Anonymous spill-all page gives thrills, chills

By Josh Stevens
Staff Writer

These posts come from the DMACC secret admirers Facebook page, which was started March 26. The campus has mixed reviews about the site.

As of April 6, the page has 1,213 likes and 1,699 people talking about it on Facebook and there have been 620 posts. That’s an average of 52 posts a day over a two-week period. The site was started after the ISU Admirers page, which made its debut just five days before DMACC’s version.

The site has posts from all DMACC campuses and allows adoring individuals or pranksters a chance to let their feelings be known even if their name isn’t.

A friend informed Lexi Lovik, a student at the Boone campus, of a post with her as the subject. She admitted her first thought was her roommate was the responsible party. She said the page is fun to look at. “I’m flattered that someone decided to write about me on there, but it’s almost creepy that they knew personal stuff about me,” said Sean Hanlin, also a student.

See SECRET, page 4

DMACC funding of LGBTQ conference draws criticism

By Caionn Leeds
Editor-in-Chief

Boone’s state representative chose not to join 16 of his fellow legislators who were calling for DMACC’s funding to be cut based on the College’s involvement in a gay youth conference earlier this month.

Chip Baltimore, a Republican, said he was bothered by the title of two of the breakout sessions planned at the Annual Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth, but he did not believe the pulling funding for DMACC was necessary.

“I didn’t think it was appropriate to cut funding for thousands of students just because DMACC’s administration decided to co-sponsor an event that contained two workshops that displayed incredible intolerance,” he said.

DMACC Ankeny student Jake Dagel held a press conference on March 25 criticizing DMACC’s decision to pull its funding for the conference, which was held on April 3.

Jobbey informed the campus of a post with her as the subject. She admitted her first thought was her roommate was the responsible party. She said the page is fun to look at. “I’m flattered that someone decided to write about me on there, but it’s almost creepy that they knew personal stuff about me,” said Sean Hanlin, also a student.

See SECRET, page 4

DMACC President Robert Denson said he sent an email to legislators seeking to clarify DMACC’s sponsorship of students to attend the conference. He said that the legislators who responded to his email were fine with DMACC funding the conference as long as there was equal treatment.

Dagel said that although he did not believe it was fair to cut DMACC funding, he thought it was necessary to get the point across that the funding of the bullying of Christians and conservatives would not be tolerated.

Denson said that he didn’t believe DMACC students should be caught in the crossfire of this disagreement. “It would be a mistake to punish our students,” he said.

Dagel singled out two sessions, ‘Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Right Wing’ and another called ‘The Bible Tells Me So’ as particularly offensive.

The online description of ‘Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Right Wing’ at iowasafeschools.org said, “Learn messages and methods to fight back against propaganda from the extreme right wing, from Fox News and Rush Limbaugh to Bob Vander Plaats and Jan Mickelson.”

“I’m a little troubled by the wording that was used [in the session titles],” Baltimore said. He added that the language seemed somewhat hypocritical for an anti-bullying conference.

Denson explained that DMACC paid $1,000 worth in tickets for 50 students to attend the conference as well as co-sponsored two workshops that contained two workshops that displayed incredible intolerance.

DMACC Ankeny student Jake Dagel held a press conference on March 25 criticizing DMACC’s decision to pull its funding for the conference, which was held on April 3.

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Banner News

By Cainon Leeds
Editor-in-Chief

DMACC Boone’s play for this semester, “Rumors” by Neil Simon, was performed on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 at 7:30 pm.

From the response of the audience, “Rumors” was the best play to come out of DMACC Boone in years. I would have to agree with them. The timing was superb, the delivery was flawless and the actors fulfilled their roles to a “T.”

The curtains opened with Chris Gorman (played by Kodie Butterfield) and her husband, Ken Gorman (played by Matt Beyer) discovering that their friend, Charlie Brock, the deputy mayor of New York, had attempted to commit suicide on the night of his 10th wedding anniversary party. His wife, Myra Brock, along with the servants were nowhere to be found.

After careful consideration of the situation, Ken and Chris decided to keep the suicide attempt under wraps from the authorities and any guests who may be attending the party while nursing Charlie back to health.

The next couple arrived in a wrecked BMW. A whiplashed Lenny (played by Brett Edmundson) and swolled liped Claire Ganz (played by Julie Nagel) made their appearance on stage. They quickly caught on to Chris and Ken’s suspicious stories and shared rumors of Charlie and Myra’s secret affairs with each other. Lenny refused to believe Charlie would do such a thing.

“Charlie would never look at another woman,” Lenny said.

“He may not be looking at her, but he’s screwing her,” Claire countered.

The couple confronted Ken with their suspicions and demanded to know the truth. Ken told them the story and swore to secrecy.

Soon afterward, the next couple, psychologist Ernie (played by Shawn Hamlin) and Casie Cooper (played by Taylor Baggett) arrived in stage. To avoid an awkward confrontation, Chris and Claire rushed into the bathroom, leaving Ernie to answer the door.

Once allowed inside, introduced and left alone, Glenn and Cassie broke into an argument. Cassie excused herself to the bathroom to get bandages. In her absence, her cousin Joann, who was currently in Venezuela called.

At the end of Act I Glenn pounded on the bathroom door, causing Cassie to drop her crystal chandelier into the toilet. Lenny’s neck gave out, Ernie and Cookie brought dinner just out as Charlie had another back spasm. Chris tripped over the telephone cord while handing the phone to Ken and a deaf Ken was left confused by opening his bathrobe to reveal it must be a party balloon and not the truth.

A police car was spotted coming up the driveway. The group of friends decided that, if anything should go wrong, Lenny would be the one to pretend to be Charlie and explain everything to the police, and Ken would pretend to be Lenny.

Lenny headed upstairs while everyone else decided to turn loud music on and start dancing, using it as an excuse for not hearing the doorbell or the gunshot earlier that night.

Officer Welch (played by Danny Philpott) and Officer Padney (played by Mary Roosa) entered the house.

“Would someone turn that damn music off?” Officer Welch shouted.

Welch interrogated the group and became suspicious of the quickly made-up story he was given. However, it turned out that Welch and Padney were only investigating the car accident that Lenny and Claire were in.

As the officers were leaving, Glenn accidentally spilled the beans about the gunshot. Welch became more suspicious and bewildered, demanding to see Charlie Brock.

Lenny, dressed as Charlie, was called and he told his story.

Lenny delivered a lengthy, fact-filled story by opening his bathrobe to reveal the initials “CB” on his pajamas and saying, “And that’s the truth, or my name isn’t Charlie Brock.”

Welch bought the story and he and Officer Pugney left.

The whole group, anxious to know the truth from Charlie, headed upstairs when they heard someone pounding on the basement door.

“Let me out. Let me out. It’s my turn,” came a voice (played by Rachel Davis) from the other side of the door. The curtain closed.

The entire cast deserved two rounds of applause, but in my mind, Matt Beyer, who played Ken with his deaf ravings and irritated irons, stole the show. Almost every time he delivered a punchline, the audience roared.

Also, Brett Edmundson, who played Lenny, the sarcastic whip-lash victim, earned a close second to Beyer with his perfect timing during the Saturday performance and his excellent delivery of his monologue at the end of the play both nights.

The Director, Kay Mueller, and the rest of the crew deserve thanks for making such a high quality production. Hats off to the sound effects for this one. I was caught off guard by the gunshot both nights. I honestly don’t see how the DMACC Boone drama department will ever be able to top this play.
A change of heart
Student resource coordinator and pep band director set to retire

By Kodie Butterfield

With its location near the main entrance, Maggie Stone's office is at the heart of the college. It’s a fitting location for the woman whom many consider to be the heart of the college.

Stone, who has provided resources and assistance to students who need help for 26 years, will retire at the end of the year.

Technically Stone’s title is the Coordinator of Student and Community Resources. But in reality Stone’s work is all about having a heart. Her job has been to give the special care and attention needed for displaced homemakers, single parents, and students with special circumstances to succeed at DMACC. Stone works hard to match the right resources with the right students to help them make plans to continue their education.

“It was a very difficult decision for me to make,” Stone said about retiring.

DMACC has a policy that states that full-time employees who have worked for DMACC for at least 10 years and are at least 55 years old are able to collect a type of severance pay and this was the last year that Stone was available to collect this pay.

“People should know about her commitment to serving students, her dedication to her position, and to DMACC, especially the Boone Campus,” said Tom Lee, provost, who has worked with Stone since he was hired eight years ago.

Lee said Stone has done a good job bringing a voice from the non-traditional students to the table that could be taken into consideration when making decisions. She has been an active member of the Boone Campus and has been instrumental in the development of the Pep Band.

“She is not only a dedicated colleague but also a friend to other faculty and staff members. We are going to miss her,” said Lee.

Since her time on the Boone Campus Stone has had a big influence on the development of the DMACC Pep Band.

“I have seen the Pep Band grow from between six or eight people to about 20,” Lee said.

Brian Fox is a current DMACC student who has taken part in Pep Band with Stone. He recognizes her as not only the leader of the Pep Band but also a participant who played with the rest of Pep Band. He shares memories with Maggie and his experience with Pep Band.

“Since Pep Band was fun and recreational, we sometime wouldn’t pay attention and Maggie would start. About three people would start with her and then everyone would start laughing. We would have to start over once everyone had calmed down,” said Fox.

Fox decided to join Pep Band after seeing a flyer and then he went to talk to Stone. He could tell that Pep Band was something she was passionate about and not just something that she felt she had to do. Fox said that Stone taught him not to take things too seriously and that every once in a while you need to have some fun.

“Maggie should keep music as a part of her life. Music keeps the spirit youthful,” said Fox.

Mary Beth Hanlin, biology professor, is a colleague of Stone’s and also took part in the Pep Band. Hanlin decided to help out with the Pep Band after being approached by Stone about five years ago and thought that it would be a fun experience.

“My most memorable experience has probably been Pep Band and all of the things we have done with it. That and taking a ride with her in her little red Miata,” said Hanlin.

Green said that one of the things she was most proud of was awards she earned while teaching at DMACC. She received the Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year award from the Iowa Association for Career and Technical Education in 2006 and the Outstanding Iowa Post-Secondary Business Educator award from the Iowa Business Education Association, also in 2006.

In addition to teaching, Green has been the advisor for the Boone chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, a national business organization for students.

She also managed a tech camp for children at DMACC for eight years.

“It was full of 20 students usually, 20 campers as we would call them, and we did different activities with computers,” she said.

She said that after the kids’ tech camp got started, DMACC instructor Linda Plueger’s sister brought her son to the camp and said, “I really like to learn it.”

The result was a tech camp for adults, which ran for six years.

“It was fun, but it was a lot of work,” Green said. “It was fun meeting people and helping the students.”

Green also mentioned the downsides of teaching. She said her least favorite aspect of being an instructor has been grading homework.

“After 42 years of doing homework, it kind of gets old,” she said.

In addition, Green offered some words of wisdom from her experience teaching at DMACC for any new coming teachers.

“In my human relations class, I always thought it was so important to get to know the students,” she said.

She emphasized the importance of creating a conducive communication environment among students and allowing them to get to know the instructor and each other.

Bear Briefs
C4 Event
On April 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Phi Theta Kappa will be holding a Commute to Graduate event in the Courter Center. There will be a banner signing, cookies, wristbands, and pins.

Blood Drive
LifeServe will be holding a blood drive from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on April 11 in a Bloodmobile located outside the northeast entrance (Door 10). To sign up to donate go to the LifeServe.org.

Poetry Contest
The deadline is April 15 at 3 p.m. to submit work to the Boone Campus Poetry contest. Top prizes include $25 cash. Contact Kristyn Herling at kherling@dmacc.edu.

Near you...
By Jessica McNeese

Staff Writer

The DMACC Bears softball team is off to a 21-1 start with a conference record of 12-0. Athletic Director Ory Sal- mon on credits Coach Bob Ligouri and his staff for the success.

"Coach Ligouri and his coaching staff deserve credit, as well as the girls. They have ac- cepted the challenge of starting the program. It has been fun to watch," Salmon said.

The softball program is in its second year. DMACC had a soft- ball team many years ago. The college restarted the program but decided to start it back up.

"They had softball a long time ago but then dropped the program. We have a philosophy that if we have an athletic team we need to be successful. HIR- ing Coach Ligouri was the start to making this decision," Salmon said.

Sophomore Kourtni Rob- inson has been here for two years. The program has had so far: "I believe we have been suc- cessful because of the coaching staff and also the mindset of the players. We all want to win and will do anything to get the job done," Robinson said.

The team placed third in the conference last year and was also World Series Qualifiers. They were Region XI Champions and District F Champions.

"I believe we have the po- tential to do very well this year. We have a lot of awesome play- ers that returned and also the new additions to the team bring a lot to the program. We want to face verbally as much as possible, but they are not a team to face verbally as much anymore," Davenport said.

"I think yeah it can be a good thing but then psychologically it all I think ‘yeah it can be a good thing. We have experienced and really good leadership. I think we have some great opportunities to have a successful year. I’m really proud of our sophomore class winning last year, they are really strong and driven," Ligouri said.

Being a returning starter, Robinson has been part of that leadership. She and the rest of the sophomores have started and are continuing a strong start to the program.

"I am most proud of how everyone has stepped up to the plate. If one person is having a bad day, everyone picks up the slack for them," Robinson said.

Ligouri looks at the team the same way. He sees the balance and team effort the women put in.

"When you look at our team, it is a team. Everyone has con- tributed, we have great pitching but we also have eight players hitting over 300. We have balance and a lot of players that can step up," Ligouri said.

The Bears have a big con- ference game against Kirkwood Community College on April 10. But they have their sights set on the World Series.

"The coaching staff had a vision of the type of athlete they wanted to recruit and how they wanted to play. It has already gone very well," Salmon said.

Ligouri said there is a positive aspect of community the program could create. "It gives like-minded people a place to gather," he said.

Rita Davenport, counselor and advisor, sees the superficial nature of the site along with the statement it makes about commu- nication in this day and age.

"I think right now more people are into the instant mes- sage-text-type men- tality and it’s not that people need to communicate with each other face to face verbally as much anymore," Davenport said.

"DMACC should not sponsor the site. There has also been a question as to legalities of the site. Todd Jones, DMACC direc- tor of marketing and public rela- tions, said, "As long as they are not using official logos or if they post that they are not affiliated with DMACC, then DMACC offi- cially doesn’t have anything to do with it." Jones said there is a positive aspect of community the page could create. "It gives like-minded people a place to gather," he said.

Sophomore Mari Silliman pitched the DMACC softball team to wins over Ellsworth Community College (ECC) and Iowa Central Community College (ICC) on April 5 and 6. Silliman allowed three hits and struck out 12 in a 12-0 win over ECC on April 5 and also allowed three hits and struck out 12 in a 4-1 win over ICC on April 6.

DMACC File Photo

Sophomore Mari Silliman pitched the DMACC softball team to wins over Ellsworth Community College (ECC) and Iowa Central Community College (ICC) on April 5 and 6. Silliman allowed three hits and struck out 12 in a 12-0 win over ECC on April 5 and also allowed three hits and struck out 12 in a 4-1 win over ICC on April 6.

DMACC File Photo
DMACC goes 3-1 against Ellsworth

Despite slow start from long winter, men’s and women’s teams are working hard to get to nationals

By Kolby Vetter
Sports Writer

The DMACC men and women’s golf teams are looking to compete for a championship on the course this spring, but the weather has been a setback.

Larry Briley, head coach of both men and women, said coming into this year it’s been a work in progress due to weather that has been up and down.

“It’s been an awful slow start. I have been coaching golf here at DMACC for 11 or 12 years, and this is the first time we hadn’t been outside one day prior to our spring tournament,” Briley said.

In 2012, both teams finished in the top three of their respective regions, and both saw national rankings end up in the top 15.

While the snow was affecting the players outside, it didn’t stop them from working on improving everyday. Brad Christensen, freshman, said once a week he and his teammates would travel to Grimes to hit in the dome and keep working on their game.

“I’m really excited for this upcoming season, a chance to be in the top five. Getting to nationals is something I’m really looking forward to,” Christensen said.

Sophomores Andy Fraser and Nate Schill will lead the way for the Bears, coming up just short of All-America honors last year. They look to step into the leadership role and help freshman teammates Tanner Ludwig, Nico Costa, Matt Gute and Brad Christensen.

“I’m very excited about the guys we have coming in this spring, they all have a great opportunity to come in and play,” Briley said.

One of the greatest attributes on this year’s squad is athleticism, Christensen said.

“We’re not just golfers, we are very athletic. I think we know how to regain composure, and come back from bad holes, forget about it and move on to the next,” Christensen said.

Briley is also equally excited about the women’s season. The Bears return four sophomores from last year’s squad that finished in second place at the regional tournament.

While sophomore Kelsie Berke agrees that the start of the season was pretty slow due to poor weather conditions, she is excited to get going.

“Things have been a little rough because we haven’t been able to play outside as much as we would like, but we really pulled it together and won our last tournament,” Berke said referring to the Graceland tourney in late March.

The women are confident that with hard work, competing everyday, and supporting each other, they can get back to nationals.

“Our number one goal is to make back to nationals as a team down in Mesa, Arizona,” Berke said.

Over spring break both teams had the opportunity to travel to Winfield, Kan., to play in the South Central Kansas spring invitational. The men finished in eighth place while the women finished seventh. While it wasn’t the scores they had hoped for, Briley and his squad agreed that it was extremely important for both teams to get out and get a feel for the course.

“It was huge, even though we aren’t going to be 100 percent ready to play, it gives us a goal to shoot for, and a timeframe that they know to get themselves ready,” Briley said.

It was a chance for both the men and women to get out on real grass and play, something they hadn’t been able to do up until that point. Brad Christensen said it felt great just to get a feel of the game and have that mentality of playing come back.

Briley said he feels both teams have room for improvement and that everyday is a step in the right direction.

“For the guys, we need to just compete as a team and be more confident in our capabilities. We want to be regional champs.

“As for the women for the scores tend to vary a little more than the guys do, so we just need to be more consistent, and take the bad shots out.”

Christensen and Berke said that leadership is key and it is evident on both teams. Christensen said the team is very close, and the chemistry between the guys is outstanding.

Berke knows that going into her second year in the program it will be important for her to become a leader to the others on the team.

“Having a leader and someone to look up to was very important to me, and I know it is to the freshman on the team right now as well,” Berke said.

So as the two teams continue and move on with their season and the weather turns from winter to spring, Briley, Christensen, and Berke hope that at the end of the year all the hard work pays off.

“To get to our ultimate goal and be successful, we need to have goals to win the regional tournament, become more consistent, and keep competing day in and day out,” Briley said.

Sports Roundup

DMACC goes 3-1 against Ellsworth

Mackenzie Watts, a sophomore from Huxley and a member of the DMACC women’s golf team, taps in a short putt at the par-4 10th hole during the DMACC Invitational April 4 at Cedar Pointe Golf Course in Boone. Watts took medalist honors with a seven-over-par 79 and helped the Bears to the team championship.

Tanner Ludwig, a freshman from Carroll and a member of the DMACC men’s golf team, drives from the 12th tee during the DMACC Invitational April 4 at Cedar Pointe Golf Course in Boone. Ludwig’s one-under-par 71 helped the Bears to the team championship and gave him a second-place finish in the individual competition.

Bears Sports Calendar

April 12: Men’s & Women’s Golf vs AIB
April 13: Men’s & Women’s Golf vs AIB
April 15: Men’s and Women’s Golf vs Iowa Central
April 16: Men’s Baseball vs Marshalltown
April 17: Women’s Softball vs Marshalltown

Like the Banner News on Facebook

Photo courtesy of Cainion Leeds

Sophomore outfielder Cody Williams, 2, hits a line drive against Ellsworth Saturday at DMACC field in Boone. Ellsworth ended DMACC’s 15-game win streak Saturday in a 10-7, 10-inning victory. The Bears took three out of four games over the weekend and bumped their record to 26-3 (9-1). DMACC returns to the diamond on April 13 and 14 to take on Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids. On the season the Bears have outscored opponents 237-109 while batting a season average of .329.

Photo courtesy of Dick Kelly/DMACC

Tanner Ludwig, a freshman from Carroll and a member of the DMACC men's golf team, drives from the 12th tee during the DMACC Invitational April 4 at Cedar Pointe Golf Course in Boone. Ludwig's one-under-par 71 helped the Bears to the team championship and gave him a second-place finish in the individual competition.
Multiple sclerosis makes honors student stronger

By Shelby Kramer
Guest Columnist

Imagine waking up one morning and not being able to make it to your bedroom door without running into every wall in your room. Imagine trying to read a teacher’s notes when you were seeing double of everything. Imagine not being able to tell the difference between a cotton ball and a needle on your skin. These examples and many more are things that happen every day in the life of someone diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease that affects the brain, optic nerves, and spinal cord. According to the National MS Society, it affects nearly 2.1 million people worldwide and has no known cause or cure. A MS patient’s immune system will overreact and begin to attack the myelin sheath that covers the nerve fibers in the brain and spinal cord. The damaged spots in the nerves begin to act like a wire short circuiting. This can cause blurred vision, loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness, extreme fatigue, problems with memory and concentration, paralysis, blindness and more. MS symptoms can be temporary or permanent depending upon the progression of the disease. Multiple Sclerosis affects two times as many women as it does men. It is diagnosed mainly in people between the ages of twenty and fifty. Although this is true, doctors have found that there are more and more pediatric cases of MS being discovered in children as young as two. This has caused alert to many doctors working in pediatric neurology and in Multiple Sclerosis.

The rise in the number of cases of MS has led to a push for more research into a way to cure the disease. Recent research has provided scientists with proof that high sodium intake can increase your chances of developing this disease and increase the number of relapses a person experiences, even sometimes reverse damage caused by MS. Doctors believe that diet is a reason why there are more pediatric cases being found than ever before. As a nation our diet has become based on unhealthy processed foods. So far, researchers have not found a cure for the disease. They have made it more comfortable for patients through by discovering an oral medication that works to lessen the number of relapses a person experiences so many patients can get away from sticking themselves with needles every day.

I am one of those cases of a person diagnosed as a pediatric case. When I was seventeen I was diagnosed with this disease and the things described in the beginning are a few of the things that I went through in the three years of having this disease. Even though this is true, I am a still a member of the DMACC softball team, the DMACC Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa, and Phi Beta Lambda. I am not using this article as a way to throw a pity party for myself, because this disease has actually made me a stronger person. I am writing this article because I want to raise awareness of this disease. It is very possible that you may even know someone with this invisible disease.

Here is my challenge for you. I want you to help me spread the word about what the disease is. On May 10th, I will be participating in the Walk for MS in Des Moines. I am raising money to donate to the National MS Society to fund research to help find a cure for this disease. If you would be interested in donating to my walk team, keep on smyelin! or if you would like to become a team member and participate in the walk with me around campus. I am willing to share more about Multiple Sclerosis with you then you. This is the website for my team where you can donate or join the team, http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/MNMWalkEvents/team?id=338822&pg=team&fr_id=9609.

By Zyaznab Diallo
Guest Columnist

Fall 2012, students enrolled at DMACC have had the opportunity to enroll in an honors program and get honors credits that they can apply to their major. Graduating with honors is an honorable distinction that can help students stand out in the job market or have a better chance to be accepted by a prestigious 4-year college or university. The DMACC Honors Program has been advertised either through emails in the DMACC Daily or on the DMACC website. I remember being skeptical I was when I received an informational email about the Honors program. I read the email over and over searching for clues to be sure this was not going to cost me more than it would benefit me. Like an economist, I always try to weigh the pros and cons of every situation. I felt like being in this program would take away the tiny bit of socialability that I still had left. I also thought that I needed to be a genius to succeed and do the projects. I was wrong, but I did not find out until I got accepted in the program.

DMACC honors program: worth the sacrifice

However, I could not deny that there were some incentives to join the program. The scholarship opportunity was quite appealing for I did not have enough money to pay for my tuition. I also needed to challenge myself. The classes I was taking (Psychology 101, Calculus II and Composition I) were hard, but I noticed that I had the tendency of forgetting the material covered during the semester. My goal for each semester was to get a good grade in all my classes, but I soon realized it was not enough.

Students in the Honors program are not only required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.5, they are also required to do a project which might involve using materials from the course. That helped me see my classes in a new way to gain knowledge that will be useful for my life.

The Honors program also helped me build some skills. I never imagined myself being involved in the planning of a ceremony and writing emails, but that is exactly what I did. I was proud to be invited and having the opportunity to be a mentor and make kids feel comfortable. I am happy that I took the chance to be part of the Honors program even though it requires a lot of effort and commitment, it is worth the sacrifice.

Multiple Sclerosis affects two times as many women as it does men. It is diagnosed mainly in people between the ages of twenty and fifty. Although this is true, doctors have found that there are more and more pediatric cases of MS being discovered in children as young as two. This has caused alert to many doctors working in pediatric neurology and in Multiple Sclerosis.

The rise in the number of cases of MS has led to a push for more research into a way to cure the disease. Recent research has provided scientists with proof that high sodium intake can increase your chances of developing this disease and increase the number of relapses a person experiences, even sometimes reverse damage caused by MS. Doctors believe that diet is a reason why there are more pediatric cases being found than ever before. As a nation our diet has become based on unhealthy processed foods. So far, researchers have not found a cure for the disease. They have made it more comfortable for patients through by discovering an oral medication that works to lessen the number of relapses a person experiences so many patients can get away from sticking themselves with needles every day.

I am one of those cases of a person diagnosed as a pediatric case. When I was seventeen I was diagnosed with this disease and the things described in the beginning are a few of the things that I went through in the three years of having this disease. Even though this is true, I am a still a member of the DMACC softball team, the DMACC Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa, and Phi Beta Lambda. I am not using this article as a way to throw a pity party for myself, because this disease has actually made me a stronger person. I am writing this article because I want to raise awareness of this disease. It is very possible that you may even know someone with this invisible disease.

Here is my challenge for you. I want you to help me spread the word about what the disease is. On May 10th, I will be participating in the Walk for MS in Des Moines. I am raising money to donate to the National MS Society to fund research to help find a cure for this disease. If you would be interested in donating to my walk team, keep on smyelin! or if you would like to become a team member and participate in the walk with me around campus. I am willing to share more about Multiple Sclerosis with you then you. This is the website for my team where you can donate or join the team, http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Walk/MNMWalkEvents/team?id=338822&pg=team&fr_id=9609.

By Zyaznab Diallo
Guest Columnist

Fall 2012, students enrolled at DMACC have had the opportunity to enroll in an honors program and get honors credits that they can apply to their major. Graduating with honors is an honorable distinction that can help students stand out in the job market or have a better chance to be accepted by a prestigious 4-year college or university. The DMACC Honors Program has been advertised either through emails in the DMACC Daily or on the DMACC website. I remember being skeptical I was when I received an informational email about the Honors program. I read the email over and over searching for clues to be sure this was not going to cost me more than it would benefit me. Like an economist, I always try to weigh the pros and cons of every situation. I felt like being in this program would take away the tiny bit of socialability that I still had left. I also thought that I needed to be a genius to succeed and do the projects. I was wrong, but I did not find out until I got accepted in the program.

DMACC honors program: worth the sacrifice

However, I could not deny that there were some incentives to join the program. The scholarship opportunity was quite appealing for I did not have enough money to pay for my tuition. I also needed to challenge myself. The classes I was taking (Psychology 101, Calculus II and Composition I) were hard, but I noticed that I had the tendency of forgetting the material covered during the semester. My goal for each semester was to get a good grade in all my classes, but I soon realized it was not enough.

Students in the Honors program are not only required to maintain an overall GPA of 3.5, they are also required to do a project which might involve using materials from the course. That helped me see my classes in a new way to gain knowledge that will be useful for my life.

The Honors program also helped me build some skills. I never imagined myself being involved in the planning of a ceremony and writing emails, but that is exactly what I did. I was proud to be invited and having the opportunity to be a mentor and make kids feel comfortable. I am happy that I took the chance to be part of the Honors program even though it requires a lot of effort and commitment, it is worth the sacrifice.
People should not be barred from pursuit of happiness

By Jacob Johnson-Muyengwa
Staff Writer

It seems you can’t go anywhere these days without hearing something about the controversy behind the gay marriage issue. On one side is a group of people fighting to stop the United States from allowing two men or two women to marry. On the other side, there are people who think nothing more than the issue of marriage should be illegal.

There are also those who try to use the Bible to support same-sex marriage among Christians, but these laws are not to judge lest they be judged in the same way or to love their neighbors as they love themselves.

I see a different view on things. As my favorite author and Christian apologista C. Lewis points out in his book “Mere Christianity,” he would not want to hold non-Christians up to the same marriage standards as Christians are called to model. However, I want Muslims to dictate their standards of drinking alcohol to non-Muslims. But that still won’t stop people from believing that divorce was wrong from a Christian standpoint.

I agree with Lewis. I oppose same-sex marriage among those of my religion for the same reason I oppose divorce: because it’s unnatural. It’s not something fundamental that is part of my religion. But I strongly believe that those outside my religion can do what they please as long as it doesn’t interfere with me or my beliefs.

The other side of the argument lies in the social realm. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals have been pushing for social acceptance for the past few decades, and they’ve made progress. If you choose to marry someone who is of the same sex, so be it. But if you choose to marry someone they don’t agree with, I often call a “homophobe” and deemed “intolerant” of others.

In the same token, it’s illegal or at least seen as taboo to openly pray in a public school or at a school football game. Yet if there’s a diversity activity on a college campus or a group that needs special mention in a textbook, it’s usually gays and lesbians, not Christians, Jews, Muslims, or Buddhists. I believe in a separation of Church and State, which is why I think it’s unfair that the State helps out with picking on the group of people that either see being gay as unnatural, or wrong, or they just simply see marriage as a religious institution between a man and a woman. While everyone is entitled to their opinion, it is my firm belief that just because you disagree with someone’s lifestyle, it’s not your right to tell them that their lifestyle is going to destroy the way of life just because it’s different from yours.

I’m a happily married man. My marriage may not be perfect, but we make each other happy, and we continue to work hard at keeping our relationship fresh and alive. I’m not married because I felt it was my religious duty to be married to who I love, but rather I got married because I’m crazy about the woman I’m with and I wanted to let her know I want her to be in my life as long as we are both alive to have a life together. In this respect, what’s the issue behind allowing two men or two women who feel the same way about each other from expressing their love from one another in the same way? I could never look another person in the eye and tell them that I’m right and you’re wrong because if you want to do the exact same thing I wanted to do with the same intention and same feelings.

Others explain that gay marriage is unconstitutional, un-American. When America was just a dream on a piece of paper we call the Declaration of Independence, the good Mr. Jefferson said that it was our inalienable right to live in pursuit of happiness. If having a life partner that is of the same gender as yourself is what makes you happy, then I’d say there is nothing more American than to live the rest of your life with the one who makes you happy. Moreover, if that’s what makes you happy, then may all those who tell you you’re wrong be damned. They’re wrong for telling you that what makes you happy is wrong. I’m not saying that if drowning puppies are going to die on a killing spree it’s what makes you happy then you go for it, but rather that if it makes you happy and doesn’t bring harm to anyone else’s life, then it’s your right as an American to do it. If two women or two men walk down the street with rings on their fingers and they are hand in hand smiling because they are with their loved one, no one will die. Some might cry, but tears dry or at least sink.

Others will say that marriage is a religious institution that cannot be violated. If a church wants to deny someone getting married, they have the right to do so. While I might not agree with their decision, it’s not my place to tell them how to worship, much like it’s not their place to tell me I have to follow their rules of worship. However, the issue at hand is looking at how the government recognizes the union of two individuals. I see this near little rule called separation of church and state, I think we can all agree that no one should be telling anyone how God feels about marriage, and that’s all I’m going to say about the religious applications of this debate.

I’m not trying to tell anyone that being gay or lesbian is wrong. If two girls need to change their mind, just that they would do better to open said mind a little. If two gay people spend their lives together but never get married, much like many do now, it doesn’t raise much of a stink among people. Yes, they’re gay, yes they’re happy here. They may never get married, but they’re allowed to express it by standing up in front of their friends and families and telling the whole world they promise to live together and stand by one another for better or for worse, through the good and the bad. In a country where everyone has the right to look out the window and read a book and do what makes them happy, what’s so wrong with the idea of two people making the promiseto laugh together through the best of times and cry together through the worst of times? Coming from the perspective of being married, I say anyone willing to take the time and energy to work through a relationship and put all their energy into making another person happy, I can’t tell anyone that their heart is in the wrong place, or else I would have no business being married myself.

Correction

The “Banner News” strives to be error-free. A correction is printed when an error is reported. Two typographical errors appeared in the feature “Rumors” has its cast, cast and crew ready for action” in the March 13 issue. The Banner News regrets the errors. The corrected paragraph is:

Astin Woolson, 18, a freshman, is working light and sound for the performances. This is his second play at DMACC. After DMACC he wants to be famous in any way possible. Woolson enjoys airsoft, fishing, and rapping. He decided to work the play because he loved the set and the play. Woolson’s favorite thing about the play is that it brings the audience on the edge of their seats. “It’s a really good play. Come out and see it.”

Taylor Baggett, 19, a freshman, is playing Cassie Cooper. This is her second play at DMACC. After graduation she plans to attend a four-year university and to be involved in playing softball, watching movies, and singing at the top of her lungs with her friends. She decided to do the play because she enjoys acting and having a chance to work with great people. Baggett’s favorite thing about the play is the humor. “I think this play is really fun to be in, and I hope the audience enjoys watching it as much as I enjoy acting in it.”

To report an error in the newspaper, contact the editor at bannernews@dmacc.edu or 515-433-5692.
Today's Birthday (04/10/13). It's a year of personal transformation. Communications fly, motivating action and growth. Group efforts are super-charged. Career shifts could occur around early March and late September...hold on for the ride. Summer finds your focus homeward, with family. Discover new wisdom. Inherit a lovely gift.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- The home decisions you make now may very well last for generations. You'll fare better if you consciously intend to enjoy the process. You're energized by love, quite irresistible. There's a completion and new beginning at work, or regarding your participation in public projects. Move quickly. Yes, it's okay to do this.


Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Go with your instincts. You're energized by love, quite irresistible. There's a completion and new beginning at work, or regarding your participation in public projects. Move quickly. Yes, it's okay to do this.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Communication flies, motivating action and growth. Group efforts are super-charged. Career shifts could occur around early March and late September...hold on for the ride. Summer finds your focus homeward, with family. Discover new wisdom. Inherit a lovely gift.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- A rush job demands attention. There's more work than you can possibly do. Eliminate surplus by delegating. Enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done. Haunt it. A change of decor may be in order.


Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Make travel plans for a spiritual adventure. Your actions improve a situation considerably. Have confidence in yourself. Do a job yourself and save. How hard can it be? Learn something new.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Try not to get impatient, impetuous or angry. Remember what you're doing it for. You're feeling more secure. A temptation's strong now. A female works behind the scenes. There's a beneficial development.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Simplify matters. Clean your closets. Mulm them over. Start or end a trip. Increase your security. A new stage begins at home. Take advantage of renewed confidence to maintain harmony. Deprep on others more.