

President's Letter



Greetings, and thanks again for your support as a member of IOSS. Your participation helps continue the organization's mission to serve our colleagues and students by providing a supportive and engaged voice within higher education. We are dedicated to building educational opportunities for students to become successful and to achieve their goals, and the members of our organization are instrumental to meeting the needs of students throughout our institutions. IOSS continues to build a supportive network across our state and provide relevant, meaningful opportunities for professional growth.

This year, IOSS will continue providing our membership with an active professional network and analysis relating to current issues in our profession, such as student engagement and the evolving technological landscape. Our efforts depend on active participation from our colleagues, and I invite members to add their voices to the conversation. Consider presenting at our conference, getting involved in the board, and inviting colleagues at your institution to join. We rely on the ideas and support of our colleagues as we address shared issues in higher education, and your participation helps IOSS remain a strong advocate for our students and our profession.

I am looking forward to another great year with IOSS and to seeing you again in the fall.

Dan Nelson, DMACC, IOSS President 2023-2024

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Save the Date

Plan to attend our IOSS annual conference on November 14-15 at the Des Moines Area Community College Urban Campus. This year's keynote focus will be challenges and opportunities related to **artificial intelligence**, with speakers from Drake University and Iowa State University.

Network with colleagues from around the state to discuss mutual concerns and share promising practices. Consider presenting a breakout session or proposing a topic for a roundtable discussion. Click here for the online Call for Proposals:

<https://forms.gle/AEua5M5Tfhg6zkTF8>

Watch for conference updates on our IOSS Fall Conference page at

https://internal.dmacc.edu/ioss/SitePages/Fall_Preview.aspx

Why We Do What We Do

When I retired from DMACC in 2013, I brought home a few crates of school folders predating computerized files—to be sorted later. Still sorting this summer, I found minutes from an Adult Education Advisory Committee meeting on January 21, 1977. At the bottom of the page was a handwritten note from our director, Bill Johnson: “P.S. Lorraine Schachterle wrote the attached case histories. I think they are worth sharing with you.”

For several years, Lorraine and a colleague, Nan Douglas, had taught ABE-GED students at Whittier, a converted elementary school building in northeast Des Moines, as part of a cooperative program between the Des Moines Public Schools Adult Education Program and DMACC. As we start a new school year 47 years later, preparing to welcome students who bring a mix of hope for a better future and anxiety about their ability to succeed, Lorraine’s letter is still worth sharing.

Sue Wickham, DMACC Emeritus, MCHS

Bill:

You asked for examples of how our ABE-HSE classes have given assistance to people through the years. I can’t think of a more delightful task than to reminisce about some of the “second chances” we’ve extended to individuals who felt they had no more “chances” left.

The only difficulty is in picking examples from the many success stories. That is not to say we succeed with every person that enters the program, but as I look back, there are so many lives that were changed, and so many positive attitudes that were developed.

1. There’s the man who had been a truck driver all of his adult life, until a back injury made cross-country trucking impossible for him. When a social worker brought him to us, he had been out of work long enough that his confidence in himself was gone.

A cloud of despair seemed to surround him like a defensive shield. He was certain he could not pass the GED tests no matter how much preparation he had. Through months of counseling and work, he began to discover that he had skills of which he had never been aware. As his confidence returned, his whole personality seemed to change. He began to shave and wear clean clothes, but those changes were only outward signs of the inner miracle. He was no longer afraid that he wasn’t worthy. He passed his tests, went on to get further training, and got a job as a dispatcher. He returned to visit, and commented to other students, “This is where it all came together for me.”

2. A woman came in, took a preliminary test, and received an unbelievably low score. We saw how nervous she was, so we spent as much time building her confidence as we did in working on skills. She had worked most of her life in jobs involving food preparation, but she wanted and needed a better job. Many times, at the center, she was in tears, because she couldn’t convince herself, or be convinced, that she could ever get through math. Her math skills were almost non-existent when she came to us. Through months of encouragement, she made steady progress until she was able to take and pass all of her tests. She went on to take courses in restaurant management at DMACC, won a scholarship as one of the top students there, and now manages the food service at a country club.

3. A young man came to us just as he was evading the police in every possible way. He came from what seemed to be a morally destitute background, and he had no intention of ever changing. He just

happened to come in with a friend, and decided he might as well give our program a try. He had no job and was on Social Security because his 72-year-old invalid father could not support him. He needed something to do. We soon recognized that he had a lot of potential, but he was hyperactive and had a very short attention span. We discovered he liked drawing and had a great deal of talent so we acquired some oak-tag and some paints, and told him that when he couldn't make himself study, he could make posters for our rooms. We gave him several ideas for posters to get him started. Many months of study, and many posters later, he passed all of his tests. Then he made his last poster for us. It was a re-creation of one he had seen. It showed a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. The slogan said, "You can fly, but that cocoon has to go." We thought it was especially appropriate because the butterfly is a symbol of "rebirth"; and "re-birth" is what the ABE-HSE program is all about.

Lorraine

McCabe Conference 2024

Along with the annual NOSS conference and our state chapter IOSS conference, members also have the opportunity to participate in the annual McCabe conference. This summer conference currently features a virtual, one-day meeting.

The 2024 McCabe conference this year addressed prominent recent concerns among educators: improving engagement for students, particularly in an online situation, and building literacy in an environment where struggling students may not receive needed direct support and instruction. Much of the discussion involved inviting instructors across the curriculum to consider the integration of literacy modeling and personalized engagement into class experiences. Recognizing the challenging

environment for many students, Emily Suh, a previous presenter at an IOSS conference and lecturer at Texas State University, offered a session on student belonging, arguing that instructors may integrate social support opportunities through discussion, intentional modeling of engagement with texts, personalized interaction, and conscious connection to course and institutional goals. Even in difficult or reluctant environments, this approach recognizes the possibility for instructors to continue creating inclusive, welcoming environments, which may potentially connect with individual students and encourage academic skills.

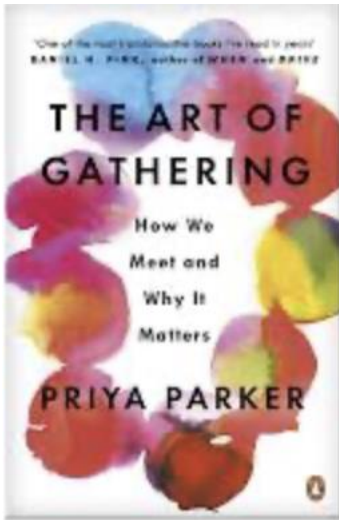
In a similar approach, two other presentations highlighted the value of increased connection between instructors and students through modeling. Instructors at Mount San Antonio College in California embrace literacy scaffolding across the curriculum to address inequities among their student population. To achieve this, the college is creating videos showing instructors modeling how they read texts in their specific disciplines. Instructors may then use these videos in classes or assignments as students navigate college courses in various subjects. Attendees to our last conference may remember that DMACC has begun a similar endeavor. A committee focused on reading across the curriculum has initiated an effort to produce modeling videos for students. DMACC faculty is pursuing a similar series of instructor videos and hopes to present on the progress at the fall IOSS conference.

This virtual conference reinforced the benefits of maintaining connections within our professional community as the conference helped keep attendees informed on current issues and provided relevant, actionable information to address student needs.

Dan Nelson, DMACC, IOSS President

Professional Book Study

College leaders, Student Success Center Staff, Academic Advisors and Librarians across the country are currently joining Book Studies for *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* by Priya Parker. Reliable sources say these professional groups are focusing on how Parker's approach enriches our school year kickoffs, faculty meetings, and welcoming all new campus members. Enjoy a few tidbits that may transform time spent with others at home, at work, and in your community!



1. Parker revisits the significance of gathering throughout her book. Family celebrations to work retreats can be even more powerful implementing her techniques.
2. The right questions can unlock meaningful conversations and connections in a group.
3. How much pregame preparation do you put into your gatherings? There are many easy and thoughtful ways to prime our guests before they ring the doorbell.

4. Gamify gatherings? Hmm... we'd like to know more!

5. Most of us know how to make an opening entrance, but are we fast-pitch closers?

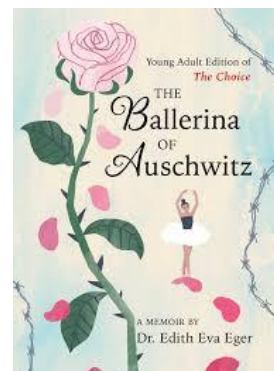
Interested in joining a Book Study? Contact your future virtual book study host at krogers@iowalakes.edu!

*Kathrine Rogers, Librarian, ILCC
IOSS Community College Representative*

Librarian *Shhh*elf of Treasures

New Young Adult Books in Review

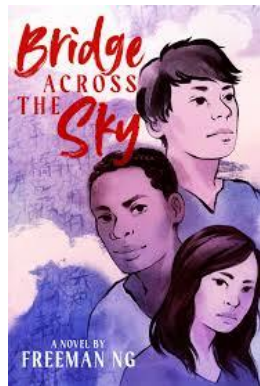
Kicking off the school year with New Young Adult Books 2024 is a real treat! These titles might complement curriculum, be worthy of a college book club, or pique personal interest!



1. Ballerina of Auschwitz by Edith Eva Eger YA Edition

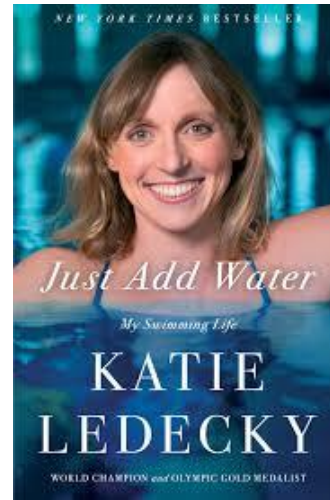
Edie is a talented dancer and a skilled

gymnast with hopes of making the Olympic team. Between her rigorous training and her struggle to find her place in a family where she's the daughter "with brains but no looks," Edie's too busy to dwell on the state of the world. But life in Hungary in 1943 is dangerous for a Jewish girl.



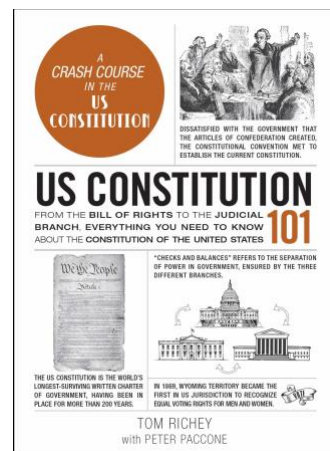
2. Bridge Across the Sky by Freeman Ng

Tai Go and his family have crossed an ocean wider than a thousand rivers, joining countless other Chinese immigrants in search of a better life in the United States. Instead, they're met with hostility and racism. Empowered by the Chinese Exclusion Act, the government detains the immigrants on Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay while evaluating their claims. This raw and honest historical novel is in verse.



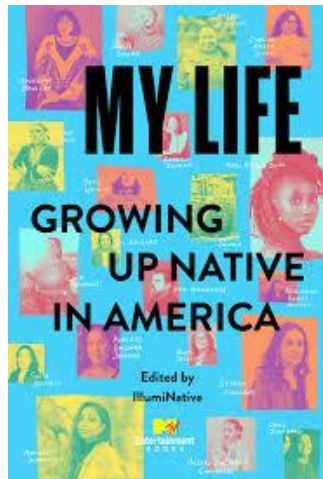
3. Just Add Water My Swimming Life by Katie Ledecky

A candid and inspiring memoir from Olympic gold medalist, world champion, and one of the best swimmers ever to compete: Katie Ledecky. Katie Ledecky has won more individual Olympic races than any other female swimmer in history. She is a 3-time Olympian, a 7-time gold medalist, a 21-time world champion, 8-time NCAA Champion, and a world record-holder in individual swimming events. What makes her a champion? She shares what it takes to compete at an elite level.



4. US Constitution 101 From the Bill of Rights to the Judicial Branch, Everything You Need to Know about the Constitution of the United States by Tom Richey

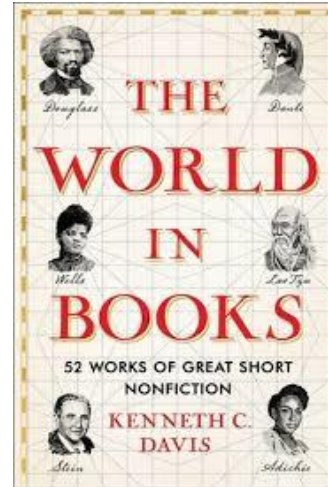
Understand the foundation, principles, and rights that govern the United States with this vital, unbiased, and comprehensive book about the US Constitution. With the Constitution being invoked more and more in American politics, it's now more important than ever before that you understand the guiding principles and significance of the document that shaped American democracy. This primer is packed with information about the document that has defined the American political and judicial systems for more than two centuries.



5. My Life: Growing Up Native in America edited by IllumiNative

A moving collection of powerful essays and poems that capture and celebrate the modern Native American experience. Entries include Angeline Bouley, Madison Hammond, and Kara Roselle Smith. Renowned writers, performers, athletes, and activists explore the

resiliency, joy and the complexity of today's modern Native American identity.



6. The World in Books: 52 Works of Great Short Nonfiction by Kenneth C. Davis

A delightful, inspiring, and idea-rich selection of 52 of the most important short nonfiction works of all time from Plato to Michael Pollan and Dante to Joan Didion. Spanning ancient times to the present day, we are introduced to some of the most thought-provoking, historically meaningful, and culturally relevant events of all time.

CONCLUSION

Check out these recommended titles to enhance student engagement and learning experiences! Contact me at krogers@iowalakes.edu for more information.

Thank you sooo much!

Kat Rogers
Iowa Lakes Community College Librarian

2024 IOSS Student Scholarship

Congratulations to Breana Doland, a student at Marshalltown Community College, who has won this year's \$500 IOSS Student Scholarship!

At 22, Breana is living on her own, working to pay her bills while attending college. She has participated in the TRIO program, and last fall she took advantage of a developmental math course, Statistics Support, while enrolled in the Statistics course required for her program. She credits that support course for teaching her the value of asking for help. "I'm very used to doing things on my own and I have been for a while. To ask for help goes against my very nature; however, it was impossible not to. My professor taught both classes." She applied that lesson the next semester in another course. "I didn't understand my assignments, finals were coming up, and I was terrified of failing. Normally, I'd let myself struggle. I'd say, 'Oh well' and do my assignments with that cloud of uncertainty hanging over me and then worry about my grades because although I tried my best, I still could have done more; I could have asked for help. Instead, I turned to my classmates for guidance because there's more than one source of information in a school."

Breana made the Dean's List and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society at MCC last spring. After graduation next year, she plans to enroll in the Mortuary Science Advanced Standing Diploma program at DMACC. She has experience working in a funeral home and knows this is the right career for her. "It's a bit bleak, but we all must die, and someone needs to take care of us once we go. Someone who will treat the deceased with the respect and care they deserve."

America Reads 2024-2025



IOSS is pleased to share the joy of reading with elementary school students as we continue our participation in the America Reads program. Recipients of our book donations for 2024-2025 are enrolled at McKinley Elementary School in southeast Des Moines.

McKinley serves a multiethnic group of children from pre-K to 5th grade. In 2023-2024, more than 90% of McKinley's 266 students qualified for free and reduced-price lunches, and nearly 30% of the students were English Language Learners.

Check the IOSS Fall Conference website for a link to the McKinley Elementary School Amazon Gift List, coming soon:

https://internal.dmacc.edu/ioss/SitePages/Fall_Preview.aspx

IMPORTANT: When checking out, on the *Choose a Shipping Address* page, make sure to have the books sent to the school address:

McKinley Elementary School
Attn: Ann Mortimer
1610 SE 6th Street
Des Moines, IA 50315

Join the IOSS Conversation

- Have you recently attended a conference of another professional organization? Summarize a session relevant to our membership for the *Reader's Corner*.
- Has your institution revamped its placement policies, developmental studies offerings, or academic support program? Provide a quick update.
- Have you located a great academic resource for student or faculty to use? Share the wealth.
- Have you transitioned to a new position or received special recognition for your professional accomplishments? Let us celebrate with you!

To submit articles or information for future editions of the *Reader's Corner*, please send to:

IOSS Newsletter Editor, Sue Wickham
breemersm@centurylink.net

2023-2024 IOSS Executive Board

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Stay in Touch with IOSS and NOSS

IOSS Website:

Check the IOSS website for 2024 conference updates; student scholarship information; Executive Board contact information; and member resources, including IOSS meeting minutes and materials from conference presentations.

<https://internal.dmacc.edu/ioss>

IOSS Facebook:



Like us on Facebook to receive updates on IOSS and our annual conference!

https://www.facebook.com/iowaoss/?ref=py_c

The NOSS website:

<https://thenoss.org/>

Mark your calendar for NOSS 2025!



49th Annual Conference

February 19-22, 2025
Hyatt Regency
New Orleans, LA