Notes from the Retiree Steering Committee

In recent meetings, the Steering Committee agreed that the Association should be inclusive as it defines its membership criteria. Membership will be open to anyone, including spouses, who has been associated with the College and wishes to maintain that association. We also agreed to work closely with the College Alumni Advisory Board in furthering the goals of the College. Finally, the Retiree Association continues to provide strong support for the Macomb SOAR education program.

Over 100 retirees and current college staff joined us for our third Annual Retiree Breakfast held on Friday, October 3rd, on South Campus. This was an excellent chance to see former colleagues and learn more about the direction of the College from President Jim Jacobs.

The Retiree Association will join with the College to host a reunion of former staff and alumni in Naples, Florida on March 13 and 14.

Also, you are encouraged to join colleagues on Thursday, March 19 for lunch at the Center Stage on Center Campus. See related article on right.

For up-to-date information from the Retiree Association, please visit: http://www.macomb.edu/retirees.

Jim Varty
Chair, Macomb Retiree Association Steering Committee

Meet for Lunch at the Center Stage Restaurant

Plan to join us on Thursday, March 19, at 11:30 am for lunch at the Center Stage Restaurant (formerly the Brass Bell) on Center Campus. Please contact Barbara Bainbridge directly and mention the Retiree Association when you make your reservation. Barbara’s email is bainbridgeb@macomb.edu or she can be reached at 586.286.2023.

Space is limited to 20 so you are encouraged to complete your reservation as soon as possible. Cost for lunch is $12.50 plus gratuity. Make your reservation by March 1.

This will be an ideal time to tour the Cultural Center Exhibit: 101 People, Places and Things that Made Michigan.
WHO’s Been Doing WHAT?

**Dennis Thompson**

Did you know that Dr. Dennis Thompson, retired English professor, is the son of Max Thompson, whose vision inspired the creation of MCC? It is fitting that the SC library is named in his honor.

Dennis has many memories of his father, a leader dedicated to bringing education to all members of society, not just the well-heeled. His passion was to use education to help the economically disadvantaged; Dennis’s passion was to give the academically underdeveloped the skills they needed to achieve career goals.

After receiving an MA in English from U of M, Dennis joined the college in 1966 specifically to teach in the Basic Education Program, designed to help the academically disadvantaged. For the next 40 years, he excelled in improving the English competency skills of native and foreign-born students.

Dennis and his wife, Nancy, have a passion for traveling and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last August in Slovenia’s Julian Alps. “We’ve crossed a river in Thailand on the back of an elephant and viewed the Sahara Desert from the back of a camel!” They enjoy sharing their experiences with their daughter in Boulder, Colorado, their son in Osaka, Japan, and their respective families.

**Dolores Hallberg**

Did you know that Dolores began working at Macomb Community College Center Campus before there was a campus? It’s true. In 1968 she started in a “one-room schoolhouse at the corner of 19 Mile Road and Garfield,” before any buildings were built. After four years there, she moved to South Campus Public Safety, working for Leo Sendek, where she enjoyed the excitement and challenge of the position.

Thirty years later, Dolores retired in 1998, and she and her husband, Michael, moved to Rose City, near West Branch, Michigan. They traveled often while enjoying this “little piece of heaven,” as she called it, until Michael passed away in 2006.

Then Dolores generously gave of her time, doing volunteer work with Hospice and the local library. She has since moved to Algonac to be close to her grandchildren. She is currently searching for volunteer work in the Algonac area, where she can share her talents.

**Eva Corey**

After 32 jobs as a “Kelly Girl,” Eva Corey was hired at the College in 1978. Her position in Job Placement and Transfer and Articulation Services continued at Macomb for 35 years. She retired in December, 2014. As part of the “Transfer Team,” she was effective in guiding hundreds of students in the transfer process.

During this time, she underwent chemo treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 1998 and 2001. Through it all, she maintained a positive attitude toward the College and her life. She quoted Helen Keller, who said, “A bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn.” This is her philosophy of life. She remains positive about the future, volunteering at church, a food pantry, baby closet, and SOAR.

Eva said, “I will always be a champion for Macomb Community College, extolling its virtues and high standards. Macomb is a great learning institution where students can receive a quality education at minimal cost. It will continue to have a special place in my heart.”

**Joe DiPaola**

If you asked me why an Italian taught Spanish, I would say, “Ask Joe!” I guess his answer would be, “Italian would have been too easy.” Born and raised in Detroit, Joe attended South Eastern High School, the University of Detroit, and the University of Michigan, where he majored in Spanish. Beginning his teaching career at Macomb in 1964, he retired in 1997 but continued to teach part time until 2010.

The other story of Joe is, in 1952, when he was stationed in England, he traveled to Italy on leave. After a stop in Piza and a visit with the Pope, Joe travelled to Borgetto near Palermo, Sicily, where he met the four daughters of Rosalia Bozzo, who were his cousins! He got along especially well with Salvatore, the fiancé of his cousin Petrina. Fast forward to 1978 when a young Italian girl, Rosaria Lupo, enrolled in his class and after two semesters this excellent student returned to Italy. Some twenty years later, Rosaria knocked at his office door researching material for her doctoral thesis. After this meeting Rosaria made periodic calls to find out if Joe had plans to go to Italy and repeated her invitation that he stay with her family.

In 2001, Joe did visit Italy once again and was met at the airport by Rosaria, her husband, and children. Rosaria lives in Montelepre, scarcely ten minutes from Borgetto, and Rosaria had friends in Borgetto who located the house of his cousin, Petrina. As he entered Borgetto, Joe reports, “A man leaning against a door frame looked at me and said ‘Joe!’ It was Salvatore, the husband of Petrina. What a memory—fifty years had passed!”

Today, Joe travels to Italy often and his relatives also come to visit him in the States. Joe said, “They are the relatives I never knew I had. It’s like a perpetual Christmas gift!”

For full stories on Dennis, Eva, and Joe, visit www.macomb.edu/retirees.
SOAR Offers Short Classes for Retirees

It’s coming! Short classes for retirees on many subjects will be available this spring on various topics. SOAR, which means, Society of Active Retirees, offered 34 courses last fall on topics such as history, art, music, health, aging, and more. These classes were taught by adjunct and full-time faculty, current and retired, and others. This was a great success, with 140 SOAR members paying a very moderate fee for taking classes.

Interested in teaching? Contact Debbie Komar, SOAR Macomb Director at Macomb College, komard20@macomb.edu. Classes will be offered at the University Center, 44575 Garfield on MCC Center Campus in Clinton Township.

SOAR “is a community-based non-profit lifelong learning initiative also affiliated with Wayne State University and the Elderhostel Institute Network. SOAR offers its members opportunities for social and cultural enrichment and personal growth.”

Course Booklets will be mailed out in March. For more information email SOARMacomb@macomb.edu, or call 586.286.2106.

Professors and Deans Honored in Annual Golf Tournament

The 26th annual golf tournament sponsored by Macomb College will be held at Cracklewood Golf Club on June 5, 2015. The event will continue to honor Professors John Orris, Jim Campitelle, Lyle Robertson, and Leo Ikamas, former staff members of Macomb Community College who have passed away.

John Orris was a successful coach and inspiring teacher at Center Line High School. He joined Macomb College as a physical education teacher in 1968, and then became an associate dean. He introduced several courses into the curriculum for the improvement of students’ health. John was well liked and respected by students and faculty alike. He passed away in 1990.

Jim Campitelle taught at Central High School in Detroit prior to joining the teaching staff at Macomb in 1966. Jim was a well-respected social science professor. As the Dean of Business he had a strong influence on the direction of the College. He passed away in 1998.

Lyle Robertson taught in the Utica School System until he joined the College in 1965 as a director in research. He then became the South Campus Dean of Arts and Sciences, and, finally, Vice President for Instruction. His influence on the direction of the campuses will long be remembered. Lyle passed away in 2002.

The most recent addition to the list of honorees was Professor Leo Ikamas, a brilliant philosophy teacher who made learning engaging and fun. Leo joined Macomb in 1987. He also took many students on “study tours” of Greece and Egypt. Leo died in 2013.

Well over $100,000 in endowment funds will be available to students in perpetuity as a result of the annual outing. Fliers for the next tournament will be distributed throughout the College. Anyone wishing to join the tournament committee will be most welcome. Contact Del Corey at 586.260.1006.

Sudoku by Mark Weglarski

Reader’s Notes—

Just to let you know—nice publication...thanks to all the effort I am sure many contributed...really enjoyed it, wish the pictures would have had names to associate the faces... been retired a long time, but will never forget Macomb ... Thanks Again

Sharon MacDonald
Save the Dates!

Macomb Community College Florida Activities—March 13 & 14
For a third year, a Macomb Reception will be held in Naples, Florida for retirees, alumni and Macomb friends who live in Florida either permanently or for the winter. Learn about the College and what is happening “back home” and connect with Macomb alumni, friends and Naples community leaders. The Naples Bay Resort is close to shopping, dining and other fun activities. Look for more information soon!

Friday, March 13
5:30 p.m. Evening Reception at Naples Bay Resort Yacht Club
1500 Fifth Ave. South, Naples, Florida 34102

Saturday, March 14
8:30 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. College Update
Followed by:
St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Botanical Gardens Tour

Make your reservations today!
Special rates based on availability at the following:
Naples Bay Resort, naplesbayresort.com, 239.530.5106: $329 per night for King Superior Room and One Bedroom Suites
Inn of Naples Inn of Naples.com, 239.649.5500: $206.10 per night (kings and doubles available)

Sudoku answer

8 6 9 1 2 5 3 7 4
7 2 3 4 9 6 8 5 1
5 1 4 8 7 3 6 2 9
2 4 6 3 8 7 9 1 5
9 7 8 6 5 1 2 4 3
1 3 5 9 4 2 7 6 8
4 8 7 5 6 9 1 3 2
3 5 2 7 1 8 4 9 6
6 9 1 2 3 4 5 8 7