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DMACC Magazine

DMACC ESL:
Offering a World of Opportunity

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A PUBLICATION OF DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE | SPRING/SUMMER ***2015***

DMACC Magazine

SPRING/SUMMER 2015
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ABOUT *DMACC MAGAZINE*

DMACC Magazine is a publication of the DMACC Foundation & Alumni Association. If you would prefer to receive your copy electronically, please email foundation@dmacc.edu.

Director's Message

Here at the Foundation, we are very much looking forward to the 50th Anniversary of DMACC. Milestones like this offer us the opportunity to celebrate how far we've come, while at the same time looking forward and planning for continued excellence in the years to come. We plan to do both in the coming months.

We have already begun to plan several special events for our supporters—to recognize their generous and tireless support of the students, faculty, staff, programs and services of DMACC. These events will offer us the opportunity to say "thank you" (we can't say it enough!) while looking back on the experiences and personalities, unique to DMACC, that have shaped us.

In terms of looking forward our planning is focused on a future that includes cultivating a wider base of supporters. By encouraging more to support the great things happening here, we can increase the impact private donations make on our students and the programs that prepare them for success in the real world. One specific initiative will encourage friends of DMACC to offer a gift of $50 in honor of the anniversary.

We encourage you to watch *DMACC Magazine*, be on the lookout for special mailings, and regularly visit our website at **go.dmacc.edu/foundation** for information on our 50th Anniversary plans.

Again, this is a huge milestone for DMACC and we want to be sure we mark it in grand fashion. We also want to be sure our supporters share in the celebration with us!

Tara Connolly
Executive Director
DMACC Foundation

Let the Good Times Roll!

Chef Robert Anderson and Master of Ceremonies Maura Nelson.

Jane and Bob Sturgeon.

Jenise and Travis Rychnovsky.

Sara and Felix Gallagher, DMACC Board.

L to R: Adam and Abbie Finnegan; Pat and DMACC President Rob Denson; and Jana and Kurt Schade.

The Fleur de Lys Gala

The Fleur de Lys Gala was held at the Iowa Culinary Institute (ICI) April 11 and raised funds in support of the ICI French Chef Exchange. The gala was hosted by the Friends of the French Chefs, a committee of volunteer supporters, and included a gourmet French buffet dinner, along with silent and live auctions featuring interesting and unique items.

In total, $103,800 was raised. The funds enable the DMACC Foundation to provide student scholarships for the French Chef Exchange, which offers DMACC students an immersive experience in some of the finest kitchens in France.

We thank all who attended the Gala and generously supported this valuable program!

Calendar of Events

June 11, 2015

DMACC CEO Golf Invitational

Talons of Tuscany, Ankeny, IA
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or alumni@dmacc.edu.

July 25, 2015

Wild Wild West 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

DMACC West Campus
To volunteer, please contact Rick Dawson at 515-633-2443 or redawson@dmacc.edu.

August 13-23, 2015

DMACC Celebrates 50th Anniversary at the Iowa State Fair

DMACC Booth, Varied Industries Building

September 17, 2015

DMACC Small Business Awards Ceremony and Dinner

FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny Campus.
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or alumni@dmacc.edu.

October 26, 2015

DMACC Foundation Scholarship Dinner

FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny Campus.
Reservations required. Please contact Lisa Cappaert at 515-964-6229 or alumni@dmacc.edu.

For more information, please visit us online at dmacc.edu/foundation or call us at 515-964-6229.

Special *Thanks*

Thank you to the Ankeny Campus Student Activities Office for sponsoring a portion of the printing costs to produce *DMACC Magazine*. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations 2015 DMACC Alumni Awards Recipients

Row 1: Left to Right: Wayne Ellis, Shelly Schmit, Jeramy Bethards, Elaine Linderman Sima, Svitlana Miller, and Keith Allen.
Row 2: Left to Right: DMACC President Rob Denson, Kevin Terrell, Gary Nystrom, David Williams, Deb Odgaard, and Kevin Gabbert.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Jeramy L. Bethards
Store Manager/Assistant Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank Beaverdale, Urbandale, IA

Wayne C. Ellis
Assistant Vice President, Principal Financial Group, Waukee, IA

Kevin M. Gabbert
Access to Recovery Project Director, Iowa Department of Public Health, Johnston, IA

Gary L. Nystrom
President, Pritchard Bros. Inc., Boone, IA

Deborah Odgaard
Medical Assistant Program Chair, DMACC, Altoona, IA

Shelly Schmit
Vice President Organizational Development & Human Resources, North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City, IA

Elaine Linderman Sima
Principal, EL+A Equipment Planning, LLC, Glendale, AZ

ALUMNI EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Keith Allen
Ames, IA

Svitlana Miller
Student Enrollment Specialist/Advisor, Buena Vista University, Newton, IA

Kevin Terrell
Executive Chef, Workiva, Inc., Ames, IA

David Williams
Network Security Engineer, LightEdge Solutions, West Des Moines, IA

Carolyn Boss

> "Our hope is that this scholarship will inspire more women to consider this career path."

IMPACTING STEM STUDENTS

For the past 36 years, Carolyn Boss has been on the leading edge of computer technology. In a variety of capacities in her career at IBM, she has had a front row seat to the advent of the "personal computer" era, seen artificial intelligence make leaps and bounds, and watched cloud computing remove the need for organizations to house large main-frame computers and servers on-site.

She has also seen the value of a career in the STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—fields. As a result, she and husband Bill have generously funded an endowed scholarship specifically for women pursuing a career in a STEM field.

Boss says her real-world experience at IBM, coupled with her work on Iowa Governor Terry Branstad's STEM Advisory Council, fueled her desire to pay forward the opportunity her schooling at DMACC, and eventually Iowa State University, provided.

"My eyes were really opened during my time on the STEM Advisory Council," says Boss, who attended DMACC between 1975 and 1977, and graduated from Iowa State in 1979. "Young females rarely consider a career in the STEM professions. But there are so many opportunities. Our hope is that this scholarship will inspire more women to consider this career path."

Boss, who serves as a member of the DMACC Alumni Association Board, says it is important to introduce girls to what are often looked at as nontraditional careers as soon as possible. With a role model under the same roof, both of Boss's daughters, Emily and Courtney, have followed their mother into STEM fields.

"So much research out there shows that young girls don't favor STEM careers," Boss says. "The earlier we can inspire them, the greater the opportunity for them to find success."

Boss continues: "There are so many areas of life that are touched by STEM careers. And there are so many divisions of a given company that offer opportunities for those with STEM expertise."

And, as a loyal DMACC alum, she can't think of a better place to establish this type of endowed scholarship.

"The skills provided at DMACC in STEM areas offer a very good vehicle for students looking to move right into the workplace, or to pursue a four-year degree," she says. "It was really important to Bill and me to do something that mattered and we are confident that this scholarship will have a real impact."

A WORLD of O

Batkhishig Batsukh

Each year, thousands turn to DMACC's English as a Second Language program for a hand-up in making America their new home.

Opportunity

As spouses do on a daily basis here in the United States, Batkhishig Batsukh eagerly relocated when her husband accepted a job offer. But instead of just facing the challenges of finding housing, transportation and a new job, Batkhishig was faced with starting from scratch in learning a new language and culture.

Like thousands of others each year, Batsukh turned to DMACC's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. She began taking the noncredit course in 2014 and recently moved into the more arduous credit course.

"I didn't speak any English," Batsukh says of her arrival on the first day of her first class. She moved to Des Moines from Mongolia. "In my country I had only learned [English] grammar and reading; no talking or listening.

"But I was not afraid," she continues. "I enjoy it."

A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM

Vera Aginsky, ESL professor at DMACC's Urban Campus in Des Moines, says Batsukh's experience is pretty typical. Very few of the noncredit ESL students have any experience communicating verbally in English, and some have no frame of reference on the language at all.

Many students enter the program without even the ability to understand or answer the question: "What is your name?" And it is not uncommon for students to have never even seen a computer.

While many born and raised in the United States might find life without a personal computer hard to imagine, the fact remains that the instructors in DMACC's ESL program have to be inventive to teach students who come to them with an extemely limited—and in cases non-existent—English-speaking background.

In order to address students where they are, DMACC offers more introductory noncredit courses, as well as credit courses for students who are looking to further their schooling or are needing more advanced instruction for their particular workplace situation.

The emphasis is on improving skills and building confidence. And the scope of the program—classes are offered across central Iowa in eight different locations (see Page 8)—is designed to help as many students as possible access the classes.

"It is important that we have a presence across central Iowa," says Rick Carpenter, Executive Director, Program Development, DMACC Southridge Center. "We need to meet our ESL students where they are and make it convenient for them to access our services. It is a big step for many of our students and the more we can do to assist them the better they are set up for success."

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Many of the students are "third culture" individuals, who have lived, worked, studied, and grown up in another country different from their parents' or birth nationality. This can present challenges as students are faced with navigating a new set of cultural and linguistic norms especially during their formative years when identity is often questioned or challeneged. "So much of who we are is connected to the language and culture we speak," says Katherine Menec, ESL Faculty Instructor.

The make-up of classes is continually evolving. As wars and conflicts erupt around the world, people seek a better life by immigrating to the United States.

Instructors are very welcoming of the settlement community and work to apply best learning practices to help students acquire language skills as quickly as possible.

The result is encouragement to continue to grow their English-speaking skills and motivation to continue to work to become a member of the community. In all the courses, there is an emphasis on respect. This is vitally important, because in so many cases, students have come from parts of the world where they were not treated very well.

"In my country I had only learned grammar and reading; no talking or listening."

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Students typically show the most growth in the first three to five years, and it can generally take another five to nine years to add proficiency. The ESL faculty looks to build skills as quickly as possible.

"We don't want them to have to take classes for seven or eight or nine years," Menec says. "Language is always a work in progress. We want to provide them with the skills to effectively communicate and the motivation to continue working to develop their skills."

Batsukh says the format of classes encoruages interaction and that aspect is as valuable as the structured instruction.

"There are students from all over the world and from many different cultures," she says. "It is very interesting to learn about them and to learn from them. They are all very funny and friendly."

Bringing these students together is key. The more they interact with one another the more they are confident in engaging with those in the community.

And when they feel a like member of the community, they can quickly move themselves and their families from a situation where they are merely surviving to one in which they are thriving.

Members of the DMACC International Club at one of several annual events. Fourth from right (wearing red) is Vera Aginsky, ESL Professor at Urban Campus.

ABOUT DMACC ESL

ESL instruction is offered at the noncredit and credit level across central Iowa. The goal of the program is to provide quality ESL instruction to speakers of other languages so that they can succeed in academic or career programs.

DMACC ESL Locations

- Ames Hunziker Center
- Ankeny Campus
- Carroll Campus
- Des Moines First Christian Church
- DMACC Capitol Center
- Perry VanKirk Center
- Urban Campus
- Southridge Center

Credit ESL: The ESL Credit Program is a bridge to assist English Language Learners in advancing their academic English skills for success in credit DMACC classes and/or advancement in their professional field.

Noncredit ESL: Noncredit ESL courses consist of multilevel English instruction for anyone 18 years or older. The courses move learners from a beginner level to a solid intermediate level of proficiency, and cover the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as improving pronunciation and building vocabulary. The primary goal is to teach communicative competence, that is, the ability to communicate in English according to the situation, purpose and roles of the participants.

"Everything about DMACC felt right. It was the place I needed to be."

Stephanie Davis

Support Spurs Success

Convenience was key when Stephanie Davis considered a return to college to earn her Nursing degree. With a three-year-old at home, she knew that she needed to attend a school close to her home in Boone that would provide flexibility to attend to the unpredictability of raising a little one.

She found all she could ask for—and more—at DMACC's Boone Campus. The "more" came in the form of a generous scholarship provided by the DMACC Foundation.

"Being a nontraditional student, it can be difficult, especially when you have a young child at home," Stephanie says. "But everything about DMACC felt right. There was the scholarship support, there was the Nursing program, there was motivation from the support of other non-traditional students like me. It was the place I needed to be."

With experience as a certified nursing assistant, Stephanie has excelled in the Nursing program. She is looking forward to completing coursework and moving into the working world, but says she is not rushing things.

"I'm crossing one bridge at a time."

DMACC Campus Updates

ANKENY

Vice President Joe Biden held an invitation-only roundtable discussion centered on education accessibility and the importance of partnership between community colleges and businesses during his visit to DMACC Ankeny Campus on Thursday, Feb. 12.

The discussion, held in Building 3 East, consisted of members of the Iowa Association of Business and Industry, representatives from manufacturers Vermeer and Accumold, and several DMACC staff and students

"Now is the time to focus on what we know will improve the middle class; the keystone is community college," he said.

Biden spoke openly about the new plan, putting a strong emphasis on the importance of a college education in today's economy.

(Courtesy of the Campus Chronicle, Ndey Kumba Demba and Daniela Buvat de Virginy)

BOONE

On February 24 the Iowa Court of Appeals set up a courtroom in the Boone Campus auditorium where they heard oral arguments for two cases. One case involved a vehicle stop on suspicion of OWI and the other involved issues related to second degree murder conviction. Many community members and several DMACC classes were in attendance. The arguments were done in approximately one hour for both cases. The court issued written rulings that were shared with members of the audience at a later time.

Congratulations to the DMACC Bears men's basketball team for placing 4th in the NJCAA Division II national tournament. The Bears (28—7) reached the semifinals, and lost to Phoenix College in the third-place game. The Bears were ranked as high as number 1 in the nation during the season and ended the season as the 2nd-ranked team in the nation.

The Bears basketball team also had an exceptional season both on and off the court; in addition to the outstanding win-loss record, the student athletes also earned a 2.94 Team GPA for the first semester. All five sophomores are on pace to graduate in May.

The DMACC Women's Softball team played its first game on the new softball field March 21.

The new facility provides the nationally ranked program the opportunity to compete on the DMACC Boone Campus home field. DMACC wrapped up the 2014 season with a third-place finish at the NJCAA Division II National Tournament.

CARROLL

Carroll Campus Building Trade students are working to complete renovations for the near-campus student housing being offered for the fall 2015 semester. The building will be able to house 16 residents and will feature private rooms, great commons space and nine bathrooms. Additionally, great scholarship opportunities exist. New Hope Village is offering work opportunities for our students, especially for those entering our new human services program that will begin in the fall. Full classes are expected.

NEWTON

The Newton Campus has undergone a change in hallway scenery. The updates include fresh paint, new carpet, comfortable seating, and newly arranged photos on the walls. Students are definitely enjoying their new

surroundings. Opportunities now exist for students to convene as small groups to work on projects or study together. Students may be found playing games or cards with each other. If someone wants a secluded spot, comfortable seating and new lighting is available. Even the occasional nap may be grabbed. The overall effect for students and staff has been to make our campus a much more comfortable place—a place where students not only want to attend school but also hang out a bit.

URBAN

TRIO-Student Support Services (SSS) is celebrating 25 years of success at DMACC Urban Campus! TRIO-SSS is a federally funded program designed to provide academic support, cultural activities and personal development programming to 200 students at Urban. Through early intervention and careful monitoring of programs of study and academic performance, the TRIO-SSS team helps students meet the challenges of college in order to reach their potential and experience success. Congratulations, TRIO-SSS!

DMACC Latino Family Night: During the Spring 2015 semester, the DMACC Urban Campus offered the College's first-ever information event for Latino families. The purpose was to inform families about attending college and assist them in navigating the college admission process. The event was planned and implemented by a team of staff and faculty who attended the Iowa Latina/o Education Initiative Conference last year. Approximately 30 students, primarily from our Interpretation & Translation and Early Childcare programs, served as interpreters, translators, child care assistants and volunteers. More than 115 guests attended. It was such a success that another Latino Family Night has been scheduled for the fall.

Ilima Young-Dunn is Social Worker of the Year 2015:

Ilima Young-Dunn was named Social Worker of the Year 2015 by the Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Ilima is Chair of DMACC's Human Services program. She was awarded this honor for leadership in the field, efforts in advancing the profession, enlistment of public support for improved social services, contribution to the public's knowledge of social work and the way she has represented the professional ethics of social work. Ilima was publicly honored for her work during the April 2015 NASW—Iowa Annual Symposium.

WEST

During the week of March 2—6, the West Des Moines Campus hosted its annual Celebrate! Innovation Week (ciWeek 6). The event featured nine keynote sessions, 11 concurrent speaker sessions, and a high school session spread over five days. Speakers included LeVar Burton (Host of PBS's *Reading Rainbow* and Geordi LeForge in *Star Trek Next Generation*, (see photo below), Dr. Hugh Herr (M.I.T. Bionics Engineer who himself has two bionic legs, see photo at bottom), Dr. David Gallo (Oceanographer from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and mission leader to the Titanic), Dr. Sara Seager (M.I.T. Astrophysicist and recipient of the MacArthur Award), Dr. Niall McCann (biologist, explorer, adventurer and TV host on Discovery Channel), and Clayton Anderson (astronaut and five-month resident on the International Space Station), to name a few.

This year marked the first time the event was live-streamed in high definition to all DMACC campuses and facilities throughout its entire district. It's estimated that ciWeek 6 touched more than 5,000 people, which marks an all-time high in its six-year history.

DMACC
DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Life's Calling

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Travel With the Alumni Association!

The Alumni Association is once again partnering with Mayflower Tours to offer these travel opportunities:

- **America's Canyon Country featuring Four National Parks:** Departure Dates June 11; August 6; September 8, 17 and 24, 2015
- **San Francisco and Wine Country:** Departure Dates September 21 and 28; October 5, 2015
- **New England Autumn Foliage Rails and Sails:** Departure Dates September 27 and 28; October 4 and 5, 2015
- **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta featuring Santa Fe and Pecos National Park:** Departure Date October 2, 2015