

MINERAL AREA COLLEGE Alumni

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

SPRING/SUMMER 2015



IN 1965, MAC ACQUIRED ITS NEW NAME WITH THE
RENAMING OF ITS PREDECESSOR, FLAT RIVER JUNIOR COLLEGE.
SINCE THEN, OVER 13,500 STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED.



MINERAL AREA COLLEGE

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Mineral Area College's campus is in full-bloom and summer is bursting with unique options despite budget uncertainties. Take advantage of short-term classes, theatre performances, fun programs for kids and teens, or just visit campus to enjoy the Quadrangle's flowers, trees and waterfall.

The campus beauty and our variety of summer options mask the challenges Missouri's community colleges face due to tightened budgets and rising costs.

At times of financial uncertainties, we are extremely grateful to outside funding sources such as MAC Foundation's two springtime friend-raising and fundraising events which raised \$22,700. And, because charitable giving is such a personal choice, the College expresses gratitude for the faithful support of alumni like you.

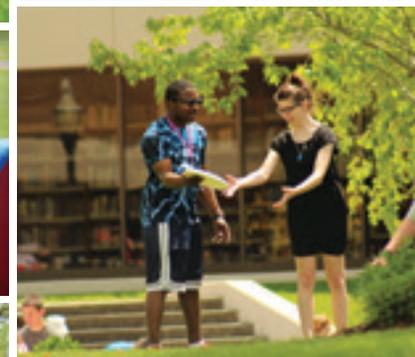
Funding is imperative to bringing quality, affordable education to the Southeast Missouri region. As I travel to Jefferson City to testify on behalf of community colleges and ask legislators to increase or preserve our funding, I think of students like Jake and Waaken, their amazing story, and how MAC was instrumental in charting their journey. And, of Mr. and Mrs. Oates who followed in their children's footsteps to attend MAC. I also reminisce about my own community college experience, as a student paying my way and relying also on scholarships.

Community college stories inspire me and the rest of the Mineral Area College employees to offer the best education and services we can provide. We greatly appreciate our friends and community patrons for supplying the resources needed to make MAC so successful for the last half-century. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, we hope our stories inspire you and perhaps even reflect on the impact FRJC and MAC had on you and your family.

Mineral Area College thrives because people believe in its mission and find many ways to support it. Just like helpful hands promote the growth and longevity of flowers, trees and shrubs on campus, our supporters "cultivate" and make MAC strong. Let's celebrate another half-century of growth and strength together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President



MAC stakeholders celebrate the end of a successful year with Commencement and the Spring Picnic.

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On the Cover

MAC employees celebrate 50 years of memories and milestones since the naming of Mineral Area College.



Two Big Art Talents

MAC student artists Meagan Buchanan and Zach Carrow are two big painters with two big creative personalities. Their artwork was featured in the Spring Student Art Show, sponsored by Mineral Area Council on the Arts. Instructor Jim Wilson says, "I'm particularly excited about the talent of these two artists and the interesting working relationship they share. Even though they often work side-by-side in the studio, they produce such contrasting styles. Meagan's wildly distorted images live in their own fantastical, prismatic, humor-filled world, while Zach prefers to paint still life in an aggressive style, characterized by expressive strokes and bold color choices."



Visit Italy

Explore Venice, Florence and Rome with Mineral Area College May 21-29, 2016. See details at MineralAreaGroupTourSite.com or call (573) 518-2280.

Re-energized and College Ready

Through our doors walk recent high school graduates, adults who have been out of the classroom, military veterans, single parents, and those who have lost employment," says Dan Jaycox (MAC 1998-2000), director of the Learning Center. "With a little bit of instruction, students close their skill gaps and prepare for what's to come as a college student. Too often, people believe their situations are so unique, we won't be able to help them. In fact, we consider it our specialty to help individuals design a path to guide them toward their educational and career goals. Generally, it's not as challenging as people think provided they commit to being personally accountable."

Dan and Math Lab coordinator John Wright (MAC 2004-07) describe the Learning Center's three major focuses since the center moved to its new location near the Concourse Area. The first focus involves streamlining services to focus on tutoring, college readiness skills and proctoring classroom exams. The next focus involves expanding classroom support, especially for the math and science fields. Since these concepts can be more challenging, students can access help outside the classroom, in the Learning Center. The final focus involves including alternative learning styles to fit students' needs. Dan and John extend a special thanks to technology instructor Paul Fritch for designing and printing 3-D models which expand students' learning opportunities.

After graduating from MAC, John earned advanced degrees in biology. While working in research, he realized he longed to reconnect with a variety of people, particularly students. He was excited to be named Math Lab coordinator and says, "Working with math and science students is a perfect fit for me. On a professional as well as personal level, working with students and seeing their accomplishments is rewarding."



John Wright (left) dazzles his students, Kat Wisdom, Mike Foster and Tyler Hedrick, with a cubes activity to teach math concepts.

"Math is easier to teach than science," asserts John. "Science brings volumes of information which can be difficult to assimilate, so my approach is to teach students how to condense large quantities of information to a concise, meaningful set of study notes. So, I'm teaching study skills more than the actual science concepts. Students are amazed at how effectively this works."

Employers seek a comprehensive package—career field proficiency, communication skills, leadership potential, and professional polish and poise. Dan says, "In addition to tutoring and test scores, the Learning Center staff works on soft skills necessary for success in classroom and workplace environments. We address skills such as organization, time management, personal accountability and communication, especially with instructors. Combining soft skills with classroom learning builds

character and makes students more college- and career-ready."

Freshman horticulture major Kat Wisdom says, "My mind is re-energized for math, my favorite subject, but sometimes I need help. I'm dyslexic, so Mr. Wright will catch a tiny mistake and put me back on track."

Tyler Hedrick, of Bismarck, will transfer to Missouri State University for his bio-chem degree. He says, "Mr. Wright is always there when I'm stuck on a math or science problem. He offers alternate viewpoints as he walks me through solutions."

Park Hills freshman and psych nursing major Mike Foster says, "I was apprehensive at first because I despise math. I am doing well in class because Mr. Wright is very good at explaining and helped me pull it all together."

For information about the Learning Center, call (573) 518-2140.



Basketball

National Rankings, Championships, Honors

The women's and men's basketball teams are celebrating outstanding season records, championships and national rankings. The women made MAC history. The men returned to "Hutch" for the national tournament.

Women's Basketball. The Lady Cards season résumé was phenomenal with a 25-6 record and the first-ever Division 1 NJCAA Region 16 Championship in the women's basketball program history. Throughout the season, the team was nationally ranked and finished 20th in the final NJCAA National poll. The Lady Cards beat State Fair (ranked No. 9 in the nation and the top seed in the regional tournament) to win the Region 16 Championship. Then, a single point ended the Lady Cards' season in the District K Title game with a down-to-the-final-second, 74-75 overtime loss to nationally-ranked Iowa Western.

Men's Basketball. The MCCAC Conference, NJCAA Region 16 and District 4 Championships combined with a two-point victory over Kankakee (IL) catapulted the Cardinals to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Hutchison, KS, where they earned a No. 5 tournament seed. This marks the Cards' third national tournament appearance in program history—1977, 2013 and 2015—and second in three seasons. The Cards played 12th-seeded

Hill College (TX) in the national tourney and lost a season-ending nail-biter, 83-84.

The Cards, nationally ranked throughout the season, finished with an overall record of 27-4, were ranked as high as No.7 in the nation, finishing 10th in the final NJCAA National poll.

Honors. Kasia Kiejdrowska and Anthony Virdure earned NJCAA Basketball All-American honors. Congratulations to Kasia for her women's NJCAA Third Team selection and to Anthony for his men's NJCAA Second Team recognition.

Women's Head Coach Gary Koch shared the Region 16 Co-Coach of the Year honors with State Fair's Kevin Bucher, and Men's Head Coach Corey Tate earned the MCCAC and Region 16 Coach of the Year honors.

The Lady Cardinals received the MCCAC Sportsmanship Award. Lady Cards Robneisha Lee, Kasia Kiejdrowska and Mary Jane Buschmann were selected to the All-Region 16 and the All-MCCAC All-Conference First Teams.

Anthony Virdure was selected to the All-Region First Team and was also named Region 16 Player of the Year. Greg Tucker and Randy Holmes were both selected to the Region 16 First Team, and Jamal McDowell made the Second Team. All four players were selected to the MCCAC All-Conference First Team.



Coach Tate Moving On

After 11 years with the men's basketball program, head coach Corey Tate is leaving MAC to take an assistant coaching position at the University of Missouri. Corey played basketball for both MAC and MU. The Cards' programs benefitted with Corey at the helm yielding a 224-121 record, seven all-American players, nationally ranked teams, three Region 16 championships (2006, 2013 and 2015) and two NJCAA national tournament appearances (2013 and 2015). Good luck, Coach Tate.

Amped Up for Advocacy

His life changed in an instant the morning his car pulled into a semi's path.



Andrew Young welcomes Marissa Hoggard, who is new to the area and MAC.

"May 10, 2010, was a morning like most other mornings," says Andrew Young. "I got ready for school. It was 7:20 when I grabbed a couple Oreos on my way out the door. Almost a month later, I woke up in a hospital room and wondered where I was." Most say it's inexplicable that Andrew survived the car accident, much less that he's enrolled in college.

"At first, I wasn't motivated for college, because I longed for that high school feeling where you know almost

everyone," explains the Bonne Terre sophomore. "Now, I am. I've connected with the Student Government Association (SGA) which fuels my drive to stay in college and is the reality I needed to improve my intelligence to succeed in life." Andrew is MAC's current SGA president, and, this spring, he was elected vice-president of the statewide community college SGA.

"After this life-altering accident, what I missed most was my ability to

run, because I was active in sports," says Andrew. "Never will I forget my wrestling coach's encouraging words, 'Can't is not a word.' It took some time to realize that 'what' we want to do in life is not definite, and we may not know our real purpose in life."

While Andrew will not be the storm chaser he once hoped, he says he lives by the "Can't is not a word" motto.

Currently, he is working toward his Associate of Arts with plans to earn a master's degree in political science. "The path of events has shifted what I want to do with my life. First, I want to become a lobbyist. During my internship with the LIFE Center for Independent Living, I advocated for accessibility and disability rights, both at the local and state levels. Then, someday I would like to be an elected politician. I'm thinking of running for a state representative position and see where that takes me."

During his internship, Andrew accompanied LIFE Center Director Tim Azinger (MAC 1990-92) to the Missouri Capitol for legislative visits. "I was like a kid on Christmas morning," explains Andrew. "As if I wasn't wide-eyed enough, Tim opened my eyes to advocacy and the lobby-side of politics. On my next visit, I attended a 'How to Become a Lobbyist' orientation which exceeded all my expectations. Experiences like these and the encouragement of others showed me I am a good voice for young people and families with young people with disabilities."

Running and Walking for Life

Brisk March temperatures didn't deter participation in the 5K Fun Run & Walk hosted by MAC's Relay for Life team. Everyone rallied for the larger purpose: to find a cure for cancer. Organizers say, "Runners loved the course. We plan to make this an annual event."





Archery Club members—business management major Doug Lawson, science major Kristin Bales, and agri-business major Ashton Hampton—take aim at targets on MAC's archery range.

Archery Challenge Accepted

A homemade green quiver hangs from the back of Kristin Bales as she plants her boots squarely into the well-trodden path, nocks her arrow, draws her recurve bow and takes aim at a target some 20 yards away. The bow jumps slightly in her hands as she releases the string, and the unmistakably faint “twang” followed by the indisputable “thump” is heard as the arrow strikes the target. After the shot, Kristin explains, “I really enjoy the ‘zen’ aspect of archery. Being out in the woods shooting is very relaxing.”

Kristin is a member of the college's newly-formed Archery Club, created to answer a challenge issued by Distinguished Alumnus Dick Wood (FRJC 1959-61) at the spring 2014 Commencement. The challenge was readily accepted by faculty members Dr. Nathan Calkins and Dr. Shawn Young, both avid bow hunters and archery enthusiasts.

Archery Club members are an eclectic group from beginners to advanced archers who use a wide variety of archery equipment. Club membership and archery resources have been steadily increasing. The club received two separate grants, a cash grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation that helped purchase 3-D targets and an equipment grant from Easton Bow Company. Both grants have a combined worth of around \$10,000. The club plans to use these resources for public 3-D shoots, 4-H Clubs, Girl and Boy Scout groups, and public school archery programs.

For Kristin, her inspiration to join the Archery Club was kindled by a famous heroine, Katniss, from the very popular *Hunger Games* books and movies. “I wanted to learn to shoot a recurve bow because I love characters like Katniss and Legolas. The Archery Club gave me a

great opportunity to get started.” Club President Ashton Hampton says he joined “for his love and passion for hunting and the outdoors” and he is “excited in leading the Archery Club as the club continues to grow.”

Weather permitting, the Archery Club shoots three days a week on either the static range with pre-determined distances or on the nearly half mile walking course near the campus pond. Aside from shooting, club members—using chainsaws and shovels—are investing sweat-equity to blaze trails through the wooded areas.

Club dues are \$50 a year with \$40 going to the United States Collegiate Archery program that provides insurance coverage for members. The archery range is closed to the public, and use of the range outside of club hours is strictly prohibited.

Raising a Family of Swimmers

"I should have known swimming was in our future," explains Alice M. Oates as she smiles at her husband, Rudolph K. "Rudy" Oates Sr. "Every date Rudy and I ever had managed to take us to a river, lake or ocean. And, when my morning sickness was so bad during my pregnancies, we visited the ocean. After a couple of weeks in the water, my sickness went away."

"We saw what MAC did for our sons, so we decided to enroll."

Alice and Rudy are USA Swimming coaches and have raised a family of swimmers. Their five sons—Rudolph Jr., Michael, Dexter, Christian and Justin—swim competitively. Alice says, "Rudy and the boys built our riverfront home on Big River, near Bonne Terre, and this got us started with swimming 17 years ago." Rudy adds, "Because we lived on the river and the boys enjoyed being in it, we knew they needed to know how to swim. So, swim lessons led to swimming in a Farmington summer league and then as part of Trinity Fellowship Church's sports outreach program."

Alice says, "Our boys all love the water. They're USA Swimming Sectional swimmers who compete in USA Swimming-hosted swim meets throughout the United States. Now, Rudy Jr. lives and competes in France. Justin has achieved elite level swimming status and has competed in USA Swimming Senior National and Grand Prix meets. They all still train and compete."

About 15 years ago, Rudy and Alice trained in Colorado Springs to be USA Swimming coaches. They studied physiology, body mechanics, coaching techniques, safety and rules. The USA Swimming website says, "As the



Alice and Rudy Oates emphasized higher education for their five sons.

National Governing Body for the sport of swimming in the United States, USA Swimming . . . promotes the culture of swimming by creating opportunities for swimmers and coaches of all backgrounds . . . and is also responsible for selecting and training teams for international competition including the Olympic Games . . ."

The Oates say, "Over the years, the USA Swimming expectations have changed. Many modifications have occurred in the professional and technology aspects of the competitive swimming world. So, to keep up, we needed more education. We saw what

MAC did for our sons, so we decided to enroll." Rudy and Alice are anxious to put their Associate of Arts in Business Administration to work.

Regarding education, Alice explains, "Education has always been a priority for our family. In fact, we made a non-negotiable contract with each of our sons stating they had to achieve a bachelor's degree. We've always encouraged our children to pursue secondary education and to discover and live their passions. As parents, we are proud all five have earned college degrees."

Read more about Alice and Rudy's five sons on page 28.

STRENGTH

Adopted brothers Jake and Waaken share a story of emotional support, brotherly love and an amazing, caring mom.

St. Louis freshmen Jake Shepard and Waaken Turner compete in cheerleading competitions throughout the U.S. where audiences sometimes reach 5,000 or more. Their skills landed them MAC Cheer Squad scholarships.

Jake recalls, "I was doing flips when a girl said 'Hey, you're good. You should try out for the cheer team.' I checked it out, really liked it, tried out and made the team." The brothers agree, "Cheerleading builds new relationships. We've matured as young adults with more well-rounded personalities."

Cheerleading brought Jake and Waaken together, and now they share a symbiotic relationship. They met at Platinum Athletics, a family-focused facility committed to cheering and character development. Waaken was struggling in his personal life and asked Jake if his mom might let him crash at his house for a few days while he got things in line. Jake's mother said "30 days." Waaken recalls, "I really liked it at Jake's. It felt comfortable, and I felt like I belonged. But, it was getting close to 30 days. One day, my birth mom called, and we really argued. Jake's mom overheard part of the conversation and said I could stay longer. Soon, she adopted me, and Jake and I became brothers. I love being part of this family . . . and our mom is totally awesome!"

Jake and Waaken share their experiences to encourage others facing life's adversities to keep pushing on. "My birth mom was an addict—hooked on heroine, weed and alcohol," says Jake. "I was adopted at birth by my current family. My mom is the best. But, she doesn't let us give up. She pushes and encourages us to keep trying at everything we do. I was diagnosed with autism very young. Because of her, I've really overcome some challenges. Our mom believes in us and would do anything for us to make us better people."



Left: Jake Shepard and Waaken Turner share an amusing story. Right: The brothers practice stunts and gymnastics in the campus Quad.

As he smiles and taps his heart, Waaken says of his birth mother, "I love her with all my heart and always will, and I know she loves me. But, there are just too many issues we can't resolve. She was only 14 when she had me. Her parents kicked her out, and she knew she couldn't safely raise me in shelters and moving all the time. So, when I was about two, she did what she thought was best for me and put me in foster care. Despite our problems, I am the person I am today because of my mom. Somehow she instilled in me wisdom, respect for myself, and that I was a valuable person." For the next 10-12 years, Waaken bounced in and out of foster homes. He continues, "Man, it was a hard road. Lots of negativity and feeling unwanted. But something told me not to pay attention to all that."

Their adoptive mother provides many opportunities to prepare them to be productive young adults. Although Jake's career choice is undecided, he's considered personal training and, recently, photography. Because it's Jake's first time to live away from home, he was a little nervous about dorm life. But, apartment-style living, new friends and having his brother as a roommate suit him well.

Waaken believes he's wired for a career to help people. "Throughout my cheer experiences, I've seen successful outcomes from potentially devastating injuries because of the knowledge of my coaches and physical therapists," he says. "Physical therapy is the right place for me. I can encourage, comfort and motivate people to not give up on returning to things they love to do. Helping restore people's hope for the future motivates me."

Next year, Waaken will attend Lindenwood University in St. Louis and Jake plans to return to MAC.



Three Celebrate Retirement

This year, three employees announced their retirements. In 1990, Ron Fadler and Linda King came to MAC. Ron brought technical skills gained from U.S. Army service where he was a certified instructor of missile launch system repair. Ron guided the audio-visual department and witnessed many changes in campus technology. His conscientious investments in audio-visual resources effectively served employees and the community. Ron's precise work behind the scenes assured hundreds of events ran smoothly and were captured for future viewing.

Linda is a CPA and holds a BS in Accounting and MA in Education. Her tireless work maintained college compliance with governmental accounting and steered the college through annual accounting audits. Enrollment growth also increased her responsibility with financial aid processing. Reporting for existing and newly-added state and federal grant programs fell within Linda's purview. Linda's colleagues recognize her dedication and her rigor for keeping MAC's accounting procedures compliant, accurate and trustworthy.

On his employment application, David McClure indicated he was looking for "steady employment for years to come." Now, 35 years later, he's a General Services retiree. Dave witnessed the construction of multiple campus buildings, served four presidents and recalls many campus happenings. He was the "go-to" person regarding building and room keys. Dave was respected for his meticulous care of the college's vehicle fleet and maintenance of the field house after home basketball games.

Three more employees are also leaving.

Sandy Lefever holds two master's degrees and started with the Educational Talent Search program. In 2007, she became an Upward Bound academic advisor. Many area high school students express appreciation

for the guidance she provided through the TRIO program. Her future is leading her to Texas.

It's a second retirement of sorts for Dave and Kathe Ramsey. In 2004, they closed their full-time, Perry County School District teaching careers. This May, they taught their last MAC classes as part-time faculty at the Perryville Higher Education Center. They've taught for 30 years, and for 20 years, they taught both high school and college classes. Although they look forward to a more carefree routine, they have mentioned cabins, motorcycles, drawing and family to keep them active. It's nice to hear the Ramseys say, "As we reflect on our lives, we know teaching is what we were meant to do." The MAC Family extends congratulations to all in their future endeavors.

Summer Fun for Kids & Teens

Choose from a variety of July activities.

Options include:

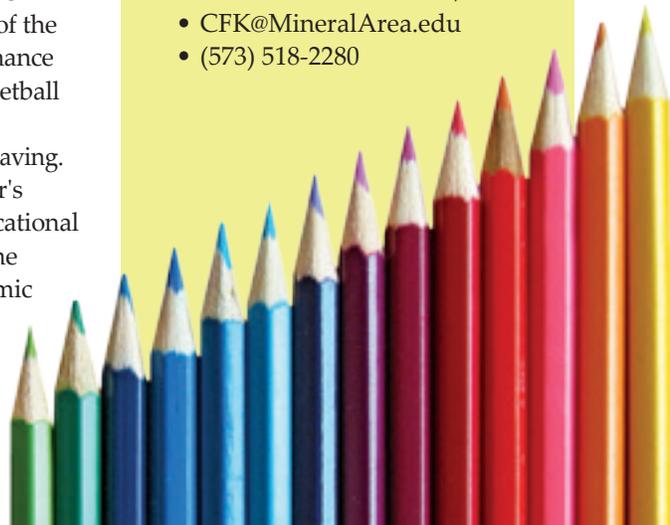
- College for Kids: Grades 2-8
- Teen Academy: Grades 7-9
- Mini Camps
- Theater & Athletic Camps

For information or a schedule:

- www.mineralarea.edu/ce
- CFK@MineralArea.edu
- (573) 518-2280

FRJC Flashback Freshmen 1965

The class included Gwendolyn Dixon, Charles Copin, Lana Cape, Jana Cape, Steven Bunch, James Dickens and Gary Clark.



Sports Hall of Fame Inducts First Members

At the annual Rotary Shoot-out Tournament, the newly-created St. Francois County Rotary Club/MAC Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its first members, the late athletic director and basketball coach Bob Sechrest Sr. and retired baseball coach Hal Loughary. Portraits of Loughary and Sechrest will be joined by future inductees in the Hall of Fame, located inside the field house. “For 56 years, the Rotary and MAC have partnered for the basketball tourney. The club wanted to give something back to the college,” says Rotarian Larry Joseph. “Many directors, coaches, players and teams over the years deserve recognition for their hard work and success, not only in athletics but also scholastically.” Athletic Director Chad Mills says, “The Rotary Club did something really nice for the Athletic Department which provides another opportunity to connect with our past as well as recognize former coaches, players and teams who deserve to have their names and photos on permanent display.” Two inductees will be added each year. The nomination form is on MAC’s Athletic Department website.

Coach Loughary and Rotarian Jerry Weems (MAC 1972-74) share a moment during the induction ceremony.



Work Ready Certification



Business, chambers of commerce, education, economic development, a skilled labor pool, and workforce training: Each is a crucial element of a

Certified Work Ready Community (CWRC). In December 2014, Gov. Jay Nixon visited MAC to announce St. Francois County’s designation as the nation’s thirteenth Certified Work Ready Community. The successful designation salutes diligent efforts of community, business and education leaders—in cooperation with the Missouri Division of Workforce Development—to fortify workforce training and development to mesh with the region’s opportunities for economic development. In 2012, Missouri became one of the first states to commit to the work-ready initiative by American College Testing (ACT). Missouri is tops in the nation with the most CWRC-certified counties.

To realize this shared CWRC goal, many worked to achieve it. ACT set goals for St. Francois County concerning the number of businesses who preferred job applicants with National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) and the number of county residents who had to obtain the NCRC.

The NCRC, issued by ACT, is a work-related skills credential providing objective documentation of employees’ skills that can be accepted nationwide. The NCRC is composed of three WorkKeys® assessments that measure skills critical to on-the-job success. MAC took a leadership role in securing businesses to sign up as supporters of the CWRC certification and NCRC by providing presentations to employers and disseminating information about the initiative.

To help the county obtain the necessary emerging workforce numbers, MAC already had several initiatives in place: requiring the

NCRC as an exit exam for all Career & Technology graduates, using the NCRC as part of the application process for the college’s MoWINs Grant programs, and designating the college’s Assessment Center as an ACT WorkKeys Solutions Center.

Now, MAC is offering support to surrounding counties as they work to obtain CWRC status. Recently, Cape Girardeau County received its CWRC certification, and Washington County plans to receive its certification this year. Other counties are in the process of forming their CWRC county committees to obtain their certification. By participating in this certification process, counties help communicate their workforce needs to area education and workforce training programs, establish career pathways for students with stackable credentials, and help promote economic development by having data related to the quality of their workforce.



Living with Resilience

Navy SEAL and author Eric Greitens emphasizes living a purposeful life.

“[My friend] was an unemployed alcoholic on disability who was looking at the prospect of having his kids visit him in jail.”

An attentive audience of students, employees, veterans and community members was captivated as St. Louis native Eric Greitens shared his riveting story about purpose, compassion, leadership, service, responsibility and resilience. Eric’s lecture, “Living with Resilience, Leading with Strength and Compassion,” was a compendium of his recently-released book, *Resilience*.

Eric, the 2015 Zelda Martin Cozean Lecture Series guest lecturer, intertwined his personal experiences as a humanitarian volunteer, a non-profit leader and a decorated U.S. Navy SEAL fighting the war on terrorism. He shared the story of a cherished friendship with his brother-in-arms, Zach, who suffered from PTSD.

“One day, Zach—the Navy SEAL war hero, entrepreneur, good father coming home from Afghanistan—called

to say he was now in a place in his life where he was an unemployed alcoholic on disability who was looking at the prospect of having his kids visit him in jail,” Greitens told the audience.

Living a purposeful life was Eric’s recurring theme. While emphasizing we cannot control circumstances in our lives, he stated our response is to develop a life guided by purpose and to take responsibility for our outcomes. Resilience is a product of how we hardwire ourselves to deal with adversity.

His maxim embodies compassion toward others’ situations, responsibility for our own well-being, and active participation in leadership and service to our communities. He challenged the audience to action by stating, “You don’t need to wait to make a difference in the lives of others. Look outside yourself and find a way to serve others.”

Eric is a 1996 graduate of Duke

University and a Rhodes and Truman Scholar. He later graduated from the University of Oxford where his doctoral thesis, "Children First," explored the impact of humanitarian organizations' work on war-affected children. In 2002, he entered U.S. Navy SEAL training. He served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Southeast Asia where he was Commander of Joint Special Operations Task Unit, Al Qaeda Targeting Cell and for the Mark V Special Operations Craft Detachment Unit.

Today, Eric is an author, non-profit leader and public speaker. In 2013, he was named one of *TIME* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World, and, in 2014, *Fortune Magazine* recognized him as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. As founder of The Mission Continues,

he encourages veterans to engage in volunteer community service and challenges them to rebuild productive, meaningful lives.

He's authored four books, beginning with a collection of essays and photos, called *Strength and Compassion*. His second book, *The Heart and the Fist*, highlights his "be strong to do good, but do good to be strong" philosophy. The third is a young-adult version of *The Heart and the Fist*, titled *The Warrior's Heart*. His newest release, *Resilience*, is based on his personal correspondence to a fellow SEAL struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder. Eric's books are available at many bookstores and Amazon.com.

"You don't need to wait to make a difference in the lives of others. Look outside yourself and find a way to serve others."

Eric Greitens visits with the audience and poses with the VFW Honor Guard.





Horse Crazy

In the equine program, helping others learn is a common occurrence.

“Crazy about horses” is how Alan Bayless, MAC’s 20-year veteran Ag instructor, describes the local area reaching southeast toward Marble Hill, Jackson and Cape Girardeau. Equine interests are booming, and people are often surprised to learn about the cadre of family stables, horse farms and arenas scattered throughout the local landscapes.

Some students are very “pumped up” about working with horses. Again and again, Alan hears, “All I want to do is work with horses.” Many niches

exist for students to transfer their love of horses to careers. Options vary, from stables (as trainer or farrier); to the track (as groomer, exercise rider or photographer); to competition (as show judge or manager); and to recreation (as camp counselor, trail engineer or ranch manager).

The Equine Science & Management curriculum accommodates novices with an interest in horses to individuals with horsemanship skills. Alan says, “Entry-level students shouldn’t be threatened to enroll in this introductory course, because regardless of your level

of horsemanship, everyone attends to learn. Besides the connection between the people and the horses, remarkable relationships develop between the newcomers and the seasoned horse veterans. It’s rewarding to see those with experience mentor the beginners. Helping others to learn seems to be an inherent trait in the equine field.”

Diversity of experience accentuates the learning. “Horse people are smart people,” assures Alan. “They’re a unique collection, because everyone has a nugget of horse information to share and an opinion to express. Often this

“There’s no real way to thank these community-minded people for what they do.”

facilitates interesting class discussions.”

Alan describes this practical, learn-by-doing class as a “loose lecture driven by ancillary, applied textbook experiences that come to light in the crown jewel—which are the stable experiences. Application of the textbook material is our goal. These hands-on activities are the epitome of an applied science class where book learning seamlessly transitions to the horse stables.”

Alan says, “The course provides a core of information for success in equine-related career fields and prepares students to manage a small one- or two-horse facility.” Examples of content are safety procedures, grooming and general care, anatomy and physiology, nutrition and genetics, stable maintenance, and care for the mare and foal.

Community partnership is another gem since the labs are off-campus at private horse facilities. “The

cooperation of generous, caring and committed stable owners and equine professionals exponentially increases the learning experiences,” explains Alan. “Students meet, observe and work alongside farriers, veterinarians, breeders and dental technicians who treat the horses. There’s no real way to thank these community-minded people for what they do. Hopefully, the fact they are actively molding the careers of future equine professionals has some intrinsic value.”

“I’ve always admired horses, but never had the chance to work with them. Because I plan to become a park ranger and have a farm in the future, I figured the equine class would benefit me,” explains Brittany Filippi. “I learned so much in this class—breeds, tack and equipment, care, and anatomy. At first, I was scared working with the horses, but the owners were great instructors. I’ve never learned so much

in a single course before.”

Perryville freshman Makayla Richardet grew up on a farm around animals. She says, “I’ve always wanted to be a vet, and this class has given me some amazing experiences like farrier work and watching a vet draw blood. The hands-on part really is the best part and really reinforces what we learn.”

Anthony Erickson, of St. Louis, says, “I’ve been in warehousing and owned a moving business. I’m 37 now and ready for a career change. My wife and I plan to start a ranch in Alabama. Working outside is appealing to us. We plan to start with hogs and later add cattle. This class has given solid information that will transfer to other animals and our new business.”

For more equine or agriculture class information, contact Alan at (573) 518-2102 or ABayless@MineralArea.edu.

Left: Makayla Richardet with Destinee. Below: Hands-on equine labs take place at Black Knight Stables. Pictured are instructor Alan Bayless, Mallory James, Carlee Thomure, Destinee, Makayla Richardet, Kaleb Francis, Tori White, Anthony Erickson and Nicole (LaPlant) Dowell of Black Knight Stables.



Ways to Give

Consider supporting education at MAC.

Give in a variety of ways:

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

Consult your estate planner, financial advisor or tax advisor to determine tax considerations for your gifts.

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



Bethanie Barnes looks forward to an engineering degree with a minor in explosives.

Dobrzyniecki Memorial Scholarship

“The very best thing is how helpful my teachers are.”

A welcoming campus, helpful people, new friends, interesting classes and good teachers are reasons Bethanie Barnes says MAC is the right place to start her college career. “Everyone is very friendly and eager to help you,” says the engineering major.

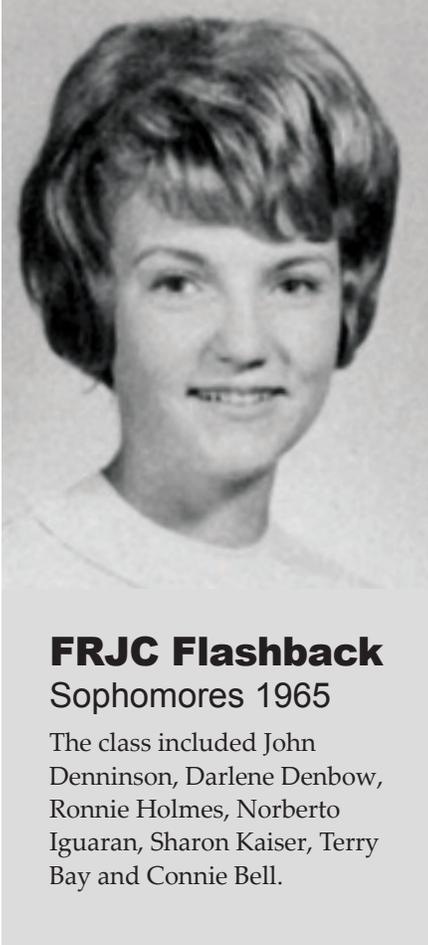
“College is expensive enough. And, MAC is a good fit for my family’s budget,” she continues. “I couldn’t see any reason to get so much in debt for the first two years. That would just be more to pay back after I graduate. Because MAC’s got an excellent transfer program to Rolla and I got some scholarship help, it was the sensible choice.”

Bethanie, the Carl Dobrzyniecki Memorial Scholarship recipient, explains, “I’m very thankful for this scholarship because it helps alleviate financial stress. I work part-time during the semester and full-time at

Black River Lodge in the summer,” says the freshman from Annapolis. Once she completes her bachelor’s degree, Bethanie wants to return to this area to work.

“MAC’s been excellent. The very best thing is how helpful my teachers are. Whenever I have a question, they are eager to spend extra time,” she says. “Mr. Fritch is one of my favorites because he makes class fun while we learn. I had no AutoCAD experience, but he walked me through so I would be comfortable the next time. Now, I’ve got a grasp of the design basics and core principles. I really like Ms. Rowland’s unique way of explaining concepts. Once she compared a biology term to a stretchy phone cord which provided a good visual, and we immediately understood. MAC teachers really make a difference.”

After MAC, Bethanie looks forward to her seamless credit transfer to the Missouri S&T (Rolla) to pursue her civil or mining engineering degree with a minor in explosives.



FRJC Flashback
Sophomores 1965

The class included John Denninson, Darlene Denbow, Ronnie Holmes, Norberto Iguaran, Sharon Kaiser, Terry Bay and Connie Bell.

Excitement of ER Work



Kelsey Chapman is grateful to be graduating almost debt-free thanks to scholarships.

“I remember how comforting the nurses were who cared for my grandparents as they were dealing with cancer and diabetes. The nurses somehow captured my attention. Even at a young age, I realized the nurses always cared for our family’s emotional needs, too,” says Kelsey Chapman of Park Hills, who is the Mallory Hicks Scholarship recipient. While in high school, Kelsey explored health care by earning her CNA credentials and confirmed nursing as her career choice.

“Our clinicals and the simulations are fantastic,” exclaims the sophomore nursing student. “Exploring all the nursing fields exposes us to so many potential careers and makes us consider options we probably never would explore on our own. The SIM-family simulation gives us magnificent ICU-type experiences we could never have in real life. MAC’s nursing program is awesome.”

Originally, Kelsey believed obstetrics and pediatrics to be her field. However,

she says, “Emergency room clinical experiences were a game-changer. You never know what’s coming next. You’re treating all ages of people and various conditions all the time. One day, we treated young children with flu symptoms and a 97-year-old woman. The fast-paced, changing dynamics of ER work is exciting and rewarding. ER also gives me the chance to use many of my nursing skills.”

Kelsey is incredibly grateful for the Mallory Hicks Nursing Scholarship to help with her college expenses. “When you enter the nursing program, you have to commit to your studies and being successful in the program,” says the future RN. “I am so fortunate to have this scholarship because it allows me to focus on my studies. And, my parents are my rock! They help me out when I need them. So, with this wonderful scholarship and my parents’ help, I will graduate almost debt-free. That’s super exciting.”



Pictured are, back row: students Nathan Emanuel, Douglas Northam, Crystal Wisdom and Megan Lundy; front row: NHC's director of nursing Tim Francis, MAC's Allied Health Department director Teri Douglas, and NHC administrator Jacki Pudlowski.

NHC of Desloge Supports Nursing

National HealthCare Corporation (NHC) of Desloge recently donated \$6,500 to the Allied Health Department to buy equipment and supplies for its labs. The gift primarily came from contributions by individual HealthCare centers, as well as from

various civic and business groups, organizations and other interested parties. NHC is a leading long-term healthcare company in the United States and has over 600 devoted employees in the St. Louis and surrounding area.

Doe Run Focus: Workforce Development

The Doe Run Company donated \$10,000 to MAC to support Missouri's workforce development via the Career & Technical Education programs. "Jobs and the economy are the biggest concerns facing nearly 60 percent of our local community members, according to research Doe Run conducted in 2014," said Mark Coomes, vice president of human resources and community relations. "This gift helps enable members of the community to enhance their skills, develop promising careers and fortify our region's economy."

MAC offers 35 career and technical programs and general education courses for students interested in pursuing a variety of academic majors. The Career & Tech Ed programs most closely aligned with Doe Run employment needs include

construction/building technology, electrical and electronics technology, industrial maintenance, and machine tool technology, among others.

"For nearly 100 years, MAC has provided higher education and job training to meet community needs," says MAC President Steven Kurtz. "Doe Run's continued dedication to our students' skill development contributes to MAC's goal of securing our students' success and, in turn, enriching our community."

"Much of Doe Run's community contributions support efforts to educate and develop Missouri's future workforce," Mark says. "Each year, the company grants scholarships to students studying electrical, mechanical and mobile equipment maintenance and operation, chemistry, engineering, mining and geology."

Donors Make a Substantial Difference

Mineral Area College and Mineral Area College Foundation continue to partner to invest in program improvements and provide scholarship opportunities for higher education. After wrapping up another successful Simmons Match campaign, the Foundation shows generous donors the impact their support is having around campus.

For the past two years, the Music Department was the recipient of many new instruments and needed equipment.

This year, donations (combined with Enhancement Grant monies) improved several programs.

Keeping abreast of current technology and industry trends is vital in continuing to provide quality education. Technology got a boost with the purchase of 50 new computers. Updated technology was also made possible in other departments. The Allied Health Department received computer equipment to enhance training for nursing students, and the Theater Department received a new light board, which greatly enhances functionality during productions. The Art Department was the recipient of a new kiln, replacing the one which had served the department for over 25 years. The Horticulture Department added significantly to its program. An Impact Tester and a utility vehicle were two of the new enhancements purchased.

MAC and MAC Foundation are pleased with the continued support of loyal donors in the effort to provide quality, affordable education in the community. Through student scholarships and program enhancements, every effort is made to make each dollar count.

Competitive Shoot Raises \$10,500



Instructor Doug Ruess and cadets Colby McCreary, Shawn Herbert and Logan Davis are dressed to work in the chilly morning temperatures.

A 3-Stage Tactical Pistol Shooting Competition raised money to purchase an Interactive Firearms Training Simulator for the Law Enforcement Academy and Criminal Justice Department. The simulator's patrol scenarios provide interactive firearms and tactical judgement training to effectively render crucial use-of-force decisions. Trainees gain a consciousness of the pressures and challenges facing law enforcement professionals as they make split-second decisions.

Shooters competed in tactical scenarios when handguns may be needed. First-place winners were Ryan Brunstrom (Columbia) in the Professional Division and Timothy Overstreet (St. Louis) in the Men's Division.

Several businesses joined MAC Foundation to support this fundraiser. Midwest Gun Works Inc., Asymmetric Solutions and Cedar Falls Tactical were the major sponsors.

Midwest Gun Works Inc. (MGW), of Pevely, is passionate about providing

customers with the finest gunsmithing craftsmanship, shooting accessories, and both current and obsolete gun parts. MGW is the go-to provider of gunsmithing services for Cabela's, Bass Pro, Browning, Winchester and other companies. Visit www.midwestgunworks.com.

Asymmetric Solutions (AS), located south of Farmington, is a private, special operations company that provides training services for law enforcement professionals, civilians and corporate team building, including conceal and carry, tactical shooting and women's basic shooting. AS also offers private security, intelligence solutions and

Rich McGehee and Jon Warden from Midwest Gun Works, Ryan Brunstrom winner of the Pro Division, and Grady Powell and John Wall from Asymmetric Solutions.



defense industry consulting. Visit www.asymmetricolutionsusa.com.

Cedar Falls Tactical is in its new 8,000 square-foot facility east of Desloge, stocking over 700 guns and thousands of accessories and ammunition. Services include gunsmithing, firearms training, conceal and carry classes, as well as Class III sales and manufacturing. In the planning is a 65-yard outdoor range complete with Class III rentals on-site. Visit www.cedarfallstactical.com

Thanks to other sponsors: J&J Uniforms, Office Max and Dexter BBQ in Farmington, Sapaugh Motors of Herculaneum, Twin City Toyota and 4BushWeaponSystems.

Participants and sponsors deemed the event successful with respect to the caliber of the competition and the \$10,500 raised. "Participants were very pleased with the organization and level of difficulty," says Giovanni Carollo, Law Enforcement Academy instructor. "The actual shooting competition and vendor displays impressed attendees. Asymmetric did an awesome job. People are already gearing up for the next competition."

"The event was for a great cause," explains Doug Ruess, Criminal Justice programs coordinator. "Law enforcement officers are probably under more scrutiny now than ever. Some of the most scrutinized areas are use-of-force decisions and firearms use. The simulator prepares police recruits and current law enforcement officers on use-of-force and firearms decisions."

Organizers are planning for the next competitive fundraiser to take place in Fall 2016.



Education is in Our Blood

Ashley Lotz doesn't have to look too far to find role models. Most of her immediate family members are in education. "I always knew I wanted to teach," exclaims Ashley. "I guess you could say education is definitely in our blood! My family teaches in the North County District. My mom, Tena, attended MAC on a volleyball scholarship and now works in grades K-2. My dad, Mitch, is the counselor at UniTec. My older brother, Kyle, teaches middle school health, and my younger brother, Austin (MAC 2011-13), is finishing his degree in art education and hopes to join us."

Ashley graduated from MAC in 2011 and completed her bachelor's degree at Missouri Baptist University. She remembers, "When I arrived at MAC, I realized I was in the right place and education was undoubtedly what I was meant to do. The education program helped me build confidence as I entered my career." Recently, Ashley was one of 64 recipients of the Outstanding Beginning Teacher Award (presented by

the Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education) for excellence in serving children during the first two years of teaching.

Working with some really great educators has helped launch Ashley's teaching career. "I have an incredible principal, Brandon Gregory, who is wonderful with the kids and always



Top: Lotz family of educators—Kyle, Mitch (MAC 1984-86), Tena (Barton, MAC 1978-80), and Ashley. Bottom: Ashley and Dr. Shawn Young attend the Outstanding Beginning Teacher awards ceremony.

supportive of the teachers," says the fourth-grade teacher. "Even though teaching can sometimes be a difficult and under-appreciated job, I wouldn't trade it for the world. I wake up every morning knowing I get to spend the day with my students, who I feel have become my own. I also have a great mentor teacher, Amy Horton, who has helped me in so many ways. Without these people by my side, my job wouldn't be quite the same!"

"One of the most important things a good teacher does is simply getting to know his or her students by connecting with them in any way possible. As their teacher, it is crucial your students know you care about them since you spend so much time together," says the Bonne Terre native. "At the beginning of the year, I always refer to them as 'my students,' and it's interesting how fast that term changes to 'my kids.' After getting to know them as a class and as individuals, they truly hold a place in my heart as 'my kids.'"

Rewarded by Helping Others



Detective Sergeant Tim Porter is employed by the Farmington Police Department.

"Viburnum provided me a great education, but I wasn't necessarily a great college student initially," explains Timmeray "Tim" Porter, MAC 1987. "At MAC, I learned how to be a good college student and gained confidence—most especially in public speaking—which has been valuable in my education and career." He holds a BS in mass communication and a master's in public policy/public administration.

When Division of Family Services funding changed, Tim didn't relish the drive to St. Louis for work. Instead, he charted his way into detective work. "I certainly respected law enforcement but never considered it a career. I applied to a 'no experience necessary' ad for a Farmington police officer position. I was hired and later assigned to the detective bureau," he says.

His career has childhood roots. "We played cops and robbers. I'd never be the robber," he says. "One day, I'd ridden my bike to go fishing and saw a traffic accident. I raced to help. The

"It may sound cliché, but if I can help one person, then I consider it a tremendous success."

lady wasn't hurt, but I waited with her. After the trooper finished, he asked how I got there. I fibbed and said I walked. My secret hope was he'd offer me a ride in his cool squad car. Sure enough, he did. But, later, I walked the mile back to retrieve my bike!"

As a detective, Tim investigates crimes. "Undoubtedly, the most difficult are crimes against children," he says. "I've developed the short-term ability to cope and get the job done. Later, these incidents trouble me, often years later. That's why I have the utmost respect for those who work with abused, neglected or ill children."

"Solving crimes is rewarding. But, sometimes my biggest rewards come from helping people," shares Tim. "Our area has a tremendous drug abuse problem. Often I'm contacted by worried parents and friends about a loved one. I'm glad to provide resources and feel rewarded when I get feedback about the positive progress of that loved one. Unfortunately, things don't always work out. Sometimes, all I can recommend is incarceration. The ultimate downer is when someone, especially a young person, overdoses and dies. It may sound cliché, but if I can help one person, then I consider it a tremendous success." Tim's conviction to helping others is evidenced in his school and civic presentations and his involvement as a Children's Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri board member.

Tim and his family live in Farmington. His brother and daughter are MAC grads. Drop him an email at portable118@yahoo.com.



Jamie (Lewis) LaMonds (MAC 1994-96) and Shannon (Webb) Cleve (MAC 1991-93) work at Farmington High School.

Friends and Co-workers

People are why Jamie and Shannon like their careers in education. "Students are filled with energy, and my co-workers are incredible," asserts Jamie. "It's so exciting when former students express gratitude."

Assistant principal Jamie says, "One of my challenges is making sure my problem-solving skills don't create more problems! Sometimes the simplest solutions can create an unexpected domino effect."

Jamie's passion is her family. "Samson and I have two wonderful boys," she says. "We hope to visit all 50 states. Our recent adventure was a cross-country camping trip to Yosemite National Park and the Grand Canyon. We are a family of avid readers, and we love seeing the world in our travels and in books."

Shannon says, "MAC basketball and theater have always been a part of my family's life, so attending MAC was a logical choice."

Shannon's real joy is the classroom. "It's easy for me to build relationships with students. Teachers must make a valiant effort so students know we're advocating for them. I love history and enjoy passing it on to my students. It's cool when a student chooses to become a history teacher!"

Shannon and her husband have two daughters. Friends can reconnect with Shannon by email at shannoncleve@gmail.com.



In her art studio, Bendi Powell kindles her inspiration and creativity.

Dreams Really Do Come True

Her artwork is displayed throughout the Midwest and in private and commercial collections. One of her watercolor collages even calls Mineral Area College home. After completing her associate degree in 1972, Bendi (Boyer) Powell earned her bachelor's (Southeast Missouri State) and master's (Western Kentucky University) degrees in education with an art specialty. Bendi says, "Jerry Walters provided the atmosphere, encouragement, knowledge and skills to allow me to stretch my artistic wings. To this day, I still consider him my mentor."

Why art? "My grandfather owned Roberts' Office Supply, so art materials were always available," she recalls. "My grandmother, aunt and dad were artistic and created an art-friendly environment. In elementary school, I was fascinated by a brilliant sunset and immediately did a watercolor. That experience made me feel more a part of its beauty. When I do art solely for myself, it is very freeing."

Her love for art is far-reaching—from

the classroom to the studio to the galleries and museums. For 31 years, she touched the lives of young people teaching art at North County and MAC.

Simultaneously, Bendi continued her achievements as a professional artist. Her exhibits began with her graduate show and grew to include exhibits for Gallery Space Group in Glasgow, KY, the 32nd annual Mid-States Exhibit at the Evansville Art Museum, the Mid-States Traveling Exhibit and the Coca-Cola Show in Elizabethtown, KY, the Art Educators Exhibit at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the Monday Club in Webster Groves, and at MAC. Her artwork is in the permanent collection of Citizen's Bank of Glasgow, KY. Bendi is still a working artist and her artwork can be seen locally in Farmington's Bauhaus Kaffee.

Though retired from full-time work, this artist remains "all in for art." She is in the Docent Program at the Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM). Bendi explains,

"Although this is a volunteer position, an application, interview and two years of initial training were required. This gives me the privilege of continuing to enjoy the very best aspects of the teaching process. As a docent, I take 'field trips' to places such as New York and Philadelphia for ongoing training. At SLAM, I enjoy giving various tours, including student groups." Bendi's goal of teaching art—for students of any age—is for individuals to take ownership of "their own" art. She emphasizes art is highly individualistic and is an expression of many influences including culture, personal experiences, values and aspirations.

"The greatest joys in my life are my family—my wonderful husband, Bob, our daughter Anne, son-in-law Jim, and our two grandsons," exclaims Bendi. "When asked about my retirement plans, I answered I'd like to be a docent at the SLAM, rock-a-bye babies and make art. Dreams do come true!"

I'm Blessed Beyond Measure

From childhood autism to an award-winning nursing career.



As volunteers, Jared and Mae Kunz share their music to benefit the citizens of St. Francois County.

"I entered MAC thinking I was just a sub-par person who was lucky to be accepted into the nursing program. I doubted my intellect, skills and capabilities," explains Jared Kunz, RN. "MAC pushed me and taught me I really could achieve. Not only did I learn to persevere through the challenging nursing program, I became a stronger and better person. I entered the job market with the confidence I could excel in anything asked of me. I hold my head high knowing I am a MAC graduate."

This former Student Nurses Association president earned his Associate of Science in Nursing in 2013. He remembers his instructors, Mrs. Ketcherside, Mrs. Blum, Mrs. Schwent and Mrs. Kelly. "They taught me the

skills and provided the knowledge to serve my patients," he says. "Every day I was challenged and learned more than I believed possible."

On the medical-surgical floor at Parkland Health Center in Farmington, Jared is a remarkable caregiver to his patients. His excellent care oozes with spiritual comfort, is sensitive to his patients' needs, and brings solace to loved ones. "I have the honor of caring for people when they are at a low point in their lives," explains the RN. "Often, patients are not only physically sick but are suffering mentally or spiritually. I believe in a holistic approach to nursing and want to assure that anyone who is my patient leaves feeling whole, inside and out. I get to make a positive difference in people's lives every day."

His extraordinary patient care earned him a new moniker, "The Singing Nurse." Jared was twice-recognized by BJC/Parkland Health Center for his "singing patient care." Read his inspiring story about a patient's request, a song, and a smile that motivated Jared to pursue his nursing career at <http://www.parklandhealthcenter.org/?id=33425&sid=46>.

"I want to make sure that anyone who is my patient leaves feeling whole, inside and out."

It's no surprise to hear Jared say, "I am passionate about God and excited about this career path He set for my life. Autistic children are also my passion. When I was two or three, I was diagnosed as autistic and was delayed in every area in life. For much of my childhood, I was unable to look people in the eyes or speak and display any affection to my family. I don't understand how or why, but barriers started to break up my life and my mind. Slowly, I began to understand life and know who my siblings and parents are. I feel blessed beyond measure for what God has done in my life."

Outside work, Jared and his wife Mae, who is an occupational therapist, enjoy life with their two golden retrievers. He plays basketball and is a winter snowboarder. He and Mae are musicians and attend Meadow Heights Baptist Church in Farmington. Currently, he is pursuing his BSN. Jared invites his MAC contemporaries to drop him an email at kneesforchrist@yahoo.com.



Hunting and Photography Addiction

“During my two years at MAC, I was working part-time at Trimfoot and helping manage an apartment complex,” says Farmington native Trent Busenbark. “So, I actually enjoyed going to class and seeing friends. And, I squeezed in every opportunity I could to go hunting.” He earned his Associate of Arts in 2011.

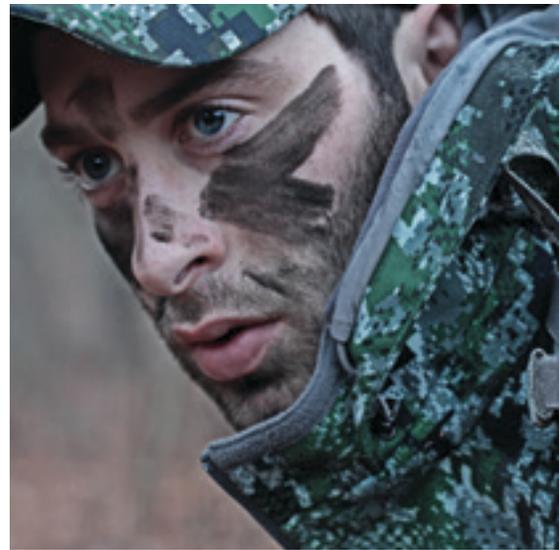
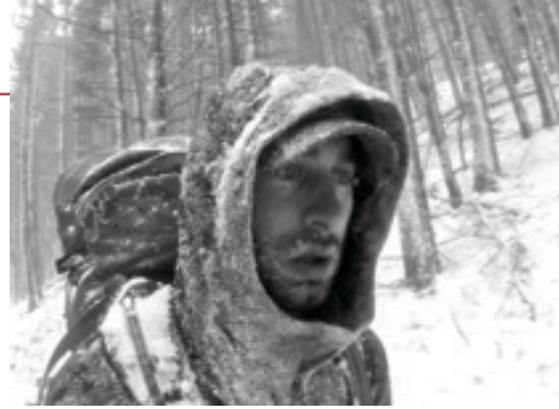
“Managing the apartment complex was one of the best business lessons I’ve had. I learned to deal with the public, work with other businesses, and operate

a business,” he explains. “Although I can’t say I especially enjoyed my accounting class, I did learn accounting principles that are required to function successfully in business.”

He credits his Microsoft Office class for the valuable knowledge he uses in his current position as Trimfoot Company’s national sales/ brand manager. Trent says, “It’s essential for me to develop my sales presentations from start to finish. When customers pose questions, I must have the answers. So, to fully understand the products

“My weapon of choice isn’t as clear as it once was.”

I sell, I immerse myself in the whole process.” Trent feels fortunate to handle a few of the company’s outdoor brands. He explains, “The outdoor brands opened the door for an inside view of the hunting market. I serve as liaison between the sales force and all other Trimfoot departments. Additionally, I work first-hand with sales reps,



attend most sales calls, and handle key accounts. Since I am an avid hunter, this is a very enjoyable experience."

Hobbies and career align well for Trent. "I hunted with family from an early age. Soon, our yearly rifle excursion and occasional pheasant or small game hunt just weren't enough," smiles the ardent outdoorsman. "Once I was able to drive, bow hunting became my challenge which led to a serious hunting addiction."

Now, Trent confesses, "My weapon of choice isn't as clear as it once was.

Nowadays, my camera is just as important as my bow, rifle or shotgun. I find myself lugging cameras around, combining my passion for hunting with my profound interest in cameras and technology. Of course, most of my subjects are hunting and outdoors related. I often contribute photos and occasionally an article to other outdoor manufactures/retailers for publication."

A flip-video camera actually fueled Trent's video interests. "While at MAC, I had a good duck hunting spot, and that's where I put my flip-video

Photography is a new doorway through which Trent Busenbark discovers nature's subtleties and beauty.

to work and shot my first wildlife video footage." Now, Trent's goals and interest in filming come from his motivation to encourage people to get outside. As photographer and videographer, Trent exclaims, "I enjoy watching videos that pump me up and make me want to get outdoors and hunt. I want my videos to have the same effect."



Donor Honor Roll

With much gratitude, we recognize generous alumni and friends who loyally support MAC's mission of quality, affordable and accessible education. Thank you for improving lives and enriching communities.

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Lee Foundation
Lee, David
Lee, Mildred
Link, Jean
Lyon, Jim and Anita
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Mallory, Mary
McMillian, Roger and Jane
Medley, Roger
Meinershagen, Shawn and Jamie
Meyer, Brian
Meyer, Lois Ann
MFA Foundation
Midwest Embroidery Threads
Midwest Gun Works, Inc.
Miller, Danny and Sandra
Miller, Gary and Kathleen
Miller, Harold and Ruby
Miller, John and Mary
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Mineral Area Office Supply
Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation
Mineral Area Regional Medical Center
Mineral Area Retired Teachers Association
Missouri Baptist University
Missouri Child Care Resource
Mitchell, Kenneth and Thelma
Mitchell, Lynn

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Morey, James and JoAnn
Morrow, William
Mullins, Linda and John
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Myers, Tony and DeDe
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Odin Arms, LTD
Office Max
Osia, Nina
Overall, Wilson
Overstreet, Tim
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Park Hills Lions Club
Parker, Ken
Parker-Nash, Sally
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PEO Chapter HJ
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Portell, Arthur and Jo Ann
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Poth, Lois
Potosi Elk Lodge #2218
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St. Francois County Sheriff's Association
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Wills, Robbie
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Wood, Howard and Marilyn
Wood, Joyce
Wright, John
Yarbrough, Harold

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Eugene Cole
Stephen C. Delezene
Mary Jo Gamble
Arthur & Christine Kennon
Florence Morrow
Jeanette Parker
Ronald Pirtle
Ronnie Propst
Gayle Simmons
James and Priscilla Wade
Robert "Ernie" Wadlow
Kathy Wright

In Honor of

Jaclyn Gilliam
JC and Allaine Sales
Diana Stuart



Pictured are competitive swimmers Rudolph Jr., Justin, Christian, Michael and Dexter Oates.

The Oates Brothers

The Oates brothers are graduates of North County High School, Genesis Academy Christian School and MAC's two-year Machine Tool Technology program. All fulfilled their parents' dream of post-secondary education. The Bonne Terre brothers are competitive swimmers who still train and compete. They began swimming in 1997 in a summer league and then as part of the Trinity Fellowship Church.

- **Justin** completed his Associate of Arts in 2014. He currently is pursuing a bachelor's degree at UMSL where he is a member of its swim team. Justin was recognized as a 2010 USA Swimming Scholastic All-American and an Elite USA Swimming member competing at USA Swimming Senior Nationals in 2010 and 2011.
- **Christian** is a full-time student at Webster University in St. Louis where he will earn his BS in Management with an emphasis in International Business. At Webster, Christian works as a student customer service representative for Webster's IT Department.

Millikin University in Decatur, IL, was the next stop for Michael, Dexter and Rudolph Jr.

- **Dexter** completed two bachelor's degrees, one in finance and one in information systems. He lives in St. Louis and is a senior net developer at Weissman Design for Dance.
- **Michael** completed his BS in Management Information Service. He and his wife live in Chicago where he is employed as a systems engineer for Waident Technology Solutions.
- **Rudolph Jr.** graduated with a BS in Finance & International Business. Then, he graduated from ESCGCI Paris Graduate School of Management (Paris, France) with a degree in French Level 1 Masters International Relations. He is a professor at ESCGCI Paris University teaching finance, accounting and business courses. He will be married this summer. Rudy excelled as a swimmer and was recognized as the Male Athlete of the Year at the 2008 Show-Me State Games.

- **Keenan Henson** (MAC 1996-98) played a small role in the movie *Whiplash* which was the 2014 Sundance Film Festival winner. In February, *Whiplash* earned the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognition with several Oscars.

- **Gil Kennon** (MAC 1972-73) received the Missouri Community College Association's Senior Service Award for 2014. Gil currently serves as MAC's dean of the Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Vice President for College Affairs. Gil joined MAC in 1994 as director of the Southcentral Consortium for Customized Training and was named CTE dean in 2001. Gil is a former business teacher and has always been active in community activities. He is involved with St. Francois County Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the sheltered workshop and the local hospital board. In addition, he served for two years on the state Workforce Investment Board and several years on MCCA's board of directors.

- Two former MAC athletes are new inductees to the Region 16 Hall of Fame. **Tim Lollar** (baseball) and **Russ Schoene** (basketball) represent MAC as part of the 2015 Region 16 Hall of Fame class. Russ Schoene (MAC 1979-81) transferred to the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga where he helped lead UTC to back-to-back Southern Conference Championships and was named the tournament MVP as a senior. The NBA was his next stop. The Philadelphia 76ers selected Russ in the second round of the 1982 NBA draft. During his rookie season, he was traded to the Indiana Pacers. He played the next two seasons in Italy before returning to the NBA with the Seattle SuperSonics for the 1986-87 season. After three years in Seattle, Russ returned to Italy for the final five seasons of his professional career. Russ has taken leadership roles in various aspects of basketball at the professional and collegiate levels. After serving as an assistant at Bellevue Community College, Russ joined the Washington

Huskies men's basketball coaching staff. After settling in the Puget Sound area, he co-founded Samurai Sam's Teriyaki Grill, a healthy fast food alternative cuisine restaurant chain. He is also a real estate professional. Tim Lollar (MAC 1974-76) was a Cardinals' pitcher who transferred to the University of Arkansas. He was drafted by the New York Yankees in the fourth round of the 1978 Major League Baseball Draft and made his major league debut in 1980. He was traded to the San Diego Padres in 1981 where he helped win the NL West title. He pitched for the Padres in the 1984 NLCS and World Series. He played for the Chicago White Sox and Boston Red Sox until elbow injuries drew his professional baseball career to a close in 1987. After retiring from baseball, Tim pursued his sports interests. Tim is the PGA Head Golf Professional at Lakewood Country Club in the Greater Denver area. Tim lives in the Denver area. Russ and Tim join Bob Sechrest, Tim Gray and Sonny Parker as the only other MAC inductees in the Region 16 Hall of Fame.

• MAC's Dean of Students

Jean Merrill-Doss (MAC 1980-82) is the 2015 recipient of Phi Theta Kappa's Distinguished College Administrator Award. PTK selects only 30 administrators from about 2500 chapters eligible to nominate for this annual international award. Jean was nominated by MAC's Lambda Chapter in gratitude for her consistent

support and was honored at the Annual Convention, entitled NerdNation, in San Antonio, TX. MAC's PTK sponsor Emily Murdock says, "It's pretty cool that Dean Merrill-Doss follows Dr. Kurtz with back-to-back awards. It's a testament to the great support our chapter receives from our administrators. Without administrative support, it's almost impossible to accomplish anything, so we're very lucky."

• **Ron Rhodes** (MAC 1972-74)

attended on a baseball scholarship. He transferred to John Brown University where he completed his degree and was an All-American left-handed pitcher. His career is dedicated to basketball and player development. Now, Ron can add his induction into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame to his coaching résumé. His coaching career began in 1978 as men's head basketball coach at Gateway Christian High School where the team won the Tri-State Christian School Championship. Most of Ron's coaching has been with women's teams. His high school teams earned three Missouri girls' basketball state championships. Next, he entered JuCo coaching at Moberly and Jefferson and lead both teams to national tournaments. With Jeffco's program, he compiled a 201-49 record, two NJCAA National Women's Basketball Tournament appearances, three 30-win seasons, numerous MCCAC conference titles, and groomed

many MCCAC All-Conference, All-Region 16 and NJCAA All-American players. After a brief retirement, Ron is back coaching and is currently the women's coach at Festus High School. Ron and his wife live in Horine.

• In January, **Dan Schunks** (MAC 1971-72) was named Missouri Jazz Educator of the Year by the Missouri Association of Jazz Educators. He said he owes so much to the late Mike O'Brien, MAC music instructor, who he credits for being such an inspiration for his music and teaching careers. "I never realized all I learned in his rehearsals would be things I use in my own classroom."

"It all started with Flat River Junior College, where I met some great people."

• **Robert L. Villars** (FRJC 1963-64) says, "After leaving the Junior College, I graduated from Central Missouri State College with a BS in Business Administration in 1967. I then served 19 months in the Army and 14 months in Vietnam. For 45 ½ years, I have been employed with Travelers Insurance and am still working. It all started with Flat River Junior College, where I met some great people."



Jessica Harris

North County High graduate **Jessica Harris** attended MAC in 2007 using A+ program benefits and graduated in 2009 with an Associate in General Studies. She completed her bachelor's in psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She lives in Bonne Terre and is a claims analyst at the Centene Corporation in Farmington. Her grandparents live in Italy so Jessica capitalizes on every opportunity to visit.

"In high school, I used to visit every other summer. Now I go when I can," she says. "It's a very exciting trip, and I do recommend it to anyone who gets the chance to go!" She and her boyfriend, Trent Busenbark, visited several of Italy's many attractions. Jessica says, "After a long day of walking in hot and humid temperatures, we took a gondola tour through small city canals to get a closer look at Venice."

Mineral Area College

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One of MAC's treasures is the scenic Quadrangle where students visit, gather to study or play frisbee.

Fall Classes begin August 17th

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