

# The Campus Chronicle

FREE

Student newspaper of Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, Iowa

Fall 2012

## Students return to campus



Students wait in line at the Ankeny campus bookstore on Thursday, August 23 the first day of classes.  
Photo by Nevin Cornwell

## Top 10 Tips for success at DMACC

By The Chronicle Staff

1. Go to class. Right now you're either thinking, "duh!" or "do I have to?" Yes, you should. Not only is it throwing money out the window when you skip, but it's very easy to get behind in class.

Material in the first week or two might seem way too easy, so you decide to start skipping. You know the material already anyway, right? Well, pretty soon the work will get difficult. And don't you hate that feeling when you come back after skipping a class or two and you have no idea what is going on? Best to avoid that altogether.

2. Study. But not just study. Study smart. Don't just dive into the readings. Skim the chapter. Look at the conclusion. Check out the bolded words. Write down questions that you might have. Then go ahead and start reading.

Reword each paragraph in your own words as you go along. It works!

If you have a problem-solving class like math, try to solve the example problems without looking at the answer or other examples. Work it out until you get it right.

3. Questions? Ask your professor. If you're not sure what the assignment is asking or if the material just isn't clicking despite your best effort, stop by your professor's office. Sometimes they can seem intimidating, but in our experience, professors are more than happy to help.

4. Make use of the Academic Achievement Center. It's in Building 6, room 19. Find help on homework, get feedback on your writing, learn some new study skills, or even find a peer tutor. This is the place to go.

5. Make use of the library. Again, it's located in Building 6. Libraries are far from obsolete in the age of the Internet. There is a lot of knowledge stored on those shelves that you can't find online. Plus, the librarians are fantastic at helping you find information that you're looking for. Don't forget the library's website, either, where you can find search engines for scholarly journal articles.

6. Close Facebook. It'll be there when you're done studying. Your friends' cat photos aren't going anywhere.

7. Keep a calendar. Write down upcoming assignments, tests, and due dates.

8. Don't procrastinate. Work on assignments long before they are due, even if it's a little bit at a time.

9. Take ten minutes directly after class to review the material while it is still fresh in your memory.

10. Take notes, good notes, and use them. There are a variety of resources online for learning to become a better note taker. Learning how to take good notes right now can set your entire college career up for success.



### From parkie to newsie

By Nevin Cornwell  
Editor-in-Chief

"Editor in chief" has such a nice ring to it.

When I found out I had acquired the position I would proudly declare to friends, family, or even customers at the bar I work at, "I'm the editor in chief for the college paper you know." Nothing is more pretentious than a journalist with a great story and all summer long in my mind I had a great story. I would be editor in chief.

Most people at my summer job didn't really care much. I was working at the North Rim in Grand Canyon National Park. With only a few working TV's and internet that would have seemed slow when 56k modems were brand new, you begin to get a little detached from the rest of the world. Instead of discussing politics or the newest YouTube video, Parkies will be discussing the details of a trail someone hasn't done yet or figuring out who has the next weekend off and can get to town for a beer run.

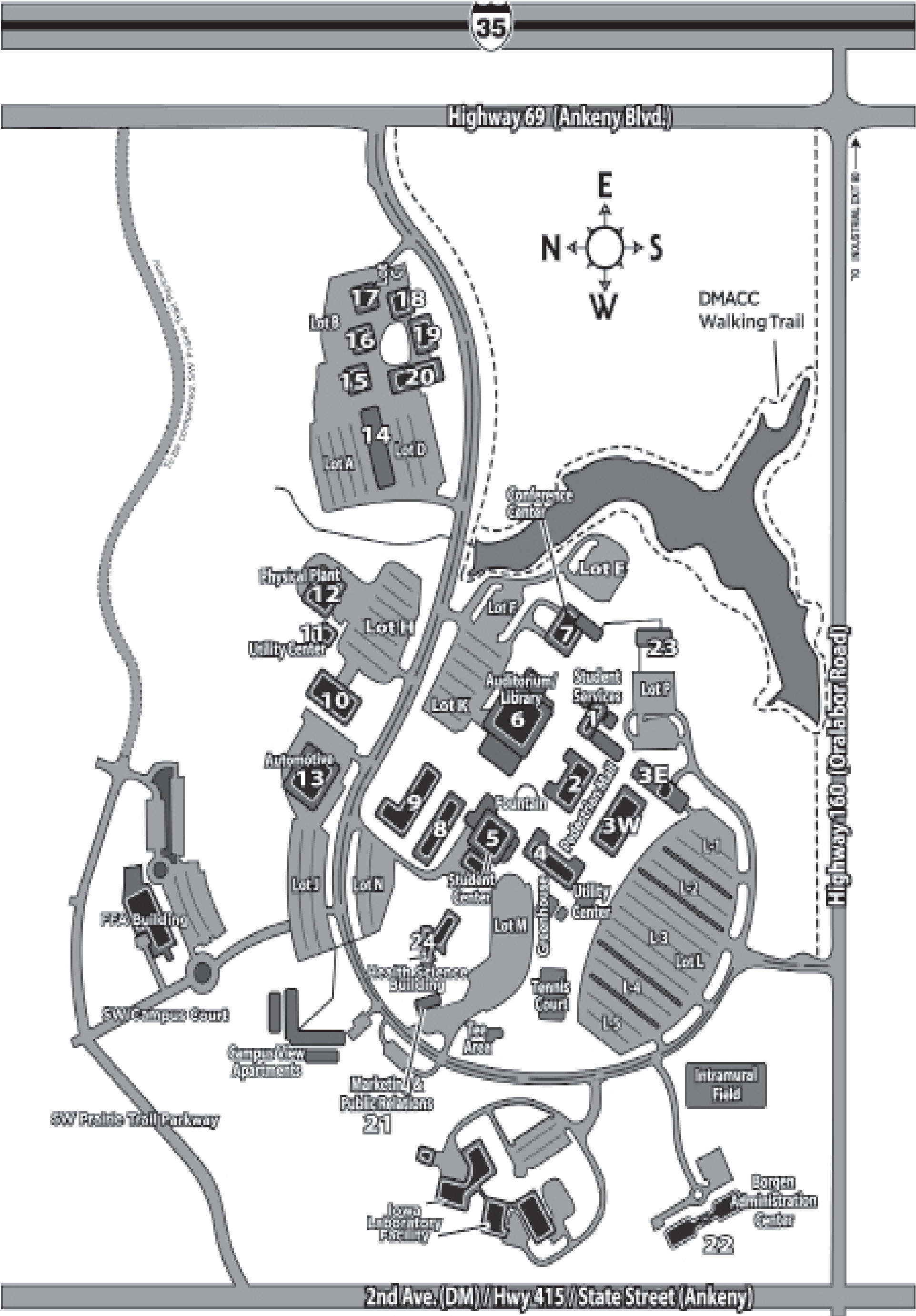
Parkies are people who make their living working in National Parks. Like the migrant farm workers in California, Parkies follow the seasons. A summer in Grand Canyon or Yellowstone, then a winter in Death Valley or Vail. The lifestyle can be addicting; never in one spot for more than six months and there is good money to be made.

Telling some Parkie friends of mine about the new position I held and they would look at me with suspicious stares. Most of the people I worked with already have a college degree. Once graduated they decided they didn't like the rat race, or couldn't find work in their chosen field and they gravitated to places where they could at least have gorgeous views while they worked. Most of them had a love of outdoors and once started it's hard to go home.

I was 19 when I worked in my first national Park. When I got call the from Yellowstone National Park I was amazed. They had chosen me. Little did I know at the

Continued on page 3

# Ankeny Campus Map



# Places to know on campus

It can be a little intimidating coming to campus for the first time. Heck, even people who have gone here for years will still get lost.

Here are important places around campus to be aware of, wether you are a brand new to DMACC or in your second year its always good to know where to find everything.

## Cafe

Are you working up an ap-petite? Head over to building 5 and check out the menu at the Ankeny Café DMACC. Pizza, burgers, salads, and a variety of chips and candy are available for purchase. Breakfast is also served and hot coffee is available all day to get your caffine boost.

**Location: Building 5**  
**Hours of operation:**  
**Mon-Thurs: 7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Fri: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

## Academic Help

Struggling in class? Need an edge to help get the grades? Call on the Academic Achievement Center. Offer-ing a variety of help, all for free, you can have unlimited time to draw on experience from DMACC teachers. Math, accounting, science, and even computer basics are all covered. Walk in any time.

**Location: Building 6 Rm 19**  
**Hours of operation:**  
**Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Fri: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

## Gym

Need to stretch your legs after a long cram session? Hit the DMACC gym. A full weight room equipped with treadmills, exercise bikes, and free weights as well as basketball courts. Intermural sport leagues are happening all the time and Commit to be Fit classes happen every week

**Location: Building 5**  
**Hours of operation:**  
**Mon-Thurs: 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Fri: 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Sat: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

## Bookstore

The DMACC bookstore has your entire textbook, digital textbooks, and computer software needs. Students discounts offered on a variety of software for Mac or PC. Swing by and grab some of-ficial DMACC apparel to show support for your school.

**Location: Building 5**  
**Hours of operation:**  
**Mon-Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 pm**  
**Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

## Security

According to the DMACC website, “Law enforcement and security are provided to help ensure the safety and security of our campuses.” They can also help you out if you’re lost or have car trouble.

**Location: Building 5**  
**Hours of operation:**  
**24 hours/day.**  
**Phone: 515-964-6500**

## Library

The library is your one-stop-shop for books, magazines, newspapers, films, journals, and even places to find a quiet study location.

**Location: Building 6**  
**Hours of operation:**  
**Monday–Thursday 7:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.**  
**Friday 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.**

### From Parkie to Newsie

Continued from page 1:

time they hire nearly anyone at Yellowstone as they run over 2000 seasonal summer employees. I loved Yellowstone despite having a crummy job. I worked in the kitchen at Old Faithful Inn making sandwiches, fruit salad, and hummus. After that summer I came home for a couple years but the parks kept popping into my head whenever I had a bad day at work or couldn’t find a parking space. So I eventually went back and not just for a summer.

Me leaving for college meant a job opening. After six years of working in National Parks I had become a bartender at one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The suspicious stares were always followed by one question, “Who is taking your place?”

“Those decisions are left to better people than me,” I would reply. “I am just a lowly Editor in Chief of a newspaper.” Stares would turn to smiles,backslapping, and congratulations. Stories of other people’s college days would be swapped and those qualified would jockey for the open bar position I was leaving.

The summer passed quickly as they tend to do, much faster than this semester will pass I am sure and as my time at Grand Canyon

grew short I started to think back on all my Parkie experience. Summer 2012 was my eleventh season working in the parks and there is a lot of strange things that happen in parks you don’t see in the cities.

At Isle Royale National Park, it is acceptable to be late to work if there is a moose outside the dorms. It is less than a five minute walk to the lodge but moose tend to be temperamental creatures and management would rather your 30 minutes late than getting a helicopter ride to the mainland hospital.

In Big Bend National Park most employees live ten miles and 3,000 feet down the mountain from the lodge. It is not uncommon in the winter to be snowed in or out of work. Going up for an evening shift when the weather was spotty you always took an extra toothbrush. When it gets icy enough Park Service locks the

gate at the top and bottom of the mountain pass. Since winter is the busy time at Big Bend usually every room was full. This meant 20 extra people squeezing into manager housing or sharing a two bed hotel room that happened to be available.

One night during such a snowstorm a bunch of us started a poker game that lasted all night and was fairly loud. Since the morning employees can’t make it up the mountain everyone from the night before has to go in and work breakfast. As we served breakfast to the guest who were now stuck at the lodge they all seemed to be complaining of a rowdy room that kept everybody awake. “Sorry about your experience sir,”I told one elderly couple “nothing was bothering me last night!”

One morning I came in to work at Yellowstone to start preparing breakfast and the morning cook was in a chair

with three paramedics hovering around him. He was battered and bloody and having a hard time breathing. Between labored breaths and groans he told his story.

Coming to work at 4 a.m. to start cooking he had spotted a buffalo calf on one side of the trail. Taking caution he hugged the opposite side of the trail skirting bushes to get by unmolested. Unfortunately for him mama buffalo was behind the bushes putting him right between a mother and her calf, not a desirable place to be. They drove him to the hospital in Bozeman and while doing test to make sure he was alright they found a tumor on his heart and put him in immediate surgery. The Buffalo beating ended up saving his life. Five years later I ran into the same cook in Big Bend. If you work in the parks long enough you run back into everybody. He was still cooking and thanked God everyday that a buffalo had trampled him.

Although working at a newspaper is likely to have less buffalo encounters it will provide to be difficult in many other ways. I look forward to the challenges the semester will bring and the opportunities that will go with it.

## Join the Campus Chronicle Staff!

It’s not too late to sign up for JOU 125: Newspaper Production. Benefits include:

- Meet great people while working with a team
- Learn to work on a deadline
- Work towards creating a great writing portfolio
- Free dinners Monday nights
- Learn writing, editing, layout, photography, and more!

Contact adviser Andy Langager for more info: [ajlangager@dmacc.edu](mailto:ajlangager@dmacc.edu) or drop by our new room in **Building 5, room 47B.**

