

Alumni

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

FALL/WINTER 2019





MAC administrators meet weekly to discuss projects to serve students and the community. (Back row) Lori Crump, Dr. Amy Henson, Amy McKenna-Jones, Dr. Joe Gilgour, Kathryn Neff, Barry Wilfong, Danielle Basler; (Front row) Julie Sheets, Dr. Diana Stuart, Roger McMillian and Kevin Thurman (not pictured).

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is an honor and a privilege to greet you in this issue of the Alumni Magazine. In my short time with MAC, it is easy to see why people love this college so much. Not only is the campus beautiful, but the people are some of the nicest, hardest working people in Missouri higher education. I am lucky to be a part of this family!

As we start a new chapter in Mineral Area College history, I thank Dr. Steve Kurtz for his years of service and leadership at MAC. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Kurtz for several years through the Missouri Community College Association. His retirement left a void that will be hard to fill.

Mineral Area College is approaching a major milestone as we prepare for 2022 when we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our predecessor Flat River Junior College, Missouri's third-oldest public junior college, established in 1922 as part of the Flat River Public School System. Keep an eye on the website for more information as we plan a huge party to celebrate this momentous occasion.

In July 2019, I presented a vision for this college. Several aspects of that vision have already come to fruition. We were able to correct a missed salary step for all full-time employees, start a soccer program (play begins in fall 2020), and provide outreach to our service area. We still have a lot of work to do as we move forward, but we have a strong team that is dedicated to the success of our students and Mineral Area College, and we are up for the challenge.

We have requested grant funding to support a new welding facility on the Park Hills campus that will provide American Welding Society certified welders for local industry. This industry is facing a wave of retirements and has indicated to us that certified welders are an urgent need for our community. This welding facility is the foundation as we develop a master facilities plan that will take us well into the next two decades. It will take our entire community coming together for the betterment of the local workforce to make this happen, but if we all work together, I am confident we can do it!

As you can see, there are lots of exciting things going on at Mineral Area College. Thank you so much for your continued support of MAC!

Your President,

Dr. Joe Gilgour



Every semester brings many opportunities for students and community members to engage in a variety of learning, social and cultural activities. To learn about continuing education classes, fine arts performances, community travel and more, visit <https://mineralarea.edu/community>.

FEATURES

2 **His First Semester**

President tours service district, connects with community, completes accreditation visit and gleans a student perspective.

6 **MAC Was Here All Along**

Sometimes moving away highlights a fresh perspective about MAC and its personalized service for students.

19 **Explorative Learning Always Pays**

She never envisioned an English degree could provide such diverse career opportunities and experiences of a lifetime.

20 **Questions about the Universe**

MAC's math and physics classes established the foundation for his physics research and the chance to explore the phenomenon which inspired his career.

Departments

2 **Around Campus**

15 **Thank You**

Donor Honor Roll

19 **Alumni**

26 **Through the Grapevine**

On the Cover

Students enjoy an afternoon of exploring the campus. Outfitted in MAC gear are Cameron Sutton, Larissa Camden, Sophia Coker, Chloee Dunleavy, Avery Sherrow, Madison Gant, Chelsey Terry, and Samuel Skaggs. A variety of tee shirts, polos, jackets, hats and hoodies are available in the MAC Bookstore.

His First Semester

From traveling the region to going undercover, MAC's president Dr. Joe Gilgour is on the move.

Since Dr. Joe Gilgour became MAC's president on July 1, his schedule has been fast-paced. He summarizes some of his work during his first several months. He says, "In the first semester, my goals were to get my vision established, visit school districts in our service region, and kick-start some initiatives for enrollment increases and community awareness."

Road Trips

During July and August, Dr. Gilgour was a road warrior exploring MAC's service district. What did he learn? "It was my pleasure to visit 15 different school districts. Many of the distant districts really appreciated the visit," he

says. "Though our recruiters do visit these areas, it was good for me to connect and hear directly about their specific needs and ideas about how we might help. I gained insight about many things. Finances are a significant obstacle. We talked about more affordable dual credit programs, FAFSA nights for parents and students, and other services that may help bridge the resources gap. For instance, high school counselors told us the \$15 application fee discourages students from applying.

When students visit MAC's website to apply, they change their minds when they need \$15 for the fee. Even if they could delay payment, potential students are unsure if they will have \$15 later. We took action and removed the application fee starting for the fall 2020 semester and beyond to help remove barriers for these students."



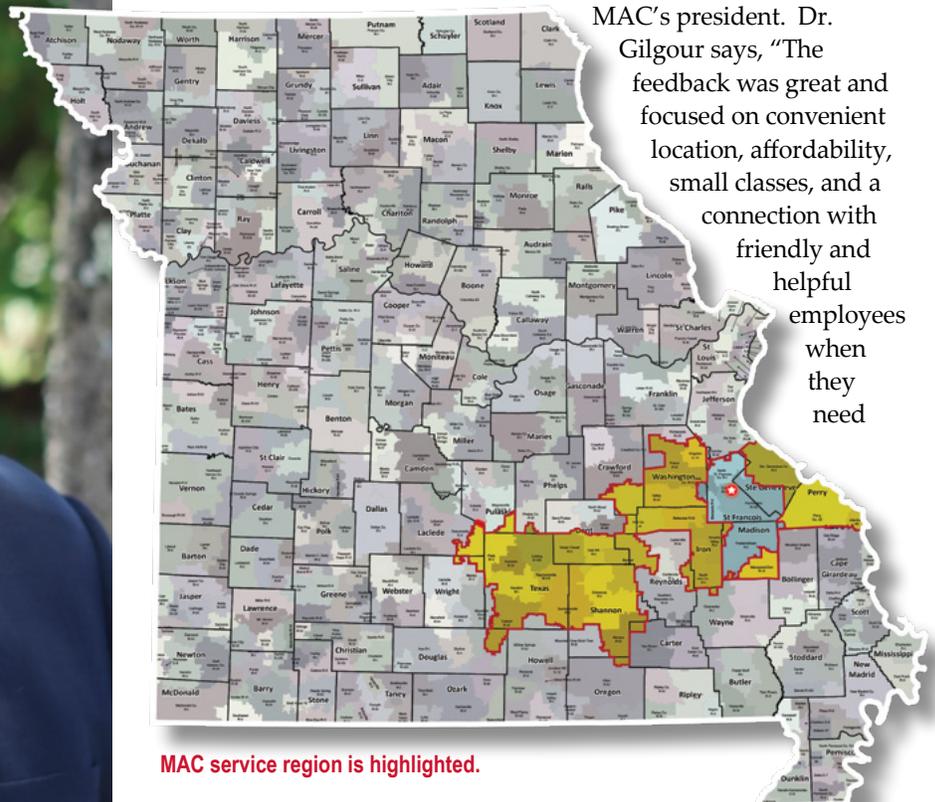
Dressed as the average college student, Dr. Joe Gilgour went undercover on the first day of classes in an effort to learn more about the student experience at the college.

Undercover President

The first week of classes provided an opportunity for him to go undercover. His goal was to learn what students think about MAC. He and three faculty members contrived a plan whereby he assumed a student role in their classes. Then, faculty sparked student conversations centering on why they chose MAC, changes they would make, and what they would say to

MAC's president. Dr.

Gilgour says, "The feedback was great and focused on convenient location, affordability, small classes, and a connection with friendly and helpful employees when they need



MAC service region is highlighted.

something. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Employees and students as well as community members thought it was a really cool idea. Of course, I can't take credit for the idea, but I am often recognized in the community as the undercover president."

Piney River Center

Making higher education accessible and increasing enrollment are highlighted in Dr. Gilgour's ten-year vision. He explains the Piney River Technical Center, "It's vitally important for us to reach out to our full service region and make sure they know MAC is 'their community college.' Houston, located in Texas County, lies within our service district. Houston's economic development director approached us about MAC's interest in offering some college courses in a building he had secured. Currently, we are prepared to offer multiple general education courses. As demand increases, we will seek other opportunities for more course offerings, including online courses. Piney River fits well into the increasing enrollment initiative." See the service region map.

HLC is a Really Big Deal

"Accreditation is a huge deal," explains Dr. Gilgour. "The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is the accrediting body for our institution and region. It ensures we are providing quality education and services to students on behalf of the government in order to verify our programs and need for federal Title IV funding (financial aid). The HLC requires us to provide evidence of our programs and services. Our October site visit gave a first-hand look at how we impact students and the great place MAC is. Our outstanding employees gave me confidence that MAC would excel. And, a special thanks to Dr. Diana Stuart, Dean of Arts & Sciences, and Leslie Evans for their leadership roles. I am grateful for the multitude of employees who prepared documents, gathered evidence and prepared the campus for the visit. The HLC team was exceedingly impressed

with the campus participation, especially the student involvement. Although the HLC report is not finalized, no glaring deficiencies were cited, and MAC will continue to seek ways to improve the services for our students and to create a positive workplace culture for our employees."

Youthful Perspective

Research indicates the average age of U.S. college presidents is just over 60 years old. So, what are Dr. Gilgour's thoughts about being a young college president? The challenges he faces? The value of his youthfulness? "I am so blessed to be the president of Mineral Area College," he exclaims. "The position is a reward in itself, but the most rewarding are the small victories and the support and buy-in received by the campus community. I know we won't always agree, but I truly believe we all have the best interests of the students and the college in mind because the people here are passionate about MAC." Some of his biggest challenges are navigating systems and processes which are different from what he knows. "Learning the culture and knowledge of previous decisions are important for any leader," the president says. "So far, I've met many great people. I appreciate that they are comfortable to speak their minds and be honest with me. Perhaps the biggest challenge is my own impatience. Although I know that can't happen, I want to complete the entire ten-year vision right now! I am fortunate to work with and rely on a competent team to help formulate and execute those ideas while contributing ones of their own." As far as I know, I am currently the youngest college president in Missouri. Some may say that my age and experience may not be respected. To the contrary, I've been met with enthusiasm and confidence about the direction the college is taking. I read once that young presidents are less afraid to take risks. I think this is probably true. But, the administrative leadership team helps to make sure those risks are calculated, and we proceed with well-thought-out plans."

Community Connections

Meeting community members is important. He's visited civic organizations, chambers of commerce meetings, media outlets, sporting events and more. "As the face of Mineral Area College, it is important I meet the people we serve. I believe strongly in servant leadership and the word *community* in community college. We can more effectively serve if we know our constituents, learn their needs, and make sure everyone feels valued and a part of the MAC family." Dr. Gilgour uses the traditional press and social media to increase awareness about MAC and its programs. He currently is seeking opportunities to speak before groups and organizations to become acquainted with the region.

Connect with Dr. Joe Gilgour

- [Facebook.com/joegilgour](https://www.facebook.com/joegilgour)
- [Twitter.com/mac_president](https://twitter.com/mac_president)
- *Watch - Dr. Gilgour shares his experience as a first-generation college student at Tinyurl.com/y2yjp43v*





Pictured are: Roger McMillian, MAC Dean of Career & Technical Education; Darick Day, WCAD Director of Clinical Services; Angie Erickson, MAC Director of Allied Health; Justin Duncan WCAD Administrator; and Sadonya Suttles, MAC Simulation/Lab Coordinator.

Addressing National Paramedic Shortage

According to EMS1.com, ambulance services face national paramedic shortages. In response, counties, higher education and private companies are working together to offer training programs and educate high school and college students about the industry.

A new partnership was formed between the Allied Health Department and Washington County Ambulance District (WCAD) to address this shortage. Its goals are to provide quality education and training opportunities so people can improve their employment possibilities and supply a pool of competent healthcare professionals who are job-ready upon course completion or graduation.

MAC will provide college resources, instructional equipment, adjunct instructors and clinical instructors. Justin Duncan, administrator for WCAD, will

serve as the Director of EMS Education for MAC. Darick Day, WCAD Director of Clinical Services, will serve as the lead paramedic program educator. They are responsible for the oversight and guidance for the EMT courses.

Both EMT training and a paramedic program are offered. Not only does this give students a chance to start their EMT coursework, it also inspires individuals to explore options to advance their healthcare careers. Justin explains, "A certified EMT gains access to entry-level employment in emergency medical services. Many will then choose to continue their education, enhance their marketability and increase their earning potential with a paramedic license."

The EMT training is a semester-long course that, upon successful completion, allows the student to sit for national testing and then obtain a state license

as an EMT. For entrance to the intense 18-month paramedic program, the applicant must hold a current EMT license and complete two prerequisites to meet the requirements for application. Upon successful completion, the student is allowed to sit for national testing and then obtain a state license as a paramedic.

Justin and Darick say, "This partnership is timely as agencies throughout the United States are seeing a shortage of licensed paramedics. Job outlook data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2016 report indicates the EMS field as a whole is expected to grow 15% by 2026."

For more information about EMS Education, contact the Allied Health Department at (573) 518-2172.

Manufacturing Apprenticeships

“Employers continually seek individuals interested in careers in advanced manufacturing.”

MAC will receive \$644,392 in U.S. Department of Labor grant funding over four years to create and expand advanced manufacturing apprenticeship opportunities. MAC is one of nine Missouri two-year institutions partnering with the Missouri Community College Association for the Missouri Apprenticeships in Manufacturing Program. The statewide program is designed to help unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers to learn skills and earn credentials and degrees for various high-demand and middle-skills occupations in the advanced manufacturing sector.

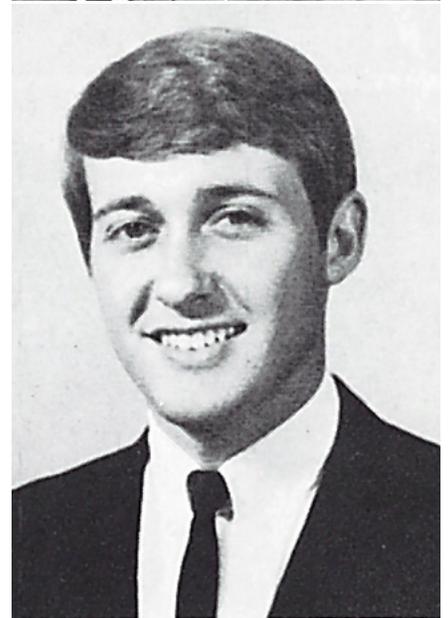
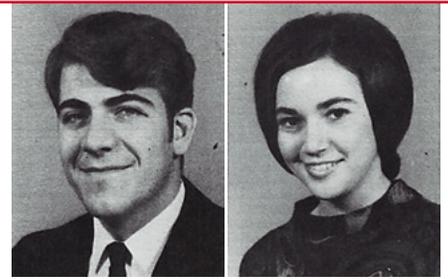
MAC's Pre-apprenticeship Academy is enrolling residents for short-term training to assist them in becoming employed at manufacturing facilities with apprenticeship programs. The majority of the training costs are paid by the grant; however, there may be some fees for books, tools, applications, etc. Stacey Wideman and Tina Miller can provide more information about the Pre-apprentice Academy. Stacey explains,

“Apprenticeship is a great path to a successful career. Individuals interested in taking the first step toward a career in manufacturing should apply. Local employers are currently seeking people who enjoy problem-solving, working in teams and mastering technical skills.” Tina adds, “Employers continually seek individuals interested in careers in advanced manufacturing. Students learn theory, develop technical skills and earn national certifications.”

The grant allows MAC to partner with area manufacturers to establish apprenticeship programs, which serve as great workforce development mechanisms. As Missouri focuses on expanding apprenticeships within a variety of industries including advanced manufacturing, MAC will use this funding to strengthen the workforce and promote economic growth locally.

For more information, contact Tina at (573) 518-3840 or TMiller@MineralArea.edu or Stacey at (573) 518-2145 or SWideman@MineralArea.edu.

Stacey Wideman, Michele Shore and Tina Miller encourage community members to consider the apprenticeship and technical training options.



Flashback

1969 Sophomores

The class included Robert Reeder, Janice Ruegg, Beverly Sampson, Anthony Clemons, Albert Cleve, Barbara Quesnel and Dennis Cox.



MAC Was Here All Along

"I'm excited by the amazing response I get when I tell people I am in nursing school."

Like many teens, Devyn Kennon envisioned an exciting, opportunity-filled life in a metropolitan area. The sophomore explains, "I figured St. Louis would offer much more, so I moved. Since I am financially responsible for my college education, I quickly learned how affordable MAC is and returned to Farmington to pursue my nursing degree. Being accepted into MAC's ADN program is a blessing. Not only does it help me financially, MAC enables me to become a nurse and secure my dream job."

Devyn says, "When I was young, my mom was sick quite a bit with migranes and I watched her have some really difficult times. That's when I realized caring for people—even through the bad times—interested me and inspired me to be a nurse. I see a nursing career as a win-win for me. Although I haven't been a 'real' nurse yet, I'm thrilled by the amazing response I get when I tell people I am in nursing school. They say it takes a special person to be a nurse and compliment me on choosing a career to help others. Others share a personal story about a special nurse they had. I hear the gratitude in their voices which affirms nursing is a worthy profession."

Despite the demands and challenges of nursing school, Devyn says, "I have nothing but good things to say about my program. Our instructors are always here to lend a hand or be a shoulder to cry on. I am so thankful I returned to MAC's hometown feel that was missing



Future nurse Devyn Kennon lives on a farm where she enjoys time with her horse, dog, thirty chickens and three goats.

in St. Louis. I did have good instructors in St. Louis, but I didn't build any personal relationships with them. In fact, I'm not entirely sure if they even knew my name! MAC's personal approach is a difference maker, especially in the nursing field. I never met my St. Louis program coordinator. Here, I am always able to see Mrs. Erickson, and she even calls me by name. Our instructors realize how challenging the program is and make themselves available for help. They are our biggest cheerleaders and want us to succeed! At MAC, you really have personalized attention and get to know your instructors. That's very important to me."

Devyn says, "Some people want to go back to school but just can't push themselves to do it. My advice is really simple: DO IT! Had I not taken that big step and applied to MAC's nursing program, I wouldn't be where I am today. People tell me, 'I'm not applying because I don't think I can get in.' Yes, it takes courage and confidence . . . and you'll still be a little unsure. But, you have to try. I'll be honest, I had some doubts, but here I am in my second year and looking forward to my May graduation as an RN." Devyn is contemplating working in the OB, trauma or surgery areas.

Where Cardinals Gather

Food brings people together. On campus, the Cardinals Nest is more than a place to dine. It's a campus hub—a WiFi-enabled environment that promotes social interaction, catching up with friends, and a work space to study. Students and faculty often stop for a mid-morning coffee between classes. For some, it's a place to relax and check emails or texts. Others might gather in mid-afternoon to collaborate on a project.

"I love the people I work with and the students I meet."

Because variety is important, the restaurant has rotating menu choices and stations serving daily specials, international fare, paninis, salads, soups and pizza. The Cards Nest staff says, "Pasta dishes are tops for students followed by burgers and fries. When stress levels are high, pizza seems to be the go-to food. We offer various health-conscious choices, too. For Starbucks coffee lovers, we have a limited selection." American Dining, which is the food service provider, also does catering for community groups that use the campus facilities. It also caters in the community and is used by the local retired teachers association, Park Hills-Leadington Chamber, area businesses and individuals.

The Cardinals Nest offers employment, too. Social work major Kaitlyn Adams, elementary education major Sara Beardsley and MAC alum Austin Sago work in the Cardinals Nest. Austin says, "It's cool to meet people from different countries we would not otherwise meet. It is interesting to talk to people and find out where they're from and what they want to do with their life." Sara explains, "I like working here because my coworkers are always fun, and I have the opportunity to meet and talk to so

many new people." Kaitlyn adds, "I love the people I work with and the students I meet. It's a very laid back work environment."

In addition to serving students and employees, the Cardinals Nest serves

campus visitors. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and is open during sporting events in the Sechrest Field House. It is also open to the public and can serve as a meeting place.

During their workday, Austin Sago, Kaitlyn Adams and Sara Beardsley enjoy the interaction with students from the local region and different countries.



Champion for Homeschoolers

For Katherine “Katie” Hillis, her family’s decision to homeschool prepared her academically, fostered family relationships and created an irreplaceable experience she will never forget. However, starting college took some adjustment. “Homeschooling has its benefits and I loved it, but I did face a pretty serious culture shock when I got here,” says Katie. “I had to really focus on how to loosen up, properly communicate with the people around me, and work within deadlines. For me, it was a struggle for acceptance among my student peers. I had to learn how to respond to their witty banter as well as be proud of my grades rather than hide them from my classmates.”

Katie, now a sophomore, says, “My teachers were my biggest support system. They were my first MAC friends who helped me both in the classroom and out. Mr. Drye, Dr. Calkins and the Learning Center staff really helped me adjust.” This year, Katie continues to excel academically and is Phi Theta

Kappa’s vice president of service.

Her freshman college experiences inspired her to advocate for other homeschooling families and design some “homeschool-to-college transition” tools. Katie and her mother are developing a college advisory resource guide to assist homeschoolers and their parents navigate the college process. Topics range from thinking about career plans after high school to career choices including trade school to traversing the college admissions and financial aid processes.

On campus, Katie is pioneering the way for homeschoolers via a Phi Theta Kappa service project. It will create a homeschoolers club—much like the cultural awareness club for international students—which pairs homeschoolers with current students and faculty in a mentoring relationship. She will serve as a liaison between MAC and the local homeschool association.

Katie says, “I’m trying to help others better understand homeschooling. It’s not something to be ashamed of, it’s just

another way of approaching education. Both have pros and cons. All-in-all, we’re all students. My wish is homeschooled kids don’t feel like outsiders. Nobody should feel invisible or embarrassed. We should be proud our parents took the risk and have committed to our education.”

Her fervor for learning and helping others shaped her career path. “My whole life I’ve wanted to be doctor, and a personal experience guided me to neuroscience,” explains this Park Hills student who plans to earn a doctorate in neurosurgery. “I want to better understand problems concerning the brain such as brain cancer and dementia. At 14, I helped care for my grandmother who suffered with severe dementia. Her very personality would change, and she constantly asked why it was happening. I knew it wasn’t her fault. This experience motivated me to learn more about what happened to her so I can help others in similar situations.”

“I’m trying to help others better understand homeschooling.”

Katherine Hillis is also an Irish dancer, writer and herbalist in training.





Kevin Stone, Malevy Leons and Angelo Stuart are key contributors to the Cardinals who ranked #7 in the nation in the NJCAA national poll and had a 16-0 record at the semester break.

The Roommates

“One of the coolest things we do is Community Service Wednesdays.”

At first they were strangers, but now they’re teammates, roommates and good friends. Without the recruiting phone call from Head Basketball Coach Luke Strege, it’s unlikely Angelo Stuart, Kevin Stone and Malevy Leons would have ever met. They are freshmen on the men’s basketball team.

Moving far from home stirred some homesickness. But the trio—Angelo, from Pennsylvania by way of New York, Kevin, from California, and Malevy from the Netherlands—developed their new basketball family and have adjusted to life as they term it “in the middle of nowhere.”

Despite the negative tone to “the middle of nowhere,” the young men agree MAC and the rural area offer things they have never experienced ... and they like it. “All our lives we’ve had big city distractions around us—people, traffic, noises of all kinds. Some distractions that weren’t so good. We could never escape the noise,” say Angelo and Kevin. “Here it’s a change of pace and everything is low-key. People are nice and more approachable. We really enjoy the peace

and quiet. It’s just nice to have quiet time to yourself.” Malevy does cite one downside, “There’s no Uber, metro or tram!”

Basketball brought them here, and all three subscribe to Coach Strege’s philosophy of developing well-rounded student-athletes. That means studying. Earning a degree. Serving your community. Being a good human being. And, playing a good game of basketball. Shooting guard Kevin explains, “Coach worked his magic in his phone call. His straightforwardness is what attracted us. He didn’t just tell us what we wanted to hear. He gave us the full spectrum, like we’re going to focus on our craft and our studies.” Angelo adds, “We had other offers, but after hearing what Coach had to say, we were sold. He sold us on MAC outside of basketball by talking about how great MAC is, no distractions, good classes and teachers.” Malevy says, “Coach is positive and gets us to work hard and focus on our goals. We’re off to a great start. Hopefully we will stay healthy and continue to play well.”

Angelo explains, “One of the coolest things we do is Community Service Wednesdays. We go in to the community and help with projects. We’ve gone to schools to read to kids. We had fun working on projects at the food pantry and with a group of autistic kids. We helped with a Habitat for Humanity project.” Malevy adds, “You just have a good feeling when you help other people.”

The roommate situation is working well. They cook. Kevin likes wings. Angelo says he’s a pizza connoisseur. And, six-foot nine-inch Malevy discovered there are chocolate chip pancakes. According to Malevy and Kevin, the only hiccup so far is Angelo’s need for clean. They laugh, “We’re way more mellow. He’s always telling us to pick up things, do the dishes, take out the trash...It drives us crazy!” Angelo grins and simply says “I like things neat.”

Angelo, Kevin and Malevy invite everyone to the Bob Sechrest Field House to watch the women’s and men’s basketball games this season.



Flashback

1969 Sophomores

The class included Sandra Miller, Jim Rabadeux, Margaret Mueller, Sue Dix, Kirby Richardson, Michael Saunchevraw and Wanda Breakfield.

Campus Technology

The Information Technology—or simply IT—Department is the behind-the-scenes backbone that ensures the installation, operation and maintenance of the campus computer network. IT is integral to MAC’s successful communication with employees, current and potential students, daily campus operations, and the entities with whom it conducts business.

IT provides the infrastructure that facilitates and maintains the flow of information, oversees the use of the network and operating systems, protects the security of data, stores the institution’s electronic data and website and telephony/telephone system. For employees, the IT Department provides crucial technical support to their daily work. Daily requests for technology assistance from employees keeps the IT staff very busy.

Hackers, cyber-threats, and network outages (often weather-related) create long, tedious workdays for the IT staff. Additionally, department members evaluate new trends and technologies to determine which opportunities will provide value to college constituents.

One valuable IT function is improving the efficiency. IT works with

administration to adapt operational processes to improve or eliminate inefficient methods with an end result of saving college resources. Two examples are webinar training sessions which save time and travel money as well as automated billing and enrollment processes which save paper, mailing and printing costs.

Social media offers new ways to share information with many audiences such as current and potential students, alumni, the community at large, and employees. Social media provides an instant relationship which makes people feel more in touch with MAC.

MAC’s IT Department employs 12 full-time people as well as some part-time staff in various technical roles such as system support and analysis, database administration, website and learning management system (LMS) development, print services, graphic arts, video and audio design, and management of social media. In addition to their invaluable service to keep campus technology functioning smoothly, IT Department members are in tune with MAC students and organize fundraisers to fund a student scholarship.

Meet the IT Department. Chris Visnovske, Andrew Crawford, Mary Sansoucie, Lisa Edburg, Dr. Amy Henson, Logan Shropshire, Tina Boren, Scott Collinsworth, Vickie Morgan, Micah Stewart, Susan Kalb and Tim Braddy.





"To say I am fired up is an understatement. This literally is my passion and I am allowed to live it out at MAC!"

Dan Martin is the coach for the new women's and men's soccer programs which begin play this fall.

Finally, Soccer is Coming to MAC

Soccer is the world's most popular sport. And, it's gaining momentum in the U.S. with the expansion of professional teams—including the new St. Louis team—and recent successes of the U.S. women's national team. According to Statista.com, an online statistics portal, "More U.S. teenagers are playing soccer than ever. Participants in high school soccer programs recorded an all-time high in the 2016-17 season, with over 800 thousand playing the sport across the country." The local region is witnessing the soccer explosion among young people.

After several years of discussions, the decision was made to add women's and men's soccer to MAC's athletics program. Competition at the NJCAA Division II level begins in the Fall 2020 semester. Athletic Director Jim Gerwitz explains, "We're excited to welcome Coach Dan Martin to start our programs. His leadership and familiarity with soccer programs from St. Louis to Southeast Missouri will help recruit regional talent. We plan to recruit a total of up to 60 student-athletes for both programs with six scholarships for each team. Our soccer programs offer the region's student-athletes a chance to continue their sport at a higher level."

"Coaching college soccer has literally been a lifelong dream," explains Dan. "When I graduated and finished playing at the University of Louisville, I immediately took a high school coaching job. Instantly, I knew coaching was exactly what I wanted for my chosen career. After ten years coaching high school, I yearned to return to the college game. I took an assistant job at the community college level for the men's and women's programs, and once again it reaffirmed college coaching is my chosen path. When MAC presented an exciting challenge to build a soccer program from the ground up, I knew this was the next step in my coaching career. To start the culture and lay the foundation is a motivating, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The St. Louis native adds, "MAC's location is incredible. I grew up in St. Louis and spent 12 years in the Cape Girardeau area, so moving back to this location was another added benefit for my family and me. I have been on campus exactly one month and getting the word out about MAC starting soccer has been so much fun. To say I am fired up is an understatement. This literally is my passion and I am allowed to live it out at MAC!"

During the next few months, recruiting

prospective student-athletes, building team rosters, securing game locations, and fundraising efforts are priorities. "It's vital to build the culture and establish a strong foundation that will sustain the programs for years to come," explains Dan. "The program culture will bring a certain type of student-athlete to campus. Ones who fit both the soccer culture and MAC's culture. The right student-athletes will succeed in the classroom and on the field."

MAC President Joe Gilgour adds, "Enhancing our athletic programs is just one of the strategies we are currently pursuing to increase enrollment and provide access to higher education. Athletics are an integral part of the institution which provide community impact and also a path to education that many would not have otherwise."

He emphasized the programs would be, at a minimum, budget neutral. Other Missouri community colleges have successfully added athletic programs using a similar plan.

For more information, contact Coach Martin at DPMartin@MineralArea.edu or phone (573) 587-0355 (cell) or (573) 518-2226 (office).



Addie Reed says her A+ scholarship helps immensely, leaving textbooks and lab fees as her only financial responsibility this semester.

Nurses Were So Important to Me

North County grad Addie Reed's high school dual credits enable her to earn her two-year associate degree in one year at MAC. "The dual credit program helps high school students get a jump on college credits. This summer, I took some online classes at MAC as a little transition to college. Quickly, I learned I'm responsible for everything—

time management, organization and meeting deadlines. College is a total reflection on me. I like it because it truly reflects the work I put into my projects and classes."

Addie, who is pursuing a health care career, says, "Helping people is very important to me. When I was young, I had many hospital stays. I saw first-

hand how incredibly valuable health care professionals are to a patient's healing and recovery." She is doing some career exploration in a local physical therapy facility.

"I want to be that person a kid can count on unconditionally..."

Addie shares her personal reason for choosing a career in health care, "At seven, I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. I was in and out of the hospital often. Hospitals are not particularly fun places for anyone—especially a kid. The diabetes nurses made a big impact during my hospital stays. They were the ones I connected with. They made me feel welcome, assured, comforted, and always answered my questions. They helped my parents, too, when we were trying to figure out things that were hard to accept. Then, when I was about 10 or 12 and understood a little more, I had my own questions about feelings I was having and things I didn't want to ask my parents. The nurses were always there for me and my family. They strive to stay connected with patients and their families as the kids grow up. Now, even more than before, I realize just how critical these nurses and other caregivers are to kids. So, working in health care is a way I can give back. I want to be the help the kids and their families through difficult situations. I want to be that person a kid can count on unconditionally when they are afraid or need someone to talk to."

Addie, of Bonne Terre, is following in her parents' footsteps. She says, "My parents, Jerry and Breyanne Reed, are both alumni and have always told me about their positive experiences. My father played MAC baseball in 1999-2001. Obviously, MAC was beneficial in supporting their careers and helped them to achieve success as adults. Like them, I believe MAC will help me achieve my goals."



Yuri Ray finds great satisfaction in preparing young children for kindergarten.

I Love What I'm Doing

In high school, Yuri Ray needed one more credit and wasn't thrilled about being placed in Intro to Child Development. To his surprise, he was interested in the theories associated with how children grow and develop. He explains, "Before MAC, my educational goals were pretty well non-existent. Few things interested me. And, I certainly had no idea what I wanted to pursue in college."

Things changed when Yuri met Jennifer Sikes, MAC's Early Childhood instructor. "Mrs. Sikes stands out because she is so seriously invested in her students," says the Bloomsdale child development major. "She's a great teacher and is one reason I chose MAC. She showed me that my child development interests could actually be my major. I chose child development over teaching because the theories of development of children are really unique to me."

Yuri continues, "Mrs. Sikes refuses to

"Working here makes me understand the difference between a job and a career."

let her students fail. She has saved me from so many melt downs! My worst 'totally freaked out' moment was when I learned my financial aid was drying up. I asked her advice and she said what she often does: 'We can figure this out.' This was critical for me because growing up it was unknown whether I could go to college because we simply just couldn't afford it. Only with financial help, am I able to earn my degree."

Besides his role as a college student, Yuri is a resource teacher at Superior Children's Center, the child development center at Centene Corporation in Farmington. The center serves about 50 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten prep students. "Some think pre-school is babysitting," says Yuri. "It's so much more. Kids are at different stages in their development and our focus is to

prepare them to smoothly integrate into kindergarten. For me, seeing a child truly ready for the next step—small or big—is the reward in itself. There is nothing better than seeing kids' minds expand and grow. When you spend six to eight hours per day with these kids and watch them develop over a year or more, you get invested in them. They're almost like a part of your family."

Yuri exclaims, "I love what I am doing! Working here makes me understand the difference between a job and a career. The center's teamwork-focused environment and my amazing coworkers create an exceptional workplace. I wake up every morning and want to go to work. I totally love it here and hope to stay here long-term and grow with the center."

First-ever National Championship Title

In early November, ten Running Cardinals joined student-athletes from over 40 junior colleges throughout the United States to compete at the NJCAA Division III Cross Country National Championships in Westfield, Massachusetts. MAC's men's team ran its most impressive races of the season and captured the college's first-ever national title and championship trophy in any sport. On the women's side, freshmen Hailey Cortez and Nani Brewington competed in a field of 200 and finished with their fastest races of the season, with Hailey narrowly missing an All-American spot by placing 18th.

Superlative efforts by Donovan Denslow, Wyatt Elliott and Jacob Arnold

earned them All-American individual recognition for their efforts.

Coach Steve Davis says, "Our student-athletes came into the first day of practice on August 1 in good shape from their summer training. They had a great work ethic all through the season, avoided any major injuries and bonded well as a team. The men earned the ultimate reward for their hard work. I'm very proud of them and our two women who competed at the National Meet for their accomplishments."

The NJCAA Division III Cross Country National title is an unparalleled accomplishment, and achieving this feat in the program's second year of existence is equally as amazing. The Running

Cardinals also demonstrated that relatively small rural Missouri schools—such as Ava, DeSoto, Fredericktown, Pacific and Poplar Bluff—produce highly competitive student-athletes.

Coach Davis also earned national recognition. He was named National Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field Coaches Association. Steve's coaching at the high school level earned seven state titles. Now, in the second year of the program and first year to compete at the national level, Steve and his student-athletes earned MAC's first Region XVI Championship and an NJCAA National Championship. Congratulations, Running Cardinals!

It's a year to remember for MAC's Cross Country student-athletes and coach as they won both a regional and national championship. Cross Country team members are (kneeling) Collin Jenkins and Sam Toppins; (standing) Dylan Cisne, Donovan Denslow, Wyatt Elliott, Coach Steve Davis, Bryce Mings, Jacob Arnold and Alex Ahrens.



\$250,000 Thirty Years Later

This year 16 projects were funded, providing over \$369,600 in total funding to date.

Thirty years ago, college alumni and friends made a substantial investment in the college as MAC Foundation boldly accepted to participate in the Endowment Challenge Campaign. This 1988-90 fundraiser challenged the community to raise \$250,000 locally to earn the U.S. Department of Education's \$250,000 match. Financial contributions from alumni and friends created a \$500,000 corpus with plans for annual gifts to the college. The first gift was made in 1991. To date, Endowment Challenge gifts total \$369,661, and the corpus has grown to approximately \$1.1 million.

A faculty-driven committee determines which projects receive Endowment Challenge funding. This year 16 projects were funded in various departments. The Allied Health and Law Enforcement Departments share a brief synopsis of their purchases.

Understanding the realities of patient care is a priority for healthcare students. The Obesity Suit may seem like an odd purchase to the general public. However, once instructors tell how important this suit is when training nurses, paramedics and EMTs, it's easy to see quality patient care is at the forefront of their decision. Instructors explain, "Obesity in our nation is estimated at between 35-45% among adults. Medical costs annually due to obesity are over \$150 billion. Insurance companies are refusing coverage for obesity-related injuries occurring during hospital care such as falls and skin break down. So, by utilizing our Obesity Suit, students can simulate the care of obese patients by practicing transfers from stretcher to bed to wheelchair, bathing, and assisting with mobility. They can also practice utilizing an empathetic,



By working with the Obesity Suit, the nursing, paramedic and EMT students learn proper techniques to maintain each patient's safety as well as to ensure the patient's dignity and respect.

yet therapeutic and respectful approach to the care of the obese patient. Just as importantly, they can also prevent injury to themselves by practicing proper body mechanics."

Law Enforcement instructor Rich Flotron explains, "The five new UTM full-face shields provide the law enforcement recruits with 360-degree head protection when involved with use of force scenarios. When training the recruits on active shooter scenarios or building search procedures, the 'suspect' is armed with a training weapon, a paintball-like projectile at about 400 feet per second. So, proper equipment is important to help mitigate training injuries. In the past, recruits were outfitted with a different helmet that resembled a pair of goggles with a face shield that covered their nose and mouth. It restricted their breathing, and, when in high stress situations, some recruits would hyperventilate. With research, we discovered the full-face

shield to protect the face, neck and head areas which gives recruits an unrestricted view and eliminates the hyperventilating concern."

New full-face shields improve the range of motion and breathing for recruits.





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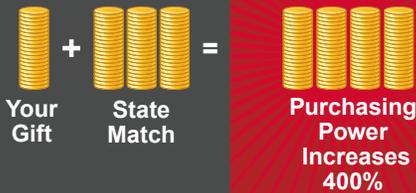
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THANK YOU

MAKE AN IMPACT

Items such as microscopes, CNC milling machines and simulator manikins are just a few of the training materials purchased with the Enhancement Grant.

Support MAC Foundation's Enhancement Grant Campaign



The Match is Back

Again this year, MAC is capitalizing on the Enhancement Grant Matching Gift Campaign. Director of Development Kevin Thurman explains, “The Enhancement Grant’s \$3-for-\$1 match is unique because it multiplies the value of each donor’s gift. A \$20 gift becomes up to \$80 in purchasing power for the college. A \$100 donation generates up to \$400 in purchasing power. So, the match potential profoundly impacts our efforts.”

graduates have the best opportunity for success is the driving force behind the Enhancement Grant campaign,” explains Kevin. “When training our graduates for the workforce, we want to optimize the classroom learning experience with hands-on training. The Enhancement Grant is a key element to fund equipment to keep pace with the ever-changing demands of industry and workforce standards.” The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education recognizes the high cost of training equipment and provides this partial-grant funding opportunity.

Thanks to people who donated, last year’s donations purchased over \$200,000 in equipment for the Allied Health, Law Enforcement, Advanced Manufacturing Lab and Agriculture programs. Big ticket items included two Nursing Ann Simulators—at \$41,435—which provide Allied Health students with sophisticated hands-on learning experiences. The cost of the Science Department’s 26 new Leica DM500 Microscopes was \$30,056. Advanced Manufacturing students prepare for the labor market with the new \$34,322 Tormach 1100M CNC Machine.

Maximize your charitable giving this year. Your Enhancement Grant gift dramatically increases the college’s ability to afford equipment purchases for the classrooms which fortify the learning environments for both students and instructors. Contributions are tax-deductible. Mail your check to MAC Foundation, PO Box 1000, Park Hills, MO 63601. Or call (573) 518-2114, or give online at: www.mineralarea.edu/AlumniFoundation and click *give*.

“MAC’s commitment to educational excellence and to ensure MAC

STUDENT PROFILE

“State of the art training equipment allows us to be better prepared as we enter the workforce.”

Victoria Joggerst, ADN Student



Questions about the Universe

“I wasn’t a serious student in high school. My interests were baseball, fishing and weekend evenings with friends on the gravel roads outside of Farmington,” recalls Dr. Chris Bouchard. “My summer job with Farmington Parks Department provided ample time for deep thoughts while weed-eating Jaycee Park! That’s when I became pretty curious about the workings of the universe. My quest for answers led me to MAC to learn physics, and I was hooked. The hardest physics course I ever took was Physics 1 from Mr. Strangmeier.”

After MAC, Chris completed his BS in Physics at Rolla and his advanced degrees in math and physics from University of

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “I left graduate school for a bit to join the Navy and spent seven years on submarines before the pull of physics brought me back to Illinois,” says the researcher and lecturer. “While in the Navy, I married Amy Kellogg of Farmington, and we now have two teenagers. After finishing a PhD, I had temporary postdoctoral researcher jobs at Ohio State and William & Mary. In 2016, the University of Glasgow in Scotland offered me a faculty position in the School of Physics & Astronomy. It’s a permanent position with no relocation—a first for me since I worked at 214 Package Liquor’s short-lived Broasted Chicken restaurant!”

He continues, “I get to keep doing physics research, looking for answers to the questions I started contemplating at Jaycee Park years ago. I’ve specialized over time and now focus on the strong force that holds quarks and gluons together to form larger particles, like the proton. It turns out we don’t yet know how to do all the math involved, so we use supercomputers to help us. With collaborators, I’ve recently been using the Summit supercomputer at Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee to do this. It’s the current number one on the list of the world’s most powerful supercomputers. I also get to teach physics to smart young students. It’s a dream job for me, and Scotland is a nice place to settle down.”

“...looking for answers to the questions I started contemplating at Jaycee Park years ago.”

Chris tells of some other of his interesting experiences, “While in the Navy, I once drove a submarine backwards in the Arabian Sea. In graduate school, I spent a year working at Fermi Lab outside of Chicago. The Large Hadron Collider wasn’t running yet and Fermi Lab was where cutting edge particle physics was happening. That was exciting.”

Chris credits MAC for his training in math and physics, “I wasn’t prepared right out of high school (my own fault) and would not be where I am now without MAC. I’m proud of being from the Mineral Area. I’ve been lucky enough to travel, both in the Navy and in physics, and have gotten to know people from around the world.”

Dr. Chris Bouchard is living and working across the Atlantic almost 4,000 miles from his hometown of Farmington.





Allison Douglas Kennon invites community members to contact her about financial planning.

Building Trust & Relationships

After her MAC graduation in 2006, Allison (Douglas) Kennon transferred to SEMO where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She spent 10 years in education with responsibilities ranging from pre-school physical education to coaching sports.

A career change presented itself, and Allison joined her father, Ken Douglas, in the financial planning industry with Edward Jones Investments in Park Hills. With a big grin, Allison says, "I'm 33 years old and my dad has been in this business for 32 years. So, yes, I grew up an Edward Jones kid hearing about financial planning and developing relationships. In casual conversations we had about the future and goals, my dad helped me with my own financial goals. So, it seems a

natural step for me to enter the field."

Why does Allison enjoy financial planning? "People and the relationships we build are the most rewarding aspect," she says. "Building trust is super important because I meet family members, learn about their lives, their health and long-term care plans, how to achieve their wishes and so much more. We talk about sensitive issues people really don't care to talk about—dying, final directives and how to take care of the family members. I feel like an extended family member helping someone plan and assure his or her wishes are carried out. Trust is so important. My goal is to devise individualized strategies which fit their unique situations."

Aviation Theater

"I entered FRJC knowing everything about everything, and left knowing how little I knew," reflects Dr. Fred Province, a 1956 FRJC grad. "I'm thankful for the FRJC teachers who instilled a thirst for knowledge in me that continues to this day." Fred attended 11 colleges and universities and holds multiple degrees, including his PhD.

The Flat River native enjoyed various careers. While at Missouri U, he worked in the state penitentiary's criminal insane division. He was a teacher, coach and principal. He's worked as a radio and TV host as well as a crop duster and ferry pilot for crashed airplanes.

However, Fred is most proud of his own creation, "Aviation Theater." His adrenaline-filled parachute jumping days during the Korean War ignited Fred's passion for aviation. In 1963, he moved to San Diego where he hosted a radio program. At a Los Angeles Radio Pioneers' luncheon, Fred was seated with Edgar Bergen, Lawrence Welk and Roy Roberts where he pitched his idea for a TV show, which later developed into Captain Fred's Aviation Theater. The show features interviews with pilots and astronauts, and flight videos in hot air balloons, blimps and other aircraft. The show earned three Gold Medals for Public Television. Fred says, "Now 114 episodes are on YouTube, and it also can be viewed on cell phones. Please visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC41_YUIQHwuTVdFgo0UIWHQ to view episodes."

Fred Province and Ana, his wife and fellow pilot, are co-hosts of Captain Fred's Aviation Theater.



Local Artist Getting Noticed

In the evenings after a full day's work, Brandon Warren turns to his art. "I make art as a hobby—kind of a bonus job—in the stolen hours of the evening, nights and weekends," he explains. "I have made art my whole life, but things really came together in 2017. A single commission to do murals for Sugarfire Smokehouse in Farmington started it all. Soon, I painted other murals including other Sugarfire locations, Barn-B-Que restaurant at Lake of the Ozarks, 102 Taphouse and Parkland Health Mart in Farmington and in area schools. I'm blessed with the great opportunities right here in my community which spurred my art to catch on in other places."

His art resume is expanding. He illustrated the "History of Farmington" coloring book and designed art for High Roller and Bigfoot monster trucks. Then, an unexpected avenue emerged when he was contacted by Upper Deck Entertainment, which has exclusive rights to Marvel trading cards. Brandon was invited to submit designs for high-end artist sketch cards—X-Men and Marvel Masterpieces, Antman and The Wasp—the very kind of cards he collected as a kid.

"I make art as a hobby—kind of a bonus job—in the stolen hours of the evening, night and weekends."

Brandon's art avocation began as a youngster. To other developing artists, he offers this advice, "You must be willing to trudge on. Do not give up, don't get discouraged—especially if your art isn't 'taking off' as fast as you hope. Enter local art contests and shows, and always, always make yourself available. Opportunities are everywhere. Concentrate on what you do and do it well. Develop your style, add to it, find inspiration! Art takes different routes. For me, I stopped taking art half way through high school and rarely won art contests. Success comes when someone takes a chance on a young, unproven artist; and, then you give them everything you have... You adapt, accommodate and try. Eventually, you discover your own niche or groove and things will inevitably

From murals to Marvel, Brandon Warren lives art.





take off. I'm convinced, it's about staying dedicated to doing the small things consistently well and always allowing yourself to be available and ready to tackle the next challenge."

Of his art, Brandon says, "There's something about subtlety. I like stories and clever ideas interwoven in the art...like a little inside joke between the artwork and me. Because I inject a great deal of myself into every piece of art I produce, its value, at least to me, is beyond the artwork itself. It's the long hours, late night contemplations, and passion for creating. My sister introduced me to the modern Greek word 'meraki' which translates to putting 'something of yourself'—soul, creativity, or love—into what you're doing. I think it fits nicely."

While Brandon is thrilled by the acceptance of and requests for his art, he says, "I think my only goal is to further develop my own style and to continue to grow and evolve as an artist by taking as many opportunities as possible to do art. I want to continue as long as making art makes sense for me, my family, and the people who choose me for their art projects." Brandon was featured in a recent issue of *Missouri Life* magazine.

Brandon is a Park Hills native and now resides in Farmington with his wife Melanie and son Braden. His interest in art began at a young age when he and his father, also an artist, spent time drawing pictures together. Now, Brandon is encouraging

his son's interest in art and helping him develop his own art talents. Recently while Brandon was working on a new downtown Farmington mural, Braden was nearby observing the process. Sometimes, Brandon handed the brush to Braden for an opportunistic teachable moment for his son.

Brandon has been employed at Parkland Health Center for 16 years. He is a CT technologist. He earned his associate degree and later completed the radiology program.

"Success comes from someone taking a chance on a young, unproven artist; and, then, you give them everything you have."



Devoted to Volleyball

Paula (Lester) AuBuchon, MAC 1982-84, accepted Coach JoAnn Owen's volleyball scholarship. She recalls, "That scholarship and MAC set me on a path to a successful career and a happy satisfying life. I loved my time at MAC—my roommates, the volleyball team, and being a part of a community. I came from the small town of Lesterville where kids were eager to go away for college. For me, life in an Esther apartment with teammates Robin (Pinkley) Black, Anesha (Sencibaugh) Lester and Debbie (Eddleman) Shoemaker was like leaving home."

During her 29 years in education, Paula influenced the lives of many students. Most of her career was in the Bismarck

District as a teacher, librarian, coach and athletic director. For 27 years, she coached girls' volleyball and says, "I devoted myself to the sport I have loved my whole life...volleyball."

Coaching is an opportunity to positively enrich the lives of student-athletes. An even more significant reward is observing what former athletes have done with their lives. Paula explains, "If I had to list a rewarding coaching highlight, the one that stands out more than the Final Four, more than the district championships and trips to the state playoffs, it is the young ladies who went on to give back to the sport of volleyball. Don't get me wrong, the thrill of championships and near misses bring

great comfort and peace knowing I gave it all I had. My players knew I was devoted beyond question. I was so lucky to have the daughters of so many wonderful Bismarck families. The support, dedication and love that surrounded our program was unmatched."

Paula's volleyball accomplishments, as a player and a coach, are many. Some coaching honors include her induction to the Missouri High School Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the recipient of the Peggy Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award and multiple J98 Dream Team Coach of the Year awards. Her teams' accomplishments include one Final Four appearance, seven Quarter Final appearances, 14 District Championships, five Conference Tournament Championships, and nine MAAA Conference Championships. Multiple players earned All-State honors, played at the collegiate level, and entered coaching or officiating volleyball positions.

"I devoted myself to the sport I have loved my whole life...volleyball."

In retirement, Paula officiates high school volleyball and coaches USAV volleyball for some young girls in the Mineral Area. She's also discovered pickleball and plays regularly at the Farmington Civic Center and with friends in Festus and Destin, FL.

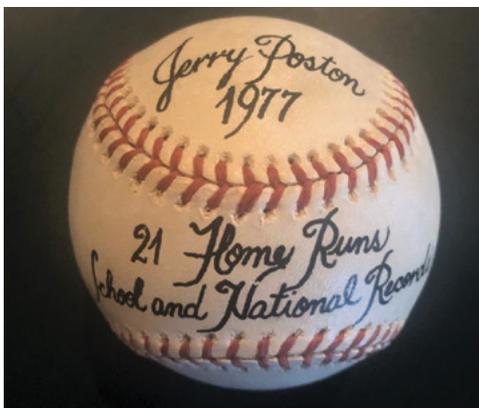
"I feel like I have a fantastic life," exclaims Paula. "My husband, Mike, and I lead a very normal life much like we grew up. I have two adult stepchildren and six fantastic grandkids. My parents, siblings and I get together to enjoy my mother's delicious food. Finally, I enjoy walks with my two dogs—Shine and Rudy—who are my four-legged therapists."

Paula Aubuchon has become active in pickleball, one of the nation's fastest growing sports.



Behind the Plate

Baseball was fundamental in Jerry Poston's life. The Viburnum native reflects, "In 1973, Coach Loughary recruited me as his catcher. The opportunity to play for Coach Loughary was indeed special. The experiences I shared with my teammates and exceptional roommates—Keith Guttin, Mike McPherson and John Harness—are unforgettable. And, if not for Meramec, we would have gone to the World Series in Grand Junction both years!" After his graduation, he was recruited by the University of South Alabama.



While in the St. Louis Cardinals organization, Jerry Poston had the chance to play with Tommy Herr, Ted Simmons, Bob Forsch and Terry Kennedy.

Besides his talents behind home plate, Jerry was darn good with the bat. At MAC, he hit .340 as a freshman. As a sophomore, he hit .484 and earned All-Conference, All-District XVI and All-American recognition. He also received the Rawlings Big Stick Award which recognized the top hitters in the nation; he ranked fifth. While at South Alabama, he hit .344 with seven homeruns and 45 RBIs as a junior and, as a senior, he hit .348 with 21 homeruns and 60 RBIs. His 21 homeruns led the nation.

In a 1976 news article about Jerry, the sports columnist wrote, "There has been a great tradition of fine catchers at South Alabama...But now there is Poston, the former Mineral Area College star, and he exemplifies a new breed of masked men at South Alabama. Poston may just be the best the Jags have ever had. One thing is certain—he is the most aggressive..."

Jerry says, "At South Alabama, I played for former Major League player Eddie Stanky. In 1977, I was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals and assigned to St. Petersburg, FL, where I played for a full

year. Next, I went to winter ball which brought the top 25 minor league prospects together for some focused training. Then, in 1978, I went to Spring Training with the major league St. Louis team, and then got assigned to Gastonia, NC."

In 1979, Jerry returned home. He explains, "I went to work at St. Joe Lead Company. Then, I changed careers, and I took a position with State Farm Insurance in Rolla. After a stint as an agency manager in Tulsa, OK, I moved to Carthage in 1995 as an agent. I've been with State Farm for over 30 years."

Family is important to Jerry. He says, "I've been blessed to have my great wife, Mary, for 41 years. All four of our kids received college athletic scholarships: Jerry (baseball), Christina (soccer), Stephen and Brian (football). As a family, it's very special we all were able to go to college and play the game we loved. To this, add four amazing grandchildren!" Jerry invites his MAC contemporaries to reconnect at Jerry@JerryPoston.com.



MAC mascot Kirby the Cardinal greeted community members at the launch of the SMTS transportation hub, located in front of the Sechrest Field House on the MAC campus.

Through the Grapevine

▲ Bus Service Arrives

Transportation is a significant barrier for many individuals in the region. Whether it's getting to work, to school or to the store, transportation is generally needed. In August, the region's public transportation service, Southeast Missouri Transportation Service—known simply as SMTS—launched "SMTS Connect" and expanded its bus routes to accommodate the region's transportation needs. Routes serve Farmington, Park Hills, Leadington, Desloge, and Bonne Terre. Mineral Area College serves as the "transfer station" for Bus A (southern route) and Bus B (northern route). There is a modest fee to use the bus service. Routes will run from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. No service runs on Sunday,

major holidays and during inclement weather. For information about the service, riders with mobility devices, schedules, purchasing bus passes, and "request a stop" options, please contact SMTS at 1-866-349-8525.

● Truck Driving Scholarships

MAC will receive \$93,900 in U.S. Department of Transportation grant funding to provide scholarships to the truck driving training program. The funding will benefit current and former members of the United States Armed Forces and their spouses and children. MAC is one of sixteen educational institutions nationwide that will receive funds through the Commercial Motor Vehicle Operator Safety Training Grant

program. The goal is to expand the number of commercial driver's license holders possessing enhanced operator safety training to help reduce the severity and number of crashes on U.S. roads involving commercial motor vehicles. The funding will provide twenty scholarships of \$4,695 to students in the truck driver training program at MAC through September 2020. The aid is available to current or former members of the United States Armed Forces, including Guard members and Reservists, and their spouses and/or children who are not eligible for the Post 9/11 GI Bill or other funding assistance. The truck driver training program at MAC is a four-week course, with new sessions beginning every two weeks. To learn more about the

Mineral Area College truck driver training program and this scholarship, contact Pam Watkins, Continuing Education Director at Mineral Area College at (573) 518-2280 or ContinuingEd@MineralArea.edu. More information about MAC can be found at www.MineralArea.edu.

▼ At MAC Foundation's annual **Community Ladies Luncheon**, three MAC female graduates were honored. **Maria Weekley**, from Fredericktown, earned her AA in Teaching in 2012 and her BS in Human Services from Missouri Baptist University, graduating with honors for both degrees. She has been employed in Cap America's Human Resources Department for eight years and is the Community Outreach Coordinator. Maria says, "The Fredericktown Outreach Center has a positive impact on our local area because it essentially places higher education in our backyard. I've seen barriers people face in regard to education—as simple as transportation. Fredericktown's Outreach Center helps break down those barriers to make education more attainable."

Virginia (Ginger) Taylor earned her associate degree in 1995 which lead to her advanced accounting degrees. She graduated summa cum laude. She worked for an accounting firm for ten

years before opening her own business, Taylor Tax & Consulting in Farmington in 2001. She says, "MAC's convenient location allowed me access to higher education. It also enabled me to work fulltime and care for my family while earning my degrees."

Natalie Hawkins Sparkman, originally from Bonne Terre, completed her AA in 2004. Then, she earned her BS in Accounting and MBA. She is the financial project manager at BJC Healthcare, Parkland Health Center. Natalie recalls, "As a kid, I was on my own a lot. I feel like I was the kid who beat the odds. MAC helped me achieve my dream of going to college."

• **Matthew Farr** was named principal at St. Joachim Catholic School in Old Mines. He says, "My work as the coordinator of religious education for St. James Catholic Church in Potosi will assist in connecting the two parishes." One of Matthew's goals is to increase enrollment at St. Joachim. He stressed that all children, not only Catholics, are welcome. Matthew's educational experiences include teaching special education and fourth grades in the Potosi R-3 School District.

• **Zac Cuthbertson**, MAC 2016-17, is realizing his dream to play professional

basketball. His lifetime of hard work improving his basketball skills is paying off. Following his MAC career, Zac, at 6-foot-7, 195 pounds, transferred to Coastal Carolina in Conway, SC, where he averaged 14.7 and 18.2 points per game during the past two seasons. He averaged 6.8 rebounds per game, shot 45 percent from the field, over 30 percent from beyond the three-point line and 80 percent at the free throw line. He established a team season and career-high with 31 points against Iona at the Bahamas Showcase and was named to the Bahamas Showcase All-Tournament Team. In August, Zac travelled overseas to Borås, Sweden, where he signed a basketball contract with Borås Basket. Zac is thrilled to continue playing the sport he loves and pursuing his dream to play in the NBA.

• **Shannon D. Toole** joined medical practices owned by Saint Francis Healthcare System. After completing her associate degree in nursing in 2009, Shannon earned her BSN from Southeast Missouri State University in 2013 and her Master of Science in Nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing in Downers Grove, Illinois, in 2018. She is board certified by the American College of Nurse Practitioners. Shannon's prior work experience includes the Potosi

Natalie Hawkins Sparkman, Maria Weekley and Virginia (Ginger) Taylor were each honored by MAC Foundation at the annual Community Ladies Luncheon.



Cap America Leads the Way

Cap America, located in Fredericktown, took the lead to invest in the Enhancement Grant Campaign with a \$15,000 donation. With the match, the gift translates to about \$60,000 in purchasing power for MAC. As far as its motivation to donate, Administrative Director Mary Page explains, “Cap America is very dedicated to supporting the community that has supported us. MAC provides excellent educational and training opportunities for our community members, and by donating to the Enhancement Grant, we are helping ensure a future workforce that will continue to contribute to our local economy. Cap America also highly values continuing education and has a tuition reimbursement program in place for our employees. Mineral Area College is a valuable resource for our employees who wish to take advantage of it. We are happy to support them in their mission to provide higher education.”



Cap America presents a \$15,000 donation to MAC Foundation.

Pictured are: Cap America employees—Knit Manager Jon Page, National Sales Manager Cory Cissell, President and COO Mark Gammon, and Administrative Director and MAC Foundation Board member Mary Page—present the check to MAC Foundation President Tony Myers and MAC Director of Development Kevin Thurman. Cap America originated in 1985 and has become one of the largest importers of headwear in the industry.

Correctional Center, Gentiva Home Health, St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis and Mineral Area Regional Medical Center in Farmington.

▼ 2019 Rotary and MAC Hall of Fame

In December, the St. Francois County Rotary and Mineral Area College Athletic Hall of Fame inducted two new members. The 2011 MAC Volleyball team, coached by Tim Copeland, is the first team in school history to participate in the national volleyball tournament. The team finished the season with a 35-6 record and a 10th place

finish at national tournament. This is the first team to be inducted and the first women to earn this honor. Corey Tate, former MAC basketball player and coach, is the second inductee. Corey played for Coach Tim Gray (1993-94) and returned to coach the Cardinals from 2004-15. He is currently an assistant basketball coach at St. Louis University.

• Accreditation-Good Marks for MAC

The highly anticipated and all important Higher Learning Commission visit is complete. The evaluators were pleased, and the campus is pleased! The campus-

wide efforts (and stress) associated with preparing for the visit paid dividends. Arts & Sciences Dean Diana Stuart and Accreditation and Assessment Coordinator Leslie Evans chaired this monumental task with the support of many on campus. In October, MAC welcomed a peer review team representing the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The team was tasked with verifying that MAC meets the standards set by not only the Commission, but the Federal Government. Over the two days, the team met with a variety of groups including students, faculty and staff, community members and the Board



of Trustees. The team was impressed with the engagement of the entire campus community, and were in awe of the over 100 students who participated in the student session. The family atmosphere and student-centeredness was evident to the review team throughout the visit. The team emphasized that MAC is very much student-centered and that our employees “are engaged, responsive, and consistently communicated a strong sense of college pride.” MAC received the HLC team’s report in early December. Of the 21 core components, the team determined that MAC successfully met 18 of them. The team also provided detailed advice on how to improve the three core components that were met with concerns, which will help guide MAC’s next steps. The report will be sent to HLC’s Institutional Actions Council for the final determination on the college’s reaffirmation of accreditation.



▲ **Flapjacks for Finals** was a new event hosted in December. On Sunday evening before the start of finals week, administrators cooked breakfast foods for students to help them fuel up for studying. The free event drew a large crowd of hungry students.

● **PTK-Recycling Awareness Week**
In December, PTK members collaborated with Kirby, MAC’s mascot, to have videos produced that highlighted new on-campus recycling bins and general recycling tips. Another highlight of the week was a “trash to treasure” sculpture project, which students worked on together.

● **Community Service**
Volunteering provides opportunities to positively impact the local community. Again this year, MAC employees and students braved the chilly weather to support the United Way of St. Francois County’s “ring the bell” fundraiser.



▲ **MAC Classified Staff** donated \$866.54 to SEMO Family Violence Council. The money was raised through fundraisers during the holiday season including t-shirt sales and a lotto tree raffle.

● **Jeremy Boyer**, MAC 1998-2000, was an inaugural inductee to Potosi High School’s Hall of Fame. Jeremy, his wife and daughters live in the St. Louis area. He credits his Potosi music teachers for encouraging his music interests. Jeremy is the organist for St. Louis Blues home games and part-time for the St. Louis Cardinal home games. Last season, Jeremy played a few extra games during the Blues’ run for the Stanley Cup Championship. To hear Jeremy play the “Gloria” theme song, visit <https://tinyurl.com/txj3odu>.



▲ While on a trip through the Midwest, **Blaine Denbo** (MAC 1973-75) made a quick stop in the Mineral Area to have lunch with **Coach Hal Loughary** and his former teammate **Karl Loughary** (MAC 1973-75). The trio reminisced about MAC baseball from over 40 years ago. Blaine, who makes his home in Louisiana, also shared some alligator hunting stories. Karl lives in the Ironton area and Coach is back in Bismarck.

▶ Congratulations to **Leslie Evans**, the first MAC Champion of Excellence Award recipient! Leslie was nominated by a colleague for her many hours of effort in preparation for the college’s recent Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit. Leslie has been a driving force behind MAC quality initiatives and documentation of progress. Her organization and leadership helped prepare MAC for a successful site visit. Thanks, Leslie, for your dedication and service to MAC.



▶ **Dr. Kevin White** received a Champion of Excellence award at December’s Board of Trustees meeting. Kevin was recognized for his ongoing work with students, his dedication to the progress of the music department, as well as events for the public including the Baby Boomer and History of Country Music concerts and MACflix movie nights. Congratulations to Kevin!



▼ An all-female team, representing **Sugarfire Smokehouse of Farmington**, enjoyed a great day of golf at the annual MAC Foundation golf tournament. Pictured are MAC alum Lisa (McClaskey) Callahan, Laura (Hibbits) West, Trish Shaw and Leanna Johnson. The 2020 tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6.



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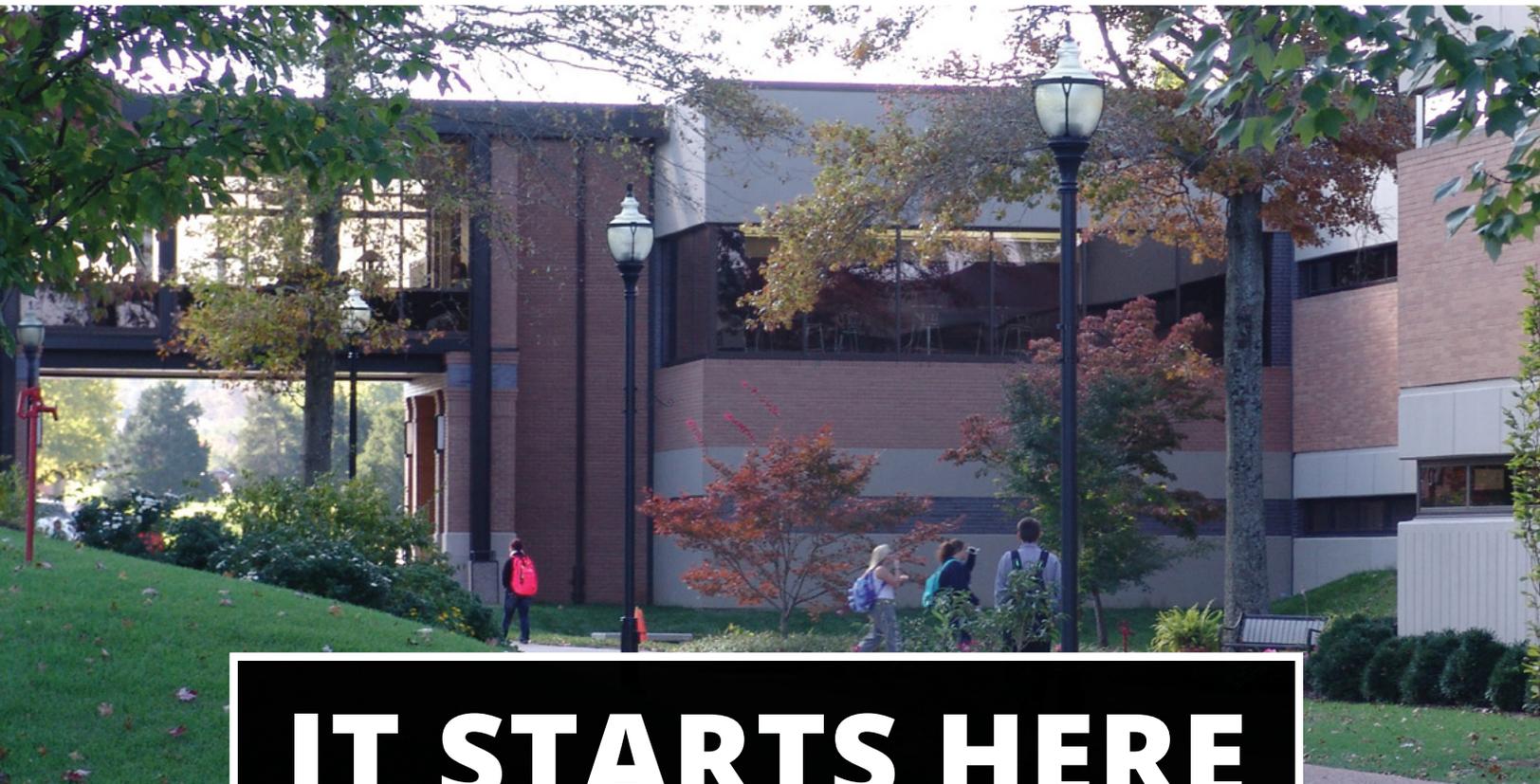
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