



*News for and about Macomb Community College's alumni and friends*

## Macomb playing leadership role in growing regional defense sector

The New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan (NEI) has awarded a \$428,000 grant to Macomb Community College to lead the strategy and development of the regional workforce in defense/homeland security sector.

The NEI is a unique philanthropic initiative funded by 10 national and local foundations and focused on helping restore southeast Michigan to a leadership position in the new global economy.

The May award by NEI followed a February announcement by the U.S. Department of Labor

of a nearly \$5 million grant to Macomb to train area residents for jobs in the growing defense and homeland security industry. The grant will be paid over three years.

"Working closely with business, government and nonprofit organizations, Macomb is working to help restructure the economy of southeast Michigan," said Jim Jacobs, president of Macomb. "We will continue to build on our strengths—as well as work with those in new and emerging sectors of the economy."

## Luncheon serves dual purpose



*Jim Jacobs, Macomb president, discusses opportunities the New Economy is presenting for southeast Michigan with Jennifer Bradley, senior research associate with the Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution, at the Macomb Presidential Scholarship fundraiser held in March.*

It was all about moving forward when Jim Jacobs, Macomb president, hosted a luncheon this spring that both raised funds for the Macomb Presidential Scholarship that he started and offered insight into creating a new economy for southeast Michigan.

Keynote speaker Jennifer Bradley, senior research associate, Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution, a Washington D.C. think tank, offered lessons learned from economic revitalization efforts in Europe. She highlighted the impor-

## Two like minds



*Two of the college's newest alumni have more in common than a study group or favorite professor. Kerry and Tyler Jeisel are mother and son, and their graduation in May was also noteworthy because Tyler, 18, earned his associate of science degree in math a little less than a month before he received his high school diploma. He has been accepted into the University of Michigan College of Engineering. Kerry, a single mom who works in the college's Foundation office, graduated with an associate of general studies degree and will complete the college's occupational therapy assistant program next year.*

tance of partnerships that cross local boundaries and of a creative vision in establishing a new, sustainable economy for southeast Michigan.

More than 100 civic leaders and college educators attended the luncheon, raising more than \$10,000 for the scholarship that benefits Macomb students not eligible for other types of financial assistance.

# Alumna brings stuffed animals and nursing skills to devastated Haiti



*Kim Warda, a 2005 graduate of Macomb's nursing program, volunteered for a week of nursing duty in earthquake-ravaged Haiti in February. Here she is with Peterson, a four-year-old orphan who "adopted" Warda after she gave him a stuffed animal and a hug.*

Kim Warda, a 2005 graduate of Macomb's nursing program and a R.N. in the emergency room at Beaumont Hospital in Troy, will never forget the cries of four-year-old Peterson as aides in the makeshift Haitian hospital pried him away from her as she left to catch her plane home.

"I had to walk away, and it broke my heart. These kids (most orphans like Peterson) are trying to grasp onto something normal," says Warda, who volunteered for nursing duty in the earthquake-devastated country for a week in February with Hope International Ministry. "The Haitian people were so grateful for every little thing you did for them."

Sleeping accommodations were 100 yards off the tarmac in two-person tents that got more than a little stuffy in the tropical climate. But Warda didn't get many chances to close her eyes anyway. A 12-hour shift in the intensive care "unit," one of several large tents donated by Cirque du Soleil, was followed by six to eight hours in the makeshift emergency room.

"It was bad," acknowledges Warda, who brought with her stuffed animals that her 10-year-old daughter, Kira, had raised money to buy. "The hardest part was when we lost people—knowing we did everything we could but there were some things we just couldn't fix."

## London is calling



*Greg Tomaszewski, a Macomb alumnus, with a familiar London icon outside of Windsor Castle during the 2010 spring break trip led by Phil Barrons, Macomb humanities faculty. The next trip is March 11–19, 2011, and, as always, it is open to alumni as well as students. Cost is expected to be around \$1,600, subject to change, and includes airfare, hotel accommodations, half-day sightseeing tour and a half-day at an attraction outside of London. Call Barrons, 586.445.7018, for more information and to reserve a place.*

## A little help from their friends

Not all of the financial challenges that face college students come in the form of textbooks and tuition. With that in mind, Macomb has introduced a new fund to help students deal with the unexpected.

The Student Aid Fund for Emergencies, or S.A.F.E., provides the kind of assistance that can't be found in a scholarship or financial aid package. Emergency needs that qualify include childcare, car repairs and health care—all of which, especially in the current economy, are increasingly interfering with some Macomb students' ability to continue their education.

While college employees have already raised more than \$3,000 in the past few months, more is needed to maintain the fund for the ongoing emergency needs of students. If you would like to help out some future Macomb alumni as they attempt to make a better life for themselves and their community, please fill out the form below and indicate that you would like your gift to go to S.A.F.E.

### Yes! I would like to support the work of Macomb Community College.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Lorenzo Cultural Center          |  |
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**Mail to:** Macomb Community College Foundation  
 14500 E. Twelve Mile Road, Warren MI 48088-3896

**Online:** To donate online, please go to [www.macomb.edu](http://www.macomb.edu) and click on "giving" located in the upper right corner of the web page.



# Macomb education and positive attitude led to alumnus' success

When David Bugay graduated from East Detroit High School in 1972, earning a Ph.D. was the furthest thing from his mind.

"I was an average high school student," says Bugay. "I was very active in extracurricular activities, but I didn't apply myself academically."

That all changed when he enrolled at Macomb.

"Apparently my test scores were astronomical, but I got in the wrong freshman English class. Today it would be considered a pre-credit preparation class," explains Bugay. "My instructor put me in an independent program that increased my reading and comprehension rate by 95 percent. This built a strong platform for my education and is a skill I still use today."

After earning an associate of arts degree from Macomb in 1974, Bugay completed bachelor and master's degrees in business administration and eventually went on to earn that Ph.D.—in organizational behavior.

"I've attended four institutes of higher education, and I received the best quality education from Macomb," maintains Bugay.

But Bugay also recognizes all of his career experiences as important facets of his continuing education.

"As a manager for Minnesota Fabric, I had the opportunity to develop good, solid management skills. I like helping people succeed," explains Bugay.

As the administrator for a K-12 Christian school, where he also taught math and science, he experienced the joy of seeing "that magical moment when a concept starts out fuzzy and then they get it." As the general manager for a 500-unit housing cooperative, he learned how to resolve conflict. As the facilities and transportation administrator for Fitzgerald Public Schools, he learned that "the support staff in every educational institution plays a critical role in providing strong support for the faculty." And as director of operations for Oakland Community College, he learned to work with unions.

About his last move, however, Bugay admits to "shallow career objectives."

"I wanted to go someplace where snow was unusual," he states.

He found the perfect position at College of the Desert in Palm Desert, Calif. After attending a seminar there, Bugay checked the college's job postings for two years before applying for the position of vice president of human resources and employee relations.

An urge "to go to the beach" led Bugay to his current position as vice chancellor of human resources at South Orange County Community College District in California. There Bugay enjoys a different focus on his responsibilities.

"I'm working on a different level," he says. "I get to think instead of react. I get to focus on long-range planning."

Bugay and his wife of 11 years, Suzie, have blended their two families to where their children are simply referred to as their sons. The two older boys, Jeremy and Nathan, live in Michigan, and the youngest, Kurt, Bugay proudly states, attends the college where he works.

Bugay maintains that a strong family foundation and a positive attitude are essential in life.

"I choose to make each day good," Bugay says. "Even in the worst of times, I can like life. I enjoy life because I choose to."



David Bugay, a Macomb alumnus, addresses faculty and staff at South Orange County Community College District in California, where he is vice chancellor of human resources. He credits Macomb for providing him with a "quality" education that paved the way for advanced degrees, including a Ph.D.

## Serving those who serve their country

Macomb is actively working to better serve students who are military veterans, including raising their awareness of the options that are available to help them pay for and succeed in their studies.

To gather direct feedback, the college invited enrolled veterans to lunches, hosted by faculty and administrators, in December. An outcome of those informal meetings was the formation of a student club for veterans and their families.

"There are no dues, and, if you are a veteran, you are in. Spouses and dependents can join as well," says Ben Witt, recruitment and retention chair for Student Veterans of Macomb and one of the 25 or so student veterans who accepted the college's invitation to the first lunchtime meeting. "One of our goals is to raise awareness about the number of veterans in the student population."

In addition to providing practical assistance in filling out Veterans Affairs paperwork and related tasks, Witt believes the club will serve a social purpose as well.

"It's the things you don't have to say," relates the former U.S. Army corporal who spent 16 months in Afghanistan, "that make the difference."



Ben Witt, a physics major at Macomb, is recruitment and retention chair for Student Veterans of Macomb, a new student club. Witt's military service included 16 months in Afghanistan.

# Alumnus has star turn at indie-fests

*Jamie Surgener, Macomb alumnus, on the set of AVABOT, a 10-minute science fiction film that he wrote, directed and produced. The film won awards from independent film fests in California and Michigan.*



When Jamie Surgener and wife Rose arrived for their stay at Hollywood's Roosevelt Hotel last February, he was impressed when he saw Grauman's Chinese Theatre across the street, learned that the historic hotel had hosted the first Academy Awards and stood in the ballroom where Marilyn Monroe's ghost is said to dance from time to time.

But that was before Surgener's labor of love, "AVABOT," which he wrote, directed, filmed and produced, received "Best Film of the Year" during the 2010 Do It Yourself (DYI) Film Festival and he received "Best Director."

"It was all so very exciting," says Surgener, of his trip to California from his home in Pontiac to accept awards he never expected to win. "When they said—and the winner is AVABOT, I was totally floored."

Surgener graduated from Macomb in 2006 and from the College of Creative Studies (CCS) with a bachelor degree in entertainment arts in 2009. He spent the better part of his last two years at CCS working on the 10-minute science fiction film, which explores the humanity of a robot. Without a production company footing the bill, he scavenged through garbage bins and Salvation Army stores for materials to bring back to his basement, where he assembled his sparse stage set.

"I made the jetpack out of an old baby car seat, and I used a plastic pie plate for the thruster," relates Surgener. "It was my goal to prove to myself and everyone else that I could make a Hollywood-style production on a zero budget. But, it wasn't like it was a burden, it was a joy."

Assisting Surgener on sets and props was wife Rose, a Lawrence Technological University

graduate and engineer who works on auto show displays. Stainless steel discards from one display became the console for the film's spaceship, while used audio visual equipment donated by CCS served as the control panel. The spaceship's astronaut was Surgener's brother, Tracy, a Macomb alumnus, and commanding the visual effects and assisting in computer-generated imagery was another Macomb alumnus, Kevin Capizzi.

"Since childhood I dreamed of doing something like this, but I ignored it and tried to be realistic," relates Surgener, who owned a carpet cleaning business for 12 years before closing shop. "Before you know it, you're in your 30s and realize that life is very short."

Surgener's talents are not limited to the visual, playing in bands since high school. That background enabled him to use computer software to develop the score for AVABOT, writing music for 40 different instruments.

"Later on in life," he observes, "a lot of experiences come together."

And one experience that sticks with Surgener in a positive way is Macomb.

"Every instructor I had took pride in what they did. They took teaching seriously and truly cared about their students," offers Surgener. "It might sound funny, but a real important part of my experience at Macomb was the campuses and the lunchrooms, which made me feel comfortable."

And he should also be growing more comfortable with the spotlight. After winning the DYI awards, Surgener received "Best Editing" for AVABOT during the Detroit Independent Film Festival in March. Other high-profile projects he has worked on include converting "Alice in Wonderland," starring Johnny Depp, into 3D and animating the drum set of U2's Larry Mullen Jr. for an HBO special on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Now, his wife, laughs Surgener, "thinks I'm like a celebrity."

## Macomb + Northwood = BBA

If you are in the market for a bachelor of business administration (BBA) degree, you might want to consider taking a few more classes at Macomb.

This spring, Northwood University agreed to allow the transfer of up to 92 credits earned at Macomb to their bachelor of business administration (BBA) degree.

In the 3 + 1 program (three years at Macomb plus one year at Northwood), the last fourth of the requirements for the BBA can be completed through Northwood online, at its program centers in Troy, Livonia and on the Selfridge National Guard Base in Harrison Township, or at the university's main campus in Midland.

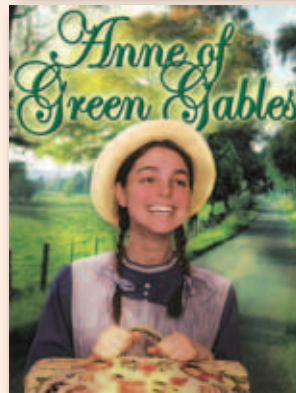
## Bringing literature to life

New this year at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts is Page to Stage, a collaboration with national touring companies to lead school-age children to a greater appreciation and understanding of the tie between literature and the theater.

Works of literature will be brought to life through stage adaptations of well-known plays, novels and autobiographies. With special daytime performances for local schools and morning and matinee performances for the general public, Page to Stage will include:

*The Diary of Anne Frank, Romeo and Juliet, Anne of Green Gables* and *The Secret Life of Bees*.

For dates and show times, call the Macomb Center Box Office at 586.286.2222 or visit [www.MacombCenter.com](http://www.MacombCenter.com).



## Cultural center series explores American ingenuity

This fall, the Lorenzo Cultural Center examines America from the perspective of a nation characterized by dreamers, inventors and "doers." Exhibits, presentations and activities will explore history through the lens of our great inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs, as well as the importance of continued creativity and resourcefulness to our future.

*American Ingenuity: Embracing the Freedom to Dream* runs from Sept. 5 through Nov. 21 at the cultural center, located on Macomb's Center Campus. Check the cultural center's website at [www.LorenzoCulturalCenter.com](http://www.LorenzoCulturalCenter.com) for a complete series listing.

## Vet tech alum meet Jack Hanna



Alumni of Macomb's veterinary technician program enjoyed the opportunity to meet Jack Hanna, of Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures television show, following Hanna's appearance at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts last February. A portion of the proceeds from the alumni ticket sales to the show was donated to the Veterinary Technician Scholarship Fund. Here, alumni present Hanna with an engraved clock commemorating his appearance at Macomb.

# Alumni notes

**Edward Serwach**, 1972, earned a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration from Wayne State University. He is a retired police officer, after dividing his 25-year career between Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit. He is currently the supervisor of Brevort Township, located in Mackinac County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and is an instructor of mediation and arbitration for the Eastern Upper Peninsula Community Dispute Resolution Center.

**Linda Savoyard**, 1980, has had her book, "Mid-Life Makeover: Getting Healthy, Happy and Financially Secure in the Second Half of Life," published. She earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Michigan, a master's degree in counseling from Oakland University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Detroit Mercy. She has been employed by Chrysler LLC for more than 26 years and is a licensed professional counselor.

**Kirk Cohoon**, 2003, earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration with dual majors in human resource management and business management from Columbia College in Columbia, Mo. He has been accepted into a master of science in employment law program at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

**Laura Fluke**, 2005, has published a nonfiction book, "It was all Worth it: a Journey Back to Life" through mlpublishing. The book details the healing process Fluke underwent after being diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder. She credits Sherry McLaughlin, physical therapy assistant instructor, for introducing her to a life coach that would help her both overcome difficulties and write her book, which McLaughlin then helped publish.

**Jamal Washington**, 2008, is in the media arts/film program at Wayne State University and plans to graduate with a bachelor of arts degree this year after completing an internship with WXYZ TV. He intends to move to California and break into independent filmmaking.

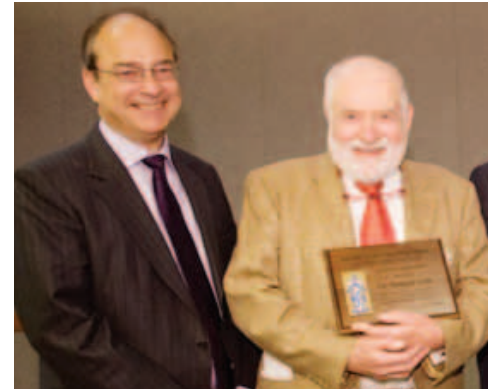
**Pamela Kay Norwood**, no date given, has published a collection of poetry, "Inspirations for the Soul," through the Xlibris Publishing Company. She is retired after a 27-year career with AAA Insurance Agency.

**Mia (Borst) Bailey** has had her debut novel, "Spicing It Up," published by Siren Publishing. A member of the greater Detroit Romance Writer's Association, she is employed by Macomb County Michigan Works! and is involved with the No Worker Left Behind career mentors program.

**Abdalla Awwad**, no date given, earned a bachelor of science degree in education and juris doctor degree from Wayne State University.

## Cultural series remembers Henry Ford Trade School

*Drawing comparisons to one of the core missions of community colleges, alumni of the Henry Ford Trade School celebrated their shared past during a special program at the college's Lorenzo Cultural Center April 21 as part of its And Still They Prospered: Living Through the Great Depression series. Founded by Henry Ford, the school fused classroom instruction with hands-on education, 1916 to 1952, and embodied the industrialist's philosophy that: "knowledge is power." In his introduction to the April 21 program, which included a reception for the school's alumni and their families and a tour of the cultural series that featured a display on the school, President Jim Jacobs (left in the photo with Sam Gaft, psychology faculty, who received an honorary membership to the trade school's alumni association) noted that the school was a precursor to community colleges like Macomb. "Our students," he told the alumni, "are your legacy."*



## Ready to take your education to next level?

The Macomb University Center, located on Center Campus, offers more than 50 bachelor-degree completion and master degree programs through partnerships with nine colleges and universities, with the educational and co-curricular resources of both Macomb and the partner institution available to those who attend the convenient Macomb County location.

The Macomb University Center's partner colleges and universities are:

- Central Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Madonna University
- Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Oakland University
- Rochester College
- University of Detroit-Mercy
- Walsh College
- Wayne State University

For more information, call 586.263.6018 or visit [www.macomb.edu](http://www.macomb.edu) and click on the University Center link.

## News about alumni

Send us a note, and let us know what you've been doing since you graduated from Macomb. Please include the year you graduated (or last year attended), advanced degrees earned, job history since leaving Macomb and any other items of professional or personal interest.

E-mail to: [alumni@macomb.edu](mailto:alumni@macomb.edu)

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Warren, MI 48088-3896

### What's new with you!

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