying," Christian says. "I was awestruck by our first trip. When you're immersed in another culture, you

generate a broader worldview."

Krystle adds, "You learn you can live without many things and still be happy. When you realize you don't have a return plane ticket, it changes your whole perspective."

As ambassadors for God, Krystle and Christian's outreach involves more than evangelism. They work in clinics and orphanages, bring medical care to remote villages, teach music and academics and share in the joys and sorrows of their adopted culture.

Touching experiences inspired their possible nursing careers. Christian remembers, "One afternoon, a little boy who was playing with a knife nearly severed his finger. Thanks to my mom, I have some first-aid knowledge. When the boy's mother brought him for daily dressing changes, it was thrilling to see that little finger heal. I was impressed by how strong that child was. What touched me was when his poor mother brought us two grass brooms she made us as a thank you."

Krystle, who plans to be a nurse-midwife, says, "I worked as a midwife and, on my third birth, a premature baby was born unresponsive. I was the only person there who knew how to perform CPR so I took care of the infant. During the two-hour drive to the hospital, and while at the hospital, I continued CPR on the infant. After 2.5 hours, I handed him over to the nurses, but he passed away three days later from under-developed lungs. It was an experience that forever changed the course of my future."

Krystle and Christian serve in unthinkable poor areas with limited options. They say, "We're just showing them ways to better their lives. It's neat to see the joy on people's faces when we help them. The satisfaction we derive from helping others is difficult to explain. It really needs to be experienced."

# Ways to Give

Consider supporting education at MAC.

- Stocks or Securities**  
Explore the tax advantages of donating stocks and securities. The benefits may be surprising.
- Champion Your Favorite Departments**  
Donate to help with lab supplies, equipment purchases or professional development needs.
- In Honor or Memory**  
Recognize a special person, family member, teacher or friend. Honorees or family members will be notified of your thoughtfulness.
- Matching Gifts**  
Does your employer offer a matching program?
- Planned Giving**  
Include MAC Foundation in your estate plans to help future students.
- Online**  
For flexibility and convenience, use your debit or credit card to make a one-time gift or automatic donations at [www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation](http://www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation).
- Tax Savings**  
Consult your estate planner and financial or tax advisor to determine tax considerations for your gifts to MAC Foundation, a 501(C)(3) charitable entity.

Give today using the enclosed giving envelope, going online or calling (573) 518-2114.



## Sign Up, Shop and Support MAC Foundation

Supporting MAC has never been easier! Schnucks and Amazon.com have partnered with MAC Foundation to make it easy for community members to contribute to MAC while doing routine shopping. A portion of each purchase made by the supporters is guaranteed to go directly to MAC Foundation.

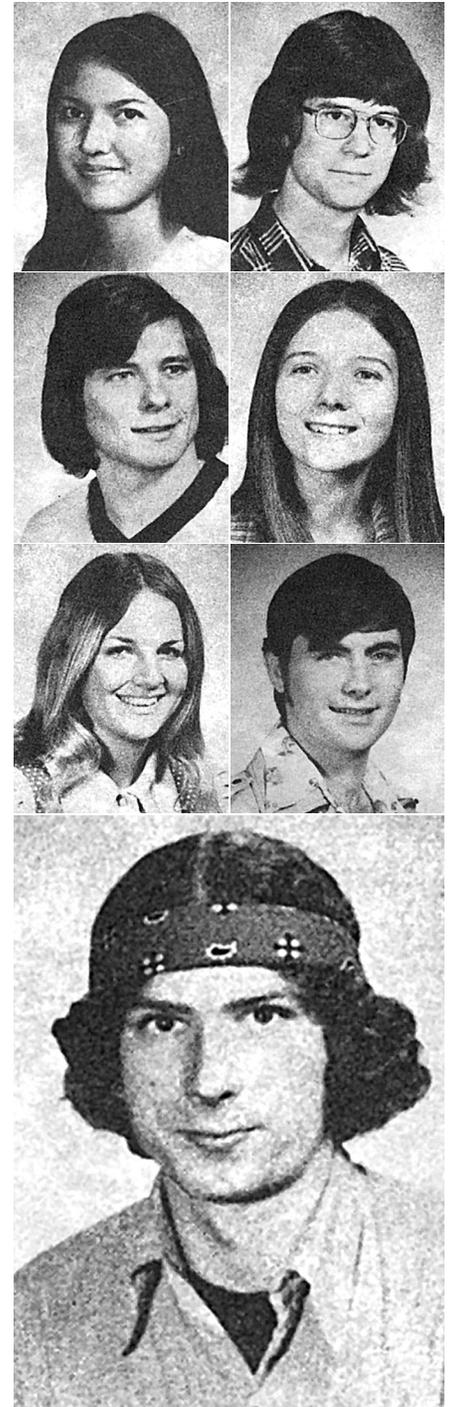
### Schnucks eScrip program only takes a few minutes to get started.

- Ask for a Schnucks eScrip card at the store or at MAC.
- Register your card online at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). Select MAC Foundation as your charity.
- Present your card with every Schnucks purchase.
- A percentage of the purchase will automatically be contributed to MAC Foundation.

### AmazonSmile is available for online shopping.

- Be sure to use this link to credit MAC and access Amazon: ["smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1341457"](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/43-1341457)
- You will see a message that reads: "Your purchase will support MAC Foundation."
- Simply click on the "Continue Shopping" button and make your purchases as usual.
- Qualifying purchases are noted with "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation."

To learn more, contact Kevin Thurman at (573) 518-2261 or email [KThurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:KThurman@MineralArea.edu).



## FRJC Flashback Sophomores 1975

The class included Sandra Chappell, Paul Klaus, Robert Horn, Rose Mustain, Karen Nickelson, Steve Hites and Michael Myers.



**Your Gift**

**Simmons  
Memorial  
Match**  
\$1-for-\$1

**DESE Match**  
\$3-for-\$1  
Your gift plus your  
Simmons Memori-  
al Match both  
receive a DESE  
match

**Your Gift's  
Purchasing Power  
Increases 800%**

## Announcing Simmons Memorial Match

Mineral Area College, along with the educational community, said farewell to Gayle Simmons, a faithful MAC friend who passed away this year. Gayle committed his life to education and remained true to that commitment. He served as former dean of Flat River Junior College and as a member of the MAC Foundation Board.

Gayle and his wife, Rowena—FRJC alum, lifetime educators and selfless MAC supporters—devised their Simmons Match which inspired others to donate to the Enhancement Grant Campaign. The Simmons Match impacted many students and helped keep the Career & Technical programs dynamic with purchases of training equipment, software, and career-related simulation modules.

As a tribute to Gayle and Rowena, the MAC Foundation Board announced the Simmons Memorial Match Campaign to honor them and continue their charitable giving mission. Because the Foundation Board members so admired

the Simmons' extraordinary generosity, they personally pledged funds to match donations—\$1-for-\$1—during the Simmons Memorial Match Campaign, until funds are exhausted.

### *How it Works*

This match combined with the \$3-for-\$1 match from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) increases the value up to 800% of your original gift. So, your \$20 gift becomes up to \$160 or your gift of \$100 becomes up to \$800 in purchasing power for the college.

The Simmons Memorial Campaign will officially run through December 15, 2015. Your donation's purchasing power will indeed grow substantially and significantly increase the support for MAC's critical programs. Gayle and Rowena believed there were no limits with regard to investing in education and the lives of others. The workforce-ready students are the dividends of their work.

"I invite you to help to make the Simmons Memorial Campaign a worthy tribute to a generous couple and their longstanding support of quality education," says alum and MAC Foundation President Andy Buchanan. "Honoring Gayle and Rowena's legacy continues to provide higher education to benefit students in the Career & Technical Division."

Assistant to the President Kevin Thurman is available to answer questions about giving opportunities and ideas. Contact him at [KThurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:KThurman@MineralArea.edu) or (573) 518-2261.

*To donate to the Simmons Memorial Match Campaign, call (573) 518-2114, visit [www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation](http://www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation), or mail a check using the envelope in this magazine.*



Mineral Area College is pleased to honor Marcia Reynolds, Marisa Zaricor, Shelley Layton and Shawna Robinson. Find information about each award recipient in the Grapevine section on page 28.

# Honoring Female Graduates

MAC Foundation honored four women at the annual Community Ladies Luncheon, which celebrates the contributions of Mineral Area College’s female graduates who are making an impact in the region.

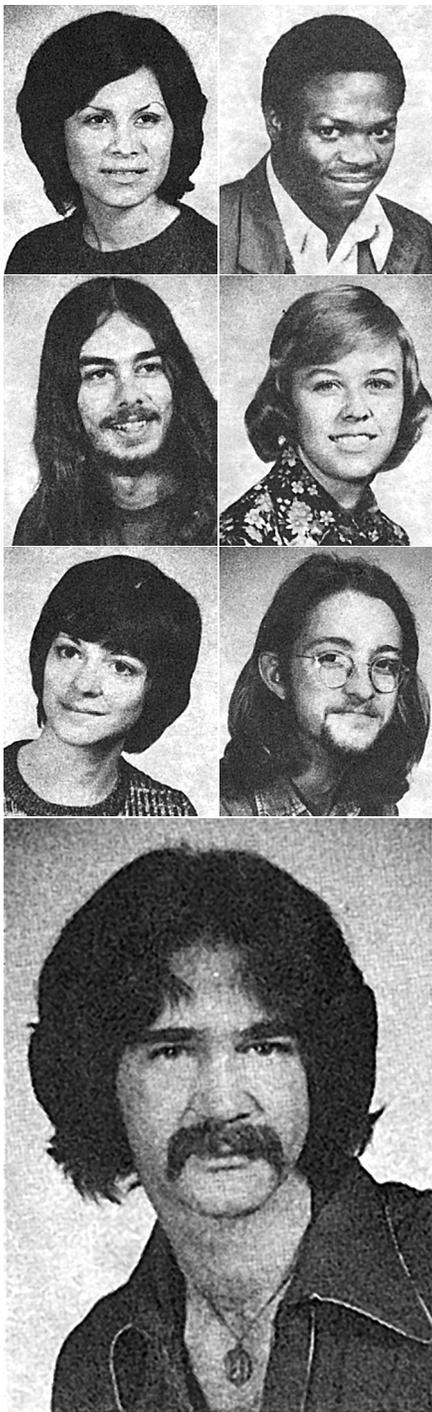
The luncheon brings together women—alumni, community members, donors and business professionals—who support MAC. This year’s recipients are Marcia Reynolds, Marisa Zaricor, Shelley Layton and Shawna Robinson.

In addition to honoring the graduates, the luncheon participants were mesmerized by the stories told by current students about how MAC

is impacting their lives. The stories are heartfelt and emotional. It’s not uncommon to see an occasional tear as students talk of overcoming personal challenges, being accepted into college, and accomplishing their goals. One community member says, “Hearing the students’ stories was remarkable in two ways. First, we all are amazed at the struggles and obstacles some students face just to come to college. Then, to hear how MAC’s been a partner to change their lives...well, it’s more than amazing. Secondly, this luncheon should be a reminder to us all how fortunate we are to have MAC in our region.”

A MAC grad smiles and says, “It’s so wonderful to hear the marvelous personal attention from MAC faculty and staff has not changed over the years. The special care and individualized attention MAC employees give to students is a significant asset in the scheme of building a college student’s confidence in the classroom and as they enter the workforce. This luncheon is a magnificent experience.”

*To be added to next year’s Community Ladies Luncheon mailing list, call Teri LaChance at (573) 518-2114 or email TALachan@MineralArea.edu with your name and mailing address.*



## FRJC Flashback Freshmen 1975

The class included Susana Juarez, Howard Blake, Robert Sunshine, Janet Coffield, Karen Martin, John Cawley and Joseph Laplant.

# Endowment Challenge

Twenty-six years ago, hundreds of alumni and friends donated to MAC Foundation's Endowment Challenge Campaign in which MAC raised \$250,000 to earn a \$250,000 U.S. Department of Education match. Since 1989, Endowment Challenge investments have funded more than \$300,000 in projects ranging from science equipment to cultural events.

The Foundation awards 50 percent of the annual earnings to campus projects and returns the remaining 50 percent to the corpus. An employee committee reviews proposals from faculty and staff and makes funding decisions.

This year, 17 applications totaling \$27,080 in requests were submitted. With the \$12,580 portion of earnings, the committee was able to award nine grants:

- Cameras for MAC Law Enforcement Academy's crime scene investigation instruction;
- Graphing calculators for check-out;
- Learning Center testing software;
- Graphing dry erase boards and tables for mathematics students;
- Professional Council of Recognition Conference to build MAC's Child Development Associate Credential;
- Dissecting stereoscopes for biology;
- Phi Theta Kappa Honors Institute attendance for PTK officers;
- Printer equipment for student use during the admissions and registration process; and
- New sound equipment for Rice Lecture Hall.

"Every effort is made to be good stewards of Endowment Challenge funds. This money is an amazing resource, providing faculty and staff the opportunity to do things they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford. We owe it to those investing in the college to make the biggest impact we can," says Kathryn Neff, human resources director and Endowment Challenge Committee chair.



**Honey-harvesting equipment was one of several purchases made possible by last year's Endowment Challenge funds.**



As a community service project, the Student Nurses' Association collected more than 500 toothbrushes and socks for a foster care backpack program.

# 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.

Abernathy, Garland  
Agee, Marple  
Allen, Greg and Jane  
Ameren Missouri  
Anonymous  
Arby's  
Archer, Gene and Maxine  
Arnett, David and Emily  
Arnold, Edna  
Belgrade State Bank  
Bieser, Leo  
Big Lots  
Black, Norman and Helen  
Black, William and Caren  
Bloemke, Thomas and Bev  
Bohnenkamp, Marvin and Kim

Bollinger, Robert  
Boyer, Naomi  
Boyer, Nicole  
Brandt, Denise  
Brockmiller, Kathryn  
Burger King  
Burns, Marguerite  
Byrd, Robert and Carole  
Carleton, Charles and Bettie  
Carroll, Bob  
Centene Management Company, LLC  
Colton's Steak House & Grill  
Commerce Bank - Desloge  
Cook, Kevin and Jane  
Coulter, Ray and Carol  
Cozean, Charles and Carole

Cruse, Larry and Colleen  
Dairy Queen - Bonne Terre  
Davidson, Charlena  
DeGonia, Jill  
Dickerson, Dianne  
Dill, Justin and Julia  
Dollar General Store - Park Hills  
Don Hawk Apartments  
Doss, Bob and Merrill-Doss, Jean  
Dunn, Lloyd and Carol  
Eck, Deborah  
Faircloth, Harvey and Mary Lee  
First State Community Bank  
Fitz, John  
Flotron, Richard  
Freeman, Louis and Mary

Goggins, Lonnie and Ollie Ann  
 Grider, Steven  
 Grundmann, Bill and Selzer-Grundmann, Jane  
 Hahn, Brian and Judy  
 Hahn, Robert  
 Hampton, James  
 Harold E. Pratte Revocable Trust  
 Hefner Furniture and Appliance  
 Heimbürger, R.H. and Sue  
 Heisel Equipment Sales and Rentals  
 Helbig, John and Laura  
 Heveroh, Jeffrey and Melanie  
 Hogan, Michael and Elaine  
 Huddle House - Bonne Terre  
 Johnson, John  
 Karl, Donald and Ellen  
 Karl, Tom and Paula  
 Keen, Danny and Gerry  
 Kellerman, Bert and Mary Ann  
 Kennon, Gil and Modessa  
 Kevin Ball Auto Body  
 KFC - Leadington  
 Kile, Tom and Tina  
 Koch, Lois  
 Kurtz, Steven and Reneé  
 Lawson, Floyd  
 Lee, Bob and Connie  
 Lewis, Marilyn  
 Little Caesar's/Danco Pizza, Inc.  
 Lix Frozen Custard  
 Madison County Chiropractic  
 Magner, Nace and Mary  
 Mahurin, Jerrod and Laura  
 Mallory Hicks Memorial Scholarship Fund  
 Massaging Insoles USA  
 McCreary, Jeffrey and Dana  
 McElvain, Ina  
 McGee, Michael and Susan  
 McHenry Rentals, LLC  
 McLeod, Gary and Jayne  
 Mell, Paul and Elizabeth  
 Missouri Land Title  
 Mitchell, Kenneth and Thelma  
 Murphy, Patricia  
 National Academy Beauty Arts  
 Nelson, Helen  
 Newman, Gene and Mary  
 Parker, Mary  
 Parker-Nash, Sally  
 Pierce, Ronald  
 PLS  
 Ragland, Jim and Marlene  
 Rehkop, Marcella  
 Resinger, Rodney  
 Richardson, Paul and Sherri  
 Richardson, Rosemary  
 Romine, Gary and Kathy  
 Ropelle, Peggy

Royer, Dick and Ann  
 Ruess, Doug and Nicki  
 Salon Prodgys  
 Saum, George  
 Scobee, Bob and Margaret  
 Shaner, Larry and Beulah  
 Shaw, David and Trish  
 Sheets, Judy  
 Shelter Foundation  
 Shinkle, Jay and Sally  
 Shoemaker, Keven and Janet  
 Sikes, Scott and Becky  
 Sikes, Stanley  
 Silvey, Mike and Nancy  
 Smart Style Salon  
 Snider, Karl  
 Stephens, Jeanne  
 Stuart, Jeff and Diana  
 Sucharski, James and Reneé  
 Sullivan & Associates  
 Sullivan, Jerry and Joan  
 Sumpter, Michael and Lisa  
 The Daniel and Henry Company  
 The Doe Run Company  
 The First Presbyterian Church  
 The Hitching Post  
 The Pasta House Company  
 Thompson, Peter and Karen  
 Thomure, Daniel and Marilyn  
 Tittman, Betty  
 TRANE, Co.  
 Tuegel, Aurelia  
 Turner, Harold and Carol  
 Turner, Kirby and Jo Ann  
 Unico Bank  
 Valley Creek Coffee House  
 VanHerck, Don  
 Velasco, Richard and Peggy  
 Walton, Terry and Candy  
 Weber, Wayne and Donna  
 Weber Insurance  
 Wells, Alan  
 West St. Francois County R-IV School District  
 White Castle - Farmington  
 Wilson, Thomas and Suzanne  
 Wisdom, Denver and Betty  
 Wood, Joyce

### In Memory of

Ronald Aubuchon  
 Larry Dorty  
 Howard and Mary Ellen Evens  
 John and Marilyn Jenkins  
 Marcia Lynn Loomis  
 Weldon B. Long  
 Georgia Ann Mackley  
 Elvin Sikes  
 Eileen Sechrest  
 Gayle Simmons

This list recognizes donors from whom gifts were received between May 1 and October 5, 2015.

## Fine Arts Events

 **Honors Recital**  
 Tues., Nov. 24, 6:30 p.m., Library, Free

 **Musical:**  
**Return to the Forbidden Planet**  
 December 2-5, 7 p.m.

 **Guitar Ensemble Concert**  
 Sun., Dec. 6, 2 p.m.  
 MAC Theater, Free

 **Auditions: The Man**  
**Who Came To Dinner**  
 Sun., Dec. 6, 2 p.m.  
 MAC Band Room

 **Concert Band Concert**  
 Tues., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
 MAC Theater

 **Holiday Big Band Dance**  
**Featuring the MAC Jazz Band**  
**and Jazz Singers**  
 Wed., Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.  
 Alexander's @ The Factory

 **Winter Choral Concert: Handel's**  
**Messiah & Bach's Cantata No. 61**  
**String Quintet Accompaniment by**  
**The Rosewood Ensemble**  
 Fri., Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Free  
 First Baptist Church, Farmington

 **The Man Who Came to Dinner**  
 Feb. 8-12, 2016, 7 p.m.

 **MAC Carol Moore Memorial**  
**Jazz Festival**  
*Featuring: Doc Severinsen*  
 Saturday, March 12, 2016

 **The Pajama Game**  
 April 20-23, 2016, 7 p.m.

 **Oleanna**  
 June 23-25, 2016, 7 p.m.

 **Kiss Me Kate**  
 July 13-16, 2016, 7 p.m.

**All Little Theatre Guild events take place in the MAC Theater. Tickets are available in the Bookstore.**

*MAC offers a variety of events throughout the year. Visit [www.MineralArea.edu](http://www.MineralArea.edu) for more events.*



## Benefits of **Philanthropy**

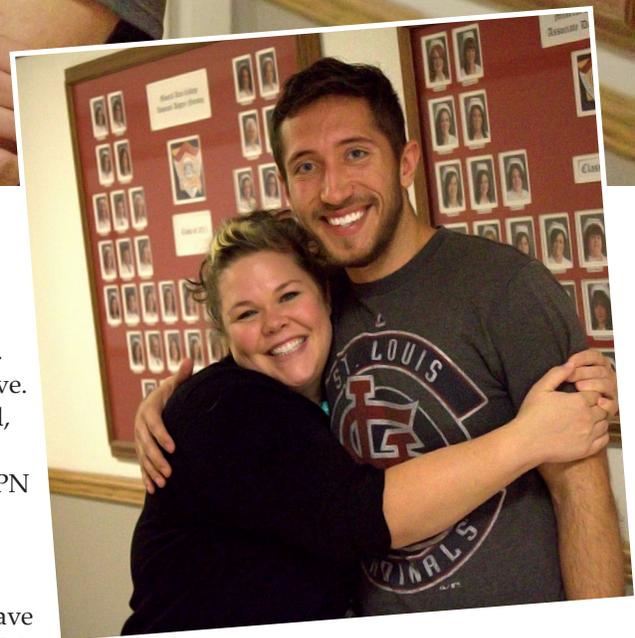
Scholarships generate substantial benefits. While scholarships enable students to attend college, some real benefits extend beyond financial support. The value of philanthropy grows exponentially as students take their classroom knowledge into the community.

Each month, MAC's Student Nurses' Association (SNA) champions a community service project. SNA activities help develop an insight into the region's healthcare issues and a better understanding of residents' needs in communities where students will work.

SNA president Cameron Courtois of Park Hills tells about the September project, "We had a back-to-school theme and learned about the area's Foster Care Backpack Program which provides essential items for children who are removed from their homes and families. We learned there are about 350

foster kids in the local four counties. These are counties where all of us live. So, although many items are needed, we decided to focus on collecting toothbrushes and socks." The 150 LPN and RN nursing students collected between 500-600 items to donate.

What did they learn? "A deeper understanding of what some kids have to experience," explains Cameron. "We were totally shocked to hear about the circumstances that required children to be removed from their homes such as family violence, police matters or drug abuse. It's pretty frightening to imagine what it's like when a child is pulled out of his home in the middle of the night with only the clothes on his back. When these kids are then placed in a foster home, they have nothing that's 'familiar or to call their own.' So, the backpacks give a little sense of ownership and stability in their new environment."



**Lindsey Theobold (left) and Cameron Courtois share a hug celebrating a successful campaign. See SNA members with their donated socks and toothbrushes on page 18.**

"We are exposed to sectors of our communities we didn't know much about. We get a different perspective on what nursing really means. We can learn in the classroom and practice in the lab. But, when you really see and hear of the hardships and suffering, you see things differently and start assessing what you can do as a nurse."

# Became a Nurse by Necessity

**“If you know scientific principles, you can figure almost anything out. Those principles are tools I’ve used throughout my life.”**

“In the fall of 1970, I entered the ADN program by pure luck,” explains Ann Lemons Pollack. “I had left Barnes School of Nursing to get married. Soon it was apparent that I, not my husband, would support the family.”

After applying to the LPN and ADN programs, Ann learned she was accepted to the fall 1971 ADN program. “The day after Labor Day, I phoned Una Thomas to beg for admission to the just-started LPN program because I couldn’t wait three years to be self-supporting,” she says. “When I identified myself, Una exclaimed, ‘Ann Lemons!’ Then, explained a student withdrew and made an immediate opening. She blurted, ‘Come in right now because it’s the last day to admit students.’”

And, so it began. “My husband’s tuition check bounced, and within three weeks we separated. Financial aid was arranged. And middle-class upbringing or not, I went on welfare,” Ann recalls. “Studying was my only way out. Expectations were set early for us. We acknowledged ours was basic nursing education but knew we took the same state boards as every four-year nursing student. Linda Montgomery emphasized, ‘If you know scientific principles, you can figure almost anything out.’ Those principles are tools I’ve used throughout my life.”

After graduation, this RN headed to St. Louis. She started at Bethesda and

moved to OB at Booth Memorial. “When I began my BSN program, I transitioned to Barnes where I could get tuition benefits. I finished my degree in 1977. However, it was at Barnes where I really learned to function at the level where I thought a baccalaureate-prepared RN should be, as exemplified by Linda Montgomery.”

As much as Ann loved patient care, she wanted to solidify her résumé with management experience. As a Lutheran Medical Center evening supervisor, she began a chemotherapy service when a Barnes hematologist-oncologist joined the staff, and she created and taught a curriculum to certify other nurses.

Ann continues, “About then, I began writing about food for a local publication. So I was writing, working the evening shift, and moonlighting a little in ER. Amidst all this, I met Joe Pollack. We married in a room at Jewish Hospital after he’d had an emergency AAA repair.”

Soon, Ann left nursing and Joe retired from the *Post-Dispatch*. “Together, we wrote three books on St. Louis restaurants and had runs on the St. Louis NPR station. I’ve been a regular contributor for the *Post-Dispatch* and *St. Louis Magazine*,” says Ann. “It’s really true, you never stop being a nurse. At the very least, it becomes a secondary coping mechanism, to use a concept from my Fundamentals class.”

Looking for new markets, restaurants or dining experiences? Read Ann Lemons Pollack’s reviews in *St. Louis Magazine* and its food blog at [www.stlmag.com/topics/ann-lemons-pollack](http://www.stlmag.com/topics/ann-lemons-pollack) and <http://stlouiseats.typepad.com>.



## Antique Medical Books Donated

Ann Lemons Pollack answered the call for antique medical memorabilia advertised in an *Alumni Magazine*. “These are mostly nursing textbooks, and a medical textbook or two, pretty much all pre-World War I,” she says. “My MAC roots go back two generations. My grandfather taught there when it was still in the FRHS building, and my mother was a graduate as well.” Ann now resides in St. Louis but maintains friendships in the local area.



**“The most important things are to be a good role model and to support your community.”**

Cheerleading coach Tia Propst views cheerleaders as role models.

## We've Got Spirit! Yes, We Do!

Today's cheerleading is designated as its own sport with elements of gymnastics, dance, jumps, precision and stunts. Twenty young women and men have taken the MAC Cheerleaders pledge to promote school spirit, encourage crowd participation at athletic events and develop a sense of good sportsmanship among students. Their schedules include daily, two-hour intense practices, work in the weight room, clinics and summer camps, fundraising and community appearances.

Tia Propst, MAC 2009-11, a former MAC cheerleader and gymnastics instructor, is the cheer coach. “When I learned I would be the coach, I was so excited. I loved my MAC cheer experience, and now I’m very happy to contribute in a little different way.” Tia says, “It’s more about character. I love our amazing performances, but the most important things are to be a good role model and to support your community. So, we volunteer. We did the grand opening for Park Hills River

Mart, attended local schools' football and basketball games, homecoming parades, elementary school assemblies and a Back-to-School bash. My goal is for the cheerleaders to evolve as young adults and to represent MAC in a positive way.”

After MAC, Tia transferred to Southeast Missouri State where she joined Gamma Phi Beta and Kappa Delta Pi, and graduated with a family and consumer science education degree.

This year there are 20 cheerleaders and one mascot: Ashley Woodrow (Mark Twain), Alissa Johnson (Farmington), Alyssa Hickey (Farmington), Austin Gibson, Captain (North County), Chandra Lincoln (Marble Hill), Destiny Luye (Farmington), Dylan Stidmon (South Iron), Hannah Wescott (Central), Joe Govreau (Farmington), Kassie Lashley (South Iron), Katelyn Rudel (Central), Kayla VanNess, Co-Captain (Farmington), Lauren Reed (Farmington), Mackenzie Mitchell (Cape Central), Makayla Kinnard (West County), Megan Sullivan (Potosi), Nick Newsom (Farmington), Peyton Caldwell (Central), Sabrina Dougherty (Farmington), Marlesha Gilard (St. Louis) and Brittany Missey (Potosi).



# FRJC Breakfast Rekindles Memories

The annual FRJC Breakfast rekindled friendships and spectacular memories. Judy (Cook) Thiele says, "I found my 1960 *Chats*. Oh, such memories! I really enjoyed music. I played piano and organ and accompanied for school plays, Sunday school, and church. So, it was natural to select music at FRJC. Mixed Chorus and Women's Glee Club were my favorites. I remember classmates Charlotte Kassabaum, Becky Winger and Bea Mitchell. Caren Pruitt played piano. Anne Burch did a solo part on 'Amen'...I loved that song, and I can still hear her voice in my head. Patricia Baker and Gary Lane sang duets. We had so much fun singing for organizations in town. Music made for special FRJC memories."

Judy laughs, "I remember Roger Weems as a bit of a prankster. At our ensemble practice, he ran from back

stage waving a colorful cancan skirt and yelled, 'Oh, Miss Huggins, did you lose something?' Thankfully, it was not a real performance, because Miss Huggins would have had his hide!"

## "Music made for special FRJC memories."

Growing up in church, music was important in the lives of Judy and her husband, David, a music teacher. "Because our children and David's school kids were active in music, our house often felt like a conservatory," smiles Judy. "For 30 years, David and I sang in a church choir in Mattoon. Now, we love to sing with Showers of Blessings, a group that visits local nursing homes. It's a great retirement activity."

After FRJC, Judy attended Missouri University and Eastern Illinois University to complete her education degree. Later, she earned her master's degree in counseling. Her 28-year career included teaching elementary grades and working as a counselor in Mattoon, IL. "I enjoyed watching the growth of the young ones as they progressed over a year. Kindergarten was special. One little boy wore a suit every Friday and loved to talk to the class about almost anything. It's no surprise he became a lawyer. Hosting student teachers and helping mold their careers was satisfying, too."

Judy and her sister Angie (Cook) Cooper (FRJC 1960-62) grew up in Fredericktown but eventually found their way to FRJC. Now, Judy lives in Plainfield, IN, and enjoys time with her family, especially the grandchildren.

For many, the FRJC Breakfast was their first visit to MAC. Pictured are Bill Govero (FRJC 1960), Angie Cooper (FRJC 1960-62), Judy Thiele and David Thiele.



# Not Quite Retired

"He may not make it out of high school, and he needs some kind of job where he can work with his hands," the guidance counselor told Clay Whitener's mother. It wasn't what his mother wanted to hear, but Clay admits he danced to his own tune while in high school.

"It's ironic I ever made it into education!" chuckles Clay Whitener, MAC 1969-71. "I enrolled in 21 hours at MAC, made straight A's and had my eye on architecture. That was back when classes were at Farmington High because the college building had burned. Gosh, we went to class until midnight or later."

MAC accepted Clay's free-spirited nature. "MAC is where I blossomed academically and focused on my education," he says. "I never had a bad teacher, and they all took an interest in all of us. I so enjoyed classes with Kimball Strangmeier, Jim Hrouda and Ken Beers . . . man, was he tough! And, Jerry Walters drew things out of me that I never knew I had artistically."

Even years later, Clay says, "MAC's like coming home for me. I seem to find reasons to take an occasional class."

From architecture, Clay jumped to civil engineering and then to education. He earned his bachelor's, master's and specialist degrees from Southeast. His career started as an industrial arts teacher. He did some counseling, advanced to principal and superintendent positions, and finally retired from full-time work in 2011. Then he did some part-time superintendent work until December 2014.

"My years in education are unforgettable, because I worked in small schools where you are in contact with the employees, students, parents and community members," he says. "The school is the pinnacle in many small communities and where meaningful symbiotic relationships form. If I had to pick one thing I'm really proud of in my career, it's my ability to communicate and the many opportunities it opened for the school districts."

"Retired" is a misnomer for Clay. He's dabbled in community service work and was drawn to the work of Immaculate Conception Church's Food Pantry.

"The pantry needed help, and I guess you could say I was open to the call," he says. "I started when the economy hit rock bottom. Quickly, it became very personal for me when I met our community members who were experiencing desperate times. It's eye-opening and emotional when people explain they're about to lose their house, don't have food to feed their kids or their electricity is going to be shut off in the coldest months of the year. That's a wake-up call to what's happening right here in St. Francois County."

In April, Clay took his community service mission to a larger scale when he returned to full-time work as the director of the United Way of St. Francois County. Just like in his superintendent roles, Clay plans to help more individuals in his new position.

**Clay Whitener brings zesty ambition to the United Way of St. Francois County.**





Betty and Charles Bequette visit campus and share FRJC history with Kevin Thurman (center).

# Remembering Our FRJC Days

Nearly 60 years ago, Charles Bequette asked Betty Baker for a date. “We dated in high school,” reflects Charles. “But, right after graduation, I followed my dream. With \$20 in my pocket, I hitchhiked to see California, the Rockies and the Canadian border. I ran low on money, so I was late for the start of the fall semester.”

Meanwhile, Betty was enjoying FRJC, music activities and great teachers like Miss Huggins and Mr. Fowler. When Charles returned, he sensed a cool reception from Betty, but the Flat River teenagers re-kindled their romance, recently celebrating their 58th anniversary.

They went to work at McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis. After a year, Betty returned to FRJC to earn her temporary teaching credentials. The next year, Betty taught school, Charles left McDonnell to complete his degree, and they lived on Betty’s \$3,100 salary.

Via Washington University’s evening extension program at FRJC, they earned their education degrees and were poised for successful careers in education. Betty taught elementary

grades, coached cheerleading and worked as a licensed counselor. She served as a psychometrist for area schools and mental health facilities and was instrumental in launching the Parents As Teachers evaluation process. Charles taught elementary and middle grades, served as principal and coached basketball...and played competitive league basketball.

Sports, especially basketball, cultivated treasured friendships which remain today. Of his 14 teammates, Charles says, “Ten earned college degrees, one started his own company and two were successful in business. So, FRJC did a good job.” With a chuckle, he continues, “I had Miss Bloom’s art class, and I wasn’t all that good. She ran the concession stand, and sent a guy into the locker room before one game with a message for me. It said ‘Charles, if you win, you get two B’s, otherwise, you get what you deserve.’”

“Rail birds” was the moniker for students who perched on the fence rails in front of the building. “It was the thing to do between classes,” explains Betty with a casual glance at Charles.

“Some spent too much time on the rail and had to visit Dean Simmons for skipping class.”

Betty smiles and tells of a hair-raising experience, “The brand new Foulon Field House was the jewel of the campus. I was the majorette and got to practice on the basketball court. One day, after my practice, the principal and coach were inspecting the floor and gasping at the scratches on the pristine floor. I was responsible for those first scratches! A stone had stuck in my boot, and as I practiced my twirling spins, the stone made the scratches. I was devastated but was assured the floor would be fine.”

The “old junior college” well-served the generations who attended. The Bequettes are young-at-heart and still enjoy living in the Lead Belt area, spending time with their grandchildren and friends. They echo comments of many FRJC alumni: “Our teachers, classmates, and the homey environment itself just made us feel good. It’s amazing our entire education from kindergarten to our college degrees was completed on the FRHS/FRJC campus.”



Serving the technology needs of students and employees is one of the challenges IT Directory Chad Pipkin faces.

## Computer Security, Our New Frontier

"I was a huge Steve Easter fan, because he really took a personal interest and invested in my well-being and success as a student. He built relationships and dedicated as much time as necessary for quality advising," says Chad Pipkin, MAC's Information Technology (IT) Department director. "Also, Eileen Sechrest was always kind to invite me on trips to Three Rivers basketball games with Brice, Jill and Lance."

Chad attended MAC in 1998-99 to earn his associate degree and transferred to Southeast Missouri University to complete his bachelor's degree in management information systems.

In January 2014, Chad joined the MAC staff. He was familiar with the department through independent consultant work. When the IT director's position became available, the opportunity to travel less and spend more time with his family was irresistible, and he was lured to MAC.

"As director, my role is to execute the vision and mission of the college through the use and development of technology resources. This involves intense planning and project management on many different systems and applications," explains Chad.

"The IT Department maintains a large array of systems consisting of more than 40 servers, 1,200+ computers, and numerous educational applications across multiple campuses," he continues. Besides serving the needs of the staff and students, supporting these systems requires countless hours of technical support and dedication from the department's 12 employees to maintain responsive customer service.

Chad describes some challenges. "Our premier responsibility is to preserve the integrity and security of our data. Security considerations escalate exponentially as more personal devices come to campus and the use of WiFi

and cloud-based storage proliferates. Weather is also a culprit. Even the varying skill sets of our employees and students bring challenges."

Funding the technology is an unending concern and requires constant reassessment.

"Providing campus technology is an expensive proposition," says Chad. "While the administration is very supportive of budgetary needs, cuts in state funding combined with high licensing and maintenance costs make system advancements very difficult and sometimes impossible. Funding needs are a huge concern, and we deeply appreciate those willing to financially support our students' future."

In his free time, Chad enjoys hunting, fishing, and activities with his family. He also finds satisfaction in volunteer service for local schools and church organizations. He and his wife have four children and live in Farmington.



## FRJC Breakfast

Flat River Junior College alumni greeted each other with smiles, hugs and laughter at the annual FRJC Breakfast. "I'm so glad we came" resonated as alumni reacquainted with friends they hadn't seen in decades. Photos and yearbooks sparked memories about favorite instructors, classmates, activities and sports. Some even shared tales of school pranks. Conversations turned to grandchildren, travel and hobbies as everyone learned about former classmates.

*Plan to attend next year's breakfast. To add your name to the mailing list, contact Teri LaChance at (573) 518-2114.*



• **Buddy Alberson** has come full circle with FBLA. His first FBLA involvement was while attending Scott County Central High, where he graduated in 1996. Then, Buddy attended MAC and was a Phi Beta Lambda member, holding state and national offices. Now, he is Scott County Central High's Future Business Leaders of America chapter adviser. He achieved his goal of increasing membership. His students are involved in academics and the community with fundraising and leadership activities. At the state FBLA leadership conference, Buddy was elected as the first-ever Missouri FBLA-PBL Professional Division President. He is the current national chairperson for starting state FBLA chapters.

really believe and stand on my truth no matter what people are saying or what people think," says this performer and writer, who now lives in Columbia. "It laid the foundation for auditioning and performing onstage." He's been cast in recent University of Missouri theatrical productions. David's plans are to continue working on webcasts and scripts and eventually move to Los Angeles.

• After the Pea Ridge mines closed, **Virgil Todd** attended MAC in the 1970s as a nontraditional-aged student. In his 50s, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. After retiring from counseling work, Virgil embarked on a venture. He started the Potosi farmer's market where he has become a well-known icon in his straw hat and sun-parched overalls. He has authored three books. Throughout his life, Virgil has written poetry and short stories which are featured in his first book, "Wild Honey from the Hills." He based "An Irishman Goes to War Book 1: World War II" on his U.S. Army service in the Philippines during World War II. Virgil was called back to active duty in Korea as a reservist to serve another nine months. The sequel, "An Irishman Goes to War, Book 2: The Korean War," is an action-packed chronicle of the battles and trials Virgil experienced in this war. The books are available in MAC's library.

every age. MAC's safe and supportive environment is good for students and community members to grow and learn."

The Centene Corporation is Marisa's employer. She works to better the community, too. In 2005, she chaired Centene's United Way campaign. Her leadership increased donations by 1,000 percent and secured Centene as the #1 corporate contributor to the United Way of St. Francois County, a position Centene has not relinquished. Marisa is originally from Perryville and currently resides in Farmington with her family. She's completed 18 triathlons and three half-marathons.

• "The proudest moment of my life is being a mom to three amazing kids. They continue to teach me every day to be a better person and to not let obstacles stand in my way," says **Shawna (Henson) Robinson**, MAC 1986-88. MAC's been important to the Henson family. Shawna's father and siblings attended. She continues, "MAC's doing for my kids what it did for me. I was not ready for a four-year university right away. MAC prepared me for what was expected of me as a college student, while serving as an economical way to complete two years of my education. As a parent, I see first-hand the impact MAC makes on our region today. My two oldest children have been able to get a jump start on their education with the dual credit courses offered at Farmington High School through MAC. Our family also benefited from the 'College Now' scholarship offered through a partnership with MAC and FHS. Mineral Area College has continued to grow through the variety of educational opportunities offered."

Shawna is a 1990 Southeast Missouri State University graduate with a BS in Journalism/Mass Communications and is the managing editor of the *Farmington Press* newspaper. She's had articles published on national websites (Autism Speaks) and picked up by nationwide news services.

MEET THE  
HOMECOMING

COME HOME

Fun for the whole family! Enjoy basketball, half-time performances, music, food and fun as the MAC Cardinals take on State Fair.



JAN. 23

• **David Jackson**, MAC 2009-11, earned his associate of arts degree and was a MAC cheerleader who transferred to Mizzou, where he studied theatrical performance and writing. After some deliberation, David focused on theatre. He and two friends formed a comedy group called 98 Degrees Celsius, which plays to Columbia audiences. The Farmington native says his creativity and interest in theatre are rooted in his strict upbringing in a family of nine children. "That very strictness and structure developed the discipline to

• **Marisa (Schmitz) Zaricor**, MAC 1996-98, was MAC's first Communications Department scholarship recipient. "I was given a great opportunity to obtain my education without financial barriers. The security afforded by this honor helped me to better allocate my time towards meeting my educational goals, which eventually led to a bachelor's degree, job security with a Fortune 500 company, and now my MBA," explains the senior HR specialist. "Whether it's academics, the arts, athletics or community involvement, there is something for everyone and



# Yesteryear Athletes Reunion

The atmosphere is casual and the stories are exciting when former Flat River Junior College and Mineral Area College athletes and friends get together to reconnect and tell stories. About 80 people attended the reunion, which generally is scheduled in the summer. For more information about the event, contact Athletic Director Chad Mills at (573) 518-2134.

• **Shelley Layton**, RN, MHA, FACHE, is a 2001 ADN graduate and Serenity HospiceCare's chief executive director.

"I was inspired to do something great while at MAC," says Shelley. "Mrs. Ketcherside and Mrs. Douglas really made a difference in my career by believing in me even when I was struggling to believe in myself. Because they noticed and cared, I turned a potentially bad situation around, and it never affected my goal to be a nurse. Thank you, Mrs. Ketcherside and Mrs. Douglas! Now, this experience helps me as a manager to encourage my young employees."

She attended Lindenwood University, graduating summa cum laude with her bachelor's and master's degrees. In June 2014, she received her fellow status from the Board of Governors for the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Helping others is fundamental to Shelley. "I'm the proud 'owner' of two non-profit organizations supporting kids: The Nick Layton Foundation, in memory of my late husband, and

Cupcakes for Kids," she explains. "In 2014, Cupcakes for Kids funded a local school backpack food program, and The Nick Layton Foundation funded a small mission trip to Peru and a scholarship for a Bismarck student to attend trade school."

Shelley loves being a mom, and says, "I try to merge my love of volunteer work with teaching my two daughters the importance of giving back. So, we do a family community service activity every month."

"MAC was a time of self-discovery!" exclaims Shelley. "I learned so much about nursing that I realized my career was exactly where God had called me. Still today, MAC impacts our area by allowing local, small town graduates to dream big! Even if perceived road blocks like finances stand in the way, MAC helps students understand their dreams can still be achieved. There's no reason to think you have to leave Park Hills to get a GREAT education."

• **Marcia Reynolds**, MAC 1980-82, earned her ADN, then added her BSN

and MSN (magna cum laude). She is a self-employed business owner who offers procurement services and risk management consulting. "MAC provided the opportunity to seek my goals and was the basis for a rewarding career. Susie Kohn, Jodie Blair, Kay Nicholson, Jessie Williams and Linda Montgomery were the most influential instructors and provided a strong nursing foundation on which to build. MAC is a gateway for future growth in regional business and opportunities for area students to achieve their dreams," says Marcia. "I am most proud of my three children. Professionally, I am proud of others I have inspired to pursue nursing careers."

Marcia's 33 years in healthcare encompass experiences in areas as risk and quality management, regulatory compliance, long-term care and catastrophic case management. She was the executive director of risk management for the health system that owned the Joplin hospital hit by the F5 tornado in 2011.

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 or e-mail [alumni@MineralArea.edu](mailto:alumni@MineralArea.edu).

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# Spring Classes

## start January 11.

Enroll or learn more at [www.MineralArea.edu](http://www.MineralArea.edu) or call 1 (855) MAC-4YOU.

# Fields of Study

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS**

Art  
 Biology  
 Business Administration  
 Chemistry  
 Communications  
 Computer Information Systems  
 Earth Science  
 English  
 Modern Foreign Language  
 General Studies  
 History  
 Pre-Architecture  
 Pre-Dental  
 Pre-Engineering  
 Pre-Forestry  
 Pre-Journalism  
 Pre-Law  
 Pre-Pharmacy  
 Pre-Physical Therapy  
 Mathematics  
 Medicine  
 Music  
 Physical Education  
 Physics  
 Political Science  
 Psychology  
 Sociology  
 Social Work  
 Speech  
 Theatre

**ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN TEACHING**

Early Childhood Education (Grades Pre-K-3)  
 Elementary Education (Grades 1-6)  
 Secondary Education:
 

- Art
- Biology
- Business Education
- Chemistry

- English
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Music
- Other
- Physical Education
- Social Studies
- Speech
- Special Education

**ASSOCIATE OF GENERAL STUDIES**
**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

Agribusiness  
 Automotive Collision Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Automotive Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Business Computer Programming  
 Business Management<sup>3</sup>  
 Business Management
 

- Accounting
- Microcomputers

 Child Development<sup>3</sup>  
 Computer Networking<sup>3</sup>  
 Construction/Building Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Criminal Justice
 

- Correctional Administration
- Forensic Investigation
- Judicial Administration
- Law Enforcement<sup>3</sup>
- Security Management

 Design & Wood Manufacturing<sup>3</sup>  
 (Cabinet Making)  
 Digital Media Radio/TV Broadcasting<sup>3</sup>  
 Electrical Technology<sup>1</sup>  
 Electrical/Electronics Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Engineering Technology<sup>1,3</sup>

- Civil Architecture
- Design Drafting
- Manufacturing

Fire Science Technology<sup>3</sup>  
 Graphic Arts/Printing Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Heating/AC/Refrigeration Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Horticulture
 

- Landscape Design and Greenhouse Nursery Management<sup>3</sup>
- Ornamental
- Turf Grass Management

 Industrial Maintenance<sup>3</sup>  
 Machine Tool Technology<sup>1,3</sup>  
 Office Systems Technology
 

- Administrative Assistant<sup>3</sup>
- Medical Coding<sup>3</sup>

 Paramedic Technology<sup>2,3</sup>  
 Physical Therapy Assistant<sup>1,2</sup>  
 Renewable Energy Technology<sup>3</sup>  
 Welding Technology<sup>1,3</sup>

**ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE**

Associate Degree Nursing (RN)  
 ADN - Advanced Placement  
 ADN - Advanced Placement Hybrid  
 Radiologic Technology  
 Respiratory Therapy<sup>4</sup>

**CERTIFICATE-ONLY PROGRAMS**

Child Development  
 Child Development Associate  
 Emergency Medical Technician  
 Industrial Maintenance Technology  
 Law Enforcement Academy<sup>2</sup>  
 Practical Nursing<sup>2</sup>  
 Renewable Energy Technology<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Offered cooperatively with one of four area career and technical centers

<sup>2</sup> Special requirements for admission and limited access

<sup>3</sup> Associate of Applied Science and a Certificate available

<sup>4</sup> Offered exclusively at the Cape Career and Technology Center