The DMACC Drama Dept. will be presenting their spring production of “Dead Giveaway” on April 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boone Campus Theatre. Admission is $5 and free to DMACC students who show their I.D. card. Let’s meet the stars of “Dead Giveaway.”

Langel plays the role of Dr. Hugh Bernard, a reserved physician in his 40s. He is a sophomore at the Boone campus and is currently working towards a liberal arts degree. He tried out for the play because it’s a lot of fun and has enjoyed being in previous plays. The show is a lot of fun and it has a suspenseful plot.

“I think that it is going to be a great show,” said Langel. “The plot really keeps you on the edge of your seat.”

Langel is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the Banner News, the student newspaper of the Boone Campus. He is planning to transfer to the Greendale School of Journalism and Communication at Iowa State University next year.

Sandquist plays the role of Angie Bowles, a young attractive woman in her late 20s. She is a freshman at the Boone Campus and is currently enrolled in the pre-education program. She tried out for the play because it’s been a lot of fun in the past.

“It has been a lot fun, but a lot of work,” said Sandquist. Sandquist currently works at the Lily Pad Learning Center. She is planning to be a teacher in the future.

Ginger plays the role of Evelyn Harrigan, an argumentative former actress, also in her 70s. He is a sophomore at the Boone Campus and is currently majoring in graphic design. He tried out for the play because he has always been interested in the arts.

“I think it’s a dark comedy that will give the audience a lot to laugh about,” said Swift.

Swift is self-employed and is pursuing a career in graphic design.

Davis plays the role of Fiona Standidgh, a polite woman, also in her 70s. She is a freshman at the Boone Campus and is working towards a liberal arts degree. She tried out for the play because she’s been in the previous two and they were a lot of fun.

“The play is a lot of ‘murderous’ fun,” said Davis. Davis’s future plans are to try and get into the nursing program at DMACC.

Ginger plays the role of Evelyn Harrigan, an argumentative former actress, also in her 70s. He is a sophomore at the Boone Campus and is currently majoring in biology. He tried out for the play because he loves acting. For the past three years, he has directed the Pleasantville High School play. He thought it was about time he got on the other side of the production again.

“It’s a very fun and intriguing show,” said Ginger. “It’s amazing for all.”

Ginger is currently employed at the Waterford Assisted Living Home in Ames. He is planning to be a science teacher at the high school level in the future.

Mueller is the director of the show. She is the professor of speech and theatre at the Boone Campus. This is her 26 year at DMACC. Mueller picked this play because she needed a show with more women parts and it had only one set to build.

It has a lot of that Agatha Christie suspense like in “Ten Little Indians,” said Mueller: “It is an ensemble show and I like to see the performers show off their talent.”

Mueller wants to do a lot of traveling in the future and continue to do shows with the surrounding community theatres.

We hope you will enjoy the show!
DMACC-Des Moines Area Community College has released its 2010 annual report, which highlights the College’s commitment to delivering high-quality education amid record enrollments.

The online report (www.dmacc.edu/AnnualReport) summarizes a year when more students attended DMACC than ever before. In 2010 more than 35,500 students attended DMACC’s six campuses and two learning centers. This has pushed the College’s student enrollment up nearly 56 percent since 2005.

To handle the soaring growth, DMACC President Rob Denson said in his opening message of the 2010 report, “we’ve literally stretched the boundaries of where and how the College is delivering education, underscores our creativity and commitment to make every student’s educational experience the very best possible.” The growth has also paved the way for new programs and opportunities for students. A few examples include:

- Acquiring space in a former Des Moines hospital to give health sciences and nursing students real-life experience training in patient rooms and labs.
- Adding two new health sciences degree programs for health information technology and paramedics, and increasing the number of course sections for many programs across the College.
- Remodeling classrooms on several campuses, adding more parking, expanding student housing.
- Adding more online instruction and expanding DMACC’s Career Advantage program, which now has more than 9,500 Iowa high school students earning college credits through DMACC, and as well.
- Remodeling and building new apartments-style housing on the Ankeny and Boone campuses.
- Details about DMACC’s newest Career Academy in Newton, which is giving high school students college coursework opportunities,
- Facts about the DMACC Center in Perry, which will open in fall 2011,
- Specifics about DMACC’s new “going green” initiative and N. R. Gee – the College’s new green campus mascot,
- Profiles of the College’s six Deans, along with,
- Highlights of DMACC’s highly-successful and nationally recognized athletics programs.
- To access DMACC’s 2010 Annual Report, go to www.dmacc.edu/AnnualReport.

DMACC celebrates 45th anniversary
Campus events highlight milestones and future plans for the college

DMACC – In 1966, Des Moines Area Community College, then called Merged Area XI, began. Twenty-eight students walked the first hallways when the college started. Forty-five years later, DMACC now annually serves more than 75,000 credit and noncredit students in one million square feet of facilities on six campuses and two learning centers.

To observe this important milestone, DMACC hosted a series of recognition events throughout Central Iowa this month featuring a trivia contest with prizes awarded to those with the most correct answers. President Rob Denson and each Campus Provost offered brief remarks and introduced. President Denson also unveiled new campus videos highlighting numerous DMACC accomplishments during the past four and a half decades. Remembrances were also served. The events were free and open to the public.

“DMACC has much to celebrate,” said President Denson. “Our students have been instrumental in our past successes, but what’s most exciting is what’s coming in our next 45 years.”

Denson revealed some of those plans during his presentation.

DMACC's celebration of the literary arts

Des Moines Area Community College’s ninth annual Celebration of the Literary Arts will be held April 4-5 with classroom visits to all six DMACC campuses and two learning centers. This has paved the way for new programs and learning opportunities, including the O. Henry Awards and the Best American Short Stories. Nelson is the recipient of a USA Art...
Free Income Tax Assistance

If your income was less than $49,000 last year, call to schedule an appointment for free income tax help.

Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the DMACC Boone Campus, Feb. 4 through April 15. Call (515) 433-5029 to schedule an appointment at the Boone Campus.

Bring last year’s taxes, W-2s, and Social Security cards, as well as any other tax documents you have.

This is a free service for those who qualify. Please come early; only a limited number of clients can be seen each day.

The service will not be available during DMACC’s spring break, which occurs March 14-18.

Additional Scholarship Assistance

Don’t miss out on additional grant assistance. The following scholarships is available from the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. You must complete the Iowa Financial Aid Application (links below) to apply.

You must complete both the FAFSA and the Iowa Financial Aid Application, if you wish to apply for the scholarships below at https://apps.iowacollegeaid.gov/common/default.aspx?cmd=wizInfoView, select “Undergraduate Student.”

2011-2012 Iowa Financial Aid Application available for students applying for the following programs:

* Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program (NGEAP) (priority deadline of August 31)
* 2011-2012 Iowa Financial Aid Application for students applying for the following program:

It’s time for FAFSA 2011-2012


When you complete the FAFSA you are asking to be considered for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Student Direct Loans, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants and Federal College Work Study.

Beach Volleyball

There will be beach volleyball on March 31 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Boone Campus gym. Deadline to sign up is March 31 by noon. Please send team member names to jranderson18@dmacc.edu. Winning prize is a $40 gift card.

Drama Department to present spring play

The DMACC Boone Campus drama department will be presenting their spring production, “Dead Giveaway” on April 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boone Campus Theatre. Admission is $5 and free to students who present their student ID card. Refreshments will be served by members of the Pi Theta Kappa Chapter of the Boone Campus.

11-Year-Old Singer to Perform

Hawk McIntyre, 11 years old, will be performing guitar playing and singing talents on April 6 in the Courter Center from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. He is the grandson of Connie McIntyre-Ferguson, who works in the Campus Cafe.

China/US Relations

Dr. Jeff Schroeder, Ph.D., professor at the Boone Campus, will be presenting “China/U.S. Relations: Myths, Realities and Prospects on April 7 from 12 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. in the Courter Center.

Beach Volleyball

There will be beach volleyball on March 31 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Boone Campus gym. Deadline to sign up is March 31 by noon. Please send team member names to jranderson18@dmacc.edu. Winning prize is a $40 gift card.

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Golden Dragon Acrobats

The Golden Dragon Acrobats will be performing on April 4 at Stephens Auditorium in Ames at 8 p.m. It is free for all ages.

Beach Volleyball

There will be beach volleyball on March 31 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the Boone Campus gym. Deadline to sign up is March 31 by noon. Please send team member names to jranderson18@dmacc.edu. Winning prize is a $40 gift card.

Discover DMACC Days

Discover DMACC Days will be on April 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Singer to Perform

Singer Caleb Hasley will be entertaining audiences on April 13 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Courter Center.

We want to hear your complaints/concerns!

Please submit Letters to the Editor to bannernews@dmacc.edu.

Turn to page 8 and “Guess this Pic”

Guess the picture correctly and win a prize!!
DMACC - Des Moines Area Community College softball coach Bob Ligouri has announced the signing of six additional players for the 2011-12 school year. DMACC administrators announced in November that softball would be added to the school's athletic program.

Competitive play will continue this fall. The team will play several scrimmages during the fall season and will begin intercollegiate competition in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference in the spring of 2012.

Those players having signed national letters of intent to attend DMACC and play softball include: Jessica Kinnetz of Waterloo (Waterloo East); Kourtney Robinson and Kylie Rabe of Pleasant Hill (Pleasant Hill Polk); Misti Sil- liman of Winterset (Winterset); Paige Osterberg of Fort Dodge (Fort Dodge); and Sky Terry of Polk in 2010. She hit .397 for Waterloo East with 13 doubles, five home runs and 26 RBIs. She also stole 21 bases, had an on base percentage of .453 and a slugging percentage of .672.

Robinson also earned all-state honorable mention recognition in 2010. She hit .375 for the season with seven doubles and eight RBIs. Her on base percentage was .410 and she had a .387 slugging percentage.

Rabe hit .182 for Southeast Polk in 2010 and scored 10 runs. She had a .265 on base percentage and a .205 slugging percentage.

Silliman finished the 2010 season with a 1.70 ERA. She stuck out 130 batters and walked just 27. Opposing teams hit .220 against her. As a hitter, Silliman hit .217 with seven RBIs and eight runs scored. She had an on base percentage of .321 and a slugging percentage of .260.

Osterberg batted .333 for Fort Dodge in 2010. She drove in 12 runs and scored 17 runs while compiling an on base percentage of .345 and a slugging percentage of .434.

DMACC - Six Moines Area Community College softball coach Bob Ligouri has announced the signing of six additional players for the 2011-12 school year. DMACC administrators announced in November that softball would be added to the school's athletic program. Competitive play will continue this fall. The team will play several scrimmages during the fall season and will begin intercollegiate competition in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference in the spring of 2012.

Those players having signed national letters of intent to attend DMACC and play softball include: Jessica Kinnetz of Waterloo (Waterloo East); Kourtney Robinson and Kylie Rabe of Pleasant Hill (Pleasant Hill Polk); Misti Silliman of Winterset (Winterset); Paige Osterberg of Fort Dodge (Fort Dodge); and Sky Terry of Polk.

The six players join Brittany Kubik of Martensdale (Martensdale St. Marys High School); Jayden Ott of Mauphy (Central Springs); Makenzie Alstott and Terry are versatile enough to play a number of different positions.

"Assistant coaches Darren Harris and Jhan Wilkinson really worked hard on this class," said Ligouri. "It is a great class for our first year."

Ligouri said the coaching staff’s goal was to not only bring in good softball players, but also bring in student-athletes who would give the program a foundation from which to build.

"I think we were really able to do that," Ligouri said. "When you look at the girls that we recruited, many of them made all-state, all-district and all-conference teams. More important, all of them had 3.0 grade point averages or higher. We wanted to establish that not only were we going to recruit really good athletes, but really good students and we were able to do that."

Terri hit .444 for Adair-Cassey in 2010. She stole 29 bases and scored 28 runs. Her on base percentage was .551 and she had a slugging percentage of .571.

Kabik compiled a 22-5 record and a 1.03 earned run average with Martensdale St. Mary’s last season. She struck out 76 batters and walked 32. Opposing teams hit .171 against her. As a hitter, Kabik had a .418 batting average. She had 14 doubles and drove in 33 runs. Her on base percentage was .491 and her slugging percentage was .561. Kabik helped Martensdale St. Marys to a fourth-place finish in the Class 1A state softball tournament in 2010. She was named to the all-tournament team and was a second team all-state selection.

Ott was a third-team all-state selection in 2010. She pitched for Branson High School.

"I think we were really able to provide outstanding leadership. That is really going to be important for us," Ligouri said. "I think we have a very solid team. Obviously, we have to do it on the field, but there’s not any of the girls that we recruited that are concerned about us being a first-year program. They actually embraced the idea of being a legacy player on a first-year team and accepted that challenge."
DMACC’s Burrage, Bateman, Hicks and Martin honored

DMACC - The National Junior College Athletic Association has announced that four members of the Des Moines Area Community College men’s baseball team have earned postseason recognition for their play this season. Sophomore guard Kannon Burrage of East Moline, Ill., has been named to the Region XI All-Region First Team. Sophomore guards Hal Bateman and E.J. Hicks, both of Davenport, have been named to the Region XI All-Region Second Team and freshman Cole Martin of Omaha, Neb., earned All-Region XI Honorable Mention recognition. Hicks has also been named to the Region XI All-Tournament team.

Burrage led DMACC in scoring with 643 points and a 20.7 average. He was 223-504 from the field, including 62-197 from 3-point range, and made 135 of 194 free throw attempts. Burrage was also second on the team in rebounding with 162 rebounds and a 5.2 average.

Bateman averaged 11 points a game. He hit 100-274 from the field and 106-of-195 at the free throw line. He scored 330 points this season and led the team in rebounding and assists. His 163 rebounds was good for a 4.4 average and he had 172 assists, averaging 5.7 per game.

Hicks was DMACC’s third leading scorer with 360 points and a 9.7 average. He was 184-of-428 from the field, including 33-of-107 from 3-point range and made 57 of 70 free throw attempts. Hicks had 153 rebounds and a 4.5 average.

Martin scored 212 points and averaged 7.6 points a game. He was 78-of-182 from the field, 37-of-100 from 3-point range, and 11-of-20 at the free throw line. Martin scored 1.3 rebounds a game.

DMACC finished the season with a 15-28 record in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference. They reached the Region XI semifinals before being eliminated by eventual champion Kirkwood Community College.

DMACC’s Wood, Thropp and Bunning earn postseason honors

DMACC - The National Junior College Athletic Association has announced that three members of the Des Moines Area Community College women’s basketball team have earned postseason honors.

Kathryn Wood, a sophomore from Monroe, has been named to the Region XI All-Region First Team and to the Region XI All-Tournament Team. Freshman guard Sam Thropp of Davenport was named to the Region XI Second Team and sophomore forward Carli Bunning of Boone has been named to the Region XI Third Team and to the Region XI All-Tournament Team.

Wood led DMACC in scoring and rebounding this season, averaging 13.4 points and 8.5 rebounds a game. She made 165 of 375 shots from the field, including 21-of-67 from 3-point range, and was 92-of-117 at the free throw line. Wood grabbed 281 rebounds this season.

Thropp was second to Wood in scoring, averaging 10 points a game. She was 82-of-208 from the field, 38-of-183 from 3-point range and 12-of-40 at the free throw line. Thropp led the team in assists with 139, averaging 4.2 assists a game.

Bunning averaged 7.8 points a game, she made 89 of 159 field goal attempts and was 17-of-56 at the free throw line. Bunning grabbed 196 rebounds this season, averaging 5.9 rebounds a game.

DMACC men place ninth in season opening tournament

DMACC - Sophomore Matt Mikkelson’s 36-hole total of 161 gave him a tie for 25th place in the individual competition and helped the Des Moines Area Community College men’s golf team to a ninth-place finish in the South Central Kansas Spring Invitational March 21-22 at Westfall, Kan.

Mikkelson turned in 18-hole scores of 84-86 to tie for 25th place in the individual competition and helped the Des Moines Area Community College men’s golf team to a ninth-place finish in the South Central Kansas Spring Invitational March 21-22 at Westfall, Kan.

DMACC baseball falls to 12-9 with loss to Marshalltown

DMACC - The Des Moines Area Community College baseball team saw its season record fall to 12-9 following a 2-7 loss to Marshalltown Community College March 23 at Marshfield.

The Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the seventh inning and then scored six runs in the bottom of the third to come away with the victory.

DMACC was limited to six hits by three MCC pitchers.

Sophomore Rehnaz Guedes of Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, and John Loeffler of Burnsville, Minn., led the Bears with two hits apiece. Guedes had a triple in the first inning and drove in a run with a single in the eighth inning. Loeffler doubled and scored one of three runs the Bears tallied in the fourth inning.

Freshmen Gabby De Varona of Pensacola, Fla., and Freshmen Lino Reina of Woodbury, Minn., and sophomore Sean Borman of Minnetonka, Minn., also drove in runs for DMACC.

Sophomore Dylan Thomas of Lakeville, Minn., who relieved starter Austin Urban of Johnstown, Penn., in the second inning, fell to 1-2 for the season with the loss. He allowed seven runs on six hits, struck out three and walked two.

DMACC will play Southwestern Community College March 26-27 at West Burlington.

Former DMACC athlete Tia Mays receives MMC honor

DMACC - Former Des Moines Area Community College women’s basketball standout Tia Mays of Des Moines has been named Newcomer of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Mays, a sophomore at Missouri State University, was recognized at the league’s awards ceremony on the opening night of the State Farm MVC Tournament in St. Charles, Mo.

Mays played for DMACC in 2009-10, leading the Bears to a 20-10 overall record and a 13-5 mark in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference. She averaged 12.9 points and 10.9 rebounds a game in helping DMACC to the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XI Division I championship. She was named to the All-Region First Team, the Region XI All-Tournament Team and the ICCAC All-Conference First Team.

DMACC freshman Anna Hoss of Spirit Lake finished 22nd with a 208 total and freshman Staci Hillegas of Marshalltown finished 24th with a score of 210. Hoss had scores of 103-105 and Hillegas shot 101-103.

DMACC women’s golf coach Tom Briley said he was pleased with his team’s performance, given the windy conditions and the tournament being the Bears’ season opener.

Hillegas “played really well,” Briley said. “It was nice that we finished the second of two strokes ahead of Iowa Western Community College, the team we’re probably going to have to beat in the regional tournament in April.”

The DMACC women will play in the Grand View Invitational April 3-4 at Ankeny.

Kohlhaas places second at South Central Kansas Invite

DMACC - Des Moines Area Community College sophomore Mandy Kohlhaas of LaVerne finished second in the individual competition as the DMACC women’s golf team opened the spring season with a third-place finish in the South Central Kansas Spring Invitational March 21-22 at Windmill Greens.

Kohlhaas posted a 208 total and freshman Staci Hillegas of Marshalltown finished 24th with a score of 210. Hoss had scores of 103-105 and Hillegas shot 101-103.

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Cyber crime awareness conference to be held at DMACC

DMACC - The Electronic Crime Institute at Des Moines Area Community College is hosting the third annual Electronic Crime Institute Cyber Crime Awareness Conference on April 9. The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the FAA Enrichment Center on the DMACC Ankeny Campus. Topics to be discussed by speakers from Dell SecureWorks Counter Threat Unit, the Iowa Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, PayPal, Union Pacific Corporation, Equiscor Labs and others include:

- Malware, Viruses and Phishing: Threats to Your Online Security
- An Introduction to Critical Infrastructure Security
- Hutchinson, a member of the conference committee, will discuss the importance of keeping your computer hard drive clean.
- Cyber Threats—Don’t Fall Victim
- Wireless Network Security

The Electronic Crime Institute will hold free computer drive cleaning clinics during the day of the conference. Attendees can bring in their computer hard drive to have the drive wiped clean of data using specialized computer hardware to purge computer information.

Before people have their hard drive cleaned, they should save the files that are important to them to an external storage device such as a CD ROM or an external hard drive or transfer them to a new computer.

Information Assurance courses at Iowa State University and the Electronic Crime Institute at DMACC will discuss academic efforts to provide research and training for cybercrime fighters.

DMACC - More than 2,100 students in the past two years have earned their General Equivalency Diploma from Des Moines Area Community College. This is in addition to a number of students among Iowa’s 15 community colleges to complete the coursework in the same two-year period.

At a time when Iowa’s unemployment is at 6.1 percent, DMACC’s GED program and others elsewhere are seeing increased demand for the coursework. It used to be employers didn’t complete background checks or always require job applicants to have a diploma, now they more than likely do both.

The GED program provides an overall assessment of skills and knowledge comparable to those of a high school graduate. A GED is not a substitute for completing high school and earning a diploma, but is instead, an alternative for those who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to finish high school.

“There is a huge need for the GED program,” says Michael Hoffmann, director of program development for DMACC. The need for having a GED is increasing because more people must have it to be employable. Des Moines’ growing immigrant population is another factor, which has led many students to the program resulting in 2,192 graduates since 2009. Many of these adults do not have a high school diploma but want an education to be able to progress on to college or be better qualified for jobs.

“With the GED coursework, a perfect alternative,” Hoffmann says.

To meet the demand, DMACC is offering the courses at more locations and has taken a number of new steps to serve students. Hoffmann says each of the College’s campuses in Boone, Newton, Carroll, Ankeny, West Des Moines and Des Moines offer the courses. The College also works with Iowa Workforce Development, Polk county officials, state corrections facilities and several non-profit organizations in Des Moines to offer the program classes. Additional instructors and more one-on-one teaching also are allowing the college to deliver GED courses to students. Hoffmann says a new online GED component, which gives students access to GED preparatory lessons, began in January at all six campuses. The results of that new online teaching component will not be known until 201 GED results are compiled early next year.

DMACC first began offering GED coursework in 1957 and since then 35,166 students have completed the program.

Discover Engineering Day

Interested in a career in which you design new vehicles, help cure illnesses, explore outer space or design roller coasters? If so, consider a career in engineering.

Des Moines Area Community College and Iowa State University are cosponsoring a Discover Engineering Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tues., April 5 at the FAA Enrichment Center located on the DMACC Ankeny Campus.

High school students considering a possible career in engineering and their parents are invited to attend this free, three-hour interactive learning experience that will allow students to experience activities performed by professional engineers. At Discover Engineering Day, students will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Learn about many engineering careers
- Take part in hands-on interactive engineering activities and competitions
- Meet engineering professionals and college students

A free lunch will be provided to students and their parents. Students can register for this event at www.dmacc.edu/programs/pdp. For more information, contact Dave Kissinger at (515) 965-7173.

DMACC World War II study tour to Europe

DMACC - Des Moines Area Community College History Professor Dr. Lisa Ossian is leading a DMACC World War II study tour of Europe.

The 14-day study tour departs on Thur., May 19 and returns on June 1. The cost is approxi- mately $3,787 per person and includes round trip airfare to Europe, all hotels, breakfasts, most dinners and additional ground transportation. The trip is open to the public and college credit is also available. The deadline to sign up is March 31. Participants will need to make a deposit of $95 when they register for the trip.

Eight openings are still available.

The WW II and Western Front tour begins with an arrival in London and visits to the Imperial War Museum, Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, along with a cruise on the Thames River. The fourth night will be a night ferry from Portsmouth across the English Channel along the D-Day route to Normandy and includes trips to the Ardenne American Cemetery and Bastogne, a train ride to Berlin and the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Nuremberg, the Dachau Concentration Camp, Salzburg, the Eagle’s Nest and finally the bunker where Hitler spent his last days.

The group leader is Dr. Lisa Ossian, author of The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1939-1945 (University of Missouri Press, 2009) and The Forgotten Generation: American Children (University of Missouri Press, 2011).

To enroll in the class, visit www.efcollegetours.com or call EF College Tours at 1-800-877-2530. The trip number is 671074.

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“I have a huge need for the GED program,” says Michael Hoffmann, director of program development for DMACC. The need for having a GED is increasing because more people must have it to be employable.

Des Moines’ growing immigrant population is another factor, which has led many students to the program resulting in 2,192 graduates since 2009. Many of these adults do not have a high school diploma but want an education to be able to progress on to college or be better qualified for jobs.

“For them, the GED coursework is a perfect alternative,” Hoffmann says.

To meet the demand, DMACC is offering the courses at more locations and has taken a number of new steps to serve students. Hoffmann says each of the College’s campuses in Boone, Newton, Carroll, Ankeny, West Des Moines and Des Moines offer the courses. The College also works with Iowa Workforce Development, Polk county officials, state corrections facilities and several non-profit organizations in Des Moines to offer the program classes. Additional instructors and more one-on-one teaching also are allowing the college to deliver GED courses to students. Hoffmann says a new online GED component, which gives students access to GED preparatory lessons, began in January at all six campuses. The results of that new online teaching component will not be known until 201 GED results are compiled early next year.

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Take up a Hobby

By Austin Leeds

Many students I’ve met have three divisions of time: class time/studying, eating, and relaxing; some have a fourth: work. However, I think one activity that is being neglected lately is that of taking up a hobby.

What is a hobby?

What is a hobby? It’s a rewarding activity you perform during your spare time, something of a compromise between work and play. Unlike work, whose benefits are usually limited to a paycheck and possibly insurance, a hobby provides mental, physical, and spiritual stimulation and relaxation.

I have several hobbies: I am a writer for the Banner News, as well as Low End Mac (a tech blog dedicated to older Apple Macintosh computers). I also do fix-it jobs as a hobby, repairing old electronics. One of my favorite hobbies is photography—not snapshot photography, but purposeful photography. It is very mentally stimulating to calculate all the parameters I must set on a DSLR (professional camera), and it is physically stimulating to walk around taking pictures. It is spiritually stimulating as well, as I spot God’s handiwork in everything, and everyone, I take pictures of.

What are Some Benefits of Hobbies?

Physical stimulation, of course, can lead to a variety of health benefits. For example, I own a early-1960s Conn electric organ. While it is smaller than most pianos, it still weighs 174 ½ lbs.—restoring it requires moving it a lot and working in very tight spaces. Since I’ve started restoring it, I’ve lost several pounds and gained some upper body strength. I feel more energized throughout my day.

Mental stimulation can lead to increased academic performance. Going back to my organ, restoring it to its original condition required me to hunt down and purchase its service manual. When I opened the service manual for the first time, I was overwhelmed with the depth of information it contained, but as I slowly worked my way through it, I’m developing new mental pathways and new ways of thinking, which can easily translate to my college studies.

As anyone who plays an instrument knows, music can result in a very deep, satisfying spiritual stimulation. In my case, I love to play old hymns on my organ—the result is strangely retro, sounding like it should be coming out of a fifty-year-old 33” record. And there’s always that deep, vibrating bass—good for the soul, I think. It helps to wash most of the stress of the day away and allows me to focus on the things I need to be doing without worrying.

Find a Hobby!

Whether it’s bird watching, turning up your car, or collecting, there’s a hobby for everyone. I highly recommend taking up a hobby, but make sure it something that you have the time and energy to do. When you find your hobby, stick with it! The rewards are there for those who choose to take a little time to keep their minds, bodies, and spirits active and alive.

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Considering summer classes

By Ciara Schaben

If you are thinking about summer classes, you are among most of us. Summer classes are a great way to get caught up in credits in just a few months. The great thing about summer classes is that they start at the end of May and end at the beginning of August. This way, you are able to at least have a few weeks of freedom before starting in the Fall. Another reason students may take them is so they have enough credits to get into a school or program they desire. My mother is taking summer classes so she can get into the biology program quicker than if she took the summer off. I was planning on taking summer classes so that I would have enough credits in the fall to go to the University of Iowa. After getting used to Ames, I’ve decided that I want to stay another year at DMACC. I am still signed up for summer classes but am debating if I should work the summer or attend those classes.

Some students who take full course loads both semesters see summer as a reward for hard work. Some of these students may have a hard time finding the positives in summer classes, while others see it as a way to get done early. Summer classes are also offered online who students who work full-time. With online classes, its hard to get the same classroom education you would get if you just went to the school. Both of these kinds of classes are fast paced and hard to keep up with due to the short time period they are provided. If you are considering taking summer classes you have to be very serious and hard working.

He’s Charlie Sheen, and you’re not

By Neal Gabler

Los Angeles Times

Say what you will about Charlie Sheen—that he is a raving lunatic, an egomaniac, a train wreck, an anti-Semite, a drug-addled cautionary tale—he has also actually made some sense this past week by offering up a reasonably astute analysis of the relationship between the public and its celebrities. In fact, Sheen seems to have decided to liberate himself by liberating us from the illusions we harbor about the stars. Most of us want to think of celebrities as ordinary folks who, by dint of talent, hard work and a bit of luck, ascended to the heights. We want to think of them that way, one suspects, because it binds them more closely to us and because it allows us to indulge the fantasy that it could be us up there on the screen. The irony is that living large and doing exactly as he pleases has long been a central ingredient in Sheen’s appeal. His role on “Two and a Half Men” as a womanizing, footloose hboehor seems lifted out of his real life, which is one of the reasons it is funny. We think we are seeing Sheen spoofing himself. When Sheen reminded us that his life is even more extreme than his character’s, the media turned censorious—an example of trying to have your comedy and revile it too. Sheen is absolutely right to call this hypocrisy. He has never pretended to be a Boy Scout. He has always purported to be precisely the opposite.

More broadly, even as Sheen blows the whistle on the idea that celebrities are just like us (or that he has ever been anything other than a loose cannon), he also reveals the cracks in the “bambie star-grateful audience” contract. When Willis was making his observations on celebrity some 15 years ago, he explained that Americans everywhere, having seen the benefits of fame, desired it. Increasingly, he noted, it isn’t what we have in observations on celebrity some 15 years ago, he explained that Americans everywhere, having seen the benefits of fame, desired it. Increasingly, he noted, it isn’t what we have in common with stars that binds us to them; it’s exactly the opposite. Privilege and arrogance once repulsed us. Now, in our amped-up, success-obsessed culture, it attracts us.

And if Sheen isn’t the first celebrity to be overtly imperial, he may be the first to tell us just how imperial he is. Think “Adonis DNA,” and “winning, duh.” And that may be Sheen’s real infraction to his detractors: In letting us know that he is nothing like us—that he is everything that we are not (a racist narcissist, a drug addict, a misanthrope)—he also, in a sense, repudiated one of the most cherished American illusions: that everyone is, in fact, capable of greatness. And if Sheen isn’t the first celebrity to be overtly imperial, he may be the first to tell us just how imperial he is. Think “Adonis DNA,” and “winning, duh.” And that may be Sheen’s real infraction to his detractors: In letting us know that he is nothing like us—that he is everything that we are not (a racist narcissist, a drug addict, a misanthrope)—he also, in a sense, repudiated one of the most cherished American illusions: that everyone is, in fact, capable of greatness.
If you can guess where this picture is at on the DMACC Boone Campus, you will receive a $5 gift certificate to the Campus Cafe. If more than one person guesses this correctly, each name will be placed into a hat and the winner will be drawn. The deadline for this picture will be Monday, April 11, at noon. Please submit your answers with the specific location clearly identified to the Banner News production room (Room 115) or by e-mail at bannernews@dmacc.edu.

Photo by Kevin Langel

Last Issue’s Winner
The winner of the last issue’s Guess this Pic was Stefanie Boeckman of the DMACC Bear’s volleyball team. Thank you to everyone who submitted their guesses.

What’s on your mind? We want to hear about it. Do you have a compliment? A concern? Tell us. Submit letters to the editor to bannernews@dmacc.edu. Remember, all letters must be signed.

DON’T MISS SINGER AND GUITAR PLAYER HAWK MCINTYRE, 11-YEARS-OLD, ON APRIL 6.