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We want to know where your education at Danville Area Community College has taken you. Fill out and submit the form on the back cover of this issue and inform us of your accomplishments. We look forward to hearing from you.



Danville Area Community College Memory Keepers

I Did It My Way by Kristen Dallavis

On the second floor of the Federal Building in Danville, a man sits in front of his computer, surrounded by textbooks—some of which include special notes of thanks from the authors for being so conscientious.

Ron McDaniel is an accomplished and well respected editor, but he originally wanted to be an accountant.

“I wasn’t particularly drawn to numbers. I liked the organization of accounting, having the numbers in the proper place so everything would work as it should. Grammar operates the same way,” he said.

A rhetoric course at Danville Junior College (DJC) with Alice Lee Morrison was one impetus for change.

According to Ron, Alice could “read and make things come alive.” As a result, he looked forward to classes every day and still has the course textbooks, one each in literature, grammar, and logic.

After his first year of classes at DJC, Mary Miller called Ron at home and said that *Interstate Publishers Inc.* needed a top English student to work as an editorial assistant. With his 4.95 GPA and his organizational skills, Ron was the ideal candidate for the position.

While driving past the old *Interstate* building, Ron reminisces: “I remember the red *Interstate Publishers* sign that used to be above the door of that building. On the day of my interview, as I made my way down the street and closer to that sign, I became increasingly nervous.”

The nervousness must have dissipated during the course of the interview because Ron was hired and worked for *Interstate* for 45 years. He now works full time for *CAERT Inc.*, a company spun off from *Interstate*, where he edits

educational materials published primarily on the Internet.

Possessing an associate degree in Business Administration from DJC and being diligent enabled Ron to move from editorial assistant to assistant editor to editor to editorial vice president at *Interstate*. In addition to rhetoric, he is thankful for the valuable knowledge he acquired in his business law and management classes.

Named after Ronald Reagan, Ron McDaniel certainly possesses the former actor’s theatrical abilities and presidential charm in addition to his management style: hire competent people and watch them thrive.

When he is not working in his *CAERT* office, he may be found enjoying lunch at *Java Hut* or *Charlotte’s*, where the employees know him by name and start pouring the coffee when they see him enter the restaurant.

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Tradition and Talent *by Lara Conklin*



Tinisha Shade already knew in Jr. High that she would attend Danville Area Community College.

“My mom went there, my aunt went there. My dad started there. I never even considered anywhere else.”



Shade, the oldest of three children, grew up in Georgetown. At Georgetown Ridge Farm High School, she played the trumpet and led the marching band as drum major for three years. She was also captain of the dance team and ran track for one year.

One day a DACC counselor came to the high school and made going to the college much easier for students.

“Ms. McKissack told me about the minority scholarship. If I kept my grades up, my tuition for an Associate degree would be paid.”

Family was very important to Shade. Attending DACC for two years meant being able to

spend more time with her parents and brothers, the youngest of whom was only five years old.

“DACC offered the best of both worlds. I could go to a first-class college, meet new people and the whole college experience during the day, and then sleep in my own bed at night.”

Shade completed an associate degree in 2002 and then transferred to Illinois State University to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree. She majored in communication with a broadcast journalism concentration. Her minor was psychology.

“I loved Professor Tom Solon. I took any class he taught ... Psychology, Sociology. It put me 2-3 classes ahead of my peers when I transferred.”

Transfer was easy. Shade says she had no problems transferring any of her credits to ISU.

“If you follow the rules and work with a counselor, there is no problem with transfer. You know which classes transfer and which classes don’t.”

Shade took an internship at WCIA-TV in Champaign when she graduated in May 2005. It was supposed to last until August, but ended

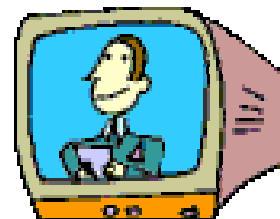
abruptly in July when the station offered her a full-time position. Now she does double duty as a reporter and producer.

The job is never boring. During the week, Shade reports stories for the nightly newscasts. For the weekend, she combines local and national news stories to create and produce a full, 30-minute newscast.

“DACC offered the best of both worlds.”

Shade says she would “definitely recommend” DACC to anyone considering college choices. She calls her time at DACC a “fabulous experience” that helped her remain “grounded in academics” when she transferred to Illinois State University.

In the end, Shade simply followed family tradition. Going to DACC “is just what we did. It seemed natural to me.”



Living Life in the Fast Lane *by Lara Conklin*



Kyle O'Brien knows what it means to live life in the fast lane. The Danville Area Community College alumnus is ranked 15th among the fastest long-distance runners in the United States and is training for the Summer Olympic Trials. In addition, he runs professionally for the Hansons-Brooks Distance Project Team and has traveled as far as Japan to race.

Kyle discovered his potential as a runner as a junior at Schlarman High School.

"I started to realize that I could probably run in

college," Kyle said. "The cross country and track teams at DACC were top notch. I felt it was the best place for me to mature as a student and an athlete."

Then Head Coach Terry Hill and assistants Todd Orvis and Brad Weaver were a big influence during Kyle's first two years at DACC. He benefited from Coach Hill's guidance and experience while forming a bond with the younger coaches

due to similar backgrounds. Both Orvis and Weaver had competed for Coach Hill at DACC and then transferred to four-year programs.

Kyle said, "I had three great coaches at DACC. I owe so much to each of those guys. It's really difficult to put into words."

From DACC, Kyle transferred to Eastern Illinois University where he continued to compete in cross country and track. He was recruited by the Brooks-Hanson team right out of college.

As a professional runner, a typical competition year for Kyle

consists of two marathons with some shorter races in between. In order to keep in top racing form, he follows a strict training regimen.

"I run between 120-130 miles per week," he said. "I usually run twice a day, seven days a week. Those runs include one long run, between 18-22 miles, and at least two 'quality' workout runs at faster-than-marathon pace each week."

Running is a year-round, full-time job, but the salary doesn't compare to that of professional athletes in more popular sports like football. It is difficult to make a career out of being a professional runner.

Kyle works part-time as the manager of a running specialty store in order to supplement his race income. He works about 30 hours a week around his training and race schedules.

Kyle's next challenge is the U.S. Olympic Team and the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Invitations to compete in the Olympic Trial Race are extended

to any man who runs faster than the qualifying pace of two hours, 22 minutes.

The top three runners in the Olympic Trial Race will make the U.S. Olympic Team. It is going to be a tough competition, but Kyle does not see it as an insurmountable obstacle.

"I never look at things that way. Any goal that is worth reaching is going to be difficult to achieve. Obstacles are part of the process," he said.

Kyle credits his time at DACC, and his three coaches, with his healthy attitude.

"DACC really helped me grow and mature as both a person and an athlete," he said.

"I felt like I would have been lost in the shuffle if I had gone straight to a four-year university. I absolutely loved my experience at DACC – athletics and academics. I wish DACC would have been a four-year school!"



In 2006, Danville Area Community College celebrated its 60th anniversary with its first Founders' Day Luncheon. At this event, Lou Mervis gave a tribute to the late Dr. Otto Schaefer for his contribution to the College. The speech has been edited for publication.

Dr. Otto Schaefer was responsible for initially setting in motion the process that created the campus that our college has enjoyed for the past 42 years.

The college had been an integral part of Danville High School since Fall 1946, beginning as an extension of the University of Illinois, serving veterans returning from WWII, until high school enrollment literally squeezed the college classes out of the building.

In 1962, when the enrollment at both DHS and the college made scheduling of DJC classes increasingly difficult, the college began looking

for a place to relocate.

It was at this time that Dr. Schaefer, in his position as Director of the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Danville, came forward and presciently suggested the possibility that the college might gain a campus on the VA grounds.

He knew that the VA no longer needed so many buildings and with the help of the veterans administrator in Washington DC (John Gleason Jr.) recommended that the front seven buildings, in a 57-acre tract, be given to the nascent community college.

Born in Bavaria in 1910, Otto studied medicine in Freiburg, Germany. Because he was Jewish, he was denied the right to take final exams his last year of medical school—the year after the Nazi party came to power.

He retook his final year of medical school in Switzerland, graduated in 1934, and immediately immigrated to the United States. The following year he brought his fiancée

over and they married.

After obtaining his board certification as a psychiatrist, he began working in the VA Hospital system in Palo Alto, California. He also worked in Roseburg, OR; Butler, PA; and Tacoma, WA prior to relocating to Danville in 1958 with his wife, Friedel, and their two children.

Dr. Schaefer understood the need for educational opportunities for everyone.

The move to Danville occurred when he was appointed hospital director of the Veterans Administration facility. It was a significant accomplishment due to his experience with only smaller VA facilities.

Dr. Schaefer understood the need for educational opportunities for everyone. Denied that opportunity in his native Germany because of his religion, he devoted his

energies to making his adopted country a place for opportunity and education for everyone.

He served his country for two years on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946 and continued in the reserves as brigade surgeon.

While heading the local VA facility, he served on the Board of the Child Welfare and Visiting Nurses Association and was president of his synagogue for two years. In addition, he was active with the United Way and the local Red Cross chapter. He also made time to serve on the first College Foundation Board from 1964 to 1965.

The community will forever be indebted to Dr. Otto Schaefer for his vision and dedication to creating a beautiful and historically significant campus for our college.



I Did It My Way (continued)

A product of the legendary Mary Miller, Ron was a member of Dramatics Club all four years at Danville High School, and then he participated in Kollege Kapers while attending Danville Junior College in the 1960s. He has since appeared in more than 40 plays and musicals in the area.

“I was always interested in theater,” he continued, “Once you taste it, you are addicted.”

In 1972, Ron prepared a script for a directing workshop. His work was not in vain as he was able to use that script and direct *Come Back, Little Sheba* in 1973 for the Red Mask Players.

His involvement in and support of the arts has continued throughout the years. He is a past member of the Illinois Arts Council Advisory Panel.

Ron is also the Vice President of Danville Area Arts Council and a Danville Light Opera board member.



When asked what the title would be for a book about his life, Ron leans back in his chair and crosses his arms.

He explains that in his life, everything has always worked out for him. Then he smiles and shares the appropriate title: *I Did It My Way*.

Thank you to those who continue making DACC a place for student success.

Board of Trustee Members

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Student Trustee

DACC President

Dr. Alice M. Jacobs

College Express: Hands-On Knowledge

Danville Area Community College welcomes hundreds of high school students to campus each semester for **College Express**, which provides hands-on educational experiences and training opportunities.

DACC partners with Vermilion Vocational Education Delivery System to help area youth earn college credit with the additional perk of not having to pay tuition, which saves students time and money in preparing for careers.

In its third year, the

program enrollment continues to increase with a Fall 2007 enrollment of nearly 400.

Juniors and seniors from county high schools ride buses to DACC for morning and afternoon College Express classes. In these courses, students realize they are learning and generally have a finished product to demonstrate their knowledge and abilities.

Auto body instructor Nathan Smoot allows his students to run their own shops and to do work for the public. Due to the

“Reality Classroom” experience, some students have found high-paying summer jobs that they could not have without their College Express experiences and skills.

Dual-enrollment career and technical programs include auto body, auto mechanics, computer networking, criminal justice, drafting, early childhood education, electronics, fire science, graphic design, health occupations, heating ventilation & air conditioning, horticulture, information technology, manufacturing, marketing, and welding.



For additional information regarding these opportunities, contact the College Express office at (217) 443-8742 or email Kay Smoot at ksmoot@votec.k12.il.us

Congratulations



Accolades to DACC President Alice Marie Jacobs, left, who is the recipient of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Central Region (a nine-state area) Outstanding CEO Award.

Congratulations to our 2006 DACC Faculty Member of the Year. Speech Instructor Glenda Boling, right, is the recipient of the ACCT Central Region Faculty Member Award.



Congratulations to Vice President of Instruction Dave Kietzmann (left) and Dean of Business and Technology (below, right) Bruce Rape. We are proud to acknowledge their accomplishments and receipt of the Golden Ruler Award.

This is the first time anyone in higher education has received this award, which is given for outstanding service to students and school districts. Dave and Bruce received the Golden Ruler Award for all of their dedication and hard work with College Express.



Retirements

Humanities Professor **Mary Coffman** retired in May after 32 years at DACC but will continue to teach on a part-time basis.

Business Professor **Judy Habben** retired in May after 26 years of service.

Linda Hollen retired this summer after 21 years of service at DACC. She worked as a Literacy Lab Technician and as an Office Assistant in Liberal Arts.

Laura Ligler retired after 17 years of service as the Grant Accountant in the Business Office.

Administrative Assistant **Dianne Marble** retired after 26 years of service in Counseling and Academic Advising.

After 29 years as a Criminal Justice Professor at DACC, **Dan Milligan** has retired.

Horticulture Professor **Chuck Schroeder** retired from DACC in May after 41 years at the college.

Athletic Director **John Spezia** retired after 25 years with the college.



The Starfish Thrower: Making a Difference

An old man was picking up objects off the beach and tossing them into the sea when a young man approached and saw that the objects were starfish.

The young man asked

him why he was throwing starfish into the water.

"If the starfish are on the beach when the tide goes out and the sun rises, they will die," replied the old man.

"That is ridiculous. There are thousands of miles of beach and millions of starfish. You can't really believe that what you're doing could possibly make a difference!"

The wise old man

picked up another starfish, paused thoughtfully, and remarked as he tossed it into the waves, "It makes a difference to this one."

From *The Star Thrower* (1979) by Loren Eiseley.

Child Development Center News



This year, the Child Development Center received much-needed new outdoor play equipment (*photo to the left*). The colorful and durable plastic structures were made possible through the generosity of Lee and Ellen Metzendorf in loving memory of Alma and Henri Meis.



College Trivia Fun Facts

Questions

1. How many college presidents have there been in the history of Danville Area Community College?
2. In what year was the Child Development Center built?
3. How many students were enrolled for Fall 2007 on the first day of the semester?
4. How many athletic teams do we have?
5. Approximately how much does a full-time student pay for 30 credit hours (typically two semesters) at DACC without any grants or scholarships?

Answers:

- 1) There have been six presidents in the history of the college.
- 2) The Child Development Center was built in 1997.
- 3) We have 3069 students enrolled this semester.
- 4) DACC has women's basketball, softball, volleyball, track, and cross country. For men, DACC offers basketball, baseball, cross country, golf, track, and soccer. So we have 11 athletic teams.
- 5) Currently, tuition for 30 credit hours would cost approximately \$2500 (less than a plasma TV!).

The playful "Leap Frog" statue adds charm and greets visitors in the front of the Child Development Center, which was graciously donated by Dr. James Tucker and his wife Marilyn (*in the photo above*).



Bremer Conference Center has been renovated and is scheduled to open this fall. Look for a story in our next issue.

Alumni and Friends

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Danville Area Community College



Your name when you attended: _____

Your name now: _____

Current address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Your job title: _____

Job duties: _____

Hobbies: _____

Degrees: _____

Favorite DACC memory: _____

We want to hear from you. Who was your favorite teacher? Why? What is your greatest accomplishment? Did you transfer and further your education? Email kdallavis@dacc.edu with your news or complete the form to the left and mail it to Dallavis-DACC/alumni news, 2000 E. Main St., Danville, IL 61832. You could be in one of our next issues.