



"family," including alumni, faculty and staff; community philanthropists, business leaders and private foundations from throughout greater Rochester contributed to the capital campaign.

The generosity of the Chesonis Family Foundation helped pave the way for the PAC Center. In January of 2007, Arunas A. Chesonis, chairman and CEO of PAETEC Holding Corp. and honorary chair of the campaign, and his wife, Pamela A. Chesonis, announced that their family foundation would match gifts to the campaign up to \$1.5 million. In appreciation of the family's support, the MCC Board of Trustees named the facility the "PAC Center" after Pamela A. Chesonis, who is an MCC alumna.

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

With the PAC Center being a community effort, it stood to reason that community groups would also benefit from this exceptional new resource. Many youth and high school baseball, softball, lacrosse, and soccer teams have trained in the facility. The PAC Center has even hosted marching bands, groups holding team building activities and all-nighters, and weekly cricket games. In addition to MCC's annual Summer Youth Sports Program, one of the most successful events held in the PAC Center was the "Walk for Water," a charity walk hosted by MCC student leaders that raised over \$5,000 for Water for Sudan, Inc.

PREPARING TEAMS FOR SUCCESS

MCC's outdoor athletic teams, especially those that play in the spring, have utilized the PAC Center to the fullest. For four decades the MCC baseball team began its season on the hardwoods of the college's gymnasium. Although the squad has thrived throughout the years, the PAC Center now gives the Tribunes an opportunity to be even more game-ready when the first pitch is thrown.

"Practicing in the gymnasium served a purpose, but the PAC has opened up new doors for us as we prepare for the season," said Tribune Head Baseball Coach Mike Kelly. "Not only can our players take live swings against our pitchers, we can also get realistic bounces and simulate game situations."

While indoor practices on a turf field offer the most obvious, direct impact on the success of MCC teams, the PAC Center also provides the athletic program with fundraising opportunities.

"Our lacrosse program has benefited greatly from the PAC Center," Tribunes Head Men's Lacrosse Coach Rocky Delfino said. "We have been able to hold leagues and clinics to help supplement our budget. Plus we are much better prepared for when the season starts."

A LASTING FINGERPRINT

The PAC Center fulfills a dream of MCC's founding athletic director, George Monagan, and serves as one of the most significant and lasting contributions of current MCC Athletic Director Murph Shapiro. The longtime athletic director announced he will retire in June of 2010.

Shapiro has been affiliated with MCC for 40 years, serving as men's basketball, softball, and women's tennis coach while also teaching in the Health and Physical Education Department. He became athletic director on Sept. 1, 1991.

"For nearly two decades Murph Shapiro has shown tremendous dedication and leadership as the athletic director at Monroe Community College," said Kress. "He has been a terrific ambassador for the college and has fostered an environment in which our student-athletes can excel on the playing fields and in their classes."

Under Shapiro MCC has experienced an unprecedented level of athletic success. Tribune teams have won 99 regional and 13 national championships during his tenure as athletic director. The college has twice won the NATYCAA Cup (2006 and 2007), which is given annually to recognize overall athletic program excellence based on success in national competition.

Shapiro was one of the biggest proponents of the PAC Center. Watching his teams practice at all hours of the day, he realized the need for an indoor athletic facility that could ease the burden on MCC's existing facilities. He championed the efforts from the start.

"The PAC gives our athletes a bigger and better venue to practice and perform," said Shapiro. "The facility allows us to train in an environment that lets our coaches get the most out of our athletes. It attracts some of the best and brightest student-athletes to the college and will ensure continued success in the future."

