A site that follows you everywhere

MACC launched an improved mobile website in April to better accommodate all types of mobile devices.

By Kassie Heaton
Express Staff

We watch TV, play games, and access our assignments- all from our phones and other mobile devices. Because students use mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets, they have needed a design that allows them to access their school assignments and other school information more effectively and efficiently. In response to the mobile trend, MACC changed to a new and improved mobile website.

MACC has developed a responsive web design aimed at crafting a site to provide an optimal viewing experience. This mobile website allows easy reading and navigation of content, images and structure across a wide range of devices.

Marlena Bennett, MACC Web designer, stated, "The new mobile website is a responsive site. No matter what platform looked on, you will be able to clearly see the images as the image will retract to fit on a smaller screen."

The new mobile website is a smaller screen resolution. It takes away those days of squinting at your mobile phones and worrying that you are not seeing all of the images clearly. Instead of spending several minutes trying to zoom to see all the information hidden, students can see all the information in minutes.

To access the mobile website, Bennett stated, "You simply go to the Macc.edu website on the device you are using, and the site will respond to the size of the device and give you a version that is clear and easy to read."

Some students have been using the new mobile website and have noticed positive changes to the website compared to the old. Students use their phones to check their grades, for emails, and assignment due dates.

According to MACC student, Dylan Blackwell, "The new website is a lot easier to use and more efficient. It allows me to waste less time, getting from place to place on the website."
Johnna Bixenman invited to speak in D.C.

By Kayla Drebenstedt
Express Staff

Johnna Bixenman, MACC Assistant Professor of Teacher Education, has been invited to present at the National Future Educators Association conference in Washington, D.C. April 23-25.

Bixenman has been involved with the Future Educators Association since high school when she was the chapter treasurer. In addition to her previous classroom instruction, she sponsored clubs, and as an instructor at MACC, she joined Phi Delta Gamma, the university level for practicing educators.

She has attended three national conferences: Boston in 2012, Minneapolis in 2014 where she was an adjudicator for High School Community Service Projects competition, and now Washington, D.C., where she will present a breakout session.

The theme of the conference is “Reach. Teach. Lead”. Bixenman’s presentation is titled “Follow the Leaders: Advice for Future Educators.”

Education is a challenging field. Bixenman wishes to persuade prospective educators that the rewards of the field outweigh the difficulties, as well as to share real-life professional classroom experiences and to leave attendees armed with a plethora of ideas to include in their beginning professional portfolio.

Bixenman advises students who are considering seeking an AAT degree or who wish to gain insight into what employers are currently looking for in educators and what educating is really like.

Alpha Tau Chapter - a Phi Theta Kappa chapter of MACC

By Guzel Tuhbatullina
Express Staff

Members of MACC Phi Theta Kappa, an academic honor society for two-year college students and alumni, recently participated in the 2015 Missouri Regional Convention. Several MACC faculty, staff, administrators, board members, and students actively participated in the three-day-session convention. They had a chance to celebrate Pi Day, listen to great speeches, participate in leadership activities and go to Silver Dollar city with other chapters.

Alpha Tau Chapter won regional, advisor, and chapter awards at the 2015 Missouri Regional Convention.

Regional Awards:
- Glaux Faculty Award-Matt Easter
- Distinguished Individual-Dr. Paula Glover
- Distinguished College President-Dr. Jeff Lashley

Advisor Awards:
- Horizon Award-Bill Justus
- Horizon Award-Michelle Scanavino
- Horizon Award-Don Tennill

Chapter Awards:
- Five Star Chapter Development
- Honors in Action Distinguished Theme

Mo Region International president candidate, Bill Brazeal, and Alpha Tau chapter members

5-Star Awards
What is the Compass test?

By Guzel Tuhbatullina
Express Staff

Technically, the Compass test is a placement test that every student who is accepted at MACC is required to take. The Compass test is an untimed, computerized test that helps our college to evaluate a student’s skills and place him/her into the appropriate math or English course.

As Kimberly Erwin, MACC advisor, said, “I believe that it is a very good introductory and valuable tool in helping students in reading, writing, and in math courses.”

The Compass test has been used by MACC for 10 to 15 years. There are other multiple measures that MACC has been looking into as placement tests such as writing an essay or doing other kinds of tests.

There is no pass or fail on the Compass. It just identifies areas of weakness that the student has on the test and what fundamental classes he/she needs to take.

“Around 60-70% of students were passing the reading and writing portions of the test but not doing well in math; unfortunately, around 30% of students passed the mathemathic part,” said Erwin.

There have been changes in how the test is administered in the past few years. MACC went from using the e-compass test to using the Compass 5.0. E-Compass, a computerized version of the test, was installed as a program on computers that students use in the Student Services office.

The setup of the E-compass test and the questions are different and were recently implemented in the Compass 5.0 platform. Compass 5.0 is all internet-based. This test is different from the previous one because there is a set number of questions. In the previous test, for example in the math section of the test, the better the student did, the more questions he/she had.

“I don’t think that the test got harder at all because it’s still a computer-based test and still has the same structure of the test,” said Erwin.

Student advisers are trying to have a Compass test at least every two weeks in a big group setting. But they do offer walk-in compass testing. The walk-in test is decreasing the number of students that are coming to take the test.

To prepare for the Compass test, students can simply go to www.act.org or www.compass.act.org. These pages have all the information about the test and practice tests.

Just recently, student advisers rolled out the Compass test workshop. Some faculty have discussed and put together some tips for students to take the Compass test. It is a 2 1/2 hour workshop. Some of the faculty have also taken the test to determine whether it’s still a valued tool and to formulate the plan and some helpful tips for the Compass test.

Students can take the Compass test anytime they want. If they want to check their knowledge or to avoid taking fundamental classes, they can also retake the Compass test. The Compass test is usually scheduled, but in some cases, instructors can let students take the test right before enrollment.
Magic
By Guzel Tuhbatullina
Express Staff

Every decade the tastes and interests of youth change. A couple of decades ago chess, for example, was more popular than at the present time. Are cards still popular in our time? Some MACC students enjoy playing cards. But they do not use regular playing cards; they use “Magic” cards.

What is special about this game? Why do students prefer playing card games to using the computer for games?

Magic, a trading card game, was created in 1993 by Richard Garfield who was a doctoral candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. As reported in USA Today, some people consider the game to be addictive. However, it may also improve individuals’ vocabulary and distract youth from doing such actions as using drugs and breaking laws.

To play Magic, players combine collectable cards. Every player designs his/her own unique decks. Each game they play is a new battle, a battle between wizards. A player begins the game with twenty “life points” and loses a life when he or she is attacked by “creatures” on the opponent’s card. A player loses the game when his/her life points fall to zero.

Many people would consider playing cards as strange for the 21st century. However, MACC student, Kyle Barnes said, “I like it more than computer games; Magic has psychological processes to it as to which color people like to play.”

“I got hooked on it pretty fast and enjoyed playing it just because it was fun,” said Devin Perkins.

Some people who play Magic also participate in Friday Night Magic tournaments. After a few months of playing, Perkins and others learned about tournaments and gave it a try.

“We got destroyed. This sparked my competitive side and made me want to be better at the game.”

Perkins has had some success playing these tournaments. “I am working towards bigger goals for Magic, but at the end of the day, I play because I enjoy the mental processes that go into a game of Magic, how you can out think your opponent and just play better than them to win the match. “It’s like chess with cards,” said Perkins.

In 2014, 20th Century Fox announced the release for a movie about Magic on the scale of Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings. Simon Kinberg is serving as writer and producer for the project.

MACC students Kyle Barnes and Devin Perkins play the card game, Magic.

Relay for Life
By Dylan Blackwell
Express Staff

Relay For Life gives the world light and brings together survivors, people honoring loved ones, and people fighting for a cure. The funds raised at these events help the fight against cancer. MACC has teamed up in the fight against cancer for the past several years. However, no team has been organized for this year’s local Relay for Life event.

MACC students had an opportunity to sign up for a Relay For Life team. Because few students responded to the email sent out by staff about joining the team, no team was formed. But students can still support this year’s local Relay for Life events. In a recent survey of Moberly MACC students, 17 of 54 students said they would have been interested in joining the team. Eight students have been a part of a Relay For Life team in the past.

Moberly’s Relay for Life event is May 29 at Moberly High School. If you don’t have time to join a team, you can still help by going to these events and supporting the booths or making donations. Other Relay for Life events are scheduled in our area: April 11, Kirksville Primary School; April 24, Mizzou Carnahan Quad; May 15, Centralia High School; June 5, Flower City Park in Palmyra; June 13, Macon High School.

MACC Relay for Life booth
Taylor

By Kayla Drebenstedt
Express Staff

My first semester as a Hannibal MACC student, I shared Computer Essentials and Public Speaking class with a petite, quiet and level-headed girl named Taylor Quisenberry. I could sense her edgy genius and strong cynical streak through her class discussion responses, and as we continued to take the same classes, I discovered Taylor’s wry, sharp and easy sense of humor and unending patience and kindness. Taylor is a hard-rocking, highly evolved human female with an outstanding handle on the written word. In order to do her justice, I will quote her in full rather than muddy up her vulgences with paraphrasing or revision. Enjoy:

On where she seeks inspiration: “I have yet to discover anyone who is more enigmatic than Bob Dylan-- he is the ultimate muse and symbol of intrigue. I just bought tickets to see him again. The concert conveniently falls on the first day of finals, but oh well-- it’s Dylan.

Unsurprisingly, much of the most bewildering verse that I have come across recently is authored by Bob Dylan. I read Tarantula, a book of crazed poetry penned by an acid-taking Dylan in 1966. Also, I came across “Farewell Angelina”, a poignant outtake from Bringing It All Back Home, a 1965 album that showcases Dylan at perhaps his most poetic. The song’s lyrics anoint Dylan as a sermonizer, not a singer.”

On what she’s all about: “Rather than scrolling through the fruitless, egotistical Facebook posts of strangers, I would much prefer that my spare time be spent on my motorcycle, listening to ‘60s and ‘70s music on vinyl, reading literature from the beat generation, or working with my boyfriend to restore our 1957 Buick Special.”

On coming up with the words that she uses: “Mostly, my personal, creative efforts have been limited this year, as all of my artistic energy has been engulfed by work. I work as a waitress, a job that is soul-sucking: my salary depends on my success on satisfying those who are unsatisfiable.”

On her future: “Maybe I’ll make like Chekhov and be a medical professional who moonlights as a writer.”

On her firm resistance to the mainstream: “I am totally unattuned to all things current. I have plumbed the depths of much of the past, but I have scarcely skimmed the surface of the present. I suppose that my will to be weird must just be more refined than some others.”

Taylor tends to paint herself as an indecisive free spirit, but her dedication to achievement shows itself through her completed writing projects, which can take hour after hour and draft after draft to compose: “A thesaurus is a useful tool. Using one simply speeds up my already-slow writing process. The word that I am seeking to perfectly expound my point is frequently buried too deeply in a brain crevice to produce. Using a thesaurus lessens my time spent in extracting the word from the catacombs of my vocabulary.”

Taylor’s strange and extraordinary spirit in writing has led her to pursue projects including children’s horror poetry, with artful, sinister villains, the sense of doom reminiscent of H.P. Lovecraft and the creepiness of Roald Dahl. She has commissioned her sister Bryandt Quisenberry to illustrate one poem-story she was inspired to pen a few summers ago; Bryandt’s artistic style is equally surreal.

Taylor hopes (and perhaps I hope for her more strongly than she) to see her finished creative work published. Taylor’s creative gift is truly something to behold.
Students enjoy the picnic: Jonny Michel, Amora Coggins, Jennira Leon, and Jeremey Sexton.

Instructor Ben Leach, nominated by MACC student, Yoko Lea, was awarded The Star of the Classroom Award. Leach won tickets to a Kansas City Chiefs 2014 home game with premium seats, appeared on the jumbotron and met some of the players. He also won a campus visit from K.C. Wolfe, who joined in on the fun during the Spring picnic.

All-American Poetry was held April 22 at 3 p.m. The Jorgenson Gallery was packed with students, faculty, and staff. Students who participated were Mark Mavel, Courtney Sweat, Elizabeth Thordsen, James Green, Debra Shrum, Virginia Boyles, Kate Stodgel, Cleveland Hargis, Sarah Christianson, Kate Sontheimer, Donna Monnig, and Tiffany Corley.

Around Campus...

Spring Fling

K.C. Wolfe and President Jeff Lashley
Former great Greyhound Ray Sills had a night he will never forget. The former 6'4" forward-guard was inducted into the Greyhound Hall of Fame.

Sills came from Savannah, Georgia to play for the Greyhounds in 1973. He was a key factor in the Greyhound's success. In his first season with the Greyhounds, he scored 529 points and helped the team place third in the national tournament and finish with an overall record of 32-8. The 1973-1974 team is considered the best defensive team in Greyhound history as they held their opponents to an average of just 60 points per game; that record still stands today.

In the next season, Sills was called upon to do more for the team. As a Sophomore, Sills became a leader for the Greyhounds and carried the team. He had a remarkable season leading the team with 17.8 points per game. He also scored a career high that year with 41 points against Vincennes.

Sill's shooting range was unlimited, and he had the "green light" to shoot from almost anywhere on the court. Unfortunately for Sills, there was no such thing as a three-point shot during his basketball career.

"I want to be remembered as a good ball player who was coached well and listened well. Honestly, it's hard for me to say how I want to be remembered, but I am always going to remember this town and the Moberly Greyhounds. The time I spent here will be something I will never forget," said Sills.

Ray Sills with wife, Connie, accepts the Class of 2015 Greyhound Hall of Fame. Presenting the award is Curt Derr.

The Greyhounds, Lady Greyhounds and Cheerleaders were honored Saturday, April 11 at the annual Athletic Banquet. Guests enjoyed a dinner, entertaining basketball highlights, and an awards ceremony for the Greyhounds and Lady Greyhounds.


Lady Greyhound Coach Chad Killinger presented awards earned by the players based on their performance throughout the season.

Sacrifice Award: Britney Ollison; Defensive Player of the Year Award: Kre'Ana Henry; Most Improved Player Award: Dejoun Dennard; Three Point Shooter Award: Kendra Gladbach; Rebound Award and Team MVP: Aleyah Chivers.

The Lady Greyhounds finished the season in third place or better in Region XVI play for the fourth straight season. It was also the third straight season the Lady Greyhounds advanced to the Region XVI semi-finals. Aleyah Chivers received First Team All-Region and Kre'Ana Henry and Kendra Gladbach earned Second Team All-Region.

Greyhound Coach Pat Smith presented awards to his players as well.

Rebound Award and Shot Blocker Award: Donta Jones; Points per game leader and assist leader: Rashand Lindsey; Free throw percentage leader: Chris Clark; Field goal percentage leader and Offensive Play of the Year Award: Daniel Dzierzawski; Most Improved Player Award: Cecil Williams; Three Point Shooter Award and Team MVP: Travon Williams.

The Greyhounds won 20 games and finished as Regional Runner Up to Mineral Area for the fourth straight season. Also, this season the Greyhounds defeated third ranked Des Moines Area Community College. Crazy comeback wins included Indian Hills (down 21 points) and West Plains (down 11 points with 8 minutes remaining in the game).

Guards Rashad Lindsey and Travon Williams were named to the All-Region First Team and Donta "Fly Swatter" Jones was named to the Second Team.