Welcome to the Spring, 2016, issue of Macomb Connections. We hope you find the articles of interest and that you plan to participate in the scheduled events. Back issues of our newsletter and complete versions of keynote articles are available at our website, www.macomb.edu/retirees. Since this is your newsletter and association, we would appreciate your thoughts on the direction of both. Articles about your experiences, both at the College and since retirement, are welcome. Contact us at retiree@macomb.edu.

Over 70 of our colleagues attended and renewed friendships at our fourth annual Retiree Breakfast in September 2015. Jim Jacobs provided an overview of events that have recently occurred at the College, including the second visit of President Obama. He also spoke to changes that are occurring in the student body and resultant changes in programming, including the Reading and Writing Studios that recently opened at each campus. Finally, he shared new resources that the College is bringing to help all in the community, mentioning specifically the SOAR senior educational program, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Early College of Macomb, and the Renovation of the South Campus.

You will note in the Events Column the regular meetings of the steering committee that occur throughout the course of the year. These are open meetings and we invite you to join us. Finally, it is my pleasure to announce that Bev Datzi has agreed to serve as the vice chair of the steering committee and Paula Drewek will serve as secretary to the committee.

Jim Varty
Chair, Macomb Retiree Association Steering Committee

Macomb “enriched” science professor’s life and vice versa

Professor Bette Nebel started out as a student at Macomb, but went on to contribute greatly to the quality of its education by developing and teaching the first environmental science course and helping the Veterinary Technician Program obtain accreditation.

From her days as a student, Bette recalls the fine teaching of Jim Munro in American history, Bill Allor in chemistry, and Jay Ice in Latin American history, from whom, she says, she learned to teach. Bette joined the science faculty at South Campus and recalls the excellent “friendships and professional partnerships,” she had with Professors June Robinson, and Dr. Jean Trubey.”

She also worked for several years with Professor Christine Zawacki, in Allied Health, serving on the Accreditation National Board for Veterinary Technician Programs. Bette even hosted vet tech students at her farm so they could have first-hand experience in handling “large animals, such as horses, sheep, and cattle.”

With Professor Susan Calkins, Bette developed and presented an Environmental Issue Concerns program.

“All of these experiences and more at MCC, and beyond, have enriched my life on the farm in Michigan and Paradise in SW Florida,” says Bette. “I have found lifelong pleasure in my volunteer work with 4H, Master Naturalist, Master Gardner and Sea Grant.”

For more on Bette and her recollections, please visit www.macomb.edu/retirees
Retiree’s College career crisscrossed campuses and departments

Professor Dale Rustoni retired from Macomb College in 2005 with a work history more varied than most. A graduate of University of Detroit in 1960, with BA and MA degrees, he majored in counseling and guidance. He then taught history and political science at South Lake High School, but his major accomplishment there was coaching the cross-country team to two bi-county championships, with then coach Bill Dyer, who has also retired from Macomb.

In 1968, Dale joined Macomb’s faculty and taught in basic education with team partner Dennis Thompson for four years, taking students on field trips to Montreal and many educational locations in Detroit.

Following that, Dale became a South Campus counselor. “I had liaisons with physical and technical education,” he says, “as well as high schools and universities.” He also worked with the staff of the Center for Human Resource Development, including Jim Varty and Bob Dueweke, in reaching out to the unemployed and underemployed. “I developed programs for them, counseled them, and ran programs for them,” says Dale. It was also often necessary for him to communicate with the “Big Three” and General Dynamics.

In 1992, Dale moved to the counseling department at Center Campus. But then this multi-talented man began teaching history and sociology, which, he says, “I especially enjoyed!”

Aside from his work at Macomb, few people knew that Dale also had held various positions in banking, real estate, and the Channel 7 prop department.

Dale and his wife, Sherry, have enjoyed their winters in such places as Florida, Hawaii, St. Lucia, Barbados and Puerto Rico. They are now planning to take a river cruise in France next August.

Del Corey

Among many other things, Del Corey serves as editor of this newsletter, is a member of our retiree steering committee and teaches creative writing in the SOAR program. His recently published novel, “Be a Man FERGOD SAKE” can be purchased through Amazon or Borders.

POEM TO TEACHERS

Our days may be gushing down the drain,
And Fate will not unghush them back to me,
But what I would give to live them again,
To teach young faces so empty, so needy!

They remind me of my freshman class,
When, unaware of how little I knew,
I scribbled notes just enough to pass,
But, some magic happened, something new.

I began to read newspapers and books,
Became interested in teachers’, words,
Dated girls for their brains rather than looks,
Sought ideas that soared like lovely flights of birds.

Little did I know then, school had changed me!
I did not just accept what others claimed,
But tested all sides. My mind became free,
The world was smaller, my thoughts were aflame.

Believe it or not, I was actually thinking,
Read books that once my lazy mind had fought.
Big words I once skipped, I attacked unblinking.
Then I realized, I was actually thinking thoughts!

So years passed, and I became a creature
So unsuspected in my wildest dreams,
I woke up, and I was, wait for it, a teacher,
In a classroom with olders, but mostly teens,

Gave them my insights, taught them what I’d learned
Then I taught them, above all, how to think!
And in their minds actual thoughts were burned.
I was so humble when that idea began to sink!

While I was teaching, I was changing their lives.
I had taught ideas, facts, even a bit of love.
Changed their beings more than a surgeon’s knife.
I gave my all, I pray it was enough.

Del Corey, 2015

Macomb Community College Foundation to host networking events in Naples, Fla.

The Macomb Community College Foundation is hosting a reception to give retirees, alumni and friends in Florida an update about things happening in southeast Michigan, news about the college and a chance to network with one another.

An evening reception with Macomb Community College President Jim Jacobs will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 4 at the Naples Hilton, 5111 Tamiami Trail North, Naples, Florida. Make your reservations today! Special rate is $249/night at the Naples Hilton.

Attendees will get the chance to connect with other retirees and alumni living in Florida, as well as community leaders from the Naples area. To register, email foundation@macomb.edu or call 586.445.7302.
“The Magnificent Eight” that made a difference in one alum’s life

In a letter to the Macomb Retiree’s Association, Nemanja Rosic, a Macomb student from 1997–99 and a native of the former Yugoslavia, praised eight Macomb teachers and administrators for helping him adjust to and thrive in his new life in America. He called them “The Magnificent Eight,” an ode to John Sturges’ 1960 film The Magnificent Seven, and identified them individually by name and the contribution they made to his intellectual development.

Nemanja, now an art instructor, took James Farrow’s humanities class “Introduction to Western Art” and was introduced to a “new way of (about) and appreciating” his own talents.

Working under Judy Florian in Financial Aid, Nemanja learned much from her “impeccable professional ethic.”

In Leon Van Poelvorde’s French class, Nemanja was challenged “to appreciate culture embedded in language and ascend higher.”

When studying in Ann Arbor, Professor Les Beecher and his wife generously helped Nemanja with rooming and adjusting to life there.

Dr. Judy White and Dr. (Sue) Calkins, he wrote, helped dissolve “this muddled mix of emotional and political consciousness.”

Two of his classes were with Professor Art Ritas, whose Socratic method of teaching taught him to “understand that to make progress possible one has to engage in constructive dialogue with others….”

Finally, Nemanja credited his mentor, Dr. Jim Varty, for “directing, advising and helping me adjust to a brand new life in America.”

After Macomb, Nemanja graduated from the University of Michigan, School of Art and Design and, subsequently, completed a Master of Fine Arts at Eastern Michigan University. For the past 13 years he has worked as an artist and taught as an adjunct fine art instructor at Washtenaw and Henry Ford community colleges and Eastern Michigan University.

“You can bet all you want that I was, am, and always will be, truly impressed by such selfless nobility,” writes Nemanja, in the conclusion of his letter, “but it makes no sense if all I do is end everything only with marveling at the past. I hope to work hard enough to, some day in the future, also be worthy to be included in a similar group by someone else.”

Nemanja’s complete letter can be read at www.macomb.edu/retirees

Ed. Note: All of us as Macomb educators appreciate it when former students praise the education they received with our help. Thank you, Nemanja Rosic!

MCC retirees still teaching

The SOAR program, a relatively new initiative, featuring classes taught mostly by, but not limited to, retirees as teachers, offers classes to the community. Classes include a wide variety of subjects, from coin-collecting to writing stories, from historical periods to death row prisoners, and many more.

Joyce Monte stated, “What impresses me about those that take SOAR classes is that…they are very interested in learning. I have many friends who are enthusiastic about the program.”

In the fall of 2015 four retired Macomb teachers taught SOAR classes, and in spring, 2016 there will be six. Other than Macomb retirees, many other teachers from the community offer their talents in the classroom.

The program is a success! Retired teachers still have it! The Spring Session will be held from April 11th to May 20th. Catalogs will be mailed to previous participants in February and class listings and registration information will be available on the website, www.macomb.edu/soar in February as well.

Sign up, and get educated again!

SAVE THE DATE

Comedy & Cocktails • Friday, October 21 at 5:30 pm
The Lorenzo Cultural Center’s next series, *The 1940s: Through the War and Beyond*, will open March 2 with exhibits and presentations that explore how this era, often defined by World War II, set the stage for major transitions in society, including the rise of the suburbs, the growing civil and women’s rights movements, the early years of the Cold War, and the growth of the middle class.


For a listing of all the free presentations that will be held at the cultural center during the series, go to http://www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com

In 2014, the college celebrated its 60th anniversary by renovating the South Campus entranceway. You can still be part of the excitement!

For a limited time, bricks, which line the South Campus entrance, can be purchased for $100 each and inscribed with up to three lines of text. Proceeds will be used to fund the College’s Student Success programs, allowing students to fulfill their goal of achieving a quality education.

As a retiree, you have been integral in shaping the Macomb Community College of today. Now, you can be part of Macomb’s future as well. To order your brick online, please visit [http://www.macomb.edu/alumni-donors/giving-opportunities/pave-the-way.html](http://www.macomb.edu/alumni-donors/giving-opportunities/pave-the-way.html). If you need more information, contact the Macomb Community College Foundation at 586.445.7302 or foundation@macomb.edu.

For more information, call Del Corey at 586.286.2222.