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IOWA VETERANS CAREER RETREAT

Cassandra Halls, president of 2 THE TOP Career Advancement Strategies, was one of the keynote speakers at the first-ever Iowa Veterans Career Retreat held April 4 in the FFA Enrichment Center on the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny Campus. The free day-long conference, titled “Life After Military Service: Achieve Your Education & Career Goals,” was designed to bring together experts and unique resources to help Veterans achieve their career goals. Halls encouraged the veterans to definitely include their military service on their resumes.

Colonel Gregory Hapgood Jr., public affairs officer from the Iowa National Guard, also spoke at the Veterans Career Retreat. He said the veterans need to refrain from using military jargon when talking with potential employers.

The conference also featured breakout sessions on what to do when you are unemployed and your benefits are exhausted, paying for college and veterans benefits, interviewing tips to get you hired and matching personal interests to a great career, among others. DMACC Veterans Services Coordinator Don Enright also delivered a keynote address on “Getting the Most from Your Veterans Benefits.” The closing session consisted of a panel of veterans who recently re-entered the workforce, discussing their situation and offering advice for other veterans and active duty personnel.
April 12, 2012

Upcoming Events

April 16
Talking Trees, 10:10 a.m., Bldg. #2 Room 25A, Ankeny Campus

April 19
Music at Noon, 12:15 p.m., Urban Campus, Bldg. #1, Student Lounge

April 24
Accounting Career Day, 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bldg. #7, Ankeny Campus

April 29
GED Graduation, Roosevelt High School, 3 p.m.

May 1
PTK Induction Ceremony, West Campus, 4 p.m.

May 1
West Campus Awards Ceremony, 5:15 p.m., West Campus Auditorium

May 2
DMACC Ankeny, Newton, Urban and West Commencement, 7 p.m., Wells Fargo Arena

May 4
DMACC Boone Commencement, 10 a.m., Boone Campus Gym

May 7
DMACC Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., Carroll Campus

WW II VETERAN SPEAKS AT URBAN CAMPUS

World War II Veteran Dean Lettington recently spoke at the DMACC Urban Campus. He told of his involvement in the Battle of the Bulge and of his emotions of liberating the Dachau concentration camp victims in his hour-long presentation in Matt Walsh’s history class.

DISCOVER ENGINEERING DAYS

Iowa State University (ISU) College of Engineering graduate student John Pritchard (left) conducts an experiment with Kyle Long (second from left) of Ankeny High School, Amanda Marlin of Melcher-Dallas High School, Tyler Carter of Ankeny High School and Logan Toncar of Dallas Center Grimes High School. The high school students were at the FFA Enrichment Center on the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny Campus during Discover Engineering Days. DMACC and ISU cosponsor Discover Engineering Days, where students can learn about many engineering careers, take part in hands-on interactive engineering activities and competitions, and meet engineering professionals and college students.

JOB OPENINGS

History Instructor, Boone Campus (9 months-per-year position)
Application Deadline: April 20, 2012

Math/Physics Instructor, Boone Campus (9 months-per-year position)
Application Deadline: April 20, 2012

Math Instructor, Ankeny Campus (12 months-per-year position)
Application Deadline: April 20, 2012

If interested in the above positions, please visit this DMACC website: http://jobs.dmacc.edu.

CELEBRATION OF LITERARY ARTS

DMACC's tenth annual Celebration of the Literary Arts was held April 2-4 with classroom visits to all six DMACC campuses by area writers and literary instructors. North Carolina State University Poetry Instructor and author Dorianne Laux (shown) and her husband, poet Joseph Millar, (not shown) were among those who read from his works. Millar is now core faculty at Pacific University’s Low Residency MFA Program. Millar and American University of Washington, D.C. Literature and Creative Writing Instructor and fiction author Danielle Evans (not shown) read at both the Ankeny and Urban Campuses.

Portland State University Associate Professor of English and fiction author Charles D’Ambrosio read at the Ankeny Campus. D’Ambrosio and Laux also read from their works at the DMACC Boone Campus.

Drake University Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jennifer Perrine (left) and Drake University Assistant Professor of Fiction and New Media Amy Letter read from their works at the Celebration of Literary Arts event on the DMACC Newton Campus.
CELEBRATION OF LITERARY ARTS, CONT.

University of Northern Iowa English Professor Vince Gotera (left) and University of Northern Iowa English Professor Dr. Grant Tracey read from their works on the DMACC West Campus. Iowa State University Assistant Professor of English David Zimmerman (not shown) and Iowa State University Distinguished Professor of English Dr. Neal Bowers (not shown) read from their works on the DMACC Carroll Campus.

Musicians Don Myers (left) and Carey Crowson entertained, as they do every year, between readings at the Ankeny Campus Celebration of Literary Arts event.

INFORMATIVE SPEECH CONTEST FINALS

The finals of the DMACC annual informative speech contest were recently held on the DMACC Ankeny Campus. The winners include: (left to right) Michael Knight of Alleman, fourth place; Keyaria Jones of Ankeny, third place; Micheal Irelan of Des Moines, second place; Jen Dixon of Urbandale, first place; Cole Hannan of Des Moines, sixth place and Shannon Phillips of Carlisle, fifth place. All the finalists received a gift certificate from the DMACC Foundation for use in the DMACC bookstores. The winner, Jen Dixon, attends DMACC’s Ankeny Campus and spoke about sea slugs. She received a $100 gift certificate for finishing in first place at the competition.
SPAIN YEAR PRESENTATION

Calvin Swan talks about El Camino, a 500-mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela across northern Spain to the cathedral of St. James the Apostle. Swan said he learned early on during his 32-day pilgrimage to pack lightly, even discarding a pillow that weighed six ounces as he trekked through the Pyrenees from France to Spain. Swan said he joined fellow pilgrims for meals every evening and slept in monasteries or small communal rooms equipped with as many as 100 bunk beds. He said he met people from all over the world during this pilgrimage, which has been going on for over 1,000 years.

DMACC ASSISTS ANKENY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY FIRST GRADERS

Ankeny Christian Academy first graders Hannah Crawford (left) and Kate Jacob intently watch a live videoconference conducted by Darin Trobaugh, Education Specialist at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, Alaska. Twenty-four Ankeny Christian Academy first-graders and their teachers, Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Dressen, traveled to the FFA Enrichment Center on the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Ankeny Campus for the hour-long videoconference. This was the first video conference from SeaLife to any school in Iowa. The educational and informative program featured discussions on harbor seals, steller sea lions and other mammals found near Seward. Prior to taking part in the videoconference, the Ankeny Christian Academy students studied the characteristics of mammals, read books about Alaska, watched a DVD on sled dogs and learned how animals in Alaska can live in their cold environment. Mark and Angie Schnurstein of Ankeny used to live in Seward. They helped arrange the videoconference for their daughter, Emma, and the other first graders at the Ankeny Christian Academy.

Haylee Quirk (left) and Maddie Beck work on making harbor seals out of clay. The Alaska SeaLife Center is Alaska’s only public aquarium and ocean wildlife rescue center.
60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

A 60th anniversary celebration will be held for Bob and Jeanne Anderson from 2 to 4 p.m., Sun, April 22 at the Northwest Community Center at 5110 Franklin Ave. in Des Moines. If you have questions, call 928-771-9369. No gifts, please.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all for the cards, flowers, kind words and thoughts in the passing of my father, Daryl Voshell. During the time of his illness and death, it was heartwarming to know how many people are thinking of you and the family.

Sincerely, Randy Voshell and Family

CATCH ‘EM NOW

Eight-year-old Avery Carlson, son of Andrew and Andrea Carlson of Ankeny and grandson of June Weltha of DMACC, proudly shows the nice bass he recently caught at the DMACC Ankeny Campus lake. Now would be good time to try your luck on the lake before dredging begins later this month and concludes sometime this summer.

Avery Carlson
FORMER DIRECTOR OF HISTORY AT LIVING HISTORY FARMS SPEAKS AT DMACC

Dr. Thomas Morain of Graceland University spoke on the DMACC Ankeny Campus as part of the Iowa Studies Center’s introduction of “The Dorothy Schweider Iowa Talks.” Dr. Morain, who formerly was the director of history at Living History Farms and later head of the State Historical Society of Iowa, says sometimes significant history occurs but we don’t see it.
PIONEERS CONNECTION

MAY MEETING
In May, we will tour the Hunziker Center in Ames and enjoy lunch catered from Hickory Park. After the tour and lunch, we will be able to view the new exhibit at Reiman Gardens. This will be a wonderful Spring meeting. Meet in the FFA parking lot at 11 a.m. if you want to car pool up to Ames. There will be a board meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room of Building 22. Please call in your reservations at 515-964-6868

Note: There will be a $7 admission charge for those non-members of Reiman Gardens.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
The Pioneer Group is so much more than a bunch of people dedicated to supporting our DMACC students through our fundraising efforts.

Our monthly meetings have featured advice from veterinarians, pharmacists, estate planners, and lawyers, and this month we will learn how to organize, downsize and plan for decluttering our homes. We have learned about wind turbines, wineries, orchards, sculpture, life in Iowa during WWII, and traveling the world, and this May we will learn about butterflies. We have toured DMACC Urban, Boone, Des Moines University, the New Health Building, the FFA Center, the Ankeny Police Department, the Ankeny Art Center, and the Botanical Center, and next month we will tour the Hunziker Center in Ames. We have had wonderful meals provided by DMACC catering and some local restaurants. Everything is provided free of charge to our members.

It takes many hours of planning and organizing to make our group as successful as it has become.

As I come to the end of my presidency, it is apparent to me that it takes an army of dedicated volunteers to be able to carry out the mission of the Pioneers.

This year we will lose members of our board who have served for two years in their positions of Hosting, Membership, and Meeting planning. Others on our board have health challenges that will change the way in which we are able to continue doing some of the vital functions of our group.

WE REALLY NEED SOME MEMBERS TO STEP UP AND HELP OUT IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE OUR PRESENT ROLE AT DMACC.

Please consider being a board member. It only takes one extra hour once a month and a few extra hours every year to perform the part of your volunteer effort for the good of the group.

As always, we continue to provide support for each other and the DMACC community as a whole.

Pioneer President, Dee Johnson
djohnsonathome@aol.com
515-710-2298