

A homecoming to sing about

Thanksgiving is always a time for homecomings. And, so it was for about 50 Macombers alumni who got together the weekend before for a reunion both onstage and off.

"I didn't want to miss it," said Deena Shields, who was a Macomber 1992–1995 and is currently performing with "Intrigue," a big-band ensemble. "I haven't seen some of these people in 15 years."

Shields is also attending classes at the Macomb University Center as a student in Oakland University's elementary education program. "It's great to be back on campus," she offers, "walking around with my backpack."

The former Macombers, coming from as far as California, Virginia and Florida, convened in the Macomb Center's Stage II. They were there to rehearse for the next day's performance as part of the current Macombers' Fall Extravaganza, a fundraiser for the scholarship fund that benefits this group of Macomb students who serve as the college's goodwill ambassadors.

"I've been waiting for something like this to happen ever since I moved back to Michigan," said Mark Matthews, a Macomber 1988–1990 and former cast member with the Siegfried and Roy show in Las Vegas. He now belongs to the Madison Chorale and works in a law office. "But I couldn't believe it was the same day as the Michigan/Ohio Game. That tells you how much I wanted to be here."

Choreographing the alumni's two numbers was Todd Moses, a Macomber 1985–1988. It was during this time when he met his wife, Liz, who was also involved in the alumni production. And for most of these former Macombers, the reunion was regarded as not only a chance to return to a familiar stage, but to a familiar family as well.

"That's the thing with music people," offers Shields, "we all connect back together, and it's like we never missed a beat."



More than 50 former Macombers reunited for a weekend in November to rehearse and perform as part of the current Macombers' Fall Extravaganza fundraiser. Here Todd Moses, Macombers alumnus, takes the group through some of its moves during the three-hour rehearsal.

Celebrating a Unique Collaboration Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine at Macomb University Center

On Feb. 22, President Lou Anna K. Simon, Michigan State University, and President James Jacobs, Macomb Community College, welcomed the community to explore Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) at the Macomb University Center on the college's Center Campus in Clinton Township. An expansion site of MSUCOM, it is designed to help divert an expected shortage of physicians in the region by 2020.

While the inaugural class of 50 students began their medical studies in July 2009 at the University Center, the dedicated portion of the facility designed specifically for the medical school opened January 2010.



Strong support from Macomb County, state and federal officials, members of the Macomb County and Oakland County Osteopathic Medical Associations, and community and labor organizations led to the selection of the Macomb University Center as one of two MSUCOM expansion sites.

In addition to bringing a new level of educational opportunity to Macomb County, the medical school is expected to be an important impetus for economic development in the health care sector that will contribute to meaningful, sustainable local employment opportunities and support the future vibrancy of the community.

Vet tech mascots provide comic, stress relief



Lab technician Jen Smith, who is also a Macomb alumna, and Lori Renda-Francis, instructor, hold Snap and Crackle, two of the veterinary technician program mascots.

They puff and bark and chirp and purr. And while the humans who care for them might think they're in charge, the mascots in Macomb's veterinary technician program know they're really the ones running the place.

"This is Scrubs' lab," says Lori Renda-Francis, Macomb College veterinary technician faculty, of the cat that has been at the college for 12 years. "She just lets us work here."

As if to prove the point, lab assistant Jen Smith, an alumna of the program, quieted Scrubs' purring around a water faucet by turning on a steady stream of fresh cold water for the cat to lap. "The students have spoiled her with turning on the water for her to drink," Smith offers.

Macomb's veterinary technician program follows most lectures with hands-on lessons in the labs. Here students clean teeth, clip claws, trim wings, take blood samples and participate in the basic care of animals. The animals are from the humane society and are typically within days of being euthanized.

"We treat them for any issues they may have, which can include spaying and neutering," Renda-Francis explains. "We return them to the humane society and have a 95 percent adoption rate."

Some animals, though, have had such unique situations that there was no letting them go once their needs had been met.

Scrubs, for example, was one of five orphaned kittens that a student brought in. Caring for the kittens around the clock became too much for her to handle alone, so the vet tech students took over. While one kitten died, all the others were adopted, except Scrubs.

"Scrubs provides our students with stress relief," Renda-Francis says. "She walks through the labs and students automatically pet her."

Ringer, an eight-year-old boxer, is not to be outdone by Scrubs.

"Ringer often accompanies me to class. During one particularly tense lecture on euthanasia, Ringer started rolling around in his bed and completely diverted the students' attention from the lecture," Renda-Francis remembers. "He provided a light-hearted moment, which was a benefit to us all."

Other mascots include Snap and Crackle, two cockatiels, and Higgins the hedgehog, who puffs when he's nervous. The animals accompany Macomb faculty and staff when they visit area schools giving talks on basic animal care and promoting Macomb's veterinary technician program.

New scholarship benefits students in Macomb's vet tech program

Interested in supporting aspiring veterinarian technicians? A newly established Macomb Community College Veterinary Technician Scholarship can help you do just that.

The scholarship will be available to students who have completed the first semester of the veterinary technician program and have a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Students must be enrolled full time. Scholarship funds may be used towards tuition, fees and books.

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Alumnus sees nature's mystery through camera lens

Ever encounter a photograph that so perfectly captured birds taking flight or other mysteries of nature and wondered what the photographer had done to get that shot? Ask alumnus Danny Klaus.

"I research and watch how the migrations are going," explains Klaus, of his technique for capturing unique action shots of a variety of waterfowl. "Then I get in camouflage and just sit there and wait. It might be an hour or two or five or six."

Klaus, who graduated from Macomb's media and communication arts program in 2004, has traveled across the U.S., including a trip in December to Alaska to photograph ducks, geese and even a wolf or two. But one of his favorite spots is in his own backyard, Lake St. Clair, where he recently shot a series of photos showing a canvasback duck cocooned in ice before it chipped it away and slipped under the water to warm itself back up.

"It was a 20-degree-below wind chill out on the lake that day," he relates. "The conservation guys out there thought I was crazy."

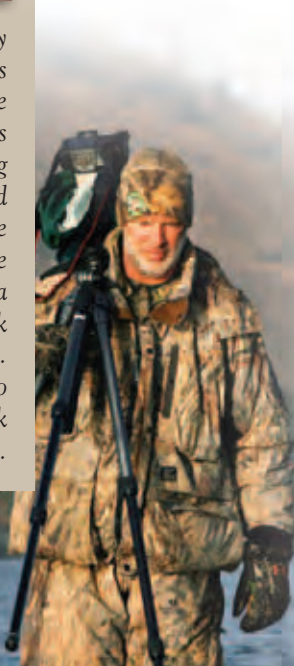
Nature's way is most compelling

Klaus' photos have appeared in *Ducks Unlimited* and *WaterFowler* magazines, with one appearing on the cover of the later. His work has also accompanied stories in the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press*, including those of a coyote at Metro Beach.

"Being outdoors and shooting in that environ-



Alumnus Danny Klaus travels across the United States photographing waterfowl and other nature subjects. Here he is preparing for a shot on Kodiak Island in Alaska. Inset—The photo he took of a duck on Lake St. Clair.



ment is where I am at now. There is a mystery about it," offers Klaus. "This you can't control."

When it comes to birds in flight, Klaus may also have insider information that helps him capture that in-air rush. He served in the Air Force from 1984 to 1994, and was stationed in Korea, Philippines, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as well as bases in the U.S. Tech sergeant was his last rank, and he, by his own telling, "did a lot of jumps." Some of the landings, however, were not so soft, and when he left the service, he had five degenerative discs in his neck and three in his spine, all of which cause him a great deal of pain.

"But it doesn't stop me from doing what I love doing," says Klaus, who used to steal his dad's Instamatic when he was 10 before purchasing his first Canon Rebel in 1985. "Nailing that one moment in time is almost like capturing a memory. My wife says I see things differently than other people. I love what you see through the lens."

When interest became a passion

Sometime it's family that smile back when Klaus is pointing the camera. The wall of his living room charts the growth of his three children: Kody, 15; Garret, 13; and Kinnda, 7. Klaus and wife Leah met while both were stationed in Virginia and have been married 19 years. The family also includes Maya, a Hungarian vizsla that, once trained, will accompany Klaus and his sons on

hunting trips. For his part, however, Klaus is much more interested in shooting with one of his three digital cameras than with anything else.

"I always have a camera with me," offers Klaus, "but, not always a gun."

While in the Air Force, Klaus pursued a degree in law enforcement at universities in Maryland, Delaware and Montana—depending on where he was stationed at the time. His spinal injury, however, forced a change in plans. At Macomb, Klaus majored in digital design, with the media and communication arts faculty getting a lot of kudos from Klaus for turning what was an interest into a passion.

"I didn't quite get the f-stop and all that, but once I started taking Bill's (Soule) class, it all clicked," says Klaus. "And he told me, 'You are going to get bit by the shutterbug.' Now I'm planning on going back and taking more classes."

Klaus, who also works in pen and ink, and carves wooden duck decoys, plans to take his photography to several art shows over the spring and summer including those in St. Clair, Algonac and St. Clair Shores. When someone stops by his booth, he will be hoping for a certain reaction.

"I want my photos to capture them and pull them in," he says. "I want them to wonder, 'How did he get that?'"

Career Services has lots to offer alumni

Whether you are looking for a job or a way to help someone else find or succeed in one, Macomb's Career Services can help.

As an alumnus, you have access to all of the resources offered by Career Services. If you need assistance with your resume or in preparing for an interview, there is Job Search, which also offers professional networking opportunities. MacombCareerLink allows you to post your resume for employers to review, as well as apply for jobs posted by employers. There is no charge for any of these services.

And, if you're not in the market for a job yourself but would like to share your experiences with current Macomb students, Career Services has a great volunteer opportunity for you.

Through the Mentor Experience program, alumni are partnered with current students to help them in their career search and performance. Mentors share their experiences and knowledge with students while assisting them in enhancing their interpersonal and professional skills. In return, mentors benefit by expanding their professional network and meeting potential job candidates, all while contributing to the career success of Macomb students.

To volunteer as a mentor or find out about what Career Services can do for you, contact 586.445.7321 or careerservices@macomb.edu.



Alumna Lori Wingert was among 25 honored in Lansing in January as a Michigan Works! Outstanding Alumnus, representing the Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works! office. Those attending the recognition dinner included left to right: Mickey Switalski, Michigan senator who presented Wingert with her award; Beth Diehl, Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board; Cate Foltin, manager of the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts business office; Stephen Wingert, Lori's husband; Lori Wingert; and Bill Stanek, chair of the board of directors of the Michigan Works! Association.

Alumna honored by Michigan Works!

Lori Wingert celebrated two important events on Jan. 26. She was honored in Lansing that day as one of 25 recipients of the Michigan Works! Outstanding Alumnus award, and she also marked the one-year anniversary on the job that it helped her obtain.

"I think it's great," said Wingert, business coordinator for the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, prior to her trip to Lansing with husband Steve and Cate Foltin, her manager at the center. "But I'm just an ordinary person. I didn't think I had a story."

Wingert, however, did have a compelling story according to Michigan Works!, which was read by a state legislator before she received the award. It begins when a 15-year career in the travel industry ended after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack convinced her employer to close shop. She then earned an associate degree in early childhood studies from Macomb in 2003, which led to a position she loved working in a Ford Motor Co. daycare center. Unfortunately, Ford closed all its daycare centers in 2008, and Wingert, 50, decided to change career paths. She walked into the Michigan Works! office in Clinton Township to explore

her options. Through the No Worker Left Behind program, she learned, she was eligible for free tuition and books. So she returned to Macomb and earned a second associate degree in accounting and was hired by the Macomb Center one month after her December 2008 graduation.

"The professors at Macomb made me want to work here. They all seem to care," said Wingert, who found the job on Macomb's website. "My Macomb professors wrote references for me, and Professor (Randall) Gerber looked over my portfolio and suggested ways to make it stronger."

Wingert, who graduated summa cum laude, plans to transfer to Walsh College to earn a bachelor's degree. Her husband, an information technology specialist, however, just lost his job of 25 years, and she is waiting until he finds new employment. When Wingert does return to the classroom, which she hopes will be later this year, it will be in Walsh's program at the Macomb University Center, located on the same campus as her office.

"My administrator will even let me work around my schedule, so I can take the classes I need," said Wingert. "I'm in a perfect spot."

Success translates into giving back for alumna

Cynthia Bechill had been out of high school more than 10 years and was working full time with five young children at home when she signed up for her first classes at Macomb. Today, she is president of the International Academy of Design & Technology in Troy and a self-described example of "It's never too late."

"I think for some people it's really scary going back to school after being out for awhile. But I was so comfortable going to Macomb, because it allowed me to take my time in getting my degree and offered the resources I needed to finish," offers Bechill. "That flexibility made all the difference."

After Macomb, Bechill went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in management from Rochester College as well as a human relations generalist certificate from the Society for Human Resource Management and a senior professional in human resources certificate from the Human Resource Certification Institute. She held management and human resources positions at several companies throughout her 20-year career before joining the international academy as its director of human resources in 2005. She served as interim president in 2007, before being appointed president in 2008.

"I love working with people and helping them become successful in their career paths," says Bechill. "And, I have loved every job I have ever had. You take the best of each one with you."

The secret of her success

Bechill credits her mother and father for instilling in her the "drive and determination" that she needed to succeed in college and in business. But, she also has another ace up her sleeve when it comes to the secret of her success.

"You have to write your goals down," she offers, "you are more successful in reaching them when you have committed them to paper."



Alumna Cynthia Bechill found success in both business and education, but believes it is just as important to give back to the community. Here she and some of her family, friends and a student from the college she heads prepare to serve breakfast to guests at the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit, from left to right: Shannon Maxson, Laura Novak, Bechill, Kyle Maxson, Brandon Maxson, Pete Minton, Erin Bechill and Leonard Stinson.

In her current position, Bechill manages a campus that employs 126 and averages 1,000 students each semester. Of those students, many are working with families at home, and Bechill's own experiences have given her insight into the challenges that they face.

"It helps me relate," she acknowledges. "When a student comes to me with the trouble they are having raising their children and going to school, I can understand because I've lived it."

Her five children, which include two stepchildren, are now ages 27–37, and Bechill's grandchildren number 10. When she and her husband Bill, a retired Warren police officer, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary recently, three of the five and their mates joined them in St. Thomas for a Caribbean vacation, Bechill's favorite type of getaway.

"People laughed at us for taking our kids," she notes. "But I love spending time with my children and grandchildren."

It's all about helping people

Bechill also loves volunteering her time to worthy causes. At Thanksgiving, she took some of her children and grandchildren and one of the academy students to the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit, which provides lodging for families of patients in Children's Hospital, and prepared breakfast for all the guests. Meanwhile, husband Bill was back at home preparing the turkey dinner. Similarly, he was always supportive of her when she was working and going to college.

"He was good at getting the kids off to school," says Bechill. "I could always count on him."

On Bechill's desk in her office is a plaque that reads "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." It sums up her philosophy for life and is reflective of a career dedicated to helping people and a commitment to volunteerism.

"My success has allowed me to give back to the community" says Bechill. "And that all started when I got my degree from Macomb."

Alumni notes

Refurbished lobby features wall honoring college donors

When the 2009–2010 season at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts opened in October, not all the stars were on the stage.



A donor wall that recognizes those who have contributed more than \$1,000 to the college is the focal piece of the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts newly refurbished lobby.

The first-ever remodeling of the lobby included developing a special space in one of the most high-traffic areas on Macomb Community College's campuses to honor those who have generously contributed to the college's mission of education, enrichment and economic development.

Donors whose cumulative gifts have reached \$20,000 or more are permanently recognized on the wall. Annually, those who donate from \$1,000 up to the \$20,000 threshold are recognized.

"It seems only fitting that we are honoring and recognizing the significant difference that you are making, in one of the county's most vibrant showcases of the power of education and culture," said Nancy Falcone, chair of the college's board of trustees, at a special reception.

"On behalf of the college's board of trustees, faculty, staff and students, I thank you for personally leading the way. We are hopeful that the visible demonstration of your leadership will inspire others to join with us in creating opportunity, changing lives."

For more information about the Macomb Community College Donor Wall, contact the college's foundation at 586.445.7302 or Foundation@macomb.edu.

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.

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

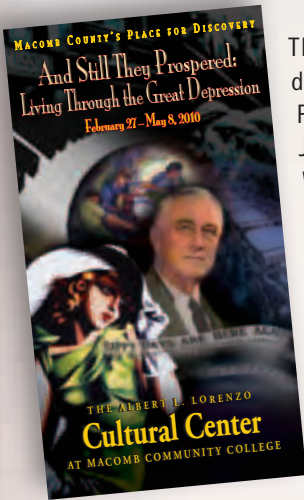
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A look at the tumultuous 30s and the American spirit that prevailed



The 1930s was a decade defined by Prohibition, the Jazz Age, FDR, WPA, the Golden Age of Hollywood and the Great Depression. Bad times, good times and a resilience of spirit that showed the world what the United States

was made of. All that and more can be found at the Lorenzo Cultural Center on Macomb's Center Campus through May 8.

And Still They Prospered: Living Through the Great Depression examines the economic, social and cultural changes that took place during the 1930s and how these shifts laid the foundation for future prosperity in the Motor City and beyond.

The series features exhibits from the Smithsonian Institution and the Michigan State University Museum including *And Still They Prospered*,

The Way We Worked, created by the National Archives with the support of the Foundation for the National Archives and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, *Uneasy Years: Michigan Jewry during Depression and War*, and the *Clark Family Quilt Collection*.

Viewing the exhibits is free, as are attending most presentations, which include *Staying Alive and Fighting to Survive: Detroit in the Great Depression*, 1 p.m., April 8; *Hollywood and the Tumultuous 30s*, 11 a.m., April 9; *Eliel Saarinen and the Building of Cranbrook*, 1 p.m., April 9; *Jazz in Detroit during the Great Depression*, 1 p.m., April 10; *Quilting in Detroit in the 1930s*, 2 p.m., April 11; *The Works Progress Administration in Detroit*, 11 a.m., April 16; *Henry Ford Trade School*, 3 p.m., April 21; *The New Deal and the Future of American Business*, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., April 22; *The Essential Henry Ford*, of which the Smithsonian Community Grant

program, funded by the MetLife Foundation, is a proud sponsor, 11 a.m., April 23; and *The Labor Movement and the Auto Industry*, 1 p.m., April 28.

As part of a special speakers series, Alan Brinkley, professor of history at Columbia University and author of the biography, *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*, will share his highly regarded insight into the *Legacies of the New Deal*, of which the Smithsonian Community Grant program, funded by MetLife Foundation, is a proud sponsor, 7 p.m., April 29. Tickets for this are \$15, \$5 for seniors, students and military personnel.

For a complete listing of all of the *And Still They Prospered* events, go to www.LorenzoCulturalCenter.com.

