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Alumni Relations & MAC Foundation  
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# COMME HOMME



Mineral Area College

## **HOMECOMING** **Sat., Feb. 21**

- 5 p.m. MAC Women vs. State Fair
- 7 p.m. MAC Men vs. State Fair
- **Schedule:** [www.MineralArea.edu](http://www.MineralArea.edu)

**MAC**

**50**  
**YEARS**

1965-2015

# MINERAL AREA COLLEGE Alumni

Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Mineral Area College and Flat River Junior College

FALL/WINTER 2014





# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

Mineral Area College is proud to be one of only two Missouri community colleges experiencing enrollment increases this fall. Our 4,637 students are registered for 55,123 credit hours, showing an increase of 106 students and 2,127 credit hours from last fall.

In other great news, the College is part of a statewide consortium—the 12 community colleges and the State Technical College (Linn Tech) of Missouri—receiving a \$19,700,000 federal grant to train Missourians for jobs in transportation, manufacturing, information technology, health services/health sciences, and science support. This MoSTEMWINs grant, awarded through the U.S. Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Grant Program, is to educate adult learners, especially those who have lost jobs because of the impact of foreign trade and other negative economic trends. MAC’s funding will extend its MoHealthWINs programs set to expire this year.

Of particular interest to community colleges is House Bill 3, signed into law by Governor Nixon on June 28, which includes our annual state appropriation. The uncertainty of state funding caused the Governor to withhold performance funding for higher education until the state’s first quarter revenue reports were released. On September 11, the Governor released this funding totaling \$230,000 for the College. However, the first few months of stagnant state revenue reports have increased speculation of another potential withholding for higher education.

Nearly 50 years ago, progressive community leaders mobilized the political process to expand “the junior college” services to St. Francois County school district residents. On April 5, 1965, the majority of voters created the Board of Trustees of Mineral Area College. Since, approximately 13,675 students have graduated. Countless more achieved other educational goals through short-term training.

To honor MAC’s fiftieth anniversary, we invite you to campus for activities honoring the foresight of the community leaders who created Mineral Area College and recognizing the subsequent vision and leadership of former presidents Dr. Westover, Dr. Castor, Dr. Kohn, and Dr. Barnes as they all influenced and molded our institution as we know it today.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz

**District 144 State Rep. Paul Fitzwater (center) visits with President Steve Kurtz and Board President Harvey Faircloth.**





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## On the Cover

**Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center psych nurses initiated a campaign to create public awareness about mental health issues.** The mental health center employs about 80 MAC nursing graduates. Photo identification is on page 21.

## In Case You Missed It

**Accessibility and affordability are mainstays of MAC's mission.** Bringing the Pharmacy Tech program, funded through the MoHealthWINs grant, to Perry County offered affordable tuition, convenient classes, and less commuting. It prepared students for entry level pharmacy positions and for the national certification exam. MAC is one of 13 Missouri colleges awarded federal funds from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants Program.



## Kurtz Receives Shirley B. Gordon Award

MAC President Dr. Steve Kurtz was honored by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as one of 12 presidents and chancellors nationwide to receive the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

The presentation was made at PTK's 96th annual convention in Orlando, FL. Recipients are selected on the basis of outstanding efforts given toward promoting the goals of Phi Theta Kappa. Catch a glimpse of Dr. Kurtz's brief appearance on the PTK convention video at <http://nerdnation.ptk.org/>. PTK is the largest honor society in higher education with 1,285 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, plus Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. Since its founding in 1918, almost 3 million students have been inducted. MAC's chapter was chartered in 1926.

## All Students Are Entitled

Like Mineral Area College, making education accessible to students is the ultimate goal of the Infinite Scholars Program.

The program, ISP for short, is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Its "all students are entitled to the right of furthering their education" ideology focuses on accessibility to higher education, especially for financially-disadvantaged, minority, and first-generation college students.

Infinite Scholars isn't a fundraiser,

it's a conduit. ISP knows billions of dollars are available to fund higher education. It also knows the real funding challenge for financially-disadvantaged and minority students. It's simple: How to navigate the maze of financial aid materials and processes.

Free ISP College Fairs educate student scholars and their families about college funding possibilities. Instead of exploring degree programs, students come armed with documents and test scores for scholarships and financial aid discussions. Students leave confidently when they understand college is affordable and guidance is available to help them pursue higher education at accredited institutions.

Colleges want students who work hard and will succeed. MAC joins nearly 300 institutions nationwide as an ISP partner. For six years, ISP scholars have selected MAC as their higher education choice. A choice many believed had escaped them.

Teacher frustration ignited Infinite Scholars. Its concept rests in the experiences of Thomas "T" Ousley, a former English and history teacher in the Jennings School District in St. Louis, who took action on his frustrations. Like many educators who invest time and energy so students can succeed in college, Mr. Ousley was deflated when college-caliber students who already earned college acceptance told him they could not afford to go to college. So, in 2003, he launched Infinite Scholars Program to address financial accessibility considerations to assist financially-disadvantaged,

ISP founder "T" Ousley visited campus. Pictured are Julie Sheets, Traci Weissmueller, "T" Ousley and Gil Kennon.



college-bound students secure college funding. Today, the Infinite Scholars Program celebrates a success rate of nearly 80 percent of its participants who enroll in college. Learn more about Infinite Scholars at <http://www.infinitescholar.com/About-Us.html>.

## Congratulations to the Athletes!

Bravo for academics and the student-athletes who earned 2014 NJCAA Awards.

*NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.80 - 3.99 GPA)*

- Kayla Thibodeaux - Volleyball
- Lauren Stamp - Softball

*NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60 - 3.79 GPA)*

- Bryce Weibrecht - Men's Basketball
- Larra Kubinski - Women's Basketball
- Jordan Savage - Baseball
- Tanner Ward - Baseball
- Meagan Claxton - Softball
- Alina Fields - Softball
- Sonya Hahn - Softball
- Samantha Horrell - Softball

*Six baseball players earned 2014 MCCAC All-Conference Baseball Team honors.*

- 1st Team: Hunter Leeper, Justin Murphy, Dakota Glore, and Brad Cuyos. Honorable Mention: Connor Davault and Cody Heisserer.

*Freshman golfer Tanner McKinney scored a second place finish in the NJCAA National Golf Tournament.*

- He also was one of 70 golfers to compete in the Missouri U.S. qualifier tournament and earned one of the three spots in the U.S. Amateurs qualifier. He joined 312 amateur golfers from around the world at the 2014 U.S. Amateurs Championship at Johns Creek outside Atlanta, GA.



## Arts Pastiche Infuses Culture

**Mineral Area Council on the Arts, a community-based arts organization, utilizes various venues to promote the arts.**

Guests enjoy music concerts such as Truman State University's True Men, the 399th Army Band and Symphony in the Neighborhood. Theatre events entertain and educate audiences via in-school programming as well as on-stage performances.

The annual spring K-12 Art Fair calls attention to the area's young artists. The Fall Art Party combines a silent auction with the music of Miss Jubilee, a blend of jazz and swing tunes. This Arts Council adds vitality to the region with its spectrum of fundraisers and "friend-raisers" including card parties, lectures, arts education seminars, and cultural affairs showcasing local artists. The Council offers individual or season tickets for its events. For information, contact Danielle Basler at [dbasler@MineralArea.edu](mailto:dbasler@MineralArea.edu) or (573) 518-2125.

### ABOVE:

- Fall Art Party guests—Pat Rorex, Julie and Corey Powers, and Doug and Dena Rose—enjoy art, music and socializing.

### BELOW, FROM LEFT:

- Kathy Marler and Susan Webb discuss the handiwork on a quilt.
- Rita Martin bids for silent auction items.
- Fiber artwork. Showing their felted scarves are Ashley Clifford, Danielle Basler, Stephanie Campbell, Jennifer Howard, Janet Gillam and Canna Wisdom.
- An evening with friends. Seated: Carol Rigdon, Carolyn Rigdon and Jane Allen. Standing: Geneva Jokerst, Ginger Baechle, Jackie Maloney and Brenda Basler.





Cadets meet rigorous physical and academic demands in the Law Enforcement Academy.

# Law Enforcement Training

*Crisis Intervention Training*  
**Encounters dealing with mental health issues are complex and often involve law enforcement.**

MAC's Law Enforcement Academy is collaborating with the St. Francois County CIT Council and area mental health service providers to deliver Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) classes. "Students gain insights into, and resolution of, the profound concerns experienced by family members and caregivers as they strive to cope with the realities of serious mental illness. About 3.5 million Americans have severe mental illnesses and fewer than half receive even minimally adequate treatment," explains Rich Flotron, director of Law Enforcement Training.

Civilian and officer safety is always

paramount. Another CIT objective is to calm individuals with mental illness who are in crisis and refer them to mental health services rather than incarcerate them. Currently, the majority of the 40-hour training is held on campus. Some off-campus visits include Mineral Area Regional Medical Center's ER, Mineral Area Community Psychiatric Rehab Center and Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health. The team approach for crisis response trains community partners to recognize signs and symptoms of mental illness and how to effectively intervene when a crisis occurs.

How does this underserved population impact our community? "Policing has the unenviable reality of being the last intervention option available," continues Rich. "Once other crisis intervention professionals

are unable to effectively deal with an escalating situation, they often call for police assistance. Police officers are required to respond and are expected to intelligently and effectively communicate, counsel, mediate, empathize, protect, and console. They also must have the willingness to forcibly intervene without malice. Although a seemingly impossible undertaking, the expected outcome is rendering assistance to the public, while simultaneously instilling fear into the criminal element of society."

CIT program objectives include:

- Ensuring safety for everyone involved in the situation;
- Maintaining the dignity and respect of the individual in crisis throughout the situation;
- Identifying types of mental illness as well as the tactical and

communication skills necessary for the de-escalation of potentially violent situations while assuring the safety and placement of individuals in mental health treatment centers; and,

- Training to distinguish threatening behaviors based on mental illness rather than criminal intent.

Rich concludes, "By developing skills so officers become more proficient in assisting mental health providers and individuals in crisis, the final outcome is to reduce recidivism of individuals who are utilizers of law enforcement and mental health resources." For CIT class information, contact Rich at (573) 518-2148 or email rflotron@MineralArea.edu.

### *Pursuit Driver Simulator*

**High-speed chases filled with action-packed drama and innate danger command the attention of moviegoers.**

However, real high-speed chases threaten the lives and safety of everyone in the chase paths. While such chases are infrequent, the associated risk and inherent dangers are reasons pursuit driving training is often included in law enforcement

*"One of the most litigious components of law enforcement is driving an emergency vehicle."*

curricula. Pursuit driving is when the suspect avoids being stopped and flees the situation, causing the police officer to initiate action to pursue the suspect's vehicle.

Pursuits are dangerous and require constant risk assessment. As the situation escalates, decision-making matrices become increasingly complex. The challenge for law enforcement is how to train for such situations.

With the assistance of Missouri's Enhancement Grant matching funds,

MAC plans to purchase a \$70,000 FAAC Driving Simulator. MAC's goal is to raise its portion of the funds by mid-February 2015 to secure the Enhancement Grant's \$3-for-\$1 match for donations.

The FAAC Driving Simulator opens specialized training options for various public safety groups. Law Enforcement Academy recruits will use it as part of their coursework. Area police departments, MAC's Fire Academy and EMS programs will use it for training. "We currently don't have the capabilities to offer pursuit driver training. To receive this specialized training, officers must go to the Highway Patrol driver training in Jefferson City," explains Rich Flotron, director of Law Enforcement Training. "One of the most litigious components of law enforcement is driving an emergency vehicle. Therefore, having this simulator allows our cadets to simulate real-life emergency situations. As an officer would in a pursuit, the cadets will have to simultaneously answer a radio call and give second-by-second location and status updates, all the while watching traffic flow and any pedestrian movement to safely pursue the suspect."

Fiscal responsibility is another advantage of the driving simulator. Rich explains, "Adding this simulator is cost-effective. The simulator will reduce the excessive wear and tear on tires and brakes of our vehicles used for our precision driving course, and extend the life of these vehicles. Our objective is to address scenarios in a safe training environment. So, when our graduates begin working as officers, they are better equipped to handle the stresses that accompany our profession."

To capitalize on a great \$3-for-\$1 matching gift option, use the mailer in this Alumni Magazine or contact Kevin Thurman at (573) 518-2261 to donate.



## FRJC Flashback

### Sophomores 1963-64

The class included Chrissy Pirtle, Rachel Hogan, Jerry Hopkins. Lloyd Umfleet, Denny Vaughn, Jedonna Wagner and Barry Wallace.







Asymmetric Solutions instructors Grady Powell and Jared Ogden are on location for the filming of the *Ultimate Survival Alaska* television show. Their background in Special Ops military service offers specialized training options.

## Collaboration Fosters Training Options

**In simple terms, community policing is the partnership of law enforcement and private citizens working together to improve its overall capacity to reduce crime and increase public safety of the whole community.**

MAC's Law Enforcement Academy (MACLEA) trains its recruits as well as current law enforcement professionals. As a regional hub for law enforcement training, MAC seeks to broaden its spectrum of courses through various partnerships.

A recent collaboration between MACLEA and Asymmetric Solutions augments training options by utilizing the expertise of individuals who have trained and worked as members of various Special Operations Forces, such as the Navy Seals and Green Berets, in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

Law Enforcement Training Director Rich Flotron says, "Working with Asymmetric Solutions strengthens MAC's all-around training and ultimately solidifies our ability to offer

a niche that we formerly were not able to, which is tactical training. MAC's arena of training is centered in law enforcement and community policing, whereas Asymmetric Solutions is rooted in specialized military and unconventional missions. This creates an interesting twist for individuals considering law enforcement careers as well as current officers or departments seeking specialized training as SWAT school, advanced building search techniques, active shooter training and close quarter battle (CQB) scenarios."

Asymmetric Solutions Director of Operations Jared Ogden adds, "Actually we are learning from each other. Since our background is military, we are gaining an understanding of community policing. Our niche is specialized and includes tactical training, so I see how our Special Ops experiences can offer resources and training for police officers to better ensure public and community safety should such situations develop. We all have something to gain with this partnership."

## *Fundraiser Planned*

**Asymmetric Solutions instructors, former U.S. Navy Seal Jared Ogden and former Green Beret Grady Powell, have accepted another survival-based feat.**

For a second season, they return to National Geographic's *Ultimate Survival Alaska* television show to compete and test their survival skills in extreme Arctic conditions. Jared and Grady will lend their survival celebrity status to MAC's Law Enforcement Academy for a fundraiser. In spring 2015, Asymmetric Solutions will host a two-person shooting competition at its facility outside Farmington. All hope the competition becomes an annual fundraising event. There will be a limited number of spaces for the competition, but the public is welcome to attend for the festivities, food, demonstrations, and door prizes. For additional information about the event, contact Rich Flotron at (573) 518-2341 or [rflotron@MineralArea.edu](mailto:rflotron@MineralArea.edu). Read more about Asymmetric Solutions at [www.asymmetricsolutionsusa.com/civilian/asymmetric-solutions-instructors](http://www.asymmetricsolutionsusa.com/civilian/asymmetric-solutions-instructors).

# Accelerating Health Careers Participation

**The nation's changing demographics toward an aging society elevates the demand for well-trained healthcare professionals.**

Timely and efficient training programs are vital to meet these demands. MAC is tackling the challenge via a grant from The Missouri Foundation for Health, an independent philanthropic foundation dedicated to improving the health of people in the region. The grant, totaling \$291,709 over the course of three years, addresses healthcare training. MAC's objective is to increase student interest and participation in healthcare coursework and shorten the degree completion time by providing access to science prerequisites at the high school level. In addition to upgrading high school labs, the grant funds a portion of the salaries for the chemistry and biology instructors.

To implement the project, MAC is partnering with area high schools—Arcadia Valley, Farmington, North St. Francois County, and Potosi—which serve as “hubs” for dual enrollment General Biology and Intro to Chemistry classes. Each hub makes the dual enrollment labs available to students from surrounding high schools. Because North County and Arcadia Valley use their career centers, the dual enrollment students travel by bus with career tech students on specific lab days.

These hybrid courses combine online instruction with laboratory work at the hub sites and are taught by a MAC instructor or a certified dual credit instructor. Classes are open to public, home-schooled, and privately-schooled students. To facilitate college-level lab experimentation, approximately \$140,000 has been invested for new lab equipment and

supplies to upgrade the high school science labs. Most participating hubs received new, state-of-the-art microscopes, slides, models, electronic balances, nuclear radiation kits, genetic biokits and lab glassware. High school science teachers can use some of the equipment in other science classes and will retain possession of the equipment upon successful conclusion of the grant.

South Iron High School senior Taylor Mayberry, of Annapolis, appreciates the opportunities The Missouri Foundation for Health project provides. Her high school is without a lab setting for college-level Intro to Chemistry and Biology classes, so she travels to Arcadia Valley for her college lab work. “Coming to Arcadia Valley is fun because I meet new kids and learn in the interactive science labs,” says Taylor. “I can complete my two science classes, so I am positioned to complete my high school diploma and my associate’s degree from MAC in May. I’ll really be proud of that.” She credits her high school counselor Ms. Anderson, her super math teacher Leslie McCaig, and MAC’s dual credit advisor Julie Downs for boosting her confidence and offering encouragement to take these classes. Taylor’s career goal is to become a dermatologist.

Since dual enrollment students do not qualify for financial aid, MAC and its high school partners have an agreement whereby MAC and the high schools each provide one-third of the tuition to help alleviate costs for the students and their families. As another cost-saving effort, MAC is also lending textbooks to students.

For more information, contact Pam Watkins at [pdwatkin@MineralArea.edu](mailto:pdwatkin@MineralArea.edu) or (573) 518-2280 or Julie Downs at [jdowns@MineralArea.edu](mailto:jdowns@MineralArea.edu) or (573) 518-3805.

Future dermatologist, Taylor Mayberry, enjoys learning in the interactive science labs.





MAC students harvested honey from campus hives with guidance from Greg Hitchens and Ray Politte of the Parkland Beekeepers Association. From top: Rylie Klosterman and Ray Politte, Greg Hitchens, and Abigail Morrow.

## Honey Harvest

**Honeybees play an often unnoticed role in agriculture and our daily food supply. Bees pollinate the majority of flowering crops which account for many of our foods.**

Without honeybees, staples ranging from asparagus and blueberries to watermelon and zucchini would vanish from our diets. Area residents are taking an interest in beekeeping. The Agribusiness Department and the Parkland Beekeepers Association

offer beekeeping classes which cover beginning basics, like how to obtain bees and equipment, colony organization and management, and diseases and pests of honey bees. In September, Pest Management course students and the Parkland Beekeepers officers worked together for six hours to extract 111 pounds of honey. The extraction equipment is co-owned by MAC Agribusiness Department and the Parkland Beekeepers Association. Currently, the Agribusiness Department has two beehives and plans to expand to three hives in 2015.

## Language is Challenging

When sophomore Kasia Kiejdrowska learned freshman Nika Dabrowska was joining the women's basketball team, she was overjoyed.

Although they never met, Kasia and Nika were thrilled to have someone to speak their native language, Polish. They studied English in high school, but find English challenging. "We read and understand English okay. But, in conversation everything goes way too fast," smiles Nika. "I want to participate in class discussions. I hear what others say. By the time I think of it in Polish and find the right words to say in English, it's done!" Kasia says interacting with friends in social settings helps polish her English skills.

Kasia grew up in Gdynia, Poland, a seaport town on the Baltic Sea, and began playing basketball when she was 14. "I lived away from home for three years for my schooling and basketball. A former MAC player from Poland told me about the program. I was excited to come here," she explains. "My basketball teammates and coaches are really great. MAC has a positive atmosphere, nice people and very helpful teachers. I'm not sure yet what my degree will be, but I'm thinking about business."

Nika grew up in Plonsk, a small town northwest of Warsaw, and attended high school in Warsaw. Her father inspired her to play basketball when she was six or seven. "Even though it took over 18 hours to get here, it's a big pleasure," says Nika. "It's a beautiful area. MAC is a good experience with friendly, nice people. I like the dorms and having my own room. It's a place where we will make friends for the rest of our lives." In addition to Polish and English, the biology major also speaks Russian.



Kasia Kiejdrowska and Nika Dabrowska in the Bob Sechrest Field House.

What do they miss from back home? They miss their families and friends, as well as the public transportation system they used in Poland. And, despite the aforementioned niceties, Kasia and Nika are nearly traumatized by American eating habits. "Oh! Oooh! Everybody eats junk food . . . lots of soda, sugars and pizza," says Nika. "We try to find healthy foods, especially good fruits, chicken, tuna, salads, and vegetables." Kasia recalls, "When I got here last year, I just couldn't eat the foods. I think I didn't eat for almost a month! We try to cook,

but finding the kinds of ingredients is not always easy."

Kasia and Nika are working diligently in the classroom and on the basketball court. Their schedules allow little time to explore the area. However, the co-eds say, "We really want to go to a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game because we have never ever seen baseball. Poland doesn't have it. We want to do this before we go back home." They invite everyone to watch the Lady Cards in action. MAC sports schedules are available at [www.mineralarea.edu/athletics](http://www.mineralarea.edu/athletics).



The generosity of alumni and friends greatly enhances the teaching and learning environment for MAC students and instructors. Pictured are: Emily Taylor (Bonne Terre), Adara Whited (Perryville), Marissa Rousseau (Perryville), Nathan Lix (Farmington), Carlee Thomure (Farmington), Jesse Guertin (Ironton), Teran Montgomery (Ironton), Andrew Henning (Desloge) and Destiney Henson (Farmington).

# It's More than a Feeling

**Remember Boston's 1976 classic rock tune "More Than a Feeling?" Like the lyrics, almost everybody — alumni, employees and community members — has a feeling about MAC. While reasons vary — nostalgic memories, lifelong friendships or community presence — people understand MAC changes lives.**

These intangible feelings motivate many to ask "What can I do for MAC?" Often, this means financial support for designated college initiatives, memorial gifts, scholarships or a way to give back to a specific department. Regardless of the donation amount, MAC and its students benefit.

Why give? Alumni have their own personal reasons for "giving back to MAC." These alumni share their feelings and motivations.

A WWII veteran says, "After FRJC, I was called to serve our country and wondered if I'd come home alive. Serving my military duty was

important, but I didn't realize how important my old junior college classes were. My FRJC education got me assigned to a non-combat position and brought me home alive. I'm not really sure why things happen, but I feel I owe FRJC a little something for bringing me home when so many others didn't make it. As a result, I had a good career and have a loving family."

The octogenarian couple says, "For years we've happily been making small gifts to MAC because FRJC was instrumental in our lives. Now that our children are on their own, we can really give back to the institution which laid the foundation for our professional careers and all the opportunities we had. Without FRJC, a four-year degree would never have been possible, much less a good paying job and a stable retirement. We deeply believe in MAC's future and believe it's our responsibility as alumni to invest in MAC so others may have the education and opportunities we did."

A teacher says, "I never knew who really gave the money for my MAC scholarship, but I do remember how grateful I was then and still am. My husband decided he didn't want to be a family man anymore. Suddenly, I was a single mom without a job and the responsibility of raising two kids on my own. At my life's lowest point, a friend took me to MAC where I met wonderful people who rekindled my belief in myself. The rest is history. I'm a successful teacher. My kids want to go to MAC . . . and nothing feels better than that! So, that's why I give. There will always be people like me who need a break. It doesn't make any difference if anyone knows my name. I know am helping others just like someone helped me."

The inspiration to donate is as unique as each individual. If you are interested in "giving back to MAC," consider the options on page 13 or contact Kevin Thurman at (573) 518-2261 or [kthurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:kthurman@MineralArea.edu) to discuss your own ideas.



Jessica Frakes enjoys a fall day in the Quadrangle.

## Second Grade is for Me

Jessica Frakes is the recipient of The Jewell Wood Elementary Education Scholarship designed to financially assist elementary education majors.

The Caledonia sophomore says, "After MAC, I plan to attend Central Methodist University on the MAC campus to earn my teaching degree. I am incredibly thankful for the Jewell Wood Scholarship because I'm financing my education with student

loans which need to be repaid. The scholarship helps pay for my books and a part of my tuition. That's a relief because I don't have to borrow as much money." Jessica says, "I hope to teach at the elementary level, specifically second grade. I've done lots of babysitting, and there's something really special about children that age. As part of my field experience, I did 30 hours of observation in various classrooms. When I observed second grade, I felt that's where I'd like to be."

## Ways to Donate

- **Your Favorite Teacher.** Teachers make a difference and contribute to student success. Donate to the department where that special teacher worked. Gifts can support art or lab supplies, specific programs as theater or music, and equipment purchases as library needs.
- **Pay Tribute in Honor or Memory.** Recognize a special person, family member or friend. Honorees or family members will be notified of your thoughtfulness based on instructions with your gift.
- **Potential Tax Savings.** Donations to MAC Foundation, a 501(C)(3) charitable entity, are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
- **Stocks or Securities.** For tax purposes, the gift date is the date the recipient organization receives the securities. Please consider holiday schedules for timing your gifts.
- **Planned Giving.** Include MAC Foundation in your estate plans so your legacy can help students for generations to come.
- **Online.** Use the flexibility and convenience of online giving. To use your debit or credit card to make a one-time gift or automatic donations, visit [www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation](http://www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation).

Consult your estate planner, financial advisor or tax advisor to determine tax considerations for your gifts. A MAC Foundation representative can share giving options with you. **Make your gift today by using the enclosed giving envelope or call (573) 518-2114 to use your debit or credit card.**



Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation Nursing Scholarship recipients are: Cameron Courtois, Molly Gollihue, Alexander Finley, Kaitlin Cox, Carlena Kent, Mary Belken, Brittany Wanner, Kirsten Williams and Elizabeth Brockland.

## Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation Nursing Scholarships

**For years, the Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation has financed training to provide qualified nurses for the regional healthcare community. Four freshmen and six sophomores in the Associate Degree Nursing program are the benefactors of the scholarships.**

Molly Gollihue, of Desloge, and Kirsten Williams, of Fredericktown, explain the importance of the

scholarships. Molly says, "Last year I paid all my expenses myself because I didn't qualify for financial aid. So, in addition to being a full-time student, I had to work six days a week to pay for college. This scholarship does more than help with finances. It relieves some of the mental and emotional stress associated with the demands of the nursing program. And, although I still have to work a little, I can dedicate more time to my studies and get better grades." Kirsten says, "Even a

community college is expensive for a middle class family. Grant amounts have declined, and this Osteopathic Scholarship is my only financial aid. I am very thankful for this scholarship because it enables me to work less and concentrate on my studies. Without it, I wonder how I would be able to stay in the program."

Kirsten has her sights on the OB department, and Molly plans to work in oncology. Though challenging coursework seems bittersweet at the moment, both see their degrees as a huge accomplishment. "It's difficult and rewarding all at once," smiles Kirsten. "In clinicals, we bond with our patients, and they trust us to provide their care. The rewards are enormous when you consider you're helping the patients and their families through very difficult times. You're not only a nurse, but a counselor, confidant, and shoulder to cry on." Molly, who learned the true compassion of hospice nurses during a family illness, says, "To be successful in the nursing program, you must be totally dedicated because it becomes your life. We all say a few extra prayers and rely on our faith to keep us going when all seems overwhelming. The rewards are going to be so big . . . way more than just a paycheck."

Recipients, their hometowns and future career fields are listed. Mary Belken (Farmington) plans to work in mental health. Brittany Wanner (Fredericktown) is interested in critical care. Elizabeth Brockland (Farmington) and Alexander Finley (Bonne Terre) plan to work in ER. Kaitlin Cox (Ironton), Jennifer Ponder (Perryville) and Cameron Courtois (Park Hills) are eager to work in pediatrics. Carlena Kent (Ste. Genevieve) plans to work in endocrinology. Kirsten Williams (Fredericktown) and Molly Gollihue (Desloge) seek careers in OB and oncology, respectively.



Gabe Craig and Brenden Jones enjoy the friendly campus environment.

## Mission Work Influences Career

**The Coach Bill Bradley Memorial Scholarship recipient is Brenden Jones, a secondary education major, who plans to complete his master's degree to possibly teach math at the college level.**

"MAC's a great place because I see my high school friends and also make new friends," says the Central High School graduate. "I really like the freedom we have at MAC to organize our schedules so we can do other things."

During high school, Brenden and his church contemporaries participated in several summer mission trips which influenced his decision to become a teacher. "Each summer we did missions through World Changers and Youthworks. We travelled to Kentucky, Oklahoma, Ohio, Iowa and Alabama.

It was a humbling and learning experience to serve those who could not afford to pay for their facilities to be fixed. We fixed and roofed houses, painted schools, cleaned out buildings, and worked at homeless shelters.

The work we did was very fulfilling and brought a sense of personal satisfaction." Through these Christian experiences, Brenden gained insight into his own future. "At the homeless shelter, we worked with people who had been turned down by everyone else," says Brenden. "When I talked with these men, they all seemed to tell me the same thing. That was 'I wish I would have gotten my education and taken advantage of the opportunities I had.' That really spoke to me. So, I think by being a teacher, I can help others while teaching math."



## FRJC Flashback

### Sophomores 1974

The class included Pravit Jindasurat, Melanie Clemons, Melissa Crane, Kermit Day, Richard Jones, Linda McCord, and Kenneth Miller.







Morgan Straughan Cornnick's newest book *Spirit Vision 2* is for young audiences.

## Enthusiastic about Writing and Teaching

**She loves Japanese anime and manga. She digs nerd culture, too. She's memorized *The Lion King*. Her favorite food is cheese and she's allergic to citrus. Meet Morgan Straughan Cornnick.**

"Let's just say, I love being a MAC Cardinal!" exclaims the proud 2009 MAC alum who holds a teaching degree from Central Methodist University.

This once-shy-but-now-spunky 20-something is passionate about her writing and teaching. "I was a shy child, so much so that spoken words failed me often," explains Morgan. "So, I began to write to express my

feelings. I never considered writing more than poems until my ninth-grade teacher said I'd make a great character for his book. I figured if he could write a book, I certainly could try.

*"I was a shy child, so much so that spoken words failed me often. . ."*

And...ta-dah! *Spirit Vision*, a paranormal romance with elements of school life, nerd culture, and comedy, emerged. Then, *A Sweet, Little Dream*, a collection of short stories and poetry, soon followed." In November, *Spirit Vision 2: New Beginnings* was released.

Her imagination is astonishing

and transforms her Farmington life experiences into engaging fantasy reads for young audiences. Her best friends are the basis of her book characters. She is a full-time young adult author for Paper Crane Books. Her works are available on Amazon or at <http://morganscomnick.com> and <http://papercranebooks.com>.

The classroom is where Morgan wants to be. She is seeking a full-time teaching position and understands the job market challenges. Currently she is a special education paraprofessional for Farmington Middle School. "I just love to be in the classroom and help children learn," asserts Morgan. "Students like new things, so I try to create new avenues for them to learn. They are fascinated with my book characters which keep their interest. Teaching is so rewarding. I hope to soon have a classroom to call my own." She teaches in MAC's summer College for Kids program. "I'm extra proud to teach for College for Kids because I attended when I was six," she explains. "My classes range from Percy Jackson Greek Mythologies to Japanese Culture to Ancient Egyptian Mythology."

"MAC Singers and Mr. Graf are cherished MAC memories," recalls Morgan. "And, I was so inspired by Dr. Shawn Young's energy, randomness and blunt honesty. His goal was to get me out of my shell, and slowly he did. In his class, I got to re-write *Hamlet*, and stab Dr. Young with a plastic sword at the end! MAC was my first experience to feel like I was becoming an adult. I broadened my social circles and met new people who shared my interests, such as choir and teaching. I made lasting friendships that extended beyond my hometown of Farmington. MAC was exciting for many of us." Morgan can be contacted via email at [mescomnick@hotmail.com](mailto:mescomnick@hotmail.com) or via Morgan Straughan Cornnick (author) on Facebook or on Twitter@MorganSCornick.

## Re-connected after 35 Years

### Education has always been important for Marvin Hahn.

He says, "FRJC greatly impacted my professional life. My associate's degree laid the foundation for my advanced degrees." At the University of Missouri, he completed his Bachelor of Education with certificates in math, chemistry and general science, and his master's in school administration. Later, he added an MBA from UMSL. Marvin taught high school math before returning to MU's Computer Science Department. Then, he served as Hazelwood School District's Director of Research & Planning and implemented its first in-house computer installation. He subsequently was named assistant

superintendent for business operations and retired after 27 years.

"FRJC also impacted my personal life," smiles Marvin. "On the first day of my sophomore year, I noticed this girl arriving for her first day of classes. She caught my eye then and has had it ever since! She is Karen Seiberling Hahn, my wife of 51 years. We have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We are proud all our children are college graduates."

Marvin tells how he re-connected with his FRJC roots, "While attending FRJC, several of us also worked at State Hospital #4 in Farmington. Our classes ended about 1:35, and we worked the

2-to-10 p.m. shift. When I returned after 35 years away, I worked at both the Farmington Correctional Center (formerly the state hospital) and at MAC (formerly FRJC). I retired at a fairly young age and wanted to keep active, so I enrolled in MAC's Visual Basic Programming class. Soon I was recruited to teach the class the next semester. So, I had returned to MAC as both a student and instructor. I also answered the correctional center's call for GED teachers and taught in the same building where I worked 36 years prior. So, these experiences re-connected me with FRJC/MAC and the state hospital."

Then, while teaching GED, he met Bernie Ratliff who worked in MAC's EXCEL program. "She promptly recruited me as a math and computer tutor," says the 1960-62 alum. "Tutoring was especially enjoyable since I could relate to being in similar situations as a student. It's fulfilling to influence and assist students who are making a genuine effort to better themselves."

Marvin generously gives back to the community through his involvement with the Farmington Kiwanis and Habitat for Humanity. Since 1996, he's been active in Farmington Kiwanis serving as club secretary and board member and working on projects designed to benefit area youth. "An article about organizing a local Habitat for Humanity chapter motivated Karen and me to investigate," says Marvin. "We became active in this effort, taking leadership roles on the board and on several committees. The chapter is very successful and continues to strive to provide affordable housing for those in need."

The Hahns live in Farmington and winter in Florida. Marvin invites friends to email him at [mohkrh@aol.com](mailto:mohkrh@aol.com).

Marvin Hahn visits the newly renovated C.H. Cozean Library.



## MAC Solid Base for IBM Career

**“Times were interesting at MAC when we shared the campus with the Flat River school system,” says Dave Lee, a MAC 1967-69 alum originally from Flat River.**

“Finally in fall of 1968, MAC moved to the current campus where we were housed in a temporary building, the only campus building at the time. I bet everyone remembers the building burning in the spring of 1969. We finished the semester in evening classes at a local high school. That must have been an especially difficult time for teachers and the administration.”

“My education was my path into IBM, where I spent my entire professional career,” recalls Dave, the UMR electrical engineering grad. “MAC’s small classes and high quality, dedicated teachers gave us a better learning opportunity than Rolla’s typical class of a hundred plus students. Teachers like Ken Beers, Laura Wadsworth, Ben Chang, John

Watkins, George Hampton, Elvis Clark, and many more were exceptional teachers whose focus was their teaching rather than research. I felt better prepared transferring to Rolla as a junior than I would have been had I gone to Rolla as a freshman. I honestly feel MAC was a most important part of what I achieved as an adult.”

Dave joined IBM in 1971. “My career was in the product development division where I worked on everything from typewriters to mainframes,” he explains. “While at IBM, I earned a master’s in electrical engineering from the University of Kentucky and did additional graduate work in computer science. My time was split fifty-fifty between various management and technical positions which moved me to Lexington, KY, San Jose, CA, Rochester, MN, and Raleigh, NC. While at IBM, I generated three patents. I retired in 2003. My wife, Fran, and I live in Pinehurst, NC.”

Retirement gave way to Dave’s

hobbies of golf, astronomy and biking. “I have run ten marathons including the Boston in 1980, but that was years ago when my knees and ankles would tolerate such treatment,” he says. “Now, I play golf at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club where I serve on the Men’s Golf Association Board and the Handicap Committee. These days my astronomy is generally done from my permanent telescope pier in my back yard. I enjoy biking on the many lightly traveled roads near our home.”

The four Lee children followed in their parents’ —Mildred and the late Bob Lee—footsteps to the junior college to start college. Dave says, “It’s unusual that we four siblings—Dave, Carol, Don, and Bill, in birth order—all live at least 10 hours from Park Hills. But, Don and Carol live about 15 minutes apart in the Dallas area; and Bill and I live about 70 minutes apart in the Raleigh area. This ‘just happened’ based on our job assignments. But what are the odds here?”

**Astronomy, biking and golf keep Dave Lee active in retirement.**



## Goal-oriented Traveler

At age 19, Jeffrey Ryan Cauley's positive energy and optimism are infectious.

As a high school junior, he started MAC classes and graduated with both his Associate of Arts and high school diploma at the same time. He works a 40-50 hour week and is a full-time student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He also operates a small retail imported electronics booth, sells event tickets, and advertises for large companies through social media.

For three years, he's worked at Upward Smiles, a local practice providing MoHealthNet dental procedures for children and pregnant women in St. Francois and Jefferson counties. Jeffrey, the self-described workaholic, says, "As director of logistics, all my work focuses on the success and efficiency of day-to-day operations so the policies of the executive director and board of trustees are being not only met, but exceeded."

*"Seeing the struggles of other cultures makes me view and treat other people differently."*

Jeffrey's positive outlook finds opportunities instead of obstacles, generating personal satisfaction and rewarding experiences. He says, "Countless times, I've had parents turn to tears when I inform them their child's dental care will be free of charge. It's very emotional and satisfying. At Upward Smiles I use my knowledge and background in business, while seeing the challenges some families face."

"I thirst for interesting experiences," says Jeffrey. "Differences among people and cultures are intriguing because I learn how other



To celebrate his MAC graduation, Jeffrey Cauley's parents treated him to a skydiving adventure.

people live. Seeing the struggles of other cultures makes me view and treat other people differently. And, I also realize how well many of us live." He's traveled to New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Nashville, San Diego, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. He is planning his first adventure to Barcelona, Spain. "I have tickets to Clean Bandit, a pop band that is slowly becoming prevalent globally. There are art museums, beaches and an abundance of outdoor activities from climbing rocks to biking. Research says sampling food seems to be the biggest buzz for travelers."

Jeffrey compliments MAC's Business Department, "I learned more in MAC business classes than I

have in the past year at a university. MAC professors are extremely knowledgeable and fantastic educators. Professor Stephanie Campbell was especially fascinating, and I took her Business Law, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics classes in one semester. They were arguably the most influential hours spent on my education."

Jeffrey appreciates his parents' influence and says, "I'm grateful for having such great role models for parents. They always placed my needs before their own and pushed me to the do the best I can. Their confidence in me and genuine work ethic has guided me to the opportunities I now have."

Serenity  
 HospiceCare  
 Peace of mind when it matters most



Serenity HospiceCare's Shelley Layton and Jenni Thorn organized the 5K Cupcake Run.

## Will Run for Cupcakes!

**Two incredibly exuberant Associate Degree in Nursing graduates**—Shelley (Blum) Layton (2001) and Jenni (Bequette) Thorn (2003)—work for Serenity HospiceCare, where Shelley is executive director and Jenni is director of patient care.

Serenity is known for immersing itself into the community to benefit others. This energetic duo intermingled their love of running and cupcakes to launch what may be the first-ever 5K Cupcake Run. Shelley, Jenni and the Serenity staff teamed with MAB Cupcakes of Farmington for the sweet, family-friendly fun

run which trekked through the MAC campus.

Shelley explains the motivation for the event, “By talking with our own kids’ school counselors, we learned our local schools—North County, Central, West County, and Bismarck—were really low on food supplies for their backpack programs which make sure children have suitable take-home food for the weekends during the school year. We were crushed to hear there was only food to fill a certain number of backpacks and

*“This is our community, so we just had to do something to help the youngest community members.”*

several children had to be turned away. Kids just shouldn’t go hungry. It impacts how they do in school. We were compelled to take action.” Jenni adds, “We were born and raised here. We live and work here. We’re parents ourselves. This is our community, so we just had to do something to help the youngest community members.”

Running for cupcakes and kids was special. Participants were treated to MAB cupcakes and saw interesting sites on the MAC campus. The 137 participants collected 1467 food items weighing 466 pounds and raised \$2200 for the backpack programs. Congrats to Jenni, Shelley and the Serenity HospiceCare staff.

Shelley and Jenni add, “We give a special thanks to MAC’s General Services staff and Vice President Kennon for their extra effort to make this event a success.” Serenity HospiceCare, located at MAC’s front entrance, has been a provider of end of life care and grief support services in the region since 1982. For more information about Serenity HospiceCare, call (573) 431-0162 or visit [www.serenityhc.org](http://www.serenityhc.org).



Justin Arnett advocates educating the public on mental health issues.

## An Advocate for Mental Health

**“It seems cliché to say I became a nurse because I like helping people, but that’s really why people are drawn to the nursing field,” says Justin Arnett of Farmington.**

“Nursing offers an almost limitless spectrum of career options.” In mental health, there’s not as much expensive, high-tech equipment as in other specialties. So, nurses are the linchpins to treatment. Successful mental health treatment often rests on the health professionals’ unique relationship-building skills, patience, and their complete understanding of each patient’s mental diagnosis.

“My job satisfaction really comes from my interaction with our patients and our staff,” explains Justin. “Psych nursing is a holistic approach to care. We try to know the whole person, not just his or her symptoms or illnesses. Our successes are making a difference one patient at a time.”

The 2001 Associate Degree Nursing grad says, “Initially, it was my mom’s work as a nurse that captured my interest in mental health. But, it was my MAC clinical experience that solidified my path in mental health nursing. For 13+ years, I’ve been an RN at Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center (SMMHC) and have

held various nurse positions on days, evenings, and nights. Each destination was an experience which shaped me into the leader I am today. For the last six years, I’ve been the chief nurse executive and feel blessed to have had doors open for me at an early age. I’m incredibly thankful for the staff members who work for and with me. Although my job can be very challenging at times, the patient population we serve and celebrating their lives and successes makes it worth the effort.”

Justin proudly reports SMMCH employs approximately 80 MAC nursing graduates. Recently the nursing staff launched a grassroots Mental Health Awareness initiative to tackle the stigma and lack of public awareness about mental health issues. Their specially designed “Psych Nurse” tee-shirts serve as a spark to cultivate mental health conversations.

Justin credits his MAC teachers, “Jessie Williams inspired me with her love for mental health nursing, while Esther Blum and Ellen Ketcherside helped guide me in my sophomore year. We continue our relationship as I visit MAC to recruit graduating RNs. Teri Douglas supervised my MSN practicum and mentored me as a new leader. And, thanks to Rhonda Gamble who provided me with the

fundamental knowledge necessary so I could understand the nursing process better.”

Justin earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Central Methodist College and a Master of Science in Nursing–Hospital Administration from University of Missouri–St. Louis. Justin was the 2005 Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center Nurse of the Year recipient. This year, he earned statewide recognition as MAC’s nominee for the Missouri Breaking Traditions Award which honors professionals who are supportive of nontraditional career programs and nontraditional students.

Spending time with family is tops on Justin’s priorities. His mother, Doris, and brother, Jared, are also graduates of the RN program. “My wife, Rikki, and our two children enjoy entertaining family and friends,” says Justin. “I enjoy the outdoors, especially deer and turkey hunting and springtime searches for morel mushrooms.”

**ON THE COVER: 1-Kristie Vance, 2-Tracy Smallen, 3-Debbie Belfield, 4-Vickie Chilton, 5-Becky Jackson, 6-Kristy Blann, 7-Liz Matthews, 8-Nancy Rariden, 9-Sarah Wills, 10-Lacey Prevallet, 11-Dena Wilson, 12-Emily Davis, 13-Justin Arnett, 14-Denise Brown, 15-Arlene Jones, 16-Otis Helm, 17-Julie Carroll, 18-Patti Washburn, 19-Fran Dickerson, 20-Susan Wiles, 21-Casey Shepard, 22-Andrea Walton, 23-Russell Leonard, 24-Amy Graham, 25-Sue Fischbeck, 26-Krystal Weinhold, 27-Dana Clements, 28-Dustin Wyatt, 29-Dan Forsythe, 30-Jeremy Cove, 31-Dusty Morton, 32-Melanie Dotson, 33-Elaine Giessing, 34-Kay Harper, 35-Johnny Barton**



# PARK HILLS RIVER MART



Theresa Bauman greets every customer with a friendly smile.

## Fun Place for Customers

**Theresa (Boyer) Bauman has done many things and has always been incredibly focused on her goals.**

While attending MAC in 1982, she owned and operated Ballerina Dance Studio in Potosi and Park Hills serving hundreds of students. As a Parents as Teachers parent educator, she flourished working with children. When she returned to MAC in 1998, she worked in sales at B-104/KFMO where she developed her interest in business marketing and advertising promotion. She even traveled to convenience stores promoting Phillip Morris products. Now, Theresa channels her expertise and energy to the Park Hills River Mart convenience store that she and her husband, Paul, own.

"While working for Phillip Morris, the convenience store business piqued my interest. At each visit, I learned valuable lessons of what works and what doesn't. Never did I think I would draw on this experience as much as I have," says Theresa.

The purposeful businesswoman continues, "In 2004, Paul opened the Park Hills River Mart as a small convenience store doing an average but profitable business. When the manager left, I took over and was determined to make the store shine as more than just a convenience store. It took hard work to earn our customers' business and respect. We got more involved with school and community activities and fundraised for many charity and school events. Our very energetic and caring

team has a love for River Mart and the community where we live. Soon, River Mart became a fun place where everyone knows your name."

In 2012, the Baumans developed plans for a new store just two blocks up the hill. Their new Park Hills River Mart opened this August. "It's been so exciting. All the blood, sweat, and tears paid off because the new River Mart offers much more for our customers," says Theresa. "The response is overwhelming, and we are very humbled by the community support. We'll continue working hard to keep our customers' business by making sure every River Mart visit is a fun experience."

Family is Theresa's first priority. Her family enjoys the beach and Lake

of the Ozarks weekend getaways. “My girls are a lot like me and really enjoy being involved in our community,” says the mother of three. “If there’s a local activity, we usually attend. Two years ago, my husband bought me a Harley. My goal is to learn how to ride it so we

can go together on bike trips with our friends.”

“I’m very committed to helping people and giving back to my community,” says Theresa. “I’ve always been passionate about helping Caring Communities and recently

became a member of the St. Francois County Community Partnership Board. Two special Relay for Life teams—Breast Friends and Turner Chevrolet—are also very deserving of my volunteer time.” Theresa invites everyone to stop by the new River Mart in Park Hills.

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## Programmer, Water Skier & Golfer

**“Dr. Painter took special interest in all of us transferring to Rolla and ensured our classes met Rolla’s graduation requirements,” says Flat River native Don Lee.**

“Ken Beers made calculus much easier to grasp, and he was probably one of the best instructors I had at MAC or Rolla.”

After MAC in 1976-78, Don earned a BSEE from University of Missouri–Rolla and was employed by Mostek in Dallas where he wrote software/operating systems. “It was beneficial to have hardware guys with a knack for computer programming to write the software that controlled the hardware Mostek built,” he explains. “Quickly, I knew I would be a software programmer. My last Mostek project was writing a hard-disk software driver for the UNIX operating system.”

Don talks about his career moves, “In 1986, my boss, his boss and I went to Xerox where I wrote software for its MS-DOS clone computer. When that division shutdown, we moved to NEC America, where I spent most of my career writing software for the PBX Telephone system. After 1995, the Web brought new things out so quickly. I never dreamed anything could move so fast. The internet boom really changed things drastically.”

Outside work, Don waterskied competitively. “Most people don’t realize competitive slalom waterskiing exists,” he explains. “It’s absolutely the most addictive sport I’ve done. I skied five days a week and would’ve

done seven if my body could have withstood it. To feed our addiction, my roommate and I dropped a slalom course in a secluded area of a public lake. In 1987, I bought lake property with a slalom course solely for competitive skiing. When my work got real demanding, my interest in waterskiing waned, and I sold my property. Losing my waterskiing interest is probably my biggest regret of working too much. To this day, as I pass by a lake, I survey it in my mind just to see if a slalom course could be dropped there.”

Don and his friend, Neil, started a little business. “We built a device using a Pioneer car CD player which

*“Every time we used the oscilloscope, we had to unplug the soldering iron because the bar table only had two outlets and one was dedicated to the computer.”*

played through the car’s existing tape system. A few local Circuit City auto stereo shops sold it. We didn’t really make any money compared to the amount of time we spent, but it was fun,” says Don. “Then, the guy in charge of the local Circuit City car stereo stores was in town and wanted to meet Neil, the person he’d been talking to for several months. This guy wanted to see our operation. Well, it consisted of a pool table which held our materials and equipment on one side and our finished product on the other. Our

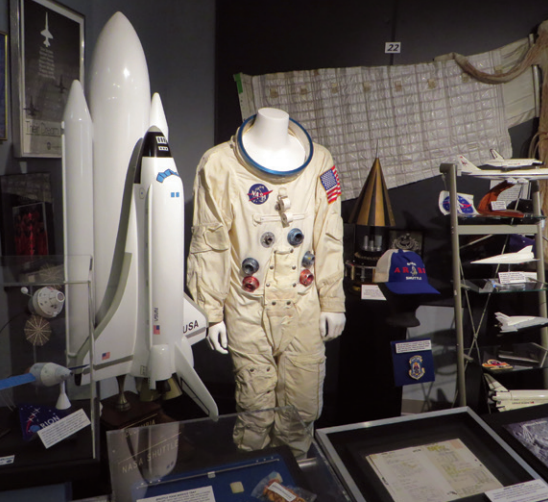


In retirement, Don Lee enjoys golf.

workbench—a bar table—was adjacent to the pool table. Every time we used the oscilloscope, we had to unplug the soldering iron because the bar table only had two outlets, and one was dedicated to the computer. Needless to say, Neil found an excuse why our operation was unavailable at the moment!”

Don found his work fulfilling. “As I got older, I think all the extra work hours started wearing on me,” he says. “So in October 2013, I basically retired and have been playing lots of golf and am really enjoying it.” Don lives in Lewisville, Texas.





## Rekindling the Flame of Innovation

Earl Mullins understands the strength of character required to realize a dream. His industrious efforts created The Space Museum in Bonne Terre. Not only is the museum Earl's dream-becomes-reality, but it's a treasure-trove about the U.S. space program.

The museum is small in size but mighty in information. It is a celebrated place to view space-related items. "We've amassed a huge collection of world-class artifacts, including some from actual space missions," explains the museum founder and president. "To date, we

*"Many who I idolized and considered legendary and unapproachable as a youth, I now call friend."*

have over \$14 million in NASA items, and the collection is on par with any major museum in the nation."

"Aerospace is essential to

Earl Mullins explains the story of a burned glove associated with the 1997 fire aboard the Russian Mir space station which carried an American as a guest.

human survival," asserts Earl. "It's significant for us as a nation to embrace exploration and to rekindle the flame of innovation so people have something to believe in again, something bigger than all of us."

Although circumstances did not allow him to follow his dream to work in aerospace, Earl is inspiring others. "I'm doing what I can to preserve and share the history of the greatest accomplishment of man in the '60s and '70s," explains Earl. Each year, The Space Museum entertains, educates and inspires thousands of students about space and encourages them to pursue their dreams. Adult visitors reconnect with the pride they once felt in our nation generated by the Golden Age of Space.

Visitors are dazzled by the

artifacts, including two of Earl's favorites. One is the Henry Gordon letter. "Henry is the astronaut nobody knows because he was in the Dyna Soar program which was the Air Force's version of the space program," explains Earl. "While at Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, he wrote this letter to his mother divulging a very human slant on the almost super-human requirements it took to become an astronaut. *The Right Stuff* movie depicts this when John Glenn says, 'If you had a hole in your body, they stuck something into it!' Tests often were very uncomfortable since they were assessing man's tolerance to potential medical issues of space flight."

Another favorite is the mini-sized Styrofoam cup from a basket on the

robot that recovered LB7 from the Atlantic Ocean. At the 16,000-foot depth where the capsule rested, the pressure was about 7,000 pounds per square inch. Thus, it squeezed all the air out of the Styrofoam cup.

Earl's dream continues. He explains, "I am working on the Annex project to add an additional 5,000 square feet to include a resource center for all ages. My ultimate goal is a standalone facility representing a full orb program of education, historical dissemination and space advocacy."

Earl's credo—The answer is always no, if you don't ask.—served beneficial for establishing professional acquaintances and acquiring space exploration exhibits. Earl visited the St. Louis Science Center to hear Lowell Grissom, brother of Apollo 1 astronaut Gus Grissom, speak on the recovery of the Liberty Bell space capsule. He remembers approaching Lowell Grissom. Their conversation solidified Earl's quest for the space museum dream, and they became friends.

With a smile, Earl recollects, "For a poor boy born on a dairy farm in Southern Illinois, I have had the opportunity meet those who made history. Many of those who I idolized and considered legendary and unapproachable as a youth, I now call friend."

SEMCO Plastics Co. in St. Louis is Earl's employer. "About age 30, I discovered my true vocation was industry where I spent most of my career," says the MAC 1970-72 alum. "For the past 14 years, I've been an industrial engineer/secondary operations manager, and I still get excited to see our production process at work and our products on retailers' shelves."

For information, visit [www.space-mo.org](http://www.space-mo.org), call Earl at (573) 701-5639 or the museum at (573) 358-1200.



## Back in the Day, Over 50 Years Ago

Recently, several Flat River Junior College alumni visited campus and reflected on the opportunities the "good old junior college" provided them more than 50 years ago.

The alumni, vintage 1956-61, attended FRJC while Dr. Gayle Simmons served as the College's dean. Everyone, including Gayle agreed, "Without FRJC, we never would have achieved a four-year degree."

Though most did not have direct contact with Dean Simmons

*"In 1956, my total tuition was \$80. Believe me, that was a major struggle for my family."*

as students, they now realize the impact he had on academics and student activities. Ron "Scotty" Scott proudly declared, "I never knew Dean Simmons personally. Back then, it was a really good thing . . . meant you were behaving! I know he found funds to support our baseball and track programs. Sports meant a lot to us back then, and our extra-curricular activities definitely



- FRJC alumni are: Bill and Caren Black (Farmington), Ron Farver (Creal Springs, IL), Marvin Hahn (Farmington), Ron Scott (O'Fallon), Karen Hahn (Farmington), Francis Vogt (Ste. Genevieve), Barb and Bill Stotler (Herculaneum), Ann and Dave Arnett (Park Hills).
- Class yearbooks stirred memories for Caren and Bill Black and Ron Farver.

made our FRJC days rewarding."

On the cost of tuition, Ann (Holloway) Arnett says, "In 1956, my total tuition was \$80. Believe me, that was a major struggle for my family. Elvins was out-of-district, so we paid more to attend." Caren (Pruett) Black also remembers out-of-district charges, "I think I paid \$129 for a year. And, although I didn't think of it at the time, I'm sure Dean Simmons was responsible for our safe learning environment—something we all took for granted."

There were the real out-of-towners: Francis Vogt from Ste. Genevieve and Ron Farver from Ferguson in St. Louis County. Francis lived in Flat River during the week, and paid

\$140 per semester for his tuition. Ron says his dad thought he should attend FRJC, “Dad thought I needed a change in environment and some new life experiences. I lived in a boarding house where my room cost me \$6 and my board for two meals per day for five days was \$9. It seems unbelievable given today’s prices. Without FRJC, many of us would never have gotten where we are today.”

Regarding education, Bill and Caren Black and Francis noted Gayle’s efforts to secure exceptional faculty members, specifically Carl Painter. Doris, Barb and Caren remember Gayle as an exceptional Ed Psychology instructor and that his negotiations brought Washington University classes to campus. “That had to be one of Dean Simmons’ most significant contributions,” exclaims Barb (Thurman) Stotler. “At the time, \$25 per credit hour was steep. But, we never had to leave the campus to earn our degrees.”

Sports were mentioned by Marvin Hahn, “Remember Pedro Martinez, the Cuban student who approached Dean Simmons about starting a baseball team?” As others grabbed for yearbooks, Marvin added, “Gayle found a little money to start the team, and I think Coach Sechrest may have been the first coach.” When FRJC track was mentioned, Marvin said Carl Painter was the track coach. Then, Ron, Bill and Bill burst into laughter as they reminisced about filling Dr. Painter’s personal VW van with seven or eight track kids to travel Lexington for the big state junior college track meet. “With eight guys in the van, I remember wondering if it would ever make it up the hills at 30 miles per hour,” chuckles Ron. “But, when we were on the downhill, we were doing about 80!” For these and many other alumni, FRJC and MAC prepared the foundation for future successes.



Four MAC graduates were honored at the Community Ladies Luncheon hosted by MAC Foundation. Pictured are: (front row) Jeannine Koen, Peggy Bone, Susie Eaton; (back row) MAC President Steve Kurtz, MAC Foundation President Andy Buchanan, MAC Foundation Director Kevin Thurman, and Lisa Hammack. To join the Community Ladies Luncheon guest list, contact Teri at (573) 518-2114.

## Through the Grapevine

- **Peggy (Greif) Bone**, MAC 1992-95, is the Pyramid Home Healthcare administrator in Farmington. She was named to the national Home Health Elite Award List in 2010 and 2011. Peggy credits her nursing instructors, “We had a star list of educators—Susie Kohn, Dr. Gamble, Dee Stewart, Ben Chang, Jackie Kelly-Killion, Linda Montgomery, Jessie Williams, and Jodie Blair. But the one who impacted me the most was the small, but intimidating Kay Nicholson. She was a challenging instructor who made us work and think. She pushed us to be independent, critical thinkers. Then, when we most needed it, she showed a caring, softer side with a smile and words of encouragement.” Peggy is the mother of four and was pleased when her son chose MAC to start his education. Peggy attended on a volleyball scholarship and recalls, “We had a very good season, beating rival Jeffco for the first time in a long while, and earning

Coach JoAnn Owens a Coach of the Year Award.”

- **Susie Eaton** is a 1973 ADN graduate. It’s been 23 years since her bedside nursing days, and she is still humbled when people stop her to say they never forget the care she gave to a family member or friend. Currently, Susie is a long-term care business partner at Parkland Health Center in Farmington. She applauds MAC’s Allied Health program and says many professionals remain in the local area to work, live and touch the lives of countless community members. In 1995, Parkland Health Center honored her with its Leadership Award. Susie mentored rookie nurses to feel accepted and respected as team members while they were learning the ropes of working in a hospital setting. “Becoming a registered nurse was one of the best and biggest decisions of my life,” she says. “MAC gave me the knowledge to have a career

that allowed me to be a meaningful part of thousands of lives over the past 40+ years."

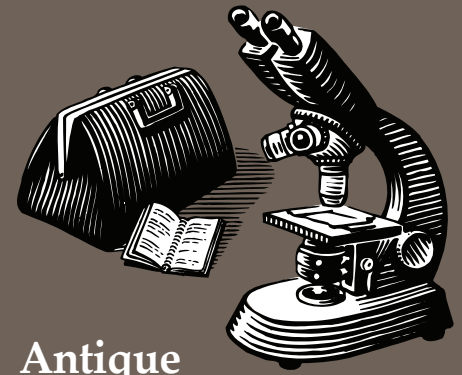
• **Lisa AuBuchon Hammack**, MAC 1983-85, graduated with honors, then earned a BS in Marketing and Management from Southwest Missouri State University. She played Lady Cards basketball and twice earned all-conference honors. Her memorable moment is when the team, with a 17-2 record, won the Midwest Junior College Athletic Conference Championship, the first in school history. For 17 years, Lisa has worked for the Oracle Corporation. She is the Director of Global Programs for Oracle Sales Academy and manages a team that plans and executes global training programs to assist its 23,000 sales reps and managers. She's a six-time recipient of the Oracle Club Excellence Award and recipient of the 2011 Oracle Applications Sales Support MVP Award. Lisa says, "Although not very tech-savvy early in my career, I'm proud to be working for the second largest software company in the world. Many of my peers attended the nation's best business schools, but my Midwest work ethic and foundation have allowed me to not only hold my own, but to excel."

• **John Kecec**, retired MAC technology instructor, pursued his interest in writing after his MAC retirement. *Fire in the Hole*, his second novel, was released this summer. The historical fiction novel, set in the late 1890s and early 20th century, explores the lives of miners and their families in the country's lead, coal, iron, and zinc mining regions, including the Ozark Mountains. John says, "I wanted to portray an understanding of what coal mining was like. I used historical events, such as the Lattimer Massacre, work strikes, life in mining camps, and the role of women to develop the story about a generation of

people forced to adapt to the rapidly expanding industrial revolution and all the accompanying hardships." During his 1968-91 tenure, John served as Technology Department chair and taught engineering, computer graphics, and other technology courses.

• The rewards of being a nurse are limitless says **Jeannine Koen**, a 1985 LPN graduate. She says long-term care is her true calling. Her comprehensive approach attends to her patients' mental, emotional and spiritual well-being as well as their physical considerations. Jeannine observed and learned quality patient care from her nursing instructors. "June Harris, LaDonna Smith and Mrs. Thomas were exceptional," she says. "They taught us far more than what textbooks did. They taught us about compassion, dignity and respect for our patients. Most of all, they really taught with their hearts." Jeannine is now Assistant Director of Nurses at Presbyterian Manor in Farmington, the precise facility where her nursing career began. She adds, "Sometimes nothing else really matters unless you make a personal connection with your patients. Maybe it's a moment to hold a hand, give a hug, or share a prayer."

• **Julie and Jay Sheets** (below) reigned as Farmington's 2014 Country



## Antique Science or Medical Equipment

The MAC Science Department seeks donations of antique medical and science equipment for hallway display cases. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Dr. Rhonda Gamble at (573) 518-2195 or [rhonda@MineralArea.edu](mailto:rhonda@MineralArea.edu).

Days royalty. As Mr. & Mrs. Country Days, the couple and their two sons led the parade and participated in the family-friendly weekend. Julie and Jay met at Murray State University in Kentucky in the agriculture business program. Jay is a 1992-93 MAC alum. Julie is MAC's admissions director. Some may recognize Jay as a contestant on Season 15 of NBC's *The Biggest Loser*. Jay and Julie say the *Biggest Loser* experience drastically changed Jay's lifestyle and has been an inspiration to his family and community members.



# Living Color Memories Needed

MAC



1965-2015

Soon Mineral Area College will celebrate two milestones. In 2015, MAC celebrates its 50th anniversary. Then, in 2022, MAC will mark 100 years since the inception of its predecessor, Flat River Junior College, created in 1922.

In honor of the upcoming anniversaries, MAC requests its alumni, former employees, and supporters to share personal bits of FRJC or MAC history. Sarah Haas, Communications Director, is spearheading the project and says, "Our college memories are the living color of MAC and FRJC. Whether it's our FRJC days from 1922-65, or our MAC days since 1965, we know we're missing a whole personal history. Our yearbooks and newspapers (both MAC's and the local papers) are fantastic, but they usually lacked the 'colorful and memorable' anecdotes, pranks, background stories, and memories we all have. So, we're asking everyone to share some personal living

color memories and experiences to build our history. What made the College special? Share examples of its role in the community that you saw play out. And, most importantly.... What was YOUR experience? We care to know who you were, so we can truly come to know who we are now."

To get your memories flowing, Sarah poses sample questions: What made you decide to come to the College? What did you do for fun? Who are some memorable people and why do you particularly remember them? What are your most memorable experiences, clubs or sports? Do you remember the temporary building fire and why? Favorite instructors . . . the Bloom sisters, Charles Bess, Steve

Easter, Bob Scobee, John Watkins, Bob Civey, Coaches Owen, Sechrest and Loughary, Dr. Gamble, Linda Montgomery and other Allied Health instructors? What were classes like in the old FRJC buildings?

In case Sarah needs more information, please provide: your name, current address, email address, phone number and your connection to MAC/FRJC (student, employee, community member), and years of attendance. Please use the enclosed mailer to send your Living Color Memories to Sarah Haas or email [shaas@MineralArea.edu](mailto:shaas@MineralArea.edu) (subject: Anniversary Memories). You also may call her at (573) 518-2307.

## Here's a Sample of a "Living Color Memory"

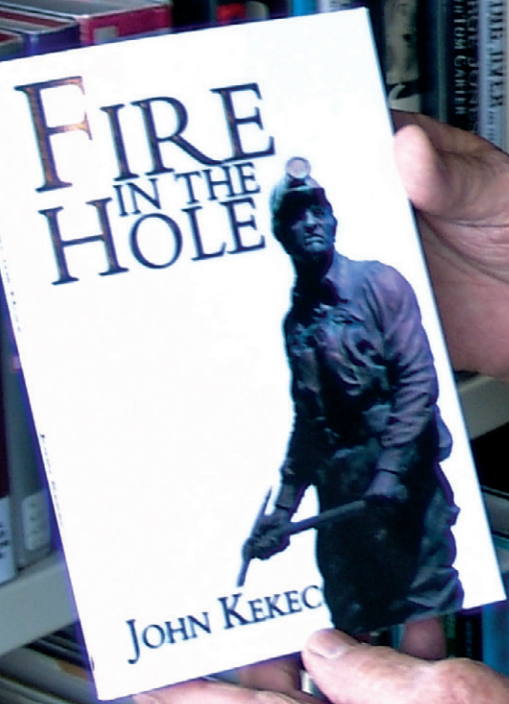
**Former technology instructor, John Kekec, talks about MAC's early days.**

"You know in my advanced age I realize more all the time what MAC has meant to me. We began in the temporary locations around downtown Flat River. The present campus was just a dream then, but soon became a reality. I remember vividly the fruit stand era when Dr. Caster and Deans Dickenson, Sullivan, and Leet and their staff were housed in that old wooden structure where the current Highway Patrol Building is at the front of campus. Back then, most of the campus was a fruit

orchard where we actually hunted quail before and after the temporary building was in use and while the original four campus buildings were being built. Then, there was the semester we spent at Farmington High School after the temporary building burned to the ground. I will never forget those pioneering days when MAC was smaller and things were on a more personal basis. Many of the old FRJC guard from the Flat River School remained when the College took its new name, Mineral Area College, and moved to its new location. We are the old guard who vacated the campus to make room

for this energetic and talented new generation. I have so many memories of occurrences and the faces of students and associates over the years. Yes, those were the good old days. I feel privileged to have been a small part of it, and it will always be a part of me. Since my retirement in '91, I have been actively involved with my writing. My website is <http://johnkekec.wordpress.com/about/>. A copy of my latest historic fiction novel, *Fire in the Hole*, is in MAC's library for those interested in reading it."

~ John Kekec  
technology & pre-engineering  
instructor 1968-1991





# Donor Honor Roll

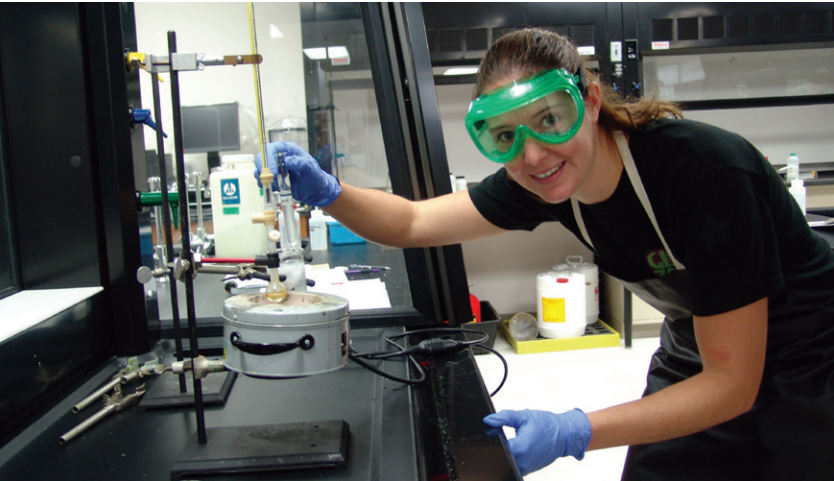
With much gratitude, we recognize generous alumni and friends who loyally support MAC's mission of quality, affordable and accessible education to benefit the students and communities MAC serves. This honor roll recognizes donors from whom gifts were received between May 1 and October 7, 2014.

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