

MINERAL AREA COLLEGE Alumni

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

SPRING/SUMMER 2014





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Although it seems like it was just yesterday, the College is completing its first academic year after the September Open House marking the end of major construction projects. Faculty and students are taking full advantage of the features promised with the \$8 million “no-tax increase” bond issue: new science classrooms, a renovated C.H. Cozean Library, and modernized Business Office and Student Services spaces that provide a “one-stop” shop for current and potential students. Again, thanks for your support, and we look forward to another cycle of planning with the goal of strengthening our College.

There is an old adage pertaining to the importance of long-range planning: If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail. Every five years, the College, along with input from the community, reflects on the past and analyzes data and trends with the goal of moving the College forward with its mission to provide affordability and accessibility to higher education. The latest rendition of the strategic plan should be finalized over the summer months. Faculty and staff will work on updating the College’s long-term facilities plan over the next year.

The news from Jefferson City has been fairly optimistic this current session. The General Assembly passed legislation that slightly increases funding for community colleges and provides an extra allocation for equity funding. However, revenues generated by the State that are typically associated with higher education funding have only increased by a modest amount compared to a year ago.

The amount of state allocation as a portion of the College’s operating budget has dropped substantially since 1998. At that time, the percentage of state allocation that comprised the College budget was 42 percent. The percentage today has dropped to 22 percent. Student tuition and fees have made up for the difference. The economic environment today makes it difficult for families on a limited budget to pay for a college education. That is why it is important for our Foundation to focus its fundraising efforts on assisting students with scholarships and other financial assistance to help them obtain their degrees. Now more than ever, we need your help to achieve this goal.

The College congratulates Dick Wood, a 1961 FRJC graduate, as the College’s 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient and extends best wishes to this year’s retirees Elaine Belovich, Cleta Cash, Trish Fields, Brad Porter and Rusty Straughan. We also thank Senator Gary Romine, our former trustee, for delivering the Commencement address.

The campus is very beautiful this time of year. Please stop by for a visit. We would like to show you around.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz



MAC Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Dick Wood, President Steven Kurtz and Commencement speaker Senator Gary Romine

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Featured Photos

- **On the Cover:** Family, faith and music are the foundation for Jeremy Boyer’s life and career. His music is a powerful language that elicits many emotions—celebration, sorrow, delight, sadness—and touches everyone’s souls in a unique way.

- **Commencement:** This year marked the college’s ninetieth commencement ceremony.

- **Volleyball Milestone:** Lady Cards display the first-ever MCCAC Conference Volleyball Championship banner.



Keep Reading

For more news and events, visit www.MineralArea.edu.

Photos courtesy of Brandon Scheidt

Statewide Ag Competition

MAC hosted the 2013 statewide Post-Secondary Agriculture Students Organization (PAS) conference for 175 college students and their sponsors from MAC, Three Rivers, North Central, Linn State, Crowder, St. Louis Community College and Northwest Missouri State and representatives from the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

The participants had two action-packed days filled with leadership activities, officer elections, speaking contests, mock interviews and awards. Individual and group competitions led to qualifying status for the national PAS convention in Minnesota. The slate of competitions included written tests, equipment identification and problem-solving activities in many areas including Agribusiness Management and Marketing Systems Career Progress, Forestry and Natural Resources, Floriculture, Agriculture Equipment Service, Crops, Dairy, Livestock, and Equine.

Students enjoyed an educational tour of Sayers Brook Bison Ranch near Potosi and a presentation, entitled "Transferring Your Community College Ag Degree to a University," by Dr.

Isabella Ramirez was elected secretary of the state PAS organization.

Sven Svenson, a professor from Southeast Missouri State University's College of Polytechnic Studies.

MAC's PAS organization has about 25 student members and is active in various campus activities such as cooking for the spring picnic. For fundraisers, PAS sponsors the campus plant sales and annual FFA contest.

At the conference, MAC's agri-business major Isabella Ramirez was elected Missouri PAS secretary. She says, "My PAS experiences are educational and personal. Attending state and national conventions instilled confidence that I'm really no different than other students. No matter where you live, most everyone has the same ambitions in the field and that's to somehow work with plants and animals."

"After MAC, I'm going to get my artificial insemination certification and open my own business," explains Isabella, who grew up showing horses. "That's how I can stay working in the animal field. I'll have to move to Texas or Oklahoma because that's where the reproduction business really is. Then, someday I hope to have a rescue ranch for retired race horses."



A Promise to Never Forget

Tucked away on the second floor of the Perry County Higher Education Center on the Seminary Campus in Perryville is the Perry County Military History Museum. It's definitely a hidden gem of Southeast Missouri which may go unnoticed unless visitors know it is there.

The military museum is a grassroots volunteer endeavor by Perry County citizens whose vision was realized when the museum opened in 2011. The museum is designed to educate the public, involve the community and inspire youth about military service of all veterans.

While the museum pays tribute to service men and women affiliated with Perry County, visitors step into military history dating back to the Civil War and gain a better understanding of soldiers' lives. Local veterans and their families donated over 20,000 military artifacts



"This is where some veterans shared their military and war experiences for the very first time with their family members and friends."

such as letters, photographs, uniforms, helmets, munitions, and medals which convey our nation's military history and personal stories of military service. On occasion, visitors are privileged to converse with military veterans who sometimes staff the museum.

By keeping history alive and in the minds of young people, Perry County residents keep the promise to never forget those who served our nation. The volunteers say they learned so much in the process. "This project brought us to places we could have never dreamed," says Mike Lundy, Perry County Military History Museum vice president. "We've been in contact with people all over the U.S. We've driven through towns looking for addresses and mailboxes trying to locate family members. We've unearthed relationships that families didn't know existed. Hopefully, we've warmed the hearts of veterans and their families,

because they certainly have touched our lives for the better."

Museum secretary Carlene Rauh shares, "It's heartbreaking to hear so many of our veterans say, 'I don't deserve to be here, I didn't do anything special.' If it weren't for them, we wouldn't enjoy the freedoms we have today. Most are modest and reluctant to take credit for their service to our country."

In April, the newest component of the Perry County Military History Museum—its Wall of Honor—was dedicated in Perryville City Park. The wall is home to commemorative tiles dedicated to servicemen and servicewomen. The 12-by-20-foot monument memorializes the heroism of four Army soldiers who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. These soldiers are depicted on a black granite centerpiece designed by Farmington artist Kevin Hale.



Carlene Rauh, Mike Lundy and Vicki Lundy are three of the volunteers who helped spearhead the military history museum effort.

"It's truly amazing what happens here," explains museum treasurer Vicki Lundy. "This is where some veterans shared their military and war experiences for the very first time with their family members and friends. It's emotional. It's poignant. The museum has brought people and families together. School children are captivated when listening to our veterans' stories. Nobody could have ever foreseen these wonderful unexpected consequences." Individuals, veterans, school groups and other organizations are welcome to visit Perry County Military History Museum and the Wall of Honor.

Individuals who are lifetime history advocates or new to the cause can purchase Perry County Military History Museum annual memberships for \$15 per person which supports the museum efforts. Monthly meetings are held at the Higher Education Center. For museum hours of operation and more information, visit pcmh@yahoo.com.



College Credit for High Schoolers?

Yes, it's true. High school students are earning college credit while still in high school. Although it's not a new concept, it can be confusing. So, Julie Downs, MAC's Programs of Study & Dual Credit Coordinator, volunteers insight about the terminology, benefits, and differences between the programs.

Dual Credit vs. Dual Enrollment?

Students must be a high school junior or senior or 16 years of age to participate. Both Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment award high school and college credit simultaneously. "But, there is a difference," explains Julie. "Dual credit classes are taught at the high schools by an approved high school teacher who meets established educational criteria." Dual Credit students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, have qualifying ACT or Compass scores on file, and be recommended by their high school counselor.

"For Dual Enrollment, classes are taught by a MAC instructor and taken online or on MAC's campus," continues Julie. "Students must have qualifying ACT or Compass scores on file and complete an online high school application. Students work with the high school counselor to identify classes and notify me to initiate the enrollment process."

So, who benefits with these programs?

First, highly motivated and high-achieving students gain a head start on their college education. Often dual credit may assist with university acceptance. The programs enrich and extend the high school curriculum and assist with unnecessary course duplication as students move from high school to college.

Families can benefit since tuition is significantly reduced, and some classes may even be free. MAC and some high schools have scholarship partnerships for students with at least a 21 composite on their ACT. This is sometimes called the "1/3-1/3-1/3" program in which each party—the high school, MAC,

Some of Central High School's graduating seniors who took dual credit classes will be on MAC's campus for the fall semester. Pictured are: Blake Daugherty, Hunter Courtois, Abby Fischbeck, Gabe Craig, Alaric Jones, and Sydnee Green.

"It's not only exciting for the students to get a jump on college plans, it can also be a substantial financial savings as well as savings in time and other resources."

and the students and their families—is responsible for one-third of the tuition.

Area high schools benefit, too, since their accreditation process and MSIP-5 performance is now linked to the number of course offerings and options provided for students.

Finally, MAC is thrilled to be in a position to offer interested students opportunities for affordable, high-quality, lower-level college courses. "With the advent of the Dual Credit program under the leadership of Dr. Dixie Kohn and Dr. James Bullis, MAC has offered Dual Credit for at least two decades," explains MAC's President Dr. Steve Kurtz. "MAC was the first institution in Missouri to offer the

"1/3-1/3-1/3" financing model which is now in place with almost every Missouri community college to provide concurrent enrollment opportunities and to assist school districts to achieve high marks with the College and Career Readiness Standard of MSIP-5. The College is very fortunate to have the support of our regional school districts to advance the number of students prepared for college or employment."

Enrollment shows tremendous growth with twenty-seven area high schools, career centers, and home-school organizations participating. To learn about the programs or participating schools, contact Julie Downs at jdowns@mineralarea.edu or (573) 518-3805. Or visit www.MineralArea.edu, click on Programs & Courses, then High School Programs. Julie adds, "It's not uncommon to hear from grandparents. Many attended MAC and are interested in helping their grandchildren with college plans."

What about the A+ program?

Often people ask why take dual credit if students are A+ program eligible for two years of free college tuition. A+ is a financial aid program for qualifying students to be used after high school graduation, so benefits cannot be used towards dual credit or dual enrollment classes. For more information about the A+ program, contact the Financial Aid Department at (573) 518-2133.

Success? Oh! Yes!

"We've got tons of cool stories to share," exclaims Julie. "Last year, a petroleum engineering student interviewed for an internship with Chesapeake Energy, one of the largest corporations in North America. It's a privilege usually reserved for students with a junior college standing. But, since she already had her associate's degree when she graduated high school, the door was opened for this significant opportunity."

Another student who graduated with her AA will attend Mizzou to

major in communications. Because all her credits will transfer, she will complete a double major in two years. Then, she will obtain her master's in advertising as the groundwork for a career in producing and directing commercials and films.

A third student completed 42 hours of dual credit/enrollment classes, graduated high school, and enrolled at MAC. She is now finishing her AA and applying to the radiology program.

While these programs may not be for all students, the students' dedication, sacrifices, and hard work yield long-term dividends. "It's not only exciting for the students to get a jump on college plans, it can also be a substantial financial savings as well as savings in time and other resources," says Julie. "People are realizing why these programs are becoming favorites with students, parents and some grandparents, too."

Golf Ranks #23 in Nation

This year's Golf Team earned a #23 national ranking and a trip to the NJCAA Division 2 National Golf Tournament.

"Our team goal was to build on former Coach Tony Gans' momentum and to be competitive in tournament play and on the national level. The fall season was good on the course and in the classroom," confidently states Don Huff, the second-year coach. "We were ranked as high as #23 in the national NJCAA Division 2 poll. On our Alabama trip, we beat the #22 team three times—once by 20 strokes. Then, we fell short by two strokes and lost to the #11 team. It's a good springboard for the future. I

Jesse Schott, Kellen Bader and Coach Don Huff during tournament play at MAC's home course, Crown Pointe Golf Course outside Farmington. Photo by Brandon Scheldt

appreciate everything everyone has done to assist us in our journey." The team consists of seven freshman and two sophomores from Southeast Missouri.

Coach Huff, who has over 20 years of high school and JuCo coaching experience, says, "JuCo is rewarding because the golfers are at a higher skill level, and you see them develop into productive citizens. For me, the biggest JuCo challenge is becoming familiar with the NJCAA rules and how MAC operates."

Two golfers talk about MAC. Kellen Bader, a Ste. Genevieve Valle Catholic graduate explains, "MAC gave me the opportunity to play golf at the college level. It's a pretty awesome, close-knit place. It's the same for the golf team. We really pushed each other to be the best we can." MAC was a logical choice because Kellen planned to stay close to home to earn a turf management degree. "I plan to attend the University of Missouri for my bachelor's in horticulture and turf management. Then, I hope to be the superintendent at a big time golf course or sports field," he says. "In the next 18 months, I'll work to advance my game to up my chance to compete at a higher collegiate level."

"MAC's golf program has been



a blast!" says Arcadia Valley High graduate Eric Bennett. "Besides improving my golf game, the program taught me time management skills, how to balance school and sports, and to recognize what my priorities need to be. Coach Huff's done a great job, and the program will grow stronger in the future." For Eric, MAC and its golf program are career stepping stones. After finishing his criminal justice and criminology degrees, his sights are on the Missouri State Highway Patrol. "It's my dream to help people, and becoming a Missouri State Trooper will allow me to do just that. Later, I'd like to explore law enforcement options as an investigator at the Federal level."

Eric and Kellen echo the sentiments of many alumni, "MAC's where you make long-lasting friendships and memories you'll never forget. Friendly faces and the loyalty of all employees really make us feel comfortable with our decision to attend MAC."

Congratulations to Don Huff and the MAC Golf team on their 12th place finish at the NJCAA National Tourney. Special congratulations are extended to Tanner McKinney for his second place finish among the 128 participants. By finishing in the Top 8 at Nationals, Tanner earned NJCAA 1st Team All-American team honors. And, as a Top 18 finisher, he also was honored with All-Tournament team honors, and will receive a flag for the tournament.

100 Years of Service

With May commencement comes MAC employee retirements. This year Elaine Belovich, Cleta Cash, Trish Fields, Brad Porter and Rusty Straughan are retiring. Their combined service is 100 years.

Elaine Belovich steps down as director of the EXCEL program that provides academic support to low-income, first generation students and students with disabilities. Eighteen years ago, Elaine returned home to Ste. Genevieve and started her MAC career. "I am awed and humbled by the persistence, hard work, courage, and successes of EXCEL students," praises Elaine. "Particularly those who overcame obstacles including serious physical, learning, and developmental disabilities, single parents who worked full-time while attending college, and those who started college for the first time in their 50s." Elaine shares her retirement plans, "A fall trip to France is planned. Catching up on all the books I've bought and haven't read is on the list. I plan to become more politically involved. Since family is so important to me, I'll do some babysitting for the newest, and rapidly expanding generation in my extended family."

Cleta Cash, administrative assistant/enrollment services specialist, has worked primarily in the admissions and registration areas where she

processed students' schedules and took payments. "I've been here just over 27 years and witnessed lots of changes," says Cleta. "My most rewarding part of my job has been to help students get started on their college journeys. MAC has graduated thousands of students, and I can honestly say I played a small part in their success because they all began in admissions and registration." Cleta earned her associate's degree while at MAC. Although a long-time Leadwood resident, she and her husband recently moved to Farmington. Her retirement plans include traveling to Kentucky with her husband, Les, to visit family, and journeying to the coastal states. "I'll miss seeing everyone," says Cleta. "And, I suspect it won't take me long to find out what I'll miss the most about MAC."

After 13 years leading MAC's Child Development program, **Patricia "Trish" Fields** retired in May. She plans to remain active in her field, and says, "I'm looking forward to volunteering, reading with children, and working with community early child care and education programs seeking accreditation." She also plans to advocate at the state level for children's rights. "My career highlight is advising and assisting students reach their educational goals," Trish explains. "As students experienced success, they gained confidence in planning the early learning environment for



Students and colleagues gathered in May to wish a happy retirement to Rusty Straughan, Cleta Cash, Trish Fields, Elaine Belovich and Brad Porter (not pictured).

young children. I will dearly miss the involvement of seeing students grow from unsure, to confident in what they have achieved." Trish also plans to garden and spend time with family, especially the 11 grandchildren. She and her husband will travel to parts of the country they've not yet seen.

Electronics professor and chair of the Technology Department **Brad Porter** joined the faculty 29 years ago when Jim Hrouda, John Kecec and Bob Civey were his colleagues. "A highlight is when education 'clicks' with the students," explains Brad. "When the light comes on in a student's eyes, you

know why you teach. When students ask me why I attend commencement, I say, 'Commencement is the culmination of more than just your work. It's a time when people need to celebrate with you.'" Brad adds, "I've really valued my time with my co-workers and will miss the camaraderie." Brad and his wife, Mary, have travel on their retirement list. They are avid gardeners and will enjoy the fruits of their gardening efforts.

In 2001, **Rusty Straughan** joined MAC's staff and retires as business manager. During his 13 years, Rusty served as the administrative supervisor to the general services staff, oversaw the business office operations, and superintended several key construction projects, including those emanating

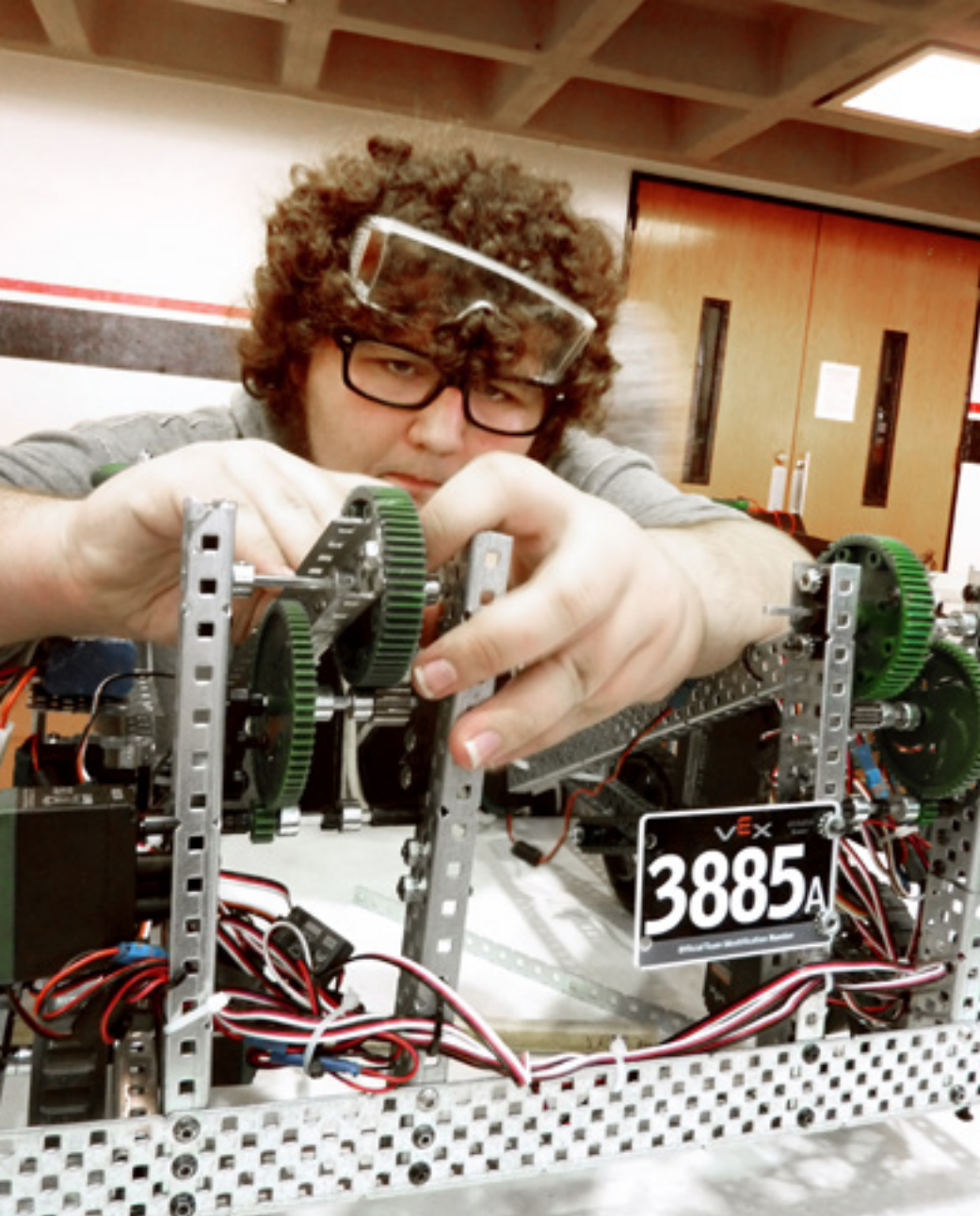
from the 2002 and 2011 bond issues. Rusty is committed to the community. He's served nine years on the Farmington Board of Education, six years on the Farmington City Council, and is a cornerstone of the Farmington Elks Lodge #1765 where he is in his fiftieth year of service. "Watching the campus expand, thanks to the support of the community, is a high point," he says. "It's been amazing to watch the buildings go up in Park Hills, Fredericktown and Perryville and see the campuses evolve." Retirement includes more leisure time with Terry, his wife of 50 years, and their children and grandchildren.

MAC thanks these retirees for their service and extends the warmest wishes for a happy retirement.



FRJC Flashback, Sophomores 1974

The class included Betty Jo Baker, John Courtois, Gary Bollinger, Karen Bollinger, Steven Hites, and Dolores Revelle.



Robotics is a great way to compete and meet others with similar interests. Paden Sorbello hurries to repair a faulty component before the next competition.

"Kids learn failures cannot be obstacles to successful outcomes."

competition levels started friendly, they ramped up to fierce as the battles waged. "Robot building challenges skills—like problem-solving, patience, and precision—needed in electrical and mechanical engineering fields," explains Paden S. Sorbello, an electronics/robotics engineering student at UniTec Career Center in Bonne Terre. "Building this robot was a question of what tasks fulfill this particular competition. I created my robot to perform the specific task of keeping my opponents from scoring. This led to some challenges, but overall proved fruitful in the competition."

The free, open-to-the-public event drew a crowd. A casual observer noted, "When a robot failed to perform in the competition ring, the repair phase was deliberate and intensely focused. Two student engineers brainstormed how to fix the robot while pleading with their colleague, who was pilfering in a mishmash of parts and gadgets, to hurry. All this while the fourth teammate anxiously watched and shouted what was happening in the VEX competition ring. The troubleshooting and problem-solving I witnessed was phenomenal. Everyone should see this event."

Career exploration is another component. Many organizations, such as FIRST Robotics teams, BEST Robotics, and the U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Division, set up demonstrations and hosted a 'lunch and learn' session for middle and high school-aged competitors, giving them a chance to interact with professionals in technical fields. The Army brought its robots that pick up bombs and let the kids operate them to pick up 'dummy' explosives.

"Designing, building and

programming robots not only teaches teamwork and technical skills, it helps young people understand that failure is a part of doing technical projects," says Ann Boes, the 4-H coordinator. "Kids learn failures cannot be obstacles to successful outcomes. Persistence, hard work, and working through failures are necessary to create successfully designed and functioning robots. It's important for students to have a good sense of appreciation for what they have accomplished."

The Robot Invitational would have been more difficult without the generosity of these sponsors: Missouri.me, LocalTek, Neo Products Corporation, Grand Rental Station, Lab: Revolution, and Show Me Rent-To-Own. Again this year, KBuckley Towing and Recovery donated its services to drive to St. Louis to pick up and return Boeing's Autonomous Urban Vehicle. Thanks, too, to UniTec Career Center's robotics program for setting up fields, inspecting robots and providing the head referee.

Life is Better with Music
"I've never worked a day in my life!" exclaims Dan Schunks, MAC's Director of Community Bands. "Music makes me a very happy man. The arts—especially music—are a universal language that makes our lives more colorful. My MAC music experience was marvelous, and I'm trying to pay back by teaching others to enjoy and perform music."

Substantial growth in MAC's Music Department over the past six to eight years is reflective of our region's economy and of families managing college costs by capitalizing on A+ benefits and MAC's reasonable tuition. Students are attracted to the fine music faculty and the fact that MAC's music course offerings exceed that of most Missouri community colleges. This enrollment surge posed some

equipment challenges.

Three years ago, MAC Foundation challenged alumni and friends to raise funds for new music equipment. Donors generously answered with nearly \$50,000. Dan explains, "Before the big enrollment explosion, we managed to get by because the more serious music students had their own instruments. However, for students who didn't own instruments, they pretty well missed out. And, rarely does an individual at this level own a concert tuba or vibraphone. So, in a pinch, area high schools loaned MAC some instruments they weren't using."

Dan attended MAC on a music scholarship and is a tenured music instructor and musician, so he grasps the needs of music students and programs. "Prospective students expect MAC's equipment to be equal to or better than what is in their high schools. As enrollment grew, MAC struggled to keep pace," adds Dan. "Now, the new tuba, vibes, flugelhorn and other equipment allow us to continue MAC's excellent music experience which is more accessible to a greater number of students and community band members. The new equipment is phenomenal. There's really no way to describe its impact on our Music Department. The only way we can thank the donors for their generosity is to continue to teach and perform the best we can."

Dan wants current MAC students to have meaningful experiences as he did as a student. He reflects, "It was the Spring Picnic, either 1971 or 1972, when Mr. O'Brien learned North Texas State University's 'One O'Clock Lab Band' was performing at Ladue High School in St. Louis. Man, this was one of the hottest college jazz bands around. So, Mr. O'Brien asked if we wanted to go and listen. In a flash, Mike Shannon, Dick McCreary and I jumped in Mr. O'Brien's big Imperial land boat and off we went for an

incredible experience."

He adds, "Ensemble rehearsals with the O'Briens and John Stanley were a high point for me. It was years later when I realized MAC is where I learned people skills which enabled me to be successful in my teaching and music careers. Lots of people agree that much of what they learned at MAC was never realized until later in life. Today, MAC continues to make a difference in so many lives."

"The only way we can thank all the donors for their generosity is to continue to teach and perform the best we can."

Dan Schunks says the generosity of MAC's alumni and friends to support the Music Department is unbelievable.



The Robot Invitational

On a March Saturday morning, Sechrest Field House buzzed with energy as the Robot Invitational shifted into full throttle with robotics displays, activities and competitions.

"MAC welcomed the opportunity to host the educational and fun competition highlighting various STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—projects," says Pam Watkins, director of MAC's Continuing Education. "Many students, ages 10 to 17, are from the local region and some are from neighboring states."

The St. Francois County 4-H Robotics spearheaded the family-friendly event and enlisted Mineral Area College and Parkland Programmers as volunteer co-sponsors. The Robot Invitational is a platform where youth demonstrate their learning, celebrate their accomplishments and interact with others who share their interest in robotics and programming. Featured contests included VEX Toss Up Competitions, VEX Skills Challenges, Run-Whatcha-Brung Challenge, Scratch Programming Competition, and a LEGO building competition.

Nearly 130 individuals and teams designed, built and repaired their robots for competition. While



Scholarship Students Say *Thank You*

Scholarship recipients are thankful for the generosity of college alumni and friends who make financial help possible. Scholarships often determine whether students hold down one part-time job rather than two, dedicate more time to successful studies, graduate on time, or even attend college at all. Read what scholarship recipients Jessica Weir and Norie Doromal say about the value of their scholarships.

Learning about Deaf Culture

"The Farmington Elks scholarship is greatly appreciated and allows me to be free of college financial stress," says deaf communications major Jessica Weir. "I am very thankful for the work and effort the Elks put into seeing that students have a chance to succeed."

Like the Elks, Jessica is helping others succeed through her work with the Furnace Creek Church of God. Each summer, she is involved with Camp Inspiration near Potosi. "As a teacher, worship leader and counselor, I assist and oversee summer youth events. I mentor and encourage youth to be inspired through God's word," explains

the Bismarck freshman. "My father is a pastor, so I have grown up in the ministry. One of our mission fields is Camp Inspiration. I am privileged to minister to troubled youth of all ages. Camp Inspiration also inspired me to be who I am today. I love spending time with my youth group and family. I wouldn't be able to succeed in college without their encouragement."

"Growing up, I always had an interest in sign language. So, I enrolled in an American Sign Language class," says Jessica. "On the very first day of class, Mrs. Lee began signing to us. I was completely clueless as to what she was saying. I feared what may be

Jessica Weir personally thanked Farmington Elks treasurer Rusty Straughan for the Elks scholarship she was awarded.

"I am privileged to minister to troubled youth of all ages. Camp Inspiration has also inspired me to be who I am today."

ahead for me! She shared stories of her life with us. Her stories fascinated me. I became more and more interested in learning about deaf culture. She told about her jobs and experiences. Her stories were amazing. I hope one day I have the opportunity to experience and do some of the things she has done. Mrs. Lee inspired me to choose a degree I am passionate about and helped guide me to the college I will attend next. For this, I am truly grateful. Thank you so much Mrs. Lee." Jessica will complete her degree at St. Louis Community College.

Integrity Key Component of Bondad Prevalece Scholarship

Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "The supreme quality for leadership is

unquestionably integrity." On the principles of integrity and good character, John D. Johnson founded and funded the Bondad Prevalence Scholarship.

John says the scholarship honors his mother, Verla J. Smith, and his home community of Caledonia. "Bondad Prevalece," which translated from Spanish means "good prevails," emphasizes the importance of personal integrity and good character in life.

John is a 1983 graduate of Valley High School, a 1987 graduate of Mineral Area College, and 1990 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. He currently resides in New Mexico.

Applicants vying for this scholarship must meet specific criteria. Eligible applicants must be Valley of Caledonia High School graduating seniors who demonstrate characteristics of personal integrity and good character, and who plan to enroll at MAC with the aim of completing a degree. The scholarship committee factors in other criteria such as class ranking in its decision. For complete Bondad Prevalece scholarship criteria, contact Kevin Thurman at (573) 518-2261. Valley of Caledonia High School juniors interested in applying for this scholarship need to be observant of the February 15th application deadline.

The Bondad Prevalece Scholarship is to be \$2,500 annually, and recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for two consecutive years. Also, the award is contingent on the recipient maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or higher and demonstrating successful progress toward a degree.

This year's recipients of the Bondad Prevalece Scholarship are Valley High School seniors Roy Brakefield and Brooke Richards.

The Virtue of Selflessness

"I have many life aspirations. I'm currently pursuing a nursing career and, God willing, I hope to be a nurse

practitioner," smiles Norie Ann Keith Doromal. "And, if time permits, I still have this plan to become a successful pediatrician, too."

"Scholarships have eased my financial incapacities so I can focus more on my studies without worrying about my tuition, books, and other miscellaneous expenses," explains the freshman Associate Degree in Nursing student. The scholarships challenge her to work harder in order to retain her scholarships and achieve her career goals.

"To all the scholarship organizations—Landrum Hirsch Memorial, St. Francois County Rotary Club, and Farmington Elks—who granted me this rare opportunity, I thank you for your generous and heartfelt support. I am so grateful to be a recipient of your scholarship which puts me one step closer to my goals," says Norie. "I pray that one day I'll be able to help students achieve their own goals just as you have helped me. I am very passionate about serving others. I strongly believe in helping

others, especially the underprivileged and poverty-stricken. It is a life-changing experience. With the ideal virtue of selflessness, all of us can create something beautiful with each other's lives."

Although education plays a significant role in Norie's life, she is active in many extracurricular activities. She volunteers with many Farmington organizations and charity events at the high school and in the community. Her efforts benefit the local women's shelter and fundraisers to aid students suffering from cancer and diabetes. Of the nursing program, Norie says, "My MAC nursing teachers have made a difference in my education because they support me in all my educational needs. They serve as one of my motivating factors."

"I pray that one day I'll be able to help students achieve their own goals just as you have helped me."

Norie Doromal's nursing degree is an intermediate step to her ultimate goal to be a pediatrician.





Alumni *Entrepreneurs*

Small businesses are an essential component of America's economy. They expand the nation's economy by driving private sector job creation, spurring creativity and cultivating entrepreneurship. Whether it's the local restaurant, gas station, hair salon, or child care service, small businesses do more than provide products and services. They strengthen and shape local communities, contribute time and resources to philanthropic efforts, and cultivate positive impressions to attract other businesses. Mineral Area College is proud of its alumni who have turned their visions into a small business. Read about three alumni and their businesses: Colorado Mountain Adventures in Grand Junction, Colorado, EnviroSoils in Jackson, Missouri, and Midwest Embroidery Supplies in Farmington, Missouri.

Aligning Passion with Profession

"I've always had a heavy interest in small business. So, becoming a business owner was a big, but incredibly rewarding decision," says Jordan Cook, MAC 2006-08. "After graduating from SEMO with my BS in Construction Engineering, I worked for PEMKO Manufacturing in Memphis as research and development manager for three years. Soon, I realized I wanted something more—something to call my own, something I could build and work on. My engineering career did wonderful things for me by prepping me as a business owner and thereby affording me this opportunity to own my business."

His vision was realized in August 2013. "Often I asked myself, where can I work, day-in and day-out, and enjoy what I do? After in-depth research, the outfitting business was the direction I pursued. Finally, I aligned my passion with my profession. I love my work and the job I get to do every day," says the Farmington native. "Now I own Colorado Mountain Adventures, a wilderness outfitting business in Grand Junction, CO. We specialize in hunting adventures, summer trail riding vacations and fly fishing trips, and spring turkey hunting. As owner, I play every role—guide, booking agent, receptionist, web designer, accountant, horse wrangler, and whatever else may be required."

"Building my resume was one big way MAC helped me," says the outdoorsman. "While earning my AA, I dovetailed earning my first degree with working and growing my career. When I graduated from SEMO, my resume presented real, pragmatic experiences which are a huge help for graduating college students."

For those considering the small business world, Jordan offers some advice, "Make sure your area is something you can do every day and you are competent in all aspects of the business. Your business quickly becomes part of your everyday life. Small businesses don't rest on weekends, and they certainly don't have set hours. You really have to live and breathe your business. Most of all, you must believe in your products and services, even if others may not. My business is highly competitive. So, I distinguish myself from other outfitters by offering incredible customer service, unforgettable experiences and successful hunting trips. If you're thinking about jumping into small business, remember customer service is huge. If you don't enjoy talking to your customers and promoting your business, maybe a '9-5 job' is your best bet."

Jordan says his adventures and the people he meets are especially unique and interesting. "I've had so many cool experiences so far," he says. "It's really tough to highlight a single thing that stands out more than others because I'm so very blessed with incredible experiences. However, I am very excited about having the CEO and CFO of Smith & Wesson, the famous gun manufacturer, coming to hunt with me. These two guys could hunt anywhere in the world, and somehow landed with me. The other experience I thoroughly enjoy is meeting people from all over the U.S. who all share one passion—The Wild Outdoors."

Jordan resides in Glade Park, CO, and invites everyone to visit Colorado Mountain Adventures website at www.coloradomountainadventures.net or to email him at JordanCook87@gmail.com to learn more about his company.

"Most of all, you must believe in your products and services, even if others may not."

Colorado's Grand Mesa, the largest flatter mountain range in the world, is Jordan Cook's amazing workplace where he shares nature's breathtaking beauty with others.



Family is highly regarded by Lisa and Larry Pratte. They value time spent with their two sons.

"I am most passionate about my family."

been in business for more than 20 years and employ over 35 people," explains the company president. "We are one of the largest distributors of embroidery supplies in the U.S. In addition to embroidery supplies, we also operate 129 heads of embroidery equipment which we use to provide custom decoration services on items ranging from personal items to promotional products."

Larry is a dynamic man who seeks solutions and is committed to the well-being of the area's economy and its citizens. He serves on the Farmington Industrial Authority Board and the New Era Bank Customer Advisory Board. He is a past member of the St. Joseph Parish Council and Finance Commission. Larry gives back to MAC by devoting his enthusiasm and knowledge to the MAC's Foundation Board and currently is the vice president.

"I'm most passionate about my family," smiles Larry. "Lisa, my wife of almost 28 years, and I have two sons, Larry and Eli, who are Farmington High graduates. Larry is a University of Missouri-Columbia graduate and works with me. He is engaged to Kayla Mengwasser and a 2015 wedding is planned. This fall, Eli will also attend Mizzou to major in biology with career plans to be an orthopedic surgeon. Lisa, like me, is a Potosi graduate. Although she retired from teaching in the Farmington district in 2012, she returned to the profession and is currently teaching kindergarten at St. Joseph Catholic School in Farmington." Larry enjoys the outdoors and spends his leisure time hunting, fishing and playing on his tractor. The Prattes live in Farmington.

A Passion for Helping Others

Two years ago, Justin Kertz started his own company, EnviroSoils, which offers natural, organic lawn and garden products.

"For me, starting this business is very personal. My primary reason for starting the company is to make available some natural treatment options for consumers' landscape and garden needs," explains the Ste. Genevieve native who is now living in Jackson. "Since I was 14, I owned my landscaping company and I continually used chemicals to treat and maintain because that's how I was taught. After several occasions of becoming pretty sick after treatments, an insightful doctor suggested it may be the chemicals."

Justin delved into the possible side effects of chemical use and the potential advantages of organic, non-chemical treatments. Surprised with what he learned, he further immersed himself in research seeking alternate solutions for lawn and garden care. As his zest for an alternative solution grew, he met with others in the organics field, talked with manufacturers, and ultimately developed formulas for his own products.

His own experience convinced him that naturally-based products are an exceptional alternative. "So, I took the next step to provide these non-chemical solutions to others. EnviroSoils products are sold in concentrated forms. Our products allow our consumers to have alternatives to chemicals or

"EnviroSoils gets people back to a natural way of life, with growing and eating organically . . . It's almost like a ministry."

Justin Kertz's concern for others is apparent whether promoting Habitat for Humanity or his EnviroSoils products.

pesticides that are potentially harmful to the environment and humans," says Justin. "I am passionate about informing people of the importance of eating organic-based produce and the potential dangers of coming in contact with chemicals. I get a great deal of satisfaction in educating people about a healthy way of living. Nature can take care of itself. We start to have concerns when we start applying man-made products. EnviroSoils gets people back to a natural way of life, with growing and eating organically. . . It's almost like a ministry." For information about EnviroSoils, Justin invites readers to visit www.growenvirosoils.com.

Education, hard work and personal experiences are the foundation for Justin's EnviroSoils as well as his position as executive director of Cape Girardeau's Habitat for Humanity. The 2008 MAC graduate says, "I oversee the daily business operations and make sure we accomplish the goals set by the board. Fundraising is always a

challenge. I have a passion for helping people get to the next chapter of their lives. So, definitely the rewards are when everything comes together for our housing projects and families have a place to call their own." In addition to completing his Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science in Building Technology at MAC, Justin earned a Bachelor of Science-Construction Technology and a Bachelor of Science-Facilities Management at Southeast Missouri State University.

Justin adds, "MAC greatly impacted both my career and personal life. It's where I met Jordan Cook, who is still one of my best friends. While attending Southeast, we purchased a house together as our next step in life. As it happened, in this house I met my wife. Jordan invited one of his Murray State friends for a visit and she brought along several of her friends. And, I ended up marrying one of them."



Business Can be Nerve-racking

"Engineering was my plan when I enrolled at MAC," says Larry Pratte, a 1982-84 alum. "After taking a couple of business classes, my interest changed."

"Ken Beers and Steve Easter were really stand-out teachers," continues Larry. "Even after I decided to go the business route, I took Calculus I, II and III because of Mr. Beers' excellent instruction. Mr. Easter guided me and made certain I was well-prepared for SEMO's upper level business and accounting classes. His classes were enjoyable because he always provided excellent information while maintaining a light atmosphere."

"After passing the Certified Public Accountant exam, I took a position with Price Waterhouse, which at the time was one of the big eight accounting firms in St. Louis," says Larry. "In 1998, my

wife and I moved back to the Mineral Area to start and raise our family. I worked for Iron Mountain Forge and Huffy Bicycle as a cost accountant and as controller at Cap America."

Then, Larry and some partners made a calculated career move and started Midwest Embroidery Supplies, a company of which he is currently the majority owner. "Starting in business was really happenstance for me," explains Larry. "Our work experiences made us realize that embroidery thread suppliers were limited. So, we considered this a glaring opportunity for us. It was nerve-racking in the beginning for all of us. We worked two jobs just to be sure we could care for our families."

Today, Midwest Embroidery Supplies is a one-stop solution for professional embroidery needs. "We've

Patient Care from the Heart

Jeannine (Tuttle) Koen's healthcare interests began as a CNA and blossomed into a gratifying nursing career.

"My career has allowed me to welcome newborns into this world and comfort patients as they enter a new life in heaven," she says with satisfaction. Her inspiration to understand what it means to be a really good nurse stemmed from MAC nursing instructors and working with Dr. Hamburg and his wife Mary at Medical Arts Clinic.

"MAC gave me the opportunity to become the best nurse I can be," explains Jeannine, a 1985 LPN graduate. "Mrs. Thomas, June Harris and LaDonna Smith were exceptional teachers because they not only taught us from the books, they taught us from their hearts. LaDonna taught me how to be a hands-on nurse. She was never afraid to hold a patient's hand or give a hug. Her heart had a soft spot for all her patients. As students, we witnessed the benefits of this in her patient care."

Of the Hamburgs, she says, "The kindness they showed their patients

was impressive. They were just really special and were incredibly kind to me as a new graduate. From them, I learned so much about patient care. They gave me confidence and helped me mature as a nurse."

Her nursing career traversed the medical field in positions including office manager, staff nurse, assistant director of nurses, and OB/GYN nurse. As a new graduate, Jeannine started her nursing career at Farmington Presbyterian Manor, the same facility where she currently works. "I thank God every day for the people who taught me how to be patient, how to have hope, and how to be compassionate. As nurses, we are 100 percent caregivers, but we can't forget to take a moment to hold a hand, give a hug, and share a prayer. Sometimes nothing else really matters unless you make the personal connection to your patients. Believe it or not, nurses have fun! I know I do."

"I think my niche in life is long-term care," says Jeannine. "I love caring for the elderly and attending to their mental, emotional and spiritual needs as much as their physical ones. And, in return, without knowing it, they are teaching us about life. These relationships are so fulfilling."

"I'm also grandmother to four great grandkids—Landon, Dawson, Jade and Madison. I want them to get into the health field, too," Jeannine says. "Family is my joy in life. We camp and do lots of family things with my seven siblings. Last summer the grandkids and I had such a blast traveling to Colorado to visit my sisters, we want to go again."

"As nurses, we are 100 percent caregivers, but we can't forget to take a moment to hold a hand, give a hug, and share a prayer."

Jeannine Koen's work as a nurse is not just a career but a fulfilling part of her life.



Music is the Common Thread

Although he's young in years, you'd never know it by his music feats. Jeremy Boyer's multi-dimensional career includes music teacher, church musician and professional sports organist. While music is the common thread, each position is vastly different. Regardless of the venue, his music ignites fervor and entertains people.

"MAC granted me the chance to study music and establish myself as a musician, both as a performer and a leader," Jeremy explains. "This foundation is significant in my current positions as well as in my roles at Southeast Missouri State as president of the University Choir, SEMO's top choral ensemble, and as drum major of the Golden Eagles Marching Band."

"As a church musician and organist, I sing and conduct choirs and instrumental ensembles for Mass and various church services," explains Jeremy who holds a bachelor of music education. "My career began as music director at the National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, serving as organist and conducting its professional choir. Currently, I'm the Director of Music and organist at Most Sacred Heart parish in Eureka."

As a professional sports organist, Jeremy's audiences are colossal—sometimes as many as 45,000 a night. He primarily plays for hockey and baseball, but has ventured in other arenas including SEMO baseball and basketball, the Memphis Redbirds, the St. Louis Ambush and the Kansas City Royals. He is the St. Louis Blues' full-time organist and has not missed a game since starting in the 2007-08 season. For the past two seasons, Jeremy's organ sounds have filled



"I was selected to the Papal Choir to sing for Pope John Paul II's visit to St. Louis."

Jeremy Boyer gained insight to the sports organist role when he studied with former Blues and Cardinals notable organist Ernie Hays.

Busch Stadium for about 25 St. Louis Cardinals games. He says, "Perhaps my most memorable day as a sports organist was April 28, 2012, when I played two nationally televised games. I started with Cardinals-Brewers afternoon game at Busch, and afterward walked to the Scottrade Center for the Stanley Cup play-off game between the Blues and LA Kings."

Jeremy tells of an unexpected dividend coming his way, "The Cardinals recently informed me I'll be receiving my own 2013 National League Champions ring for my work for the organization."

"MAC was really supportive of my extra music endeavors," recalls the 1998-2000 alum. "I was selected to the Papal Choir to sing for Pope

John Paul II's visit to St. Louis. MAC's choir director, Noel Archambeault, helped me prepare for this once-in-a-lifetime honor. After the Pope's visit, the 200-person Papal Choir toured the Archdiocese. I convinced the conductor to do a concert in Potosi at my home parish of St. James Catholic Church and Dr. Kevin White to play trumpet. At 19, this was quite the undertaking. With help from Ms. Archambeault and Dr. White, the concert was an astonishing success." Jeremy recently appeared on the cover of *Catholic*, the magazine for the St. Louis Archdiocese. Read more about Jeremy at <http://faithdigital.org/StLouis/STL0114>.

Jeremy, his wife, Cassie, and their three young daughters—Kimberly, Isabelle and Elizabeth—live in High

Ridge. "Most of my family still lives in Potosi, including my grandparents Dan and Delores DeClue and my mother, Rocky, who is a counselor at Potosi Elementary," says Jeremy. "We visit as often as possible and, if my Blues schedule allows, we all will attend a MAC-Three Rivers basketball game."

Jeremy boasts, "I was fortunate to see the Kicks Band's outstanding performance at the Missouri Music Educators conference in January. I was incredibly proud to be a Music Department alum! Congrats to Director Dan Schunks and the band members for a most impressive performance. It was heartwarming to see familiar faces." Jeremy's friends and contemporaries can follow him on twitter at @JABsMusic.



looking back I'd do it differently. But, alas, many of us would do things differently given the chance to be 22 again! I was also in *The House of Blue Leaves* and *Drop Dead*. Thankfully, Facebook allows me to stay in touch with my MAC acting colleagues."

In 2000, Keenan moved to New York to study with many great teachers and immerse himself in as much theatre work as possible before making the leap to Los Angeles in 2005. LA proved to be a good move for Keenan's career. "Last year was an extremely great year for me. I worked on many great shows such as *True Blood*, *NCIS*, *Vegas*, *The Soul Man*, and was privileged to be cast and directed by the great

Career Like a Roller Coaster Ride

Launching and maintaining a successful acting career requires hard work and resilience. Keenan Henson, MAC 1996-98, attests to the chaotic lifestyle.

His dream of acting began after his graduation from MAC and Maryville University in St. Louis. "I was lucky enough to play basketball for Coach Gray's great program, be part of a winning team, and make lasting friendships," says Keenan. "At MAC, I had my first real chance to explore acting."

Of his first MAC performance, *The Boys from Syracuse*, the communications major says, "I'm not extremely comfortable with singing, and,

Jon Hamm in an episode of *Mad Men*. I had the opportunity to work with Sofia Coppola in *The Bling Ring*," reflects Keenan. "This year started with a small role in *Whiplash*, which just took all the big awards at this year's Sundance Film Festival. I shot a film in Thailand. Currently, I am in pre-production to produce and star in a gritty independent film set in the Appalachian Mountains titled *The Mastiff Revolver*."

When asked for an insider's view of Hollywood, the actor says, "Yes, Hollywood seems to be really glamorous. But, my career is really a roller coaster ride. The highs are extremely high and better than anything imaginable . . . but the lows are the lowest, and you question why

you are doing this. A friend once told me if you book a job and are on the set, you just bought yourself two more years in this industry. It's so true because one week there's no better feeling than being on set; and, then, after you shoot your TV episode, you're officially unemployed again. It's a relentless challenge trying to land another gig. Building this type of career takes time. If you're just interested in the fame and not willing to put in the work, you burn out quickly."

"I personally never really have the desire to be a huge movie star. I've hung out with these people and the idea of being hassled every time you go to get coffee or to the grocery store doesn't sound like a good existence," shares Keenan. "Whether it's in film or television, I just love being a working actor on a regular basis. Consistently working is what I'm striving for. This last year has been great. So, hopefully in the next year or two, I'll be on my way."

Keenan says the LA weather is perfect for hiking, bike riding and horseback riding. He is a self-taught photographer, and his work can be seen at www.golucaphotography.com.

"It's a relentless challenge trying to land another gig..."

Building this type of career takes time."

Keenan Henson's ambition and resolute spirit equip him with the stamina necessary for work as an actor. He appeared in the film, "The Ally," about a gunned down WWII pilot.



Meet 2013 Mrs. Missouri USA

Fredericktown's Kristy Harris Kelley proudly represented the married women of Missouri along with their families, careers and accomplishments as the 2013 Mrs. Missouri United States.

Kristy holds several titles including wife, mother, and teacher. This past year she added Mrs. Missouri United States. Kristy, who entered pageant competition at 15 with Miss Missouri Teen USA, says, "I was totally shocked when I actually won! I competed in this event a few years ago and was satisfied being first runner-up. Then, two months prior to this pageant, the director asked me to compete again. My husband, Billy, and I discussed this opportunity and I entered."

Preparation time was short for Kristy for the national competition in Las Vegas. Like many pageants, the judged categories are interview, swimsuit, and evening gown. The pageant showcases the beauty, poise, and versatility of America's married women. "My husband and children—Junior, Brock and Brielle—couldn't come with me. So, I was by myself. Although it was tough to be away from my family, it was refreshing to immerse myself in personal time," explains the 2000-04 MAC alum. "When I called to tell my children I won, my middle child asked if I won money, my oldest was excited, and my youngest just wanted her mommy home."

Kristy says, "Winning the pageant was just the start of a busy year. We raised money for childhood leukemia, participated in cure walks including several for childhood cancers, and visited St. Jude's research hospital. I accompanied Governor Nixon on his 100-mile walk across Missouri, judged many pageants and participated in fashion shows."



Mrs. Missouri 2013, Kristy Kelley (right), and Mrs. Kansas pose for a photo at the Mrs. America pageant.

"I will most remember the opportunities I had to help so many children through my pageant work."

stay in contact even after the children turn three and go to school."

Kristy reflects on her Mrs. Missouri USA reign, "It's been a great experience. I will most remember the opportunities I had to help so many children through my pageant work. I am content, however, to return to my wife-mother-teacher role."



He's Got Some Basketball Stories

Former basketball Cardinal Bill "Rocky" Moore's zeal for sports is contagious. He now lives in Pasadena, CA, and can entertain almost anyone with his basketball experiences. Basketball is his passion.

He summarizes his career, "My first coaching opportunity was with Coach Charlie Spoonhour—one of Coach Sechrest's best friends who coached at Moberly when I played at MAC—as an assistant coach at Southeastern Community College. Then, I landed a coaching/teaching position at Palisades High School where I coached a very young Steve Kerr, who later played in the NBA and is now a TNT commentator. The following year I was the University of Southern California's assistant coach; and later, coached at Cal State Dominguez and some community colleges and high schools. In 1990, as head coach at John Muir High School, I coached many talented young men, including Jacque Vaughn, former NBA player and current NBA Coach of the Orlando Magic. For the next 18 years, I served as Pasadena City College head coach and professor in the Kinesiology, Health & Athletics Division. In 1993, I took a coaching hiatus to dedicate

quality time to my three children. Now they're in college, and I'm back coaching AAU travel teams which gives exposure with potential Division I recruits."

During Rocky's 30+ years of coaching, recognition has come in many forms. He has an overall 134-52 winning record, and his teams won four consecutive Pacific League Championships (1991-94) and two California Interscholastic Federation Division II Championships (1993 & 1996). To his credit are five Coach of the Year honors from the South Coast Conference, CIF SCIBA, LA Amateur Athletic Foundation, LA Times/City, and Pasadena Star-News. His clinician work includes camps such as Stacy Augmon's Basketball Camp and the NBA Players Top 100 Camp developing players like Jordan Hamilton, Jeremy Tyler, and Peyton Siva prior to their NBA debuts.

"MAC impacted my life in so many ways and gave me a good academic and athletic foundation. My classes prepared me for my advanced degrees," recalls the 1973-75 alum. "Coach Sechrest was my most influential teacher, mentor, coach and 'father figure' while at MAC. Eileen 'Momma' Sechrest was always encouraging and our best fan. Both were primary influences in the personal lives and careers for many of us players who had

Traveling to the Final Four is Rocky Moore's annual March pilgrimage. This year, it was in Dallas.

"I remember most his genuine compassion for his players and the difference he made in student-athletes' lives."

the utmost respect and unconditional love for them." Rocky transferred to Northeast Missouri State for his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education & Health and to Louisiana Tech University for his Master of Arts in Health & Kinesiology.

Rocky fondly recalls the 1975 Regional XVI Championship and his teammates Tom Bloemke, Curt Boyer, Tim Brown, Darryl Henderson, Angelo Herman, Louie Lucas, Gene McMahan, Ed Moore, Dennis Nobbe, Neal Penberthy and Steve Pendley. He invites former teammates and classmates to drop a note to billrockymoore@yahoo.com. He reminisces, "Coach Sechrest had unbelievable intuition and vision, and his instincts were always accurate—on and off the court. I remember most his genuine compassion for his players and the difference he made in student-athletes' lives. MAC was an awesome experience where we developed lifelong friendships and learned life experiences to lay the foundation for our personal lives and professional careers."

The Dream of Becoming A Writer

"Movies portray writers in coffee shops sipping java and dreaming storylines that flow seamlessly onto pages," explains novelist Daniel Sullivan. "The reality is writing a novel like this parallels building a house without blueprints. While ingenuity and originality are relevant in writing, the key to creating anything of quality remains old-fashioned planning and hard work."

"My first attempt at penning a novel was in 2006," continues Daniel. "I was working in corporate IT . . . but dreamed of becoming a writer. With a little time left on my lease and plans to return to the Midwest, I resigned. Then, I sat down and wrote until my lease ended, and I continued writing after I moved back to Missouri. Five months later, I ended up with a flimsy construction of 77,000 words—a novel, but not a good one. I never let anyone read it."

In 2007, he enrolled at MAC, worked full-time, and soon earned his Associate of Arts. "MAC provided a welcoming learning experience that gave me the confidence to continue my education," says the new author. "I graduated from Mizzou in 2010, and found myself with an eight-month gap before law school, just enough time for novel attempt number two."

This time he had a strategy. "I outlined using a storyboard, discarding roughly 1,000 index cards on my way to finalizing the color-coded plot points of 37 chapters," he explains. "By filling three notebooks with names of characters and places and buildings, I maximized my daily writing time by minimizing my daily brainstorming time."

His detailed storyboard was essential to his creative process. "I wrote for 8 to 12 hours per day finally finishing my second novel, *Black Collar*, the day before law classes began," he says. "Law school, unfortunately, was an all-encompassing time vacuum, and for three semesters I craved a return to

my manuscript."

Encouraging reviews from family, friends, and former professors prompted Daniel's decision to withdraw from law school and focus on publishing his debut novel. He says, "By February 2013, my manuscript landed in the hands of one of New York City's most prestigious literary agencies. After a long eight months, the agency still hadn't made a decision. So, I pulled my manuscript from the agent and self-published. It's a move I'm still not sure was in the best interests of my book, but was certainly in the best interests of my sanity."

Daniel's novel, *Black Collar*, the first in his *Uncommon Rebels Trilogy*, is available on Amazon. The murder-revenge thriller conveys the adventures of five unlikely friends—a computer engineer, a programmer, a street artist, a socialite, and news anchor—and explores the potential nightmare scenario of not having an open internet. Like most modern literary thrillers, *Black Collar* is intended for mature audiences.

"Initial reviews are positive, a good first step in building my readership. I still don't have the publishing industry entirely figured out, but my debut novel is strong. I'm now building my literary career from a solid foundation, and I'm excited to see where it takes me next," says Daniel. "For questions about publishing or to learn more about my current projects, please feel free to contact me via my website, www.uncommonrebels.com."

Excitement and anticipation are emotions Daniel Sullivan feels about his career as a new writer.

"... the key to creating anything of quality remains old-fashioned planning and hard work."





Cheri and Dustin Culver bring their children for a campus visit.

“Our family is the reason we started college and continually strive to be better people.”

behaviors fascinate me, and my volunteer work at the Domestic Violence Shelter and Friends in Action is rewarding,” Cheri adds. “I’m a very caring person and feel in social work I can help improve people’s lives. That will be worth it to me.”

“MAC ignited my interest in learning,” explains the mother of three. “After high school, I was convinced full-time work was the key to success. As a single mother at 21, I soon realized minimum-wage jobs would never provide me with financial comfort nor the mental challenges I always lacked in dead-end jobs.”

In 2011, Dustin graduated with two MAC degrees, an AAS in Computer Aided Drafting & Design and an AS in Mathematics. To optimize his job and salary options, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Southeast Missouri State University with two Bachelor of Science degrees—one in Engineering Technology-Mechanical & Manufacturing and the other in Technology Management. “MAC was the start of my educational journey. It’s where I learned to manage my time and be successful in a higher education setting,” says Dustin. “But, without my family’s support, especially my wonderful wife, none of this could have



FRJC Flashback, Summer Graduating Class 1946

Front row: Alma Horton, Grace Wasson, Mary Stewart, Goldie Zimmer and Erma Kempe. Back row: Flow Hagerty, Henry Bohnenkamp, Gayle Simmons and Wayne Buckner.

materialized.” He is a process engineer for Piral Glass in Park Hills, where he conducts research to implement new technologies for manufacturing and uses existing technology to troubleshoot root causes of production issues.

“English is a difficult subject for me. EXCEL tutors were always available to check my papers and teach me how to improve my punctuation and grammar,” Dustin reflects. “In classes, I always had questions. My instructors

would say, ‘Does anyone have any questions? Anyone. . . besides Dustin?’” To encourage others who may feel bogged down in the educational process and may be losing sight of the prize, Cheri and Dustin stress, “Don’t give up or put your education on hold even if you have family responsibilities and face challenges. Education can be a huge gateway which brings many opportunities to your family.”

Education: Gateway to Opportunities

EXCEL program director Elaine Belovich praises two former students, “Cheri and Dustin exemplify so many of the values our community holds dear—a committed married couple with three children, hard-workers, successful in academia and careers, working locally, and striving to be role models for their children. They always set the academic bar high for themselves. They are really a beautiful couple in every sense of the word and represent MAC so well.”

Cheri and Dustin Culver, a Leadwood husband-wife duo and former EXCEL students, have demonstrated persistence and commitment to academic excellence for the sake of their young family. “We’re passionate about our family,” asserts Dustin. “It’s the reason we started college and continually strive to be better people.”

Cheri adds, “Together we’ve worked very hard to get where we are. Dustin graduated last year, and we finally are starting to enjoy the benefits of what felt like a never-ending journey.

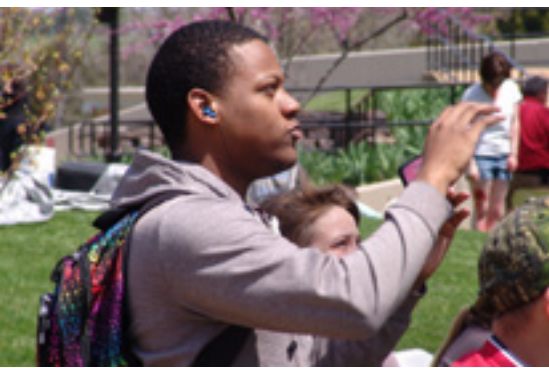
During college, we faced challenges, including the birth of our third child. EXCEL and its tutors, like Rachel, kept us focused on our goals. Because my parents had limited education, I never realized the importance and value of education. The EXCEL program helped me understand this.”

Cheri, an Honors Program and Dean’s List student, completed her AA in 2012 and is a senior in the University of Missouri-St. Louis outreach program on the MAC campus. She plans to graduate with a major in social work and a minor in psychology. “People’s



FRJC Flashback, Sophomores 1974

The class included Betty Huber, Richard Palmier, Gregory Panchot, Karon Pinkerton, Carolyn Pinson, and Randall Pribble.



Mary Lou Robottom and Dorothy Pallo



Caren and William Black, Bud Adams, and Charles and Betty Bequette

The FRJC Alumni Breakfast

The FRJC Breakfast took place on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. Laughter, smiles and story-telling filled MAC's North College Center as alumni recounted common experiences including carpooling or even hitch-hiking to get to college, service in WWII, Korea or Vietnam, and favorite FRJC employees such as the Bloom sisters and Dr. Wesley Deneke. For notice of next year's event, call (573) 518-2261 or email Alumni@MineralArea.edu.

Celebrating Friends



Spring Picnic

Each spring, MAC's tradition of fun and friendship continues as students gather in the Quadrangle for the annual Spring Picnic which dates back to the 1970s.



Back row: Dr. Steve Kurtz, Lonnie Goggins, Barb Stotler, Bill Stotler, David Arnett, Emily Arnett, Bud Adams, Denny Norris, Caren Black, William Black, Betty Bequette, Charles Bequette, Marlene King, and Dr. Gayle Simmons. Front row: Greg Roberts, Ollieann Goggins, Francis Fox, Selma Usina, Betty Carr, Mary Lou Rubottom, Dorothy Pallo and John Bennett.



Through the Grapevine

• **Christine (Rogers) Landrum** (MAC 1972-74) is the 2014 recipient of The Spirit of Martha Award which honors University of Missouri women who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their respective professions and exemplify the spirit of service and leadership, particularly in the furtherance of women. The award, presented by University of Missouri Alumni Association's Griffiths Leadership Society for Women, recognizes Chris' work as the catalyst of the Help the Hungry Bake Sale which benefits local food pantries.

• Preparing pancakes for a Farmington Kiwanis fundraiser are (right) **Kim Amsden** (MAC 1977 & 1982), **Colin Hedrick** (MAC 1993-95), **Sheila (Cresswell) Allen** (1970-71), **Steve Effrein**, **Kraig Sutherland** (MAC 1981-83), **Jim Barton**, and **Larry Colvin**.

• **Jesi Bayless**, MAC 2007-09, graduated with an Associate of Arts in Teaching, then transferred to Southeast Missouri State University where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education in 2012. She currently lives in Ironton and teaches algebra at Arcadia Valley High School. She also returned to MAC as an adjunct elementary algebra instructor. In her leisure time, Jesi enjoys playing tennis and is an avid hockey fan. And, to her mother's dismay and her father's pride, Jesi is an extreme St. Louis Blues hockey fan.

• **Joshua Bayless**, MAC 2009-11, completed his Associate of Applied Science in Computer Networking. Following graduation, Josh worked for Hensco Technologies in Farmington. Then, in 2013, Josh changed careers and is now working at O'Reilly Auto Parts as an installer sales specialist where he is happily pursuing his passion with cars and mechanics. Like his sister and father, Josh is a Blues hockey fan. He, his wife Heather, and their daughter and son live in Farmington.



• **Tim Gray**, former MAC Cardinals men's basketball coach (1985-2004) and athletic director (2004-2011), was recently voted into Region 16 Hall of Fame. Among other coaching accomplishments, Coach Gray achieved an outstanding coaching record of 421-196. Tim is retired from MAC and working in the ministry field.

• For their outstanding campus leadership while students, the husband-wife team of **Talisha and Aaron Brooks** earned Missouri Community College Association's Student Leadership Awards. Talisha earned the 2011 award and, two years later, Aaron received the award. Talisha, a 2011 nursing graduate, earned the award for her leadership in various campus projects such as the "Pantene Pro-V

Beautiful Lengths" campaign where students donated their hair to those undergoing chemotherapy. Aaron, a 2013 technology graduate and past PTK president, was instrumental in leading Phi Theta Kappa's charge to increase membership by 38 percent and to earn its 5-Star Chapter status—the highest achievable chapter honor.

• Science instructor **Dr. Rhonda Gamble** continues to contribute to the science field with a published work that provides a creative study tool helping readers identify anatomical features and remember physiological concepts. Chapters cover body systems individually, with additional chapters on the senses, cells, tissues, and body orientation.

FRJC Flashback, Sophomores 1963-64

The class included Mari Cozean Alexander, George Banta, Charles Braswell, Naomi Boyer, Alvin Sago and Sherry Schroeder.



Share an Update

The Alumni Office appreciates address updates and welcomes story and Grapevine submissions. Please contact us using one of the methods below.

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For specific information on giving opportunities or to discuss a donation idea, contact Kevin at (573) 518-2261 or KThurman@mineralarea.edu.

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