A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear alumni and friends,

MacMurray College continues to be on the move as we embark on a challenging yet defining time at the College.

As we announced this past summer, the College was sanctioned by the regional accreditation body, the Higher Learning Commission. In response to this action, we have expedited our work on strategic and master plans that will guide the College toward success in the coming years. The campus community is working diligently on this plan to have it in place when the HLC visits again in December 2017.

As the entire campus moves forward in this process, I am asking our alumni family to rally around MacMurray College. For us to reclaim our reputation for inspiring achievement and empowering our students to make a difference, an energetic and committed alumni base is vital for our success.

Many programs that make Mac such a unique experience for our students are made possible because of the investments alumni donors have made in MacMurray College. Over the past few years, the College has made deep cuts into the academic fabric of the institution. The performing arts are a prime example and one that I find to be essential to a liberal arts education. Not so long ago, music and theatre at MacMurray were thriving programs that pushed students to be the best that they can be – Rick Hall ’81 and Christine Ebersole ’75 are two success stories you will read about in this issue.

For us to continue to grow and bring back essential programs like the performing arts, we need your support. In the new year, I ask that you make MacMurray a priority in your annual, major gift and estate planning.

MacMurray College is rooted with a rich history of educating young minds since 1846. This challenging time that the College faces can be an opportunity to reclaim the rich history that is entrenched in the liberal arts.

I embolden you to take this opportunity with me and believe in the future of MacMurray College.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark J. Tierno
President

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In 30-plus years of stage, television and film acting, Rick Hall ’81 has worked with a slew of actors and directors. But Hall, who has lately appeared in the Disney Channel sitcom “K.C. Undercover,” saved his biggest compliment for his theatre experience at MacMurray.

“The best actors’ directors (I’ve had) were Phil Decker and Gene Laurent,” said Hall of his college mentors who have produced such talents as musician Judy Collins ’61 (“Both Sides Now”) and actress Christine Ebersole ’75 (“Sullivan & Son”). “Professor Laurent pushed you to do your best. The second you didn’t, he called you on it. He could make actors cry because he didn’t pull punches … Professor Decker was a little more paternal, but he was direct about getting the best out of you.”

Hall was back in Jacksonville this past summer performing his one-man play, “Pig Boy,” at the Playhouse on the Square. The play
is the product of Hall’s love for writing and telling stories about growing up on a farm in Central Illinois. Hall wrote “Pig Boy” 20 years ago and toured the show around Illinois followed by extended runs in Chicago and Los Angeles. “Pig Boy” was also chosen to perform at the HBO Aspen Comedy Festival.

“Stories about growing up on a farm are what I know best,” said Hall. “When I do the show in Chicago or Los Angeles, people say, ‘Oh, you’ve created such wonderful characters,’” said Hall. “When I do it here, people say, ‘I know who that character is.’”

The Los Angeles-based Hall had been recruited by MacMurray coach Chip Marchetti for his wrestling prowess, having made the Illinois High School Association state tournament as a senior at Carrollton (IL) High School. Hall admitted he got “the acting bug” after a performance of “Julius Caesar” as a sixth grader.

After his initial audition for a musical revue at MacMurray, Professor Laurent pulled Hall aside and suggested that he should be a theatre major.

“So I quit wrestling for theatre,” said Hall. “It was a vibrant program. There were really talented people in it.”

Even after Hall had reached some success with Second City comedy troupe in Chicago and doing commercials, a nonplussed former neighbor of his from southern Illinois suggested Hall “was going to have to get a job someday.”

“Two years later, I bought his farm,” joked Hall. “It was the best acting decision I made.”

Another acting tip from Professor Laurent that Hall has employed: keeping it real. “I think that’s why I do well in commercials,” said Hall, who has pitched for Sabra Hummus, AT&T, Jimmy Dean Sausage, Claritin and Volkswagen. “I can make it a casual conversation because Professor Laurent taught me to be myself.”

Hall’s movie credits include “My Fellow Americans” and “Three Fugitives,” while “Slice of Pie,” a 2009 movie short which Hall wrote was featured in a number of international film festivals.

On television Hall has been a guest star on “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Seinfeld” and most recently “NCIS” (air date January 3, 2017). In “K.C. Undercover,” Hall reoccurs as Agent Johnson, “a Bosley-like character (from “Charlie’s Angels”),” joked Hall. “I’m the head of a spy agency, so I have to give (the undercover agents) orders and reprimand them.”

Hall has been a frequent visitor to the MacMurray campus lately, whether it’s touring with his one-man show “Pig Boy” or with the trio The Sweet Potatoes, which includes his wife, Laura Hall, the musical director of “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”

“Whenever I go on campus, I feel the energy of this liberal arts college, this unique little gem in the middle of Illinois,” said Hall. “There are challenges, to be sure, but it’s a beautiful campus with some amazing professors.”

— Steven Spearie ’87

A bit about the writer: Steven Spearie ’87

As a kid, Steven Spearie ’87 would spread out sections of his hometown newspaper, The State Journal-Register, on the floor of his Springfield home. “The ink would rub off on my elbows, which I took as a badge of honor,” recalled Spearie. Since 1989, Spearie has served as a correspondent for the SJ-R, writing for most of the newspaper’s sections.

Along the way, Spearie has interviewed notable people like Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Wałęsa, Cesar Chavez, Cornel West, choreographer Katherine Dunham, NPR’s Krista Tippett and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Dave Mason. But, he insisted, he finds just as appealing characters at a local frog jumping contest or shooting the breeze in the garage of a Route 66 enthusiast.

“This may be the only time a person gets to tell his or her story in the newspaper,” said Spearie. “You have to treat it reverently.”

Spearie has also worked as a public relations director and as a criminal defense investigator, most notably with Illinois Death Row inmates.

Spearie has long had a passion for human rights causes on local, state and international levels. In 1994, through an ecumenical monitoring program, he served as a monitor for South Africa’s first all-race elections.

A history and journalism major at Mac, he credited Prof. Allan Metcalf and former director of college relations, the late Jim Murphy, among others, as mentors.

“Having the ability to write every day (for The Daily Other) was a valuable opportunity,” he said. “It gave me a writing rhythm and an outlet.”
Opening Convocation and Opening Weekend

The school year started off with an opening weekend filled with events for first-year students and returning students. The weekend began with Highlander Orientation and a ceremony welcoming the first-year students. During the Welcoming Ceremony, students had the opportunity to get to know each other as they introduced themselves in front of their professors, parents, peers and MacMurray staff. After dismissing the students, President Mark Tierno took a moment to address the parents who were in attendance.

During the rest of the weekend, students took part in various games and events that were happening on campus, such as an ice cream social, Minute-to-Win-it games and a luau. Off campus, the students were given the opportunity to explore downtown Jacksonville and compete against each other during the Downtown Amazing Race. Opening Weekend ended that Monday with an Opening Convocation. President Tierno and various others gave encouraging remarks to all students, and afterwards the first-year students took a class picture in their Mac Fam t-shirts.

MacMurray College announced a partnership with Anytime Fitness in Jacksonville which provides a membership to all students, faculty and staff. This partnership will continue through June 15, 2017.

The agreement allows MacMurray students, faculty and staff access to Anytime Fitness during staff hours with an option of having 24-hour access with the purchase of a key fob.

Anytime Fitness is a 24-hour health and fitness club. See more about the Jacksonville facility at www.anytimefitness.com.

Mac signs partnership with Anytime Fitness

Nursing hosts Business After Hours event

This past November, the MacMurray College Nursing Department hosted a Chamber Business After Hours event and invited members in the community to take part. The event included guided tours of the nursing department and free blood pressure checks administered by nursing majors Abigail Yemm, Brooklyn Hatalla, Carissa Vaughn and Jessica Yost. The purpose of Business After Hours, a program sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce, is to promote and shine a spotlight on a local business. “We were pleased to participate in the Chamber event and be given the opportunity to showcase the MacMurray College Nursing program,” said Peg Boudreau, former interim chair of the nursing division. “It allowed our visitors the opportunity to visit the nursing simulation laboratory and learn how the program uses the laboratory setting in educating nursing students.” Moving forward, the College hopes to host more events like this to open the doors and bring the community onto campus.
White named MacMurray 2016-17 Lincoln Laureate

Erin Berg, associate professor of philosophy, taught a First-Year Experience course on The Beauty of Baseball. During the beginning of the course, Berg had his students predict who the winners of this year’s World Series would be.

Eight out of 14 students predicted that the Cubs would win. Later in the semester, during the week of the World Series, he had his class read an article titled “Should Cubs Fans Be Committed? What Bleacher Bums Can Teach Us About the Nature of Faith” by Thomas D. Senor. The article, which starts out by discussing a mental state, eventually transforms into a parallel between religious faith and fan loyalty. As an assignment in response to the article, Berg encouraged his students to argue for or against Senor’s statements. Some students seemed to develop an understanding of the relationship between fandom and faith, like Allison Baker who wrote, “There seems to be something more to being a fan of the Cubs. You are a part of something larger than yourself. You are a part of a community full of history.”

New Perspectives: Study abroad in London

In May of last spring, 13 students and four faculty members from MacMurray College traveled to London, England to take part in the social work program’s first International Social Work Course and Immersion Trip.

The students took the international social work course in preparation for their eight-day study abroad immersion trip. In the course they learned international policy, cross-cultural communication, fundraising skills and basic skills like filling out forms to obtain a U.S. passport.

The trip included an exchange with the University of East London’s social work department, in which professors from both colleges presented research to each other’s students and faculty. The group also visited social service agencies, including a homeless service agency and a community-based family service agency that serves the African-Caribbean population in north London, and an economic development and planning agency.

“The immersion trip truly changed the students’ perspectives on the world, deepening their understanding of global issues, the breadth of cultures in it, and strengthening their professional competencies in serving diverse populations,” said Social Work Program Director Joe Squillace.

The students also had time to visit the historic sites of London. They were able to see the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the British Museum and Brick Lane, as well as trying different types of cuisine.

“London was a life-changing immersion in culture, new experiences and social work,” said Jordan Gill, a junior social work major from Jacksonville. “I had the opportunity to develop relationships and connections while in London that will last a lifetime.”
New scholarship honoring Dr. John Cox

John Cox, interim provost, is being recognized for his service to the College through a new scholarship named in his honor.

As a member of the MacMurray community, Cox was the first director of the Department of Social Work under full Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accreditation (1995) through to his retirement in 2011. Many of his former students have achieved distinguished careers in social work because of his inspiration, great instruction and the social work values he instilled in them.

For the next 20 years, a social work student will receive an annual $500 scholarship in the name of Dr. John Cox. The scholarship will be awarded to social work majors who have demonstrated a knowledge of and commitment to the professional social work mission, values and ethical standards. Students qualify through an essay competition and winners are selected by an alumni panel.

Dr. Joe Squillace, current director of the social work program, said, “I am humbled and honored to present this scholarship annually to social work students. Dr. Cox’s legacy as director of the social work program remains through our tangible curriculum and instruction, which highlights the profession’s core values of ethics and integrity.”

Dr. Szczepanski helps judge Chemistry Olympiad

Nadine Szczepanski ’79, Horace A. Shonle Professor of Chemistry, took part as a judge in the 48th Chemistry Olympiad held in Tbilisi of the Republic of Georgia from July 23 through Aug. 1. In the past, Szczepanski has been a mentor to some of the high school students who were competing to take a place in the Olympiad. It was one of these former students, John Leon Kiappes, who reached out to her, asking for her help to judge.

The International Chemistry Olympiad is a competition for students in high school who have a good, knowledgeable grasp of college-level chemistry. Szczepanski helped Kiappes judge the organic chemistry question he wrote. The science committee that Szczepanski was a part of included many other writers and judges from the 67 countries that took part in the competition. Along with Szczepanski, the U.S. team consisted of Kiappes, a postdoc at Oxford University in England, and Seth Brown from the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Zeck grades AP reading exams

Professor of English Jeannie Zeck was selected to take part in the College Board’s Annual Associated Press Reading in English Literature in June. Along with other high school and college educators, Zeck helped assess and score the free-response essay portions of the AP Exams.

“The Reading draws upon the talents of some of the finest teachers and professors that the world has to offer,” said Trevor Packer, College Board senior vice president for AP and instruction. “It fosters professionalism, allows for the exchange of ideas and strengthens the commitment to students and to teaching. We are grateful for the contributions of talented educators like Jeannie Zeck.”

Originally from Richfield, MN, Zeck received her bachelor’s from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, MN in 1976, a masters in acting from the University of Minnesota in 1980, and was awarded her Ph.D. in 20th century American literature from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1995.
Pamela Harrison, director of disability services at MacMurray College, was named the 2016 Meritorious Service Award winner by the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children at its 2016 State Fall Convention on Nov. 5. She was awarded this statewide honor for her lifelong dedication to improving services and opportunities for people with disabilities. A graduate of Iowa State University, Harrison studied sociology and later earned her Illinois Teacher Certification in middle school science education. She then began her extensive career assisting those with disabilities. For the past eight years, Harrison has worked at MacMurray College where she undertook the expansion of the disability services program and streamlined processes for students and faculty to ensure their needs were supported. She has since served as the ADA compliance consultant and has been instrumental in many accessibility improvements that benefit not only the MacMurray family but the greater community as well. Prior to coming to MacMurray, Harrison coordinated Pathway Services’ group homes for 17 years and for six years taught students with intellectual disabilities in a classroom setting. She currently serves on the board of trustees for West Central Mass Transit District and is a member of the Jacksonville Rotary Club. Her colleagues say her passion is contagious and goes above and beyond what is expected.

Tamara O’Hearn-Amman, assistant professor of composition and coordinator of the writing program at MacMurray College, was awarded the President George Bush “Points of Light” award for her public charity, Gamsby’s Project. The award is given to individuals who volunteer their time and skills to a need within their community.

Using Christian principles as a basis for her charity, O’Hearn-Amman founded Gamsby’s Project in 2007 to serve those in hospitals, children’s homes and hospices who need comfort and companionship. The goal of Gamsby’s Project is to bring hope and healing to others with a visit from a service dog or a volunteer. “The charity is my small way of changing the way society views the ill and the disabled,” O’Hearn-Amman said.

Gamsby’s Project is also the winner of two Beacon Spotlight Awards and a Better Life Award from Mutual Bank. Also, this past June, O’Hearn-Amman presented her essay titled “Teaching First Generation Students” at the American Association of University Professors annual conference. This past September, she published two essays titled “Jacklope” and “Los Muertos” in “American Myths, Tales, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore.”

Back in May of 2014, O’Hearn-Amman traveled to Auviller, France where she took part in the Virginia Center for Creative Arts international workshop for emerging writers. She was awarded a scholarship based on submissions of her poetry and fiction which she presented at the conference in English and French.

Harrison is pictured above (left) with her husband, Phil, and Bev Johns, recipient of the Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award.
New athletics website launched

MacMurray College Athletics partnered with Sidearm Sports to create a new webpage that better suits the needs of Highlander fans on any device. The website allows viewers access to live stats, social media feeds and the option to subscribe to email alerts. The update has created a more user-friendly and interactive experience on both desktop and mobile devices for our fans.

“We are excited to launch a site that provides a lot more information for the fans and a chance to interact with them,” said Randi Armstrong, MacMurray’s athletic communications coordinator. “Our success on the field, court and mat will be on display in a new way with this site.”


Former Olympian added to staff

MacMurray College wrestling adds 2008 Olympic bronze medalist and alumna Randi Miller ’05 as an assistant wrestling coach.

Miller is one of the most successful wrestlers in MacMurray history. She honed her wrestling craft at MacMurray in 2005 before leaving to train at the U.S. Olympic Education Center at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI. Miller proceeded to compete for the United States in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She advanced to the quarterfinals where she lost to eventual champion, Japan’s Kaori Icho. She then defeated Martine Dugrenier of Canada to earn the bronze medal for Team USA. She retired from the sport after the 2008 Olympics, but after seeing the 2012 Olympics, Miller decided to come out of retirement. Miller continued a successful wrestling career winning the Phase II World Team Trials and ASICS U.S. Open in Las Vegas in 2014. In 2014-15, she was ranked first in the United States at the 152-pound weight class.

“What excites me most about coming back to MacMurray is that I get to attempt to pass along all the lessons that I learned from wrestling,” said Miller. “I’m excited that I get to be a part of someone else’s journey to becoming the type of person and athlete they aspire to be.”

Cross Country returning to campus fall 2017

In the fall of 2017, MacMurray College will relaunch the men’s and women’s cross country program. The College is excited to have another successful sport back in the mix. More information will be available soon online at www.mchighlanders.com.

In the past year, James McGinnis ’67 and Richard Firebaugh ’71, both runners during their time at MacMurray, were inducted into the MacMurray College Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony at Homecoming.

Firebaugh, of Peoria, IL, lettered nine times in three sports, with four in cross country, four in track, and one in soccer. As a runner, he was a three-time top finisher in cross country, second all-time best time in the mile, and he holds one of the best times in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter races.

McGinnis, of Rahway, NJ, lettered three times in track and twice in cross country. As a runner, he set the school record with 4 minutes and 22 seconds in the one mile run and was a member of the distance medley relay team that set another MacMurray record.
CLASS REUNIONS

Descriptions for these Homecoming photos and additional photos can be found at mac.edu/homecoming.

Reunion photos courtesy of Artistic Portraits
Bottom left: Christine Ebersole (Elizabeth Arden) in “War Paint.” 
Bottom right: Christine Ebersole (Elizabeth Arden) and John Dossett (Tommy Lewis) in “War Paint.”
From the halls of MacMurray College to the brightest of stages on Broadway, Christine Ebersole ’75 continues to dazzle audiences after her already illustrious career on the stage.

The two-time Tony Award winner Ebersole began her career in show business in the vast rooms of Main Hall where she honed her skills. Dr. Gene Laurent, Dr. Phil Decker and other professors were her audience and biggest critics.

“I am so grateful for my time at MacMurray,” said Ebersole. “It was at Mac where I decided that I wanted to pursue a life in the performing arts.”

Laurent saw the talent in Ebersole and told her that she had to go to New York. “He must have seen something in me that warranted a pursuit,” said Ebersole.

In 1973, Ebersole listened to Laurent’s advice and took the plunge to move to New York City. There she attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts where many movie stars have attended in hopes of becoming great performers. The Academy gave Ebersole the opportunity to shine on a bigger stage where she was signed by an agent, a rare feat for students still in the Academy, and landed her first audition for a Broadway play. She got the part in a revival of “Angel Street” and went from waiting tables to Broadway.

“It’s never a straight shot, it always twists and turns when you least expect it,” said Ebersole.

That break propelled Ebersole’s career which has traversed decades on the stage and in front of the camera. She won two Tony Awards for her performances in the 2001 revival of “42nd Street” and for her dual role as “Little” Eddie Beale and Edith Bouvier Beale in “Grey Gardens” in 2007.

Ebersole’s 40-year career seems to continue to rise. Recently, she received a call from the “Grey Gardens” composer Scott Frankel about an upcoming musical titled “War Paint,” which features two fierce rivals in the beauty industry. Ebersole took the role of Elizabeth Arden in the musical, co-starring with two-time Tony Award winner Patti LuPone.

On June 28, opening night of “War Paint,” more than 40 alumni and friends gathered at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago to celebrate Ebersole. Following the show, Ebersole joined a social with MacMurray alumni and friends.

The show had a tremendously successful run in Chicago and opens on Broadway at the Nederlander Theatre on April 6.

Looking back on her career, Ebersole said, “God laughs when you make plans ... It never turns out the way you think it will, but the surprises come your way.” She continued, “I’m grateful that I have the support of my family to stay in this business for 40 years.”

Ebersole, pictured with Dr. Henry Busche (Music professor 1945-78) and Louise Krussel ’56 Bone, received an honorary degree for Fine Arts from MacMurray College in 2002.
Getting about SERIOUS LIP BALM

It has been more than two years since Megan Luckey ’15 and Khara Koffel, associate professor of art, began selling their “hobby” of making scented lip balm for friends and family. That “hobby,” called Serious Lip Balm, is now sold at 41 different locations.

“It’s amazing. It’s incredible,” Koffel said.

The two first met when Luckey, a non-traditional MacMurray student studying interpreting, was taking a 3-D design class taught by Koffel. “It was during this class that we became aware of our similar interests in the arts, especially with materials and learning new processes,” Koffel said.

The lip balm idea started a few years later when Koffel wanted to give them as gifts to the teachers and aides at her little boy’s day care center. From that point, word of their homemade lip balm spread quickly. Two months later, they were making lip balms to sell at the Soap Co. Coffee House in Jacksonville. Two more months later, they were selling on Etsy; a year later they were selling wholesale and at vendor fairs.

And the craze has not stopped. After displaying their lip balm at the Illinois Products Expo last March, the company that owns the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum gift shop, The Event Network, asked them to make three lip balms based on favorite recipes of the Lincoln family.

“We made lemon pie, white cake and Honest Abe’s ginger bread,” Luckey said. “And when we did so well that first weekend at the museum, the gift shops at Gettysburg and Ford’s Theatre asked us to make lip balms for them, as well.”

With nearly 60 scents from apple cider to white chocolate (and even bacon), Serious Lip Balm grew fast, and Koffel and Luckey found themselves struggling to keep up with the demand. Luckily for them, they have good friends.

“It seems that every time we needed advice or a push to get to the next step one of our friends just happened to be there who knew someone to get us what we needed,” Koffel said. “Without them we would not have had the success we have had thus far.”

To give you an idea of the demand Serious Lip Balm was under, from January 2016 to November 2016, Koffel and Luckey produced more than 31,000 lip balms. Needless to say, they needed a little more help. So this past November they turned over some of the manufacturing to Elm City Center in Jacksonville.

“We did this to keep it local and to keep up with demand,” Koffel said. “They make a good portion of the balm as well as the labeling. We are thrilled to have them be a part of the process.”

So, what’s next for the dynamic duo? As their website states, “World lip balm domination.” They are well on their way.

To learn more about Serious Lip Balm and find locations, visit www.seriouslipbalm.com.
SUCCESSFUL FOOTBALL SEASON LED BY RECORD-BREAKING PERFORMANCES

The Highlander football team recorded the most successful season since 2004, compiling an impressive 8-2 record. The team was led by fifth year Head Coach Chris Douglas, who was named Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2015 after the team compiled the first winning season in over 10 years with a 6-4 record.

“The results of this season are a culmination of several years of hard work. When we came here six years ago, it was hard to see us getting to where we are now,” said Douglas. “We have players that ignored the past failures and believed in the plan we had and culture we were building. It’s very gratifying to get this program to where I planned - competing for conference championships. I’m so proud for our seniors and coaches who have put in so much hard work.”

The Highlander football team was the only team that topped UMAC Conference Champions the University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN, in regular season play, and had 10 members named to the All-Conference teams.

Senior quarterback Coy Dorothy turned some heads this year when he broke every quarterback career record that was held at MacMurray. After passing for 2,130 yards and 20 touchdowns this past season, Dorothy finished his record-breaking career with 6,691 yards and 58 touchdowns – surpassing the 5,003 yards and 52 touchdowns Tim Peterson ’01 tallied in his Highlanders career. Dorothy also holds the school record for pass attempts (927) and completions (511).

Senior defensive back Danny Williams found his place in the record books as well, earning the most career tackles with 317, topping the old record of 277.

Sophomore running back, Chazz Middlebrook, secured first place in NCAA Division III rankings for most yards rushed, accumulating 1,703 this season earning him UMAC Offensive Player of the Year. He also finished the year with 24 rushing touchdowns.

“I’ve never had a 1,700-yard rusher before, so I’m not sure what that looks like until now,” said Coach Douglas. “On top of being so strong, competitive and talented, Chazz’s work ethic and attitude cause teammates to gravitate to him which makes him pretty special.”
Chazz Middlebrook had an unbelievable season for the Highlanders as running back this past fall, rushing for over 1,700 yards and 24 touchdowns.

All this from a guy who transferred from McKendree University in 2015 and wound-up playing third string running back for the Highlanders in his first season. “My expectations were shattered in the best way possible,” Middlebrook said. “My position last year helped me progress to where the team and I are now.”

However, during his time on the field that year, he still managed to compile 582 yards on 92 carries and four touchdowns.

Head Coach Chris Douglas saw glimpses of greatness in Middlebrook’s first year as a Highlander. “We knew at the end of last season that Chazz could be something special, but we never really envisioned this,” said Douglas.

It is not all about football for Middlebrook, though. As much as he loves playing, it is his love for his family that drives him to be better.

As the only member of his family who can hear, Middlebrook transferred to MacMurray so that he could be closer to home and become the support his family needs. He recalls that his successes are his family’s successes. “My family is my backbone and everything I do is to benefit them the best I can,” Middlebrook said.

Middlebrook currently studies in the American Sign Language and Interpreting Program where he hopes one day to be an interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing.
Mac360 starts new traditions on campus

This fall, MacMurray launched Mac360, a program designed to build on students’ knowledge and life experiences. The program consists of various convocations and events to encourage student participation, different learning experiences and individual growth. It focuses on first-year students with the objective to engage them and encourage them to get involved, not just with various groups and activities on campus, but also with the different learning experiences offered to them.

Beth Oberg ’11, dean of student life and head of the Mac360 program, truly believes in the program and its ability to make a difference on campus. “I think Mac360 is an excellent way to bring the entire Mac campus together,” Oberg stated. “It feels like the whole campus is working together to engage students and give them other options to learn outside of the classroom.”

Mac360 gives students a different option to learn. Its concept involves the “holistic student development of learning,” as described by Oberg. The goal is to encourage students to embrace learning in and out of the classroom while providing a base that consists of a well-rounded education combined with co-curricular activities that go together with their First-Year Experience.

The program was an idea born from the Student Success Committee – a committee of faculty, staff and students that meet once a month to discuss retention. They saw Mac360 as a way to engage students and encourage them to participate in the programs they need to become professionally ready and gain marketable skills.

First-year students must attend a minimum of 15 Mac360 programs per semester, but all students are encouraged to participate, and prizes are given out for attendance. Some of the programs have included a networking event with local professionals, various workshops on topics related to successful living, filing the FAFSA, creating a resume and writing, as well as convocations led by inspirational speaker Jason LeVasseur and poet Rachel McKibbens.

The students can access the information of each Mac360 event by logging onto mac.checkimhere.com, or downloading the College Mac Events app. This app has allowed the College to track various data about Mac360, most importantly attendance. According to data collected from the app, 74.4 percent of freshman attended one or more Mac360 events this fall, and out of all of the students who took advantage of the Mac360 program, 84.3 percent were “loyal” attendees who attended multiple events during the semester.

Tierra Stiverson, a sophomore who assisted Oberg throughout the program, said, “I loved working on Mac360 this semester. I was given the opportunity to see how it impacted the College and student involvement first hand. Mac360 has brought unique and interesting events to our campus that I enjoyed participating in with other students. We can look forward to improvement as this new program continues to grow.”

Oberg sees the first semester of Mac360 as a success, but she also sees room for change and growth within the program; namely, the need for more resources so that the program can continue to bring in professional speakers, and for prizes and incentives used to encourage all students to attend.

Students who have taken part in the Mac360 events have already seen its positive influence within their college experience. “The Mac360 program has given me the ability to hear and see the world through new eyes,” first-year student Lucaas Secrist said. “It has given me the opportunity to experience and learn about different aspects of our world and discover the possibilities and opportunities out there for me. It has also made me discover the world around me here in Jacksonville and all of the amazing things that come with it. These events have been a bragging point, along with being a great story telling experience about what I have learned here at college so far!”

Mac360 could soon be a staple in the way all students come to know and experience how learning is done at MacMurray College.

“The Mac360 program has given me the ability to hear and see the world through new eyes.”

– First-year student Lucaas Secrist
In July 2016, MacMurray College received a letter from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) placing the College on Probation because of its failure to meet the accreditation standard related to resources, planning and institutional effectiveness. Since July, the College has taken steps to address the HLC’s concerns which include launching a campus-wide strategic planning process.

The College assembled a Strategic Planning Steering Committee led by members of the recently created Office of Institutional Advancement and Planning and hired a coordinator to facilitate the process of gathering information. The strategic planning process has given students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the College Board of Trustees the opportunity to discuss the College’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats given the current higher education landscape. The feedback from stakeholders has underscored the importance of maintaining and strengthening the liberal arts at MacMurray College. In fact, offering an education consistent with the liberal arts remains at the heart of our learning community and has emerged as a top institutional priority. In order to focus on teaching and learning, the MacMurray Experience, facilities and infrastructure, and resources, the work groups composed of faculty, staff and members of the College Board of Trustees have identified strategic outcomes for 2021 that will guide our work.

The work of the first phase of the strategic planning process will culminate with a revised vision and mission statement for the College, as well as key outcomes for 2021. Throughout the Spring 2017 semester, each department will begin the process of backward planning to determine specific measurable goals for the next five years that align with the College’s strategic outcomes. MacMurray College will complete the strategic planning process in May 2017 when the College Board of Trustees formally adopts the strategic plan.

We look forward to sharing our strategic plan with you in the next edition of MacNews! In the meantime, please visit https://my.mac.edu/ICS/Strategic_Planning/ to offer feedback! We want to hear from you and value your thoughts on MacMurray’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats confronting the College.

MacMurray College will submit a comprehensive report to the HLC in October 2017. The HLC will send a review team to the College in December 2017 to evaluate our progress. In June 2018, the HLC will decide whether to grant a reaffirmation of accreditation. We deeply appreciate and need the support from our alumni and friends as we work to strengthen the College.
You don’t have to be a millionaire to make a million dollar impact. Your gift matters!

The smallest of donations can have a tremendous impact on the education of current Highlanders.

Gifts to the Annual Fund Campaign support annual scholarships, various departments across campus, the College Success Program and general operations of MacMurray College.

By making a gift today, you are helping the next generation of thinkers and leaders.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for your continued and generous support of MacMurray College. For 170 years, MacMurray College has helped students pursue knowledge, deepen their faith and serve their communities. Your support, the gifts from our alumni and friends, allow MacMurray College to continue this rich tradition.

This is a pivotal year for MacMurray College. The institution has launched a campus-wide strategic planning process and is in the midst of producing a facilities master plan to help identify the most urgent priorities for the College. Already evident is the importance of preserving and strengthening our liberal arts heritage. Our mission is to equip students with skills consistent with a liberal arts education; skills that allow them to follow in your footsteps by making meaningful contributions to their communities.

We ask that you consider making a gift to one of our four campaigns:

- **The Annual Fund** is the lifeblood of the College and supports curricular and co-curricular programming across campus.
- **The Endowment Campaign** sustains the College and gives future generations the chance to experience a MacMurray College education.
- **The Highlander Athletic Fund** ensures our student-athletes have access to top-notch facilities.
- **The Presidential Priorities Campaign** includes gifts to support capital improvements and innovative experiential learning opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Mark J. Tierno
President
Total raised  
FY 2015-16 $2,581,116

The other donor groups include:
Foundations | $208,498
Friends | $115,086
Corporations | $99,321
Religious Groups | $23,259
Faculty and Staff | $10,511
Parents | $7,601

Largest Gift in FY 15-16: $828,407
Giving from Estates/Wills are often the largest gifts received each year.
It's a smart way to leave a lasting legacy past your lifetime.

GIFT DESIGNATIONS
Presidential Priorities $779,712
Endowed Scholarships $179,968
MacMurray Endowment $331,482
Athletic Fund $62,565
MacMurray Annual Fund $727,389

Donors gave from 48 states and 1 foreign country. (You need to step it up Alaska and North Dakota... ...and most of Asia!)

$895,652 in the 50s
$768,268 in the 40s
$370,773 in the 60s

THE SMALLEST GIFT WAS $2
... and it was just as important.

The College loves large gifts, but we also place importance on ANY gift. Each individual and class that gives allows us to show alumni support to other funding organizations.

* Fiscal Year 2015-16 began June 1, 2015 and ended May 31, 2016.

1846 Society | $50,000 or more
MacMurray College – established in 1846 by the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church as Illinois Female Academy, later named Illinois Woman’s College, and finally renamed in 1931 to honor the College’s generous benefactor and Illinois Senator James E. MacMurray – has always depended on gifts from supporters like you.

Cartwright Society | $25,000 to $49,999
Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) – one of the College’s founders and the first President of the Board of Trustees – is a legendary preacher, speaker and activist who dedicated himself to religion, politics and education. In the 1860s, he ensured the survival of the College through his generous support.

Akers Society | $10,000 to $24,999
Peter Akers (1790-1886) – a principal founder of the College and President of the Board of Trustees – was instrumental in overseeing the College’s early financial, academic and physical development. After a major fire in 1872, Akers rallied financial support to sustain and grow the College.

President’s Council | $5,000 to $9,999
Throughout MacMurray’s history, 16 presidents have served the College, working with generous supporters like you to strengthen the institution.

Michalson Associates | $2,500 to $4,999
Gorden E. Michalson (1911-1996) – the College’s 10th president – was an engaging conversationalist and powerful debater who refocused the College’s mission on providing students with a superior liberal arts education.

Harker Associates | $1,000 to $2,499
Joseph R. Harker (1853-1938) – the College’s 7th president – elevated the College’s academic status, increased the endowment and added several new buildings during his 32-year tenure.

McClelland Gold Level | $500 to $999
McClelland Silver Level | $250 to $499
McClelland Bronze Level | $100 to $249
Clarence P. McClelland (1883-1974) – the College’s 8th president – was a progressive educator who carried out campus expansion projects, increased the endowment and saw enrollment double during his 27 years at the College.
## CLASS GIVING | FY 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Active Alumni</th>
<th>Number of Donors</th>
<th>Percent Participation</th>
<th>Total Given</th>
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<td>184</td>
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<td>204</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>222</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>1967</td>
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<td>247</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>271</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$97,195.38</td>
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<td>1970</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>209</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>252</td>
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<td>1973</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$20,776.00</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$11,025.00</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$25,504.50</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>$19,878.34</td>
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</table>

### TOP 10 CLASSES by Amount Given

- 1956: $33,208.37
- 1940: $6,183.42
- 1969: $25,504.50
- 1966: $24,960.00
- 1965: $20,776.00
- 1978: $2,327.46
- 1979: $2,545.00
- 1993: $3,150.00
- 1963: $3,685.00
- 1980: $2,880.00

### TOP 10 CLASSES by Participation

- 1961: 21.38%
- 1953: 20.93%
- 1962: 20.73%
- 1936: 20.00%
- 1969: 19.93%
ALUMNI | FY 2015-16

1930s
McClelland Silver Level
*Mrs. Oma McCumber Munroe ‘36

McClelland Bronze Level
*Mrs. Evelyn Lee ‘36

1940s
1846 Society
*Mrs. Dorothy Lippincott ‘45

Akers Society
Dr. Betty Lowell Cottle ‘45
Mrs. Jean Wilson Walhay ‘44

President’s Council
*Mrs. Elizabeth Forre Applebee ‘40
Dr. Charlotte Erb ‘49
Col. Eleanor Garvin Skinner ‘43

Michalson Associates
*Mrs. Jessie Clark Schirding ‘41
and Mr. John Schirding
Ms. Beatrice Person Person
Tharp ‘46 and Mr. Robert Tharp

Harker Associates
Mrs. Betty Overbey Hamm ‘47
Mrs. Mary Melvin Lynn ‘40
and Mr. Edward Lynn
Mrs. Avis Fleming Sexton ‘47
Mrs. Jean Barnett Steams ‘43

McClelland Gold Level
Mrs. Amy Cargill Brainerd ‘44
Mrs. Phyllis-Ann Smith Langenan ‘46 and Mr. John Langenan
Dr. Norma R. Mason ‘49
Mrs. Lois Ingels Freeman ‘49
and Mr. William Freeman

McClelland Silver Level
Mrs. Lois Kirchoff Anderson ‘49
Mrs. Barbara Wells Borrowman ‘46
Mrs. Mary Floro Grojean ‘49
and Mr. Joe Grojean
Ms. Martha Hughes ‘46
Dr. Effie Hunt ‘44
Dr. Peggy Craven Tigerman ‘48

McClelland Bronze Level
Mrs. Martha Spink Brasil ‘47
and Mr. Melvin Brasil
Mrs. Carol Deutsch Brey ‘47
and Mr. Robert Brey
Mrs. Marilyn Fuller Brown ‘49
and Mr. Robert Brown
Mrs. Rosanna Shanks Caridad ‘46
and Mr. Carlos Caridad
Mrs. June Clark Cheney ‘43
Mrs. Doris Arnold Dial ‘43
Mrs. Lucia Jones Erkert ‘46
Mrs. Joan Lukeman Fry ‘44
Ms. Bernice Grunig ‘48
Mrs. Florence Ota Iseni ‘49
and Mr. Nob Iseni
Mrs. Freda Sanders Johnson ‘47
and Mr. Edgar Johnson
Mrs. Marian Cooper Jones ‘49

* Indicates deceased donor.

Mrs. Martha Irwin Jorgensen ‘45
Mrs. Frances Lane Kirchofer ‘49
and Mr. Don Kirchofer
Mrs. Doris Perry Kurtock ‘47
and Mr. John Kurtock
Mrs. Beatrice Wong Lau ‘40
and Mr. Hing Lau
Mrs. Joan Essley Lawson ‘44
and Mr. David Lawson
Mrs. Joann Miller Moles ‘42
and Mr. J. B. Moles
Mrs. Jean Stevens Myers ‘47
Mrs. Melba Potter Palmer ‘48
*Mrs. Marilyn Smith ‘46
and Mr. Dale Smith
Mrs. Celeste Quick Taylor ‘46
and Mr. William Taylor
Mrs. Rose Marie Nelson True ‘49
and Mr. Lawrence True

Donors
Mrs. Eloise Dugger Ambrose ‘47
and Mr. James Ambrose
Mrs. Dorothy Frazier Anderson ‘48
Mrs. Marjorie Kraemer Asztalos ‘47
and Mr. Michael Asztalos
Mrs. Charlotte Tanton Bash ‘46
and Mr. William Bash
Mrs. Nancy Williams Bovee ‘48
Mrs. Jean Vasconcellos Bowen ‘46
and Mr. Charles Bowen
Mrs. Elizabeth Crane Carlson ‘49
and Mr. Kenneth Carlson
Mrs. Lois Helm Cole ‘47
Mrs. Marion Harris Engelhart ‘40
Mrs. Janet Kramer Fisher ‘47
and Mr. Gordon Fisher
Mrs. Harriet Scott Follmer ‘48
and Mr. Harley Follmer
Mrs. Mary Hargesheimer Gibson ‘42
Mrs. Barbara McCord Groover ‘48
Mrs. Phyllis Ise Guthrie ‘47
Mrs. Corinne Schwarzenbacher Hammer ‘49
Mrs. Ferol Vaughn Henry ‘49
Mrs. Phyllis Wolfe Hersh ‘48
and Mr. Alex Hersh
Dr. Jean Scammmon Hyland ‘48
Mrs. Carolyn Heerens Johnson ‘44
and Mr. Warren Johnson
Mrs. Mary Lonergan Minarik ‘49
Mrs. Esther Chambers Moser ‘49
Mrs. Ruth Struckmeyer Niemeier ‘46
Mrs. Jean Wagoner Peacock ‘41
Mrs. Velma Bland Paluch ‘46
and Mr. Adolph Paluch
Mrs. Carolyn Craver Potter ‘48
and Mr. Carman Potter
Mrs. Jo Ann Lyman Price ‘43
Mrs. Joyce Truckenbrod Schmitt ‘48
Mrs. Florence Wylie Sears ‘45

Mrs. Margery Irwin Surbaugh ‘47
Mrs. Doris Cooley Warner ‘48
and Mr. Hugh Warner
Mrs. Velma Snyder Wise ‘47

1950s
1846 Society
*Mrs. Nancy Floyd Law ‘52

Akers Society
Dr. Dolores Buchler ‘57
Mrs. Joan Carlson Long ‘58

President’s Council
Ms. Catherine Frugoli ‘56

Michalson Associates
Ms. Shirley Chang ‘59
Mrs. Mary Geiger Fletcher ‘54
and Mr. Gerald Fletcher
Dr. Carolyn Clawson Pricett ‘55

Harker Associates
Ms. Mary Armstrong ‘52
Mrs. Josephine Krussell Bennington ‘58
and Dr. James Bennington
Dr. Louise Krussell Bone ‘56
and Dr. Ernst Bone
Mrs. Merritt Norvell Florence ‘54
Mrs. Charlotte Monson Haynie ‘51
and Mr. Howard Haynie
Mrs. Barbara Wilson Kittle ‘58
and Mr. Paul Kittle
Mrs. Juliann Bruce Lutz ‘58
and Mr. John Lutz
Mrs. Alice Post ‘53
Mrs. Laura Combs Pratt ‘59
and Mr. Richard Pratt
Mrs. Carolyn Jokisch Wilson ‘56
Mrs. Marilyn Menschhoff Wurzburger ‘53

McClelland Gold Level
Dr. Joan Sampson Anderson ‘57
Dr. Susan Eichenfeld Ashton ‘57
Dr. Patricia Bauer Burnette ‘58
and Dr. Rand Burnette
Mrs. Carol Fosdick Hubbard ‘51
Mrs. Virginia Zimmer Lomax ‘56
Mrs. Marina Chiames Phelps ‘58
Mrs. Joan Shaw Williams ‘58

McClelland Silver Level
Mrs. Elizabeth Caldwell Aldridge ‘53
Mrs. Ellen Markham Brannick ‘59
Mrs. Janice Closson Caldwell ‘56
Mrs. Joan Shade Caldwell ‘50
Mrs. Roberta Middendorf McKee ‘53
Mrs. Roberta Middendorf McKee ‘55 and Mr. Roberta Middendorf McKee ‘55
Mrs. Joan Cline Flint ‘58
and Mr. Richard Flint
Mrs. Mabel Owens Gast ‘56
Mrs. Phyllis Gomgway ‘57
and Mr. Niles Gomgway
Mrs. Elizabeth Dinius Gray ‘55
Mrs. Marlaina Eickstaedt Krause ‘58
and Mr. Daniel Krause

Mrs. Mary Haager McConnell ‘55
Mrs. Joan Lint McLees ‘50
Mrs. Dorothy Anderson Metzel ‘55
Ms. Nancy V. Miller ‘59
Mrs. Barbara Beckhelm Moore ‘57
and Mr. Richard Moore
Ms. Geraldine Staadecker ‘59
and Mr. Stephen Gilbert
Ms. Joyce Bogardus Walker ‘57
and Mr. Jon Wakelyn

McClelland Bronze Level
Mrs. June Gustafson Arteberry ‘56
and Mr. D. G. Arteberry
Mrs. Rosemary Angel Beggs ‘51
and Mr. John Beggs

Ms. Barbara Griffith Boehm ‘50
Mrs. Billie Morton Clark ‘51
Mrs. Nancy Ciesler Cox ‘57
Mrs. Joanne Kriege Creekshank ‘56
and Mr. Ian Creekshank

Mrs. Mary Haberkamp Eisenman ‘54
and Mr. LeRoy Eisenman
Mrs. Peggy Somers Frank ‘58
and Mr. Russell Frank

Mrs. Marie Hicks Hamly ‘53
and Mr. Charles Hamly

Mrs. Charlotte Sunderland Heath ‘58
and Mr. F. Alan Heath

Mrs. Marilyn Mansfield Henley ‘57
and Mr. Leland Henley

Mrs. Mary VanAmbreg Hickey ‘59

Ms. Marilyn Martin Houser ‘51

Mrs. Ruth Miller Jones ‘59
and Mr. Edwin Jones

Ms. Leslie Kopp ‘55

Mrs. Alice Anne Hoff Lacquerment ‘59
and Mr. Richard Lacquerment

Mrs. Constance Brand Lacquerment ‘55
and Mr. Hubert Lacquerment

Mrs. Carolyn Kimble Lanker ‘51

Mrs. Evelyn Lawler Lewis ‘54

Mrs. Joan Van Horn Lindsey ‘56
and Mr. William Lindsey

Mrs. Olive Chen Liu ‘58
and Mr. Thomas Liu

Mrs. Marjorie Doolin Maday ‘50
and Mr. Clarence Maday

Mrs. Elizabeth Halfyard McIntosh ‘53
and Mr. Burt McIntosh

Mrs. Virginia Nielsen McRae ‘58
and Mr. Lawrence McRae

Mrs. Roberta Middendorf McKee ‘55
and Mr. James McKee

Mrs. Vivian Lynch Mussatto ‘50

Mrs. Joan Stansbury Petty ‘59
and Mr. Philip Petty

Mrs. Lois Cohenour Potter ‘59

Mrs. Suzanne Fiolek Rauch ‘53

Mrs. Constance Hills Read ‘57
and Mr. Marvin Read

Mrs. Judith Hendrickson Reid ‘58
and Mr. Charles Reid

Mrs. Susan Gardner Salmon ‘59
and Mr. Ralph Salmon
Williams Supports MacMurray College to Pay Back Success

Joan Shaw Williams ’58

“MacMurray College was a fine institution of learning when my late husband and I were students during the late 1950s and early 60s. Mac prepared us for successful careers, as well as lifetime skills. MacMurray was the catalyst for the strong friendships we made and, in my case, still have. Neil and I decided early on in our marriage that we wanted MacMurray College to have the financial means to thrive. We felt the need to enable the College to continue providing the best for its students. Today it’s called payback time!”
Dr. Garry Feldman ’68
and Mrs. Cheryl Feldman
Ms. Patricia Doyle-Grace ’66
and Mr. Pete Grace
*Dr. J. R. Hackman ’62
Dr. Richard Hayes ’69
and Mrs. Anne Hayes
Dr. Robert Head ’63
and Nita Head
Mr. Gary Henning ’69
and Mrs. Vickie Henning
Mr. John Hildebrant ’65
Dr. Robert Kellogg ’68
and Mrs. Catherine Kellogg
Mr. Thomas Knight ’67
and Pamela Knight
Dr. Richard Ledesma ’63 and Mrs. Dorothy Simpson Ledesma ’63
Dr. Richard Johnson ’68
and Mrs. Mary Johnson
Mrs. Barbara Anderson Mitchell ’66
and Mr. Lee Mitchell
Mr. Paul Nelson ’69
and Mrs. Karen Hansen Nelson ’69
Mr. Ronald Otto ’69
and Mrs. Kathy Otto
Dr. William Patterson ’67
and Mrs. Joan Patterson
Col. James Pettitt III ’61
Mr. Richard Phelan ’66
and Mrs. Judith Phelan
Wendy Pettit Pettit Pretryman ’67
and Mr. Theodore Pretryman
Dr. Reginald Price ’64
and Mrs. Linda Olson
Ms. Anna L. Prince ’69
Mrs. Sally Scaman ’68
and Mr. Robert Huff
Dr. Wayne Schurter ’68
and Mrs. Catherine Schurter
Mr. William Slevin, Jr. ’66
Mr. John A. Van Hook ’64
Ms. Joyce Vortman ’60
Mr. David Woodrum ’61
and Mrs. Susan Woodrum
McClelland Gold Level
Ms. Rita Sinclair Bahan ’67
Mrs. Brenda Riddle Bailey ’68
and Dr. William Bailey
Ms. Virginia Clayton Bender ’60
and Mr. William Bender
Dr. Charles Blevins ’69
and Mrs. Lynette Blevins
Mr. Frederick Cain ’68
and Mrs. Pamela Prange Cain ’68
The Honorable Robert B. Cochonour ’61
Mr. Robert Engelke ’67
Ms. Elaine Flanigan ’67
Mrs. Bette Petrofsky Flynn ’65
and Mr. William Flynn
Mr. R. Thomas Flynn ’63
and Mrs. Kate Niebling Flynn ’64
Mrs. Kay Heeren Gaines ’65
Mr. Walter Githens II ’65
and Mrs. Sandra Lind Githens ’65
Dr. Sharon Bonds Heger ’62
and Mr. Michael D. Heger
Mr. David Hoener ’62
and Mrs. Lisa Hoener
Mr. Thomas R. Hull ’68
Mr. Craig Johnson ’62
and Mrs. Marcia Johnson
Dr. George Knaff ’66
and Dr. Kathleen Astin Knaff ’68
Reverend Carol Knox Cory ’61
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Gifts to MacMurray have a powerful effect on the College’s ability to remain a top-tier institution. When MacMurray College friends, faculty and staff extend their contributions to include philanthropy, they express their belief in MacMurray’s mission and actively support our long-standing culture of excellence. Corporations and foundations look for high levels of support from faculty and staff when making funding decisions, which means these gifts may have a continuing impact on investment for years to come.

In fiscal year 2016, MacMurray faculty and staff joined together to contribute 220 gifts totaling more than $10,000 to MacMurray College. In all, 27 current faculty and staff donated, representing a threefold increase from last year!

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**BETTIS CONTRIBUTES TO THANK MAC FOR HER SUCCESS**

Brittany Bettis ’11

“Giving is an exchange of generosity to the College for transforming me into a successful individual. I continue to donate in hopes that other MacMurray graduates will feel the same and contribute in the future.”

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MacMurray: An Important Part of Our Community

Head Soccer Coach John Mansholt

“I was not born in Jacksonville, but I’ve been around campus since 1974 and did most of my growing up not far away. As an elementary and middle school student, I spent a lot of time with soccer coach Pete Glon and his players. Coach Glon allowed me and my friends to be around the team, and after dinner, the players would even come over to my house to play two-on-two soccer on Rount Street. We played so much that we eventually broke out all the windows on my garage! I also participated in the Prairie Scholars Program for high achieving students, which used to be held on campus. Both of these experiences showed me how important MacMurray College is to Jacksonville and to our community. MacMurray has a special place in my heart, and having an opportunity to now work here means a lot to me. It’s important to give back, and it’s important to support our college that has so much value.”
Beginning in the Fall 2016 Semester, students at MacMurray College started to participate in a series of engaging seminars on leadership and personal growth thanks to the generous support of Dr. Richard (Dick) B. Flynn ’64 and Jani Koopman ’64 Flynn, in recognition of their lifetime of achievement and devotion to effective leadership. Both are successful MacMurray College graduates, with Dick completing his doctoral degree in Education at Columbia University and serving for 15 years as a visionary president at Springfield College (MA). Jani, meanwhile, completed graduate work in chemistry and math and has had a distinguished corporate career, including serving as president and owner of a computer software company. MacMurray honored Jani with the Distinguished Alumni Award, and both Dick and Jani have been given an honorary degree from Mac. The Flynns conceptualized this endowed Leadership Development Fund and philanthropically funded this endowment.

This inaugural year of the “Flynn Leadership Lecture Series” kicked-off with a presentation by award-winning musician and speaker Jason LeVasseur. Through fun, informational and inspirational talk about finding passion and transforming dreams into reality, LeVasseur encouraged and inspired each student to discover what it takes to be a rock star student. LeVasseur is the most awarded musical performer in the history of campus entertainment, receiving a total of 17 awards from Campus Activities Magazine, The National Association for Campus Activities and the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities. Along with his successful performing career, LeVasseur is also a recording songwriter who has had music placed in movies, on television and in video games. He has opened for Train, Dave Matthews Band, Ludacris, Maroon 5, John Mayer, The Roots, The Wallflowers, Ben Folds, Sugarland, Ludacris and LMFAO.
JOHN AUSTIN VAN HOOK PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

In 1992-93, the Student Leader of the Year Award was initiated to promote student leadership on campus. The award was renamed in 2006 to recognize donations by John Austin Van Hook, Class of 1964, and his support of campus leaders. The winner is selected from the recipients of the Student Leader of the Month Award for that year.

DERVON FRANCIS ’16

The 2016 recipient of the John Austin Van Hook Prize for Outstanding Campus Leadership was Dervon Francis ’16, a business major and football player. Francis was selected for his leadership on and off the field. He held a pilot internship with Goodwill Industries, and based on their experience with Francis, Goodwill expanded the number of internships they will be offering MacMurray students in the future. Francis not only made his College proud by showing exemplary work during his internship, but he went a step further when returning to campus and volunteering in the Office of Career Services assisting his fellow students with their job searches. Francis did so by helping them improve their résumés, prepare for internships and sharpen their interview skills.

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The Alumni Association Board of MacMurray College endeavors and cultivates meaningful lifelong bonds between MacMurray College and the alumni in accordance with the goals and ideals of the College.

The Alumni Association Board oversees the projects that are chosen for the Frances “Betsey” Swigart Memorial Fund for Campus Improvements. During this year this fund was used to beautify Kathryn Hall by providing new flooring in the lounge, giving it a much needed face lift. Prospective students begin their tours at Kathryn Hall and are instantly stunned by the new flooring and the architecture of the first floor.

This fund was named to honor the late Frances “Betsey” Brooke ’66 Swigart who was very active in the MacMurray College community serving as the Alumni Association Board President at the time of her passing. Thank you to all who have contributed!

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– Provided food for the women’s basketball team
– Provided food for the football team
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– Provided food for the women’s basketball team
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– Volunteer Assistant Coach – men’s soccer
Daniel Hackett
– Volunteer Assistant Coach – men’s soccer
Ari Sandoval ’15
– Volunteer Student Assistant Coach – men’s soccer

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– Volunteer Home Game Videographer – men’s soccer
Clare Mansholt
– Volunteer many hours helping with the laundry
– men’s soccer
Mr. & Mrs. Attanasio
– Opened up their home for overnight stays
on many Chicago recruiting trips – men’s soccer
Linda Duncan
– Provided food for the women’s volleyball
Stephanie Hobrock
– Provided food for the women’s volleyball
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– Provided food for the football team

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Charles Freiberger ’71 – Served as a delegate at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL for the presidential inauguration of Dr. Michael Brophy.

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BECOME A MENTOR AND CHANGE A LIFE

Mentoring students is one way you can open the world to other Highlander graduates. But there are other ways to make a significant impact:

• Share open positions within your place of business
• Come back to campus to speak to a class
• Give back financially, at any level, to improve the education of MacMurray students

Looking for new career opportunities for yourself? Career Services continues to offer support to alumni through résumé writing, mock interviews and guidance for new career opportunities.

For information on mentoring or career services, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (217) 479-7030 or alumni@mac.edu

Nearly 200 alumni and friends gathered and shared fellowship at various events over the past months. From musicals to athletic gatherings, alumni from all over Illinois and various states joined in the camaraderie of MacMurray College.
RECENT gatherings

WestWood Tavern and Tap: July 9 – Schaumburg, IL

Cardinals Game: July 17 – St. Louis, MO

Mulligans Pub: July 22
– Jacksonville, IL

Insane Inflatable 5K: August 8
– Springfield, IL

Alumnae Soccer: August 27 – MacMurray

Alumnae Volleyball: August 26 – MacMurray

Alumnae Soccer: August 27 – MacMurray

University Club Christmas Gathering:
December 12 – Chicago, IL

Alumni Soccer: August 27 – MacMurray

Dinner prior to the play “Pig Boy” featuring
Rick Hall ‘81: August 2 – Jacksonville, IL
DOWN THE AISLE

TONNA WENDELBURG ’57 WEIR remarried in August 2015. Her last name is now Mulkey. They live in Newberg, OR.

FUTURE HIGHLANDERS

1 ANGIE FRAZZINI ’06 GAZDZIAK and her husband Graham, welcomed Lucas Daniel on July 1, 2016. Angie writes, “He is a VERY chill little dude, and he is always smiling. He loves long walks on the beach, watching Conan O’Brien and the Chicago White Sox (though not together), and someday hopes to finance Angie’s retirement on Maui. Just kidding… hopefully NOT kidding about Maui, though. Our daughter Hannah (5) is smitten with him. He loved meeting new friends at Homecoming in October and hopes to come back for a visit soon. He loves spending time with his cousins, Declan and Emma (children of Brian ’07 and Robyn ’08) and his godmother Abi Wurdemen ’06.” Angie is an associate consultant for Rescigno’s Marketing Connections.

2 AMY BROCKHOUSE ’09 and SPENCER DUFFIELD ’10 of Washington, IL, welcome their baby girl, Rhyan Lynn Duffield on July 6, 2016. They write, “Rhyan is a sweet and very happy little girl. We are blessed to be her parents.”

NEWS NOTES

1940s

MARIAN COOPER ’45 JONES, of Milford, OH, writes, “I have been blessed with excellent health but realize as I approach 89 that it would be wise if I moved closer to family. I am moving back to Ohio in mid-May (2016) and have chosen a lovely retirement facility just 20 minutes from my daughter, Barbara. I am excited about beginning another new chapter in my life! Wonderful memories of my three plus years at Mac.”

MARY MALLERS ’48 SPIROU, of Fort Wayne, IN, has three children and seven grandchildren. She writes, “We are living at the Towne House Retirement Community. Love being here – keeping very busy with activities and committees. My 90th birthday is in October (2016) and Art will be 94.”

1970s

MARILEE MOELLER ’70 LOVIT co-authored “The Plants of Baxter State Park” which was recently published by the University of Maine Press. Marilee lives in Milbridge, ME.

JIM SORENSEN ’70 wrote, “October 19-23, 2016, in Santa Cruz, CA, we had another informal gathering of mostly 1970 MacMurray graduates. This group, plus or minus a few, gathers every few years to enjoy each other’s company and honor Alan Doede ’70 who passed away in 1992. Those attending were THOM PAYNE ’70, JEFFREY LOVITT ’70, Joyce Starr, MICHELLE CURTIS ’70 PAYNE, JIM SORENSEN ’70, Laurel Sorensen, STEVE HANSEN ’70, KATHY PRICE ’69 HEUERMANN, MARILEE MOELLER ’70 LOVIT, DICK STARR ’60, and Rich Heuermann.

STEVE AMBRA ’72 wrote, “After an indeterminate number of years of not running into one another since graduation, NANCY COOK ’73 ROSEN and I – by happenstance – found ourselves playing together in the Hopkinton (New Hampshire) Town Band – serendipitous!”
KATIE RICHARDSON ’77 PETRIKIN writes, “Mac friends getting together every year for the opera in St. Louis. We decided that the guys would wear seersucker suits and the girls would wear picture hats. We think we look adorable!” Pictured left to right are RUSS PATTON ’66, Adrienne Patton, Ron Petrikin, KATIE RICHARDSON ’77 PETRIKIN, PAT DOYLE-GRACE ’66 and Pete Grace.

2000s

MATT HEYEN ’00, of Springfield, IL, was recognized for celebrating a 15-year anniversary at Hanson Professional Services. Matt is a transportation engineer who provides geometric design of roadways and railways, designs storm and sanitary sewers, and does project, client and utility management.

ANDREW (AJ) HUTCHINS ’14 and VERONICA (RONI) GRGIN ’15 are engaged to be married on July 22, 2017, in Pensacola, FL. AJ and Roni met in 2013 during a May term class at MacMurray College.

KELIA BECK ’14 writes, “Since graduating, I have an addition to my family. My daughter will be two in September (2016). My son is six. I am finishing up my first year of grad school. It has been a great experience. I am learning so much as a graduate public service intern for Serve Illinois.”

NORMA DYCUS ’72, of Avon, IN, writes, “Since moving to the Indianapolis area, KAYANN LEGG ’76 and I have become Indiana Fever basketball regulars. For several years, we have been enjoying Fever games with KIM DAVIS ’72. She and I were members of the Mac basketball team from 1968-72.”

DARRELL HOLMQUIST ’72 of New Lenox, IL, writes, “Despite having my left hip replaced this summer, I’ve finished two histories for the New Lenox Historical Society. The first was ‘Go in Peace to Serve the Lord: A History of Peace Lutheran Church’ and was printed in July 2016. Later this autumn, ‘From Mud to Main Line: Lincoln Highway in New Lenox Township’ goes to the printer. In addition, I worked with Will County to attain Landmark Status for the rare 1928 Lincoln Highway marker in front of the Lincoln-Way Central High School.”

DONNA KESSLER ’76 MARSHALL of Mundelein, IL, writes, “I visited Jacksonville recently to see JOANN BUCARIC ’76 DOYLE of Jacksonville, with other Mac alums: KATE O’DONNEL ’76 GIRA of Prospect Heights, IL, GINNY FELLOWES ’76 LEE of Pentwater, MI, MAC TRENKLE ’76 BERG of Beach Park, IL, KELLY COLLIER ’76 of Champaign, IL, KATHY SHORTELLE ’75 of St. Louis, MO, and BECKY BENNETT ’75 WARNER of Spring House, PA.”
MURIEL SMITH passed away August 20, 2016. Muriel served as the Registrar for many years at MacMurray College.

ESTHER WARD HEMBROUGH ’36, Jacksonville, IL, September 16, 2016.

JESSIE PHILLIPS HALL ’37, Crane, IN, September 28, 2016.


MARION HARRISS ENGLEHART ’40, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, July 9, 2016.

RUTH STRINGHAM FORTEL ’40, Locust Grove, OK, August 20, 2016.

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VIRGINIA GIESEKE LEWIS ’40, Shell Lake, WI, August 29, 2016.

MARGARET HUNT JONES ’42, Lafayette, IN, July 23, 2016.

JANE MOORE ’44, Indianapolis, IN, June 18, 2016.

MARSHA IRWIN JORGENSEN ’45, Des Moines, IA, October 26, 2016.

JEAN DAMAN KENNEDY ’45, Peoria, IL, September 17, 2016.

MARGARET HUNT JONES ’42, Lafayette, IN, July 23, 2016.

JANE MOORE ’44, Indianapolis, IN, June 18, 2016.

MARSHALL EUSTICE SPANGLER ’45, Seattle, WA, June 14, 2016.

MARY ROBINSON STRAWN ’45, Colorado Springs, CO, June 5, 2011.

BEULAH TOWNE SUEHS ’45, New London, WI, August 9, 2016.

BEATRICE “BET” PERSON THARP ’46, Lexington, VA, October 16, 2016.

WILLIE WIRTH VIAL ’46, Huntsville, AL, September 2, 2016.

MARTHA SPINK BRASEL ’47, Brainerd, MN, April 19, 2016.

GLENNA FORBES MCLEAN ’47, Houston, TX, August 9, 2016.

CAROLYN KIRKWOOD ANDERSON ’49, Knoxville, TN, October 28, 2016.

ELIZABETH JOHNSON MERCER ’49, Terre Haute, IN, November 21, 2016.


JEANNE CONE WERLING ’49, Tipton, IA, October 15, 2016.

DOROTHY FITCH ADAMSON ’50, Bethlehem, CT, May 28, 2016.

MARY BEYRER ’50, Columbus, OH, May 22, 2016.

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Coming soon to a city near you!

MacNATION TOUR 2017

Call to action!

During a nationwide tour to rally the alumni army, President Mark Tierno and the Office of Alumni Relations will be hosting alumni events across the United States – see the list to the right. If you are interested in hosting an event, know of a great venue, want to recruit alumni to an event in your area or would like to help financially support the tour, please contact Rikki Langan in the Office of Alumni Relations at 217-479-7030 or by email at alumni@mac.edu. We greatly appreciate your assistance!

More information about tour dates and President Tierno’s travel route will be available on March 1 by visiting www.mac.edu/MacNation.