Banner News

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DMACC launches new student ID card
Success of program remains unknown

Tim Larson
Executive Editor

After several years of lobbying for student ID cards, DMACC has partnered with the New Haven Conn. based company, Higher One, to issue the OneCard.

DMACC formed a committee three years ago to explore the prospect of instituting a student ID system. Ben Voaklander, DMACC Assistant Controller, was heavily involved in the process. According to Voaklander, the committee found that students wanted to have a photo ID which could also be used as a credit or debit card.

Initial projections for cost ranged from $400,000 - $500,000 for systems which provided the cards and infrastructure for the cards to DMACC. These systems would require that DMACC continue to administer all financial aid disbursements and would have required security upgrades for DMACC’s computer system. According to Voaklander, by storing students banking information, DMACC would “run into security issues.”

In Jan. 2007, Joe Robbins, DMACC Controller, approached Higher One about the possibility of using their system. Brian Green, Assistant Provost, said, “For us I think the financial aspect of it was the driving force. We didn’t have any financial commitment in getting an ID card. We pay nothing to have this service provided for us. Zero money comes out of DMACC’s coffers.”

In partnering with Higher One, DMACC provided ID cards for students without developing internal systems for producing and maintaining the cards. “To start up, with the picture taking, and all of the things it would take to get a system in place; for us, it was a way to get into the student ID business without having to take on a huge financial commitment,” said Green.

“There’s no way we could have had this up and going by this fall, without combining forces with someone who’s already been doing this.”

While there is no up front cost to the school, the OneCard is not completely free to DMACC. “It’s free…to an extent,” said Voaklander. DMACC is charged $5 to add a photo to the OneCard and $20 to replace lost cards.

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Voaklander said that students will be able to replace their card one time without charge. For financial aid check issues, Higher One charges DMACC $5. This is a substantial reduction from the $20-30 cost of checks issued through DMACC.

Higher One’s promotional materials claim that the OneCard will alleviate the logistical problems associated with student ID systems. Voaklander was not yet convinced that the system would perform as well as advertised. On the issue, Voaklander said, “Call me in a few months.”

As an additional incentive, Higher One will refund .08% of transactions using the OneCard. DMACC, likely to issue over $10 million in student aid this year, could potentially get $10,000 from Higher One. According to Voaklander, this money would be used for student activities, not to recoup DMACC expenses on the program.

The addition of a photo ID has been a boon for DMACC students. “We have a lot of international students who have struggled in the past when they go to get a drivers license. One of the first things they’re asked for is a student ID,” said Green. “With our admission partnership with Iowa State to have a DMACC ID along with an Iowa State ID, it makes it a lot easier for our students to do what all students should be able to do over Ames.”

According to Green, adding photo ID cards was a necessary step. “I can’t imagine a lot of colleges of over 25,000 students that don’t have student ID cards,” said Green. “If there are people over there that aren’t students, we have an idea if they have an ID. Before they could say ‘I’m a student’ and we would have no idea.”
Hypnotist entertains students

Eden Hinrichs
Staff photographer

“You will not get naked!” said entertainer and hypnotist, Dr. Jim Wand as he began his routine in the Courter Center for the SAC’s Wild Wednesday on 5 Sept.

Last year Wand came to the Boone campus to demonstrate his ability to hypnotize the crowd. Wand found time within his busy schedule of 250 performances a year to visit DMACC again this year. The performance last year had been so successful that the SAC scheduled a repeat performance for the price of $1500.

There were twenty empty seats as the show began. 20 students filled the empty seats and got ready to be hypnotized. As the show progressed, five students left their seats to watch as their peers were hypnotized, leaving 15 students to be hypnotized by Wand. Wand hypnotized the group to believe that they had gone from steaming hot to freezing cold. He convinced them that it was so cold that several students banned to together to keep warm. He also made them run and kiss the celebrity of their dreams. With the wave of his hands he pulled the students back, forth, up and down. He had even made the students believe that he had no head and slowly made his other body parts disappear, horrifying the hypnotized students.

He even made people believe that they were celebrities and they lip synced to some of their greatest hits. No students were harmed during the performance, just as Wand had assured them “You will be completely aware of what’s going on you just won’t care.”

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

This semester, the DMACC drama club will perform “You Can’t Get There From Here.” The play takes place in The Mavis Garner Bed and Breakfast, whose rooms are populated almost entirely by motorists unfortunate enough to hit the huge pothole on Main Street. The two owners, Liz and Myrtle, like to play around with the people who have to stay, but they do it with good intentions.

Arthur, a reporter, comes to town to find Pulitzer Prize winner Lollih Mansfield. During his stay he decides to do a story on the scams of the town. However, he ends up falling in love with Ann, Liz and Myrtle’s great niece.

Rehearsals for the play start on Monday, Sept. 10 and go on until the production dates on Oct. 26 and 27.

Cast in the play are Patty Rockwell as Liz, Lauren Vidimos as Myrtle, Jaci Zimmerman as Ann, Caleb Avery as Arthur, Mary Elizabeth Drahos as the town news paper editor Queenie, Stephanie Allen as Arthur’s conniving boss Dolores Van Damm, and Jonathon Loutzenhiser as Horace McClintock, Dolores’ chief.

The set will be designed and built by Adam Smith, Heather Bassett, and Rebecca Russell. The production will be directed by Kay Mueller.

Students interested in joining the cast can contact Mueller at kemuelle@dmacc.edu.
Enrollment up in Boone campus, Ames center

Molly Lumley
Banner Staff Writer

Enrollment at DMACC has caused classes so large that the students are overflowing into the hallway.

According to Brian Green, Assistant Provost for the Boone campus, enrollment is up by 15 percent this semester. At the present count, there are “374 more students over the same date last year.”

The final student count will come out Sept. 10 or 11. This later date is to allow students to drop out of undesired classes and get their refund, or to add new ones to their schedules.

“We get legislative funding for our final count. Students are still dropping and adding classes. The first few weeks of class the state doesn’t come in and get an official count,” said Green.

“I think there are a number of different reasons for the increase. I think one thing is our student housing is very successful,” said Green.

The Borgen Square Apartments provide housing for students, some who may not have transportation, and a large part of the athletes live there as well. The apartments are now at a full capacity of 132 tenants and there is a waiting list with other students who want to live there. The apartments cost $295 per month which includes utilities and wireless internet.

“If you look around Boone there’s not an abundance of affordable apartments that anybody would want to live in that are in a close proximity to the college,” said Green.

Green believes that students are starting to look at DMACC first before they look at other colleges.

“We used to be seen as a last choice, but I think now we are getting a much higher percent of students who are looking at us first to launch their first two years,” said Green.

DMACC’s lower tuition costs, one of the lower priced schools in the state, has also added to the increased in student population. “As the cost of tuition at Iowa State increases and we are able to maintain a much lower rate the economy of taking courses at DMACC, I think students see us as much more of a player in the higher education game then we maybe are used too,” said Green.

“With the Ames Hunziker Center, we are increasing the number of Iowa State students who are aware of DMACC’s presence. I think there are a lot of Iowa State students in the past that didn’t even know there was a DMACC in Boone Iowa, just 15 miles away.”

Other attractions for students include the Campus Café, now opening in the evenings from 5-7, Mon through Thurs, to provide a healthy alternative to fast food dinners to evening students. The café is currently open during the day from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Courtier Center is also open on weekends, which will provide students with a quiet atmosphere to study and wireless internet. There have been discussions about opening the library on the weekends as well.

Along with the increase of students, the Boone campus has also seen an increase in full-time faculty. There is a new psychology and sociology instructor, Sean Taylor, Mary Ann Koch, the new director of the Academic Achievement Center, and a new CET, the land surveying program, instructor, Kerry Newbanks.

“One of the college’s missions is to increase the number of full-time faculty, people that we have rather than continually increasing adjunct faculty,” said Green.

There has been an increase in the number of adjunct faculty. Adjunct faculty are part-time instructors; they could teach at another campus in conjunction with the Boone campus, teachers at the Ames center, or instructors for the online classes. The number of adjunct faculty has increased to around 15 this semester for a total of over 100.
DMACC’s Jamie Schleifer poised at the plate, ready to bat against North Iowa Area Community College.

DMACC’s pitcher, 5'11” freshman Nathan Hilgenkamp, in mid pitch in Friday’s game against North Iowa Area Community College.

DMACC’s second baseman Tyler Robbins tags his opponent out in Friday’s game against North Iowa Community College. DMACC defeated NIACC 12-3.

Nathan Briscoe, 6’1” freshman for the DMACC Bears, signals to the pitcher in Friday’s game against North Iowa Area Community College.

DMACC’s Jamie Schleifer poised at the plate, ready to bat against North Iowa Area Community College.

DMACC’s Jamie Schleifer, 5’11” freshman for the DMACC Bears, grounds the ball in last Friday’s game against North Iowa Area Community College.
“I moved out and got some new roommates.”
-Caroline Meyer

“Ron Paul bought me lunch and a beer.”
-Campbell Desousa

“I went swimming in Ames.”
-Jane Chen

“Being on the river. I went wake boarding.”
-Max Dotson
Tattoos with Keevan Verkerke

The Courter Center for the Boone Campus’ first Wild Wednesday.

Tattoo artist Keevan Verkerke providing his service to students in the Courter Center for the DMACC Boone Campus as part of Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

Steven Edenbo will make two free presentations at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Boone Campus as part of Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

Edenbo will remain in character as Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, throughout his presentations.

The first will be from 9:05 to 10 a.m. in Room 117 on the DMACC Boone Campus and will be sent via the Iowa Communications Network to other DMACC campuses.

DMACC BOONE CAMPUS HOSTS CONSTITUTION DAY EVENTS

Thomas Jefferson personator Steven Edenbo will make two free presentations at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Boone Campus as part of Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

Edenbo has given new life to Thomas Jefferson. Edenbo regularly brings his portrayal of Jefferson to The National Archives in Washington, D.C., as well as at Independence Hall, at Declaration House and in Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

All DMACC Constitution Day events are free and open to the public.

River Rompers to clean up Boone area

Eden Hinrichs
Staff photographer

The second annual Dragoon River Romp project is underway and looking for volunteers to help clean up the Des Moines River.

In 2006 the first annual Dragoon River Romp was supported by over 130 volunteers and collected 6,320 lbs of garbage. 3,760 pounds of that garbage was then recycled.

Despite the poor weather last year, participants cleaned a 12 mile area of the Des Moines River.

This year the River Rompers will be divided into two groups that will meet at Seven Oaks. The first group, the Paddlers, will arrive at Seven Oaks at 7:30 a.m. They will be cleaning trash out of the river in its self. The second group, the Land Lovers, will arrive at 8 a.m. to prepare for the official start time of 8:30 a.m. This will be an all day event that will end at 5 p.m.

There will be an awards banquet and buffet meal after the cleaning. At the end of the night the band Obsidian Dreams will play while the River Rompers celebrate their completed project.

Shortly after the first River Romp project was established plans for a second River Romp began promptly. “Our main goal is to clean up the river and recycle as much of the trash as we can,” said Amy Lekin, a coordinator for the River Romp. With over 200 volunteers all ready, the coordinators of this project plan to extend the clean up farther south this year.

Many volunteers are still needed and space is still available. The last date for registration is Sept. 14.

The Dragoon River Rompers to clean up Boone area

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Many volunteers are still needed and space is still available. The last date for registration is Sept. 14. For registration details please contact Lois Powers via email, kcb@boonelandfill.org. “We would like to be able to educate everyone on the importance of keeping our community clean so maybe year after year we will not have to pull as much trash out of the river,” said Powers.

REZOOMERS CLUB TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

If you’re an adult student coming back to school, consider joining the Rezoomers Club.

This is an informal campus organization available to all adult students (those who are returning to formal education after being away for two to 20 years or more).

The purpose of the Rezoomers Club is to provide support to adults who are resuming their educations. The lunch meetings provide the opportunity to share information and make new friends. Short programs of interest to the group are presented during the year.

You can “brown bag it” or buy lunch at the Campus Café. You can also come and go as your schedule permits. Starting back to school can be a little scary, and talking with those who are feeling the same way or talking with those “who have been there, done that” can help.

The first meeting of the semester will be held Monday, October 1 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Courier Student Center. Come check out the Rezoomers Club. Contact Maggie Stone in Room 124 if you have questions.
That’s right, I am a superstar
ever ask: what’s my motivation? After looking at me bewildered for a second he called me an idiot. Then he said, “okay, your motivation is you are opening an envelope.” I’ll to dig down deep to find that within my thespian soul, but I did. And I must say, I opened that envelope with gusto.

Mary Elizabeth Drahos
Opinion Editor

For all of my life, I have always wanted to be a star. I was to be known around the playground but never had the chance to shine.

This summer, that all changed. You are now reading the column of that one girl-in-the-Better-Business-Bureau-commercial, aka the ‘Baby-Got-Back’ karaoke girl-in-Ankeny.

Yes, I know. Try to contain yourselves. It is a pretty big accomplishment for me to be known as that one girl. The one where you have no idea who she is or what her name is, but you have seen here somewhere. Maybe I should describe how I became so widely known.

It all started at a graduation party. I had a few beers and decided that maybe I should try to sing karaoke. I picked the charming, yet heartbreaking song of “Baby Got Back.” It took me a good 26 years to finally rock the mike, I did. I am a superstar.

By Mary Elizabeth Drahos

Opinion Editor

Ok, so I had a bad day

Chemical Reactions
By Jess Smith

There is anarchy between us and it fills us with pride
Abominations from a lost nation that died
There is no mission to accomplish no prophecy to fulfill
so we waste our time breathing pollution from the skies
The chemicals dénote any sense of hope that remained
as you offer up your last sacrifice
We have failed all their demands and they are taking action
Your gods have been proven false so why waste your time in prayer?
There’s a lesser god that rules all we’ve come to deem worthy
Bombs are crashing from the sky yet we do not stay inside
There is blasphemy yet to be seen
These chemical combustions that rule our lives
 have been watered down
You are a placebo

In an age when the general population has virtually the entire cannon of human knowledge available to them, why are we all so dumb? We live in such a painfully stupid society, it’s a wonder we maintain our cultural dominance in the world. After three weeks of class, many students haven’t even cracked a book. Not only have these students not read a single word from their textbooks, but they brag about that accomplishment.

Stupidity is not a virtue, nor should it be termed vice; it is more on the order of a disease. Like any other disease, stupidity, if unchecked will ravage its host, ultimately killing it. Like many other diseases, stupidity is transferred by coming into close contact with an infected person.

Once a person has become infected, stupidity begins to break down the individual’s ability to differentiate between issues of importance and mere drivel. It is at this point that the symptoms of stupidity start to present. Those infected with stupidity will develop an affinity for bands with no discernible talent. Notably, Nickelback, Kid Rock, Puddle of Mudd, Seether and basically any other band on Wind Up Records.
As the disease spreads, infected persons will begin to present inclinations toward celebrity gossip. At this stage the individual feels that the inability of certain young starts (you know who you are) to remember to put on panties is somehow a matter of national importance. At this point the subject has little or no cognitive function remaining, to say nothing of conversational ability.

The final stage of stupidity will present as arrogance about and pride in the totality of one’s own vanity. By completely releasing logic and reason, the subject now believes that he/she is superior to those who can read an entire page of text without suffering a brain hemorrhage. The ability of the idiot to walk upright remains something of a fascination for scholars. While this ability is not fully understood, it may simply be the most evolved position for walking.

In all seriousness, I know that stupid people don’t read, and they especially don’t read the Banner. That fact alone makes the whole process of writing this editorial seem to be a wasted effort. For those of you who do read this, you would be well served to share the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with your stupid friends. “Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”
Aquarius: This month is definitely your month. You’re calm, focused and ready to take on the world but beware of adverse circumstances concerning loved ones. This issue may put a damper on your focus but it will help in the long run.

Pieces: Your inexplicable mood swings are the result of having way too many issues happening at once. Try to narrow down what goes and what stays or else you will be crushed under the pressure.

Aries: You’re full of confidence and energy but don’t let it get to your head. Remember to watch your mouth it may cost you friends in the long run. Arrogance is your greatest weakness.

Gemini: Your duality will come in handy when your are faced with a big decision. It helps to look at both sides with a plate, rather than believing what you want.

Taurus: Bull headed nature kicks in to full gear when you finally realize what you want. But what you want might not always be the best idea long term. Take some time to think about thing before you jump in with both horns blazing.

Cancer: Watch out for things too good to be true. Someone may try to squeeze some money out of you for all the wrong reasons. What may seem like good will is actually problematic.

Leo: Fortune will shine for you as all your hard work is finally paying off. Keep focused and the world will be yours.

Virgo: Your self centered nature will clearly be abundant when you fail on a friend. Look for the signs the might not be crying wolf.

Libra: Feeling low? It’s time to get out and do what you do best to get rid of that gloom. Get out and socialize! People miss you and it is time to crawl out of the shell.

Scorpio: Think twice about diving into a relationship that look like it may have its down side. Carefully weigh the pros and cons before heading face first into an adverse situation.

Sagittarius: No one likes for their parade to be rained on. Even though you are overjoyed and content with life but don’t rub it in a persons face who is down in the dumps. All they need is for you to listen to them.

Capricorn: Good luck is on your trail! Tread wisely because if you miss this opportunity it might not come for a long time.

Words of Wisdom: Nothing can be learned through an open mouth.