

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 2016



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# TO OUR READERS



## MINERAL AREA COLLEGE

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In April, art students from kindergarten through high school transformed the MAC Field House into the annual Mineral Area Council on the Arts extravaganza, the K-12 Art Show.

Dear Friends,

Our college is just beautiful this time of year as our grounds crew groomed the campus for our 92nd annual commencement exercises.

We're very thankful Representative Linda Black accepted the trustees' offer to be our commencement speaker. Given her tremendous support of Mineral Area College and community colleges in general during her eight years in the General Assembly, it just seemed fitting to invite her to speak.

At commencement, Edith Rogers, a holocaust survivor and community advocate, received Mineral Area College's highest honor, the Simmons Distinguished Service Award. Since the mid-1990s, Ms. Rogers has been communicating her experiences with hundreds of area students with the goal of preventing these atrocities from occurring again.

In other news, we are again grateful to the members of the General Assembly for their continued support of community colleges this legislative session. The college, in conjunction with the Missouri Community College Association, was successful in advocating four main priorities:

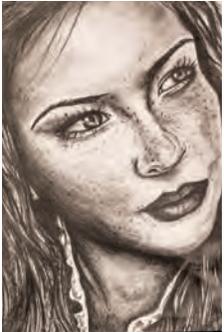
- a 4% increase in performance funding,
- \$4.5 million in equity funding,
- fully funding the A+ program, and
- increasing workforce development programs by \$6.2 million.

In conclusion, it is bittersweet to say good-bye to a colleague, Dean Kay Crecelius, who has dedicated many years of service to the college. We knew of her impending retirement and have prepared for the leadership transition. Yet, it will be very difficult for us to say good-bye after working as an administrative team for a decade. We will miss you, Dean Kay!

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President





# FEATURES

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In spring, MAC showcases art and music, increases student interest in math and science, and promotes reading and literacy.

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Donors help purchase training simulators for Law Enforcement Academy cadets and local law enforcement agencies.

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On average, MAC students pay \$600-\$700 per semester for textbooks.

## 25 The Safety of the American People

His new position focuses on global security more than ever.

# Departments

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**ON THE COVER** Students enjoy springtime in the Quadrangle. Seated: Anny Le (Farmington), Anthony Autry (DeSoto), Dura Anderson (Wortham); Kris Bowles (St. Genevieve), Cheryl Campbell (Bonne Terre), Patricia Lewis (Ironton); Bethany Looney (Potosi), Miles Nettle (St. Louis), Laura Dick (New Castle, Australia), Harry Willsher (Bournemouth, England).

# Fairs & Festivals



Doc Severinsen, best known for his career as bandleader on *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, was the guest artist for the annual Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival.

Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival



Book Fair

Educators often motivate students to engage in activities beyond the classroom. To help, MAC hosts several springtime fairs, festivals and competitions that invite K-12 students to hone their presentation, problem-solving, communication, leadership and critical-thinking skills. Students say the events are challenging, fun and academically motivating. The students also develop an academic mindset which translates to better test results, high school graduation rates and interests in post-secondary education. Here are just a few of the events MAC hosted this spring:

**Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival**

- inspires young musicians through clinics & performances by professional jazz artists
- 40 ensembles, 700 students, 3 states
- 50 instructors, clinicians & volunteers
- over 2,000 guests

**Mineral Area Council on the Arts K-12 Student Art Show**

- showcases student artwork
- over 850 artists, 1,464 pieces of artwork
- 36 teachers, 16 local schools

**Math & Science Fair**

- encourages use of the scientific method
- over 350 students, 24 teachers, 14 area schools

**Worldwide Youth in Science & Engineering Competition**

- increases interest in math & science
- 85 students, 5 area high schools

**Scholastic Book Fair**

- promotes literacy through community outreach
- 400+ visitors
- 844 books sold = 151,920 estimated minutes of reading

**Word Fest**

- develops writing, critical-thinking & language-building skills
- over 50 students, 5 sponsors, 3 high schools

**Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics Contests**

- challenges elementary, middle & high school students
- 18 to 24 schools, 450 students



Math & Science Fair



K-12 Art Show

# Adversity Made Me Who I Am

Crystal M. Hamby's life has had some adversity, but she has long been encouraged to pursue education to achieve a better life.

Her father was incarcerated for drug-related offenses, she says, but he always encouraged her to hold her head high and get an education. "He drove me to be the strong, determined, never-give-up person I am today," she says. "My mom abandoned me when I was three. My grandmother raised me the best she could, though we had little food and no running water or electricity. Then, my grandfather took his own life. I was embarrassed and hid my life from my classmates. All I wanted was to be accepted by others. By sixteen, I dropped out of school. I immediately earned my GED and even scored well enough to earn a college scholarship but didn't use it." Soon, she was married with three kids and making a good income at Ford, but before long, she was divorced and without child support, "because the court said I had a good-paying job that provided enough for my kids."

Crystal could have self-destructed but persevered instead. "I didn't have good role models, but I always placed my kids first," she says. "I knew I had to exceed my parents' parenting skills to give my kids better opportunities than I had. I'm not a perfect parent, but I realize this is a continuum...what I'm giving my kids is better than I had. I'm planting the seeds so my kids will create a better lifestyle for my grandkids."

This summer, Crystal is set to graduate with honors. However, the sophomore says applying to college can be "overwhelming" at first. "I didn't know anyone or how to go about college planning. The paperwork and



Crystal Hamby and her daughter, Melissa, are both MAC students.

registration seemed daunting," she says. "But this didn't stop my college dreams. My lifeline was MAC's incredibly helpful staff." Rodney Wilson is the first person Crystal met when she explored the EXCEL program services.

"Rodney's adult education experience was a natural fit for me," says Crystal. "He understands the challenges of first-generation college students because he was one himself. Every EXCEL person is focused on student success."

As for her career path, the legal field has Crystal's attention. Her memories of the court's decision to withhold child support fuels her plans to work with women who are in situations like hers. "I didn't realize I had options and didn't know people who may have helped me," says the mother of four. "Maybe I can serve as 'the voice' to help parents be proactive for their children's sake."

To others who find themselves intimidated by the college process, Crystal emphasizes, "We all have different paths. I put my kids first. Ultimately, I knew I wanted to get my degree. I'm glad to tell my story and hope others will relate and find strength. It doesn't matter what tries to hold you back. Be strong, be determined, believe

in yourself, and, never, ever give up."

EXCEL is a federally-funded program designed to help students overcome academic, social, cultural, and other barriers to their success in college. EXCEL staff provide the support necessary for each student to reach his/her own level of academic excellence and succeed in achieving a postsecondary education. While tutoring services are a critical component of EXCEL, other services include assistance with financial aid, academic advising, exploration of four-year transfer programs and working with students who have disabilities. Students receive personalized attention to address their specific needs from staff who pride themselves in working with first-generation college students. First-generation college students are students whose parents have not completed a four-year college degree. Success rates for students who take advantage of services are excellent. Recent retention rates range from 73% to 84%, and graduation rates range from 40% to 54%.

*Stop by or call the EXCEL office at (573) 518-2131 to obtain more information or schedule an interview.*

## Rodney Excels

Crystal and other EXCEL students highly regard Rodney's motivating demeanor and commitment to helping them succeed as college students. Rodney, a 1988 MAC grad, says, "I relate to these students. My mom, one of 18 children, and dad never graduated high school. Mom later earned her GED and AA degree, and we actually were at MAC the same year." While teaching in St. Louis, he earned his master's degree in history. Then, Rodney moved to Massachusetts where he taught 17- to 21-year-old inmates in a corrections setting, managed an Adult Basic Education program, and completed a master's degree in religion at Harvard



Crystal and academic advisor Rodney Wilson.

University Extension School. In 2011, he joined MAC's EXCEL program as an advisor and tutor. Rodney teaches American Political Systems and Comparative Religion classes and is a blogger for the Huffington Post ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rodney-wilson/killing-god\\_b\\_8342286.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rodney-wilson/killing-god_b_8342286.html)). Also, he collaborated with his mother on publishing her memoir of life on a small farm in Washington County in the 1950s. The book, *Me, Mush, and Tom: Life Was a Gamble*, is available on Amazon.



Dr. Diana Stuart and Kay Crecelius were English Department colleagues.

## Arts & Sciences Transition

After 27 years at MAC, Arts & Sciences Dean Kay Crecelius is retiring, with Dr. Diana Stuart taking the helm July 1. Diana will be the division's fifth dean since 1965, having been preceded by Kay, Dr. Steve Kurtz, Dr. James Bullis and Dr. Frank Leet.

Kay says, "I taught for 20 years before MAC and thought I was through teaching. But, in 1989, I agreed to the English Department's last-minute request to teach one class for one semester. I walked in, stood in front of that class, thought to myself, 'This is where I belong,' and the rest is history. In 1997, I went full time. Then, in 2006, I was named Arts & Sciences dean. Suddenly, it's 10 years later."

One reason Kay accepted the position is she believed she could make a difference in the lives of more students. She says, "I think I accomplished this. However, I didn't do it alone. I've had the support and the ability to tap into our incredibly talented faculty and staff. I thank the president and

Board of Trustees who have given me latitude as to how to conduct myself in this office."

In 1988, Diana started her MAC career as an adjunct faculty member in the English Department. In 1997, she was named the Teacher Education Program coordinator, and, in 2013, she became the associate dean of instruction. During her tenure, Diana has been the cornerstone of the college's accreditation initiatives. A 1983 MAC graduate, Diana says, "I am very excited to enter this new phase of my career and know Kay has positioned the division for future success. We have a great leadership team and an excellent faculty and staff; so I'm delighted to continue to serve the college community in this new capacity. I'll also continue my current involvement with assessment, accreditation, and distance education."

*Best wishes to Kay on her retirement, and Diana in her new role.*



Piramal Glass associate engineers Andrew Metz (left) and Curt Morrow (right) discuss the designs necessary to generate their 3D prototype with technology chair Paul Fritch.

## 3D Printing Collaboration

About 20 years ago, 3D technology was introduced. Today applications are limitless. Nike implements it to speed the creation of its shoes. Automobile engineers use applications to save time designing vehicle parts. Other examples are prosthetics and implants in healthcare, entertainment props and special effects, reconstructing bones and body parts in forensic pathology, and reconstructing heavily damaged evidence from crime scene investigations. So, employment options are varied for graduates with 3D skills.

Engineering Technology-Design Drafting students are using 3D printing in a collaborative project with Piramal Glass, a global supplier of glass containers for major cosmetic, personal care and pharmaceutical companies. In fact, Piramal earned the Missouri Community College

Association's 2015 Distinguished Business & Industry Award for its pivotal support of MAC's Technology Department and as an industry partner for the MoManufacturingWINs and MoSTEMWINs grants.

3D printing, also termed additive manufacturing, is a process of building three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. The "additive" process positions successive layers of material until a solid object is created.

Using 3-D modeling software, students begin by making both a virtual design and a digital copy of an existing object or a new design as a computer-aided design (CAD) file. Next, students prepare the digital file so the software can "slice" the final model into hundreds or thousands of horizontal layers. Once sliced, the file is uploaded in a 3D printer, and the three-dimensional object is assembled

layer-by-layer, blending layers with negligible signs of the individual layers.

Taking CAD designs prepared by Piramal engineers, MAC's Technology Department generates the bottle design prototypes. Since the glass containers are for personal care and specialty products, the functionality and appearance are prerequisite factors in the product design.

"Students can't get much better experience than actually designing and creating a prototype to meet industry specifications," explains Paul Fritch, Technology Department chair. "The 3D printer is fascinating, and the benefits in time and other resources are phenomenal. For example, a traditional manufacturing method will involve creating the design, casting a mold and setting up the whole manufacturing process to actually make a few bottles. Then, the bottles are inspected for quality, aesthetics, and even things like the location of the label and how they may look on the retail shelf. If changes are required, the whole process is repeated. So, a company's investments in labor, time and materials are huge. Little tweaks can be reprogrammed with 3D printing in a fraction of the time and with significant resource savings." The venture between MAC and Piramal imparts practical industry experiences for students while Piramal attains the resources-saving benefits of MAC's 3D printing capabilities.

Andrew Metz, MAC 2012-14, and Curt Morrow, MAC 2013-15, are Piramal associate engineers who realize the value of these experiences. Andrew says, "This cooperative effort has certainly been advantageous. As a former student, I see the benefit of working with real-world manufacturing processes to help current students prepare for their futures in the industry. I look forward to working with many more students." Curt adds, "Gaining experience in 3D printing can boost employment options. This technology is an essential part to manufacturing and so many other industries."



The Campus Safety Committee: Kara Mills, Brandi Craig, Lisa Edburg, Jeff McCreary, Pam Watkins, Gil Kennon, Chad Majeske, Barry Wilfong, Paula Golden, Debi Bayless, Sarah Haas and Kathryn Neff.

## Spotlighting Safety in the Wake of Umpqua

After a 26-year-old, Umpqua Community College (Oregon) student opened fire on his class in October 2015, fatally shooting nine and wounding eight, MAC's employees joined hundreds of other shocked community college employees across the country who wondered, "What if it happened here?"

MAC has a history of being a relatively safe school—for three years, it was listed among StateUniversity.com's top five safest schools in the state. MAC's Campus Safety Committee keeps an eye out for opportunities big and small to enhance campus safety and well-being.

Even with the college's low crime statistics, the shock of the Umpqua shooting spurred MAC to re-examine

its safety processes and procedures. Campus Police Chief Jeff McCreary leads the effort and says, "The college has a reputation for safety, but given the times in which we live, we could always do more. The committee has been taking a hard look at our policies, processes and procedures. We've accomplished quite a bit since last fall."

Besides updating the crisis response manual, building maps and signage for its take-shelter areas, the college is in the process of implementing new emergency-notification software that will use various media to better inform all stakeholders, while enhancing communication among crisis decision-makers and responders during emergencies. Improved door locks

are in place, and an improved public address and telephone system is coming online. An additional campus police officer is to be hired.

President Steve Kurtz praised the Campus Safety Committee for its recommendations. "But, safety ultimately takes the campus and community working together. It's the responsibility of everyone who comes to MAC," he said. "We're fortunate to have excellent partnerships with local responders, and we've had fantastic cooperation from our community when events have warranted. Obviously, with funding a continuous challenge, we examine our spending thoroughly, but we'd prefer to risk going into the red than losing a life on our campus."



## Alumni Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the annual FRJC and MAC Alumni Breakfast on Thursday, August 4, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the North College Center. Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, July 25. Contact Teri LaChance at (573) 518-2114 or [talachan@MineralArea.edu](mailto:talachan@MineralArea.edu).

1965 S.N.E.A. Last row: B. Ward, P. Wade, N. Cunningham, J. Pfaff, L. Womack, J. Denison, B. Watson, R. Pierce. Middle row: C. Wamble, V. Parker, G. Dixon, H. Lewis, K. Lodholtz, K. Mitchell, Miss Wadsworth, sponsor. Front row: G. McCrorey, E. Clark, S. Mouser, S. Dodd, P. Smith, S. Eaton, J. Govreau, B. Stamm.



Tim Gray (right) and Sonny Parker (center) share a laugh with MAC's first-year men's basketball coach Luke Strege.

## Hall of Fame Inductees

The St. Francois County Rotary Club inducted Tim Gray, Sonny Parker and the late Bill Bradley into the Hall of Fame at its annual Rotary Shoot Out in December 2015.



Janekia Mason and Hayley Winter developed a strong friendship as teammates and look forward to another basketball season.

# Tops in the Nation

The women's basketball program, ranked as high as 21st in the nation, provided exciting basketball for MAC fans. Janekia Mason, the Region 16 Player of the Year, joined an elite class of college athletes when she was named to the NJCAA All-American First Team. First Team honors represent the top 10 percent of athletes nationwide.

In addition to the team's 23-6 record, two Lady Cards—Janekia, twice named, and Hayley Winter—earned NJCAA "National Player of the Week" recognition. Hayley averaged 13.1 points and 5 rebounds per game; Janekia averaged 19.5 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. Both Hayley and Janekia were also All-Region and All-Conference selections.

Janekia, a Tennessee sophomore power forward, says, "This honor recognized that all my hard work did pay off. Actually, I didn't know I was honored because I didn't check my email. It was cool to be congratulated in the halls by other students. My teammates were pretty excited for me." Hayley, an Aussie combo forward,

chuckles and says, "I learned when a friend sent me a text and Twitter screenshot. My chemistry teacher Dr. Calkins was the first to send congratulations. It's super-cool our teachers noticed. It's a nice honor."

MAC basketball requires high-level commitment to its demanding schedule of practice, training and games. What drew them to MAC's program? Janekia says she really connected with the MAC players when she scrimmaged with the team. Since her mother is her biggest fan, she wanted to be close enough to home so her mom could attend games. As many international athletes do, Hayley worked with a recruiter. "I was incredibly impressed with Coach Koch's contacts and knowledge of the game," explains Hayley. "The fact his players go on to Division 1 schools is proof he can develop you to go to higher places."

Hayley will return for her sophomore year, and Janekia has signed to play at the University of Tennessee-Martin. Janekia is contemplating a career in nursing, while Hayley is a biology major exploring veterinary medicine.



Rosemary Pope (DeSoto) and Andy, Abby and Becky Roose (Farmington) choose their plants.

## Plant Sale

The Postsecondary Agriculture Student organization held its spring plant sale in May. Customers took home robust plants for their own gardens including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, watermelon, squash, zucchini, cantaloupe, tomatoes, herbs, hanging baskets, ferns and annuals.

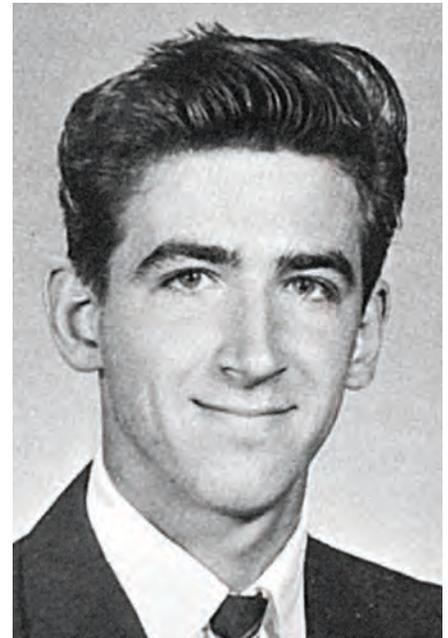
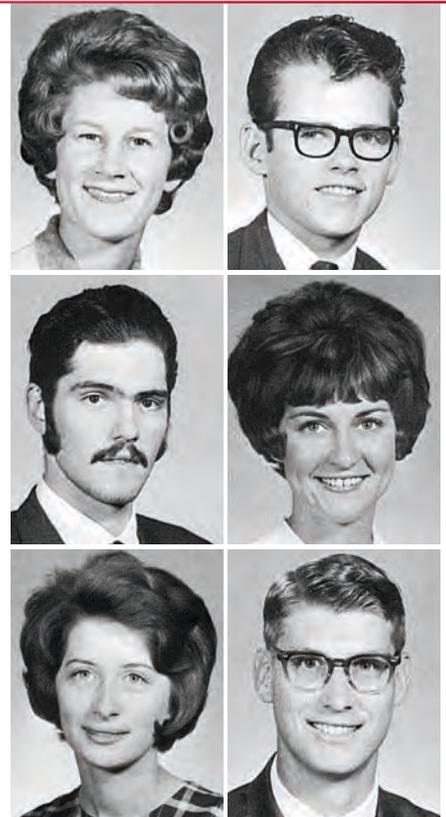


Tijana Milicic, Rafaella Angelidou and Nika Dabrowska all presented for Cultural Awareness days.

## Learning and Sharing about Other Cultures

International students Tijana “T” Milicic of Belgrade, Serbia, Rafaella Angelidou of Thessalonike, Greece, and Weronika “Nika” Dabrowska of Warsaw, Poland, presented programs on their homelands as part of the Cultural Awareness Club activities. Students and employees gained perspectives from Nika, T and Rafaella about geography, customs and languages and were treated to native cuisine. They were glad students wanted to learn about their homelands and were surprised at the number of questions ranging from law enforcement to college plans to fashion and travel. “Our English isn’t always easy to understand,” explains Rafaella. “So, this event was really cool. We felt

more comfortable visiting with students who wanted to learn about us and our countries.” Nika says, “Everyone seems surprised we each know more than one language. And, we were surprised people didn’t know too much about European countries.” The international students learned, too. T says, “When we compare our countries, it’s really confusing here because of all the age rules like driving, voting and drinking. For us, it’s all 18. We don’t understand the idea of ‘wanting to be 21’ to be legal for alcohol. For us, drinking isn’t such a big thing in our culture.” The series also included presentations about the Native American, Chinese and Mozambican cultures.



### Flashback Sophomores 1966

The class included Andrea McCreery, James V. Hughes, Jr., Terry Heberlie, Linda Plummer, Vicki Parker, Gary Stephen Weiss, and Danny E. Jarvis.



Relax to the MAX activities benefited students throughout finals week.

# Relax to the Max

Phi Theta Kappa presented "Relax to the Max" as its annual research-based Honors in Action project addressing students' mental health as they prepared for finals. According to recent surveys, 85 percent of college students suffer from some degree of anxiety and/or depression. PTK created various outlets to help on-campus students release some end-of-the-semester anxiety and frustration. Activities included soothing acoustic music, stress-down-punch-a-down, a nature hike, adult coloring project and a "relieve anxiety" workshop. PTK engaged students and staff participation via cell phones apps related to reducing anxiety in the form of a QR code.

PTK teamed with the Student Involvement Committee for "Confessions of a MAC Student" allowing students and staff the opportunity to write anonymous confessions and place them in a locked mailbox. Then, confessions were posted on the Confessions Board for viewing. Most students admitted they were too scared to post a confession. Then, after viewing the confessions, students indicated they realized their concerns were similar to other students. PTK termed Relax to the Max a success with at least 75 percent of students reporting reduced anxiousness and anxiety after participating in activities. Many students requested a monthly "Relax to the Max" activity.

## Community Puzzle

The incredible response to the Community Puzzle Project motivated library staff to continue with additional puzzles. The project was launched as a creative outlet for students to relax and unwind during finals week.

"Students work between classes and even after classes and say the puzzles are a good stress-relief tool. We've gotten a real positive response from employees, students and community members," says Ryan Harrington, instructional librarian.

Jigsaw puzzles boost concentration and problem-solving skills. The average puzzle takes about two weeks to complete. Employees look forward to the email announcement and picture of the completed puzzles.

The library is accepting a limited number of jigsaw puzzles if someone wishes to donate. Ryan shares a few guidelines, "Due to the size of the puzzle tables, anything from 800 to 1,000 pieces is what works. The puzzle image needs to be school- and community-appropriate, and generic as not to offend anyone or cause controversy."

*To learn more about the puzzle project or to donate a puzzle, contact the library staff at (573) 518-2141.*

# Definitely Plays to Win

He is considered Southeast Missouri's strongest player and ranks #50 statewide.

Ryan Deering is a pretty amazing guy. When the traditional classroom structure didn't mesh with Ryan's learning style, his frustration showed in his grades. In a bold move, he withdrew from high school, immediately earning his GED and scoring high enough to earn a college scholarship. He chose MAC. His former classmates graduated high school in May, and Ryan is set to graduate with his associate degree and a 4.0 GPA in December.

A history major, he plans to earn his bachelor's degree and attend law school. "I'd like to help other people, and becoming a lawyer will give me that chance," he says. "Now, I just need to figure out how to get a scholarship." He's hopeful a four-year school is interested in recruiting a high-caliber chess player. Ryan's future plans include success in the classroom, courtroom and chess arena.

At 4, he began playing checkers and quickly beat his mother. To intensify challenges for Ryan, his mother contacted Douglas Pokorny, a retired teacher with a reputation as a formidable chess player and club sponsor. Douglas provided a single pamphlet on chess moves. "My mom read the pamphlet to me once," recalls Ryan. "She never had to repeat it. I just understood what I had to do. It seemed so intuitive and natural." At 6, Ryan outplayed his mother to record his first chess victory. At age 11, she gave him a Chess Master computer program with a database of 1,000 of the world's greatest chess players' games. Now, his database hosts over 500,000 games. At 12, Ryan joined the local chess club with players three and four times his age.



Ryan Deering says chess is an easy game to learn, but difficult to master.

Ryan continues to elevate his skills in tournament play throughout the Midwest. He is considered Southeast Missouri's strongest player and ranks #50 statewide among active players. According to Ryan, the average rating for tournament players is about 750. Very serious players hover at the 1500-range. Ryan's rating is 1930. He's working toward the Expert Level of 2000, and ultimately, a Chess Master at 2200. "Chess is so undervalued," explains Ryan. "Here I am, living in Patterson, Missouri, on a cattle farm out in the middle of nowhere, and chess has given me opportunities to excel. I plan to dedicate my mind to the game as long as resources allow. I hope to play internationally someday."

Ryan says, "Chess is a worthy game to learn to strengthen and focus your memory and concentration. It helps me with school work. You develop discipline and understand how to work

toward the long-term goal. Composure and confidence are required for tournament play. Most of all, you must be competitive... you appear calm, but on the inside it's like a boxing match, and you definitely play to win."

Some perks come with chess. "I've met some interesting people like a doctor of computer science from the country of Georgia and Garry Kasparov, a Russian chess Grandmaster and former World Chess Champion who achieved a peak rating of 2851," he says. "Chess is really big in Russia. Although St. Louis doesn't have a staggering number of active players, it has a solid base of skilled top-level players."

*Ryan wants others to appreciate chess. He offers instruction and coaching and can be contacted at (573) 275-9550. He suggests the St. Louis Chess Club website as a wonderful resource.*



Cadets April Portell (Cadet) and Devon Sutterfield (Salem) are grateful for the quality of training.

# Immersed in Realistic Scenarios

Defensive driving and firearms simulators benefit cadets and community.

The Mineral Area College Law Enforcement Academy (MACLEA) received a boost in the technology it uses for training new officers and sharpening the skills of current officers. Courtesy of MAC Foundation’s fundraising, the academy has a new FAAC Driving Simulator and a MILO Firearms Simulator. MACLEA

instructor Chris Schmitt says they’re great tools for sharpening decision-making skills. “The decisions officers make can be the difference between life or death, and this equipment helps better prepare officers for these moments, while training in a safe environment,” he says.

Kevin Thurman, director of development, says two fundraisers

supported the upgrades.

“Every year, the Foundation raises money for the Enhancement Grant which allows us to purchase training equipment using match funds through the state. We have been fortunate over the past several years to have increased matching power, thanks to the late Gayle and Rowena Simmons and the



Foundation board of directors," he says.

MAC Foundation embarked on a new fundraising endeavor by holding a competitive shooting match, hosted by Asymmetric Solutions of Farmington. The Foundation was able to raise over \$10,000 toward the new equipment.

Chris says fundraisers have a substantial impact on the academy's ability to train. "Many academies across the state don't have anything like this. Officers from all over the area use our equipment for their continuing education requirements. Some law enforcement agencies even receive lower

insurance costs if officers train on the simulators," he says.

Chris also mentioned the new Citizens Police Academy, "The defensive driving and firearms simulators are also made available to community members who participate in the Citizens Police Academy, a free program for area citizens interested in police operations. This program virtually impacts the entire community."

*For Citizens Police Academy or MACLEA information, contact Chris at CSchmitt@MineralArea.edu or (573) 518-2221.*



**Foundation board members Andy Buchanan and Dale Wright try the firearms and driving simulators.**



Graduation is an exciting time as demonstrated by Mikayla Barlow (Bonne Terre), Ethan White (Ste. Genevieve), Stefany Laskosky (Perryville), Victoria Blair (Farmington) and Kyle Currington (Park Hills).

# 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.**

Abernathy, Garland  
 Allen, Greg and Jane  
 Allen, Melinda  
 Ameren Missouri  
 Arnold, Edna  
 Asberry, Dwain  
 Baranovic, Tamara  
 Bauman Distributing Company  
 Bayless, Alan and Debi  
 Beard, Stephen and Sheila  
 Belgrade State Bank  
 Belovich, Elaine  
 Berry, William and Jacqueline  
 Black River Electric Cooperative  
 Black, William and Caren  
 Blackwell, William  
 Bloemke, Thomas and Bev

Boedefeld, Patricia  
 Bohnenkamp, Marvin and Kim  
 Bone, Eddie and Elaine  
 Boyer & Associates PC  
 Boyer, Naomi  
 Bradley, William and Carla  
 Branson, Glen and Anna  
 Braswell, Bruce  
 Buchanan, Andy and Rebecca  
 Bullis, James and Nancy  
 Bunker School District  
 Burch, Stephen and Rebecca  
 Burnett, Ryan and Cindy  
 Burns, Marguerite  
 Busenbark, Larry and Carolinn  
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 Carlson, Herschel

Carter, Virginia  
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Jim Spengler  
Toni Thornton  
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James and Priscilla Wade



Brandy Grado is appreciative for alumni and community members who provide scholarships.

## A Fuller Meaning of Life

A seizure. A brain tumor. Hours of surgery. In less than 12 hours, Brandy Grado's life was turned upside down.

"My husband and I were at work when he suffered a seizure," Brandy explains. "I was blindsided and disoriented. He wasn't able to work. I missed lots of work taking him to doctors' appointments. Medical bills were astronomical. When reality set in, I wondered, how can I care for him,

our two young children, work and pay these bills? You just never expect it to happen to you."

Brandy says she was 19 when they married and started a family. "I didn't have the opportunity for college due to finances and I didn't know about financial aid. Given our circumstances,

I knew I had to be able to support our family so I decided it was time to get my college education."

The Fredericktown sophomore, who earned her LPN degree then bridged to the RN program, says the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), Melvin DeHovitz Memorial, and Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation scholarships have been invaluable in her journey to become a registered nurse. "I really don't know how to express my gratitude to total strangers who have given me an opportunity I couldn't get on my own," she says. "I'm so grateful."

The nursing program requires unwavering commitment and perseverance. "It takes 100 percent of your dedication," says the soon-to-be RN. "It's too bad if you're having a bad day, the patient's care is the priority. Someone's life may be in your hands. You must make competent decisions under all circumstances. You're dealing with patients' families, physicians and much more. You can't let your bad day impact your patients."

Since the rigors of the program are very demanding, time management is essential. "I have a daily study regimen, and my daughter sees my dedication to my homework," she says. "It's been good because she studies with me and is learning the importance of an education. She's even gotten a little competitive with grades!" Brandy also works and says two days of part-time work as an LPN equals one full week of pay at her other job. "So my education is definitely worth it," she says.

Her education has provided more than a college degree. "It's a miracle my husband is alive, much less doing well," says Brandy. "Because of our personal experiences and my nursing education, I have a fuller meaning of life, and I see things in a totally different way than before my husband's surgery. Somehow my education helps me see a bigger picture and allows me to be more open and understanding of things that happen in life."



Textbooks are a significant expense for Ethan Barron who plans to be a physical therapy assistant, biology/pre-med major Ken Pham and future RN Hunter Thompson.



MaKayla McEntire feels fortunate to receive a scholarship.

# Textbook Fundraiser

At Missouri's \$7.65 per hour minimum wage, a student needs to work a minimum of 22 to 23 hours to afford a single textbook.

Do you recall the cost of your college textbooks? Here at MAC, even if students can afford tuition, the books and supplies pose another financial hurdle.

With that challenge in mind, MAC Foundation is launching a "Textbook Fundraiser" to encourage alumni and friends of the college to purchase a textbook for a student for the upcoming semester. "In the 'how to pay for college' equation, it's impossible to overemphasize the generosity of alumni and friends of the college who financially help college students," explains Director of Development Kevin Thurman. "Sometimes the smallest gestures make an enormous statement."

Even with used books, the average cost of textbooks can be between \$600-\$700 per semester. Freshman nursing students pay almost \$1,000 for their

first semester textbooks since they're establishing their reference library. A chemistry student has five required books plus lab gear. A biology text is about \$211, and the accompanying manual is \$106. The average textbook cost is between \$160 and \$175. So, at Missouri's \$7.65 per hour minimum wage, a student needs to work a minimum of 22 to 23 hours to afford a single textbook.

*Your textbook gift may keep a student from abandoning his or her college plans. Why not celebrate our sentiments for MAC by helping current students achieve their college educations? Use the enclosed envelope for your textbook fundraiser gift. For more information, contact Kevin by phone at (573) 518-2261 or by email at [kthurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:kthurman@MineralArea.edu).*

## Buck-A-Month Scholarship

"Without this scholarship, I probably wouldn't attend college, or I'd have to take out a student loan," says MaKayla McEntire, one of the Buck-A-Month Scholarship recipients. "I am incredibly thankful for this scholarship so I didn't have to put my college plans on hold or have to get in big debt. The books alone are so expensive. My book total was about \$600 and one book was \$300! I really tried to get used books online but, it's nearly impossible."

Following in her grandmother's footsteps, this Park Hills graduate plans to be a first grade teacher. In her education classes, MaKayla is learning about educational philosophies, teaching techniques, and performing effectively in the classroom. Staying close to family is important, so she plans to transfer to CMU on the MAC campus to complete her teaching degree. Then, a first grade teaching position in a local school would suit her perfectly, she says, especially if it was in the Central R-3 District where she attended.



Kaitlyn Loughary is eager to bring her positive attitude to her own classroom.

## Future Math Teacher

Kaitlyn Loughary, a Wesley A. Deneke Memorial Scholarship recipient, comes from a long line of teachers. “My mom and lots of my cousins are teachers, so I guess it’s in my family to teach,” the Bismarck High School grad says. Since math is one of her favorite subjects, she plans to become a high school math teacher. She says MAC was a “sensible choice” since it’s close to home, and she earned many college credits while in high school. “Everyone here is super helpful,” Kaitlyn says. “And the Deneke scholarship has allowed me to save money while I’m working, for when I transfer to Southeast Missouri State University this fall.”

Kaitlyn says she’s finding teaching techniques in her MAC classes that she’s looking forward to adapting to her own classroom someday. “I really like my teacher education classes with Dr. Young and Pam Jaycox. Both of them have an interesting teaching style, one I might like to develop for my own classroom,” she says. “Our classroom observations are pretty fascinating, too. I’d never seen math taught on Chromebooks where the textbook and the problems are all on the computer. The teacher uses the whiteboard, and the students use their computer screens in place of the traditional books. I’m learning quite a bit and look forward to having my own classroom in a few years.”

## Ways to Give

Consider supporting education at MAC.

- Stocks or Securities**  
Explore the tax advantages of donating stocks and securities. The benefits may be surprising.
- Champion Your Favorite Departments**  
Donate to help with lab supplies, equipment purchases or professional development needs.
- In Honor or Memory**  
Recognize a special person, family member, teacher or friend. Honorees or family members will be notified of your thoughtfulness.
- Matching Gifts**  
Does your employer offer a matching program?
- Planned Giving**  
Include MAC Foundation in your estate plans to help future students.
- 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](http://www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation).
- Tax Savings**  
Consult your estate planner and financial or tax advisor to determine tax considerations for your gifts to MAC Foundation, a 501(C)(3) charitable entity.

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

# A Vision of Serving Others



Dr. Dennis Atkins has logged over 88,000 miles on his way to a 100,000-mile goal.

Dr. Dennis Atkins shares his compelling story, filled with uplifting anecdotes about living a full life with a disability. Dennis is blind. At age 23, he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic vision disorder. Dennis says, “We’re born with a specific number of photosensory cells in our eyes. Since these don’t reproduce, there’s no cure right now.”

Dennis believes everyone faces disabilities of some sort—loss of loved ones, financial devastation, life-threatening illness—and views his disability no different. The difference is how Dennis uses his God-given gifts to challenge himself to lead an enriched life. He’s led by his heart, his mind and God. “Life is filled with choices,” he says. “So, our own decisions bring the happiness and success we want for ourselves.” Each day Dennis inspires and encourages others to face life’s challenges by overcoming fears.

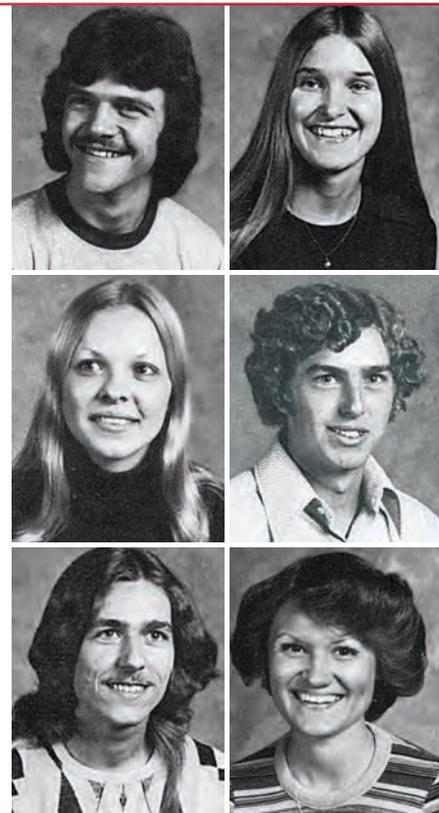
Dennis is a motivational speaker, fundraiser and marathon runner. Yes, he’s a runner. His vision limits his activities, so Dennis runs, an activity he began in his early 20s. “Every time I put

on my tennis shoes, I overcome the fear of ‘what I might encounter on my run today?’ I run unassisted, so my legs and my feet are my guides. Yes, there have been broken bones and bruises over the years.”

Dennis emphasizes, “Life’s successes are more gratifying when sharing them with family, friends and coworkers. We all need designated drivers to help us overcome life’s obstacles. Build your world with people you trust and love.” In closing, he quoted Maya Angelou, “... people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Dennis’ advocacy has the attention of Missouri’s legislative body. His appointment to various state boards has allowed him to be a resolute voice for Missourians with disabilities and the agencies who serve them.

*Dennis is available for speaking engagements and enjoys inspiring others and creating awareness about living with disabilities. Visit the website [www.DCAI.us](http://www.DCAI.us) to learn more.*



## Flashback 1976

The class included Tom Johnson, Cathy Collins, Patti Hadler, Mark Hovis, Kenneth Bullard, Roxanna Cummings and Sandra Matthews.

# FRJC was a Pivotal Time

“For whatever reason, Dean Simmons decided to take a chance on me.”

Sports were important to Dale St. Gemme and his teammates Charlie Bequette, Keith Black, Gene Martin, Red Jennings, Cobby Coldwell and others.

“Coach Myers recruited me after I returned from the Marines in 1956,” recalls Dale. “Before scholarships were awarded, athletes had to meet with Dean Simmons. I distinctly remember Dean Simmons saying, ‘Dale, I don’t think you can make it academically.’ Then he reminded me I ranked 37 in my class of 46. For whatever reason, Dean Simmons decided to take a chance on me. His decision was a springboard for my college career, earning my PhD and my fulfilling career in education.”

During his 41 years in education,

Dale’s roles spanned classroom teaching, coaching, administration, supervising student teachers and fundraising. He enjoyed all these challenges but gained his deepest satisfaction and rewards from coaching student-athletes and helping them develop as young adults. He says his work as a counselor and coaching junior high football, track and basketball were some of the most fruitful and rewarding times.

“FRJC was the richest time in my life,” says the lifelong educator. “I lived at home, and my athletic scholarship and GI Bill paid my college expenses. It’s where many lasting friendships formed. FRJC proved vitally important regarding our futures. Had it not been

for Mrs. Clark who saw some potential in me and cultivated it, I’m not sure how my life would have been. A friend and I decided, to heck with school, and ventured into the real world to make some good money. After a week, we realized our big mistake. Technically, we probably shouldn’t have been let back into classes. But Mrs. Clark gave me the pivotal break I needed when she allowed me to make up work and provided a source of encouragement. I don’t know why, but she saw the potential in me. I’ve forever been thankful for that experience.” Dale recalls other inspiring teachers who led by example such as Molly Ruth Bottoms, who had his essay about life as a Marine published in the *Daily Journal*, and Miss Wadsworth, who was an outstanding educator and leader in the church and community at a time when women held few leadership roles.

Dale shares special memories as an athlete, “The late ‘60s and early ‘70s were undoubtedly my most enjoyable times as an athlete. It was a privilege to play on the Flat River Pepsi fast-pitch softball team with its two prominent members, Bob Sechrest and Hal Loughary. Our strong team was often tournament playoff-bound. Coach Loughary was one of the most talented, competitive players with whom I ever played. Coach Sechrest was a memorable ‘character’ on and off the field. Getting to know Eileen ‘Mrs. Coach’ Sechrest was remarkable, and often coach told us he was the luckiest man alive to have her as his wife. Playing alongside Hal, Bob and FRJC grad Charlie Bequette and meeting many outstanding people provided me with unforgettable lifetime experiences.”

Dale’s daughter, Lisa, attended MAC in 1986-88, played basketball for Bill Bradley and was the first Lady Card to earn Academic All-American basketball honors. In retirement, Dale lives in Farmington, volunteers with his church and spends time with his grandchildren.

Dale St. Gemme says FRJC’s extraordinary teachers had a powerful impact on students’ lives.





Joel Cummings has travelled the world.

# Teaching, Travel, Giving Back

“The much-needed and appreciated Lions Club scholarship combined with my part-time jobs at Rivermines IGA, Union Electric, and ‘The Dauphins’ lead singer financed my degree,” explains Joel Cummings, 1965 Freshman Class president. “Instructor George Hampton significantly influenced me. He not only allowed me to experience the world of literature and enlightened thought, but his personal counseling challenged me not to settle for life as a ‘Miniver Cheevy’ that E.A. Robinson ridiculed.”

All Joel’s credits transferred to MU where he earned his BS degree. Then, he served as a U.S. Army reserve OCS graduate and training officer before entering the teaching profession. He taught English at Athena and DeSoto Public Schools for over 30 years. Joel broadened his knowledge and world view through his travels. And, like George Hampton, Joel infused his experiences in the classroom to expand

his students’ perspectives.

The world traveler says, “My fortuitous marriage to artist Victoria Gallagher Cummings enabled us to walk far and wide. In 1989, our Phi Delta Kappa group toured USSR schools in Tallin, Estonia, Moscow and Leningrad. Around us, the Berlin Wall was crumbling, and the ruble collapsed so immensely that I could purchase a souvenir for all 500 DeSoto Junior High students.” Despite walking in almost every U.S. state, most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, the Caribbean, China, Southeast Asia, Korea, Greece, Turkey, Israel and Palestine, Egypt, India and Nepal, and much of South America, Joel says their strongest lure is America’s own iconic Grand Canyon.

Joel finds satisfaction in “giving back” through service to his community and others. One of his most personally rewarding endeavors centered on repaying the support of his parents. He

recalls, “My mom, Maye Cummings of Rivermines, was recuperating at a local nursing home. We noticed she was the only resident who received regular visitors. At mom’s suggestion, I looked into volunteering and was trained by The Ethical Society of St. Louis’ Senior Connections as a volunteer reader and one who enrolled eligible residents for a free taped book program. Many residents were military veterans. This particular experience inspired me to present my Veterans Day program proposal to our local AMVET Post 171 Commander Klint Oldham who ultimately supported the program. Now, our Post honors over 90 veterans who reside in the Festus-Crystal City care facilities. The Missouri Amvets honored me with its Community Service Award...so maybe my community college and Army Reserve experiences rubbed off after all.” Joel resides in Festus and invites his MAC contemporaries to friend him on Facebook.



# Not Shy Anymore

Transforming is how Johnny Frago describes his MAC experience. “I’m not a shy kid anymore,” grins Johnny, a well-versed writer, composer, arranger, transcriber and teacher of music.

The Music Department provided a nurturing cocoon for Johnny’s metamorphosis. “I wanted to mimic my music teachers who exemplified what it is to be a music professional. I marveled at their talents and experiences and knew

my training came from professionals who actually performed,” explains the musician. “My development was 180 degrees. I arrived at MAC as this small-town, shy kid who loved music but feared I’d be told I wasn’t good at all and to find a different career. I couldn’t have imagined anything worse than my very first day because I’d never read music formally. I was determined not to give up. And that was one of the best

Johnny Frago with instructor Jacob Cantrell (above) and St. Paul Guitar Ensemble (below).

decisions of my entire life.”

By affirming his talents, Johnny’s instructors instilled him with newfound confidence. Soon, he was in ensembles and performing pieces of music he never dreamed he could play. Johnny says he owes much to the music faculty, particularly one instructor who profoundly inspired his career direction and personality. “Mr. Jacob Cantrell, director of Guitar Studies, was my mentor,” says the 2013 Outstanding Music Student Award recipient. “Mr. Cantrell helped me grasp more aspects of music and the music industry, and he taught me to believe in myself. He not only made me realize I could very well make it in the music industry, but he keeps up with my musical career as it progresses.”

Jacob says, “Johnny was a quiet, shy and nervous guy, but he was clearly capable from the get-go. He impresses me because he’s always willing to take



the big challenges, tackle the most difficult pieces, and he performs well. Johnny contemplates what's possible. The shy kid has indeed matured."

In 2015, Johnny earned his associate degree in music performance. He says, "I'm passionate about all things music, especially performance and recording. My band and my students are what I'm most passionate about." Frago, his punk rock, heavy metal band, is recording its debut full-length album, set to be released later this year on all major online stores, including iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and Google Play.

By teaching guitar, Johnny inspires others about music. His Marler Music Center students range from beginner to advanced.



The band Frago.

As St. Paul Lutheran High School's guitar ensemble director, Johnny explains, "St. Paul students are pretty amazing. When I first started, few kids had touched a guitar. Now, they're playing full songs with each other. So we can perform our shows, I do my own musical arrangements and transcriptions for them." For all his music talents and opportunities, Johnny adds, "I thank the Lord Jesus Christ because He gave me the abilities, and I shall keep repaying Him in any way I can."

*Johnny invites friends to catch up with him and his band on YouTube and Facebook.*



Jessica Burgess spoke at the Pinners Conference & Expo where Pinterest experts and bloggers convene.

## It's Fantabulosity

In 2011, about the time Pinterest started, Jessica (Ferguson) Burgess was creating her own online presence with a lifestyle blog focusing on party planning, recipes, decorating, fashion, DIY projects, crafts and much more.

Jessica, who earned her AA in Business Management in 2004, says, "At first, it was something I started after my son was born—a little baby food and diaper distraction. As much as I loved being a stay-at-home mom, I missed the workplace interaction. So, with my cup of coffee, I sat down and experimented with a little blog about party planning, something I loved to do since I was a 10-year old kid. It was a fun, conversational outlet for my creativity and a platform for sharing ideas. I was feeling pretty good about this. Then, someone told me I could make money doing this. Seriously? So, in 2013, Fantabulosity.com launched, and in 2015, I decided to really get serious about it."

While Fantabulosity started as a creative channel, Jessica says, "I've developed the business on my own, and its success validates all the hard work I've invested. It's rewarding to see how far it's come in such a short time." With its expeditious growth, Fantabulosity is a serious contender in the blogging world attracting significant advertising revenues via brands like Blue Bunny Ice Cream, Cheerios, Famous Footwear

and Coca-Cola. Each month, about 100,000 devoted followers are attracted to Jessica's wholesome style, relatability and originality in her blog. Whether she's elaborating about new recipes, how to make a gift basket or blogging secrets, Jessica's down-to-earth sincerity captivates her readers.

She's just published her first e-book and has appeared on St. Louis television stations. To learn about her e-course, *How to Make Money Blogging*, visit [fantabulosity.com/money](http://fantabulosity.com/money). Regarding Fantabulosity's next move, Jessica says, "I'm not sure what's next, but I'm excited to find out. I just know I wake up every day and do what I love."

Jessica, a self-proclaimed introvert, chuckles as she says, "I adore connecting with others even though I'm not really an outgoing person. I was terrified when it was time to take my public speaking class. However, the class forced me to organize my thoughts and figure out how to share my message and ideas with others. And, that's what a blog does...I'm speaking to others, thanks to my instructor Tony Gans."

*Find Jessica at [jessica@fantabulosity.com](mailto:jessica@fantabulosity.com) or on sites such as Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Fantabulosity.com offers advertising opportunities for products and businesses. Jessica invites readers to explore her work at [fantabulosity.com](http://fantabulosity.com) and become a loyal follower.*

# A Life of Fascinating Opportunities

Bev Oster and Gary Robinson knew each other in high school but didn't date until FRJC. That was 1959-60. They married in 1961 and moved to Columbia where Gary entered MU's School of Journalism. They lived on Bev's \$275 monthly salary and Gary's \$50-\$75 from his work as a graduate assistant and news anchor at MU's television station.

Soon they were in St. Louis where Gary accepted a position with KMOX-TV. He began as a junior writer and transitioned to the news room, creating documentaries and overseeing live, full-hour broadcast specials. Gary recalls covering Vice President Hubert Humphrey at the St. Louis Arch dedication and facilitating a public affairs special with all the 1968 presidential candidates except Bobby Kennedy, who was assassinated the prior week.

In 1969, Gary's seven-day-a-week schedule spurred him to explore employment options, and they moved to Cleveland. There, his work seized the industry's attention for his ability to resurrect troubled stations. When a North Carolina operations manager position surfaced, they didn't hesitate to leave the frigid Cleveland winters.

Gary's success in the industry required them to be mobile—about 15 moves in 30 years they calculate. Gary's media work earned several regional Emmy Awards and five of his documentary films are in the Library of Congress.

Bev's employment depended on where they lived. She worked for the Eagle Stamp Company, was blood director for the Red Cross and built an accomplished real estate business. While in Ohio, Bev developed a reputation of working with people who were being transferred. "I guess my family-oriented approach caught people's attention," smiles Bev. "Moving is tough and it involves the whole family. So, I would load the family in my van to tour homes. My



This summer Bev and Gary Robinson celebrate 55 years of marriage.

soft spot was young couples starting out, and I'd help them understand the financing aspect."

In 1997, Gary retired and they returned "home" to Farmington. Of his career, he says, "First, remember that TV was just beginning to 'go color' and everything was live. There were no re-takes. I've worked with two U.S. presidents, several senators, and a passel of congressman and governors including John Kasich. Bev and I have had a pretty charmed, unique life that presented us fascinating opportunities."

Cooking—traditional and eclectic cuisines—is a leisure interest they share. "Our cookbook collection is between 600 and 700, and, our favorites are those compiled by community churches or organizations," they say. Their fondness for the local area coupled with their cooking interests culminated in

a new restaurant venture. They have partnered with Brandon Hardin to open The Coffee Grill & Bistro, in the former Rosener's restaurant location, as a sit-down style restaurant featuring a variety of seasonal cuisine. Patrons can expect a relaxing atmosphere, changing menus, bar and meeting rooms equipped with technology.

FRJC was a memorable time for the Robinsons. Gary played the lead in theater productions, served as *Chats* editor, and held student government leadership positions. They have fond memories of their contemporaries such as Dick and Kathy (Conway) Wood, Lloyd and Carol Dunn, Bill and Caren (Pruitt) Black, Jerry Cross, Harvey and Mary Lee (Gannon) Faircloth, Roger Weems, Marvin Hahn, Larry Alexander, Glenda Mabery, Bill Stotler and Rich Kearns.



Major General VanHerck's experiences as an airman bring a well-rounded perspective to his new position.

PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE

# The Safety of the American People

In March, inside the Thunderbirds Hangar on Nellis Air Force Base, a transition-in-leadership ceremony announced Major General Glen VanHerck as the new commander of the United States Air Force Warfare Center. To the audience, he stated, "It's a tremendous responsibility to command, not only to my country, not only to the Air Force, not only to Air Combat Command or to the Warfare Center. My responsibility is to my airmen, their mothers and fathers, their children and their loved ones." Then, to his new airmen, he issued a straightforward challenge, "I ask you to keep pushing every day to stay the innovators you've proven yourselves to be."

Major General VanHerck, the son of longtime MAC trustee and FRJC alumnus Dr. Don VanHerck, attended MAC in 1981-83 and played Cardinals baseball. He is a University of Missouri

graduate and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He later received his master's degree in aviation safety and management from the University of Central Missouri and a second master's degree in national security and policy from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI.

In his remarks, the new commander addressed America's concerns about security and terrorism, "The world's global security situation right now has probably never been, except for World War II, closer to the brink of chaos than we've ever seen. That takes realistic and relevant training, tactics and testing to make sure we're ready to go on a daily basis. The global perspective with regards to threat in the global environment in the world right now is ever-changing. We have to continue to adapt in all domains—air, space

and cyberspace—to ensure we do the best testing, tactics development and training. Here at the warfare center, we will do that so those folks who are going into harm's way to turn those bad folks into hair, teeth and eyeballs are properly equipped, trained and ready to go."

Standing beside the F-35 Lightning II, the Air Force's latest stealth fighter jet, the Bismarck native explained the future challenges for the center's 11,000 airmen located in 22 states. He said his priority "is to get the F-35...out the door and ready to go for the war-fighters. We need to do that while we take care of the mission, the families and our airmen each and every day."

*Nellis Air Force Base is located about ten miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. More information about the major general's professional career is available at <http://www.nellis.af.mil>.*

# Ollie Ann Loves to Teach

She vowed she would never be a teacher. But, after graduating from FRJC in 1947, Ollie Ann (Tesreau) Goggins completed her education degrees from Washington University and Peabody in Nashville (later to become Vanderbilt). “In my first year, I taught 400 kids and directed the school’s cantata for \$140 per month. Then, Clifton Bell recruited me to Farmington the next year for \$190,” says the 31-year teaching veteran. “I taught music and at least one year in each of the K-8 grades. I especially liked teaching grades 3-6.”

Today when Ollie Ann hears, “Mrs.

Goggins, do you remember me?” she smiles knowing her students remember her. Even as adults, her former students say Mrs. Goggins was one of their best teachers. Ollie Ann explains a couple of her techniques: “Just like our FRJC teachers, I always tried to take a personal interest in each student. I knew not all kids fit the usual classroom mold. I made efforts to approach them, figure out their way of thinking, accentuate their uniqueness and make them feel a part of class. Sometimes, it was the only time the children believed someone really cared about them. I saw the difference it made and was glad

to be part of it. Teachers can have an earnest impact on kids.”

Ollie Ann echoes opinions of other FRJC alumni, “Our education was excellent because the teachers invested in each of us as individuals. They cared about our school success and what we wanted to do with our futures. Dean Coyle, Dr. Deneke and many others helped us to become good students and professionals. At Wash U and Peabody, my FRJC education rivaled my peers. FRJC gave us all a solid foundation for our futures.”

She remembers her part-time work at the *Daily Journal* for 40 cents an hour and dances at the Red Grill with contemporaries like Jack Cozean, Bill Morice, John Margueriter, and her good friends Mary Lynn Thompson and Mary Lou Ledbetter. She remains thankful to Don Vishino for his tutoring which helped her successfully complete the Spanish class.

With a twinkle in her eye, Ollie Ann says, “You know I was a Spring Prom queen candidate. I was so excited to be nominated, but I came in second. And, I asked my friend, Mary Lou, to borrow her boyfriend, Bob Spray, to be my escort because Lonnie wasn’t a student.”

She and Lonnie, her husband of 68 years, live in Farmington and enjoy activities with their three daughters, seven grandchildren and twelve “greats.”

Sixty years later, Ollie Ann Goggins still enjoys looking at her *Chats* yearbooks.



## Donate Yearbooks

Would you be willing to donate your FRJC/MAC yearbooks to the college collection so campus guests can enjoy them? Just call (573) 518-2114 or e-mail [KThurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:KThurman@MineralArea.edu).



Quality patient care is a priority for Angelica Lappe, Tanya Kennedy, Lacey Kelley and Nedra Harrington.

## Patient Care **and** Mentorship

Midwest Health Group understands today's healthcare can be complicated, so its mission is simple: to provide patients with simpler solutions for better healthcare. It's also a place where MAC alumni are employed, including family nurse practitioners Angelica Lappe and Nedra Harrington, integral players on Midwest's healthcare team.

"MAC's nursing programs prepared us well so we wouldn't be terrified when it was time for state boards," says Angelica, who earned her LPN and RN degrees. In 2010, she earned her master's degree in nursing, FNP, at UMSL with a 4.0 GPA. Her work experience includes dermatology, ER, urgent care, hospitals and clinics. She keeps current through membership in various professional healthcare organizations. In 2010, she joined Midwest Health Group. "For me, helping people feel good by diagnosing and treating pain is my greatest satisfaction," says Angelica. "However, insurance presents challenges. I treat patients as unique individuals and give them the best medical care I know how, but sometimes I'm limited in prescribing a treatment plan because of the obscurities of insurance. It can be disappointing."

After earning her LPN, RN and BSN

degrees, Nedra completed her master's degree in nursing, FNP, in 2008. Her family nurse practitioner duties range from diagnosing and treating health concerns to prescribing medicines to promoting personal wellness and disease prevention education for patients. She says, "MAC was local and affordable. At that time, nobody had failed the state boards. All the instructors were exceptional and really prepared us for what would be expected of us as nurses." Besides her work as a nurse, Nedra also was a part-time clinical instructor. "Although I can treat patients' health conditions, I see the anxiety many patients face when it comes to the complexity of insurance. As much as we try to help each patient, sometimes I worry the insurance and financial angle is too big of a hurdle. We are very mindful of our patients' needs."

Not only does Midwest Health Group serve patients, it also dedicates time and expertise to individuals pursuing healthcare careers. Two MAC nursing alumni—Tanya Kennedy and Lacey Kelley—are advancing their degrees and being mentored there. Tanya, a 1996 LPN grad, is completing requirements to pass her boards and earn her master's degree. She says, "Midwest Health is such an amazing place. Everyone is

patient-oriented and very willing to share experiences and teach me so I can develop my patient care skills. Here, I'm exposed to many areas like cardiology, orthopedics, allergology, and even a sleep lab." Tanya recalls MAC's nursing instructors. "They provided us with incredible experiences. I will never forget Lana Jinkerson always reminding us to speak eloquently and professionally regardless of the situation," she says. "Teri Douglas's passion for women's healthcare and wellness issues was contagious."

Lacey, a 2012 nursing graduate, is working on her family nurse practitioner's certification. "I picked MAC because it's vested in homegrown, local students," says this RN. "The nursing program definitely prepared us for what was to come in the nursing field. Now, I want to expand my opportunities, and the family practitioner offers a variety of options. Being mentored by Nedra is rewarding. I'm gaining significant experience working side-by-side with her and learning how the decisions nurse practitioners make differ from the decisions a nurse would make."

*Angelica and Nedra are taking new patients at Midwest Health Group in Farmington. For details, visit [midwesthealthgroup.com](http://midwesthealthgroup.com).*

• **Congratulations, PTK**  
MAC's Lambda Chapter has consistently been one of the state's strongest Phi Theta Kappa chapters. At its regional convention, PTK earned 12 awards, believed to be an all-time record for the chapter. Recognized for their achievements are: Sarah Jones, Ian Oberle, Katilin Courtway, Jessica Carey,



Instructors and PTK sponsors Jenny (Peters) Beck and Emily Murdock were honored at the international PTK conference.

Steve Downey, Christian DeShazo, and Devyn Lewis. The chapter was recognized for being one of the top three in Missouri.

Sponsors Jenny (Peters) Beck and Emily Murdock were honored with advisor awards at the international PTK conference in Washington, D.C. Emily earned the Distinguished Advisor Award and Jenny earned the Paragon Award for New Advisors. The awards recognize advisors who make significant contributions to the growth of the

individual members and chapters, and demonstrate an exceptional atmosphere of teamwork, leadership abilities, promotion of Honors in Action and other engagement in the Society, and enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks.

• **Fall 2015 Sports Recap**  
The Lady Cards volleyball team finished the season with a record of 26-10 and was ranked as high as #18 in the nation. Men's basketball finished with a record of 25-6 and was ranked as high as #9 in the nation. With a 23-6 record, the women's basketball team earned the MCCAC conference title and was also nationally ranked as high as #21. Gary Koch was named Region 16 Coach of the Year. This season, the golf team has been ranked as high as #14 in the nation.

• **LPN, ADN Successes**  
Allied Health Director Teri Douglas reported on the National Council Licensure Exam (also known as The State Board Exam) pass rates for RNs and LPNs for the 2015 academic year. MAC's LPN pass rate for first-time candidates was 100 percent, compared to Missouri's average LPN pass rate of 89.99 percent for first-time candidates. MAC's RN pass rate for first-time candidates was slightly lower than Missouri's average, 83.64 percent compared to 84.25 percent. On average, MAC's nursing programs have approximately 25 LPN students, 35 freshman ADN students, 46 sophomore ADN students, and 17 Advanced Placement Hybrid students, for a total of 123 students in the programs. These graduates provide a significant percentage of the region's need for nurses.

• **Governor's Teaching Award**  
Dr. Chad Follis, recipient of the 2016 Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award, began teaching horticulture at MAC in 2008. He completed his associate degree at MAC and understands the needs of community college students. He obtained his BS and MS degrees in horticulture and his

EdD in Educational Leadership from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Chad's peers value the dedication, time and effort he pledges to MAC. Whether he's working with FFA, lecturing to local gardening clubs, extracting honey from beehives, networking with industry peers, writing grants or fulfilling campus leadership roles, Chad's improving MAC.

• **Simmons Allied Health Lab**  
Mineral Area College administrators, faculty, staff and students, as well as Mineral Area College Foundation Board members and community members celebrated the philanthropy of the late Gayle and Rowena Simmons when the college renamed the Allied Health Department lab in the couple's honor. The Simmons' generosity, passion for education and commitment to "their junior college" were instrumental in equipping the lab and providing Allied Health students with state-of-the-art curriculum, equipment and training simulators in one of the top nursing programs in the state.

• **Teacher of the Year Awards**  
Dr. Fred Nute and Dr. Rhonda Gamble earned Teacher of the Year honors, an award voted on by MAC Phi Theta Kappa students. Of their instructors, PTK members said, "Dr. Nute is passionate about his classes and keeps an open mind with his students. Thanks to him, students gain a new interest for psychology and sociology, and some pursue careers in social work. He is very genuine and goes out of his way to make it easy for students to approach him for help. He has a great sense of humor. No doubt he is one of the best teachers in his field. His classes give us an understanding of the social and psychological aspect of life and theories."

Dr. Gamble, like Dr. Nute, is high on the students' list of teachers who make a difference. Students commented, "Dr. Gamble is a great professor who will go out of her way to help her students. She

makes her anatomy, physiology and microbiology classes interesting. She is very funny and great at engaging the students in what most would consider difficult subjects. She is extremely knowledgeable in the subjects that she teaches, and it shows through her enthusiasm." Congratulations, Dr. Gamble and Dr. Nute.

- **Flotron on National Board**  
Law Enforcement Academy director Rich Flotron was named a 2016 Region III Leadership Fellow by the Association of Career and Technical Educators (ACTE). The National Leadership Fellowship Program focuses on professional development, policy knowledge and leadership development. The result is a cadre of leaders who will

continue ACTE's work in developing an educated, prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce.

- **Lifetime Contribution Award**  
Music instructor Dr. Kevin White was honored with the 2016 Park Hills-Leadington Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Contribution Award for sharing his passion for music with the region. He is the catalyst behind the annual sold-out Baby Boomers Reunion Concert held each August, featuring at least 50 top area musicians with various musical styles. Kevin's music experiences are varied, including his work with many musical groups including The Temptations, The Four Tops, The O'Jays, Toni Tennille, the Atlantic Jazz Orchestra and Guy Lombardo.

- **President's Service Award**  
Economics Chair Stephanie Campbell received a Presidential Award from the White House for her work as a member of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, a Federal advisory committee to the IRS.

- **Employee Award Winners**  
These employees earned the recognition of their colleagues: Roger McMillian earned Faculty Member of the Year; Julie Sheets earned the Campus Leadership Award; and Debbie Crites was recognized as Classified Staff Person of the Year.

- **Retirees**  
Thank you Lisa Clauser, Kay Crecelius, John Killian, Fred Nute and Charlene Jansen for your service. Best wishes for a rewarding retirement.

## Flashback: Joel Remembers 1966

Joel Cummings (page 21) shares a few memories of MAC's first official years:

- The 1966 *Chats* was dedicated to our beloved retiring music director, Annie Louise Huggins, who was succeeded by our equally-beloved Les Rosenstengel, who directed our play "You Can't Take it with You."
- I ordered 100 'CHAT TECH I Tappa Keg' sweatshirts addressed to me, but delivered to Dean Leet's office. They sold like hotcakes for \$2 each. Cotton Rhodes still had one at the Alumni Reunion 25 years ago.
- Peripheral perks as MAC's first Student Body President...In the 1966 *Chats*, I am seated with three gorgeous Fredericktown girls, Carla Bollinger, Linda Plummer and Betty Collier. I was proud to serve as our Phi Theta Kappa VP. Our revered sponsor, Miss Mary Helen Bloom, led us to national conventions,



1966 Student Government Association members Linda Plummer, Carla Bollinger, Kent Hitchings, Joel Cummings, Dave Shaw, Betty Collier, Glen Cook, Mark Counts and Jim Cartee.

including Chicago where we met White Sox rookie pitcher Tommy John as he sauntered by to converse with comedian Jonathan Winters at Diamond Jim Brady's Restaurant.

- Coach Sechrest's basketball Cardinals were nationally ranked all season. We might have gone

all the way to nationals but for Moberly's and Crowder's famous seven member squads, including both referees! And, who can forget celebrating victory and socializing with friends atop the old Flat River chat dumps?

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alumni



## College for Kids Classes run July 11-22

[www.MineralArea.edu/CE](http://www.MineralArea.edu/CE) • (573) 518-2342



## Fall Semester Classes start August 22

[www.MineralArea.edu](http://www.MineralArea.edu) • (855) MAC-4YOU



## Continuing Education Classes start in September

[www.MineralArea.edu/CE](http://www.MineralArea.edu/CE) • (573) 518-2342

# TO OUR READERS



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Bruce Williams  
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In April, art students from kindergarten through high school transformed the MAC Field House into the annual Mineral Area Council on the Arts extravaganza, the K-12 Art Show.

Dear Friends,

Our college is just beautiful this time of year as our grounds crew groomed the campus for our 92nd annual commencement exercises.

We're very thankful Representative Linda Black accepted the trustees' offer to be our commencement speaker. Given her tremendous support of Mineral Area College and community colleges in general during her eight years in the General Assembly, it just seemed fitting to invite her to speak.

At commencement, Edith Rogers, a holocaust survivor and community advocate, received Mineral Area College's highest honor, the Simmons Distinguished Service Award. Since the mid-1990s, Ms. Rogers has been communicating her experiences with hundreds of area students with the goal of preventing these atrocities from occurring again.

In other news, we are again grateful to the members of the General Assembly for their continued support of community colleges this legislative session. The college, in conjunction with the Missouri Community College Association, was successful in advocating four main priorities:

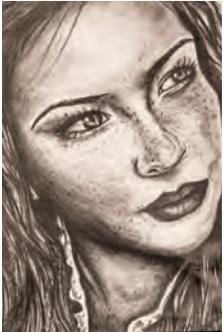
- a 4% increase in performance funding,
- \$4.5 million in equity funding,
- fully funding the A+ program, and
- increasing workforce development programs by \$6.2 million.

In conclusion, it is bittersweet to say good-bye to a colleague, Dean Kay Crecelius, who has dedicated many years of service to the college. We knew of her impending retirement and have prepared for the leadership transition. Yet, it will be very difficult for us to say good-bye after working as an administrative team for a decade. We will miss you, Dean Kay!

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Kurtz, President





# FEATURES

## 2 Fairs & Festivals

In spring, MAC showcases art and music, increases student interest in math and science, and promotes reading and literacy.

## 12 Immersed in Realistic Scenarios

Donors help purchase training simulators for Law Enforcement Academy cadets and local law enforcement agencies.

## 17 Textbook Fundraiser

On average, MAC students pay \$600-\$700 per semester for textbooks.

## 25 The Safety of the American People

His new position focuses on global security more than ever.

# Departments

- 2 Around Campus
- 12 Thank You
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- 15 Giving Envelope
- 20 Alumni
- 28 Through the Grapevine

**ON THE COVER** Students enjoy springtime in the Quadrangle. Seated: Anny Le (Farmington), Anthony Autry (DeSoto), Dura Anderson (Wortham); Kris Bowles (St. Genevieve), Cheryl Campbell (Bonne Terre), Patricia Lewis (Ironton); Bethany Looney (Potosi), Miles Nettle (St. Louis), Laura Dick (New Castle, Australia), Harry Willsher (Bournemouth, England).

# Fairs & Festivals



Doc Severinsen, best known for his career as bandleader on *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson, was the guest artist for the annual Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival.

Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival



Book Fair

Educators often motivate students to engage in activities beyond the classroom. To help, MAC hosts several springtime fairs, festivals and competitions that invite K-12 students to hone their presentation, problem-solving, communication, leadership and critical-thinking skills. Students say the events are challenging, fun and academically motivating. The students also develop an academic mindset which translates to better test results, high school graduation rates and interests in post-secondary education. Here are just a few of the events MAC hosted this spring:

#### Carol Moore Memorial Jazz Festival

- inspires young musicians through clinics & performances by professional jazz artists
- 40 ensembles, 700 students, 3 states
- 50 instructors, clinicians & volunteers
- over 2,000 guests

#### Mineral Area Council on the Arts K-12 Student Art Show

- showcases student artwork
- over 850 artists, 1,464 pieces of artwork
- 36 teachers, 16 local schools

#### Math & Science Fair

- encourages use of the scientific method
- over 350 students, 24 teachers, 14 area schools

#### Worldwide Youth in Science & Engineering Competition

- increases interest in math & science
- 85 students, 5 area high schools

#### Scholastic Book Fair

- promotes literacy through community outreach
- 400+ visitors
- 844 books sold = 151,920 estimated minutes of reading

#### Word Fest

- develops writing, critical-thinking & language-building skills
- over 50 students, 5 sponsors, 3 high schools

#### Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics Contests

- challenges elementary, middle & high school students
- 18 to 24 schools, 450 students



Math & Science Fair



K-12 Art Show

# Adversity Made Me Who I Am

Crystal M. Hamby's life has had some adversity, but she has long been encouraged to pursue education to achieve a better life.

Her father was incarcerated for drug-related offenses, she says, but he always encouraged her to hold her head high and get an education. "He drove me to be the strong, determined, never-give-up person I am today," she says. "My mom abandoned me when I was three. My grandmother raised me the best she could, though we had little food and no running water or electricity. Then, my grandfather took his own life. I was embarrassed and hid my life from my classmates. All I wanted was to be accepted by others. By sixteen, I dropped out of school. I immediately earned my GED and even scored well enough to earn a college scholarship but didn't use it." Soon, she was married with three kids and making a good income at Ford, but before long, she was divorced and without child support, "because the court said I had a good-paying job that provided enough for my kids."

Crystal could have self-destructed but persevered instead. "I didn't have good role models, but I always placed my kids first," she says. "I knew I had to exceed my parents' parenting skills to give my kids better opportunities than I had. I'm not a perfect parent, but I realize this is a continuum...what I'm giving my kids is better than I had. I'm planting the seeds so my kids will create a better lifestyle for my grandkids."

This summer, Crystal is set to graduate with honors. However, the sophomore says applying to college can be "overwhelming" at first. "I didn't know anyone or how to go about college planning. The paperwork and



Crystal Hamby and her daughter, Melissa, are both MAC students.

registration seemed daunting," she says. "But this didn't stop my college dreams. My lifeline was MAC's incredibly helpful staff." Rodney Wilson is the first person Crystal met when she explored the EXCEL program services.

"Rodney's adult education experience was a natural fit for me," says Crystal. "He understands the challenges of first-generation college students because he was one himself. Every EXCEL person is focused on student success."

As for her career path, the legal field has Crystal's attention. Her memories of the court's decision to withhold child support fuels her plans to work with women who are in situations like hers. "I didn't realize I had options and didn't know people who may have helped me," says the mother of four. "Maybe I can serve as 'the voice' to help parents be proactive for their children's sake."

To others who find themselves intimidated by the college process, Crystal emphasizes, "We all have different paths. I put my kids first. Ultimately, I knew I wanted to get my degree. I'm glad to tell my story and hope others will relate and find strength. It doesn't matter what tries to hold you back. Be strong, be determined, believe

in yourself, and, never, ever give up."

EXCEL is a federally-funded program designed to help students overcome academic, social, cultural, and other barriers to their success in college. EXCEL staff provide the support necessary for each student to reach his/her own level of academic excellence and succeed in achieving a postsecondary education. While tutoring services are a critical component of EXCEL, other services include assistance with financial aid, academic advising, exploration of four-year transfer programs and working with students who have disabilities. Students receive personalized attention to address their specific needs from staff who pride themselves in working with first-generation college students. First-generation college students are students whose parents have not completed a four-year college degree. Success rates for students who take advantage of services are excellent. Recent retention rates range from 73% to 84%, and graduation rates range from 40% to 54%.

*Stop by or call the EXCEL office at (573) 518-2131 to obtain more information or schedule an interview.*

## Rodney Excels

Crystal and other EXCEL students highly regard Rodney's motivating demeanor and commitment to helping them succeed as college students. Rodney, a 1988 MAC grad, says, "I relate to these students. My mom, one of 18 children, and dad never graduated high school. Mom later earned her GED and AA degree, and we actually were at MAC the same year." While teaching in St. Louis, he earned his master's degree in history. Then, Rodney moved to Massachusetts where he taught 17- to 21-year-old inmates in a corrections setting, managed an Adult Basic Education program, and completed a master's degree in religion at Harvard



Crystal and academic advisor Rodney Wilson.

University Extension School. In 2011, he joined MAC's EXCEL program as an advisor and tutor. Rodney teaches American Political Systems and Comparative Religion classes and is a blogger for the Huffington Post ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rodney-wilson/killing-god\\_b\\_8342286.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rodney-wilson/killing-god_b_8342286.html)). Also, he collaborated with his mother on publishing her memoir of life on a small farm in Washington County in the 1950s. The book, *Me, Mush, and Tom: Life Was a Gamble*, is available on Amazon.



Dr. Diana Stuart and Kay Crecelius were English Department colleagues.

## Arts & Sciences Transition

After 27 years at MAC, Arts & Sciences Dean Kay Crecelius is retiring, with Dr. Diana Stuart taking the helm July 1. Diana will be the division's fifth dean since 1965, having been preceded by Kay, Dr. Steve Kurtz, Dr. James Bullis and Dr. Frank Leet.

Kay says, "I taught for 20 years before MAC and thought I was through teaching. But, in 1989, I agreed to the English Department's last-minute request to teach one class for one semester. I walked in, stood in front of that class, thought to myself, 'This is where I belong,' and the rest is history. In 1997, I went full time. Then, in 2006, I was named Arts & Sciences dean. Suddenly, it's 10 years later."

One reason Kay accepted the position is she believed she could make a difference in the lives of more students. She says, "I think I accomplished this. However, I didn't do it alone. I've had the support and the ability to tap into our incredibly talented faculty and staff. I thank the president and

Board of Trustees who have given me latitude as to how to conduct myself in this office."

In 1988, Diana started her MAC career as an adjunct faculty member in the English Department. In 1997, she was named the Teacher Education Program coordinator, and, in 2013, she became the associate dean of instruction. During her tenure, Diana has been the cornerstone of the college's accreditation initiatives. A 1983 MAC graduate, Diana says, "I am very excited to enter this new phase of my career and know Kay has positioned the division for future success. We have a great leadership team and an excellent faculty and staff; so I'm delighted to continue to serve the college community in this new capacity. I'll also continue my current involvement with assessment, accreditation, and distance education."

*Best wishes to Kay on her retirement, and Diana in her new role.*



Piramal Glass associate engineers Andrew Metz (left) and Curt Morrow (right) discuss the designs necessary to generate their 3D prototype with technology chair Paul Fritch.

## 3D Printing Collaboration

About 20 years ago, 3D technology was introduced. Today applications are limitless. Nike implements it to speed the creation of its shoes. Automobile engineers use applications to save time designing vehicle parts. Other examples are prosthetics and implants in healthcare, entertainment props and special effects, reconstructing bones and body parts in forensic pathology, and reconstructing heavily damaged evidence from crime scene investigations. So, employment options are varied for graduates with 3D skills.

Engineering Technology-Design Drafting students are using 3D printing in a collaborative project with Piramal Glass, a global supplier of glass containers for major cosmetic, personal care and pharmaceutical companies. In fact, Piramal earned the Missouri Community College

Association's 2015 Distinguished Business & Industry Award for its pivotal support of MAC's Technology Department and as an industry partner for the MoManufacturingWINs and MoSTEMWINs grants.

3D printing, also termed additive manufacturing, is a process of building three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. The "additive" process positions successive layers of material until a solid object is created.

Using 3-D modeling software, students begin by making both a virtual design and a digital copy of an existing object or a new design as a computer-aided design (CAD) file. Next, students prepare the digital file so the software can "slice" the final model into hundreds or thousands of horizontal layers. Once sliced, the file is uploaded in a 3D printer, and the three-dimensional object is assembled

layer-by-layer, blending layers with negligible signs of the individual layers.

Taking CAD designs prepared by Piramal engineers, MAC's Technology Department generates the bottle design prototypes. Since the glass containers are for personal care and specialty products, the functionality and appearance are prerequisite factors in the product design.

"Students can't get much better experience than actually designing and creating a prototype to meet industry specifications," explains Paul Fritch, Technology Department chair. "The 3D printer is fascinating, and the benefits in time and other resources are phenomenal. For example, a traditional manufacturing method will involve creating the design, casting a mold and setting up the whole manufacturing process to actually make a few bottles. Then, the bottles are inspected for quality, aesthetics, and even things like the location of the label and how they may look on the retail shelf. If changes are required, the whole process is repeated. So, a company's investments in labor, time and materials are huge. Little tweaks can be reprogrammed with 3D printing in a fraction of the time and with significant resource savings." The venture between MAC and Piramal imparts practical industry experiences for students while Piramal attains the resources-saving benefits of MAC's 3D printing capabilities.

Andrew Metz, MAC 2012-14, and Curt Morrow, MAC 2013-15, are Piramal associate engineers who realize the value of these experiences. Andrew says, "This cooperative effort has certainly been advantageous. As a former student, I see the benefit of working with real-world manufacturing processes to help current students prepare for their futures in the industry. I look forward to working with many more students." Curt adds, "Gaining experience in 3D printing can boost employment options. This technology is an essential part to manufacturing and so many other industries."



The Campus Safety Committee: Kara Mills, Brandi Craig, Lisa Edburg, Jeff McCreary, Pam Watkins, Gil Kennon, Chad Majeske, Barry Wilfong, Paula Golden, Debi Bayless, Sarah Haas and Kathryn Neff.

## Spotlighting Safety in the Wake of Umpqua

After a 26-year-old, Umpqua Community College (Oregon) student opened fire on his class in October 2015, fatally shooting nine and wounding eight, MAC's employees joined hundreds of other shocked community college employees across the country who wondered, "What if it happened here?"

MAC has a history of being a relatively safe school—for three years, it was listed among StateUniversity.com's top five safest schools in the state. MAC's Campus Safety Committee keeps an eye out for opportunities big and small to enhance campus safety and well-being.

Even with the college's low crime statistics, the shock of the Umpqua shooting spurred MAC to re-examine

its safety processes and procedures. Campus Police Chief Jeff McCreary leads the effort and says, "The college has a reputation for safety, but given the times in which we live, we could always do more. The committee has been taking a hard look at our policies, processes and procedures. We've accomplished quite a bit since last fall."

Besides updating the crisis response manual, building maps and signage for its take-shelter areas, the college is in the process of implementing new emergency-notification software that will use various media to better inform all stakeholders, while enhancing communication among crisis decision-makers and responders during emergencies. Improved door locks

are in place, and an improved public address and telephone system is coming online. An additional campus police officer is to be hired.

President Steve Kurtz praised the Campus Safety Committee for its recommendations. "But, safety ultimately takes the campus and community working together. It's the responsibility of everyone who comes to MAC," he said. "We're fortunate to have excellent partnerships with local responders, and we've had fantastic cooperation from our community when events have warranted. Obviously, with funding a continuous challenge, we examine our spending thoroughly, but we'd prefer to risk going into the red than losing a life on our campus."



## Alumni Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the annual FRJC and MAC Alumni Breakfast on Thursday, August 4, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in the North College Center. Please R.S.V.P. by Monday, July 25. Contact Teri LaChance at (573) 518-2114 or [talachan@MineralArea.edu](mailto:talachan@MineralArea.edu).

1965 S.N.E.A. Last row: B. Ward, P. Wade, N. Cunningham, J. Pfaff, L. Womack, J. Denison, B. Watson, R. Pierce. Middle row: C. Wamble, V. Parker, G. Dixon, H. Lewis, K. Lodholtz, K. Mitchell, Miss Wadsworth, sponsor. Front row: G. McCrorey, E. Clark, S. Mouser, S. Dodd, P. Smith, S. Eaton, J. Govreau, B. Stamm.



Tim Gray (right) and Sonny Parker (center) share a laugh with MAC's first-year men's basketball coach Luke Strege.

## Hall of Fame Inductees

The St. Francois County Rotary Club inducted Tim Gray, Sonny Parker and the late Bill Bradley into the Hall of Fame at its annual Rotary Shoot Out in December 2015.



Janekia Mason and Hayley Winter developed a strong friendship as teammates and look forward to another basketball season.

# Tops in the Nation

The women's basketball program, ranked as high as 21st in the nation, provided exciting basketball for MAC fans. Janekia Mason, the Region 16 Player of the Year, joined an elite class of college athletes when she was named to the NJCAA All-American First Team. First Team honors represent the top 10 percent of athletes nationwide.

In addition to the team's 23-6 record, two Lady Cards—Janekia, twice named, and Hayley Winter—earned NJCAA "National Player of the Week" recognition. Hayley averaged 13.1 points and 5 rebounds per game; Janekia averaged 19.5 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. Both Hayley and Janekia were also All-Region and All-Conference selections.

Janekia, a Tennessee sophomore power forward, says, "This honor recognized that all my hard work did pay off. Actually, I didn't know I was honored because I didn't check my email. It was cool to be congratulated in the halls by other students. My teammates were pretty excited for me." Hayley, an Aussie combo forward,

chuckles and says, "I learned when a friend sent me a text and Twitter screenshot. My chemistry teacher Dr. Calkins was the first to send congratulations. It's super-cool our teachers noticed. It's a nice honor."

MAC basketball requires high-level commitment to its demanding schedule of practice, training and games. What drew them to MAC's program? Janekia says she really connected with the MAC players when she scrimmaged with the team. Since her mother is her biggest fan, she wanted to be close enough to home so her mom could attend games. As many international athletes do, Hayley worked with a recruiter. "I was incredibly impressed with Coach Koch's contacts and knowledge of the game," explains Hayley. "The fact his players go on to Division 1 schools is proof he can develop you to go to higher places."

Hayley will return for her sophomore year, and Janekia has signed to play at the University of Tennessee-Martin. Janekia is contemplating a career in nursing, while Hayley is a biology major exploring veterinary medicine.



Rosemary Pope (DeSoto) and Andy, Abby and Becky Roose (Farmington) choose their plants.

## Plant Sale

The Postsecondary Agriculture Student organization held its spring plant sale in May. Customers took home robust plants for their own gardens including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, watermelon, squash, zucchini, cantaloupe, tomatoes, herbs, hanging baskets, ferns and annuals.

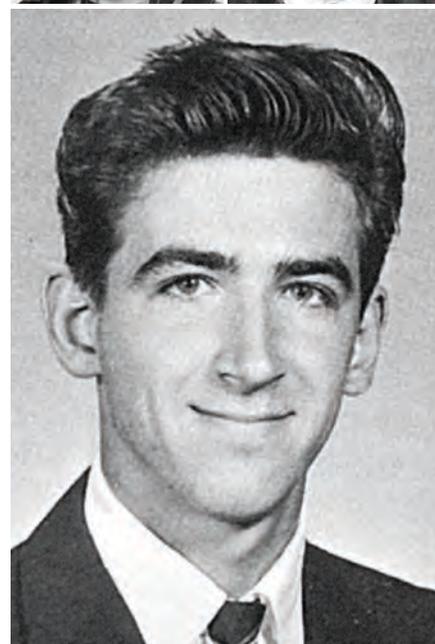


Tijana Milicic, Rafaella Angelidou and Nika Dabrowska all presented for Cultural Awareness days.

## Learning and Sharing about Other Cultures

International students Tijana “T” Milicic of Belgrade, Serbia, Rafaella Angelidou of Thessalonike, Greece, and Weronika “Nika” Dabrowska of Warsaw, Poland, presented programs on their homelands as part of the Cultural Awareness Club activities. Students and employees gained perspectives from Nika, T and Rafaella about geography, customs and languages and were treated to native cuisine. They were glad students wanted to learn about their homelands and were surprised at the number of questions ranging from law enforcement to college plans to fashion and travel. “Our English isn’t always easy to understand,” explains Rafaella. “So, this event was really cool. We felt

more comfortable visiting with students who wanted to learn about us and our countries.” Nika says, “Everyone seems surprised we each know more than one language. And, we were surprised people didn’t know too much about European countries.” The international students learned, too. T says, “When we compare our countries, it’s really confusing here because of all the age rules like driving, voting and drinking. For us, it’s all 18. We don’t understand the idea of ‘wanting to be 21’ to be legal for alcohol. For us, drinking isn’t such a big thing in our culture.” The series also included presentations about the Native American, Chinese and Mozambican cultures.



### Flashback Sophomores 1966

The class included Andrea McCreery, James V. Hughes, Jr., Terry Heberlie, Linda Plummer, Vicki Parker, Gary Stephen Weiss, and Danny E. Jarvis.



Relax to the MAX activities benefited students throughout finals week.

## Relax to the Max

Phi Theta Kappa presented "Relax to the Max" as its annual research-based Honors in Action project addressing students' mental health as they prepared for finals. According to recent surveys, 85 percent of college students suffer from some degree of anxiety and/or depression. PTK created various outlets to help on-campus students release some end-of-the-semester anxiety and frustration. Activities included soothing acoustic music, stress-down-punch-a-down, a nature hike, adult coloring project and a "relieve anxiety" workshop. PTK engaged students and staff participation via cell phones apps related to reducing anxiety in the form of a QR code.

PTK teamed with the Student Involvement Committee for "Confessions of a MAC Student" allowing students and staff the opportunity to write anonymous confessions and place them in a locked mailbox. Then, confessions were posted on the Confessions Board for viewing. Most students admitted they were too scared to post a confession. Then, after viewing the confessions, students indicated they realized their concerns were similar to other students. PTK termed Relax to the Max a success with at least 75 percent of students reporting reduced anxiousness and anxiety after participating in activities. Many students requested a monthly "Relax to the Max" activity.

## Community Puzzle

The incredible response to the Community Puzzle Project motivated library staff to continue with additional puzzles. The project was launched as a creative outlet for students to relax and unwind during finals week.

"Students work between classes and even after classes and say the puzzles are a good stress-relief tool. We've gotten a real positive response from employees, students and community members," says Ryan Harrington, instructional librarian.

Jigsaw puzzles boost concentration and problem-solving skills. The average puzzle takes about two weeks to complete. Employees look forward to the email announcement and picture of the completed puzzles.

The library is accepting a limited number of jigsaw puzzles if someone wishes to donate. Ryan shares a few guidelines, "Due to the size of the puzzle tables, anything from 800 to 1,000 pieces is what works. The puzzle image needs to be school- and community-appropriate, and generic as not to offend anyone or cause controversy."

*To learn more about the puzzle project or to donate a puzzle, contact the library staff at (573) 518-2141.*

# Definitely Plays to Win

He is considered Southeast Missouri's strongest player and ranks #50 statewide.

Ryan Deering is a pretty amazing guy. When the traditional classroom structure didn't mesh with Ryan's learning style, his frustration showed in his grades. In a bold move, he withdrew from high school, immediately earning his GED and scoring high enough to earn a college scholarship. He chose MAC. His former classmates graduated high school in May, and Ryan is set to graduate with his associate degree and a 4.0 GPA in December.

A history major, he plans to earn his bachelor's degree and attend law school. "I'd like to help other people, and becoming a lawyer will give me that chance," he says. "Now, I just need to figure out how to get a scholarship." He's hopeful a four-year school is interested in recruiting a high-caliber chess player. Ryan's future plans include success in the classroom, courtroom and chess arena.

At 4, he began playing checkers and quickly beat his mother. To intensify challenges for Ryan, his mother contacted Douglas Pokorny, a retired teacher with a reputation as a formidable chess player and club sponsor. Douglas provided a single pamphlet on chess moves. "My mom read the pamphlet to me once," recalls Ryan. "She never had to repeat it. I just understood what I had to do. It seemed so intuitive and natural." At 6, Ryan outplayed his mother to record his first chess victory. At age 11, she gave him a Chess Master computer program with a database of 1,000 of the world's greatest chess players' games. Now, his database hosts over 500,000 games. At 12, Ryan joined the local chess club with players three and four times his age.



Ryan Deering says chess is an easy game to learn, but difficult to master.

Ryan continues to elevate his skills in tournament play throughout the Midwest. He is considered Southeast Missouri's strongest player and ranks #50 statewide among active players. According to Ryan, the average rating for tournament players is about 750. Very serious players hover at the 1500-range. Ryan's rating is 1930. He's working toward the Expert Level of 2000, and ultimately, a Chess Master at 2200. "Chess is so undervalued," explains Ryan. "Here I am, living in Patterson, Missouri, on a cattle farm out in the middle of nowhere, and chess has given me opportunities to excel. I plan to dedicate my mind to the game as long as resources allow. I hope to play internationally someday."

Ryan says, "Chess is a worthy game to learn to strengthen and focus your memory and concentration. It helps me with school work. You develop discipline and understand how to work

toward the long-term goal. Composure and confidence are required for tournament play. Most of all, you must be competitive... you appear calm, but on the inside it's like a boxing match, and you definitely play to win."

Some perks come with chess. "I've met some interesting people like a doctor of computer science from the country of Georgia and Garry Kasparov, a Russian chess Grandmaster and former World Chess Champion who achieved a peak rating of 2851," he says. "Chess is really big in Russia. Although St. Louis doesn't have a staggering number of active players, it has a solid base of skilled top-level players."

*Ryan wants others to appreciate chess. He offers instruction and coaching and can be contacted at (573) 275-9550. He suggests the St. Louis Chess Club website as a wonderful resource.*



Cadets April Portell (Cadet) and Devon Sutterfield (Salem) are grateful for the quality of training.

# Immersed in Realistic Scenarios

Defensive driving and firearms simulators benefit cadets and community.

The Mineral Area College Law Enforcement Academy (MACLEA) received a boost in the technology it uses for training new officers and sharpening the skills of current officers. Courtesy of MAC Foundation’s fundraising, the academy has a new FAAC Driving Simulator and a MILO Firearms Simulator. MACLEA

instructor Chris Schmitt says they’re great tools for sharpening decision-making skills. “The decisions officers make can be the difference between life or death, and this equipment helps better prepare officers for these moments, while training in a safe environment,” he says.

Kevin Thurman, director of development, says two fundraisers

supported the upgrades.

“Every year, the Foundation raises money for the Enhancement Grant which allows us to purchase training equipment using match funds through the state. We have been fortunate over the past several years to have increased matching power, thanks to the late Gayle and Rowena Simmons and the



Foundation board of directors," he says.

MAC Foundation embarked on a new fundraising endeavor by holding a competitive shooting match, hosted by Asymmetric Solutions of Farmington. The Foundation was able to raise over \$10,000 toward the new equipment.

Chris says fundraisers have a substantial impact on the academy's ability to train. "Many academies across the state don't have anything like this. Officers from all over the area use our equipment for their continuing education requirements. Some law enforcement agencies even receive lower

insurance costs if officers train on the simulators," he says.

Chris also mentioned the new Citizens Police Academy, "The defensive driving and firearms simulators are also made available to community members who participate in the Citizens Police Academy, a free program for area citizens interested in police operations. This program virtually impacts the entire community."

*For Citizens Police Academy or MACLEA information, contact Chris at CSchmitt@MineralArea.edu or (573) 518-2221.*

**Foundation board members Andy Buchanan and Dale Wright try the firearms and driving simulators.**



Graduation is an exciting time as demonstrated by Mikayla Barlow (Bonne Terre), Ethan White (Ste. Genevieve), Stefany Laskosky (Perryville), Victoria Blair (Farmington) and Kyle Currington (Park Hills).

# Donor Honor Roll

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Jim Spengler  
Toni Thornton  
Bob Vineyard  
James and Priscilla Wade



Brandy Grado is appreciative for alumni and community members who provide scholarships.

## A Fuller Meaning of Life

A seizure. A brain tumor. Hours of surgery. In less than 12 hours, Brandy Grado's life was turned upside down.

"My husband and I were at work when he suffered a seizure," Brandy explains. "I was blindsided and disoriented. He wasn't able to work. I missed lots of work taking him to doctors' appointments. Medical bills were astronomical. When reality set in, I wondered, how can I care for him,

our two young children, work and pay these bills? You just never expect it to happen to you."

Brandy says she was 19 when they married and started a family. "I didn't have the opportunity for college due to finances and I didn't know about financial aid. Given our circumstances,

I knew I had to be able to support our family so I decided it was time to get my college education."

The Fredericktown sophomore, who earned her LPN degree then bridged to the RN program, says the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), Melvin DeHovitz Memorial, and Mineral Area Osteopathic Foundation scholarships have been invaluable in her journey to become a registered nurse. "I really don't know how to express my gratitude to total strangers who have given me an opportunity I couldn't get on my own," she says. "I'm so grateful."

The nursing program requires unwavering commitment and perseverance. "It takes 100 percent of your dedication," says the soon-to-be RN. "It's too bad if you're having a bad day, the patient's care is the priority. Someone's life may be in your hands. You must make competent decisions under all circumstances. You're dealing with patients' families, physicians and much more. You can't let your bad day impact your patients."

Since the rigors of the program are very demanding, time management is essential. "I have a daily study regimen, and my daughter sees my dedication to my homework," she says. "It's been good because she studies with me and is learning the importance of an education. She's even gotten a little competitive with grades!" Brandy also works and says two days of part-time work as an LPN equals one full week of pay at her other job. "So my education is definitely worth it," she says.

Her education has provided more than a college degree. "It's a miracle my husband is alive, much less doing well," says Brandy. "Because of our personal experiences and my nursing education, I have a fuller meaning of life, and I see things in a totally different way than before my husband's surgery. Somehow my education helps me see a bigger picture and allows me to be more open and understanding of things that happen in life."



Textbooks are a significant expense for Ethan Barron who plans to be a physical therapy assistant, biology/pre-med major Ken Pham and future RN Hunter Thompson.



MaKayla McEntire feels fortunate to receive a scholarship.

# Textbook Fundraiser

At Missouri's \$7.65 per hour minimum wage, a student needs to work a minimum of 22 to 23 hours to afford a single textbook.

Do you recall the cost of your college textbooks? Here at MAC, even if students can afford tuition, the books and supplies pose another financial hurdle.

With that challenge in mind, MAC Foundation is launching a "Textbook Fundraiser" to encourage alumni and friends of the college to purchase a textbook for a student for the upcoming semester. "In the 'how to pay for college' equation, it's impossible to overemphasize the generosity of alumni and friends of the college who financially help college students," explains Director of Development Kevin Thurman. "Sometimes the smallest gestures make an enormous statement."

Even with used books, the average cost of textbooks can be between \$600-\$700 per semester. Freshman nursing students pay almost \$1,000 for their

first semester textbooks since they're establishing their reference library. A chemistry student has five required books plus lab gear. A biology text is about \$211, and the accompanying manual is \$106. The average textbook cost is between \$160 and \$175. So, at Missouri's \$7.65 per hour minimum wage, a student needs to work a minimum of 22 to 23 hours to afford a single textbook.

*Your textbook gift may keep a student from abandoning his or her college plans. Why not celebrate our sentiments for MAC by helping current students achieve their college educations? Use the enclosed envelope for your textbook fundraiser gift. For more information, contact Kevin by phone at (573) 518-2261 or by email at [kthurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:kthurman@MineralArea.edu).*

## Buck-A-Month Scholarship

"Without this scholarship, I probably wouldn't attend college, or I'd have to take out a student loan," says MaKayla McEntire, one of the Buck-A-Month Scholarship recipients. "I am incredibly thankful for this scholarship so I didn't have to put my college plans on hold or have to get in big debt. The books alone are so expensive. My book total was about \$600 and one book was \$300! I really tried to get used books online but, it's nearly impossible."

Following in her grandmother's footsteps, this Park Hills graduate plans to be a first grade teacher. In her education classes, MaKayla is learning about educational philosophies, teaching techniques, and performing effectively in the classroom. Staying close to family is important, so she plans to transfer to CMU on the MAC campus to complete her teaching degree. Then, a first grade teaching position in a local school would suit her perfectly, she says, especially if it was in the Central R-3 District where she attended.



Kaitlyn Loughary is eager to bring her positive attitude to her own classroom.

## Future Math Teacher

Kaitlyn Loughary, a Wesley A. Deneke Memorial Scholarship recipient, comes from a long line of teachers. “My mom and lots of my cousins are teachers, so I guess it’s in my family to teach,” the Bismarck High School grad says. Since math is one of her favorite subjects, she plans to become a high school math teacher. She says MAC was a “sensible choice” since it’s close to home, and she earned many college credits while in high school. “Everyone here is super helpful,” Kaitlyn says. “And the Deneke scholarship has allowed me to save money while I’m working, for when I transfer to Southeast Missouri State University this fall.”

Kaitlyn says she’s finding teaching techniques in her MAC classes that she’s looking forward to adapting to her own classroom someday. “I really like my teacher education classes with Dr. Young and Pam Jaycox. Both of them have an interesting teaching style, one I might like to develop for my own classroom,” she says. “Our classroom observations are pretty fascinating, too. I’d never seen math taught on Chromebooks where the textbook and the problems are all on the computer. The teacher uses the whiteboard, and the students use their computer screens in place of the traditional books. I’m learning quite a bit and look forward to having my own classroom in a few years.”

## Ways to Give

Consider supporting education at MAC.

- Stocks or Securities**  
Explore the tax advantages of donating stocks and securities. The benefits may be surprising.
- Champion Your Favorite Departments**  
Donate to help with lab supplies, equipment purchases or professional development needs.
- In Honor or Memory**  
Recognize a special person, family member, teacher or friend. Honorees or family members will be notified of your thoughtfulness.
- Matching Gifts**  
Does your employer offer a matching program?
- Planned Giving**  
Include MAC Foundation in your estate plans to help future students.
- 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](http://www.MineralArea.edu/Foundation).
- Tax Savings**  
Consult your estate planner and financial or tax advisor to determine tax considerations for your gifts to MAC Foundation, a 501(C)(3) charitable entity.

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

# A Vision of Serving Others



Dr. Dennis Atkins has logged over 88,000 miles on his way to a 100,000-mile goal.

Dr. Dennis Atkins shares his compelling story, filled with uplifting anecdotes about living a full life with a disability. Dennis is blind. At age 23, he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic vision disorder. Dennis says, “We’re born with a specific number of photosensory cells in our eyes. Since these don’t reproduce, there’s no cure right now.”

Dennis believes everyone faces disabilities of some sort—loss of loved ones, financial devastation, life-threatening illness—and views his disability no different. The difference is how Dennis uses his God-given gifts to challenge himself to lead an enriched life. He’s led by his heart, his mind and God. “Life is filled with choices,” he says. “So, our own decisions bring the happiness and success we want for ourselves.” Each day Dennis inspires and encourages others to face life’s challenges by overcoming fears.

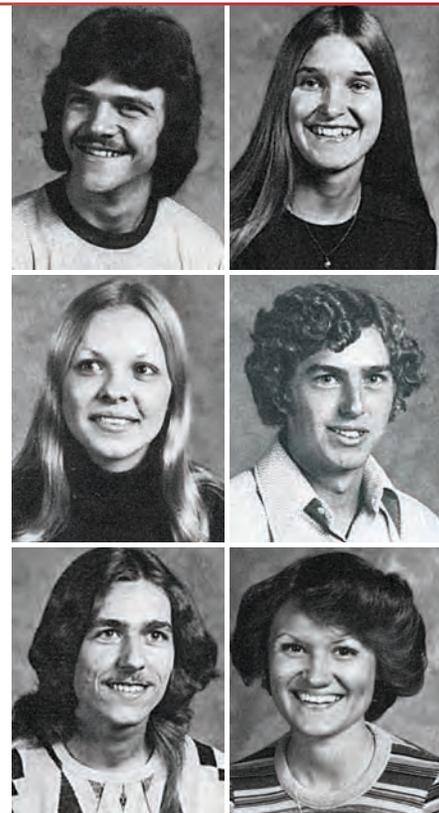
Dennis is a motivational speaker, fundraiser and marathon runner. Yes, he’s a runner. His vision limits his activities, so Dennis runs, an activity he began in his early 20s. “Every time I put

on my tennis shoes, I overcome the fear of ‘what I might encounter on my run today?’ I run unassisted, so my legs and my feet are my guides. Yes, there have been broken bones and bruises over the years.”

Dennis emphasizes, “Life’s successes are more gratifying when sharing them with family, friends and coworkers. We all need designated drivers to help us overcome life’s obstacles. Build your world with people you trust and love.” In closing, he quoted Maya Angelou, “... people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Dennis’ advocacy has the attention of Missouri’s legislative body. His appointment to various state boards has allowed him to be a resolute voice for Missourians with disabilities and the agencies who serve them.

*Dennis is available for speaking engagements and enjoys inspiring others and creating awareness about living with disabilities. Visit the website [www.DCAI.us](http://www.DCAI.us) to learn more.*



## Flashback 1976

The class included Tom Johnson, Cathy Collins, Patti Hadler, Mark Hovis, Kenneth Bullard, Roxanna Cummings and Sandra Matthews.

# FRJC was a Pivotal Time

“For whatever reason, Dean Simmons decided to take a chance on me.”

Sports were important to Dale St. Gemme and his teammates Charlie Bequette, Keith Black, Gene Martin, Red Jennings, Cobby Coldwell and others.

“Coach Myers recruited me after I returned from the Marines in 1956,” recalls Dale. “Before scholarships were awarded, athletes had to meet with Dean Simmons. I distinctly remember Dean Simmons saying, ‘Dale, I don’t think you can make it academically.’ Then he reminded me I ranked 37 in my class of 46. For whatever reason, Dean Simmons decided to take a chance on me. His decision was a springboard for my college career, earning my PhD and my fulfilling career in education.”

During his 41 years in education,

Dale’s roles spanned classroom teaching, coaching, administration, supervising student teachers and fund-raising. He enjoyed all these challenges but gained his deepest satisfaction and rewards from coaching student-athletes and helping them develop as young adults. He says his work as a counselor and coaching junior high football, track and basketball were some of the most fruitful and rewarding times.

“FRJC was the richest time in my life,” says the lifelong educator. “I lived at home, and my athletic scholarship and GI Bill paid my college expenses. It’s where many lasting friendships formed. FRJC proved vitally important regarding our futures. Had it not been

for Mrs. Clark who saw some potential in me and cultivated it, I’m not sure how my life would have been. A friend and I decided, to heck with school, and ventured into the real world to make some good money. After a week, we realized our big mistake. Technically, we probably shouldn’t have been let back into classes. But Mrs. Clark gave me the pivotal break I needed when she allowed me to make up work and provided a source of encouragement. I don’t know why, but she saw the potential in me. I’ve forever been thankful for that experience.” Dale recalls other inspiring teachers who led by example such as Molly Ruth Bottoms, who had his essay about life as a Marine published in the *Daily Journal*, and Miss Wadsworth, who was an outstanding educator and leader in the church and community at a time when women held few leadership roles.

Dale shares special memories as an athlete, “The late ‘60s and early ‘70s were undoubtedly my most enjoyable times as an athlete. It was a privilege to play on the Flat River Pepsi fast-pitch softball team with its two prominent members, Bob Sechrest and Hal Loughary. Our strong team was often tournament playoff-bound. Coach Loughary was one of the most talented, competitive players with whom I ever played. Coach Sechrest was a memorable ‘character’ on and off the field. Getting to know Eileen ‘Mrs. Coach’ Sechrest was remarkable, and often coach told us he was the luckiest man alive to have her as his wife. Playing alongside Hal, Bob and FRJC grad Charlie Bequette and meeting many outstanding people provided me with unforgettable lifetime experiences.”

Dale’s daughter, Lisa, attended MAC in 1986-88, played basketball for Bill Bradley and was the first Lady Card to earn Academic All-American basketball honors. In retirement, Dale lives in Farmington, volunteers with his church and spends time with his grandchildren.

Dale St. Gemme says FRJC’s extraordinary teachers had a powerful impact on students’ lives.





Joel Cummings has travelled the world.

# Teaching, Travel, Giving Back

“The much-needed and appreciated Lions Club scholarship combined with my part-time jobs at Rivermines IGA, Union Electric, and ‘The Dauphins’ lead singer financed my degree,” explains Joel Cummings, 1965 Freshman Class president. “Instructor George Hampton significantly influenced me. He not only allowed me to experience the world of literature and enlightened thought, but his personal counseling challenged me not to settle for life as a ‘Miniver Cheevy’ that E.A. Robinson ridiculed.”

All Joel’s credits transferred to MU where he earned his BS degree. Then, he served as a U.S. Army reserve OCS graduate and training officer before entering the teaching profession. He taught English at Athena and DeSoto Public Schools for over 30 years. Joel broadened his knowledge and world view through his travels. And, like George Hampton, Joel infused his experiences in the classroom to expand

his students’ perspectives.

The world traveler says, “My fortuitous marriage to artist Victoria Gallagher Cummings enabled us to walk far and wide. In 1989, our Phi Delta Kappa group toured USSR schools in Tallin, Estonia, Moscow and Leningrad. Around us, the Berlin Wall was crumbling, and the ruble collapsed so immensely that I could purchase a souvenir for all 500 DeSoto Junior High students.” Despite walking in almost every U.S. state, most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Costa Rica, the Caribbean, China, Southeast Asia, Korea, Greece, Turkey, Israel and Palestine, Egypt, India and Nepal, and much of South America, Joel says their strongest lure is America’s own iconic Grand Canyon.

Joel finds satisfaction in “giving back” through service to his community and others. One of his most personally rewarding endeavors centered on repaying the support of his parents. He

recalls, “My mom, Maye Cummings of Rivermines, was recuperating at a local nursing home. We noticed she was the only resident who received regular visitors. At mom’s suggestion, I looked into volunteering and was trained by The Ethical Society of St. Louis’ Senior Connections as a volunteer reader and one who enrolled eligible residents for a free taped book program. Many residents were military veterans. This particular experience inspired me to present my Veterans Day program proposal to our local AMVET Post 171 Commander Klint Oldham who ultimately supported the program. Now, our Post honors over 90 veterans who reside in the Festus-Crystal City care facilities. The Missouri Amvets honored me with its Community Service Award...so maybe my community college and Army Reserve experiences rubbed off after all.” Joel resides in Festus and invites his MAC contemporaries to friend him on Facebook.



# Not Shy Anymore

Transforming is how Johnny Frago describes his MAC experience. “I’m not a shy kid anymore,” grins Johnny, a well-versed writer, composer, arranger, transcriber and teacher of music.

The Music Department provided a nurturing cocoon for Johnny’s metamorphosis. “I wanted to mimic my music teachers who exemplified what it is to be a music professional. I marveled at their talents and experiences and knew

my training came from professionals who actually performed,” explains the musician. “My development was 180 degrees. I arrived at MAC as this small-town, shy kid who loved music but feared I’d be told I wasn’t good at all and to find a different career. I couldn’t have imagined anything worse than my very first day because I’d never read music formally. I was determined not to give up. And that was one of the best

Johnny Frago with instructor Jacob Cantrell (above) and St. Paul Guitar Ensemble (below).

decisions of my entire life.”

By affirming his talents, Johnny’s instructors instilled him with newfound confidence. Soon, he was in ensembles and performing pieces of music he never dreamed he could play. Johnny says he owes much to the music faculty, particularly one instructor who profoundly inspired his career direction and personality. “Mr. Jacob Cantrell, director of Guitar Studies, was my mentor,” says the 2013 Outstanding Music Student Award recipient. “Mr. Cantrell helped me grasp more aspects of music and the music industry, and he taught me to believe in myself. He not only made me realize I could very well make it in the music industry, but he keeps up with my musical career as it progresses.”

Jacob says, “Johnny was a quiet, shy and nervous guy, but he was clearly capable from the get-go. He impresses me because he’s always willing to take



the big challenges, tackle the most difficult pieces, and he performs well. Johnny contemplates what's possible. The shy kid has indeed matured."

In 2015, Johnny earned his associate degree in music performance. He says, "I'm passionate about all things music, especially performance and recording. My band and my students are what I'm most passionate about." Frago, his punk rock, heavy metal band, is recording its debut full-length album, set to be released later this year on all major online stores, including iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and Google Play.

By teaching guitar, Johnny inspires others about music. His Marler Music Center students range from beginner to advanced.



The band Frago.

As St. Paul Lutheran High School's guitar ensemble director, Johnny explains, "St. Paul students are pretty amazing. When I first started, few kids had touched a guitar. Now, they're playing full songs with each other. So we can perform our shows, I do my own musical arrangements and transcriptions for them." For all his music talents and opportunities, Johnny adds, "I thank the Lord Jesus Christ because He gave me the abilities, and I shall keep repaying Him in any way I can."

Johnny invites friends to catch up with him and his band on YouTube and Facebook.



Jessica Burgess spoke at the Pinners Conference & Expo where Pinterest experts and bloggers convene.

## It's Fantabulosity

In 2011, about the time Pinterest started, Jessica (Ferguson) Burgess was creating her own online presence with a lifestyle blog focusing on party planning, recipes, decorating, fashion, DIY projects, crafts and much more.

Jessica, who earned her AA in Business Management in 2004, says, "At first, it was something I started after my son was born—a little baby food and diaper distraction. As much as I loved being a stay-at-home mom, I missed the workplace interaction. So, with my cup of coffee, I sat down and experimented with a little blog about party planning, something I loved to do since I was a 10-year old kid. It was a fun, conversational outlet for my creativity and a platform for sharing ideas. I was feeling pretty good about this. Then, someone told me I could make money doing this. Seriously? So, in 2013, Fantabulosity.com launched, and in 2015, I decided to really get serious about it."

While Fantabulosity started as a creative channel, Jessica says, "I've developed the business on my own, and its success validates all the hard work I've invested. It's rewarding to see how far it's come in such a short time." With its expeditious growth, Fantabulosity is a serious contender in the blogging world attracting significant advertising revenues via brands like Blue Bunny Ice Cream, Cheerios, Famous Footwear

and Coca-Cola. Each month, about 100,000 devoted followers are attracted to Jessica's wholesome style, relatability and originality in her blog. Whether she's elaborating about new recipes, how to make a gift basket or blogging secrets, Jessica's down-to-earth sincerity captivates her readers.

She's just published her first e-book and has appeared on St. Louis television stations. To learn about her e-course, How to Make Money Blogging, visit [fantabulosity.com/money](http://fantabulosity.com/money). Regarding Fantabulosity's next move, Jessica says, "I'm not sure what's next, but I'm excited to find out. I just know I wake up every day and do what I love."

Jessica, a self-proclaimed introvert, chuckles as she says, "I adore connecting with others even though I'm not really an outgoing person. I was terrified when it was time to take my public speaking class. However, the class forced me to organize my thoughts and figure out how to share my message and ideas with others. And, that's what a blog does...I'm speaking to others, thanks to my instructor Tony Gans."

Find Jessica at [jessica@fantabulosity.com](mailto:jessica@fantabulosity.com) or on sites such as Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Fantabulosity.com offers advertising opportunities for products and businesses. Jessica invites readers to explore her work at [fantabulosity.com](http://fantabulosity.com) and become a loyal follower.

# A Life of Fascinating Opportunities

Bev Oster and Gary Robinson knew each other in high school but didn't date until FRJC. That was 1959-60. They married in 1961 and moved to Columbia where Gary entered MU's School of Journalism. They lived on Bev's \$275 monthly salary and Gary's \$50-\$75 from his work as a graduate assistant and news anchor at MU's television station.

Soon they were in St. Louis where Gary accepted a position with KMOX-TV. He began as a junior writer and transitioned to the news room, creating documentaries and overseeing live, full-hour broadcast specials. Gary recalls covering Vice President Hubert Humphrey at the St. Louis Arch dedication and facilitating a public affairs special with all the 1968 presidential candidates except Bobby Kennedy, who was assassinated the prior week.

In 1969, Gary's seven-day-a-week schedule spurred him to explore employment options, and they moved to Cleveland. There, his work seized the industry's attention for his ability to resurrect troubled stations. When a North Carolina operations manager position surfaced, they didn't hesitate to leave the frigid Cleveland winters.

Gary's success in the industry required them to be mobile—about 15 moves in 30 years they calculate. Gary's media work earned several regional Emmy Awards and five of his documentary films are in the Library of Congress.

Bev's employment depended on where they lived. She worked for the Eagle Stamp Company, was blood director for the Red Cross and built an accomplished real estate business. While in Ohio, Bev developed a reputation of working with people who were being transferred. "I guess my family-oriented approach caught people's attention," smiles Bev. "Moving is tough and it involves the whole family. So, I would load the family in my van to tour homes. My



This summer Bev and Gary Robinson celebrate 55 years of marriage.

soft spot was young couples starting out, and I'd help them understand the financing aspect."

In 1997, Gary retired and they returned "home" to Farmington. Of his career, he says, "First, remember that TV was just beginning to 'go color' and everything was live. There were no re-takes. I've worked with two U.S. presidents, several senators, and a passel of congressman and governors including John Kasich. Bev and I have had a pretty charmed, unique life that presented us fascinating opportunities."

Cooking—traditional and eclectic cuisines—is a leisure interest they share. "Our cookbook collection is between 600 and 700, and, our favorites are those compiled by community churches or organizations," they say. Their fondness for the local area coupled with their cooking interests culminated in

a new restaurant venture. They have partnered with Brandon Hardin to open The Coffee Grill & Bistro, in the former Rosener's restaurant location, as a sit-down style restaurant featuring a variety of seasonal cuisine. Patrons can expect a relaxing atmosphere, changing menus, bar and meeting rooms equipped with technology.

FRJC was a memorable time for the Robinsons. Gary played the lead in theater productions, served as *Chats* editor, and held student government leadership positions. They have fond memories of their contemporaries such as Dick and Kathy (Conway) Wood, Lloyd and Carol Dunn, Bill and Caren (Pruitt) Black, Jerry Cross, Harvey and Mary Lee (Gannon) Faircloth, Roger Weems, Marvin Hahn, Larry Alexander, Glenda Mabery, Bill Stotler and Rich Kearns.



Major General VanHerck's experiences as an airman bring a well-rounded perspective to his new position.

PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE

# The Safety of the American People

In March, inside the Thunderbirds Hangar on Nellis Air Force Base, a transition-in-leadership ceremony announced Major General Glen VanHerck as the new commander of the United States Air Force Warfare Center. To the audience, he stated, "It's a tremendous responsibility to command, not only to my country, not only to the Air Force, not only to Air Combat Command or to the Warfare Center. My responsibility is to my airmen, their mothers and fathers, their children and their loved ones." Then, to his new airmen, he issued a straightforward challenge, "I ask you to keep pushing every day to stay the innovators you've proven yourselves to be."

Major General VanHerck, the son of longtime MAC trustee and FRJC alumnus Dr. Don VanHerck, attended MAC in 1981-83 and played Cardinals baseball. He is a University of Missouri

graduate and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He later received his master's degree in aviation safety and management from the University of Central Missouri and a second master's degree in national security and policy from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI.

In his remarks, the new commander addressed America's concerns about security and terrorism, "The world's global security situation right now has probably never been, except for World War II, closer to the brink of chaos than we've ever seen. That takes realistic and relevant training, tactics and testing to make sure we're ready to go on a daily basis. The global perspective with regards to threat in the global environment in the world right now is ever-changing. We have to continue to adapt in all domains—air, space

and cyberspace—to ensure we do the best testing, tactics development and training. Here at the warfare center, we will do that so those folks who are going into harm's way to turn those bad folks into hair, teeth and eyeballs are properly equipped, trained and ready to go."

Standing beside the F-35 Lightning II, the Air Force's latest stealth fighter jet, the Bismarck native explained the future challenges for the center's 11,000 airmen located in 22 states. He said his priority "is to get the F-35...out the door and ready to go for the war-fighters. We need to do that while we take care of the mission, the families and our airmen each and every day."

*Nellis Air Force Base is located about ten miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. More information about the major general's professional career is available at <http://www.nellis.af.mil>.*

# Ollie Ann Loves to Teach

She vowed she would never be a teacher. But, after graduating from FRJC in 1947, Ollie Ann (Tesreau) Goggins completed her education degrees from Washington University and Peabody in Nashville (later to become Vanderbilt). “In my first year, I taught 400 kids and directed the school’s cantata for \$140 per month. Then, Clifton Bell recruited me to Farmington the next year for \$190,” says the 31-year teaching veteran. “I taught music and at least one year in each of the K-8 grades. I especially liked teaching grades 3-6.”

Today when Ollie Ann hears, “Mrs.

Goggins, do you remember me?” she smiles knowing her students remember her. Even as adults, her former students say Mrs. Goggins was one of their best teachers. Ollie Ann explains a couple of her techniques: “Just like our FRJC teachers, I always tried to take a personal interest in each student. I knew not all kids fit the usual classroom mold. I made efforts to approach them, figure out their way of thinking, accentuate their uniqueness and make them feel a part of class. Sometimes, it was the only time the children believed someone really cared about them. I saw the difference it made and was glad

to be part of it. Teachers can have an earnest impact on kids.”

Ollie Ann echoes opinions of other FRJC alumni, “Our education was excellent because the teachers invested in each of us as individuals. They cared about our school success and what we wanted to do with our futures. Dean Coyle, Dr. Deneke and many others helped us to become good students and professionals. At Wash U and Peabody, my FRJC education rivaled my peers. FRJC gave us all a solid foundation for our futures.”

She remembers her part-time work at the *Daily Journal* for 40 cents an hour and dances at the Red Grill with contemporaries like Jack Cozean, Bill Morice, John Margueriter, and her good friends Mary Lynn Thompson and Mary Lou Ledbetter. She remains thankful to Don Vishino for his tutoring which helped her successfully complete the Spanish class.

With a twinkle in her eye, Ollie Ann says, “You know I was a Spring Prom queen candidate. I was so excited to be nominated, but I came in second. And, I asked my friend, Mary Lou, to borrow her boyfriend, Bob Spray, to be my escort because Lonnie wasn’t a student.”

She and Lonnie, her husband of 68 years, live in Farmington and enjoy activities with their three daughters, seven grandchildren and twelve “greats.”

Sixty years later, Ollie Ann Goggins still enjoys looking at her *Chats* yearbooks.



## Donate Yearbooks

Would you be willing to donate your FRJC/MAC yearbooks to the college collection so campus guests can enjoy them? Just call (573) 518-2114 or e-mail [KThurman@MineralArea.edu](mailto:KThurman@MineralArea.edu).



Quality patient care is a priority for Angelica Lappe, Tanya Kennedy, Lacey Kelley and Nedra Harrington.

## Patient Care **and** Mentorship

Midwest Health Group understands today's healthcare can be complicated, so its mission is simple: to provide patients with simpler solutions for better healthcare. It's also a place where MAC alumni are employed, including family nurse practitioners Angelica Lappe and Nedra Harrington, integral players on Midwest's healthcare team.

"MAC's nursing programs prepared us well so we wouldn't be terrified when it was time for state boards," says Angelica, who earned her LPN and RN degrees. In 2010, she earned her master's degree in nursing, FNP, at UMSL with a 4.0 GPA. Her work experience includes dermatology, ER, urgent care, hospitals and clinics. She keeps current through membership in various professional healthcare organizations. In 2010, she joined Midwest Health Group. "For me, helping people feel good by diagnosing and treating pain is my greatest satisfaction," says Angelica. "However, insurance presents challenges. I treat patients as unique individuals and give them the best medical care I know how, but sometimes I'm limited in prescribing a treatment plan because of the obscurities of insurance. It can be disappointing."

After earning her LPN, RN and BSN

degrees, Nedra completed her master's degree in nursing, FNP, in 2008. Her family nurse practitioner duties range from diagnosing and treating health concerns to prescribing medicines to promoting personal wellness and disease prevention education for patients. She says, "MAC was local and affordable. At that time, nobody had failed the state boards. All the instructors were exceptional and really prepared us for what would be expected of us as nurses." Besides her work as a nurse, Nedra also was a part-time clinical instructor. "Although I can treat patients' health conditions, I see the anxiety many patients face when it comes to the complexity of insurance. As much as we try to help each patient, sometimes I worry the insurance and financial angle is too big of a hurdle. We are very mindful of our patients' needs."

Not only does Midwest Health Group serve patients, it also dedicates time and expertise to individuals pursuing healthcare careers. Two MAC nursing alumni—Tanya Kennedy and Lacey Kelley—are advancing their degrees and being mentored there. Tanya, a 1996 LPN grad, is completing requirements to pass her boards and earn her master's degree. She says, "Midwest Health is such an amazing place. Everyone is

patient-oriented and very willing to share experiences and teach me so I can develop my patient care skills. Here, I'm exposed to many areas like cardiology, orthopedics, allergology, and even a sleep lab." Tanya recalls MAC's nursing instructors. "They provided us with incredible experiences. I will never forget Lana Jinkerson always reminding us to speak eloquently and professionally regardless of the situation," she says. "Teri Douglas's passion for women's healthcare and wellness issues was contagious."

Lacey, a 2012 nursing graduate, is working on her family nurse practitioner's certification. "I picked MAC because it's vested in homegrown, local students," says this RN. "The nursing program definitely prepared us for what was to come in the nursing field. Now, I want to expand my opportunities, and the family practitioner offers a variety of options. Being mentored by Nedra is rewarding. I'm gaining significant experience working side-by-side with her and learning how the decisions nurse practitioners make differ from the decisions a nurse would make."

*Angelica and Nedra are taking new patients at Midwest Health Group in Farmington. For details, visit [midwesthealthgroup.com](http://midwesthealthgroup.com).*

• **Congratulations, PTK**  
MAC's Lambda Chapter has consistently been one of the state's strongest Phi Theta Kappa chapters. At its regional convention, PTK earned 12 awards, believed to be an all-time record for the chapter. Recognized for their achievements are: Sarah Jones, Ian Oberle, Katilin Courtway, Jessica Carey,



Instructors and PTK sponsors Jenny (Peters) Beck and Emily Murdock were honored at the international PTK conference.

Steve Downey, Christian DeShazo, and Devyn Lewis. The chapter was recognized for being one of the top three in Missouri.

Sponsors Jenny (Peters) Beck and Emily Murdock were honored with advisor awards at the international PTK conference in Washington, D.C. Emily earned the Distinguished Advisor Award and Jenny earned the Paragon Award for New Advisors. The awards recognize advisors who make significant contributions to the growth of the

individual members and chapters, and demonstrate an exceptional atmosphere of teamwork, leadership abilities, promotion of Honors in Action and other engagement in the Society, and enthusiasm for the Society's Hallmarks.

• **Fall 2015 Sports Recap**  
The Lady Cards volleyball team finished the season with a record of 26-10 and was ranked as high as #18 in the nation. Men's basketball finished with a record of 25-6 and was ranked as high as #9 in the nation. With a 23-6 record, the women's basketball team earned the MCCAC conference title and was also nationally ranked as high as #21. Gary Koch was named Region 16 Coach of the Year. This season, the golf team has been ranked as high as #14 in the nation.

• **LPN, ADN Successes**  
Allied Health Director Teri Douglas reported on the National Council Licensure Exam (also known as The State Board Exam) pass rates for RNs and LPNs for the 2015 academic year. MAC's LPN pass rate for first-time candidates was 100 percent, compared to Missouri's average LPN pass rate of 89.99 percent for first-time candidates. MAC's RN pass rate for first-time candidates was slightly lower than Missouri's average, 83.64 percent compared to 84.25 percent. On average, MAC's nursing programs have approximately 25 LPN students, 35 freshman ADN students, 46 sophomore ADN students, and 17 Advanced Placement Hybrid students, for a total of 123 students in the programs. These graduates provide a significant percentage of the region's need for nurses.

• **Governor's Teaching Award**  
Dr. Chad Follis, recipient of the 2016 Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award, began teaching horticulture at MAC in 2008. He completed his associate degree at MAC and understands the needs of community college students. He obtained his BS and MS degrees in horticulture and his

EdD in Educational Leadership from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Chad's peers value the dedication, time and effort he pledges to MAC. Whether he's working with FFA, lecturing to local gardening clubs, extracting honey from beehives, networking with industry peers, writing grants or fulfilling campus leadership roles, Chad's improving MAC.

• **Simmons Allied Health Lab**  
Mineral Area College administrators, faculty, staff and students, as well as Mineral Area College Foundation Board members and community members celebrated the philanthropy of the late Gayle and Rowena Simmons when the college renamed the Allied Health Department lab in the couple's honor. The Simmons' generosity, passion for education and commitment to "their junior college" were instrumental in equipping the lab and providing Allied Health students with state-of-the-art curriculum, equipment and training simulators in one of the top nursing programs in the state.

• **Teacher of the Year Awards**  
Dr. Fred Nute and Dr. Rhonda Gamble earned Teacher of the Year honors, an award voted on by MAC Phi Theta Kappa students. Of their instructors, PTK members said, "Dr. Nute is passionate about his classes and keeps an open mind with his students. Thanks to him, students gain a new interest for psychology and sociology, and some pursue careers in social work. He is very genuine and goes out of his way to make it easy for students to approach him for help. He has a great sense of humor. No doubt he is one of the best teachers in his field. His classes give us an understanding of the social and psychological aspect of life and theories."

Dr. Gamble, like Dr. Nute, is high on the students' list of teachers who make a difference. Students commented, "Dr. Gamble is a great professor who will go out of her way to help her students. She

makes her anatomy, physiology and microbiology classes interesting. She is very funny and great at engaging the students in what most would consider difficult subjects. She is extremely knowledgeable in the subjects that she teaches, and it shows through her enthusiasm." Congratulations, Dr. Gamble and Dr. Nute.

- **Flotron on National Board**  
Law Enforcement Academy director Rich Flotron was named a 2016 Region III Leadership Fellow by the Association of Career and Technical Educators (ACTE). The National Leadership Fellowship Program focuses on professional development, policy knowledge and leadership development. The result is a cadre of leaders who will

continue ACTE's work in developing an educated, prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce.

- **Lifetime Contribution Award**  
Music instructor Dr. Kevin White was honored with the 2016 Park Hills-Leadington Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Contribution Award for sharing his passion for music with the region. He is the catalyst behind the annual sold-out Baby Boomers Reunion Concert held each August, featuring at least 50 top area musicians with various musical styles. Kevin's music experiences are varied, including his work with many musical groups including The Temptations, The Four Tops, The O'Jays, Toni Tennille, the Atlantic Jazz Orchestra and Guy Lombardo.

- **President's Service Award**  
Economics Chair Stephanie Campbell received a Presidential Award from the White House for her work as a member of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, a Federal advisory committee to the IRS.

- **Employee Award Winners**  
These employees earned the recognition of their colleagues: Roger McMillian earned Faculty Member of the Year; Julie Sheets earned the Campus Leadership Award; and Debbie Crites was recognized as Classified Staff Person of the Year.

- **Retirees**  
Thank you Lisa Clauser, Kay Crecelius, John Killian, Fred Nute and Charlene Jansen for your service. Best wishes for a rewarding retirement.

## Flashback: Joel Remembers 1966

Joel Cummings (page 21) shares a few memories of MAC's first official years:

- The 1966 *Chats* was dedicated to our beloved retiring music director, Annie Louise Huggins, who was succeeded by our equally-beloved Les Rosenstengel, who directed our play "You Can't Take it with You."
- I ordered 100 'CHAT TECH I Tappa Keg' sweatshirts addressed to me, but delivered to Dean Leet's office. They sold like hotcakes for \$2 each. Cotton Rhodes still had one at the Alumni Reunion 25 years ago.
- Peripheral perks as MAC's first Student Body President...In the 1966 *Chats*, I am seated with three gorgeous Fredericktown girls, Carla Bollinger, Linda Plummer and Betty Collier. I was proud to serve as our Phi Theta Kappa VP. Our revered sponsor, Miss Mary Helen Bloom, led us to national conventions,



1966 Student Government Association members Linda Plummer, Carla Bollinger, Kent Hitchings, Joel Cummings, Dave Shaw, Betty Collier, Glen Cook, Mark Counts and Jim Cartee.

including Chicago where we met White Sox rookie pitcher Tommy John as he sauntered by to converse with comedian Jonathan Winters at Diamond Jim Brady's Restaurant.

- Coach Sechrest's basketball Cardinals were nationally ranked all season. We might have gone

all the way to nationals but for Moberly's and Crowder's famous seven member squads, including both referees! And, who can forget celebrating victory and socializing with friends atop the old Flat River chat dumps?

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Mineral Area College  
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