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12-9-2009

Banner News

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Recommended Citation

Daiker, Candace; Walker, Dale; Thiel, Eric; Roffman, Derrick J.; Stueve, Jamie; Magee, Chelsea; Jefferson, Shannon; Burton, Brad; Sandroock, Tanner; Davis, Elliott; and Leeds, Austin, "Banner News" (2009). *Banner News*. 176.
https://openspace.dmacc.edu/banner_news/176

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BANNER NEWS

Des Moines Area Community College Boone Campus

Wednesday, December 9, 2009, Vol. 9, No. 6

DMACC alert: Prepare for winter

By Candace Daiker
Copy Editor

"This is a DMACC Alert." Now that we have experienced our first snowfall of the season and probably have more to come over Christmas break, students should be more aware of potential late-starts, class cancellations, and college closing information.

Rave Wireless provides students and faculty the DMACC Alert Emergency Notification System to efficiently send out alerts for potentially dangerous situations, as well as school closing notifications. The alerts work through the InformaCast system, which allows them to be sent through DMACC's speaker system and phone lines.

To have the alerts sent in text message, voice mail or e-mail form, log in to www.getrave.com/login/dmacc. E-mail addresses and phone numbers already in the DMACC system have automatically been put in the RAVE system, but those wishing to add additional contact information, like another phone number or e-mail, should log in to their account.

To reset a password, other than the computer generated one DMACC and RAVE provide, select the "Forgot username or password" icon below the login icon on the site and follow the directions.

Ever-changing Iowa weather also means vehicle maintenance is a must, especially in inclement weather. "Ninety percent of car maintenance is standard routine,



Photo by Derrick Roffman

DMACC students and faculty witnessed the season's first snow fall on December 3, from the windows of the L.W. Courter Center.

but when it gets cold, antifreeze needs to be mixed right so the coolant doesn't freeze," said Scott Chamberlain, a part-time mechanic in the Stratford area.

Slippery roads mean tire-tread and pressure should be checked, along with brakes. It

may be a good idea to replace windshield wipers, and emergency kits should outfit any vehicle navigating in questionable weather.

Letting vehicles warm up prior to driving them is not only for defrosting the windows. "When

the engine is cold, pistons and rings are tight and the oil is really thick. Warming up the engine allows the metals to expand and oil to circulate," said Chamberlain.

There are other resources for checking class cancellations, besides the DMACC Alert System.

Each campus location has its own Web site that can be located on the bottom of the DMACC home page. For example, on the Boone Campus's site, the second icon from the top titled "Cancelled Classes" is updated daily.

Study in Oaxaca, Mexico

By Dale Walker
Web Editor

This May, DMACC and Pro-World Service Corps are offering up to eight credits in Oaxaca, Mexico. Spanish professor Stacy Amling will accompany students.

For \$1,985 students will receive full room and board with a

host family, all transportation in Oaxaca and 24-hour emergency access to support staff. Additional expenses include transportation to and from Oaxaca and DMACC tuition.

Oaxaca is one of the most ethnically diverse states in Mexico. The state has Pacific Coast beaches, tropical jungles and thickly forested mountains. The city of Oaxaca is at about 5,000 feet above sea level. It is close to many archeological sites and surrounded by many culturally diverse communities.

While in Oaxaca, students will complete a community service project, participate in professional roundtable discussions and attend lectures. Students will also visit archeological sites, have weekend adventures and take in cultural activities.

Amling has been to Oaxaca several times, "It is a beautiful colonial city with beautiful weather. There are several universities and

it is a safe city."

When the group arrives in Oaxaca, they will collectively decide which of the available community service projects they will participate in. The project could be anything from adding a room to a rural school to helping establish a weaving collective for women.

Possibilities for the weekend excursions include visiting traditional villages, touring archeological sites, exploring the mountains or even taking a trip to the beach.

DMACC needs 10 to 15 students in order to offer this program. Amling said, "This is a perfect opportunity for students to experience Mexican culture and the Spanish language while having a fantastic time."

The application and deposit deadline is Feb. 20, 2010 and payment is due by March 20. For more information contact the program coordinator, Stacy Amling at slamling@dmacc.edu.

Finals to begin December 10

By Eric Thiel
Sports Editor

With the term coming to an end, it is time for students to prepare for the final exams that will determine the fate of their final grades. These finals will be difficult for some students and others not so much.

Most students have felt overwhelmed by the massive amounts of homework over the term that has left them grueling for this unwelcomed finish.

For some, their entire grade depended on one test that will determine pass or fail for the course.

This can be the most stressful time for a student, especially if they are full time with a job outside of DMACC, the amount of studying and time needed to be involved is more than enough.

Working students find it especially hard to get in study time when they're working for holidays to save up enough money for the upcoming term.

Studies show for every hour of class, the student needs three hours of study time. For those students who slacked off the entire term may find it impossible to get the appropriate time of studying needed.

Inside this issue

Spring CoursesP 2

Coping with Stress.....P 3

Gift Ideas.....P 4

Basketball.....P 5

Fall Graduates.....P 6

"Dragon Age" review.....P 7

? of the weekP 9

Finals Schedule
Page 6



Photo by Derrick Roffman

DMACC students who participated in the Christmas concert as members of the Boone Campus Concert Choir are (left to right) Melissa Martin, Angela Leopold, Sarah Jensen, Jana Grove, Marcia Johnson, Kara Sickau, Chelsea Truckenmiller, Trevor Gould, Sam Nelson, Rachel Johnson and Nicole Young. The choir is directed by Steve Hoifeldt and accompanied by David Howell.

Courses provided spring term

By **Jamie Stueve**
Opinion/Feature Editor

The spring term starts Jan. 11. Classes are filling fast and advisors encourage students to sign up as soon as possible.

The first term ends Dec. 15 and three and a half weeks later the spring term starts. According to the current head count for next term, there is already a 17.6 percent increase of students enrolled compared to last spring.

A majority of the classes are already full, forcing DMACC to open extra sections of certain classes as well as adding new courses to the list.

One new courses being offered in the spring term is the Leadership Development Studies

class, a three credit course taught by Stacy Amling and Nancy Woods. It is geared towards being more hands on for resume building and leadership skills. This class counts as an elective.

There is also a Conservation Biology class taught by Tim Bergin that is four credits and includes a lab. This is in the category of student's general science class.

The advisors encourage students to sign up for classes as soon as they know what they need. "If you haven't made out your schedule, use the Web Info System if you are worried about getting into certain classes and make an appointment later on if you need adjustments," said Shelby Hildreth, the academic advisor for

the DMACC Boone campus.

If students are transferring from Iowa State University, there are some important things to remember. "ISU students need to be flexible and open to evening classes," said Hildreth. "They need to be willing to take classes that fill requirements and not just what you want."

Important dates to remember: March 8--Students can sign up for the two-week fast track summer courses. It counts as part of the summer and toward the FAFSA. April 19-- Registration for the fall 2010 begins. First week into spring term-- Advisors can still get students into classes but after the first week, the professor has to sign a paper to let the students in the class.

Vandalism on campus

'This is the first time anything like this has happened'--Tom Lee

By **Derrick Roffman**
Staff Writer

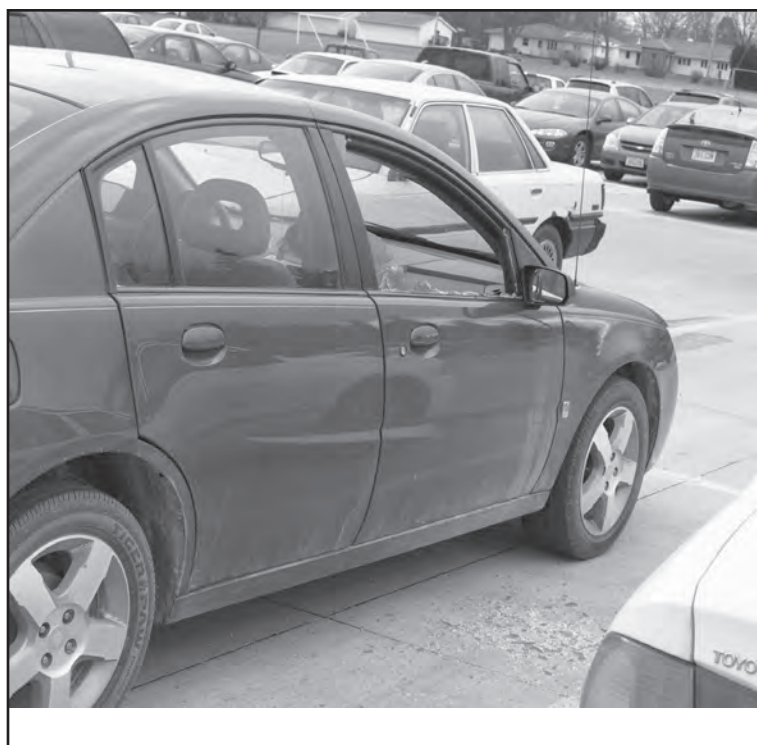


Photo by Derrick Roffman

Thursday Dec. 3 the north parking lot of DMACC Boone Campus had a break in of a student's vehicle just before noon.

A police officer on the scene said that five other break ins had occurred at Boone High School early that day.

"This was not a targeted incident," said Tom Lee provost of DMACC Boone Campus. "I'm sorry this happened. I have been here for five years and this is the first time anything like this has happened," said Lee.

After the police took the report and left, while DMACC employees were cleaning up the car, the student realized that her stolen purse didn't have her wallet inside.

"I forgot to put it back in my purse after getting gas," she said. So the thief didn't get away with anything more than a purse. "I had some gloves in there," the student said when her mom asked her what she truly lost.

A DMACC Boone Campus student had her car broken into on Thursday of last week. The front passenger door window was shattered and remains lay on the ground in the northeast side of the parking lot behind DMACC Boone Campus.

British students visit campus

By **Derrick Roffman**
Staff Writer

America has many basketball courts and parks, even in the inner cities. After talking with a group of high school aged British students who visited DMACC on Nov. 30 students may realize how much these facilities are taken for granted.

"We don't get as much opportunity to train and play," said Gary Miles of the County Upper team from County Suffolk in Great Britain. "I think it's because the amount of money pumped into basketball isn't as much as in the U.S.," said Miles. "We don't have available indoor courts and

most of the courts outside aren't well-maintained."

Many of the young men coming from the academy in Suffolk dream of coming to America to play basketball and pursue an education at the same time, something that is unavailable to them in the UK.

The academy is their high school, and most of the young men who attend moved to Suffolk, many from London City, to attend a school that allows them to pursue their love of basketball.

Continued on page 4

Deal or No Deal?

Get ready to make a deal DMACC Boone Campus style at the "Deal or No Deal" contest planned for Wed., Dec. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the L. W. Courter Center. A \$25 prize will awarded to the winner. The contest is sponsored by the Boone Campus Student Activities Council.

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Ways to cope with stress during finals

By **Chelsea Magee**
Staff Writer

It can make you sick, make you feel like breaking down and cry, as if you can't handle anymore. Stress can be something many college students have to deal with. It can be caused by many reasons like relationships, new working habits, change in sleeping habits, different eating habits, and new responsibilities.

"Stress is hard to define," said Dr. Jane Martino, a psychology professor, "Both happy and challenging events can be interpreted as stressful. For example, a wedding is stressful, final exams are stressful, and even balancing your checkbook may be stressful."

People deal with stress in many different ways. It's up to them to figure out what it is that will help them cope under stressful situations. Martino said, "It's all how we interpret these events in our lives."

"If I'm upset and stressed, I listen to metal and hard core rock," said Sarek Hartmann, a first year student at DMACC. John Pendru, also a first year student at DMACC said, "I usually chill out in my man-cave also known as my basement and watch movies."

According to the Web site stress.about.com:

Exercise can help a lot of people relieve stress build up. Each individual is different, with different kinds of stress. Taking a walk, working on equipment in a fitness center, or taking up a fitness class can be a big help in letting off some steam.

Being active can also be beneficial to the body. It helps in building muscle, losing weight, gaining more energy, and boosting the immune system. Overall, exercise can be very beneficial and can help people feel relief and better about themselves.

Journaling. By taking the time to write about thoughts and feelings, it can help a person deal with the stress that occurs in their daily lives. This could help individuals to explore their emotions. Many people find it easier to take their anger and deep thoughts out by writing them down, and in some cases this can help people come up with solutions to their problems.

Resting one's body can relax the high-tension nerves and muscles. Mary Sletten, a pre-nursing student, said, "I sit down and read my Bible, and turn on upbeat spiritual music when I'm stressed." Most jobs allow breaks throughout the

day for good reasoning. Developing sufficient sleep habits is vital to one's health. A good night's sleep is around 7 to 8 hours.

Treat yourself. Always pay attention to the needs of your body. "If your shoulders are tense do some yoga. If you feel tired, rest. If you need a break from studying, take it," said Martino, "Remember to take a study break of at least 5 minutes every clock hour

you study." If there is something wrong or if something is needed, your body is usually the first to let you know. Try to forget about all the troubles going on in your life at the time and have fun.

Hobbies can be a great way to relieve stress. Finding something to enjoy during free time, even if it is only for 15 minutes a day, may reduce stress. Examples could be learning a new instrument,

taking up sewing, scrap booking, or building something.

Counseling is a way for someone to share their feelings and emotions with another person. This can help to not keep things bottled up.

"Counseling is a one to one training session. Think of it as a personal trainer. If you want to get rid of specific stressors, counseling is the most efficient way to alleviate it," said Mar-

tino.

Stress may bring people down, or make them stronger. When stressed or overwhelmed with occurrences that may take place, take a step back and just breathe.

"This is a stressful time of the semester for most students. If the stress is getting to you, make sure you talk with a counselor or your instructors," Martino said.

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By Candace Daiker
Copy Editor

Thirteen years ago, Tickle Me Elmo was the rage of the Christmas season; causing “Elmo-mania” across the states. Cabbage Patch Kids were the hot commodity further years back, leading up to the release of popular gaming systems and fads that now seem like ancient history. This season it seems some companies have taken the route of cutesy pet or resurrected Furby, with a robotic hamster being the projected craze.

The Zhu Zhu Pets Hamsters, manufactured by Cepia LLC and listed on the Toys “R” Us 2009 Hot Holiday Toy List, are said to each have their “own unique personality and whimsical sounds,” according to the Toys “R” Us description. The furry guys, quickly selling out in stores, ring in at \$9.99 and can apparently wiggle, slide, and crawl up arms.

Other well-known brands like Fisher-Price, Sony, and Nintendo still hold multiple spots on “R” Us’s toy list, along with Mattel. Mattel put a twist on their old classic with the mostly sold-out Barbie Fashion Fever Fashionista Doll, selling for \$11.99. And yes, after thirteen years Elmo is still on the list.

But what can college students or adults buy for each other this holiday season, especially on a tight budget? “One time I made my girlfriend a shadowbox collage. I found the shadowbox in the color she liked, put in some pictures of us together, and added ticket stubs from movies and concerts we had gone to,” said second-year student Ross Anderson, “Otherwise, TJ Maxx

and Marshalls are good stores.” Shelby Horak, first-year student, said, “I have no money right now, so I’m drawing pictures of things I want to get my siblings and putting them in gift bags under the tree. I’ll get them when I have the money.”

Nancy Moeller’s family has taken a fun approach on holiday gift shopping as well. “We don’t stress out, we all go to Wal-Mart together and spend five or ten dollars. We’ve done silly things like cereal and toilet paper,” said Moeller, “Someone else I know has bought long johns for everyone in her family and tie-dyed them different colors.”

Even for those who are still kids at heart, when we reach adulthood, practical gifts can be the most useful. Gift cards for things needed in everyday life, from a grocery store or gas station, are almost guaranteed to be appreciated. “Volunteering your time can be a great gift, like offering help to clean out the leaves in the gutters. I wish my kids would have done that!” said English instructor Jan LaVille.

Some people make donations or plant trees in memory of loved ones that have passed away, but why not do this as a gift while they’re still around to enjoy it? There are also organizations that allow donations, such as school supplies, to be sent overseas to people that need them.

Although re-gifting seems like an easy escape, a more honest approach could be cooking a meal, baking holiday treats, or even cleaning someone’s car. Simple favors that can make someone’s life easier are priceless, no batteries included.

British students... continued from page 2



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Orv Salmon, athletic director, talks to students visiting from England about their future in basketball.

Darren Johnson, a former DMACC basketball player from the UK, came to America and brought his love of basketball back with him to Britain. Johnson set up this trip to America for more than two dozen students, and some parents and grandparents, so that they could look at different schools in the Midwest with strong basketball programs and DMACC was one of them.

While here, Johnson’s team played against Marshalltown and our own DMACC Bears. “I wanted them to experience what

it’s like to play against American teams,” Johnson said. “We lost by 34 points, which isn’t too bad really.”

“It’s different because everyone here is quicker, stronger, and more athletic,” said Michael Opio, an academy student. “In England, we’re not used to that kind of athleticism. I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

If any of these young men enjoyed their tour of the DMACC Boone Campus, you may see them in halls next fall, getting ready to play basketball for the Bears.

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Photo by Derrick Roffman

With 15 seconds left on the clock, Coach BJ McGinn contemplates the back and forth contest between Marshalltown Community College and DMACC.

Bears defeat Southeastern

By Brad Burton
Staff Writer

The men's basketball Bears, looking for another win, got out to an early lead and never looked back as they defeated Southeastern 64-38.

The defensive pressure from the Bears caused Southeastern to shoot 30 percent from the field the first half.

Going into the second half, the bears had a 38-22 advantage, a comfortable lead. The Bears continued the pressure and saw them selves up more than 26 points.

"We played really well together and executed the game plan," said Tia Mays, "We trusted in what our coaches had to say and in each other as well, and that led us to victory."

Leading the way for the Bears were Katlyn Wood, scoring 17 points and grabbing 6 rebounds. Contributing a double double was Mays who scored 15 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and also was a defensive threat in the middle with five blocks. Marni Jacobsen added 11 points for the Bears.

The Bears will continue their play against Marshalltown Dec. 12. at home.

Men defeat MCC 90-85 at home

By Shannon Jefferson
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team defeated Marshalltown Community College 90 to 85, Dec. 5 at home.

Tavaryus Gray led the team scoring 27 points, point guard Hal Bateman contributed 22 points, and Scott Windom had 17 points, which all contributed to the Bears' win.

Bateman had a slam dunk on a fast break in the first half. The Bears were trailing MCC for most of the first half.

In the last seven minutes Kannon Burrage brought the Bears ahead with a 3 pointer. The score was 27 to 25 and the Bears continued to strengthen their lead.

At the end of the first half the Bears were ahead, 47 to 38.

In the second half, the Bears played good defense and kept their

lead over MCC. With about nine minutes left in the second half MCC began to gain momentum.

The Bears struggled to control Tyler Brown of MCC, who made seven 3-pointers, and Will Clyburn, who was the leading scorer from MCC, with 31 points.

"When they got hot, instead of turning on each other and pointing fingers we stayed together," said Bateman.

The game came down to the last few minutes and the Bears pulled out a win.

"Marshalltown is a very good team, and they made us win the game. I was proud of our team and the way that they stepped up to the challenge and competed together," said Coach BJ McGinn.

The Bears will be competing against Clinton on Dec. 12 in Boone. This will be the Bears first conference game of the season.



Photo by Derrick Roffman

Scott Windom goes for the shot against Marshalltown.

Bears down William Penn

By Brad Burton
Staff Writer

The Women's Basketball team overwhelmed William Penn J.V. on Nov. 30, as they cruised to a victory 71-38.

The Bears started the game off with a lot of intensity and never looked back. Being an offensive threat early, the Bears opened the game with a 17-0 run in the first six minutes of the game.

The defensive pressure was too much for William Penn, who scored their first basket 12 minutes into the game. William Penn who was 2-23 from the field in the first half, were frustrated only shooting eight percent and had trouble getting shots off.

Going into halftime, the Bears were sitting on a comfortable lead 37-9.

In the second half, the Bears continued to dominate on both sides of the floor. "I would say it was a good game," said Skylar Johnson. "Now having a healthy team, our chemistry is better now. Even though we haven't reached our peak, I can still see a huge amount of improvement from everyone."

Leading the way for the Bears were Tia Mays with 14 points, Cassie Nauholz with 12 points, and contributing 10 points a piece were Katlyn Wood and Dani Lang.

The Bears will be in action Dec. 10, home against Marshalltown at 5:30 p.m.

Men's basketball beat Simpson J.V.

By Shannon Jefferson
Staff Writer

The Bears beat Simpson J.V. 97 to 53 Tuesday evening at DMACC's home event.

Leading scorers were Tavaryus Gray with 16 points, Brad Burton with 14 points, and Mike Schindel contributed 13 points to the Bears win.

Burton had four 3-pointers against Simpson J.V. "I feel like we

played as a team. We came down on the other end of the floor and played good defense," he said.

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Saying farewell to graduates and members of the Banner News staff

Staff Editorial

The fall term of the 2009 year at DMACC flew by with shooting stars. We have more credits and more experience under our belts. Many students will not be returning for the Spring term. Banner News staff that will not be returning in the Spring term:

Candace Daiker is graduating after two years at the DMACC Boone Campus and receiving her Liberal Arts degree. She plans to get a job in the metro area or relocate out of state. She chose to participate in Banner News because writing is one of the only things that has always felt like a hobby and not a chore. She likes being educated in news that's happening everywhere. Her words of advice: "Pay attention to everything and take things in like you're never going to experience them again; not just in school, but in your life. Live the best that you can for the time that you're in."

Derrick Roffman attended DMACC for a year and a half. Spring term of 2010 he plans to take soft sciences and biology. He chose to participate in the Banner News to replace the "F" he earned in the last spring term. His words of advice: "Participate in activities around campus to become more involved."

Brad Burton is a second year student who plans to continue playing basketball and new classes for the spring term. He joined the Banner News because he likes to write. He says, "Sometimes writing helps me express more of my thoughts." He also wants readers to, "Continue to support the Banner News. The writers work hard to try and keep our readers entertained."

Chelsea Magee has attended DMACC Boone Campus for one term, she is working towards her Liberal Arts degree in photo journalism. Next term she plans to continue required classes. She chose to participate in the paper because she loves to meet new

people, writing is what she wants to pursue and she wanted the experience. Words of advice: "Don't let things get you down. Always keep your head up."

Jamie Stueve has attended DMACC for two terms and plans to graduate in the Spring term with her Liberal Arts degree with concentration on journalism and Spanish. She participated in the Banner News to work towards this degree and to gain more experience. Words of advice: "Excuses are the loser in you talking."

Shannon Jefferson: After spending her first term on the DMACC Boone Campus, she will attend classes at the DMACC Urban Campus in Des Moines for her second term. She chose to participate in the Banner News because she wrote for her high school paper and her advisor recommended trying it at the collegiate level. Shannon says, "Give us your opinion on how the Banner News is doing. Especially students, the Banner News is for them!"

Fall Graduates 2009

- Ahmed Shaker AlNosair**, Associate General Studies - AAS
- Nicol K. Andrews**, Associate General Studies - AAS
- Meagan D. Ausborn**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Ethan Nicholas Bailey**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Judy D. Balbiani**, Assoc. Degree Nursing - Adv St - AAS
- Elizabeth J. Behrens**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Alex T. Benbow**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Allison Kay Berthel**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Hemant Bhanot**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Kyle Broshar**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Aric J. Bullington**, Fitness & Sports Management - AS
- Jane E. Cavanaugh**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Ngut Chany**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Alicia L. Chavira**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Jose Manuel Colon**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Candace Kay Daiker**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Kristina M. Danielson**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Suzanne Rae Debner**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Shawna M. Doran**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Samantha S. Duryee**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Mary E. Elliott**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Jennifer A. Evans**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Sarah J. Evans**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Teresa M. Forsyth**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Khristian D. Gooch**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Aubry R. Hall**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Rebekah Jane Hanson**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Holly D. Hanysh**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Ashley Jo Heintz**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Maggie Jo Hermanson**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Addie M. Hinson**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Rebecca Ann Holdren**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Lynn M. Holman**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Susan M. Hudson**, Associate General Studies - AGS
- Allison J. Hutchens**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Christina M. Ihle**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Jerelyn Capal Jayme**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Joshua M. Johnson**, Associate General Studies - AGS
- Tyler P. Kagemann**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Haley F. Kauffman**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Kelly Diane Kaufman**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Aysegul Kizilkaya**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Monica Lynn Lane**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Courtney L. Lee**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Melany C. Lovin**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Coty A. Mallicoat**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Holly Lynn Mathias**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- William R. Miller**, Business Administration - AA
- Michelle C. Miller**, Civil Engineering Technology -AAS
- Alex D. Morgan**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Katelyn Leigh Mozena**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Kari E. Necker**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Melissa J. Opperman**, Assoc. Degree Nursing - Adv St - AAS
- Mary Lynn Papin**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Mike Richard Petersen**, Accounting Paraprofessional - AS
- Brian P. Price**, Criminal Justice - AA
- Mack R. Rankin**, Liberal Arts - AS
- Danielle M. Reinert**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Tammy S. Richards**, Office Specialist - CSP
- Sarah B. Rubin**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Sam M. Ruppert**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Christopher M. Russell**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Alyssa B. Shafer**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Marrona L. Shore**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Danielle N. Simpson**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Jade R. Slach**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Robert David Squiers**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Michelle M. Swan**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Gregory J. Tate**, Liberal Arts - AA
- April M. Tierney**, Associate Degree Nursing - AAS
- Jennifer Marie Valline**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Suzanna R. VanWyk**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Travis J. Walter**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Stephanie Bonita Whalen**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Nicole Wian**, Liberal Arts - AA
- Kelly Jean Wilson**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Deserae L. Wojcik**, Practical Nursing - DIPL
- Danielle Alyce Wolfinger**, Liberal Arts - AA

Final Exam Schedule Fall 2009

Thursday, December 10, 2009 Tuesday/Thursday courses
Class Time Range Exam Time
 8:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
 11:15 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. 10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
 2:25 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
 4:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m. 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Friday, December 11, 2009 Monday/Wednesday/Friday or more courses
Class Time Range Exam Time
 8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. 8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
 10:10 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. 10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
 12:20 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
 2:30 p.m. – 3:25 p.m. 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Monday, December 14, 2009 Monday/Wednesday/Friday or more courses
Class Time Range Exam Time
 6:55 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. 7:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
 9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
 11:15 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. 12:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.
 1:25 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. 2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
 3:35 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15, 2009 Tuesday/Thursday courses
Class Time Range Exam Time
 6:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. 6:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
 9:40 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
 12:50 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. 11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 Make-Up Day
 If the College closes due to inclement weather on any of the four days listed above, final exams for that day will be rescheduled for Wednesday, December 16, at the times they would have been scheduled.

Evening/Saturday Final Exams

Evening courses will have their finals at the day and time of the final regular class meeting.
 Last Monday night classes (Final Exam)..... December 7
 Last Tuesday night classes (Final Exam)..... December 8
 Last Wednesday night classes (Final Exam) December 9
 Last Thursday night classes (Final Exam) December 3
 Last Friday night classes (Final Exam) December 4
 Last Monday/Wednesday night classes (Final Exam)...December 9
 Last Tuesday/Thursday night classes (Final Exam)December 8
 Last Saturday classes (Final Exam) December 5

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'Dragon Age: Origins' Role-playing game gold

By **Tanner Sandrock**
News Editor

In the world of role-playing games BioWare is king. With their latest release "Dragon Age: Origins," they have expanded upon their extensive kingdom. "Dragon Age: Origins" takes players back to a time of swords and shields, kings and queens, magic and myth. You are a Gray Warden and the only thing standing in the way of the burning sea of a demonic army that has sights set to destroy your home country and the eventually the world.

Anymore when it comes to RPGs, role-playing games, customization and open-ended game play is the key. "Dragon Age: Origins" has plenty of both to go around. Players can select from three races: human, elf, or dwarf, and from there select from three classes: warrior, rogue, or mage. Depending on which combination you choose the game has six different origin stories that offer a specialized feel to your character and a decent need to go back and replay the game. Not only does the beginning change depending on your race and class but also the overall game experience will change. How you play, your tactics in fighting, how other characters react to you or treat you.

No matter what opener you go with for yourself, the path will eventually meet with the others in that you are chosen to become



a Gray Warden, a fraternity of heroes with only one mission on the agenda: stopping the Blight. The Blight, as you later come to find out, is a massive army of what else? Demons, lead by a giant dragon beastie, of course. After being whisked away from wherever you call home to fight the "unstoppable" demon army you begin to meet others who share the same goal as you, Gray Warden or not.

One of the most interesting and entertaining aspects of this game is the relationship formed between you and your companions and among the companions themselves. Each character you run across has extensive backstories, interesting talents and different effects on the story and overall game play. Through interaction with these characters

and your decisions throughout the game you can influence how they feel about you, be it infatuation and idolism or unbridled hatred and eventual abandonment. Either way it makes for a unique play through and the ability to come back for more.

Now, the retail game itself comes with 100 plus hours of game play, this includes main quests and side quests but after you've completed these stories, BioWare has and is planning to create more add-ons and purchasable downloads. The developers have also given PC gamers the ability to create and share their own stories and quest with a tool set available for download.

Overall, "Dragon Age: Origins" offers players with enough game play to keep them busy through most, if not all,

of the winter break. Its in-depth story lines and character interactions can keep you entertained and wanting more. However, this game does have its drawbacks. When it comes down to it, for the Xbox and the PS3 this game is hard to play. The button layout takes time to get used. On the other hand, the PC version offers you that handy keyboard and mouse that make these types of RPGs much easier to play. Not to mention the toolset that is only offered for the PC. If you have the choice between a console or PC go with the PC version. You'll be much more pleased, trust me on this one. Another small annoyance you may have with this game is the constant baby sitting. It is impossible to play through this game and only have concern for your character

alone. In battle you'll find yourself pausing and flipping through your party members to set commands and make sure that they're actually helping and not standing in a corner watching you get beheaded. BioWare's game developers did their best to take the stress off the player by adding "Tactics." It allows you to set your parties reactions to certain scenarios pre-battle. Using the "Tactics" well can make the battle sequences much more enjoyable.

"Dragon Age: Origins" really doesn't offer much in the way of online play. Not that this is a requirement for a good RPG, in fact it's rarely asked for. But, for those of you out there addicted the massive party online play, you are not going to find it here. So, if the online thing is what you are craving you may want to wait for latest installment of the "Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic," which is set to be entirely online.

BioWare's "Dragon Age: Origins" comes out on top for me despite some of its less desirable qualities. It's able to stand along side BioWare's legendary creations on the RPG front, like, "Neverwinter Nights," "Mass Effect," and many others. Offering hours of game play, fascinating stories this game is well worth the sixty bucks. For me "Dragon Age: Origins" gets a four and half stars out of five.



Poked: A little plea to stop Facebook spammers

By **Niala Boodhoo**
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

In the spirit of the holidays, I thought I'd address that big can of Spam that I got as a gift last week.

It came via Facebook, from a man named Elihu El, who has, over the past few months, issued me many invitations to events or groups, usually something to do with politics and Washington, D.C.

Spam I have no idea who Elihu El is. We're not Facebook friends and we're not a part of any groups together. So I messaged him, telling him that I'm a reporter and asking him how, and why, he kept inviting me to all these events.

He responded right away, telling me that he was "politically active" and that's why he had my contact information. When I asked him how he had my contact information especially since, as a journalist, I don't take any public political positions, he said he wasn't "certain" how he got my information. In that last message, he adjusted his privacy settings on his profile.

I took that shadow profile image as a red flag and blocked him.

I also reported the behavior to Facebook. They make it very

easy to do this: just click the tiny blue 'report' button next to a message on an inbox, or the report/block tab just under a person's name in their profile. There's also a "report spam" on your Facebook inbox menu, too.

I'm guessing he found my personal e-mail somewhere online and used that to invite me to his events and groups. Because I have that e-mail account linked to my Facebook account, the events were automatically added to my Facebook profile and made it seem as if we were somehow connected there, even though we're not.

I'll be honest, I've been getting e-mails from this guy for months now. In the past, I wanted to block him, but I figured somehow I knew him and didn't want to offend him.

Like many people, I have hundreds of Facebook friends, so assuming I knew this person was logical. But this experience was also a reminder that there are plenty of spammers out there and it's our responsibility to call these people out.

Merry Christmas
to all and to all a
Happy New Year!
xoxo Josie Kramer
Your friendly
Editor

Getting into the spirit of the season

By **Jamie Stueve**
Opinion/Feature Editor

The term is near the end, which means we are at the tip top of the Christmas season. Plans are being made, songs are being sung, decorations are hung and presents are being bought. This is when everyone should be in Christmas gear and smiles are instilled across all children's faces. This is the time of year when I am the absolute happiest. Nothing could ruin my spirit and no bad mood even sweeps my brain. The endorphins are at an all time high.

It's quite pathetic that I find myself giddy when I get put in the Christmas section at work. It baffles me why my co-workers don't look for and wonder where the Christmas music is, when in fact, we are working amongst lit trees, decorations galore and it's at a busy peek. I then scurry my bottom to the nearest boombox and turn that bad boy on, knowing that Christmas music will indeed be awaiting the sounds of my satisfied customers as well as my own eardrums. I find myself bobbing back and forth and tapping my toe to every 'Fa la la la' with a toothy smile across my pale face.

Santa Claus is a whole other story. Now I obviously know Santa isn't real, but don't get me wrong, I get off in my own little world when I see those Christmas movies that talk about Santa and

when they show all these mystical and magical lands Santa lives in. If I go into a shopping mall and walk past the Santa in the middle with the lines of children, don't think I don't immediately want to hop on that leg of his and chat it up for an hour. When, and if, I decide to have children, don't hesitate to think that right along with my child, their crazy mother will be sitting on that lap of his too.

I have started noticing my surroundings becoming more chipper and upbeat with Christmas lights on nearby houses, family members decorating for the season and presents being bought from all ends of the country. It's hard for me to concentrate on school and work with all the joy I surround myself with. I feel every year instead of growing out of Christmas like most normal people in any reality, my appetite is fed and it consumes me even more. I never think I can possibly get more ridiculous with Christmas spirit until the following year when I start singing earlier, decorating earlier and speaking about how close it is when it's months away. I am beginning to think I may have an addiction, but as I think about it, there could be far worse addictions to get my hands on. I will stick to this one and continue to feed it to no end.

I hope everyone out there, no matter what winter holiday they celebrate, have a safe, cozy and relaxing break because

when we get back, it's time to start the countdown for the next Christmas! (Just kidding.)

Campus Cafe

**Merry
Christmawanzkah
from the Cafe!**

**Cafe Hours during
finals:**

**Dec. 7th-11th:
open regular hours**

**Dec. 14th & 15th:
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



What's your family tradition for Christmas?

Photos and reporting by Elliott L. Davis



Casey Layne

"Listen to cheesy Christmas music and exchange pajamas and socks for presents."



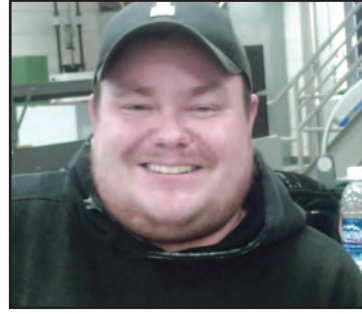
Travis Watson

"Bring \$10 gifts and play bingo for gift exchange."



Rob Lingelbach

"Put up the Christmas tree the weekend of Thanksgiving and cook chili."



Bill Barker

"Get together, exchange gifts, draw names on Thanksgiving."



Trish Slifka

"Open one present on Christmas Eve."

Action needed: Mozilla Firefox 3.5 on campus

By Austin Leeds
Columnist

Since the beginning of the Information Age in 1995, the best browser of the time has always given its users a distinct advantage.

Early on, this browser was Netscape Navigator, but Navigator, struggling with compatibility, gradually gave way to Microsoft's Internet Explorer as time wore on. Even so, Navigator's source code was recompiled into a new browser, Firefox, which, after a rocky start, has made a name for itself in the software arena. So much so, in fact, that it serves as a major challenge to Internet Explorer's absolute supremacy.

DMACC has been using IE 7 for quite some time, and for good reason. The mainstay of the browser market, Internet Explorer is the browser to beat. Its best features are quick startup time, good compatibility, and regular updates. Each one of these allows Internet Explorer to view most websites with ease and grace. A shallow learning curve ensures that anyone can learn to use it very quickly, and a minimum of new features added from version to version makes it easy to transition as the browser ages.

While Internet Explorer

might not be the flashiest browser or the quickest, it can serve adequately for most users. In fact, many computer users are unaware that anything else exists. Except for the venerable Netscape Navigator, there have been few challengers to Microsoft's Internet Explorer for some time, and web designers have gotten used to composing HTML by IE's standards.

There are other browsers, however. On any of the three main branches of operating systems, there are a handful of browsers, each with their own special advantages and disadvantages.

The most commonly used Windows browser is IE, while Apple Macs use Apple's Safari 4. Linux distributions have a plethora of different browsers, including the freeware KDE Konqueror, which is similar in design to IE. One of a few browsers that is truly cross-platform, Mozilla's Firefox 3.5 can run on Windows XP, Vista, and 7, as well as Mac OS 10.4 Tiger through 10.6 Snow Leopard, and many Linux distributions, including the latest version of Ubuntu, 9.10 Karmic Koala.

Some users are content to use whatever browser is on their system, and can transition from browser to browser with ease.

This has been demonstrated by DMACC's Banner newspaper staff, who use IE 7 on Windows computers as well as Safari on Macs. With most browsers sharing usability characteristics, isn't the default enough? In a word, no. Here's why.

The DMACC Boone Campus employs Sophos Antivirus, which, while an excellent piece of software, is only about 60% effective at stopping viruses. Internet Explorer cannot assist Sophos in any way, since Microsoft cannot issue updates fast enough to solve IE's security compromises. This is where Firefox shines. With small, constant updates, as well as large version updates, Firefox was only vulnerable for a total of 9 non-consecutive days in 2006, compared to 264 for IE. For 264 days, malware and hackers could have struck at DMACC's computers, gaining access to sensitive information and jeopardizing the network.

With Firefox, the same threats wouldn't have had time to respond before a fix was made available by the global community of Mozilla programmers. Combined with Apple Macintosh computers, Firefox is virtually impenetrable, rendering all information safe and secure from prying eyes.

Best of all, Firefox is free of charge, and can be tailored to fit

the needs of any classroom or instructor. With Web of Trust and PublicFox, two free Firefox add-ons, Firefox can block dangerous websites and popups, and can be locked down to prevent changes except by campus networking personnel.

Additionally, students are able to install Firefox themselves—just go to www.mozilla.com and click "Download Firefox." Run the installer, which couldn't be simpler to use, and you'll be able to surf the web with the best security and fun—check out Firefox's add-ons at addons.mozilla.com.

In short, the DMACC Boone

Campus can't afford to waste any time bringing its campus computers up to date with Mozilla Firefox. Unlike with other software, a mass deployment of Firefox could be quickly and easily achieved and would not detract anyone's ability to use the Internet. It would continue to be compatible with DMACC's WebCT, Web Info System, and DMACC Library's online databases, and would allow network administrators to control the flow of information on and off of DMACC's computers. DMACC needs Firefox—now!



Illustration from MCT

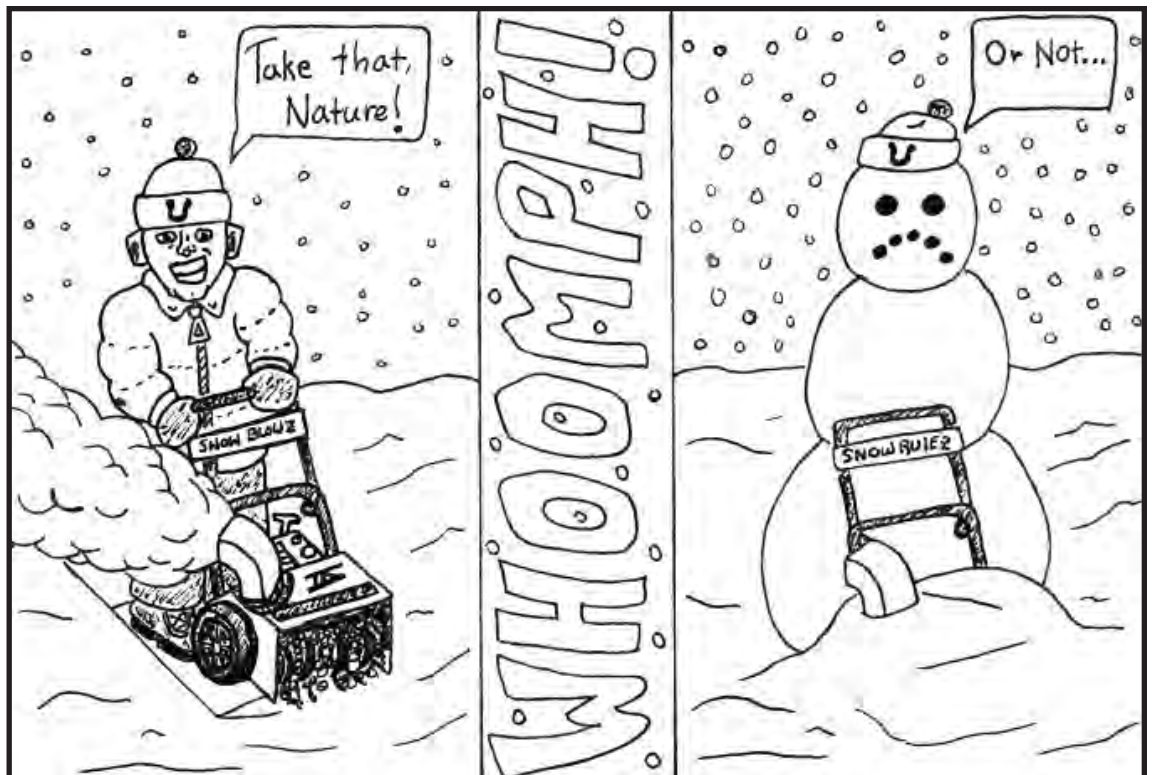
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Cartoon by Josh Schmidt, DMACC Student