BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT AT THE URBAN CAMPUS

Dale Fisher, Curator of Education at the University of Iowa Museum of Art, holds a plank mask from Bali during a Black History month presentation on African Art held at the Betts Center on the DMACC Urban Campus. Fisher brought trunks of African art, including head pieces, swords, weapons and masks, for the 90-minute presentation.

Dale Fisher holds an artifact from West Africa that was carved out of a railroad tie. He told a group of students from Matt Walsh’s history class that the nails represent the spirit leaving the body.

Terry Wells of Des Moines wears a head piece from Nigeria as Fisher talks about what an honor it was to be chosen to wear this mask. Fisher said boys around the age of 11 or 12 were invited to a “boot camp” to learn what men needed to know in Western Africa. The head piece includes an anteater on the top depicting the attention to detail young men needed to survive in this era.
BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT AT THE URBAN CAMPUS

DMACC Urban Campus student Nichelle Fitchpatrick models an outfit worn by women in Africa. Dale Fisher brought the colorful garment from the University of Iowa Museum of Art’s collection of African art.

Fisher holds a mask worn by girls. He said the high forehead symbolizes intelligence. He also said larger women were looked upon with a higher regard and were given more food to eat in a continent known for famine.

Other Black History Month events at Urban include a presentation by DMACC Professor Emeritus of History Dr. Hal Chase on his book, “Outside In.” The book focuses on Iowa’s black history. His presentation is open to the public and will be held from noon to 1 p.m., Mon., Feb. 15 in Bldg. #1, Room 126, on the Urban Campus.

Historian Rick Woten will be taking DMACC students on a tour of Jordan House in West Des Moines from 10 to 11 a.m., Thur., Feb. 25. The Jordan House was an important stop along the Underground Railroad.
NEWTON AFTER-PROM CHECK

The DMACC Newton Campus 50th Celebration Committee has donated $500 to the Newton High School After-Prom Event. This event allows students to have a safe and fun time after the dance. This year’s theme is “Grease.” Holding the oversized check are students Reese Rosenquist and Hannah Yeager, and Principal Bill Peters. The community college system in Iowa is celebrating its 50th birthday this year.

SOUTHRIDGE CENTER BREAKFAST

DMACC Pathway Navigator Paige Keller speaks to a group of manufacturing employees at a breakfast recently held at the DMACC Southridge Center. DMACC Continuing Education Director Michael Hoffman and others from Southridge talked to the attendees on how DMACC can help their respective businesses.
DMACC Carroll Campus Human Services student and Carroll Student Activities Council member Teddy Pike stands with James Boh Cho near a car filled with donated clothing items. Boh Cho, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, now resides in Omaha, NE, and is CEO of the non-profit organization, Clothing World Needy People. James spoke on the Carroll Campus during the fall semester about his life as one of the Lost Boys and his eventual emigration to America. He, his wife and their six children assist new immigrants from Africa by providing them with basic essentials like clothing upon arrival in Omaha. He also ships clothing to a contact in the refugee camps to distribute to the people there.

During James’ presentation last fall, Pike requested permission to do a community-wide clothing drive for four weeks this spring semester. Pike worked with his SAC Advisor, the Carroll Campus Provost, and the local radio and newspaper to get the word out. He also contacted four businesses in Carroll who agreed to place collection containers at their respective locations. Pike even spent one of the coldest days in January in a tent in the Kmart parking lot taking collections in person.

On January 28, James made an early trip to campus to load his van with bags of donated clothing and sleeping bags. Not everything collected fit in the vehicle. Initially it was determined James would only need to make one pick-up trip, but no one, not even Pike, anticipated the overwhelming response from people in the community and students on campus. James will be making a return pick-up trip in the middle of February.
**PIONEERS CONNECTION**

**February Meeting:** A time to celebrate Valentine’s Day with friends and spouses. Please join us Thursday, February 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Bistro of Bldg. #7 on the Ankeny Campus for our annual Valentine’s Day lunch. The Board meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the Walnut room.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

We are in full gear for the 50th celebration with a series of meetings dedicated to the past.

**Recollections of Pioneers — March 10**

The program will focus on information already on the Pioneer History website, primarily from individual papers posted there. Pioneers will share their ideas and recall memories at DMACC. (Some of the writers are deceased but their memories will be compiled and shared). Several Pioneers will form a panel. There will be ample time for comments and memory sharing. Pioneer President Shirley Muehlenthaler will host this enlightening and fun program.

**We Used to be in Pictures — April 14**

A display of pictures from the “early days” will be assembled and displayed, including many that include current Pioneer members. Members will be encouraged to submit copies of their personal pictures to the committee. Marketing and Public Relations will prepare and display a number of pictures by decade. College commercials and video productions will also be a part of the program. Sandy Wurster will chair this committee.

**Dress for the Past—the Social DMACC — May 12**

Pioneers will be encouraged to wear or bring clothes or fashionable items that were popular in the ‘60s and ‘70s to the meeting. The program would be participatory and focus on the former employee dress code (primarily for female staff), outside social events in which staff participated (meeting at Bear’s on Friday night after work, etc.), after work, etc.), things their department and DMACC friends did for socializing, and any other discussion related to the “fun” part of working at the college. Dee Johnson will chair this committee.

HARD TO BELIEVE! We have been in the Rio Grande Valley since early December. Looking forward to our return to Spring in Iowa and viewing the Blue Bonnets along the way.

Dee Johnson
DMACC Pioneers Communications Director since 2008
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