DMACC HOSTS CHINESE NEW YEAR EVENT

Sixteen-year-old Alice Shiyi Qi of West Des Moines plays a Chinese harp at the Chinese New Year celebration held at the DMACC Ankeny Campus gym. Alice has been playing the 21-string instrument since she was five years old.

The Chinese Association of Iowa sponsored the free event in celebration of the Year of the Rabbit. The celebration featured traditional Chinese music and dance performances. Vocal soloist Qian Xu sings “Beautiful Home” in her native language.

Eighteen-year-old Anna Breen of Ames performs an Oriental Dance during the celebration.

Sifu Don Walth demonstrates Tai Chi during a late morning session as youngsters enjoyed the indoor slide. Attendees could also purchase Chinese food sold by local vendors.
HILL IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER AT WEST CAMPUS

Lloyd Hill, an executive vice president of American Equity in West Des Moines, was a Black History Month speaker on the DMACC West Campus. Hill grew up in the deep South and is a former journalist who reported in the southern United States during the segregation and Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 1960s. He also served with the Lyndon Johnson administration. Earlier in his life, the FBI informed him he was a target for assassination by the Ku Klux Klan. Hill, a former DMACC board member and Foundation board member, remains active in DMACC’s Culinary Arts program and the Friends of the French Chefs program.

ENLIGHTENING ASPIRING MEDICAL STUDENTS

Former DMACC student and current medical student at Des Moines University (DMU) Robert Fernandez answers a student’s question during his presentation on the Ankeny Campus about preparing for medical school. Fernandez, currently president of his medical class at DMU, spoke to a group of students who are focusing on healthcare careers. He is in his third year at the medical school and is preparing for an internship this summer with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.
NEW EMPLOYEES

Jenna Ames is the new bookstore specialist and lead cashier in the DMACC Ankeny Campus Bookstore. Her phone number is 515-964-6302.

Jenna attended DMACC, transferred to the University of Northern Iowa and later earned her bachelor’s degrees in marketing and management from Iowa State University.

Prior to her new appointment, she was a cashier in the Ankeny Campus Bookstore.

In her spare time she enjoys reading, playing with her dog Zoey, watching movies, exercising and spending time with her family and friends.

Cindy Brown is the new Student Services Specialist at the Carroll Campus. Her phone number is 712-792-1755.

She graduated from Southern Institute in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cindy spent five years at New Opportunities, most recently in the Health Services Department. She also was the guidance secretary at Carroll High School. Cindy was also a co-owner of an office supply store for 11 years.

She is married and has two sons. She enjoys walking, baking, traveling, shopping, motorcycle riding and spending time outdoors.

Kimberly Didier is the new Executive Director of DMACC Business Resources. Her phone number is 515-965-7064.

Kim earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities and a M.P.A. in Public and Environmental Affairs from Indiana University.

She previously was the Executive Director of Iowa Innovation Gateway.

Kim and her husband, John, have a 13-year-old son, Duncan, an 11-year-old daughter, Carter Elise, and a 10-year-old son, Mason.

Kim enjoys coaching a First Lego League and soccer, as well as reading and cooking.
NEW EMPLOYEES, CONT.

Donald Enright is the new Veterans Services Coordinator. He can be reached at 515-964-6278.
He earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Management and earlier received an A.A. degree from DMACC.
Don previously worked as an Education Services Officer with the Iowa Army National Guard.
Don is married and enjoys golfing, traveling and scuba diving.

Marcelo Erazo is the new Health Information Technology grant program recruiter and advisor in the Continuing Education Department. His phone number is 515-964-6864.
Marcelo is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and is finishing his master’s work at Chapman University in Orange, Calif.
Prior to joining the DMACC staff, Marcelo was an admissions counselor at Chapman University and previously was an academic advisor at Northern Arizona University.
Marcelo has two sons and a daughter. In his spare time, Marcelo enjoys photography, cinematography, video editing, travel, walking and flying kites.

Dan Fischer is a new Mechanical/Electrical Technician in the Physical Plant. He can be reached at 515-964-6257.
He earned an Electrical apprenticeship and 31 years experience with Electricians Local #347.
Dan is married and enjoys cars and golfing.
NEW EMPLOYEES, CONT.

**Lindsay Healey** has joined the DMACC Ankeny Campus as the library specialist—circulation lead. Her phone number is 515-964-6827.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University.

Before joining DMACC this month, Lindsay worked as a library assistant in the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine library. She also has worked in the circulation department of the Parks Library at Iowa State University.

Lindsay lives in Ames with her husband, Luke.

Away from work, she enjoys running, yoga, working out, hiking, reading, cooking, riding scooters and walking with her dog, Sasha.

**Marilyn Hibbs** is the new Dental Hygiene Instructor on the Ankeny Campus. Her phone number is 515-964-6344.

She earned a B.S. degree from the University of Iowa and an M.A. from the University of Northern Iowa in Communications and Training.

Marilyn worked in private practice in Ames and as an adjunct Dental Hygiene Instructor at DMACC for the past three years.

She is married and has two adult children and four grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, reading, computers, dancing, scuba diving, bike riding on RAGBRAI and spending time with her grandchildren.

**Gary Huffman** is the newest instructor in the Ankeny Campus Chemistry Department. His phone number is 515-964-6529.

Gary earned his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Michigan State and his Ph.D. in biochemistry, with a minor in genetics, from the University of Wisconsin.

He was most recently an adjunct instructor at DMACC from 2008 to 2010. He also has worked in the private sector as a patent scientist for Monsanto and a research scientist and project manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

He is married and in his free time enjoys drawing and painting, making pottery and gardening.
NEW EMPLOYEES, CONT.

Susan Klein is the new Health Careers Instructor in Program Development. Her phone number is 515-965-7174.

She attended the DMACC Boone and Ankeny Campuses in the Nursing program. She previously worked as a staff nurse at Bethany Manor, in the medical surgery unit at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames and at the McFarland Clinic in Ames.

Susan has three daughters and four grandchildren. She enjoys sewing and spending time with her grandchildren.

Kristyn Lemberg is the new Child Development Specialist on the Ankeny Campus. Her phone number is 515-965-7101.

She attended Iowa Central Community College and then transferred to Iowa State University, where she graduated with a degree in Early Childhood/Special Education.

Kristyn has worked as a day camp director and crafts leaders at the Iowa 4H Center in Madrid. She also has worked at a Hallmark store and at Ames Community Preschool Center.

She is single and enjoys biking, running and spending time outside.

Neal McGregor is the new Business Administration Instructor at the Carroll Campus. He can be reached at 712-792-8318.

He earned a B.S. and M.A. from Park University. His undergraduate degree was a triple major in Management/Human Resources, Administration of Criminal Justice, and Social Psychology. He earned his Master’s in Religion. He also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Missouri in Organizational Behavior. His doctorate from Waldon University was in Administration and Management.

Neal has worked at Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas; at Honeywell in Kansas City; at Graceland University in Independence, Missouri, and worked for years with police departments in the Kansas City area.

He is married with two grown children, seven grandchildren and a couple of pugs, Chester and Angelina.

He enjoys studying various religions and cultures.
NEW EMPLOYEES, CONT.

Umihana Omerasevic is a new custodian in the Physical Plant. She previously worked at Mercy Medical Center. She has two daughters. Umihana enjoys gardening.

Joel Overton has joined the DMACC Urban Campus as a Math instructor. His phone number is 515-697-7816.

Joel earned both his undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Iowa.

Before joining the DMACC Math Department, Joel was an information technology application analyst for The Principal Financial Group for 13 years.

He is single and away from the classroom, Joel enjoys computer games, watching television and spending time with his friends and family.

Shannon Phillips is a new English instructor at the Urban Campus. You can reach her at 515-697-7813.

Shannon earned her associate’s degree from Lake Land College in Mattoon, Ill., and both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.

Before joining the DMACC faculty, Shannon was an English instructor at Lake Land College.

She is single and in her free time enjoys gardening and landscaping, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and reading.
NEW EMPLOYEES, CONT.

April Soden has joined DMACC as an Information Specialist in Enrollment Management. Her phone number is 515-964-6410. She earned an A.S. degree in Child Development from DMACC. April previously worked at the DMACC Ankeny Campus Call Center, at the Ankeny Family YMCA as a Child Care Coordinator and Preschool Coordinator, and as an Early Childhood Special Education Associate for the Ankeny Community Schools. April enjoys walking her dog, spending time with her family and friends and reading.

Dennis Thompson joins the DMACC Carroll Campus as an English Instructor. If you need to contact him, he is at 712-792-8321. He earned a B.A. degree from Iowa State University in Liberal Arts and an M.A. in English at ISU, specializing in creative writing. Dennis was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 23 years and also worked as an adjunct instructor at the DMACC Ankeny Campus. Dennis and his wife, Carol, have been married for 31 years and have two grown children and two grandchildren. Dennis enjoys reading, writing, music, theater, gardening and purebred poultry. In fact, he is a general licensed poultry judge with the American Poultry Association. He has traveled across the U.S. and Canada judging APA-sanctioned shows.

Vijayalakshmi Varadarajan is a new physics instructor at the Ankeny Campus. Her phone number is 515-965-7313. Vijay has a Ph.D. in physics and was a visiting research fellow at the University of Texas-Arlington. Born and raised in India, she now lives in the Des Moines area with her husband. In her spare time, Vijay enjoys reading, singing, cooking, and playing musical instruments.
NEW EMPLOYEES, CONT.

Kristina Whitver-Soyer is the new Career Work Experience Instructor on the Carroll Campus. Her phone number is 712-792-8335. She earned a B.A. degree in Business Education and an M.S. in Counseling. Kristina previously was the IKM Manning High School Counselor. She and her husband, Chris, have two sons, Carter and Camden. Kristina enjoys reading, golfing and spending time with her family and friends.

Stephanie Wilson is the new continuing Education Coordinator for the Health Information Technology program at the Ankeny Campus. Her phone number is 515-964-6361. Stephanie is a graduate of Central College in Pella, Iowa, and for the past 10 years has been a trainer for Spindustry Training, an Iowa company based in Des Moines that is providing business skills, technical and desktop training. She is married and has two daughters. In her spare time, Stephanie raises and trains barrel horses, and enjoys reading and cooking.
PIONEERS CONNECTION

It is winter here in Iowa and we got hit with a blast of it! Probably you had snow where you are as well and the term “Snow Birds” had real meaning as nearly all of the states had some snow. We are on our 3rd round of 200 lbs. of bird seed and corn for the deer. The critters are eating us out of house and home, but we brave the snow to feed them daily. Have you ever seen birds taking a bath in the subzero weather? Well, they do and I have seen it with my own eyes.

Okay, what does all of this have to do with Pioneers? Just to let you know what you are missing out on or enjoying this time of year including meeting your DMACC friends at a Pioneer meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thur., March 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the Oak Room—Conference Center on the Ankeny Campus. DMACC Professor Jim Halischak will be presenting the fascinating subject of American Sign Language. He was scheduled to speak to the Pioneers last January, but was canceled when the College closed due to a winter storm. Please call in your reservations by Mon., March 7, to 515-964-6868.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Tax Institute in Ankeny is looking for greeters to help during their free tax service season. If you have a little time on your hands and are looking to volunteer for this important service, contact Cheri Hernandez at 515-964-7018. No tax experience is necessary.

The Ronald McDonald House near Iowa Methodist Hospital at 1441 Pleasant Street always needs volunteers to help out. They currently have a large campaign to collect pop-top can tabs and can use any and all you have to give them. If you have any questions, contact Joyce Smith at 515-267-0206 or call Brenda Miller at Ronald McDonald House at 515-243-2311 to volunteer.

Many of you are already volunteering to the MAX but may have room in your busy schedule for one more hour or one more day to help out where needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The History Committee has been making progress by meeting with key people at the Urban, Boone and Carroll Campuses. We will be starting branch Pioneer groups on all campuses and the histories are being written and will be posted for your reading pleasure on the DMACC Pioneer website: www.dmacc.edu/pioneers.

The Membership Committee, headed by Gloria Trager, has finished their phone calls to the 218 nonlisted email Pioneer members and the results will be completed so that some of the members can begin receiving the DMACC Bulletin and other DMACC Pioneers notices electronically. Others will be getting monthly mailings of upcoming meetings and have been notified of the February and March meetings.

As for me, I am flying south for a month of fun in the sun. Maybe we will have a Pioneer meeting in the Rio Grande Valley! Call Mike Perry at 238-8279 if you have any pressing questions.

Pioneers President, Dee Johnson (A Real Snow Bird)