Dear Alumni & Friends,

My favorite time of the year is the exciting seven or eight weeks following Spring Break. That time passes quickly as faculty, staff and students prepare for our annual commencement. This year, for the 93rd time.

We’re very grateful Zora Mulligan, commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE), accepted the trustees’ invitation to be our commencement speaker. She became very familiar with Mineral Area College as the executive director of the Missouri Community College Association (2010-14) and as the general council and legislative liaison for the MDHE (2007-10). Her remarks reiterated her tremendous support of higher education and provided our graduates with words of wisdom as they celebrated their academic accomplishments.

The year has not been without challenges. The college is in a pattern of reduced spending due to a $440,000 withholding by Governor Eric Greitens who faced difficult fiscal decisions due to a state revenue shortfall. Indications suggest further reductions may be required over the next year.

A stronger economy generally correlates to a downward trend in enrollment at community colleges. MAC is following the national trend. Recently, the nation’s unemployment rate reached a low of 4.9 percent. Translation: the availability of work encourages some students to choose work instead of an extra course or even delay college. Career and technical education students are finding employment in the specific career fields in which they are enrolled. This sometimes delays completion or perhaps results in the termination of their studies.

In response to declines in state funding and tuition revenue, the Board of Trustees authorized a voluntary, early-retirement incentive with the goal of avoiding layoffs. This year, we wish Happy Retirement to ten highly-valued and respected employees who dedicated 225 combined years of outstanding service, and we recognize their invaluable contributions to the college and our students.

On a personal note, I thank Vice President Gil Kennon for his 23 years of service and leadership which spurred several important campus-wide initiatives. As one of the region’s most senior community college administrators, Gil is highly respected by his peers. His work ethic and accomplishments reflect his dedication and high regard for his alma mater and our community.

In conclusion, budget uncertainty and hiring decisions remain two challenges for the upcoming year. I am confident MAC’s resilience will continue just as it has for the past nine decades. And, in 2022, we as a community will celebrate MAC’s centennial. We invite you to participate by sharing your photos and memories. (See page 13.)

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President
The Human Body is Fascinating

“I was intrigued by the interconnectedness of bones and other systems.”

In sixth grade, the chapter on bones mesmerized Alyssa Ward. “I was thrilled when I scored 110 points on the test,” she says. “It’s a life lesson!” Alyssa continues a family tradition. Her father Jason Helvey is a MAC nursing graduate, and her mother, Laura, is also a nursing student.

“Originally, I planned to be a physician, however, money determined my career path,” says the Elks Scholarship recipient. “So, nursing was my stepping stone to an MD degree. But, now I find nursing really exciting. My current clinical experience has me interested in mental health nursing. You get to know patients over a longer period of time, take a holistic approach to their care, and have a real hope of them returning to society. That inspires me.”

Alyssa is enrolled in the Honors Program as a way to enrich her knowledge and explore subject matter areas via additional coursework and hands-on experiences. “The program is motivating,” says Alyssa. “By associating with the other students and seeing their projects, I’ve gained insight into many areas like protein testing, in-depth use of scientific equipment, and lots of application-based research. You have to be really dedicated because it’s a time-demanding program, and it’s also very rewarding.” Upon completing program requirements, she will be recognized at commencement and receive her honors medallion symbolizing she’s graduated with honors.

Although he was just seeking a paycheck, Garrett Sellers found valuable experiences, encouragement and support at MAC and Park Hills River Mart.

Career as a Traveling Nurse

“When you’re deep in the rigors of nursing school, you can’t be distracted by financial worries.”

The flexibility allows Garrett to work to pay for college. “I am very grateful for the financial help I received through the A+ Scholarship Program. But, I was thrown a curveball when the government reduced those benefits,” explains the sophomore. “So, I learned a life lesson and had to figure out how to pay for college. One thing was unmistakably clear…when you’re deep in the rigors of nursing school, you can’t be distracted by financial worries.”

Park Hills River Mart, owned by MAC alum Theresa Bauman, came to Garrett’s employment rescue. She employs many MAC students. “We consider her our mentor and biggest cheerleader,” explains Garrett. “She knows we’re MAC students and lets us build our schedules around our classes. She wants us to grow and be successful at River Mart, in school and in life. She teaches us about business operations, being a responsible leader, and creating an upbeat place where people want to be. One of her biggest things is giving back to the community like holding events for local schools and the United Way. When I was short on funds and looking for a paycheck, I never expected to learn so many things that will help me in my career.”

Of MAC, Garrett says, “It’s so student-oriented with all the activities to get us involved. The Learning Center provides great tutoring services and is really geared to meet individual student’s needs. I personally value the library. Not only does it have an excellent selection of resources, it sets an atmosphere for studying. When I really need to concentrate and focus, I use the study rooms and quiet tables because they eliminate distractions.”

Although Garrett looks toward completing his degree and embarking on his nursing career, his sentiments are bittersweet about leaving River Mart. He feels confident his MAC and River Mart experiences are preparation for his next chapter in life.
More than I Expected

Tabitha “Tabby” Freeland is finding more to MAC than she anticipated—she’s making discoveries about herself. The sophomore enjoys the academic environment and is generating a different perspective on a life fraught with challenges.

“I really didn’t know what to expect from college since I didn’t like high school. I wish I would have enrolled sooner,” says Tabby. “But, without the Pell Grant paying for most of my books and tuition, I doubt I could ever be here.”

Tabby’s straightforward about her life’s challenges. “My mom was always great, but having an alcoholic father exposed me to some terrifying experiences as a kid that warped my views about what life is supposed to be,” she says. “Children of alcoholics can have some major issues. I’ve had addiction issues, and I’m proud to say I’ve been drug-free for six years. Controlling my emotions has always been difficult. I have trust issues, and sometimes I’m kind of self-destructive. All this adversely impacts relationships with people I really care about.”

MAC’s turning out to be a case study for Tabby. She is pleasantly surprised by how much she’s learning about relationship building simply by being in MAC’s positive environment and surrounded by people with behaviors she can observe and model. It’s allowed her to think about personal growth, career plans, and the potential it’s ignited for her daughter’s future.

“What I didn’t expect is everything I’m learning about myself…”

She’s also in a relationship she wants to keep. “We respect and care for one another. I want this to work. But, I worry about how I react sometimes,” she says. “My psychology classes give me insight about some of my issues and behaviors and make me realize others are in similar situations. At MAC, I’ve grown, and I’ve come to learn I’m an adult with choices rather than someone who is constantly reacting. I don’t want my daughter to see me as the person I grew up as. I want to set a good example for her.”

Tabby’s interest in psychology, especially the forensics area, is shaped by movie and book characters. She sees herself working in the field. “I enjoy the campus and am learning so much in my classes,” she continues. “What I didn’t expect is everything I’m learning about myself and that my four-year-old daughter loves coming to MAC with me. She loves the Quadrangle and learning some Spanish words and elements on the Periodic Table with me. I’m so glad she feels comfortable here. I know she’s young, but I hope she gets ideas about education and what she may be capable of.”

Tabby Freeland rescued Theodore, her sulcata tortoise, from an unhealthy caged living space.
English is Different Here

Imagine visiting a country where you only know a little of the language. Now, imagine you’re in a classroom, expected to take notes and test in that language. Learning Center Director Dan Jaycox works with some international students to lessen their anxiety and reduce the obstacles to comprehension. In turn, they’re able to better enjoy their studies in America.

Freshmen athletes Anica Popadic from Serbia and Dominika Skrocka from Russia are two students who Dan describes as intelligent, motivated and fairly fluent in English; however, they found keeping up in class challenging.

Language wasn’t their only challenge. Initially, Anica and Dominika were homesick and unimaginably lonely. Fortunately, they visit with family back home using FaceTime and WeChat. As they met their coaches, teammates and dorm friends—even boyfriends—they developed a local family. Anica and Dominika plan to advance their volleyball and basketball play at four-year schools and, hopefully, at the pro level. When contemplating life after sports, Anica thinks her art talents—photography, painting, sculpture and drawing—may bring her to the classroom as a teacher. Dominika, whose mother and grandmother played professional basketball, excels in math and thinks business may be her field.

Language gaps can create a disconnect for students, especially in the classroom when the lecture is actually said rather than merely hearing the words,” he says. “So, Anica, Dominika and I set out to improve their listening skills to understand subtleties of the language.” Dan incorporated TED-Ed lessons and videos, taking notes for difficult biology lectures, practice quizzes, and a lot of discussion about techniques to fortify their skills. After a semester, they were more confident in the classroom, having made significant leaps in vocabulary, reading and writing skills.

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“Much of the emphasis is usually placed on reading and speaking, but learning how to listen critically is essential. There must be focus on non-verbal cues and understanding what is actually said rather than merely hearing the words,” he says. “So, Anica, Dominika and I set out to improve their listening skills to understand subtleties of the language.” Dan incorporated TED-Ed lessons and videos, taking notes for difficult biology lectures, practice quizzes, and a lot of discussion about techniques to fortify their skills. After a semester, they were more confident in the classroom, having made significant leaps in vocabulary, reading and writing skills.

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Students are Teaching Me

English Department Chair Pam Jaycox, teaches various composition and literature classes. During her seven years at MAC, Pam says, “I’ve watched the student population change and the range of programs increase. This diversity can present classroom challenges because most students enroll in composition classes. It’s possible a single classroom could have 24 students with as many different majors. To that, add different personal goals and learning styles, and international students who have English as a second language. Each student brings a unique experience. Often I’m amazed at how much the students are teaching me!”

Djibril Diallo, of Guinea, West Africa, was one of Pam’s composition students. He values his fortuitous chance for access to higher education. “I am the first in my family to attend college, and I am very grateful for the opportunity. I would like to earn an electrical engineering degree in the U.S.,” says the sophomore basketball player. “I only had three days to decide when Coach Strege invited me to come. So, I said yes. MAC was a good choice for me and has prepared me in my academics and basketball to move to a Division I school.”

Pam says, “Djibril is a super motivated, intelligent guy who plans to earn his bachelor’s degree. Even though English is not his native language—and he speaks three—he easily achieved the class expectations. So, I challenged him with more difficult assignments. He used his critical thinking to develop ideas into effective compositions. This written work will be beneficial as he moves forward.” If basketball road trips caused Djibril to miss class, Pam says his work was always done before the trip. Pam enjoys hearing from former students. “Their stories reinforce that our students leave MAC with more skills and more confidence than when they arrived. It is an indicator that MAC’s role continues to manifest in the community.”
For 12 years, MAC officials, local politicians, government employees and private citizens met, dreamed, worked and found solutions. In December 2016, the dream came true when the Sgt. Darrell S. Cole Memorial Shooting Range opened, its name honoring the local Marine who earned the Medal of Honor for his valor during WWII.

Giovanni “Gio” Carollo, law enforcement instructor, says, “The shooting complex serves MAC, the region’s law enforcement, Missouri State Park Rangers and the recreational interests of local gun enthusiasts. It’s really a dream come true.”

The range results from a partnership. Missouri State Parks provided land in St. Joe State Park and contracted for the shooting range’s construction. MAC is responsible for daily operations, expenses and staffing the facility with certified range instructors. The $900,000 project is located near the Missouri Mines State Historic Site, two miles west of Leadington on Highway 32. The five-acre complex is ADA-compliant and available to the public on designated days for a fee. It features a 100-meter, no-blue-sky rifle/pistol/shotgun range, 12 covered booths, and target placement at 3, 7, 15, 25, 50 and 100 yards, and 100 meters. There is a 30-space parking lot, an office and restrooms. Additional range information is available on MAC’s website.

Gio was named the range supervisor and says, “Wow! This fulfills two dreams. Besides the range itself, working here is a personal dream come true. Though I’m not a hunter, I’ve always enjoyed the shooting sports. Helping others get better and learn about the sport is a big reward for me.”

Gio explains the range’s benefits, “Its primary purpose is a safe, controlled environment for shooters — novice and experienced alike — to practice their sport. I’m available to answer questions and provide some assistance. It’s a location for hunter education classes to promote safe firearms practices and where individuals can practice and become proficient with their equipment. The close proximity to MAC works well for the law enforcement programs. And, I consider the range a relationship builder since it has the potential to draw a new population of community members who may never otherwise have an association with MAC.”

As if Gio’s not excited enough, stop by the range to visit with him about plans for the future pistol range, trap and skeet range and 3D archery range with a woods course.

Meet Gio

Gio’s four years in the Marines refined his shooting skills. In addition to his new post, he is still a MAC law enforcement faculty member and an instructor for firearms and CCW classes. Gio worked in law enforcement for about 30 years before coming to MAC Law Enforcement Academy ten years ago.

“Law enforcement is a true, undeniable brotherhood which takes a certain kind of person to stick with it,” reflects Gio. “Working the streets is prone to burn-out because you generally see people at their worst and the outcomes are often not good. Also, you put your life, and maybe your family’s life, at risk. The money’s not all that good. So, officers are motivated by a call to service or the challenge of the career. I’d do it all over again.”

Range Serves Multiple Audiences

“Its primary purpose is a safe, controlled environment for shooters — novice and experienced alike — to practice their sport.”

Gio Carollo instructs community members on safe practices while using the range.

Flashback

1967

The freshman class included Josephine Epperson, Rick Stephens, Larry Thompson, Susan Stotler, Tricia Vandiver, David Thurman and Charles Byers.
AROUND CAMPUS

All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team, will play at Indiana State University. Darius Thompson, All-Region Honorable Mention and All-Conference Second Team, signed with the University of Tennessee-Martin. Lamar Morgan, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team, is heading to Coppin State University. Shawn Roundtree, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team, signed to play at Central Michigan. Zac Cuthbertson was named to the NJCAA All-American Third Team, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team.

Men’s Baseball

• All-Region XVI First Team Honors: Kenton Crawford

Women’s Softball

• All-Region XVI First Team Honors: Samantha Ratledge, Ali Law and Kaelan Bradley

• MCCAC Softball All-Conference Honors: Samantha Ratledge - First Team and Lilly Pecaut - Honorable Mention

Men’s Golf

• Region XVI Team Championship

• Tyler Fieser finished 36th at the NJCAA Division II National Championship and was named to the Ping All-Region Team

• All-Region XVI First Team Honors: Tyler Fieser, Ricardo Devoto and Dylan White

Above: To kick off the season, MAC’s baseball team enjoyed working on baseball skills with students at Special Acres School in Park Hills.

Below: The 2017 Cardinals baseball team finished the season with a record of 36-20 and third at the regional tournament.

Sports Recap

It’s been a very rewarding year for MAC sports teams including championships, national honors and awards, and volunteering in the community.

Women’s Basketball

Despite the Lady Cards’ up-and-down season, the team played well in the Region XVI tournament as they defeated three higher seeds to win the Region XVI Championship. They defeated Moberly in the quarterfinal match-up. In the semifinal game, they toppled the top-seeded Three Rivers, 72-62. In the Championship game, MAC defeated Crowder by a score of 65-51. Gary Koch, the Lady Cards head coach, is assisted by Briley (Milfield) Palmer and Todd Koch.

Men’s Basketball

The nationally-ranked Cardinals, led by Coach Luke Strege who is in his second year, offered fans an exciting basketball season. The team caught the attention of the NJCAA polls which landed them in the Top 25 all season, ranking as high as 4th. For eleven weeks, the cards were in the Top 10 and finished the season ranked 9th in the country. In addition to a 28-2 season record, other highlights include four First Team All-Region selections and eight players earning scholarships to play Division I basketball next season.

Coach Strege stresses academics and the community as part of his game plan. The team held a coat drive and raised money and awareness for Visions of Hope, a local charity providing job training for individuals on the autism spectrum.

More Basketball Honors

Region XVI is a competitive basketball venue. So, achieving post-season recognition is an accomplishment. Hard work on and off the court earned basketball honors and scholarships for several MAC players. Lady Cards’ Hayley Winter earned NJCAA All-American Honorable Mention, All-Region First Team and All-Conference First Team honors and a scholarship to Siena College. Five men’s players received honors. Devin Thomas,
Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who work in the areas of injury prevention, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation, while collaborating with physicians. “In 2010, the college invested in the certified athletic trainer position,” says Student Services Dean Jean Merrill-Doss. “Many community colleges were hiring a trainer, and recent research surrounding undiagnosed concussions was a concern. Our trustees expressed a need. Then, Nathan Werremeyer joined the athletic staff as part of the Athletico Physical Therapy outreach program. He works with approximately 140 athletes in seven sports.”

As the college’s first athletic trainer, Nathan’s challenge was to build the program and get everyone accustomed to what an athletic trainer does. He explains, “Unfortunately, people don’t realize the importance of athletic trainers until they need one. In the past, coaches were completely responsible. Most say they were qualified to coach but not too skilled with injury assessments and treatment. On-site trainers can provide prompt assessment and suitable treatment which can lessen recovery time and are in the best interests of the athletes.”

When athletes sustain injuries, Nathan’s role is to recognize and evaluate the injury, administer emergency treatment as needed, and determine the need for physician referrals. Additionally, he enforces the critical “return to play” decisions and educates athletes on injury prevention and conditioning.

He is also an advocate for the athletes. “Athletes strive to be on the field or court,” says Nathan. “Sometimes they don’t recognize or are reluctant to self-report symptoms, or they don’t understand the potential risks associated with injury. Because I interact with them, I may have some insight to recognize subtle signs in an athlete’s behavior and demeanor. I can be a voice for the injured athlete with coaches, physicians and sometimes family members.”

Women’s basketball player Hannah Taulien says, “On the way down from a rebound, I heard a loud crunch and immediately knew something was wrong. I sprained my right ankle badly. Nathan worked with me to be sure I didn’t try to start back too early.” Basketball player and future traveling nurse Laura Dick says, “When I fractured my wrist, Nathan really helped. He found a doctor who arranged X-rays. He accompanied me to my appointments which was reassuring since I’m an international student. Then, he devised a plan for my successful return to the game. Nathan definitely speeds our recovery.”

Nathan says MAC has exceeded his expectations. In addition to his athletic trainer duties, he is the assistant athletic director and helps manage the department’s website, promotional efforts and Twitter account. He says, “MAC’s given me experiences I never thought I would have. I’ve grown so much professionally and personally within this dual role.”

One of Nathan Werremeyer’s goals is to educate athletes about the benefits of proper training techniques and injury prevention.

In the Player’s Best Interest

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Andrew Anderson, John Bowman and Allison Law practice taping techniques in Nathan Werremeyer’s Care & Prevention of Athletic Injury class.

Seeking Yearbooks & Memorabilia

Did you know MAC will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary? It’s hard to believe Flat River Junior College, MAC’s predecessor, was founded in 1922—nearly 100 years ago! To mark the occasion, we’re collecting memorabilia to document the college’s century of service. Do you, your parents or your children have any Chats yearbooks, MAC newspapers or commencement programs in a closet or stored in the basement? Chats yearbooks were published during school years 1922-23 through 1975-76. We would like our collection to include all 54 volumes. Maybe you have one of these missing yearbooks and care to donate it to MAC..


To donate items, please drop off or mail items to Rodney Wilson at Mineral Area College, P.O. Box 1000, Park Hills, MO 63601. If you have photographic or paper items you want to keep but would allow the college to digitize, contact Rodney at (573) 518-2253 or RWilson@MineralArea.edu.
THANK YOU

Approximately 500 students graduated in May, the largest class since the first Commencement in 1924.

Donor Honor Roll

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

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In Memory
Alyson Black
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FRHS Class of 1942
Ralph Dickenson
Carl Dobrzeniecki
Roberta Eads
Eric Feicht
Dale Harter
Donnie House
Larry Kelly
Lois Koch
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Gayle and Rowena Simmons
Fraizer Stewart
Monroe Stewart
T.J. Stewart, Jr.
T.J. Stewart, Sr.
Walter Stewart
Bob Ward

"In memory of my six siblings who graduated from MAC, which was FRJC then."
— Betty (Buell) Titman

In Honor
Glenda Hendrix
FRHS Class of 1942
Dr. Barton Pratte
Julie Sheets

"Great Granddaughter"
— Donna and Maxine Archibald

"Eight grandchildren who all went through MAC and all graduated from police academy and others from four-year colleges."
— Bob and Marty Gawf
Big on the Constitution

“It’s important not to overlook the community college option because there are many routes to be successful.”

“I’m really big on the Constitution,” asserts Abby Matthews. “Of the three branches, I’m most interested in the judicial branch because it interprets and applies the laws and ensures their constitutionality. This is where I see major impacts being made, and I want to be involved in the process.”

The sophomore explains, “My dad may be the reason I’m passionate about the law and serving others. We have lively discussions about current events and the legal system because he’s really into history and politics. I just know I wanted to be a lawyer or work in public service since I was about eight.”

High school leadership roles provided Abby initial career direction. Then, her high school teacher, Ms. Watson, inspired her to apply for other leadership experiences such as Missouri Girls State and to understand the value and satisfaction of volunteer service. Service to others is a component Abby will integrate into her career.

“Although my ultimate goal is to someday serve as a public official, I want to first practice as a corporate attorney. So, I’ll earn my MBA before my law degree,” explains the Honors Program and Dean’s List student. “I’m working as a legal assistant and gaining practical experience at the Layton & Southard Law Firm in Cape Girardeau. I see first-hand what the attorneys do and observe aspects of the public defense work, criminal cases, divorce, family custody, disability and corporate law. It’s confirmed this career is for me.”

Regarding her decision to attend MAC, Abby had some second thoughts, but they were short-lived. “When all my friends were applying to universities and buying things for their dorms, I worried I might regret not having that experience,” says the Oak Ridge High grad. “I couldn’t have been more wrong. First, all the credits I earned before graduating high school applied to my degree. I’ve taken most of my courses at the Perryville Outreach Center because it is closest to me. My advisor helps schedule classes that work best for me. Flexible scheduling allows me to attend college, work and get valuable experience.”

Abby is very grateful for the Carl Dobrzeniecki Memorial Scholarship and A+ Program benefits to help ease her financial worries. “It’s important not to overlook the community college option because there are many routes to be successful,” says Abby, the Phi Theta Kappa.

“MAC’s lower costs and scholarships will enable me to graduate debt-free with my associate degree and be two years closer to my MBA. I haven’t even graduated, and I have a great job, nice car, and I’ve positioned myself for my advanced degrees. Most importantly, I’m getting a very good education and have developed strong relationships with the teachers and other students in my small classes. MAC is the smart choice!”

Christie Dobrzeniecki, sponsor of the Carl Dobrzeniecki Memorial Scholarship, was pleased to meet recipient Abby Matthews.

Benefits of Investing in Education

Over the years, MAC’s commitment to accessibility and affordability in higher education has been instrumental for countless students and a wellspring for the region’s workforce by providing highly-skilled graduates. The benevolence of MAC Foundation supporters makes a lasting impact for the progress of the college, its students and the region. Director of Development Kevin Thurman says, “Many donors use planned giving to arrange larger charitable gifts to the college. They are a powerful way to show your commitment to education.”

Some ways to support MAC’s mission include:

• Create a Bequest — Make a gift that doesn’t affect your cash flow or portfolio now, by adding a bequest to your will or trust.

• Donate Appreciated Stocks or Bonds — Donating stocks you have owned for more than one year that have also increased in value may yield significant tax advantages.

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Donor generosity leverages opportunities to ensure MAC graduates achieve success. Many students tell how their lives are irrevocably changed and their dreams are fulfilled through education. A nursing graduate tries to quantify the impact, “Without the MAC Foundation scholarship, I wouldn’t have completed my degree. I was a young single mother trying to make a better life. I’ve worked as a registered nurse for years, and I’ve never worried about how I would support myself or my child. It’s incredible how far I’ve come and how my education transformed my life. There is no way to put a price on a gift that precious.”

Donor investments cannot be measured in dollars. Gifts to MAC Foundation create a ripple effect. When donors support higher education, they create change in individuals which positively impacts families who, in turn, contribute to our workforce and regional prosperity.

To learn how you can contribute to a life-changing experience for students, contact Kevin Thurman at kthurman@mineralarea.edu or (573) 518-2261.

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"I’m really big on the Constitution,” asserts Abby Matthews. “Of the three branches, I’m most interested in the judicial branch because it interprets and applies the laws and ensures their constitutionality. This is where I see major impacts being made, and I want to be involved in the process.”

The sophomore explains, “My dad may be the reason I’m passionate about the law and serving others. We have lively discussions about current events and the legal system because he’s really into history and politics. I just know I wanted to be a lawyer or work in public service since I was about eight.”

High school leadership roles provided Abby initial career direction. Then, her high school teacher, Ms. Watson, inspired her to apply for other leadership experiences such as Missouri Girls State and to understand the value and satisfaction of volunteer service. Service to others is a component Abby will integrate into her career.

“Although my ultimate goal is to someday serve as a public official, I want to first practice as a corporate attorney. So, I’ll earn my MBA before my law degree,” explains the Honors Program and Dean’s List student. “I’m working as a legal assistant and gaining practical experience at the Layton & Southard Law Firm in Cape Girardeau. I see first-hand what the attorneys do and observe aspects of the public defense work, criminal cases, divorce, family custody, disability and corporate law. It’s confirmed this career is for me.”

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The Infamous Road Trip

C oaches Loughary and Sechrest recruited Doe Run’s Terry Huff as a member of MAC’s 1968-70 baseball and basketball teams. In April 1970, he joined the Army and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Terry returned to Flat River campus’s four main buildings being constructed. “I was blessed to have played varsity basketball for Murphy Thomas and then for Coach Sechrest and Coach Loughary at MAC. The players were really close, looked out for one another and created some special memories.” Terry is proud to have started every basketball game, averaging at least ten points per game, and earning Region XVI Honorable Mention recognition. According to the 1969 Chats yearbook, “The best ball handlers in the conference are Terry Huff and Jerome Freeman.” Terry smiles as he shares an infamous road trip story. “Few will forget the trip to the basketball tournament in New York in the middle of winter. We didn’t have buses... our road trips were in two station wagons. Coach Sechrest took the lead in his Mustang. Next, came the station wagon driven by teammate Larry Price, and Coach Loughary followed in the second wagon. I was in Larry’s car. We were cruising along when Coach Loughary pulled up next to us and every one pointed at the back of our car. We saw sparks flying which turned to fireballs. We pulled over and Coach had us throw snow to douse the flames. We just watched as the car burned. Needless to say, Coach Sech was quite surprised when he came back to find us. Fortunately, someone had enough sense to take out the luggage. So, we all squeezed into two cars for the rest of the trip. On the way back, the ‘tall guys’ got to fly home.”

“I saw first-hand the struggles some of my teammates had to deal with.”

Almost 50 years ago, Terry Huff (center) earned All-Region recognition for his play on the hardwoods. This season, Devin Thomas, Darius Thompson, Zac Cuthbertson and Lamar Morgan also earned post-season honors.

Sports Camps

Baseball, softball, basketball, cheerleading and volleyball—MAC offers multiple youth camps throughout the summer months.

Camp information and registration: MineralArea.edu/ce/MACKids.htm
Knowing Someone Cares

Debra (Hill) Hoffman says, “Steve Easter was my best MAC instructor. Besides building a solid accounting background, he prepared me well to transfer to SEMO.” She borrowed a page from Steve’s lesson plans. Since 1976, Debra’s made an impact on many students while teaching business education at Jackson High School in Jackson and at Southeast Missouri State University. “Jackson suited me well with its traditional hometown environment,” explains Debra. “I stressed community involvement and even considered it an extension of my job. As teachers, being seen by your students and community members is incredibly valuable. Therefore, I made a point to encourage student teachers to join me at all the extra-curricular events so students could see our support.”

Debra Hoffman has always believed students can accomplish more when they know someone cares about them.

Baseball and Fatherhood

“Being a dad is a pretty awesome feeling.”

W ant to bring a smile to Logan Bradley’s face? Mention baseball or his 8-month-old baby girl. As for baseball, Logan says, “My dad instilled in me his love for the game. He coached me since I could walk and demanded excellence in my work ethic and performance. He pushed me harder than the others, and we butted heads more than once. He taught me never to settle. Looking back, I realize everything he demanded developed my knowledge of the game and my skills as a player.” Now, Logan coaches his younger brother with a similar style.

Debra attended MAC in 1971-73 and recalls meeting Kathe (Hawke) Ramsey in the registration line. They remain friends today. She also remembers Kim Plummer and Vicki Scott. She recalls PTK activities and sponsor Ginny Rosenstengel. And, she was pleased Pat O’Brien asked her to accompany her voice students for rehearsals and recitals.

Her BS and MA degrees are in business education. She earned the Southeast Missouri District Business Education Teacher of the Year award. She retired from Jackson in 2007 and just finished part-time university teaching. Spending time and traveling with her family top her retirement plans.

Fatherhood

Brad Cuyos, Jeff King and Jalen Jones and Mike Overman advanced as a player.” Now, Logan coaches his younger brother with a similar style. As for baseball, Logan says, “My dad instilled in me his love for the game. He coached me since I could walk and demanded excellence in my work ethic and performance. He pushed me harder than the others, and we butted heads more than once. He taught me never to settle. Looking back, I realize everything he demanded developed my knowledge of the game and my skills as a player.” Now, Logan coaches his younger brother with a similar style.

MAC coaches Stan Walden, Blake Jones and Mike Overman advanced the foundation Logan’s dad designed. “Mike really improved my swing,” says the 2014 alum. “We watched films and spent time in the cage to identify some imperfections in my swing. Mike’s adjustments were a huge turning point which gave my swing a new look, incredible power and contributed to my confidence as I moved forward.”

Logan and three of his teammates—Brad Cuyos, Jeff King and Jalen Miller—accepted baseball scholarships to Central Methodist University (CMU) in Fayette, where their memorable highlights culminated in winning the 2016 NAIA Baseball World Series. “Before the season even began, the seniors knew this was our last run and defined our season’s goals,” recounts the team captain. “In our last home game, the opponent deliberately tried to take out our second baseman with his cleats. That kind of play totally disrespected my teammate and the game itself. I stood up for my teammate, and a bench-clearing brawl followed. Brad hit the game-winning, 12th inning home run, and he pointed to me in the parking lot as he rounded third. For my actions, I was ejected and served a four-game suspension. Despite the consequences, I still stand by what I did. That suspension prevented me from playing in our conference tournament where we had four come-from-behind victories. Next was the World Series, an unbelievable experience. It was surreal to win the championship, but even better to realize we had become like brothers, made unbelievable memories and created lifelong relationships.”

Logan set a new CMU season RBI record at 76, and Brad edged Logan by two home runs to establish a new season home run record at 18. While Logan played baseball for most of his life, fatherhood is a brand new experience. “It’s a totally unbelievable feeling,” he says with a huge smile. “I don’t even know how to describe how wonderful she is and how she makes me feel. I didn’t know what to expect, but there are lots of emotions… joy, love, nervousness, happiness, uncertainty, laughter and lots of responsibility. It’s scary, too. On her second day home, she was rushed to the hospital with jaundice. When we saw her little face in a mask, she seemed so helpless. An eerie feeling kind of hovered around us, and I realized as parents we felt helpless, too. She relies on us for everything. Being a dad is a pretty awesome feeling.”

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Best of My Career So Far

The entertainment industry often means a life on the road. One man’s road began at MAC. Brett Pruneau, of Bonne Terre, enrolled at MAC in 2008 to pursue a music degree. Just short of completing his degree, he seized an opportunity and launched his performing career. “I signed an artist development contract at 18 and moved to Ireland, where I worked extensively and exclusively with David Downes, the creator of the multi-platinum Irish group, Celtic Woman,” he says. “I spent four years training, developing and touring as a vocalist around Europe.”

“I learned so much about myself and reflect on the hardships, and to learn a lesson in perseverance,” Brett says. “Despite the hardships, I am most proud of so far in my career and is the culmination of a decade of my experiences and hard work,” Brett says. “Search ‘Meet Parallel 3’ on all social media outlets and YouTube for a little introduction to who we are and some of our cover videos.”

“Education is supremely important, but seizing the moment is critical in my line of work.”

He credits Greg Graf, former MAC choral music instructor, with helping him decide when to launch his career. “Not only was Greg a fantastic musician and teacher, he became a trusted colleague and mentor,” Brett says. “Deciding to leave college to pursue music was an incredibly scary and monumental decision. Greg offered insight and the right levels of advice—at the right moment is critical in my line of work.”

After Europe, Brett settled in NYC. “I can’t imagine a better place than New York City to live the starving artist lifestyle and to learn a lesson in perseverance,” reflects Brett. “Despite the hardships, I learned so much about myself and developed part of who I am today.”

After two years of pounding the NYC pavement, Brett landed a headlining role in Las Vegas with Piano Man, a concert tribute to the great Elton John and Billy Joel. His next role was as principle vocalist in the iconic Las Vegas showgirl act, Jubilee!

“Since jubilee closed a year ago, my focus shifted back to the recording-concert-touring world and the creation of Parallel 3, a three-person male vocal group that blurs the lines between crossover and pop music,” he explains.

Brett says he and fellow, classically-trained soloists Cody Karey and Marc Devigne would frequently compete for the same gigs. “About a year ago, we were all in Vancouver and decided to sing together, to make a YouTube video for the fun of it,” Brett says. “Our combined vocals sparked this unbelievable synergy and the most amazing thing happened. None of us had the right words, we just knew it was the coolest, most surreal feeling we ever had. Right then, we talked about collaborating. Over the next few years, we’ll continue developing and pushing Parallel 3 to the next level.”

Parallel 3’s Facebook page describes the trio as “a unique blend of elite male vocals and modern pop flare.” Brett describes, “Parallel 3’s music as a mix of Josh Groban meets Michael Bublé. We adhere to the essence of true vocals. It’s a new kind of contemporary music that appeals to the adult contemporary and younger audiences.”

“This venture feels so right,” adds Brett. “Besides the music itself, I find some relief in sharing the responsibility. As a solo artist, you do everything and it’s exhausting. With P3, all of us collaborate and are actively engaged in the decision making, execution and the synergy of the project. Yes, this is a major risk, but I’m feeling very optimistic.”

The trio has gigs scheduled in the U.S. and Canada and is open to radio and other mediums. “P3 is the project I am most proud of so far in my career and is the culmination of a decade of my experiences and hard work,” Brett says. “I spent four years training, developing and touring as a vocalist around Europe.”

“My experiences and hard work,” Brett says. “I spent four years training, developing and touring as a vocalist around Europe.”

“The Future Looks Good” Cover Parallel 3 and Trevor Hoffmann youtu.be/Nd1mhKgDzQA

“Cold Water” Cover Parallel 3 and Trevor Hoffmann youtu.be/KG4vGRhIZZ4

“Never Forget You/Don’t Let Me Down” Zara Larrson/The Chainsmokers Cover youtu.be/2UuSlbK58vI

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Happiness Rekindled

“I love, love, love kids!” exclaims Wendy Hicks. “My mom started Mother Goose Day Care in 1977. I began volunteering at 11 and finally got hired when I turned 18. In 2003, I bought the business in Farmington. Those are 40 memorable years giving kids a good start for life.”

After earning her childcare certificate and general studies degree from MAC, she completed her BSE degree in 1992. Before purchasing Mother Goose, Wendy taught special needs students and considers it the pinnacle of her teaching. “Oh, my goodness, this was such a different experience than day care—and that was already great!” she exclaims. “I felt this invisible connection with these awesome students and discovered such satisfaction in everything I did with them.”

Wendy reflects, “When the time came to close Mother Goose, it was an incredibly difficult decision. But with the steadily increasing paperwork requirements, I was chained to a desk instead of educating and shaping lives of the kids I enjoyed. I felt my stress skyrocketing and my happiness dwindling. As much as I would miss the kids, I felt a change was inevitable to restore my happiness.”

What came next? Teaching is what she knew, but she was ready for a change. Her first idea—a gigantic salad bar, organic fare and fresh smoothies—was stifled when she realized it wouldn’t pay the bills. Wendy asked a trusted friend for advice, “What can I put in here to make some money?” His answer was swift and simple—brick oven-fired pizza. The idea dazzled her.

“I loved my time working with kids, and brick oven pizzas rekindled my happiness.”

Within several months of researching brick oven pizza-making, different flours, and lots (and lots) of pizza crust experiments, Nana’s Brick Oven Pizza opened in the former Mother Goose Day Care building. “A great crust was the biggest challenge,” says Wendy. “I tasted lots of pizzas. Then, I found ‘THE crust’ and set out to figure out how to make it. After three months of creations, I felt confident. Next, we had to learn to bake in the brick oven…which, by the way, is totally different than your kitchen oven. WOW, the first crust we baked over the wood fire at 650 degrees was unimaginably good. It was 100 times better than the regular oven.”

Wendy hosted Nana’s Pizza Night for former day care families and friends which served as the perfect network to get the word out. “It’s a special feeling to know about 50 percent of my customers were former students,” she says. “Many were sentimental when they saw Mother Goose Corner and bricks with toys they used as kids. I loved my time working with kids, and brick oven pizzas rekindled my happiness.”

“...my mom asked when I would get my room key. ‘We don’t use keys around here, ma’am.’”

In March, health concerns forced Wendy to close Nana’s. “It was a very sad decision because I really liked what I was doing,” says Wendy. “I never dreamed I would retire early. I’ll have more time for my organic gardening. And, I’m excited to be able to spend more time with my two preschool grandsons… I’d just love to homeschool them for their kindergarten year.”

Athletic Director Mike Overman welcomes former LA Lakers player Jim Smith at halftime.
From Protégé to Mentor

Missouri State Bears’ Head Baseball Coach Keith Guttin, MAC 1974-75, has many memories from his time at MAC, and Baseball Coach Hal Loughary features big. The University City native completed his AA at MAC, his BS in Education from UMSL and MA in Sports Administration from Truman State.

“To me, MAC is Coach Loughary,” says Keith. “Baseball was one dimension. But, ultimately, he was a life mentor for us. He always made his points in a calm and collected manner. Coach Loughary treated us like men and that’s one reason we respected and admired him. We were confident he had our backs when we needed it.”

In 1982, Keith returned to SMSU (now Missouri State University) to assume the head baseball coaching position vacated by his former coach. Keith’s affiliation with the university’s baseball program as a player, assistant coach and head coach spans 39 of the program’s 53 years. His career is filled with personal and team accomplishments, including the school’s first-ever NCAA Division I College World Series appearance and multiple Coach of the Year honors. Additionally, five first-round draft picks and 15 players have advanced to the Major Leagues.

Another baseball memory involves teammate Jerry Poston. “We hosted the sub-regionals at Wilson-Rozier Park and Coach Bill Rowe (of Southwest Missouri State University) came to scout Jerry and sign him to play,” recalls Keith. “Instead, he recruited me. Jerry was recruited by Coach Meyers and Rowe—influenced my coaching pursuits and provided me the platform needed to coach professional baseball.”

“One memory was the 1975 brawl at the Flo Valley game,” smiles Keith. “MAC had a runner on first and the batter’s swing hit Flo Valley’s catcher. Tempers flared, dugouts cleared, players threw punches, and I was on the ground with players pounding me. Greene, Horn, and Vanderbusch, along with Coach, were pulling players off me. I don’t even remember who won the game.”

“Coach Loughary treated us like men and that’s one reason we respected and admired him.”

Keith’s contemporaries may contact him at Keithguttin@missouristate.edu. Read more about Keith’s amazing coaching career at missouristatebears.com/coaches.aspx/kr1.

Work Ethic Second to None

“Gene Cozine and his wife Melba have shared many wonderful experiences. Their goals were to create a positive learning environment, treat students fairly and draw the best out of them. I believe I accomplished that.”

In lieu of summer vacation, Gene opted to work. For 50-plus summers, he was a union carpenter. He also worked on freight docks, learned to weld, supervised a youth corps program, and even spent a summer as a lumberjack. In 1984, he started a very successful gymnastics and cheer repair business. This summer Gene will sell the business and retire at age 82. Gene and his wife live in DeSoto. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Some grandchildren share grandpa’s athleticism. Grandson Mike Kickham pitched for the Florida Marlins organization, and granddaughter Jane Kickham plays volleyball for MAC.
Looking Forward to Retirement

The employees retired at the end of the Spring 2017 semester with a combined total of 196 years. They will be missed by their former students, peers and colleagues alike. Into retirement they take fond memories and lifelong friendships.

For 26 years, Sheila Beard helped maintain the operations of the Allied Health Department. As administrative assistant, she served the needs of the faculty and students. “MAC has been an extraordinary part of my life,” she says. “I’m thankful for the opportunity I also will miss the nursing operations and decision making for the college. Retirement includes serving on the Missouri Community Industries and Parkland Health Center boards, golf, restoring a 1960 VW pickup, and time with my family and a group of friends at Table Rock Lake.”

Ellen Ketcherside has impacted the lives and careers of many nurses as an Associate Degree in Nursing instructor. She says, “The best part is the pride I have in our graduates and their accomplishments. Our nursing program offers so many opportunities for a great career in a great profession. I have also sponsored our Student Nurses Association.” Ellen holds a BSN, a master’s in Health Services Management, and a national certification in critical care nursing. “For 39 years, I worked at Mercy-St. Louis in various positions such as staff RN, manager of critical care units, process improvement coordinator and currently as a nursing supervisor on weekends,” Ellen and her husband plan to travel, fish and boat as much as possible and spend time with their children and grandchildren.

In 1949, Gil Kannon was hired to lead the customized training initiative, and retires as Vice President of College Affairs/Dean of Career and Technical Education. He says, “I’ve had the privilege of leading several college projects and developing several new CTE programs. I’ve enjoyed seeing many student successes and always considered my personal interaction with students to be one of the biggest satisfactions. My time here has been extremely rewarding. I will miss the daily association with staff and students and being a part of the behind-the-scenes operations and decision making for the college. Retirement includes serving on the Missouri Community Industries and Parkland Health Center boards, golf, restoring a 1960 VW pickup, and time with my family and a group of friends at Table Rock Lake.”

George Killian holds a BSN, a master’s in Health Administration and currently is as a nursing supervisor on weekends.” Ellen and her husband plan to travel, fish and boat as much as possible and spend time with their children and grandchildren.

In 1991, Marcy Rehkop was hired, and her personal journey provided insight as the Fredericktown Outreach Center director. She says, “I was working in a garment factory, decided to attend MAC, and then was hired at MAC. So, I can attest to the great difference education can make. I find satisfaction in knowing I have had a role in helping students and a group of friends at Table Rock Lake.”

Phil Roth and brothers George and Jim Killian retired from General Services. Phil, who joined the staff in 2005, worked primarily outdoors and took pride in knowing the campus grounds were well-maintained and appealing to campus visitors. He says, “My wife and I will travel south and be plenty busy with our six grandchildren. Then, our gardens and mowing will keep me pretty occupied this summer.”

George says staying ahead of plumbing, carpentry and ground maintenance needs was a challenge. “Her heart at MAC for 27 years and I says he’s enjoyed the staff and his co-workers. “I’ll spend time with family and do some camping, fishing and hunting,” says George. “Plus, I’ve got a large farm and 30 head of cattle to keep me busy.”

Jim joined the General Services staff in 1990. As evening division supervisor, Jim managed the overnight maintenance needs on campus. Another employee said, “One notable thing about Jim is he always cared for and protected the campus property the same way he cared for his own.” The Killian brothers enjoy nature’s serenity, so retirement is a grand opportunity to add more fishing and hunting to their routine.

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In 1991, Marcy Rehkop was hired, and her personal journey provided insight as the Fredericktown Outreach Center director. She says, “I was working in a garment factory, decided to attend MAC, and then was hired at MAC. So, I can attest to the great difference education can make. I find satisfaction in knowing I have had a role in helping students and a group of friends at Table Rock Lake.”

Phil Roth and brothers George and Jim Killian retired from General Services. Phil, who joined the staff in 2005, worked primarily outdoors and took pride in knowing the campus grounds were well-maintained and appealing to campus visitors. He says, “My wife and I will travel south and be plenty busy with our six grandchildren. Then, our gardens and mowing will keep me pretty occupied this summer.”

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Summer Camps for Kids and Teens

College For Kids & Teen Academy
July 5-28

Baseball
June 27–30

Basketball
Coach Briley Palmer Camp
* Fundamentals: June 19–22

Coach Luke Strege Camps
* Skills: June 17
* Shooting: July 1
* Fundamentals: July 17-21

Cheer
July 10–14 or 17–21

Soccer
July 12–21

Softball
June 12–15

Theatre
July 17–21

Volleyball
Individual: June 5–8
High School: June 5–July 17
Middle School: June 6–July 18
Specialty: June 12
Team: July 15

For a complete schedule: www.MineralArea.edu/CE or call (573) 518-2280.