

Alumni

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

FALL/WINTER 2018



#ItStartsHere

TO OUR READERS



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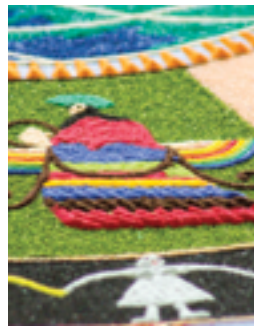
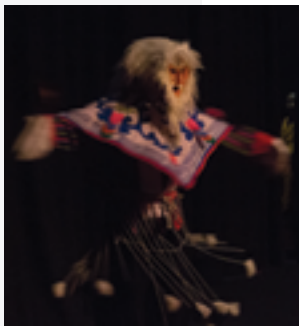
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Dear Alumni & Friends,

Arnold H. Glasow, a legendary American business owner, once quoted that "Success is simple. Do what's right, the right way, at the right time." Having accomplished several major personal goals within the last year, Reneé and I have decided this is the right time to conclude this higher education chapter of our lives, having happily devoted the majority of it here in the Mineral Area.

Strong community and alumni support is one reason Reneé and I accepted the opportunity to take a chance and come to Mineral Area College. It has truly been an honor to serve as the president of this wonderful college, and I appreciate the confidence and respect you've placed in me. This role has been very exciting, challenging, rewarding, fun and humbling. Reneé and I are proud of the positive impact the college has on students' lives and the community and hope we helped to further this goal.

Please continue to support the college. By many, it is considered the jewel of the area as the source of higher education and life-changing opportunities for countless students, a significant fixture in the region's economy, and a major contributor to the region's fine arts programming. With even greater uncertainties in state funding, the college will continue to rely on our alumni and friends—financially and at the ballot box—now and in years to come.

Those of you who know me well understand my leadership style is to create a professional environment that allows others to lead. For the last decade, the college has dedicated considerable time and resources training potential leaders to assume vacant leadership positions resulting from retirements. It was my personal goal to position the college for continued success after Reneé and I conclude our service to Mineral Area College.

Thank you for letting us serve you and the community. We appreciate you taking a reciprocal chance on us. As always, please feel free to stop by "home" and say hello.

Gratefully,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President



Mineral Area Council on the Arts hosted the Sacred Arts Tour, a unique experience of Tibetan Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery, India.

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On the Cover

From outstanding teachers to a great learning environment, students share reasons why they chose MAC to start their higher education journey. Meet more students and discover their reasons for attending throughout this issue. We invite you to like Mineral Area College on Facebook and share your reasons with the hashtag #ItStartsHere.





Dustin Edwards and Mike Carlyon listen as Dr. Nathan Calkins explains how the Geiger counter works.

Respect for **Those Who Serve**

“It’s about personal satisfaction and the feeling you get from helping others.”

Chemistry can be intimidating for students if they think it’s too complicated and difficult to understand. Yet, it’s vital in our daily lives. Chemistry instructor Dr. Nathan Calkins, who earned his PhD in Organic Chemistry from Mizzou, wants students to view chemistry differently and works to make chemistry understandable for his students. He asserts, “Chemistry is one thing that applies to everything in the world. The world works in mysterious ways and chemistry tells us why and how things work.”

Adults who return to school face some different challenges than recent high school graduates. Simply sitting in a class again stirs apprehension, let alone a chemistry class. Dustin Edwards, of Farmington, says, “It’s been 20 years since I was in a chemistry class, and it made my head spin. So, it’s a little ironic that now I’m a chemistry major.” Mike Carlyon, of Park Hills, explains, “One of my biggest obstacles was the fear of leaving my employer to go try something new. It’s something a lot of ‘older’ students face. With the help and support from my wife,

daughter and MAC faculty, I have become more and more excited about my future opportunities.”

When Nathan was approached to identify students for an *Alumni Magazine* article, he selected Dustin and Mike because of his admiration for their “willingness to serve.” He explains, “I grew up on a farm, and it was all about serving your neighbors and church congregation. I learned to respect people who wore the uniform for the work they did to make our family and our country safe. So, I naturally respect

people like Dustin and Mike who put themselves at risk to serve the public and make sure my family is safe. They show great character to juggle their personal lives and school while in a career of service.”

The sophomores hold Dr. Calkins in high regard, too. Dustin says, “Dr. Calkins is one of the most intelligent men I’ve met. He’s also able to teach a great deal in class while making it fun and interesting.” Mike adds, “Dr. Calkins has renewed my interest in college after a long break from school. He’s made chemistry fun and made difficult concepts easy to understand for someone who’s not had chemistry in a long time. He really makes sure we learn the material and makes himself available after class and via email.”

Why serve others? Dustin, a corporal for Ste. Genevieve County Sheriff’s Office, smiles and says, “Serving others is certainly not about the money. It’s about personal satisfaction and the feeling you get from helping others. When people tell you how grateful they are for your help, that’s what motivates me.” He plans to transfer to SEMO to complete his chemistry degree. He’s giving some consideration to forensics and a position in a crime lab.

Mike, who serves in the Army Reserves, is an education and history major who plans to complete his degree at CMU on the MAC campus. He says, “I often train younger soldiers who are just out of high school. I really enjoy working with that age, so I think teaching and coaching at the high school level will be ideal. In the military, like other public service careers, I saw many things. I think it’s very important for young people to know history and facts so we don’t let history repeat itself. I look forward to teaching these things.”

Nothing Really Scares Me

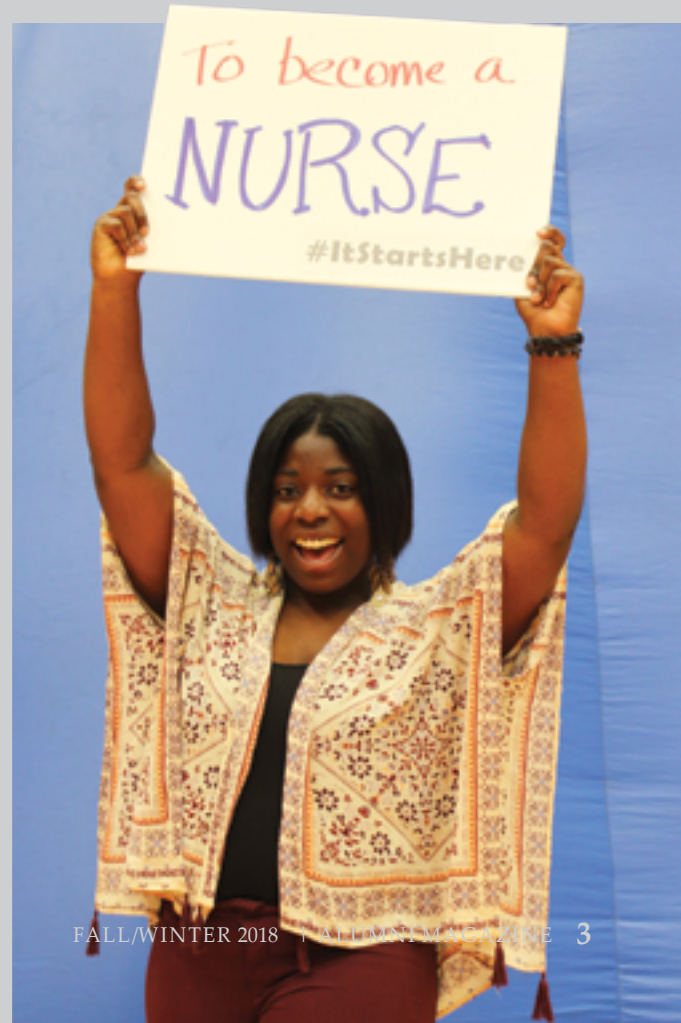
“My dad and grandmother helped make me who I am today. Even though we didn’t have much, they always went out of their way to ensure I was well taken care of and had what I needed,” says Kiera Benton. “They wanted me to have more opportunities and choices than they had. From them, I learned the benefits of hard work and am following in their footsteps. I’m working part-time in the law enforcement academy and am a full-time student. It’s hard work and also presents time management challenges. I’m learning to prioritize better.”

Because Kiera’s father was in the military, she lived several places but considers Houston, TX, and Ste. Genevieve home. Her major is nursing with a sign language minor. Currently she is enrolled in the nursing program prerequisite classes. “Since I was young, I knew the medical field was for me. I considered becoming a cardiologist, but that’s before I knew how much it would cost!” she exclaims. “Nursing is a natural step for me since I’ve had some real life experiences.”

She continues, “I lived with my grandparents while my dad was in the military. About age six, I helped my grandmother care for my grandfather. Then, as a high schooler, I did CNA work and that’s when I began to understand what’s expected of nurses. I witnessed firsthand how hard they work—all aspects of patient care, lifting patients, attending

to patients’ families, communicating with doctors and so much more. I think some students are a bit disillusioned about what it means to be a nurse. My hands-on experiences provided me with a reasonable idea of what I’m getting into before I enter the nursing program.”

How she will use her nurse’s training is still in flux. While she certainly sees herself working in the emergency room, she says, “Sitting still is not really an option for me. And, I know there’s not much that scares me so that may unlock some opportunities, too. I like changing, challenging and fast-paced situations. Maybe a travelling nurse? There are so many possibilities, and I even considered the military.”



Kiera Benton selected MAC because of its affordability and the reputation of the nursing program.



Matthew and Stephanie Wayne enjoy bringing their son, Bruce, to campus to instill the idea of college.

Hardships and Family are Motivators

“MAC isn't an intimidating school, but it certainly packs a punch academically, and the teachers are amazing!”

Sophomores Stephanie and Matthew Wayne understand the benefits of personalized attention, staying focused and working hard to achieve their college and career goals. Three years ago, they relocated to Farmington from Los Angeles, CA, to be closer to family and have a wholesome community in which to raise their son. Both had tried college before, but it just never quite seemed to fall into place. It was the attentiveness of MAC instructors that helped focus their determination toward completing their degrees and walking together at commencement in 2019.

Stephanie's interest in the medical field evolved while translating English to Spanish for her mother at medical appointments. She shares, “Though I

had taken some medical and business classes, I never could decide what to do. So, when Mrs. Barks explained the medical coding degree combined both areas, I was thrilled. I want this degree so I can work in a hospital's medical records department.”

Matthew, a radiology major, explains, “It had been 10 years since I was in school! Now that I'm married and have a child, I needed a plan. My goal is to work in healthcare.” He credits Admissions Director Julie Sheets for her help as he explored options, “Julie was outstanding and pointed me in the right direction. From then on, I noticed a MAC pattern. Every instructor and staff member I met was extremely helpful. Everyone genuinely cares about us, not just as

students but as people. MAC isn't an intimidating school, but it certainly packs a punch academically, and the teachers are amazing! It never feels like it's only about business, and that's very rare today.”

He adds, “My associate degree gives a great medical field foundation and enables me to start my career immediately after graduation.” After graduation and passing the X-ray registry, Matthew plans to become certified in CT or MRI and work at his current clinical site, Washington County Memorial Hospital.

The student support program, EXCEL, is essential to their development as successful college students. Stephanie explains, “Instructors are involved in every step I make. The EXCEL staff helps me gain confidence and a new perspective

on things. Thanks to EXCEL, I've earned As for most of my courses which lead to two scholarships and an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa honor society." Matthew adds, "EXCEL's tutoring has proven to be a godsend for me."

To other adults thinking about MAC, Stephanie reassures, "It's a great campus. Teachers have experiences beyond the textbooks in the fields they teach and pass that practical experience to us. MAC promotes having fun with student clubs and events so students balance life, school, work and a little time to relax. Regardless of your age, MAC is truly a place where success will be the result at the end of your academic journey."

Stephanie and Matthew understand education can boost employment options. They emphasize that earning your degree is something you really must want, and you must be willing to make some sacrifices along the way. Matthew says, "Since I have two others at home who are counting on me, I use that for fuel to succeed in school. Now, as a full-time student, school is my main 'job.' I also work several odd jobs, including window cleaning, cargo delivery and online sales."

Stephanie explains, "I come from Mexican immigrant parents who have endured a lot of hardship so I can have a better life. They risked their lives migrating to the U.S. and have worked odd jobs from selling fruit to collecting cardboard from alleys in exchange for money. The person I am today, graduating with honors and being featured in the *Alumni Magazine*, is thanks to them!"

Away from MAC, the Waynes are very involved in their church ministry. Matthew volunteers to conduct Bible studies with some inmates at Farmington prison.

Affordability is Key

Sophomores Dakota DeRousse, of Ste. Genevieve, and Mohil G. Patel, of Bonne Terre, agree affordability was definitely the determining factor when deciding where to begin their college education.

"MAC is an affordable first step in my college life and lessens the financial pressures as I transfer to a four-year school," says Dakota, an education major. "MAC is helping me achieve my goals by teaching me the materials to succeed in college, as well as information and experiences I will use in the real world. All my teachers are very friendly and are willing to help students when they have problems or offer advice to those who need some guidance. I believe MAC is a good choice for anyone who wants affordable higher education, a variety of classes, helpful faculty and a nice campus environment." Dakota plans to attend SEMO and eventually start a career as a high school chemistry teacher.

Mohil, a business administration major with plans to transfer to St. Louis

University, explains, "Time management is one big challenge every student faces. Juggling my studies, job, and helping with my parents' business makes finding a workable schedule one of the hardest things. MAC was a sensible choice for me because it's affordable and allows me to help my parents with their business on a daily basis. It's also more convenient than a four-year college."

To first-time college students, Mohil shares some simple advice, "Attendance makes a huge impact on how you do in class. Many good students who don't attend classes are dropped or miss the required materials they need. So, coming to class is one of the easiest ways to succeed in college." Mohil adds, "Great programs like EXCEL provide students with help in courses in which they are struggling. MAC's smaller size allows students to really get to know their teachers and receive more one-on-one help. Also, because of recent changes, transferring has become easier than ever."

Mohil Patel and Dakota DeRousse say MAC's affordability alleviates some financial stress.





Disc golf's family atmosphere encourages participation for a variety of ages. Golfers encourage Josh Hickman (above) as he launches his disc.

Disc Golf Course Opens at MAC

This summer, an 18-hole disc golf course opened on campus. Thirteen-year-old Luc Majeske, son of Jenny and Chad Majeske of Farmington, served as the force behind the project. Luc needed an Eagle Scout project and approached the college about building the disc course. With the administration's approval, some MAC Foundation funding, his own fundraising efforts and his parents' support, Luc accomplished his goal. He

Luc Majeske's disc flies toward the basket.



leveraged a variety of resources, including hours of free labor from scout volunteers and area disc golfers, at-cost equipment, and some expertise of disc golf course designers. MAC's course is the third in the county, joining Columbia Park in Park Hills and Engler Park in Farmington.

So, what is disc golf? It resembles traditional "ball" golf and has similar rules. However, the Frisbee-shaped disc serves as both the club and the ball. Players tee off by hurling a hard, plastic disc toward the target—a basket with hanging chains to break the disc's flight. Discs have different flight characteristics—think putters, wedges and drivers—which execute a variety of shots.

Though some term it a millennials' sport, disc golf is a low-impact sport that appeals to people of many ages and walks of life. The equipment is low-cost and

generally there are no greens fees. The average 18-hole game takes about two hours, and the player walks about three miles.

MAC's course brings two alum—Chris Revelle and Joshua Hickman—back to campus. Chris, a 2010 nursing graduate and RN supervisor at Southeast Missouri Mental Health Center in Farmington, explains, "About five years ago, my friend took me to play, and I've been hooked ever since. I play some tournaments, but mostly I'm a casual player who helps run tournaments and weekly league play. I helped start our local club, Mineral Area Disc Golf Club. Check out MADGC or MAD Golf on Facebook."

Josh, a 2013 MAC Law Enforcement Academy graduate and a sergeant for the Missouri Department of Corrections, says, "A buddy and I first played by throwing a Frisbee from light pole to

light pole in the parking lot. Several years later, another friend invited me to play. Since I'm severely competitive, I just had to play. I've squeezed out some Top 3 finishes, but I've not won anything super big. I've witnessed and promoted the sport's growth in the Mineral Area by helping facilitate events and leagues. When I first started playing five years ago, only a handful of local guys played. Now our local club has had back-to-back years of 100+ membership with players from Southeast Missouri to St. Louis. Our local Mineral Area Disc Golf Club partners with a couple neighboring clubs—the Jefferson County Sharpshooters and SEMO Disc Golf. We all have Facebook pages to promote leagues, clinics, special events, etc. The moniker for disc golf is #growthesport."

According to Chris, "The disc golf community itself is like nothing most athletes have ever experienced. It's one big family that promotes health, fellowship and fun for the whole family. When we say anybody can play, we mean it! Everyone starts at the same point, and those with experience are eager to teach and share advice. MAC students are going to love this course. Also, the disc golf community is very charitable with a lot of

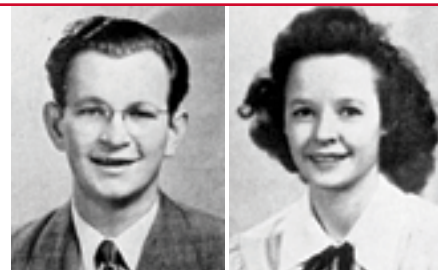
tournaments across the country planned around certain causes such as veterans aid, food pantries, etc."

Josh says, "The economic benefit is what we can make of it. With three local courses, future events can accommodate more players and more spectators. More people means more financial transactions—food, lodging, gas—within the area. Today's huge events started small and now draw thousands of people to cities for multi-day events. It takes time, effort, and a lot of people working together, but it is achievable."

An invitation from Josh: "If you'd like to give disc golf a try, message me on Facebook, and we'll work a time out. If you play, join us for our weekly leagues—Spring through Fall at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays—that rotate between our three local courses. Check our Facebook page, MAD Golf for details."

Local disc golfers have qualified for championship competition. Al Kennon and Seth Wood represented the local area at the 2018 U.S. Amateur Matchplay Championship in Emporia, KS. And, Cadence Kecec is the Girls 6 & Under 2018 PDGA Junior World Champion.

Showing a variety of discs used in the game are Jon Kecec, Chris Revelle, Josh Hickman and Adam DeClue who play regularly on the area disc golf courses.



Flashback

1948 Sophomores

The class included James C. Rehm, Lena Ruth Gibert, Marie Caringer, Robert Smith, Robert D. Rapp, Mary Lee Fulbright and Mary Lou Ward.



Student Services Transition

“I love the excitement of our students!”

After 33 years at MAC, Student Services Dean Jean Merrill-Doss is retiring. In January, Julie Sheets will become the division’s fifth dean since 1965 when Flat River Junior College officially became Mineral Area College.

Jean’s lived the MAC experience—as a student, parent of a student, instructor and dean—and gained priceless insight to help her serve as dean of the division that supports the welfare of MAC students and increases their chances of successfully attaining their educational goals. Jean recalls an instructor’s attentiveness which served as a turning point for her, “Over 30 years ago, I was an art major. But I wasn’t the typical college freshman; I was divorced with three little girls under the age of six. My art instructor, Jerry Walters, was my ‘rock.’ At my lowest point, I remember sitting outside the art

room and wondering how I could survive everything going on in my personal life and continue juggling college, work and raising my daughters alone. Jerry stopped for a visit. Then, he smiled and said, ‘Today’s a new day.’ From his kind words and encouragement, I drew strength which rekindled my determination. MAC was my stepping stone for things to come.”

MAC President Steve Kurtz welcomed Julie saying, “We look forward to Julie’s leadership, collaboration, and service on a broader scale, as we support our students and their academic goals. She earned MAC’s 2016 Leadership Award, assisted on several accreditation projects, and has worked with our faculty and staff on many important initiatives.”

As she looks forward to her new position, Julie says, “I love the excitement

of our students! MAC Admissions has been my home for all 18 years of my career and has prepared me to understand the needs of our students. It’s a privilege to show prospective students the benefits of MAC and to work with them through the application, orientation and class advising segments. Then, a few short semesters later, they are graduating. Seeing students grow and succeed is the best aspect of my career. I am eager to learn about all the components that students might utilize such as assessment, financial aid, housing, athletics, tutoring services, etc. Serving on campus committees has reminded me of our amazing faculty and staff who dedicate their lives to the betterment of our community. I am thrilled to be working with such a great team at Mineral Area College.”

Best wishes to Jean Merrill-Doss (right) on her retirement and to Julie Sheets as she prepares to lead the Student Services division.





MAC Singers and Chamber Singers, conducted by Harry Cecil, and special guests Potosi High School Concert Choir, conducted by Emily Lewis, joined together for MAC's Winter Choral Concert. Over \$500 was raised to support victims of the California wildfires.

Music Unites Community

December generally signals finals and the semester break. For the Music Department, it brings a wonderful series of music performances which bring together MAC students, local area music students, alumni and community members for a variety of events on campus and in the community.

Audiences enjoyed holiday favorites performed by the MAC Community Band directed by Dan Schunks and the Steel Drum Ensemble directed by Doug Berry. Both groups welcome new members—students and community musicians of all ages—to join their weekly rehearsals. If readers are curious about playing the steel drums, there is no experience or musical background needed to join the Steel Drum Ensemble.

The Potosi Concert Choir accepted the invitation to join the MAC Singers and

Chamber Singers, under the direction of Harry Cecil, for the annual Winter Concert. The concert raised funds to support victims of the recent wildfires.

Community Singers is a large choral ensemble open to all MAC students and community vocalists and led by Harry Cecil. MAC Singers and Chamber Singers are open to all students by audition.

To join or learn more, contact the Music Department at (573) 518-2246 or e-mail rpace@MineralArea.edu.



The Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert featured saxophonist and composer Adam Larson.



Community Band Winter Concert is a holiday favorite for the community.



Community Singers rehearse for the Winter Concert.



Steel Drum Ensemble is open to all—no experience needed.



The new industrial maintenance and welding partnership is designed to bridge the training gap between industries and ready-to-work students.

Career & Technical Education

Employers Seek Work Ready Candidates

People generally need some preparation before they enter the workforce, and high school is a logical time to explore some career options. Decisions high school students form regarding training and education create a ripple effect that can impact the rest of their lives.

The demand for work ready individuals continues to escalate. ACT Educational Services defines a “work ready” individual as one who possesses the foundational skills needed to be minimally qualified for a specific occupation as determined through a job

analysis or occupational profile.

Becoming work ready is a complex process. And, not all careers require four-year degrees. For students who favor the job market right out of high school, it is especially critical to be work ready. Employers seek candidates who already possess proficiencies required for specific positions.

MAC’s Career & Technical Education Division specializes in the applied sciences, modern technologies, skilled trades and career preparation. Recently MAC and Farmington High School partnered to offer high school juniors and seniors pre-apprenticeships in advanced manufacturing trades with

concentrations in industrial maintenance or welding.

Welding program students learn blueprint reading, welding basics and earn their “stick” welding certificate. Industrial maintenance students learn and perform preventative and routine repair on basic production systems. Students can earn their OSHA 30 card, a nationally-recognized Certified Production Technician credential, and a 160- to 200-hour work experience with a local employer during the last semester of the program.

Bev Hickam, MAC’s director of Workforce Development, says, “The new industrial maintenance and welding



partnership is designed to bridge the training gap between industries and ready-to-work students. As more industries in the region establish registered apprenticeships, the college hopes to expand the program to other area high schools." This past spring MAC received its second Missouri Division of Workforce Development apprenticeship grant to increase registered apprenticeship programs in the region and included money to develop a high school level pre-apprenticeship program.

Lee Mechanical Contractors of Park Hills already has an apprenticeship partnership with MAC. Aaron Willard, human resource manager for Lee Mechanical, says, "Not only does this initiative recognize the need for qualified candidates in the welding and industrial trades, it also acknowledges that not all students are university-bound, and those who are not need real-world experience."

Know Someone Who Needs Training?

Do you know someone who needs training, but can't afford it? Someone at church or at work? A family member? An acquaintance through the food pantry or social services programs? The solution may be SkillUP which offers funding for short-term training programs throughout Missouri. MAC's Program Support Specialists can assist in identifying training that fits individuals' needs and schedules. Missouri Food Stamp recipients can receive some valuable skills, training or work experience at no cost, based on eligibility.



Five colleges are pooling resources to train students in health care programs which the individual schools themselves could not financially support.

The SkillUP eligible short-term training programs at MAC include areas such as Early Childhood Development Associate, Production Technician, and Logistics Technician and can be completed in less than one year. In addition, non-credit programs on campus such as the Pharmacy Technician, Microsoft User Specialist and Truck Driver training are also available with this funding. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service provides the funding.

SkillUP is designed to promote employability and self-sufficiency and offers a variety of services to participants based on an Individual Employment Plan created between the participant and SkillUP staff. Services include staff-assisted job searches and training, work-based learning, education, vocational training and supportive services. Contact Program Support Specialists Tina Miller at (573) 518-3840 or Stacey Wideman at (573) 518-2145 to learn more.

Health Professions Consortium

MAC joined Moberly, State Fair, Three Rivers and North Central community colleges as a member of the Missouri Health Professions Consortium which brings quality health education to rural Missourians. The consortium, which offers the Medical Laboratory Technician program, pools resources in order to train students in health care programs which the individual schools themselves could not financially support. The concept is two-fold. First, the high training costs are shared among the five colleges. Next, students are offered affordable training which otherwise would not be available at their respective community colleges.

The web-based hybrid curriculum includes on-campus or virtual classroom instruction, on-campus laboratory instruction, and an off-campus clinical rotation component. The classroom lecture component is broadcast to students using interactive television or online learning management system technology. Students participate in centralized lab sessions that bring the students from all campuses together for group lab activities and testing.

MAC currently has one student enrolled in the program. For additional information about the Medical Laboratory Technician program, contact the Allied Health Department at (573) 518-2172 or Consortium Director Alesé Thompson at Moberly Community College at (573) 582-0817 ext. 13624 or by email at aleset@macc.edu.

SkillUP training at MAC includes areas such as Early Childhood Development Associate, Production Technician, Logistics Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Microsoft User Specialist and Truck Driving.





Brice Sechrest, Nicholas Gibson and Brandon Hubbard are new MAC Foundation Board members.

Alumni Join MAC Foundation

Mineral Area College Foundation is pleased to welcome three alumni—Brandon Hubbard, Nicholas Gibson, and Brice R. Sechrest—as new board members. They reflect on their MAC experiences and share their interest in serving in this capacity.

Baseball originally drew Brandon (MAC 1998-00) to MAC. The Bonne Terre native says, “Right out of high school, MAC allowed me to stay close to home while getting a solid academic experience in a great facility with wonderful teachers who were eager to help.” Brandon owns and operates Hub’s Pub & Grill, with locations in Bonne Terre and Potosi, which employs over 60 people. Over the years, Hub’s continues to support MAC’s athletic programs. He is also co-owner

of Hubbard Enterprises, a development company that builds commercial and multi-family units.

“MAC helped me gain the knowledge which laid the foundation to carry on and continue building the family business,” explains Brandon. “MAC serves a very prominent role in our region by giving students a place to attend their first two years and prepare them for their future. My motivation to serve on the MAC Foundation board is to continue to see the college grow and prosper in this great community we live in. Being a part of an important pillar of our community is very important to me.”

Nicholas (MAC 2003-05) is the chief operations officer at Lee Mechanical Contractors, a family-owned business

in Park Hills. He manages multiple, concurrent industrial construction projects for clients, helps project managers with up to 400 crew members, and assists in sales, negotiating, and problem solving.

He says, “I respected my instructors—like Steve Easter and Nancy Petersen—because they were firm but fair, and that motivated me to do better in my life and work. MAC built a solid foundation to obtain my BS in Business Administration & Marketing. I forged lifetime friends and great relationships with staff and administration that help Lee Mechanical’s goals of developing the future workforce.”

Nicholas adds, “As an alumni, joining the MAC Foundation board is an

opportunity to give back to a great organization. MAC is at the forefront of developing students in so many different industries. 'Work ready' is what we like to call it."

Lee Mechanical Contractors has partnered with MAC for apprenticeships that give students "hands-on" training for careers in the manufacturing industry. The goal is to get people more prepared to enter the workplace. Lee Mechanical's investment impacts the overall number of skilled employees for the region's future workforce.

Brice's law practice, Williams & Sechrest PC in Park Hills, focuses primarily in family law, estate planning and probate, bankruptcy and civil litigation. "My instructors were as good as any I had," says Brice (MAC 1997-99). "Some people assume a community college education is somehow inferior to a university one. I probably shared that impression as a teenager. However, I can say without reservation that my two years at MAC were as good, and in many ways better, than much of the other education I received."

Brice's interest in MAC is distinctly personal. He explains, "MAC has a special place in my heart. My granddad, Bob Sechrest, Sr., was the long-time basketball coach, so MAC was a big part of my family growing up. My granny, Eileen Sechrest, especially valued education and considered the college a favorite part of this community. MAC is invaluable to our community, and I whole-heartedly believe in its mission. The more financial support the college receives, the better it can achieve the mission. I hope I can help achieve those purposes through the support the Foundation can provide."

As Good As It Gets

Donate one dollar and get three more!

No, it's not too good to be true. It's an extraordinary matching gift opportunity. Every dollar you donate to the Enhancement Grant Matching Gift Campaign earns up to a \$3-for-\$1 match. Donate \$25. Add the \$75 match. The value of your gift is \$100. It's that simple.

"This match is a powerful tool to multiply the purchasing power of your gift. This fundraiser is as good as it gets and provides more help than any other we do," explains Director of Development Kevin Thurman.

Because the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education recognizes the monumental cost of training students, the Enhancement Grant is an incentive to invest in the state's high demand programs by purchasing equipment to develop and expand career and technical education. In recent years, the grant has provided crucial funding for the Allied Health, Law Enforcement, Fire Academy, Advanced Manufacturing Lab and Agriculture programs.

"This fundraiser continues to make a profound impact during the recent lean budget years," adds Kevin. "Each dollar donated actually brings our own state tax dollars back to MAC. Last year, just

over \$50,000 was raised which equates to over \$200,000 in departmental purchases. MAC Foundation requests your financial support of the Enhancement Grant. We thank the core of annual donors for their continued generosity and hope the \$3-for-\$1 match will entice some first-time donors."

Kevin adds, "We have grown beyond just books for knowledge. Much of today's training requires expensive equipment to provide the necessary hands-on experiences as students prepare to be nurses, farmers, conservationists, fire fighters and law enforcement officers. I think the community will agree that MAC and our area employers want our graduates to have the training that makes them workplace ready."

Take a moment to reflect on how MAC and FRJC impacted your personal and professional life. Please give back to MAC with an Enhancement Grant donation. Contributions are tax deductible. The Enhancement Grant Campaign runs through January 31, 2019. Online giving is available. Visit www.MineralArea.edu/AlumniFoundation and click "Give" or call (573) 518-2114, or use the enclosed envelope.

Courtney Kapper, Ericka Stevens and Emily Gibson feel better prepared to become Licensed Practical Nurses after training with equipment funded by the Enhancement Grant Campaign.

\$25 is worth \$100



THANK YOU



Jesse Hootselle, Eli Claywell, Hayden LaChance and Victoria Chandler are thankful for the financial support to help defray college expenses.

Thankful for Scholarships

Four North County High School friends are incredibly thankful for the scholarships they received as they enjoy their freshman collegiate experience with family and friends near.

Eli Claywell says, "I like MAC's less structured environment and the freedom to make my own decisions. In high school, we were on a super tight schedule. Here, it's all about *you*. *You* make your own decisions and *you* accept the consequences and responsibilities for those decisions. Also, it's great having other North County students here as well as many new people." Eli is combining his A+ benefits with the BBL Scholarship to pay for his tuition and books. He plans to transfer to Missouri State.

Victoria Chandler is working toward a music performance degree. "We get lots of individualized attention from our instructors," she says. "I'm learning a lot in my Jazz Ensemble & Combo course. Dr. Wood is an amazing teacher." Victoria,

who plays the upright bass, explains, "My mom had a dream for us three girls to be a bluegrass band. So, I started playing at age 10. Her dream didn't work out exactly as she planned, but it sure boosted my interest and experiences with music!" She adds, "I'm excited to get the Florence Hawn Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship because it helps with college expenses. And, I don't have to take out a student loan or ask my parents for help."

Hayden LaChance, who earned both music and scholastic scholarships, says, "I'm excited to be at MAC because it's comfortable and better than a four-year school where you don't know anyone." He plays trumpet and explains, "Mr. Schunks gave me the opportunity to be in the Kicks Band, and as a result, it's pushing me to become a better musician. I'm much more confident in what I'm playing and how I'm playing it. I also know I can't slack off if I want to remain in this great band. Everyone in the band is an

outstanding musician, and I'm blessed to be a part of it. The band only meets one night a week, so everyone is expected to be able to play their part solid with no excuses."

Wesley A. Deneke Memorial Scholarship recipient **Jesse Hootselle** plans to teach. "My ultimate goal is completing my master's in education and opening a faith-based preschool," she explains. "I completed 27 college credits while in high school. I've taken advantage of online and on-campus courses, so I am able to continue my job as a nanny. MAC allows me to pursue my love for singing as a member of MAC Singers and the Chamber Singers. I also remain close to friends, family and church. Mineral Area College has opened so many opportunities, and I am excited to see them unfold!"

The students are excited about two upcoming once-in-a-lifetime experiences when they travel to the Elmhurst Jazz Festival near Chicago and a Gospel Mass trip in New York.

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With much gratitude, we recognize generous alumni and friends who loyally support MAC's mission of quality, affordable and accessible education. Thank you for improving lives and enriching communities. Donor gifts received between April 23, 2018, and October 1, 2018.



At the annual fall state conference, Isabel Legg was elected vice president of Missouri's PAS Association.

Inspired by Ag Education

Despite the odds not in her favor, Isabel Legg is excelling. As a high school student, she was basically homeless and living day-to-day with her friends' families. Yet, she continued to do well in school and extra-curricular activities. When she turned 17, she was totally on her own since her mother subscribed to the "17 years old, on your own" principle. Fortunately, her fiancé's grandparents came to the rescue and offered her both a place to live as well as some stability and kindness when she really needed it.

Isabel is like the many MAC students who rely on a combination of financial aid sources to pay for college. Sheer determination to earn her degree fuels her ambition to work multiple jobs to help offset her college expenses. "Over the summer I worked several seasonal jobs to save money so I'd only have to work the two main jobs during the school year," she explains. "I worked at Schoen Dairy

"I can't wait to have my very own classroom."

Farm in Oak Ridge and Bark-N-Bath, a dog grooming facility in Perryville. Then, I taught agriculture to elementary students for Missouri Farmers Care through Agriculture Education on the Move. This semester, I'm working at the dairy farm and am so fortunate to have a position on campus in the Career Services Office. I'm grateful for my supervisors because they support me in everything I do on and off campus. When I really need a boost, they're here for me."

Because of her incredibly rewarding high school ag experiences, this Perryville agriculture major is motivated to be an ag teacher. She says, "My involvement in FFA and as the Missouri State Vice President taught many life skills—like confidence, maturity, public speaking and leadership—that cultivate success in all aspects in my life. FFA even taught me how to handle failure. It also emphasized

volunteering and helping others. All these experiences made me realize the huge impact teachers can make and how they can bring out the best in their students."

Isabel, who is the Mineral Area Heritage Tractor Club scholarship recipient, says, "I can't wait to have my very own classroom. One goal I have is to sit with my students to learn what they hope to achieve through ag education and try to personalize my approach so we can build solid relationships as we work together toward those goals. I hope I can inspire my students as my FFA sponsor, Mr. Allison, did for me." She is very active on campus and serves as the current president of MAC's Professional Agriculture Students Association. Isabel knows her hard work and determination are keys to improving her own lifestyle and becoming a role model for her future students.

Celebrating Successful Alumnae

Five graduates were recognized at the annual MAC Foundation Community Ladies Luncheon.

Pamela J. (Thompson) Hanner (MAC 1984-86) is in her third year as assistant principal at Kelly A. Burlison Middle School in Fredericktown. Her responsibilities include evaluation of classroom instruction, analysis of test data, discipline and communication with parents. Pam recalls, "I had the pleasure of having Mrs. Sandra Miller for an instructor. One day, she asked me to stay after class. She politely asked me not to chew gum in class because my chomping was distracting her and those around me. I was mortified, to say the least. The lesson I learned was to be conscientious of how you present yourself to others and to be aware of your own idiosyncrasies so you will not offend others."

Lisa J. Hardy (MAC 1991-92) earned an LPN degree. She says, "I had great mentors. My mother reminded me to treat others how I would like to be treated. Teachers, coaches and employers instilled confidence, leadership and techniques to make it to the finish line. MAC's nursing program taught me determination and adaptation. Though my life took a different direction, these principles are

still important and have been instrumental as my husband and I built our company, D & L Developers, Inc., from the ground up." Lisa recounts a story, "We had 7 a.m. clinicals and a C-section was first up. Our instructors stressed that we should eat a little something even if we didn't get woozy at the sight of blood. 'What? Blood never bothered me.' Soon they walked me back ever so slowly, and I slid down the wall of the operating room."

Lori D. (Smith) Lamb (MAC 1989-91) is in her fifth year as a principal in the Farmington District. She explains, "My proudest career moment was when I returned to Washington-Franklin Elementary as principal. This is where my husband and I attended kindergarten through fifth grade. It gives me a strong sense of pride to now be the administrator in the building where I began my own educational career." Lori adds, "A personal accomplishment is earning my doctoral degree in education and having my four boys witness me return to college as an adult and be diligent in my studies to complete my degree."

After 33 years at MAC, **Jean Merrill-Doss** (MAC 1980-82, 1984) will retire in December. She shares, "As MAC's Dean of Students, I think of all the students

I met when they enrolled. Then, I had the honor of calling their names at graduation. What a meaningful way to celebrate the accomplishments of each and every student." Although Jean's enjoyed many career successes, she explains her most important accomplishment, "I am so proud I was able to share with my daughters the importance of education and the value of lifelong learning—and that they listened. They grew up with me always being in college and realized the importance of education. MAC truly was the first step for all of us."

For 25 years, **Laura K. Momot** (MAC 1981-82, 1991) has worked at North County Primary School in Bonne Terre. She says, "As a Reading Recovery teacher, nothing was more fulfilling than having the privilege to teach students reading and writing strategies." In her current position as assistant principal, her major role is working with teachers and assisting with the implementation of instructional strategies. Laura says, "We're all pleased the school has earned top recognition for three consecutive years for our approach to teaching appropriate behavior. North County Primary has seen amazing results due to our team approach and clearly stated behavioral expectations and reward systems."

Congratulations to the award recipients Laura K. Momot, Jean Merrill-Doss, Lisa J. Hardy, Lori D. Lamb and Pamela J. Hanner.





Mary Lu and Lenard Politte emphasize how important two-year colleges can be for students working toward their college educations.

MAC is the Perfect Choice

Bismarck High School sweethearts Lenard L. Politte and Mary Lu Wallace attended Flat River Junior College (FRJC) in 1952 and 1953.

Lenard says, "I married my high school sweetheart in 1956. Now, we have four wonderful children and are celebrating 62 years of marriage."

The Polittes are compelling proponents for higher education and the tremendous opportunities offered by community colleges. They highly regard their FRJC education as a significant segue to their personal and professional successes. Lenard, a retired cardiologist,

"...I remember listening intently to a radio broadcast about a plane that crashed on its way to Saigon."

explains, "Without FRJC, I'm not sure I would have had the opportunities I did. Academically, FRJC prepared a solid foundation for our futures. I was accepted to the University of Missouri's Medical School and graduated in 1962 with honors as first in my class. My residency included pathology, internal medicine and cardiology."

"Affording a college education didn't come easy. There wasn't any sort of

financial aid, so we worked to pay for college," Mary Lu explains. "I worked the 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. shift at the telephone company in Bismarck. Lenard worked for the railroad. We hardly saw each other, but sometimes I was able to call him from work! Sacrifices were necessary to ensure we graduated."

The FRJC experience helped develop confidence and poised Mary Lu and Lenard to formulate decisions which

impacted their futures. Lenard was the first cardiologist to launch a private practice in mid-Missouri. He then established Missouri Cardiologist Associates and was a founding member of Columbia Regional Hospital and Boone Clinic. After 30 years, he retired from private practice and, for the last 18 years, has worked as Clinical Professor of Medicine teaching cardiology at the University of Missouri's Medical School.

In addition to her work at the Medical Center in Columbia, Mary Lu was both mother and father to their young family during Lenard's tour of duty and busy professional life. As the wife of a cardiologist, Mary Lu understood the time-consuming demands of Lenard's work and the responsibilities she had as a parent.

When Lenard spent a year at Madigan Hospital in Washington and a year at the 95th evacuation hospital at DaNang, Vietnam, Mary Lu was on her own. She recalls, "I was so busy raising three young children, I didn't have too much time to worry. And, that wasn't all bad. During his time in Vietnam, we only talked twice. Those three-minute calls were via ham radio, so it was nothing like today. We wrote letters every day to keep in touch. Once, when Lenard was to fly to Saigon, I remember listening intently to a radio broadcast about a plane that crashed on its way to Saigon.

That definitely brought several days of worry. Other women whose spouses were in the service and I drew strength from our children and each other during this time."

At every chance they can, Mary Lu and Lenard praise FRJC and today's community colleges as the nucleus for many personal and professional accomplishments. They explain, "If it had not been for our being able to afford Flat River Junior College and the encouragement from our dedicated teachers, the rest of our careers would not have happened. This stepping stone was so important for us and so many others. The sacrifices that our parents and friends made on our behalf are immeasurable." This year, when Lenard was honored at a University of Missouri event, he noted the invaluable role FRJC played for him and Mary Lu.

Mary Lu and Lenard have generously given back to and advocated for their alma maters. Lenard has previously served on boards for Mineral Area College Foundation, the University of Missouri and Stephens College. Lenard says, "Two awards are most important to me. One is Mineral Area College's Distinguished Alumni Award. The other is the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from The University of Missouri Campus."



Flashback

1958 Sophomores

The class included Nancy Collar, Marvin Baker, Ronald Dugal, Maple Wood, Ronald L. Marler, Richard Copeland and Shirley Ann Crabtree.

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference."

- Kathy Calvin



Keith Hulsey's variety of activities demonstrate his desire for lifelong learning.

FRJC Was My Wake-up Call

“I became committed to education and becoming a lifelong learner.”

Educator. Business owner. Pilot. World Traveler. Fisherman. Blackjack player. Keith Hulsey is a “doer.” Keith (FRJC 1955-57) recounts, “At Flat River Junior College, I became committed to education and becoming a lifelong learner. As a freshman, I didn’t fully commit, leading to a few bad grades. That wake-up call helped me realize the importance of getting a degree and motivated me to apply myself to do

whatever I needed to do to be successful. This was a turning point in my life. I thank FRJC for serving me well and inspiring me to become a ‘doer.’”

“I do strive for excellence,” explains Keith. “One accomplishment I’m exceptionally proud of is how hard I worked to earn my college degree. To afford my education, I balanced a 40-hour per week job with a full course load. As a recreation therapist at Fulton

State Hospital, I was provided meals and housing in the employees’ dorm, otherwise I couldn’t have done this. For classes, I commuted 60 miles daily to Missouri University in Columbia. Though it was very difficult at the time, my education proved invaluable.”

In 1970, he moved to California where he served as personnel manager for a real estate leasing and rentals business. Later Keith bought an existing glass business which he operated for eight years. In 1986, he and his wife sold the business and moved to Oregon. That’s when Keith joined the faculty at Southwestern



Oregon Community College in Coos Bay.

He pioneered a significant multimedia initiative that integrated into the Adult Basic Education program and trained employees on its use. In 1995, Keith was recognized with the college's prestigious President's Employee Exceptional Excellence in Action Award, an honor which brought him much pride. In the nomination, his peers described Keith as, "an excellent facilitator...goes beyond what's required...outstanding problem solver, quality listener...His friendly demeanor, infectious smile, sense of humor...are extraordinary." He retired in 1999.

Keith pursued his childhood interest in planes. While at FRJC, Navy recruiters talked to his class about the Navy's Ensign Flight Program. He recalls, "I was very interested in becoming a flight officer. But, we were advised to finish our four-year degrees first. After my MU graduation, I opted to become a commercial pilot but quickly learned the experienced military pilots coming out of Vietnam flooded the industry. So, I took private lessons. Even before I had my full license, I purchased a 1947 Cessna 140. I kept that little airplane for several years flying mostly around Missouri to MU football games and home to Farmington. Eventually I sold that airplane, but a friend encouraged me to buy another. Soon, I found a classic Stinson which had just been restored to premium condition. I kept it for 22 years until I gave up flying." Keith enjoys retirement in Coos Bay.



Hannah Fritsche-Donze was Laura Neislein's high school agriculture teacher.

Ag Education Trends

"Ag teachers are in short supply," says Agriculture Department Chair Chad Follis. "We're pleased several MAC graduates returned to the area and are high school FFA/Ag teachers in Ste. Gen, Farmington, Fredericktown and Perryville." Rusty Allgier (MAC 2011-13) says, "Even when I got to MAC, I wasn't certain what area of agriculture was for me. Dr. Follis encouraged me to speak to a SEMO advisor about teaching. And, here I am, back at home in Fredericktown teaching ag. Now, as a teacher, I encourage undecided students to start at MAC and ease into college decisions."

Female role models like Hannah Fritsche-Donze (MAC 2003-05) and Laura Neislein (MAC 2009-11) are a part of a trend bringing more females into agriculture careers. Laura remarks, "Hannah was my ag teacher, and without a doubt, she was a mentor. Now, she's a colleague whose opinion I appreciate. The agriculture education world is unique because we definitely see a whole circle evolve."

Hannah, originally from Perryville and now teaching in Ste. Genevieve, explains, "When I started teaching 11 years ago, I think there were only about five or six females teaching in the southeast district. Now, there are about 15 females."

She says, "I grew up on a dairy, beef, swine and row crop farm in Perry County. My mom was a big influence. She farmed full-time with my dad,

running the combine, tractors, grain trucks and milking cows. There really isn't anything she can't do around the farm. I wanted to be just like her in that sense. I joined FFA and loved every minute of it. Since I always wanted to work in agriculture, I thought teaching was my best choice. Now, every day is different and gives me new challenges and opportunities to work with some pretty amazing students."

Laura earned her degree in agriculture education with a minor in animal science and is now "home" teaching at the Perryville Area Career & Technology Center. She explains, "Being the only daughter, I was not expected to work in the fields and feed the livestock like my brothers, however, that didn't stop me from trying. I watched my brothers be active in our local FFA chapter. Once I was able to join this great organization, it made sense to make a career out of it. MAC was my stepping stone to ensure teaching was for me."

She adds, "Many of my FFA members are ladies. It's important that I show them that they, too, can be strong women who are successful in the agricultural field. It's no longer just sows, plows and cows. It doesn't just belong to the good ol' country boys anymore. We need more young adults to determine how to feed the growing population on less and less available farmable land."

Something Special about St. Joe

“It’s like teaching little angels all day, every day!”

Associate degrees are the foundation for rewarding careers for five St. Joseph Catholic School teachers—Jesi Bayless (2007-09), Shirley J. (Seabaugh) Bieser (1974-76), Andrea (Lawson) Eaton (1984-86), Misti Horton (2006-08) and Mandy (Bieser) Whitener (2005-07). All agree there’s something extra special

about teaching at St. Joseph Catholic School in Farmington.

Pre-kindergarten teacher Misti, from Irondale, prepares preschoolers for a smooth transition to kindergarten. She says, “St. Joe’s family atmosphere plays an important part in our learning environment. The best part of being a

teacher is watching children light up when they learn something new. And, at this age, there is never a dull moment. Their excitement is contagious, they love to learn and they’re so excited to learn. Every day is different and fun!”

Jesi, the sixth grade teacher from Farmington, says, “Kids have many experiences, good and bad, and I want to be someone they can turn to for help

Misti Horton, Andrea Eaton, Shirley Bieser, Mandy Whitener and Jesi Bayless create interesting classroom environments to inspire learning at St. Joseph Catholic School in Farmington.



and to cheer them on. While teaching the importance of a well-rounded education, I help them see just how much they are capable of achieving. Also, I'm blown away by the incredible support from my colleagues and parents here. The best thing about being a teacher is knowing how loved you are every day, even when you're a math teacher! When days get hard, my kids are smiling back at me as a reminder of just how much of a difference I am making. I am so incredibly thankful for these St. Joe kids. They truly are more amazing than I could ever describe." Jesi will soon



complete her master's degree and is a MAC math tutor who also teaches an evening math course.

Andrea, the third grade teacher from Farmington, says, "I always knew I wanted to teach and help children succeed. I retired after 29 years in the public schools. Then, I decided to teach at St. Joe where I've been for two years. I still enjoy helping kids learn and implementing different strategies to reach all kinds of learners. I love the holy environment! We pray throughout the day. Christ is the center of our learning. Our small classes make it easier to teach and provide so much more individualized attention. Our parent involvement is wonderful."

Mandy, who is from Farmington and in her tenth year of teaching, says, "I have always loved teaching. This is my second year at St. Joe, and I truly feel this is what teaching is all about. Small classes inspire our students to strive to higher standards. The relationships I build with my students feel like they are part of my family. I just love the uplifting community and faith-filled education St. Joe offers. It's like teaching little angels all day, every day!" In addition to teaching fourth grade, Mandy serves as the youth group leader.

Shirley, of Farmington, explains, "When the priest asked me to teach first grade, I thought, 'There is no way.' But, I accepted the challenge, found my passion, and started on my elementary certification. My first three years were here at St. Joe. Then, I moved to the Farmington District as a classroom teacher and principal. I retired in 2014." Soon, Shirley answered another call from a priest, this time to serve as St. Joe's principal. She says, "I believe teaching about God and our virtues creates better productive caring individuals. I loved my public school experience, but having the opportunity now to teach about God is amazing. I've truly been blessed to work with such amazing people over the last 30+ years. So many students have touched my heart, and I cannot praise all the parental support I have received."



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



Justin and Lisa Callahan brought Wilson, their pet shihpoo, when they visited campus this fall.

Not Ready for Total Retirement

Lisa (McClaskey) and Justin Callahan say MAC is about providing opportunities. Though basketball brought them to MAC, they gained so much more. After completing their AA degrees, Lisa (MAC 1982-84) and Justin (MAC 1986-88) advanced their degrees in education.

“Coach Bill Bradley offered me a scholarship when I was still a high school junior,” Lisa recalls. “Even though I was injured during my senior year, he honored the scholarship which was also a great financial opportunity. Since I wasn’t ready to leave home, MAC

“When you spend more than half of your life in a career you love, it is hard to not be a part of it.”

gave me time to make some decisions. I remember my first MAC game...I went after a loose ball, collided with the opponent and ended with a black eye!”

Justin served four years in the United States Marine Corps prior to attending MAC. He says, “I returned home to go to school. MAC was close and had low

tuition. Plus, I wanted the chance to try playing college basketball. It was Tim Gray’s first year as head coach, and he allowed me to walk on. I am incredibly grateful Coach Gray gave me the chance for a tremendous MAC experience. He helped me see that my love for school and basketball could be a perfect fit for teaching and coaching. All my teachers prepared me well for my future.”

Both recently retired after long, rewarding careers in the Farmington District. For 31 years, Lisa taught second and third grades. Justin spent 22 years as a teacher, coach and administrator. Now,

they have returned to the classroom and hardwoods in a part-time capacity.

"When you spend more than half of your life in a career you love, it's hard to not be a part of it. We're not quite ready to be fully retired," explains Lisa. "Now, I teach part-time and share my personal teaching experiences with college students who want to become educators." Justin says, "I teach at St. Paul Lutheran in Farmington. It is awesome to step into a classroom every day and be able to teach math. The small classes and Christian values promote a good climate for teaching and relationship building."

Lisa continues, "Basketball's been a part of our lives even before we knew

each other. Once we started teaching, coaching seemed a natural fit since we're so passionate about the game. We still really enjoy teaching the skills to young people and preparing them to compete at the next level. So, right now, we're coaching at the middle school level. It's rewarding to see our players improve and share our passion for the game." Of his many coaching highlights, Justin considers his biggest to be when Farmington made its first-ever Final Four appearance in 2014.

The Callahans believe MAC still is a good place to start college. Lisa says, "I made a lot of new friends, even some who were my high school sports rivals. However, at the college level, we had

to come together as teammates." Justin says, "I loved the MAC-Three Rivers rivalry the most. Just like today, they drew the biggest crowds. I remember how physical the games were and that it would take days to recover from the soreness." Then, he chuckles as he says, "To friends, I always like to point out in MAC's basketball program how I was an All-American while at MAC... Unfortunately, when I remove my thumb, they can see the word 'Academic' in front of All-American. However, it is still an honor I am very proud of." The Callahans have been married for 30 years, have two sons and live in Farmington.

Marvelous Act of Kindness

This year, MAC Classified Staff's random act of Holiday kindness focused on the students. Classified Staff President Chris Visnovske explains, "MAC's Food Pantry made us aware of some unmet basic needs of students. It's unthinkable our students sometimes do without food. So, our fundraising efforts—raffles and holiday tee shirt sales—raised \$1,500 to stock the pantry's shelves. It feels so wonderful to help our students."

Student comments indicate the pantry's profound impact. One student explains,

"The food pantry literally has been my only source of food several times in my life." Another says, "The pantry made me have one meal a day." The third adds, "It's helped my family eat when we've had no money."

Ellen Miller and Jennifer Sikes, the impetus behind the pantry, say "It started with a cardboard box full of food and a prayer. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of MAC employees and our community, our pantry keeps the shelves stocked and positively impacts the lives of our students."



MAC Classified Staff conducted fundraisers to support the campus food pantry.





Flashback

1968 Sophomores

The class included Sharon Sechrest, Terry Williams, Roxann Laramore, Sandra Gerstenschlager, Larry Ingracia, Terry Sebastian and Sharon Dugal.



Dr. Steven Kurtz welcomes Shirley Hofstetter who will serve as Interim President.

▲ Dr. Kurtz Retires, Interim President Named

On December 31, Dr. Steven Kurtz will finish his tenure as president of Mineral Area College. He began as the dean of Arts & Sciences Division in 2001 and was named president in 2007. He originally planned to retire on June 30 but notified Board of Trustees, faculty and staff of his acceptance of a once-in-a-lifetime professional opportunity he will begin in the Pacific Northwest in January.

Steve says, "Here at MAC, I've enjoyed many rewarding accomplishments, but four in particular stand out. Passing the bond issue and advocating for the college and MCCA in Jefferson City are two. Next is the opportunity to serve as the MCCA Legislative Chair from 2014-17. And, the most rewarding of all is seeing our graduates excel and hearing alumni tell me how MAC was instrumental in their success."

The Board of Trustees named Shirley Hofstetter Interim President. With concerns about state revenue and declining enrollment, the Board chose Shirley based on her budgetary strengths and ability to lead the focus on finances under very difficult financial circumstances. Shirley has served as MAC's chief financial officer since September 2015. She is a CPA and holds an MBA.

A Presidential Search Committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, composed of faculty, staff, administrators, board members and community members will lead the search for a new college president. The college is launching a national search with the goal of interviewing finalists in February.

● Gerwitz Named New AD

Jim Gerwitz is the new athletic director and fills the vacancy left by Mike Overman, who is now St. Louis Community College's athletic director. "I'm incredibly thankful and am really looking forward to carrying on the tradition of MAC athletics," he says. "Twenty years ago, MAC gave me an opportunity with a full-time job, and I've never worked anywhere else. This is a great place to work with awesome people."

After playing baseball at MAC in 1994-95, Jim continued playing at SEMO. In 1997, he returned to MAC as a student assistant coach. He was hired as a criminal justice instructor and eventually landed the head baseball coaching position. He says, "Giving up coaching was a very difficult decision. But, the demands of coaching really limited my family time. Now, I'm excited because this position brings me back closer to

MAC sports.”

One of his many great coaching memories is the 31-18 season in which MAC finished third in the regional tournament with a team filled with local talent. Jim describes another coaching reward, “I’m proud to see former players coaching high school baseball in the area. It’s wonderful to know they are teaching baseball and fostering relationships with students to build confidence and leadership that will extend beyond the field.”

Jim belongs to the Missouri Community College Association and is a baseball umpire and basketball referee for the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

▼ New Trustee Named

In October, **Stuart “Mit” Landrum, Jr.**, former Farmington mayor and president of a self-owned software development company for Medicare and Medicaid providers, was sworn in as the newest member of the Mineral Area College Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Trustee Jerry Sullivan. In April 2019, Mit will have an opportunity to run for the six-year term representing Sub-district 3 of MAC’s taxing district.

One of Mit’s interests is preparing a well-trained workforce which he considers paramount to the region’s job

Mit Landrum joins the MAC Board of Trustees.



Students assisting with the Farmington Pet Adoption Center website are: (seated) Tyler McDowell, Samantha Williams, Karissa Hobbs, Victoria Forsythe, (standing) Heath Strickland, Logan Kesselring, Jim Bilhorn (FPAC), Dr. Amy Henson, Michael Freeland and Trevor Brandon.

development. He explains, “There’s a new age coming for the job market, and it’s coming faster than we may expect. Already we see the manufacturing sector using smart robotics and the service industry implementing artificial intelligence. We should anticipate and be ready for more of this higher technology in our workplaces. I’m convinced if state and federal job training dollars come available, the focus will be community colleges because they’re natural places to train people. Community colleges are located closer to where people live and work and reduce the need to uproot the family. Today, industry and businesses are locating where they find a trained workforce and opportunities for additional training.”

Mit sees MAC as a critical component in the region’s job development landscape. He continues, “Education is always a major factor for potential businesses looking at our area. It’s essential for people in our area to have a facility that’s ready to give them what they need for meaningful work in the future. The college has always served a meaningful purpose in the community.”

Mit’s father, Stewart Landrum, Sr., served on the board in the 1960s and 70s, and his wife, Chris, retired from MAC several years ago.

▲ Match of Talent and Need

When an opportunity presented itself, the **Web Page Development class** used its classroom skills to tackle a website design project for the Farmington Pet Adoption Center, a local non-profit agency. Instructor **Dr. Amy Henson** explains, “Prior to the pet adoption project, students worked solely through textbook examples of building websites. The idea of building a functional website for a local, admired organization was received very well by the students. Excitement continued to grow as the class became more involved in the project.”

Students devised an appropriate design theme and formatted the necessary web pages according to content provided by the no-kill shelter. Working in teams, they were responsible for areas such as content and photography to writing and proofreading to formatting and working with CSS and JavaScript technologies.

“We were very fortunate to have so



Scholarship recipient Madalyn Rehkop (center) meets Delta Kappa Gamma members Pat Burch, Pam Jaycox, Jennifer Sikes and Kim Bohnenkamp.

many students with pre-existing skills that directly applied to this project," adds Amy. "It was a perfect fit of talent and need. I'm proud of what the students have accomplished, and I'm extremely pleased we could help a local organization. Not only did the students apply their skills to a real world situation, they also learned about the Farmington Pet Adoption Center which works on the local level to reduce the almost three million dogs and cats that are euthanized each year."

▲ Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship Recipient Named Madalyn Rehkop, of Fredericktown, was selected by the Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International as the 2018-19 scholarship recipient. Madalyn is pursuing an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree at MAC and plans to graduate in May 2019.

She credits her high school experience

as an A+ Scholarship Program tutor as her inspiration for wanting to become a teacher. She is excited to have the opportunity to inspire young children in her own future elementary school classroom.

Delta Kappa Gamma is a professional honor society of key women educators around the world. The local Theta Chapter represents Madison, St. Francois, Washington, and Iron Counties and has about 35 members. DKG's mission is to offer fellowship and support for

Nick Kennon at the PGA tournament with his daughter and father, Gil (MAC 1972-73).



fellow women educators, promoting professional and personal growth to members at all stages of the profession. Each year, the Thetas award a scholarship to a pre-service teacher at Mineral Area College, collect and donate personal care items to local school districts, and reach out to first-year women educators in the region with information welcoming them to the profession.

◀ Nick Kennon Works PGA

Nick Kennon (MAC 2004), golf course superintendent at Crown Pointe Country Club in Farmington, was selected to be one of the greens crew for the 100th annual PGA tournament held at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis.

• Three Straight for Lady Cards

Last year's winning culture and trip to the National Tournament helped fuel this season's performance for the Lady Cards' volleyball team. The Lady Cards returned



Flashback to Flat River

Many remember Flat River as a hub of activity decades ago. Thank you to Keith Hulsey for submitting this recolored photo.

to the NJCAA National Tournament for the third straight year. In addition to its 27-3 regular season record, the team triumphed as Conference, Region 16 and District K champions. Team play as well as individual play drew national attention. The Lady Cards achieved the program's highest-ever national ranking when it rose to #5 in the NJCAA Division I poll. The team also celebrated the national recognition earned by freshman Laura Danezzi, of Inimutaba, Brazil, and sophomore Katie Duncan, of Imperial, as the NJCAA Division I National Offensive Players of the Week for their outstanding play. Laura and Katie are only the second and third players in MAC's volleyball program history, and join Jane Kickham from 2017, to earn this top

recognition. The Lady Cardinals finished the season in tenth place at the National Tournament. The team's overall season record ended at 29-5 and were ranked in the Top 10 throughout the season. See more Lady Cards volleyball information at www.mineralarea.edu/athletics/womensvolleyball.aspx

▼ Baseball at Busch Stadium

In September, the Cardinals Baseball team played St. Louis Community College in Busch Stadium, the St. Louis Cardinals ballpark. Playing on a Major League Baseball field is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most players since few are selected into the professional leagues. This big league contest ended in a 7-7 tie.

The MAC Cardinals Baseball team played in Busch Stadium in September.



Flashback

1968 Sophomores

The class included Virgil Hossier, Jean Ragsdale, Judy Perry, John Boyer, Doug Schade, Sheila Binder and Marvin Bohnenkamp.

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