

# AMBASSADOR

News for Macomb College Students

Summer 2009

Volume 18, Issue 2

## Students add their sweat and muscle to Katrina rebuilding effort

They dubbed themselves "The Dirty Dozen," and the 11 Macomb students and Rochelle Zaranek, social science instructor, did, indeed, get dirty as they assisted in the ongoing Hurricane Katrina rebuilding effort in Mississippi.

The group spent a week there in late March to participate in the relief project sponsored by the Presbytery of Detroit. They joined

10 other organizations whose members included high school and college students and retirees as they did everything from erecting drywall to removing debris.

"They are truly a remarkable group who gave from their hearts," said Zaranek. "Macomb students were down there making a difference in people's lives."

The trip fell outside of Macomb's spring break, but the students who accompanied Zaranek obtained their assignments early and spent their evenings studying. St. John Hospital and Health System staff sponsored the trip.



*These 11 Macomb students spent a week in March rebuilding homes in Pearlington, Miss., which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Front row: Kristine Mannino. Second row (left to right): Samantha Miller, Ryan Lostis, Veronica Dodd, William Allen and Shane Potis. Top row: Ron Gilman, Santina Martini, Christine Ruskiewicz, Jovan Tomovski and Ruth Hanna.*

## Taking the road less traveled

Nikola Bulajic has always wanted to study in Brazil, and in August he will get his chance after receiving a national scholarship that probably few Macomb students even know about it.

The David L. Boren Scholarship for International Study is funded by the National Security Education Program and is awarded to 130 undergraduate students each year who intend to study a language and culture underrepresented in other study abroad plans. It is named after the current president

of the University of Oklahoma who, as a U.S. senator, authored the legislation that created the program. A year's commitment as a foreign service officer is required of each recipient, which meshes well with Bulajic's past efforts and future plans.

A native of the former Yugoslavia, Bulajic moved to Michigan with his family 11 years ago. He is fluent in English, German and Serbian and was accepted into the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals last year, taking him to Germany for 10 months of study. Of late, he has been learning Portuguese on his own in preparation for his upcoming 10-month sojourn to Brazil, half of which will be spent at a university in Rio de Janeiro.

"I love the language and culture (of Brazil)," says Bulajic, who completed his associate degree in May and intends to earn advanced degrees in international studies. "It's been my lifelong goal to go there."



*Nikola Bulajic, who graduated from Macomb in May, is one of only three community college students in the nation to receive a Boren Scholarship for International Study this year. The highly competitive scholarship is an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the language and culture of another country for up to one academic year.*

## More than a game

Exploring the fabric of our community through the lens of sports, the Lorenzo Cultural Center presents *More Than a Game: How Sports Shape Culture* Sept. 16–Nov. 22.

Through a variety of exhibits, presentations and events, the series provides not only the context of history and highlights of sports and great athletes, but also examines the impact of sports on our lives and our society.

Visit [LorenzoCulturalCenter.com](http://LorenzoCulturalCenter.com) or call 586.445.7328 for details.

## Can't get a Boren Scholarship if you don't apply for one

Boren Scholarships (\$10,000 for a semester/\$20,000 for an academic year) are awarded to students interested in learning the language and culture of: Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America or Middle East. Applications are available at Macomb's Financial Aid Office: H-305, South Campus or H-124, Center Campus. Any U.S. citizen enrolled as an undergraduate in an accredited U.S. institution may apply for one of the scholarships.

## Beats, backyards and Macomb among poet's muses

Anyone who has followed Detroit's poetry scene at any time over the past several years has seen or heard of M.L. Liebler. The first poet laureate of St. Clair Shores, he has performed at a variety of venues locally, nationally and internationally earning him the title "Detroit's poetry ambassador to the world" from the *Detroit Free Press* and a devoted fan base both near and far.

And, Liebler will tell you, he found his calling while a student at Macomb.

"I was raised by my working-class grandparents," reflects Liebler. "And then these guys (teachers at Macomb) were making things happen. They were bringing poets (like Allen Ginsberg—one of the original Beats) to Macomb and having artists in residence. We were working class kids; what did we know about this kind of stuff?"



*M.L. Liebler is a driving force behind Detroit's poetry scene and one of its better known performance artists—both here and abroad. The poet laureate of St. Clair Shores is also a Macomb alumnus who is not shy about giving the college some of the credit for his cultural metamorphosis from working-class kid to world-traveling poet.*

That "stuff" turned into both passion and profession for Liebler, whose love of words led to bachelor and master degrees in English from Oakland University and a faculty position at Wayne State University. When on break from his full-time job, he has taken his poetry on the road, to such places as Israel, France, England and China. Last March he also accepted an invitation to share one of his poems on stage during the inauguration of James Jacobs, Macomb's fifth president.

"This morning I awoke to a better world," read Liebler from *Poem Stained by Hands and Everydayness*, which he wrote especially for the inauguration. "...we celebrate a new beginning where we can make a difference. A change in the way we live our new possibilities. A way to arise from the ashes of our old backyards."

## New ways of doing business at Macomb

Macomb's Business and Arts and Sciences departments, with an assist from the Macomb Multicultural International Initiatives, have teamed up to offer students new opportunities to distinguish themselves in the global workplace.

Students can now pursue an associate of arts degree in international and global studies or an associate of general studies degree in international business with several options for specializations. Skill-specific certificates in global business fundamentals, global communications and understanding, and in the language and culture of Latin America, Asia or Europe are available and can be applied to degree requirements.

Also new to the business curriculum and the result of a collaborative effort, is the associate of business administration degree in project management. A combination of business and applied technology courses, it is for students who want to prepare for a career managing projects in a variety of

fields. Courses will be offered at South and Center campuses and online.

## College president initiates new scholarship

With a focus on Macomb Community College students, Macomb President Jim Jacobs hosted a breakfast and panel discussion the morning of his March 30 inauguration to establish the Macomb Presidential Scholarship. The scholarship is intended for students who may not qualify for funding based on typical financial aid guidelines.

Eligible applicants must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at Macomb with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher and be enrolled in at least six credit hours. The award is for tuition, fees, books and other educational expenses. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 586.445.7228.

## Students' honors first for Macomb

Not just one, but two Macomb Community College students achieved a first for the college when they were each chosen as Guistwhite Scholars, a top academic achievement scholarship award from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the national honors society for community college students.

Macomb students Adam Kresmery and Jay Shah were named Guistwhite Scholars, which comes with a \$5,000 scholarship to support transfer education. Guistwhite Scholars are nominated by presidents of community colleges and are selected based on academic achievement, participation in their local PTK chapter and service to their colleges and communities. Up to 20 award winners nationally are named each year.

Along with the Guistwhite award, Kresmery, who serves as president of Macomb's PTK chapter, was named a Coca-Cola All-USA Academic Team Gold Scholar and Shah was named a Silver Scholar. PTK administers the Coca-Cola Scholars program, but it is open to all U.S. community college students. This is the first time Macomb has had two students named to the honors team in the same year.

"Phi Theta Kappa has been the single most rewarding experience in my life," said Kresmery, who graduated from Macomb in May with an associate of general studies degree and a certificate in behavioral sciences and recently began working with the Michigan Dept. of Human Services.

Shah is pursuing an associate of business administration degree and plans to transfer to Walsh College to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. Shah has held leadership positions with PTK on both the local and regional levels and is now running for an international office with the honors organization.



Macomb students and Phi Theta Kappa members Adam Kresmery (left) and Jay Shah are the first Macomb students to be named Guistwhite Scholars, receiving a \$5,000 scholarship each to continue their education.

## Macomb softball team takes regional honors



The Macomb women's softball team won the 2009 National Junior College Athletic Association regional championship. Team members and coaches are, back row: (left to right) Assistant Coach Rich Krus, Assistant Coach Jenn Puggini, Rebekah Beutenmiller, Ally Pinelli, Maggie Matthews, Jaclyn Opalewski, Paige Henley, Assistant Coach Pete Burdadas, Head Coach Joe Cavataio. Middle Row (left to right): Katie Nelson, Jasmine Haralson, Katie Loope, Brittaney Ahnen, Lindsey Quiroz, Danielle Murdock. Front row (left to right): Elizabeth Culberson, Jaclyn Palazzolo, Meghan Kmiecik, Elizabeth Krause, Stephanie Wysong

## Recognizing those bringing campuses to life

At the Student Activities 2009 Recognition Banquet in the Lorenzo Cultural Center on May 8, several students, their clubs and organizations, and one faculty advisor were honored for taking the lead in a variety of outreach and on-campus efforts, often contributing to the greater good.

Awards and their recipients were:

- Kid Konnection Mentor Award: Angela Kerner
- Kid Konnection Mentor Award: Amanda Guan
- Community Partnership: Charity Music, Roger Fachini
- Dedication to Service: Gino Johnson
- Recreation All-Star, Center Campus: Bryce Anderson
- Recreation All-Star, South Campus: Stephanie Winogrocki
- Student Activities Staff Member of the Year, Center Campus: Sandra Wall
- Student Activities Staff Member of the Year, South Campus: Treashure Banks
- New Student Organization of the Year: Macomb Serve
- Emerging Organization of the Year: Comedy Club
- Emerging Leader of the Year: Treashure Banks
- Advisor of the Year: Lori Renda-Francis, Veterinary Technicians Organization
- Program of the Year: Phi Theta Kappa's Macomb County Warming Center program
- Outstanding Academic Organization of the Year: Society of Manufacturing Engineers
- Outstanding Social Organization of the Year: Organization of Women Leaders
- Outstanding Leader of the Year, Academic Organization: Sally Lovelace, Phi Theta Kappa
- Outstanding Leader of the Year, Social Organization: Afaf Saleh, Organization of Women Leaders.

## Club president is breaking cultural barriers

Afaf Saleh took the advice her engineering instructor offered in her first term as a student at Macomb in winter 2007. He advised his students to not "just go to classes, but to get involved in extracurricular activities and enjoy a full college experience." So the timid freshman strayed from her hangout at the library and ventured to the Student Activities office in the Student Community Center on South Campus.

Now she's the president of the college's Organization of Women Leaders (OWL) and actively recruits new members.

"I love the idea of an organization that focuses on helping women," Saleh said. "And the organization helps me meet new people and build my communication and leadership skills."

The native of Yemen is grateful her parents support her educational goals, noting that she is breaking many barriers associated with her Mid-eastern heritage.

## New social work program includes service learning

With an understanding that social work involves service to the poor, aged and those in need of assistance, Macomb Community College students who enroll in the newly offered Introduction to Social Work course will find themselves working directly with the community.

"A critical element of this class is the requirement that students volunteer for four hours of service learning through community services programs," said Rochelle Zaranek, Macomb social science instructor. "The course is designed to give students the opportunity to feel out what area of social work they might want to pursue."

The introductory course is a requirement of the new associate of arts in pre-social work that Macomb will offer this fall. It prepares students for transfer to a bachelor of social work degree program at a four-year college or university.

An offshoot of this degree option is a new student organization offered through Student Activities. Zaranek hopes students who join the Social Work Organization will enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded students and benefit from networking opportunities.



Afaf Saleh, a native of Yemen and president of the college's Organization of Women Leaders, wants to help women silenced by oppression find their own voice.

"It bothers me that women's issues are suppressed," Saleh said of her native country. "I feel that maybe I can do something about that. Maybe I can do something to give them a voice."

Saleh plans to dual enroll at Macomb and Lawrence Technological University this fall with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in automotive engineering.

"I love cars. I love adventurous things," said the Hamtramck resident who also enjoys shopping and going to movies with her mother and sister, Amanie, also a Macomb student. "I have grown a lot since coming to Macomb. I'm growing into myself. The college has allowed me to do that."

## Two new paths to healthcare careers

Macomb Community College is offering two new health care programs—Clinical Laboratory Technology and Nuclear Medicine Technology.

Clinical Laboratory Technology, comprised of both classroom lecture and clinical experience in a health care setting, prepares students to become either a clinical laboratory technician or a medical laboratory technician.

Nuclear Medicine Technology, which also incorporates clinical experience with coursework, prepares students for board certification as registered nuclear medicine technologists.

Both programs adhere to the college's selective admission guidelines. For more information about the programs, go online to [www.macomb.edu](http://www.macomb.edu) and select academics then program descriptions or call 586.226.4757.

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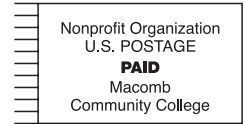
News for Macomb College Students

Ambassador is published three times a year for the students of Macomb Community College. Direct comments and suggestions to Mary Smith, D-317, phone 586.445.7997 or e-mail: [smithm@macomb.edu](mailto:smithm@macomb.edu).

### MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## Don't throw away this debit card!

The college has partnered with Higher One to give many Macomb students a faster, safer and less expensive means of accessing tuition or financial aid refunds.

Beginning in late August, all students registering for degree credit courses will receive a debit card in the mail, which they should retain for as long as they attend Macomb. Using the 16-digit number found on the front of the Macomb Debit Card, students who did not use a credit card to pay for their classes and are eligible for a tuition refund or who are receiving a financial aid refund must activate their refund preference at [www.macombdebitcard.com](http://www.macombdebitcard.com).

Options for receiving tuition or financial aid refunds are a Macomb Debit Card with Higher One account, direct deposit to a bank account or paper check. Students who opt for the debit card can access their funds via the ATMs in the student centers at both South and Center campuses, anywhere Master Card is accepted or using paper checks provided by Higher One. Students who paid for their classes with a credit card will receive any tuition refund for which they are eligible as a transaction on their credit card.

The new debit card system will be especially beneficial to those students who do not have bank accounts and have had few options in the past for cashing tuition or financial aid refund checks.

Students with questions about using the debit card may call the Financial Services Office at 586.445.7336.

## Have a jolly good time on spring break



Phil Barrons, second from right in red hat, leads a tour of London every March during Macomb's spring break. Here the March 2009 group stands in Queen's Park, not far from the hotel where they were staying. The 2010 trip, which runs March 12–20, was expected to cost about \$1,550, with the price subject to change. Deposits of \$300 will be taken beginning in October, with final payment due by Feb. 1. For more information, contact Barrons at 586.445.7354 or 586.445.7018.