WIFI improves
Boone Internet tech says connections are better, but more work will be done

By Lester K. Mwirichia
Staff Writer

Students have noticed improvements with the WIFI on campus lately, thanks to the work of DMACC’s information technology technician over the last four months.

Michael Le was hired in the fall as the Information Technology Technician here on the Boone Campus. Le, a DMACC grad, Upper Iowa University Grad, and having over 12 years of experience in the Information Technology (I.T.) field.

Le has been working to improve the servers, and the WIFI range these past months, and students have noticed.

DMACC student Keith Snider said: “I can catch up with my Netflix series in between classes. The WIFI has been a lot better here on campus these last few months.”

Student Jennifer Gorman added, “The Internet is easy to connect to.”

Library Specialist Elias Simpson said, “There have been fewer internet complaints from students in both the library and the computer lab.”

Simpson complimented Le, saying “Michael is doing a great job and we enjoy having him here.”

The Courter Center has been a focus of Le’s for some time. A majority of students spend time there and connect to the Wi-Fi with their laptops, iPads, Tablet, and other mobile devices there. “Wireless does not go through a brick wall so easily,” Le said.

The student housing is another one of Le’s focus points this year. For example, the Honors Building is where a lot of student athletes spend time studying and doing homework after campus hours.

Student housing resident in building 1301 Max Bauman said, “The WIFI will connect sometimes, but will also randomly kick me off.” Bauman enjoys playing Xbox Live on his free time, but isn’t happy when the WIFI signal in his room is weak.

Building 1305 resident Rachel McPherson said, “It was hard to connect to the server at the beginning of the fall semester.” McPherson mentioned that the WIFI was slow and she had to refresh her web page a lot. “Sometimes the connection is not as good in my bedroom so I...”

See WIFI, page 3

Students give input via evaluations

By Trevor Gutknecht
Editor in Chief

If you attended DMACC last semester you received emails to complete evaluations about your classes at the end of the semester. Among all DMACC campuses there were 23,187 evaluations received, according to Joe DeHart, executive director of institutional effectiveness.

“That’s my hope that students will take the time to do those surveys,” said Boone campus Provost Tom Lee. “It provides us constructive feedback from the students.”

This is the first year DMACC has gone with the digital surveys, the college is now evaluating each class, each semester and DeHart says “the more data the better.”

Although they are not required, contrary to belief, they are highly recommended.

“It’s a tool that we use to try to improve,” said Lee. “I get a copy of every one of them. I take time to go through those and I take time to read those. I use those [results] as discussion points with our faculty. If there is a common [trend] through all of those classes, then it provides me with things I need to address.”

The results are not open to the public. “The [collective] data and the anonymous text responses are released to faculty and their supervisors,” DeHart said about what happens with the surveys.

As for changes that come from these evaluations, Lee said, “Oh I think so, probably more so for your newer teachers than your more veteran teachers. But I am hopeful that the teachers take the time to look through the results and reflect.”

“I talk to the faculty all the...”

See EVALUATIONS, page 3

what you said...

Who will win the Super Bowl and why?

Brad Christensen
Kallie Webber
Ethan Beatty
Tim Bergin
Mary Heiller

“Broncos because they have Peyton Manning.”
“Broncos because I’m from Colorado.”
“Broncos because of their sweet orange jerseys.”
“Seattle because of their defense.”
“I don’t care because I am a Vikings fan.”

Photo by Lester Mwirichia/Banner News
3 killed in Maryland mall shooting;
(MCT) BALTIMORE_ Gunfire shattered the Saturday morning bustling at The Maryland Mall, a gathering place for many in the planned urban community in Maryland, scattering panicked shoppers as two store employees were shot fatally by a man who police said then killed himself. Howard County police said never before has a police officer, 21, of College Park, Md., and Tyler Johnson, 25, of Ellicott City, Md., co-workers at the skate shop Zumiez, were killed shortly after 11 a.m. Police did not release information on the identity or a possible motive of the gunman, who was found with a shotgun and a large amount of ammunition just outside the store on the mall’s second floor above the food court. Five people, including one who was shot in the foot, were treated at Howard County General Hospital. The other four were not shot but were injured during the chaos after the shots rang out.

“Whiplash” wins at Sundance Festival
PARK CITY, Utah_ “Whiplash,” Damien Chazelle’s debut feature about a fraught relationship between a teacher and student at a New York music school, was the big winner at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday night, taking the top audience and grand jury awards in the U.S. dramatic competition. Sony Pictures Classics acquired “Whiplash,” which stars J.K. Simmons as an abusive instructor and Miles Teller as his prize drummer pupil, at the festival and aims to release it this year. This is the second year in a row that a single film scored the top two U.S. dramatic prizes; last year, “Fruitvale Station” took those two honors. On the U.S. documentary side, the grand jury gave its top award to Tracy Droz Tragos and Andrew Dres Palermo’s “Rich Hill,” about a family in small-town Missouri facing intense financial hardship,” while Michael Rossato-Bennett’s Alzheimer’s documentary “Alive Inside: A Story of Music & Memory” won the audience prize.

Poll: Most Latinos want action on climate
LOS ANGELES_ Latinos overwhelmingly favor government action to fight climate change, voicing a level of support exceeded only in their views on immigration reform, according to a new poll commissioned by an environmental group. Nine in 10 Latino voters surveyed said it was important for the U.S. government to address global warming and climate change; 80 percent favored presidential action to fight climate change; 80 percent favored presidential action to fight global warming. Other polling has shown that Latinos by wide margins back action to curb pollution, climate change and other environmental problems. The latest poll found even more intense support for policies to counter global warming.

Sept. 11 museum’s fee stirs some anger
NEW YORK_ When the 9/11 Memorial Museum opens in mid-May, it will have shards of the fallen World Trade Center towers, walls covered with portraits of the nearly 3,000 victims, and the watch worn by Todd Beamer when he declared, “Let’s roll,” and helped launch an attack on the Flight 93 hijackers. It will have a burned-out ambulance and helmet, subtle reminders. It will also have a $24 admission fee, which directors say is needed to maintain the site, a cost that critics say undercut the idea of ensuring that all of the world can visit and learn from the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

BANNER NEWS STAFF
Spring 2014
Contact us
Room 115, 515-433-5092
bannernews@dmacc.edu
bannernews.org
Editor in Chief
Trevor Gutknecht
trevgutknecht@dmacc.edu
Staff Writers
Trevor Gutknecht
trevgutknecht@dmacc.edu
Les Mwirichia
bmwirichia@dmacc.edu
Keith Taylor
kthaylor2r@dmacc.edu
Kyla Durr
kdurr@dmacc.edu
Contributing Writers
Bonnie Borcherbabosborn1r@dmacc.edu
Faculty Advisor
Julie Roosa
jkrroosa@dmacc.edu
Copy Editors
Positions Available
bannernews@dmacc.edu
Web Editor
C Oral Vries
cjvries@dmacc.edu
Cartoonist
Erica Brown
ebrown@dmacc.edu
Advertising Sales
Positions Available
bannernews@dmacc.edu
Business Manager
Positions Available
bannernews@dmacc.edu
Columnists
Positions Available
bannernews@dmacc.edu
Contributors
Wixeo Printing, Madrid
Member of Associated Collegiate Press and the Iowa College Media Association.

Bear Briefs
Lunch & Learn
Are you drowning in your clutter? Need advice? Drop in on the next Lunch & Learn at the Boone/DMACC Campus on Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 12:30 to 2:10 p.m. in Room 156. The guest speaker is Bonnie Sykus, coordinator of Lean Implementation. Sykus is an expert in organization. This session is sponsored by Fitness & Sports Management & the Student Activities Council.

Attention Spring Grads
If you are a Summer 2014 graduate and plan on walking at the Annual Commencement Ceremony, please submit the graduation application by Februray 1, 2014.

Childcare and Transportation help
A program called Iowa New Choices offers assistance with childcare and transportation for qualifying single parents and displaced homemakers (separated, divorced, widowed or spouse deserted). For information, contact, Erin Neumann, Room 124, eneumann@dmacc.edu. Or call 515-433-5037.

Avoid Email scams
Email scams often enter the DMACC email system. They may get a message claiming to be from the test of choice to determine the equivalency of a high school diploma. Starting January 2014, Iowa, along with other states, will begin using the HiSET test in place of the GED test. It will be similar to the GED with Reading, Social Studies, Science, Writing Skills, and Math tests.

HiSET replaces GED
Since 1949 GED has been the test of choice to determine whether a student has acquired the equivalency of a high school diploma. Starting January 2014, Iowa, along with other states, will begin using the HiSET test in place of the GED test. It will be similar to the GED with Reading, Social Studies, Science, Writing Skills, and Math tests.

All DMACC campuses, including the Boone campus, will begin to offer classes in January to help students prepare for HiSET testing. The first session is Jan. 13 through Feb. 27. The second session will be March 3 through April 24. A summer session will be offered also. For more information please stop by the AACC or call 515-433-5095.

Differences United (LGBTQSA)
Differences United (LGBTQ-SA) is a student organization that started up last spring semester to support students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning, and their straight allies. We invite you to meet the organization’s faculty advisors. Let us know you’re interested in getting involved. Make your voice heard! We’d love to hear your suggestions and ideas for making this a great support and resource for DMACC Boone Campus students.

Contact Krystal Hering, khering@dmacc.edu, 515-433-5212.

Honors Program seeks applicants
The DMACC Honors Program is seeking highly motivated students to apply for honors. With nearly 20 students graduating from the Honors Program this year, there are openings for current DMACC students who want to challenge themselves further and graduate from the Honors Program.

If you have completed one college-level English and one college-level math class or are currently enrolled in them, you have completed a minimum of nine (9) college credits and fewer than fifty (50) credits at the end of summer with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, you are eligible to become a DMACC Honors Student. Besides receiving Honors credits on your transfer transcript, enjoying an Honors Lounge on each campus, and attending exciting events (current Honors Students travel anywhere from Ames, IA to New Orleans, LA last fall), you’ll be eligible for up to $1,000 in merit scholarships each semester you remain in the Program.

To read more about Honors, find out what current DMACC students have to say about Honors, and submit your online application, go to www.dmacc.edu/ honors and get started on your way to a rewarding, challenging educational opportunity—right here at DMACC. Contact the DMACC Honors Director at honorsdirector@dmacc.edu with any questions.

31.29.2014 Page 2
Task force will target campus sexual assaults

Surveys provide course feedback

EVALUATIONS, from page 1

time. Education is the only business that we can be in that we get a new start every semes-
ser. So we have a chance to look at what we did right and we have a chance to look at what
we did wrong. And I think that's really valuable," said Lee. Lee

years to students that the results are anonymous, grades will already be in

the majority by men they know.

The report, by the White House Council on Women and Girls, identified college as a par-

ticularly risky place for women, noting that campus rapists are often repeat offenders. Obama
called on college presidents across the country to do more to prevent the assaults.

Wednesday's announcement was seen as a victory by many col-
lege activists, who have organized online in recent years to file fed-
eral complaints against adminis-
trators.

"Having Obama come for-
ward in such a public way is de-
manding a public shift," said Al-
exandra Brodsky, a law student
at Yale University who co-filed a Title IX complaint against the
school in 2011.

"With one report, one pub-
lic statement, and the power of
his office, President Obama just
changed the course of sexual vio-
ence on campus," said Caroline
Heldman, a politics professor at
Occidental College. "Obama's alma mater, who has helped stu-
dent activists organize.

"We have a long way to go in this struggle, but campus admin-
istrators will no longer be able to
drag their feet, retaliate against
survivors and enact superficial in-
stead of actual changes," she said.

The presidential spotlight
comes amid a significant rise in
federal complaints filed by stu-
dents across the country under
Title IX, an anti-discrimination law that requires impartial inves-
tigations of assault allegations, and the Clery Act, which man-
dates accurate reporting of cam-
pus crimes.

There were 30 Title IX com-
plaints involving sexual violence in
2013, up from 11 in 2009, ac-
cording to the Department of Ed-
ucation, which enforces the law.

In California, students have filled federal complaints against USC, Occidental College and the
University of California, Berkeley alleging the schools discouraged victims from reporting their assau-
lts and bungled the investiga-
tions required by the anti-dis-
crimination law that requires impartial inves-
tigations of assault allegations, and the Clery Act, which man-
dates accurate reporting of cam-
pus crimes.

The report also called for changes in how law en-
forcement handles sexual assault cases.

Only 12 percent of campus assaults are reported to police, the
report noted. When they are, they
rarely lead to convictions. Among
the reasons: Survivors can be too
traumatized to come forward and
police and prosecutors can be bi-
ased, doubting the credibility of
victims or are reluctant to take on
the difficult cases, the report said.

The report also called for faster processing of rape kits, which collect evidence that is vital
to many prosecutions.

"In order to put an end to this violence, we as a nation must see it
for what it is: a crime," the re-
port said. "Not a misunderstanding, not a private matter, not any-
one's right or any woman's fault."
Allow me to introduce

From across the pond

Men’s basketball player calls England home

In this special feature Banner News staff writer Keith Taylor will introduce readers to a noteworthy member of the DMACC community.

By Keith Taylor Jr. Staff Writer

Here at DMACC we have recruited quite a few new faces on our men’s basketball team. Some of which had to travel quite a ways to be able to join all of the opportunities DMACC has to offer.

One student in particular had to travel all the way from a different country. It isn't often that a community college such as ours acquires an overseas recruit.

For those of you who don’t know the 6’9’’ freshmen who currently plays center, his name is Elliott Defreitas. The young Defreitas grew up in a single parent home with just his mother, or as he says “Mum”, and his younger brother. Elliott’s mother was a middle class citizen of London.

The 19-year-old Englishmen grew up in a town called Essex, which lies just outside the bounderies of London. The young Defreitas grew up in a single parent home with just his mother, or as he says “Mum”, and his younger brother. Elliott’s mother was a middle class citizen of the England economy.

During Elliott’s high school experience he studied at a prep school in England throughout his senior year. Elliott’s team would travel to America to come play against several teams, one of which was DMACC. The coaches enjoyed Elliott’s performance, so DMACC offered him a full-ride scholarship to play on the men’s basketball team. Elliott was excited, considering that his parents had not gone to college, so they were proud of his accomplish-ment.

Soon after Elliott got the offer, his father and brother traveled with him by plane. He moved immediately into the dorms with his fellow teammates in the fall semester of 2013.

When explaining some positive American experiences, Elliott quotes: “The food and the people are the best thing about America.”

Moving such a distance as Elliott did, he says: “I miss my family the most.”

It didn’t take Elliott long to grow accustomed to his new lifestyle as a college student on campus. He often enjoys hanging out with his friends during his free time, but that does not dis-tract him from his main focuses.

Elliott also uses his free time to study for his courses and work on our men’s basketball team. Elliott was ex-pected to offer, his father and brother traveled with him by plane. He moved immediately into the dorms with his fellow teammates in the fall semester of 2013.

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Elliott also uses his free time to study for his courses and work out as much as possible.

DMACC basketball game will go red for Heart Assoc

On Saturday, Feb. 15, DMACC is teaming up with the American Heart Association to host a REDOUT basketball game. Students and staff can sup-port the REDOUT event by donating $10 and receiving a RED-OUT t-shirt to wear to the game. Stop by the Courter Cen-ter to make your donation and wear your t-shirt to the game on Feb. 15 when DMACC faces off against Marshalltown.

For more information, contact Carl De Vries at cjdevries@dmacc.edu.

ASK club has answer for science, tech, engineering, math majors

DMACC BOONE, IA – A new campus club called ASK, Application of STEM Knowledge, is focused on providing its members hands-on opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines.

ASK invites all interested students to attend a meeting to find out about exciting opportunities. Meetings are held bi-weekly in Room 223. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 31, at 11:15 a.m.

“ASK wants to connect STEM students, and provide them with opportunities that set them apart from others in their field,” ASK President JJ Hu said.

The club is open to competitive and non-competitive projects for which students have a strong interest. The club also strives to help stu-dents network with professionals.

ASK will be hosting hands-and-learn speakers throughout the sem-ester. The club hopes to tap into the rich STEM culture at Iowa State as well as other universities and businesses around the state.

For more information, contact Carl De Vries at cjdevries@dmacc.edu.
Sports Round Up

Hurdle’s double-double leads Bears past ICCC

DMACC - Freshman Jamar Hurdle of Milwaukee, Wis., collected a double-double with 25 points and 14 rebounds in leading the DMACC men’s basketball team to a 94-77 win over Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) Jan. 22 at the DMACC gymnasium.

Hurdle was 11-of-14 from the field and made three of his four free throw attempts. He also recorded five blocked shots in the win.

Freshman Trey Sampson of Cedar Rapids contributed 16 points to the DMACC attack. Sophomore Derek Williams of Milwaukee, Wis., scored 12 points and sophomore Brandon Nazione of Howell, Mich., and freshman Aarias Austin of Gurnee, Ill., had 11 points apiece as the Bears improved to 17-4 overall and 4-2 in the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC).

DMACC shot 62 percent for the game, hitting 37 of 60 field goal attempts, including 12-of-24 from three point range. The Bears made 17 of 28 field goal attempts, including 9-of-20 from three point range.

Reivers came away with a 61-39 advantage at halftime and were 20-of-32 in the attempts in taking a 40-26 lead at halftime.

TWIN CEDARS’ BRITTNEY ROBY TO PLAY SOFTBALL

DMACC - Brittney Roby, a senior at Twin Cedars High School in Bussey, has signed a national letter of intent to attend Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) and play softball.

“Brittney is the type of young lady we build our program around,” DMACC softball coach Bob Ligouri said, adding the Roby will play in the outfield for DMACC.

“Attending DMACC will help me further myself as a player and help me reach my full potential,” Roby said of her decision. “I will have the best people helping me prepare for my future goals. My classes at DMACC will hopefully help me decide what career I’d like to do in the future.”

Roby played in the outfield and pitched for Twin Cedars High School and also played club softball with the Outlaws, one of the top club teams in the state.

Roby has led Class 1A in hitting in each of her four years of high school varsity softball and has been the top hitter in the state in three of the past four seasons. As a junior, she batted .634 with 71 hits in 112 plate appearances. Her 71 hits included 19 doubles, 10 triples and four home runs.

Roby was 11-of-14 from the field and made three of her four free throw attempts. He also had 10 points and sophomore Alexis Bunting of Indianola added eight as the Bears fell to 12-9 for the season.

Women’s team falls to Iowa Western 90-49

DMACC - Sophomore Carlee Schulmacher of Watertown, Wis., earned her 15th double-double of the season with 20 points and 12 rebounds as the DMACC women’s basketball team dropped a 90-49 decision to Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) Jan. 25 at Council Bluffs.

Sophomore Jalissa Felici of Bellevue, Neb., had 10 points and sophomore Alexis Bunting of Indianola added eight as the Bears fell to 12-9 for the season.

IWCC, ranked 18th in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I poll, had a 53-19 lead at halftime and coasted to the victory in the second half.

The Reivers came away with a 61-39 advantage on the boards with Schulmacher’s 12 rebounds leading the Bears. She also had five blocked shots. Bunting and Felici dished out five and four assists respectively.

DMACC File Photo

DMACC File Photo

Submit a letter to the editor
bannernews@dmacc.edu

-or-

Publish your own opinion columns through the Banner News. Column submissions must be:

-DMACC student or locally related
-Well informed (facts stated must be cited)
-Approximately 500-700 words in length

Please email us or stop by room 115 for submissions.
REASONS TO CONSIDER UW-PLATTEVILLE

► TRANSFERRING IS EASY
  • An Associate of Arts/Associate of Science from DMACC meets nearly all of UW-Platteville general education requirements

► AFFORDABLE TUITION
  • Eligible students from Iowa save with the Tri-State Initiative tuition savings program and find even more savings through our textbook rental system

► ACCESSIBLE PROFESSORS
  • Small classes, taught by professors, include practical demonstration and real-world experience

► HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION
  • UW-Platteville is at the cutting edge of technology and offers programs that prepare students for the careers of tomorrow

► ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES
  • From undergraduate research and creative endeavors to study abroad and student involvement, there are countless ways to become a part of the UW-Platteville community and create your own Pioneer experience

EXPERIENCE UW-PLATTEVILLE

Visiting campus is the best way to experience UW-Platteville and find out what the campus, faculty, staff, and students have to offer. Schedule a daily campus visit or register to attend Spring TSI Day on Monday, February 17.

To explore visit options, go to www.uwplatt.edu/admission/visit

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Dear readers,

My name is Trevor Gutknecht and I have been appointed the Editor of the Banner News for this semester. I want to bring you the campus news in a clear, timely and concise manner. I have already made some changes to the Banner including the new header and new font for the newsroom. We are also looking to become more integrated with the website, to bring you closer to the news experience. We will also be looking to boost our Facebook page as well as our Twitter account to become more connected with you our readers.

So go to your Facebook page and hit that like button. And head over to Twitter and follow us for more news.

Don’t want to get involved with us; this is YOUR campus newspaper. You as the readers are just as important as the staff that puts it together. Whatever there is if there is no one around to hear it! (Insert snarky joke about a blog post here.)

If there's something you want us to cover let us know, we will gladly take suggestions. Have an opinion about something? Send it in to bannernews@dmacc.edu and we’ll review it and get it in the paper. Do you have an idea for the “person on the street” section? Want to be interviewed for the “POX It?” just get in touch with us anytime and we will gladly take your suggestion. We’re looking to cover all aspects of life and we at the Banner understand that picking up a hardcopy paper may not be high on your priority list but we have set out to make it easier to get your Boone DMACC campus news.

Best wishes and good luck,
Trevor Gutknecht

A note from the Editor

New chief shares goals

By Julie Roosa
Faculty advisor

The Banner News needs you. And you need the Banner News.

Here’s why:
The Banner News is a student-led news team serving the Boone campus. The students on staff aim to cover the campus and deliver the news. No other news source has the inside scoop on DMACC/Boone like they do. They know what you need to know and what you want to know even before you know you want to know it.

You know? The Banner News is a small but mighty crew as you can see from the staff list on this page. They want that list to grow. They need it to grow because the job they do is big.

And that’s why they need you.

You don’t need to be a journalism major; training is provided.

In fact, my job as faculty advisor for the Banner News is to help students learn how to cover and deliver the news.

The student editor in chief is the boss; I’m the backup. The student editors make the decisions; I help identify the options. I’m the coach; the students are the team. And it’s the team that is in charge.

Members of the Banner News staff pitch their own story ideas, make assignments, ask questions, write news stories, compose opinion pieces, sell advertising, take pictures, design pages, shoot video, capture audio, present broadcasts, use social media and update the Web. In short, they do it all. And there is a lot to do. It’s a big job to produce the Banner News in print every other week and online even more often.

So the staff needs you. Whether you are into computers, science, engineering, writing, nursing, criminal justice, biology, the environment, business, law, foreign language, theater, math, or none of the above, the Banner News can use you. And you can use us.

Use us to boost your resume, giving you that hands-on work experience that will give you the edge in your next job interview. Use us to improve your writing skills, speaking skills, problem solving skills. Use us to show you can work with a team. And work independently. You can get along with others. And finish a good deadline. You can supervise and take direction. Use us to show you can write clearly, edit carefully, and argue logically.

Oh, and we have fun, too.

There are three ways to get involved in the Banner News:

1. For college credit. Enroll in a journalism class (JOU122 Intro to News Production, 3 credits or JOU142 Journalism Practicum, 2 credits.) Staffers in these classes produce every story you see in the paper.

2. For work study. Several work study positions are available. If you qualify for work study, you can apply at the Banner News and get paid for your work. These positions offer flexible scheduling and can often be tailored to your interests.

3. As a freelancer. Volunteer your time and talents in the area you like most, contributing as much or as little as you like depending on your schedule.

Over the years, when I’ve been in the newsroom for a story, I’ve noticed a common theme. During interviews, potential employers ask about my work on my college news staff. The fact that I served as editor in chief at the Iowa State Daily was the difference-maker in landing all the positions I’ve been privileged to hold. Not the journalism jobs, all the jobs.

Sure, I’ve worked in media, but I’ve also worked as a law clerk, a judicial clerk, an attorney in private practice, a victim’s rights advocate, a manager at a police department, and now a college instructor. Every stop along the way, it’s been the college news experience that got me noticed. Not the classes I took. The GPA I maintained. The degrees I earned. The papers I published. The awards I received. Those are important. But the key has been the college news staff experience.

Joining the Banner News will do the same for you.

Again, you don’t necessarily need to want to do journalism. I have friends from my college Daily days that have gone on to do many other things -- several are lawyers, many are published authors, a few are teachers. One is a documentary filmmaker, one is an anchor on CNN in New York, one is a museum curator in Washington, D.C., several are in public relations, a few are college instructors, one is an entrepreneur in India, another works in Tokyo. The common thread? We all worked on our college newspaper.

Students on a news staff get noticed. They do things. They get involved. They have opinions. They work hard. They get the job done. They are motivated.

If you want to get noticed, now and in the future, join your college news staff. We need you. And you need us.

For more information on the Banner News, meet the editors, or to schedule a tour of the newsroom, contact me. I can be reached at jroosa@dmacc.edu, 515-453-5215. Or drop in to Room 115, the Banner News newsroom, during our open office hour from 11 to 1 p.m. weekdays.

Meet the Banner News staff

Lester Kwendo Mwirichia
I was born in Nairobi, Kenya. I came to the United States when I was 8 years old. I attended Des Moines Hoover High School. “Go Huskies!”

After graduating, I attended Marshalltown Community College last year, studying broadcast journalism & communications.

Then I moved to DMACC in Boone to finish my AA, and I am looking to transfer to Iowa State University to continue my studies.

I’m hoping to use the experience I get from the Banner News as a stepping stone to help me reach my career goals. I will be interning with FOX Sports News in the summer of 2014 in St. Louis.

I hope to announce for the Cardinals one day! GO CARDS!

I am a full-time student, but outside of school, I own a small part-time business doing sales and marketing. I am a people person and enjoy communicating and connecting with others along with volunteering.

Living in Ames, I enjoy hang- ing out with friends and attending ISU events. GO CYCLONES!

My other hobbies include be- ing a musician. I enjoy all types of music from Country to Hip-Hop, Rock, Classical, Reggae, and all the above. Having experience on a drumset for about eight years has allowed me to perform in many different bands in Des Moines.

I believe that working together with people is the best invest- ment in life because “One of us is not as smart as all of us.”

Keith Taylor Jr.,
I am a full-time freshman living on campus. I am currently studying AGS (Associated General Studies). I will major in Environmental Science, which I am transferring to Iowa State University to complete.

I grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, most of my life, so I’m pretty used to the scenery. I graduated from Lincoln High School, located on the south side of Des Moines.

I enjoy creating canvas art, writing, interacting with different types of individuals, which led me to take part in the Banner News team for work study.

I chose Environmental Science for my major because I would like to travel while also making a positive impact in the world. The impact I speak of is helping to preserve our natural resources and endangered spe- cies of Earth’s life cycle. I believe that if more humans treat the fu- ture as a fragment of the decisions made in each moment of the pres- ent day, they will come to realize their ability to have a positive im- pact on the planet is within arms reach.

Not pictured:
Carl De Vries, web editor
Kyla Durr, staff writer
Erika Brown, cartoonist
Brian Osborn, columnist

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“Aactually, they’re Gender-Neutral Scout Cookies”
Above: Kevin Hart, left, and Ice Cube lead the lineup in "Ride Along." Below: Angela (Tika Sumpter, left) and Ben (Kevin Hart) have a heart-to-heart.

You know what I like most about this movie? Ice Cube said that today was a good day. I get that reference. Well done Ice Cube.

I also laughed a couple times at Kevin Hart. More so later on near the end of the movie, but not a lot unfortunately.

For an Action/Comedy, the action was sub par, and the comedy felt extremely sparse. It is a huge shame that I found this movie so disappointing because I really tend to at least find their work enjoyable. Maybe Ice Cube was just too much of a tough guy but really being a bit of a mule.

The acting was not too great and unfortunately all of the twists and turns you could see coming a mile away.

If "About Last Night" in February does not end up being impressive for Kevin Hart, I might have to rethink actually liking him. Good at stand up, bad at movies.

2/5

Movie review: ‘Ride Along’

This review appeared in the Iowa State Daily on Jan. 21. It is reprinted in the Banner News with permission.

By Nick Hamden

Guest Movie Critic

Way back in July, I had to write a synopsis of the upcoming year of movies, from August to April 2014. At that time, barely anything had been listed, so it was mostly a crapshoot.

Of the little that I had, I remember thinking that "Ride Along" had the most potential. Two actors whom I tend to enjoy: a buddy cop movie and it is an action comedy. Buddy cop, sure, because only one of them is actually a cop in the film.

As January grew closer and closer, it was still one of the potential bright spots because January itself is where you just tend to do the worst of the bad movies. So I hope "Ride Along" ends up being brilliant, or else I am just stuck relying on Zac Efron to save the month.

In "Ride Along," Ben Barber (Kevin Hart) is a short nobody.

He is a security guard at a high school, but he really wants to be a cop someday and is trying really hard to get into the police academy. He thinks he needs to become a cop in order to finally marry his long term girlfriend, Angela (Tika Sumpter).

But really, all she wants is for him to stop being in a war with her brother, James (Ice Cube), who he might have accidentally set on fire. But hey, now that Ben has gotten accepted into the police academy, maybe James will like him and give him his blessing for marriage. Time out.

Turns out James still hates him, but he does agree to give Ben one day to try and change his mind. He will invite him on a cop ride, to see if he can make it on the streets, while making his life a living hell.

John Leguizamo and Bryan Callen play other cops on the street, and Bruce McGill as their Lieutenant. Oh, and Laurence Fishburne is in this movie. Yeah, Laurence Fishburne!

(Photos courtesy Quantrell Colbert/MCT)

I TRANSFERRED TO SIMPSON BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION. IT HAD THE SMALLER COLLEGE FEEL, BUT IT WAS SO CLOSE TO DES MOINES, THAT I KNEW THERE WOULD BE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME WHEN LOOKING FOR INTERNSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO DO.”

CHELIS BOYDS ‘14

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Tuesday’s Puzzle Solutions

Across

Down

Across

Down

These puzzles are a fun way to engage the brain and keep it healthy. I encourage everyone to participate and try their best. Good luck to all who enter!