
Dana Review



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Gardner*

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May weekend honors seniors, builders, alumni

On Sunday, May 19, graduates will put on their caps and gowns and join the traditional academic procession that crosses the campus from Pioneer Memorial to Borup Coliseum for the 1 p.m. Commencement ceremony.

At 10 o'clock that morning Borup will also be the site of the traditional Baccalaureate service.

Two events the day before—the Builders Luncheon and Recognition Dinner—have also become traditions.

The Builders Luncheon recognizes alumni and friends who have included Dana in their estate plans. It will be held at 12 noon in the E.C. Hunt Campus Center. Members of the Rev. A.V. and Dora Christine Neve family will be honored at the luncheon as a Distinguished Dana Family.

The Recognition Dinner welcomes graduating seniors as the college's newest alumni. It begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Campus Center. Several seniors will receive Campus Service Awards; their identities will be announced at the dinner. Two graduates, Arden Dorn '63 of Phoenix, Arizona, and Lloyd Neve D'45 T'47 of Blair, will be honored at the dinner as Distinguished Alumni.

Arden Dorn. The Rev. Dorn is president of Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest, a diverse social service organization serving 150,000 persons in Arizona and southern Nevada. He was named the organization's president in 1988 after having served, since 1983, as its Indian ministry director.

Believing that "each congregation is a social ministry organization as well as a place where the Word is taught and the

sacraments are administered," Dorn has successfully challenged pastors and members of local congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to become personally involved with social ministry programs, including programs for the homeless.

He received his M.Div. from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 1967. He has also taken graduate classes in social work at the University of Kansas. He was a Lutheran World Federation Scholar at the University of Munich, Germany, in the summer of 1980, and he attended the Native American Studies program at the University of Colorado in the summer of 1986.

After his ordination, Dorn served in Nebraska as pastor at Emmaus Lutheran in Kennard and Immanuel Lutheran in Orum (1967-71), and in Lawrence, Kansas, at Good Shepherd Lutheran (1971-83).

Since 1973 he has also been a cross-cultural communications trainer throughout the U.S. and in Europe.

Throughout his career Dorn has been involved with community and religious organizations. In 1968 while in Nebraska he created the Committee on Rural Ministry (CORM), which is still active. From 1972-76 he was chair of the Coordinating Committee on National Crises for the former American Lutheran Church (ALC) and president of the Lawrence Emergency Services Council. He has served on the ALC's National Church Council (1978-83) and the National Indian Lutheran Board (1973-88), and has been a member of the board of directors of the



Arden Dorn

Phoenix Indian Center (1985-91) and of Indian Rehabilitation (1984-present).

Dorn's contributions and activities have been widely recognized. He was the keynote speaker at an ALC convention and was listed in the 1987 *Who's Who in Arizona*. He has received the Kansas Governor's Award for Community Service (1982), the Distinguished Support Award from the National Indian Lutheran Board (1988), and the Vision Award from McDonnell Douglas Corporation (1994).

He has assisted Dana's Social Work Department by arranging for students to spend a January Interim with Navajo and Papago families and has given a program on cultural sensitivity to the Dana faculty.

He places meeting his wife, Roxane Marquette '65, at the top of his list of Dana memories. They have three children—Kirstin, Kara, and Mitch.

Lloyd Neve. The Rev. Dr. Neve served as a missionary to Japan

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Summer space TREK is for children, teachers

The Horizon Space Shuttle Simulator will be at the hub of Dana's Space TREK (Technology Resources Exciting Kids) Institute, scheduled this year for June 16-21. The Dana-sponsored Institute, which is in its ninth year, is designed for students who will be fourth through ninth graders this coming summer.

Nebraska teachers can also apply to participate in the workshops and receive training from master teachers.

The Horizon Simulator is an interior and exterior replica of the front end of a real space shuttle. It's equipped with video cameras that monitor and then project activities inside the shuttle on television sets in mission control. The simulated windows on the flight deck display images of Earth as seen from space; all 14 computers aboard Horizon and at mission control are directly connected to the Internet.

Institute director Dr. Kay Ferguson of Dana's Education Department reports that Dr. Art Ziegenbeim, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, visited Dana's simulator in January. "He was impressed," she said, "with the projects already completed and with the nationwide excitement the project has created among teachers and students."

Ferguson said that two workshops at this summer's Institute will feature new pilot projects from JPL:

○ KidSat, a project piloted in Pasadena and Charleston, South Carolina, that will now be piloted at Dana. KidSat makes it possible for students to select locations on earth to photograph from a digital camera mounted in the cargo bay of a real space shuttle. As the shuttle circles the earth, the camera photographs the selected areas and downlinks the data to White Sands/DomSat; from

there the data are routed to the KidSat Info System for "real-time" data processing by the students.

○ Visto Pro, a project that allows students to develop flybys (mini virtual reality projects) with earth images taken with the digital cameras.

"As other projects are developed for JPL, they'll also be piloted at Dana," Ferguson said. "We'll train teachers here, and then they'll disseminate what they've learned to schools in Nebraska and

meteorology, imagery, rocketry, electronic mail, and space physio fitness. They will also design multimedia packages to be placed on the World Wide Web.

In the space physio fitness workshop they'll explore a larger-than-life obstacle course patterned after the heart and entire circulatory system. They'll also complete personal lifestyle prescriptions based on their experiences throughout the week. The Polar Vantage XL heart monitors they'll

use are the same as the ones astronauts use in all space shuttle missions.

More than 80 computers—Macintosh and IBM PCs—all with e-mail capabilities and access to the Internet and World Wide Web, will be available to the Space TREK participants.

The evening program includes supervised recreational and co-curricular activities, including rocketry, outdoor education, swimming, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and racquetball.

Ferguson described members of the TREK instruction team as "master teachers with knowledge of leading edge technologies."

The faculty/staff-student ratio is 1:4. She added that counselors, mature and responsible Dana students who plan to become teachers, will assist the students and live with them in the residence halls.

Previous participants have given Space TREK rave reviews. Wrote one student, "In my opinion, there is no other camp that can



The space shuttle simulator and mission control are housed in the former Elk Horn Hall lounge. This photo shows Space TREKers at last summer's Institute. The director of mission control is in the foreground; the shuttle simulator is at the other end of the room, with an image of the Earth behind it. In the central area young students work at a bank of mission control computers donated by MCI.

beyond."

She added that the Duke University Talent Program has identified the Space TREK Institute as "an exemplary project" and has recommended it for gifted children in its Talent Identification Program (TIP).

NASA also continues its heavy involvement in the Institute, she said, by supplying personnel, materials, and software.

In the other workshops students will learn about

combine learning and having fun the way TREK does." Another wrote, "You change the way some kids think about education (including me). I never liked learning stuff because it was always boring. But, at TREK I actually want to learn (I know it sounds crazy, coming from a teenager!). It isn't like school, where you sit and listen to the teacher talk . . . and then work on the problems in the textbook—it's more hands-on learning. . . [and] the technology is so advanced. . ."

Participating teachers will be paid a stipend of \$200 for each of

two weeks (June 10-21), in addition to room and board. Graduate credit is available.

Meals, on-campus housing, and tuition are included in the fee of \$250 for Nebraska students and \$650 for others. The cost for Nebraska students is being underwritten by a grant from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, with the grant monies coming from Dwight D. Eisenhower Federal Funds. The grant also helps fund other aspects of the Institute.

Nebraska teachers and children

from any state interested in attending Space TREK can obtain additional information and application forms by writing to Dr. Ferguson at Dana College, Box 1240, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008, or by calling her at (402) 426-7279. She can also be reached by FAX (402) 426-7382 and e-mail, <kferguson@acad2.dana.edu>.

Enrollment for students and teachers is limited, and applications should be submitted as soon as possible, Ferguson said. ○

Dorn, Neve join Distinguished Alumni roster

(Continued from pg. 3)

from 1948-86, spending 18 years in church "planting" and 20 years in teaching Old Testament studies at Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tokyo.

During this period he also completed his graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, receiving his Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1955 and his Ph.D. in 1967.

In Japan he served as chairman of the joint Japan Lutheran Missionaries Association and of the all-Japan ecumenical group of missionaries, The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries.

Looking for a different mission experience, he spent 1986 in Papua, New Guinea, teaching Old Testament at Martin Luther Seminary in Lae, and the following year in the Republic of South Africa, teaching Old Testament at Umpumulo Lutheran Seminary.

He was assisted in his mission work in Japan, New Guinea, and South Africa by his wife, Muriel, whom he met when she was teaching English at a Methodist mission school in Japan.

Although the Neves retired to Blair in 1988, they spent October 1989-March 1990 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, working for the Lutheran



Lloyd Neve

church there in the Japanese immigrant community.

Every year for the past seven years Dr. and Mrs. Neve have also given three months, from December to March, to work as full-time volunteers in Washington, D.C. She works at a shelter for women, Bethany House, at Luther Place Memorial Church, and he works at the headquarters for Bread for the World.

Neve has also taught in this country, at Luther Seminary (1966); at Concordia College in Moorhead,

Minnesota (August-December 1976); and at Lutheran Bible Institute in Seattle, Washington (January-March 1988).

In the fall of 1992, when Prof. Del Hutton of Dana's Religion Department was on sabbatical, Neve volunteered to teach Hutton's classes as a way, he said, of "repaying the college" for educating the Neves' children—Kaj '73, Rachael '74, Nina '75, Leif '77, Kim '79, and Peter '80. Of the six, Kaj, Rachael, Leif, and Kim are Dana graduates.

Neve has written five books, three of them published in English, and two translated into Japanese with only the manuscripts available in English.

As a Dana student, he was editor of the *Hermes* and *Danian* and served as student body president. He places at the top of his list of Dana memories "the five years of dorm life, two of them rooming with Norman Bansen." [Bansen is now a Dana professor emeritus of English.]

Dr. Richard Jorgensen '64 will present Dorn's award, and the Rev. Dr. Paul C. Johnsen D'49 T'52 will present Neve's.

Reservations for the Recognition Dinner can be made by calling the Alumni Office, (402) 426-7235. Tickets are \$8.75 per person. ○

New members of the Dana Board of Regents are *Mogens Bay*, president and chief executive officer of Valmont Industries, Inc., in Valley, Nebraska; and *Jeanne Gardner*, chairman of the Gardner Foundation in Wakefield, Nebraska.

An article by *Dr. Kay Ferguson*, "The Information Highway: Currently Under Construction," has been selected for publication

as a feature article in *T.H.E. Journal*.

Publication is tentatively scheduled for the May 1996 issue. The article will also be available to researchers and others through the Internet—ERIC's

Clearinghouse on Information & Technology, Current Index to Journals in Education. Ferguson is professor of education and psychology.

The *Dana College Chorale* was one of several choirs that performed "Crying for a Dream" by Rene Claussen on Sunday, February 11, at St. Cecilia's Cathedral in Omaha. Claussen created his version of a Native American religious ceremony called "crying for a vision" by combining texts by several Native Americans. The ceremony is at the heart of the Native American quest to find meaning and purpose in life. The other participating choirs, all from Omaha, were the Clarion Chamber Chorale, the Central High School A Cappella Choir, and the Mini Singers of the Omaha Public Schools. Dana graduate Trista Witt '95 was a featured flute soloist; Lakota elder Charles Trimble was the narrator.

Six members of the *Dana College Concert Band* were selected to participate in the Intercollegiate

Honors Band at the March 2-3 annual meeting of the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association in Lincoln. The students are Valerie Bensen '98, clarinet (Maskell, Nebr.); Sara Bohling '98, trombone (North Bend, Nebr.); Kristen Hansen '97, clarinet (Ruskin, Nebr.); Chandra Meyer '99, saxophone (Deshler, Nebr.); Ben Olson '97, baritone (Cambridge, Iowa); and Mark Witt '98, trumpet (Omaha).

The *Nebraska Scholastic Art Awards and Exhibition* was held at Dana again this year. The nationwide competition, which is sponsored by *Scholastic* magazine, is the largest art event in the country for junior and senior high school students. In the Nebraska competition, of 3,000 works submitted, over 400 were selected for display in the Madsen Fine Arts Center and the Dana Classroom Center. Approximately 800 students, parents, teachers, and friends came to the campus on February 17 to attend the awards ceremony. Dana art professor Milt Heinrich calls the competition "the visual art equivalent to the state basketball tournament."

The February issue of *Smithsonian* magazine featured photographs by *Benedicte Wrensted*, the late nineteenth century Danish immigrant photographer. Her work was exhibited at Dana in The Forum last fall, from September 1-October 15.

Mike Vax, former lead trumpet player with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, gave an afternoon concert and clinic for student brass players at Dana on February 5.

Bread for the Journey, a musical ensemble from Minneapolis specializing in multicultural gospel folk music from around the world, performed several times at Dana on February 13-14. The group was sponsored by the Staley Foundation.

Dana was again well represented at the annual *Nebraska Undergraduate Art Exhibit*, a juried show held this year at Peru State College. Of approximately 220 works submitted by art students at Nebraska colleges and universities, 49 were accepted, and of these, nine were by Dana students. Chana Bammerlin '98 (Mills, Nebr.) received second place for one of the two works she submitted. Other accepted works were by Annette Cradick '98 (Blair); Heidi Gerth '97 (Winona, Minn.); Kari Jaeger '97 (Omaha); Jeremy Jones '98 (Norwalk, Iowa); Deann Ray '99—two works (Ft. Calhoun, Nebr.); and Erica Swanson '97 (Omaha).

Black History Month observances on campus featured a February 28 reception and program that included keynote speaker Dr. Mary Mudd, vice chancellor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), and a performance by "Voices of Praise," a 20-voice Omaha choir (Dana student Damian Pollack '98 is a member). In her talk titled "Valuing Diversity: The Importance of Intercultural Communication," Dr. Mudd spoke about the origin of Black History Month, future demographic trends for African Americans, the dynamics that complicate cross-cultural communication, and how to improve effective interethnic and intercultural dialogue. The evening was sponsored by Dana's Affirmative Action Committee and the campus organization, H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People Expand).

On February 29, H.O.P.E. and the Office of Multicultural Affairs sponsored a talk by Prof. Julien Lafantant, former director of multicultural studies at UNO, who spoke on "Understanding the Self Identification Problem of the Negro."

On March 5, H.O.P.E. sponsored an open discussion on diversity titled "We Can Live in a Color Blind Society." The discussion

was led by Dana graduate Patrick Sanders '92, the first president of H.O.P.E.

Nebraska State Senator Diana Schimeck spoke at Dana on March 5 in observance of *Women's History Month*. Her topic was "Women in Leadership." The event was sponsored by the Student Awareness Organization (S.A.O.), Health Services, and the Counseling Center. On March 6 panelists from Fremont and Omaha discussed women's health issues.

In February *Richard and Jan Potter* of the Social Work Department attended the annual program meeting of the Council on Social Work Education in Washington, D.C. At the meeting Jan Potter received certification as a site visitor; she also presented a paper on non-dualistic approaches to community development.

Roger Barratt '76, scientist-in-residence at the Nishna Heritage Museum in Oakland, Iowa, spoke at Dana on March 6. He displayed a variety of prehistoric artifacts, including fossils 300-400 millions of years old, "surface finds" he discovered along the Nishnabotna River. The winding river runs through western Iowa's Loess Hills, and fossilized bones are constantly being exposed on sand and mud bars. Barratt is doing research on mammoths and mastodons; a recent publication is "Ice Age Mammals of the Loess Hills." He makes frequent presentations at Iowa schools and is becoming known to school children as "The Bone Man."

Opera Omaha came to Dana on March 3 to give a preview of its late March production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Hal France, artistic director and conductor of Opera Omaha, described the preview as "a traveling road show." Three members of Heartland Opera Theatre, Opera Omaha's

professional core, sang arias from the early nineteenth century work.

On March 9, noted pianist and accompanist *John Wustman* and singers from the School of Music at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where Wustman teaches, presented a recital in Trinity Chapel of lieder (art songs) by Franz Schubert. Seven years ago Wustman set out to perform all of Schubert's more than 630 lieder in a series of 19 recitals. The performance at Dana was one of the concluding recitals in the final series.

Chestnut Pearl '97 reigned as queen, and Shawn Fasbender '97 as king, at Winterfest on February 10. Pearl is a biology major from Rocky Ford, Colorado. Fasbender is an accounting and finance major from Omaha. Members of their court were Diane Crawford '97 (LaSalle, Colo.), Heidi Gerth '97 (Winona, Minn.), Janet Reisdorff '97 (David City, Nebr.), Stephenie Wilson '96 (Marion, Iowa), Mark Andrews '96 (Monterey, Calif.), Nathan Babbitt '97 (Emerson, Iowa), Paul Gardner '97 (Plattsmouth, Nebr.), and Soren Schmidt '97 (Escanaba, Mich.). ○



VP picks up baton for Holy Week concerts

Dr. Paul Formo was professor and dean of the Conservatory of Music at Capital University before coming to Dana in 1993 as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. He picked up the baton again this spring to direct combined choirs from Blair's First Lutheran Church and Dana for Palm Sunday and Good Friday performances of Heinrich Schütz's musical presentation of the Passion Story as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. Formo wrote his doctoral dissertation on this work by the 17th century German composer.

Math professor Olson: "I've learned to love teaching and teaching has loved me back"

Roger Olson, associate professor of mathematics, is the contributor to this issue's installment of "Why I Teach." Olson received his bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College and his master's degree from Kansas State University. He joined the Dana faculty in 1964. In recognition of his outstanding teaching, last spring he received the HunTel Systems' Golden Apple Award. For many years Olson has served Dana as faculty athletics representative to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference. For his contributions in that capacity, he has been inducted into Dana's Athletic Hall of Fame.

I have a saying by Arthur Rubinstein, the noted pianist, taped to my file cabinet in my office at Dana. It goes like this: "I have found that if you love life, life will love you back." I have had many moments of inspiration from this message, but I also thought, while considering the topic "Why I Teach," that the word "teaching" could be substituted for "life" in the saying and an equally important saying would result, a saying that I can offer now as I look back on my years of teaching both at Dana and elsewhere. My intention here is to try to articulate what teaching has meant to me over the years, and in particular what it has meant to me while at Dana.

When I reflect back on my high school and college days, the thought that I would spend my adult life teaching mathematics never entered my mind. During my high school days in Alexandria, Minnesota, my interests were in all of my studies and no one subject took higher priority over another. I loved history and I took part in a



Roger Olson

program sponsored by the *Minneapolis Star* newspaper on current affairs. I was in the band and plays and enjoyed my science classes. I also had excellent mathematics teachers. I entered Gustavus in the fall of 1953 with the intention of studying to become an engineer. One of the required courses in the pre-engineering program was a course in mechanical drawing. For some reason, I switched my schedule and took a history course instead and my engineering days were over. I majored in mathematics and minored in physics and decided to apply for assistantships in mathematics at Kansas State and the University of Nebraska. I had offers from both schools, but I went to Kansas State because Jim Carlstedt, a friend from Gustavus, was already there.

My first teaching assignments at Kansas State were to teach a section of Intermediate Algebra

and a section of Agricultural Mathematics. The algebra class was relatively easy to teach and, even though I had grown up on a farm, the "Ag Math" was a challenge. In May of 1959, I graduated with a master's degree and I had a decision to make: I had an offer from Lockheed in California and

an offer to teach mathematics at Tarkio College. I chose to go to Tarkio, and my best friend at Kansas State, Ken Tiahr, took a similar position at Dana. Five years later I replaced Ken at Dana when he went on for his doctorate.

During the five years I spent at Tarkio, teaching began to become a way of life for me. I enjoyed it, especially the stimulation in the classroom and the challenges that teaching can offer. I was beginning to "love" teaching and it was beginning to "love" me back.

For me, teaching mathematics today, in the '90s, continues to offer me enjoyment and satisfaction, but it also presents challenges. One of the major challenges is technology and its uses and, in some ways, abuses. The present day student in my math classes has very little comprehension of what a student of mathematics during my college

days had available in the way of technology. The "slide rule" comes to mind, but in mathematics the professor wanted exact answers, so it was the engineers and maybe the physicists who used a slide rule. Today, with our graphing calculators and computers to do our math problems, it is a real challenge to emphasize understanding of a math concept when these "devices" will do the work. And as Kent Bessey states in his book, *Mathematics & Technology in the Classroom*, frustrations on the part of the student and the instructor soon surface. The student wants to use his or her calculator in all situations, and I as the instructor may say, in effect, show me that you know the concept without using your calculator and then use your calculator on more difficult problems. The use of calculators and computers has altered both what mathematics I teach and how I teach what I teach. I welcome the calculators and computers that we have today and in no way would I want to go back to where we were 30 years ago. We can tackle

problems today that we couldn't touch then, but the challenge is to use the technology and still demand comprehension.

One of the frustrations of teaching a broad field like mathematics is to try to put it in context for the student; i.e., how does what we are studying at the moment fit into the total scheme of things. In 1982, I taught a course in the history of mathematics during our January Interim. Since then, I have offered the course on two occasions again during our Interim, partly to strengthen our secondary education major as recommended by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and partly to look at the development of mathematics through the centuries. This course has helped me to put much of what I teach in perspective and I hope it has been of interest to the students who have taken the class. F.J. Swetz, the editor of *From Five Fingers to Infinity*, a journey through the history of mathematics that was published in 1994, said the following: "To learn calculus without understanding what led to

its development and how it was used by Newton and others, is like learning to play scales on the piano without being shown any compositions." I am sure that many former calculus students will disagree with that statement. They can use their calculus background and apply it without knowing all that went into its development and refinements. But the calculus example does point out to me a very important truth: knowing something of the development of calculus through the study of the history of mathematics has helped me more effectively teach calculus and also relate its development to other branches of mathematics.

Finally a few words of what teaching at Dana for 30 years has meant to me. Dana has been blessed with many dedicated teachers and administrators, and it has been a special joy for me to work with such wonderful people. The students who have majored in mathematics have been very special friends and co-learners with me. I can truly say that "I have learned to love teaching and teaching has loved me back." ○



***Students present papers
at women's studies conference***

Students Mary Jo Greenwood '98 (left) and Sara Hildreth '97 had abstracts accepted and presented papers at the Women's Studies Conference, "No Limits: We are the Stories We Tell," held March 1-2 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prof. Starla Stensaas, who also attended the conference, reports that Greenwood and Hildreth gave outstanding presentations. The other presenters included graduate students, among them doctoral candidates, and faculty members from major universities across the country. Greenwood is from Riverside, Wyoming, and Hildreth, from Red Oak, Iowa.

○ **Curtis Fett '82** of Sioux City, Iowa, was honored at Lutheran Brotherhood's Siouxland Agency Awards Banquet for the third consecutive year as "Top New Member Producer," and for the second consecutive year as "Top Annuity Producer." He was also recognized as the "Top Life Insurance Producer" and as a

Presidents' Club Qualifier, one of Lutheran Brotherhood's most prestigious sales honors. Fett has been a district representative for Lutheran Brotherhood since 1990.

○ **Dawn (Qualley '76) Smith**, resource development coordinator at the

Bloomfield (Nebr.) Good Samaritan Center (BGSC), was chosen the Center's "1995 Staff Member of the Year." Smith edits the Center's quarterly newsletter and is in charge of public relations and fund raising. Staff members said that she demonstrates her dedication to the Center's mission statement, "In Christ's Love, Everyone is Someone," through "her extra efforts to know the residents and to make them feel important" and that she "provides an example of her Christian values and commitment by her actions, positive attitude, and work ethics." Smith is also the half-time elementary counselor at Bloomfield Elementary School, and she was called "an advocate for children" as well as for the elderly.

○ **Paul Ahrendt '68**, president of The Tool House in Lincoln, Nebraska, has been elected president of the Specialty Tools & Fasteners Distributors Association (STAFDA). STAFDA is an international organization of 2,100 distributors and manufacturers of

light construction products. He was elected to its board of directors in 1993. Ahrendt has been involved with the tool distribution industry for 30 years; The Tool House serves construction and industrial trades and resale markets throughout Nebraska. Its headquarters are in Lincoln, and there is an Omaha branch. Ahrendt and his wife, Kathy (Hulsebus '71), have five daughters. Two of them—Tami '96 and Traci '99—are Dana students.

○ **Wanda Brabec '68** of Fremont, Nebraska, was one of six Nebraska teachers honored by the *Omaha World-Herald* in its Sunday, March 3, edition. The *World-Herald* sponsors a "My Favorite Teacher" essay contest in conjunction with Teacher Recognition Day, a statewide celebration of the contributions of teachers. Essays were submitted by current and former students, with two winners picked from each Congressional District. Brabec, now retired, taught for 27 years in seven rural schools. The person who nominated her had been a student when she taught at Logan View District 84 in Dodge County. He wrote: "She cared about each individual student. Our successes were her successes."

○ **Joanne (Gochenour '66) Bracker**, women's basketball coach at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska, was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame on March 5. The induction took place during the Division II national tournament banquet in Angola, Indiana. At the time of the announcement, January 17, her team had a 26-season total of 529 wins and 154 losses. Mark Derowlitsch of the *Lincoln Journal-Star*, in the article announcing her selection, wrote that "Bracker has built one of the most successful programs in the NAIA." Her teams have won ten Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference championships and have qualified

five times for the national tournament.

○ On March 8 **Dr. Kathleen Anderson Bliese '62** of Waterloo, Nebraska, received the Woman of Distinction award from the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women. The award recognizes women whose work has affected the lives of other women. It was presented at a luncheon in the Governor's mansion in Lincoln. Bliese is medical director of clinical operations for United Healthcare of the Midlands. As a medical student at the University of Nebraska, she spent summers in Mexico working with the young and poor. After receiving her medical degree she served in Bangladesh for ten years, and while there established a 50-bed rural hospital and developed a women's health program. Upon returning to Nebraska, she volunteered to serve as a physician for abused women and children and helped provide medical care, shelter, and counseling. In 1993 she became the first woman president of the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians. She currently serves on the National Nutrition Council for the American Academy of Family Practice.

○ An article by **U.S. Senator Paul Simon '49** of Illinois appears in the first issue of *The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*. A comment in the online "Academe Today's DAILY REPORT" (March 7) for subscribers to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* notes, "In their debut issue, the editors call the journal 'a new attempt at explaining political communication' and declare their mission to be bridging the 'divergent chasms' among scholars, journalists, and politicians." Other contributors to this winter issue include President Clinton, the late Yitzhak Rabin, and Secretary of Defense William Perry. ○

Graduate's decision to chase his dreams leads him to Christian music industry

"If there is one thing I've learned, it's never to say no to the things you don't think you can do," writer-actor-musician-composer Mark Smeby says in summing up his activities since graduating in 1989. Smeby's career to date illustrates that lesson learned.

At Dana he was active in music and theater, interests that complemented his major in communications-international studies. After graduating, he returned to his hometown of Minneapolis to look for a job.

When nothing came along, he reports, he became a waiter at Chanhassen Dinner Theater, the world's largest dinner theater. "I loved it," he says, "and it allowed me to pursue freelance talent work, like commercials, industrial videos, theater and films. I even went on the road for a short while with the Refreshment Committee, a Christian professional theater company based in St. Paul. We traveled around the country to schools and churches performing musical comedy sketches.

"But after three years of this, I decided that my dreams needed to be chased. I've always wanted to get involved in Christian music in some way, but I wasn't quite sure how to do that. So in June 1993 I packed up my car and moved to the center of the Christian music industry . . . Nashville!"

In Nashville he found a talent agent who helped him continue his theater work. He also began work on a long-form music video project for a band called PFR. The video, now available in Christian bookstores, is called "Unleashed"; it features the concept clip for "Goldie's Last Day."

That November Smeby became director of membership for the Gospel Music Association (GMA). The GMA, he says, is an umbrella organization over the whole music industry to provide public relations about Christian music to outside media. It also provides educational

opportunities for anyone wanting to pursue a career in Christian music.

"This was a great position to learn about the inner workings of the Christian music industry," Smeby says. "I interacted daily with executives from all aspects of the



Mark Smeby

music business. It was quite an education. We also put on the Dove Awards, gospel music's Grammys."

But after a year at GMA, he realized that he still wasn't pursuing his dream. Because he wanted to write and sing more, he left and started working for himself.

When a friend asked him if he'd do some album reviews for a magazine she worked at, he says that his first response was negative.

"I was terrible in English classes, and writing classes were never a strong point, but writing was something I had always wanted to do, so I overruled myself and said yes. That decision has set me down a path that I would have never imagined. I'm now writing full time. I've been thrust into the middle of the whole Christian music industry. I'm writing feature

stories about artists, doing album reviews, and writing news stories about any issue or happening."

Besides writing reviews, he's working on a new children's musical called *Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth (B.I.B.L.E.)*. Other writing projects include a film script with a director from Los Angeles and weekly sketches for the church he attends. A short film about an AIDS hospice in St. Paul, Minnesota, is in development. There's more: he's a part-time DJ at WAY-FM and is involved in various freelance talent jobs—commercials, music videos, and voice-overs. He's also writing songs.

"I'm always looking for places to sing," he says. "My hope is to be able to record an album project and tour full time as an artist."

To date his credits include articles in 13 publications, among them *Aspire Magazine*, *Release Magazine*, *Christian Single Magazine*, *Charisma*, and *CCM Magazine*. He's written scripts for radio and television for Steve Gilreath Productions, Z-Music Television/Z-Buzz Radio and Television News, the Gospel Music Association, and CCM Radio. He's also done marketing and promotional materials for six record companies—Sparrow Records, Brentwood Music, ForeFront Communications, Warner Alliance, Reunion Records, and Word Records.

"There have so many times when my first response to a new opportunity has been to say to myself, 'I don't think I can do that,'" Smeby says. "But later I find I've received a huge personal reward from being able to accomplish something new.

"It's all been about putting myself on the line and trusting God. Faith is easy in times of stability, but it's the times of uncertainty when faith is given the opportunity to grow."

He looks back on his Dana liberal arts education and experiences with appreciation. "I had a great time at Dana being involved with the Music

(continued on pg. 16)

Shopping at the Dana Bookstore



Jansport red T-shirt with white graphic. 100% cotton. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL. Price: \$13.50



Child's two-piece cotton knit shirt set in red and gray. Sizes: 12M, 18M, 24M, 2, 3, 4. Price: \$17.95

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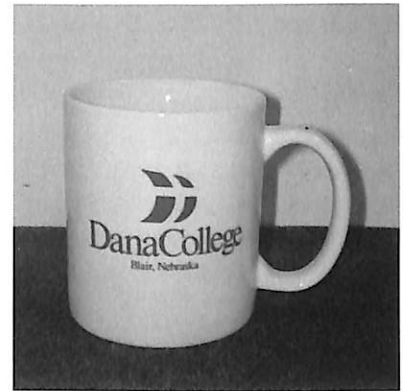
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White ceramic coffee mug with "Dana College" and logo in red (two sides). Price: \$5.75



Dana College black desk clock with quartz movement & second hand. AA battery included. Price: \$21

Grubes visit 7th continent, Antarctica

Although George and Marion Grube haven't made visiting every continent a goal, their travels have now taken them to all seven.

Their seventh continent was Antarctica, visited last December.

George Grube is a Dana professor emeritus of biology and an ornithologist, and many of the Blair couple's trips have centered on a shared interest in natural history. Their December trip didn't disappoint them, for they saw colonies of chinstrap and gentoo penguins, crabeater and Weddell seals, and a leopard seal catching a penguin.

There was the scenery, too. "The views of ice, water, and sky put together in various configurations were beautiful," Marion Grube said.

The Grubes were among 78 participants in an Elderhostel program offered by Marine Expeditions, a Toronto company. The group gathered in Buenos Aires and left from Ushuaia, the southernmost settlement in South



Marion and George Grube by a whaling boat abandoned on the Antarctic Peninsula.

America, for the Antarctic Peninsula. They traveled and lived on a marine research ship that had comfortable, well-equipped cabins.

It had been built in Norway for the former U.S.S.R. and was leased by Marine Expeditions; its captain and most of the crew were Russian.

Bad weather in the Drake Passage on the way to the Peninsula gave the Grubes one of their most unforgettable travel experiences.

"The captain, who had made the trip many times, said that the rough seas were the worst he'd ever experienced," Prof. Grube said. "He spent one and one-half days just trying to hold the ship in position. Everyone was seasick, but I don't think we were ever in any real danger."

Once their ship reached the Antarctic Peninsula, which stretches north toward South America, the passengers visited two stations, one of them a settlement of Chilean families. Another stop, at Deception Island, featured an interior lake formed when the cone of a volcano collapsed. (The Peninsula and nearby islands are volcanic in origin and a continuation of the Andes.) Hot springs on the lake tempted several to go swimming.

To reach land, passengers were taken from the ship by Zodiacs (inflated, motorized boats developed by Jacques Cousteau), and they had to wade ashore. (Everyone had been warned to pack knee-high boots and

waterproof pants.)

The trip also brought coincidences: One of the Marine Expeditions' instructors was a



Penguins on their way to a swim pose for Prof. Grube.

geologist who had lived in Blair. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and his parents live in Omaha. And in Buenos Aires, when participants first gathered, another couple learned that the Grubes were from Blair and asked them if they had anything to do with Dana College. They had attended a summer Elderhostel at Dana, they said, and "really loved it."

The Grubes returned to the U.S. before Christmas, arriving in New York City on December 24, and spent the holidays in Winchester, Virginia, with daughter Louise Shickle '69 and her family. They returned home to unpack—and then to pack again for a January car trip to California where they attended two weeklong Elderhostel programs.

What trips are in their future? Recalling that they also traveled in Greece and Turkey last year on a Dana January Interim tour, they agree that they'd "like to stay home for awhile." ○

Exciting games, new records describe season

by Paul Clark, Sports Information Director

Men's Basketball

A major hurdle was cleared by the Dana men's basketball team this season as the Vikings finished the year with a 16-14 overall record—the first winning campaign for a Viking men's team since the 1979-80 squad went 18-10.

Dana went 4-8 in Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference (NIAC) play and finished sixth in the final league standings. The Vikings lost to Hastings in the first round of the NIAC post-season tournament and Dana's performance in conference play came up short of expectations. But once again the league was very strong against two national tournament teams, and the Vikings

were not without any success in conference competition.

Dana handed Nebraska Wesleyan its first loss ever at Wesleyan's new arena, 72-69, and the Vikings defeated Midland Lutheran twice (101-91 and 90-70) to extend Dana's winning streak against the Warriors to seven. Dana also defeated Northwestern IA in conference play, 89-82. The Vikings also played the first triple-overtime game in school history, pushing nationally ranked Concordia-Seward before losing, 102-100.

Highlights of the non-conference season after Christmas included an 82-73 win over traditional power Briar Cliff IA and a 96-66 romp at York that clinched the Vikings' winning season.

Four Dana players—Mark Andrews '96 (Monterey CA), Nathan Babbitt '97 (Emerson IA), Shawn Fasbender '97 (Omaha) and Bret Marchese '97 (Glendale AZ)—were named honorable mention All-NIAC. During the season, Babbitt and Fasbender became the 14th and 15th players in school history to surpass 1,000 career points. Babbitt ranked fifth all-time in career scoring at season's end and Fasbender 13th. Fasbender also became Dana's career leader in blocked shots.

Women's Basketball

The NIAC has been put on notice that the young Dana women's basketball team it

had to deal with this year will be a force to reckon with next winter.

Dana went 13-14 overall on the year and 4-8 in the conference, which landed the Vikings in fifth place in the final league standings. Dana swept its season series with Nebraska Wesleyan, including a 56-55 win at home and a 72-66 triumph in its first game at Wesleyan's new arena. Dana finished regular-season conference play with two impressive home wins over Northwestern IA, 81-73, and Concordia-Seward, 85-81 in overtime. That was the fourth OT game for Dana on the year—a school record—and the Vikings went 2-2 in overtime games.

The Vikings played the nation's #1 NAIA Division II team when Doane visited Borup Coliseum, and Dana played the Tigers within three points until midway through the second half of an 86-67 loss. Another national qualifier from the NIAC, Midland Lutheran, labored for its two hard-fought wins over Dana, 73-63 and 64-52. The team that eliminated Midland at nationals, Briar Cliff IA, was an 88-70 victim of the Vikings in February.

Nichol Buenning '97 (Parkston SD), who during the year became the eighth Dana women's cager to go over 1,000 career points, earned first-team All-NIAC honors and was also named honorable mention All-American for NAIA Division II. She joins Cathy (Shaw '93) Brunkhurst (honorable mention 1992/93) and Heidi Grappendorf '95 (third team 1994/95) as All-American honorees from the Dana women's program. Susan Weddingfeld '98 (Panora IA) and Brenda Mechels '96 (Burns WY) were both named honorable mention All-NIAC.

Wrestling

For the second straight year, the Dana wrestling team nailed down a Top 20 finish at the NAIA National Wrestling Championships in March.

The Vikings placed 18th at the national tournament after finishing 17th a year earlier. That followed up a dual season in which Dana posted a 5-6-1 record. Among the teams pinned by Dana in dual competition were four squads from wrestling-rich Iowa, including traditional rival Northwestern IA which fell to the Vikings, 25-20. Dana also vanquished William Penn IA, 45-3, Central IA 36-10, and Dubuque IA 43-9. Dana's other dual

win was over St. Thomas MN, 33-24, and the Vikings and Northwestern also battled to a 26-26 tie.

Andy Hensley '97 (Massena IA) led four Dana wrestlers who qualified for nationals. Hensley was ranked #1 nationally at 167 pounds for much of the year but had to settle for eighth place in an upset-filled weight class at nationals. He concluded the season with a 31-10 match record that included 21 straight wins. Hensley improved his career record to 73-33.

Three first-year matmen—Rico Ventenilla (Kailua Kona HI), Jeremy Andresen (Wahoo NE) and Jeff Hume (Sidney NE)—also went to nationals. Ventenilla went 2-2 at the NAIA meet to finish his rookie season with a fine 24-15 record. Andresen dropped both of his matches at his first national meet and finished 8-22, and Hume did not make weight for the national meet and ended his freshman year at 19-17.

Track

Dana made its first appearance at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championships in early March as a precursor to what is expected to be a solid outdoor season.

Two women and five men competed for Dana at the indoor nationals in Lincoln. Max Grady '98 (Dunlap IA) was the top individual performer for the Vikings, placing seventh in the men's 800-meter run and just missing out on All-American (top six) honors. Andrea Spreen '98 (Elkader IA) was also a placewinner for the Vikings, finishing eighth in the women's weight throw.

Ben Sandy '98 (Newcastle WY) ran tenth in the men's 5,000 meters and Amanda Buttry '99 (Shenandoah IA) competed in the women's 800 for Dana. The foursome of Neal Smith '98 (Gillette WY), Dan Formo '99 (Blair), Grady and Matt Poulter '99 (Essex IA) ran in the distance medley relay for the Vikings.

Sandy was the men's two-mile champion at the NIAC indoor meet in Crete. The Dana men placed sixth in the team standings and the women were seventh.

Dana already has four qualifiers for the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships and plans to add more during the spring season. Sandy Smith '97

(Superior NE) and Anna Hovde '98 (Gillette WY) have qualified for the women's marathon at nationals and Poulter and Sandy have qualified for the men's marathon. Smith was an NAIA All-American in the women's marathon last season.

Football Update

On January 17 the NAIA national office in Tulsa, Oklahoma, announced that Dana's junior linebacker Williams Collins had been selected as a first-team NAIA Division II football All-American.

Collins was also honored as an NAIA Division II All-American by *Don Hansen's National Weekly Football Gazette*, a small-college football publication based in Illinois.

Collins, a 6-2, 240-pound standout from Asheville, North Carolina, burst onto the scene in the NIAC this year, his first at Dana after previously playing two years at the University of Minnesota. The transfer from Mississippi Valley State was a first-team All-NIAC selection at linebacker and was rated as the top individual player in the league by NIAC coaches.

His other individual honors this season included being named the NAIA Division II National Defensive Player-of-the-Week and Defensive MVP of the Applejack Bowl as Dana drubbed Peru State, 42-16, in the annual classic at Nebraska City. Collins had 125 total tackles on the year, including 61 solo stops, which ranks as the ninth-best tackle count for a single season in school history. He had one quarterback sack, caused three fumbles and recovered one and had two interceptions, including one he returned for a touchdown in Dana's 27-7 trouncing of Nebraska Wesleyan.

Collins is Dana's first first-team NAIA All-American in football since running back Bryan Muschall '90 led the nation in rushing and was a first-teamer in 1987.

In another mid-January release, the NAIA announced that four Dana players had been named to the NAIA Division II Football Scholar-Athlete All-American team.

Seniors Jeff Lutt (Great Bend KS) and Mike Tupa (Rolla ND) and juniors Paul Gardner (Plattsouth NE) and Ken Swanson (Leigh NE) were among 99 players nationwide to receive the honor. All four were starters for a Viking team that went 6-4 last season and finished third in the NIAC.

To be considered for the elite squad, a player must be a junior or senior starter or key reserve with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above. ○

Birmingham develop partnership

At home or on the job, Jay and Paula Birmingham are a good team.

The Birmingham's celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary on May 30, and the end of May will also mark the close of their first year of working together as Dana's head coach and assistant coach for cross country and track. Jay took the head coaching job at the start of the 1994/95 school year when both sports returned to varsity scholarship status after a quasi-existence at Dana for more than a decade. Paula made the switch from devoted volunteer to paid assistant coach this year, and both coach and assistant are happy with the change.

It was far from a rubber stamp hiring for Paula, as she was one of several applicants for the assistant coaching position and, wife or not, Jay Birmingham knew she was expressly qualified for the job.

"The number one criterion in filling the position was a total dedication to our philosophy of personal excellence," Jay Birmingham said. "That meant seven days a week and a lifestyle commitment that would be very difficult for most people in a part-time position such as this. Paula can attend every practice and be around a lot and be sensitive to the needs of all of our student-athletes.

"Since Paula has worked with me for many years as a volunteer and did so in my first year here at Dana," he added, "she knew exactly what I was looking for in an assistant and had performed the role in some ways already."

Paula, who works as a substitute teacher at Arbor Park Middle School in Blair in addition to her coaching duties at Dana, likes the "official" involvement she now has with the Dana cross country and track programs.

"We've worked together in this way many times before—just not officially," said Paula. "Working with Jay is really enjoyable and being hired to do this job instead of being a volunteer hasn't changed the way I

feel about that. The biggest challenge is to make sure that we maintain the coach-assistant relationship when we're with the team, even though our runners certainly know we're married. We don't discuss personal situations or problems when we're working, we just talk about the athletes and the team."

Yes, the teams. After modest success in the rebirth seasons for cross country and track last year, the Dana running programs have leapt forward this year. The men's cross country—led by All-American Ben Sandy—placed 17th at the NAIA National Championships last fall. In indoor track, Dana went to its first NAIA nationals with two women and five men participating. This spring, the Vikings have two women and two



Paula and Jay Birmingham with members of the track team at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

men already qualified for the national meet in the marathon. One of the women—Sandy Smith—was an All-American last year.

Jay is confident Dana can return to its status as one of the top small colleges in the Midwest for track and cross country and can compete on the national level on a consistent basis.

"We're pursuing a course in track and cross country that will make our alumni proud of our teams," the coach said. "This year's successes are due in part to Paula's work as assistant coach and certainly to the hard work of our athletes and the support of the college and administration. When you talk to people who have been around the sport for awhile and mention Dana College, you see that they know Dana as a school with a fine tradition in these sports. They remember lining up against Dana in track and they remember how our teams in the past performed. We aspire to return Dana to that level."

Dana won the Tri-State Conference men's track championships in 1960 and '61 and before that, the championship of

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Smeby learns never to say no to new challenges

(Continued from pg. 13)

and Drama Departments. My classes with religion and humanities professor Dr. John W. Nielsen have developed in me an appreciation for deep thinking. And my Interim classes with art professor Dr. Milt Heinrich changed my whole perspective on life. He taught me to look at something one way, then turn it upside-down and look at it from that perspective. I do that every day. I'm also very grateful for the spiritual direction that Dr. Richard Palmer gave my choir and New Day experiences. That was an element I always felt was present in the faculty and administration.

"I minored in Danish at Dana. People are always amazed at that. They ask what good is that for. Obviously, they've never been stranded in the middle of Copenhagen's Strøget (as I've been) without a clue where the train station is.

"And my degree in communications-international studies has provided me with a wide range of insights. I would never fail to encourage someone to take classes that will help them learn how to think, how to relate to people. Communication is vital to everything we do. If those skills are learned during college, there is nothing that person can't do."

He says he'd like to offer something in return: "I'd love to talk to anybody who is interested in Christian music, or writing . . . really anything. I'd love to be able to invest in the lives of others who may just need a little encouragement or direction." ○



January Interim class studies winter ecology

An opportunity to learn about winter ecology took a group of students, led by biology instructor Anne Capistrant, to northern Minnesota for the January Interim. For their outdoor study of how various organisms adapt to winter conditions, they learned to cross country ski and use snowshoes. They also traveled by dog sled. Highlights included seeing three moose the day they arrived and visiting the International Wolf Center in Ely. Omaha World-Herald staff writer Chris Burbach happened to be at the same lodge, and in writing about his skiing experiences in a feature story, "Wolf Country Perfect Spot for Lesson," for the Sunday, January 21 edition, he mentioned the Dana-class. "What a way to learn ecology," he wrote. Here the group poses in -15° F temperatures after snowshoeing in more than 20 inches of fresh snow. From left, in the front row are Sara Duff '99 (Omaha), Michelle Spiegel '99 (Adams, Nebr.), and Amy Carlson '99 (Hawthorne, Calif.); in the back row are Dr. Capistrant, Lynette Riemersma '98 (Red Cloud, Nebr.), Biff Schofield '99 (Ashland, Nebr.), Paul Gardner '97 (Plattsmouth, Nebr.), Patrick Finigan '98 (Omaha), Jason Roberts (a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha), Cliff Kay '96 (La Marque, Texas), and Joe Baltich (lodge owner and ski instructor). Not pictured: Chad Foust '96 (Bellwood, Nebr.).

Bookathon breaks giving records

Members of the Student Senate who called parents of current students on March 3-5 for the college's annual Bookathon broke several records this year.

Bookathon organizer Ruth Henneman, assistant director of development, reports that the student volunteer callers raised a record \$5,000 in pledges their first night, and after three nights they exceeded the \$7,000 goal by raising over \$8,000, a record-

setting amount for Bookathon giving.

The contributions will help purchase books for the C.A. Dana-LIFE Library. "It's wonderful that parents who are putting their sons and daughters through college are also willing to give to help our library," Henneman said. "I'm proud of the fine work of the students who volunteered their time and thankful for the giving spirit of our parents."

Old Main Commemorative Wall inscriptions number 553; remaining slots are now filled

The Old Main Commemorative Wall, designed by art professor Milt Heinrich for the new Dana College Classroom Center and Trinity Chapel, has 553 inscriptions. They record the names of alumni and friends who have generously pledged to contribute \$5,000 or more to the college as well as the names of family members or friends whom contributors have chosen to honor.

Most of these pledges were made during the five-year ADD (Accelerating Dana's Development) campaign, which closed successfully on October 1, 1993, having passed its goal of \$16.65 million in cash and pledges. The "Final Report to All Investors in ADD" listed those contributors whose names had been inscribed on the Wall.

In designing the Commemorative Wall, Heinrich incorporated two unfinished areas at the lower right for inscribing the names of donors whose gifts, within a limited period of time after the ADD campaign, would give them an opportunity also to have their names, or the names of family or friends, on the Wall.

Now all of the remaining slots have been filled, Michael Jones '71, vice president for Institutional Advancement recently announced. "We are exceedingly grateful to our generous alumni and friends for this convincing evidence of

their commitment to Dana," he said. "Their response to this opportunity has been truly exceptional."

These names have been added to the Commemorative Wall since the final ADD report was published:

William and Luella Adams
Andy and Susan (Jorgenson) Andersen
Ken and Lorrie Anderson Family
Gwen and Clyde Aten
Norma L. and Lee Barney
Steven and Daniel Berke Families
Herbert G. Carlson
Ruth (Pedersen) Christensen
Dana Class of 1994
Dana Class of 1995
Darrell and Marge Dibben
Raymond and Susan D. (Schweer) Edelman
Len J. and Sandy (Waltke) Fleischer
Paul and Patricia Formo
Martin J. and Sena E.J. (Nelsen) Frederiksen
Beth E. Gibson
Karyn Hagen and Chris Warman
Bertha (Höll) Hall & Bill & Cheryl (Hall) Neal
Fred C.M. and Carrie Hansen
John J., Douglas E., and Ethel E. Hansen
Terry and Wynetta Headley
Thorvald and Anna Henningsen
Paul D. and Christi J. (Mulinix) Hilgenkamp
David and Janine Hunt
Arnold and Marianne Jensen
John M. and Ragnhild (Gotsche) Jensen
Norman F. Jensen
Timothy and Sharon (Messer) Jensen

Arthur A. and Bertha M. Jersild
Boy and Ane Kirstine Jessen Family
Jerry and Janet (Peterson) Jorgensen
Jim and Linda (Money) Jorgensen
Jerry Kirkegaard
C. Clifford, Sigrid S. and Gail Koldenborg
John and N. Myrle (Fleming) Lassen
Dale and Jane Lemon
Nancy and Gene Lindblad
Jeff and Kay (Beune) MacDonald
Earl K. and Kathleen Madsen
John and Janet (Rasmussen) Mehr
Ethan and Catherine Mengers
Marie Miller
Neil and Shirley (Bohs) Moore
Bob and Joanne (Jensen) Morrow and Family
Kaj Nielsen
Earl G. Nielson
Duane and Elaine (Lillethorup) Olson
Allen and Clara (Juhl) Petersen Family
Donald F. and Jane H. (Hendrick) Prochaska
Elmer and Myrtle Rasmussen Family
Donna (Byriell) Rector
Lucile M. Rehder
Theodore and Dorothy Repsholdt
John and Beth Schultz
Barry S. and Christine A. Schweer
Pearl Sterling and Pearl Morgan
Lester and Marian Thompson
Mitsunobu Uchida
Edward and Sherida (Nohrenberg) Vahle
Frank and Norma (Lund) Van Steenhoven
Carol J. Weckmuller ○

Track coach runs "cross country," L. A. to N. Y. C.

(continued from pg. 15)

the Central Church College Conference (CCCC) in 1955. Dana was also the Tri-State champion in men's cross country in 1960.

When Jay Birmingham accepted the challenge of rebuilding Dana's track and cross country tradition, moving to Blair from Adams State College in Colorado, Paula admits she was not without reservations.

"I thought the opportunity was wonderful for Jay and I knew his philosophy and goals could build a successful program," Paula said. "I wasn't real crazy about relocating, though, and I thought Nebraska was the last place on earth I wanted to be. That was my only reservation. Of course, now that I'm here I really like it a lot. We just returned from a recruiting trip and it was so great to get

back home—this is home now. We're going to spend most of the summer in Blair for the first time, and I'm looking forward to it."

The Birmingham's have a summer retreat in the Rocky Mountains near San Luis, Colorado, that will be their retirement home one day. It has served as their home base for a summer camp for distance runners who benefit by training in the high altitude of the mesa on which they live. But this year, Jay and Paula will spend just a small portion of their summer in the Rockies, and the rest in Blair where they plan to launch a running camp locally.

Paula and Jay are both avid runners—she has completed 16 marathons since 1980 and he 62 since 1967—and it was through the sport that they met in

Jacksonville, Florida, 16 years ago.

Many of Jay's runs have been truly long distance: In 1980 he ran from Los Angeles to New York City, a total of 2,964 miles, in 71 days and 23 hours, setting a solo record that's still unbroken. The next year he ran from Death Valley to Mt. Whitney, a 146-mile run, in 75 hours and 34 minutes, a record at the time. He chronicled that experience in a book, *The Longest Hill: Death Valley to Mt. Whitney*. Then in 1982 he ran from Ft. Kent, Maine, to Key West, Florida—2254 miles—in 47 days, 5 hours, breaking the old record by 14 days and averaging 48 miles a day. In 1984 he crossed the Gulf States, running 1,776 miles in six weeks, and in 1988, he ran through 26 states, from Jacksonville, Florida, to Minneapolis, a distance of 4,526 miles. ○

Alumni daughters and sons make college a family affair by attending Dana

These sons and daughters of alumni are current Dana students:

Tami '96 and Traci Ahrendt '99, daughters of Paul '68 and Kathy (Hulsebus '71) Ahrendt, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Marcus Albers '96, son of Sharon (Pedersen '74) and Dwight '93 Albers, Dubuque, Iowa.

Matt Anderson '98, son of Allan '69 and Fran (Pedersen '69) Anderson, Omaha.

Jason Austin '97, son of Shirley Hansen '92, Fremont, Nebraska.

Nathan '97 and Michael '98 Babbitt, sons of Vaughn Babbitt '73, Emerson, Iowa.

Angela Bentjen '99, daughter of Connie (Elting '68) and Rolan '67 Bentjen, Albion, Nebraska.

Joy Angela Bohlken '99, daughter of William '63 and Ellen (Kloster '68) Bohlken, Auburn, Nebraska.

Christopher Boozikee '99, son of Patricia (Hansen '74) and Alan Boozikee '74, San Antonio, Texas.

Jered Clark '99, son of John Clark '71, Omaha.

Anthony Eitzmann '99, son of Roger Eitzmann '67, Sidney, Iowa.

Tara Furstenau '99, daughter of Randy Furstenau '75, Strasburg, Colorado.

Mark Gustafson '97, son of Judy (Hanson '63) Gustafson, Des Moines, Iowa.

Jeffrey Hamer '99, son of Timothy Hamer '72, Chariton, Iowa.

Kristin Hansen '97, daughter of Karen (Nelson '69) and Richard '68 Hansen, Ruskin, Nebraska.

Jesse Hardy '99, son of John Hardy '71, Tekamah, Nebraska.

Scott Heiss '99, son of Judith (Jorgensen '64) Heiss, Page, Nebraska.

Rachel Heitmann '99, daughter of Karen (Sietsema '76) Heitmann, Victor, Iowa.

David Henneman '96, son of Mary Lou Henneman '70, Youngstown, Ohio.

Heather (Witte) Heun '96, daughter of Douglas Witte '70, Norfolk, Nebraska.

Ryan Holtam '98, son of James '68 and Annette (Sorensen '69) Holtam, Fremont, Nebraska.

Molly Houston '98, daughter of Janet (Nauroth '69) Eddy, Greenfield, Iowa.

Erik Jensen '96, son of Sharon (Messer '65) and Timothy '66 Jensen, Blair.

Ginger Jensen '96, daughter of Jane (Renander '66) Jensen, Blair.

Thomas Jenson '96, son of Dale '68 and Charlotte (Sorensen '73) Jenson, Thor, Iowa.

Corey Johnson '99, son of Kenneth Johnson '75, Blair.

Joel Jorgensen '97, son of Patricia (Kiracofe '63) and Richard '64 Jorgensen, Blair.

Nancy Kemmish '97, daughter of Kenneth '66 and Char Les (Grap '68) Kemmish, Crescent, Iowa.

Emily Kempcke '97, daughter of Cindy Kempcke '93, Blair.

Beth King '97, daughter of Carol King '84, Omaha.

Danielle Larson '98, daughter of Douglas Larson '73, Waverly, Nebraska.

Shannon Martin '97, daughter of Judith Yeates '95, Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska.

Reed Mayberry '98, son of Robert Mayberry '67, Scribner, Nebraska.

Mark Nielsen '97 (studying in Latvia this semester), son of Tom Nielsen '59, Omaha.

Matthew Oestmann '99, son of Paul '77 and Carrolyn (Robinson

'78) Oestmann, Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska.

Daniel Olsen '98, son of James Olsen '62, Blair, and Lois (Vaught '66) Olsen, Omaha.

Jennifer Patience '99, daughter of Terry Patience '81, Crescent, Iowa.

Sarah Pierce '99, daughter of Juel (Neve '71) and Jimmie '71 Pierce, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Jami Prouty '98, daughter of James '73 and Carol (Holmstedt '75) Prouty, Omaha.

Jeremy '97 and Jeffrey '96 Rademacher, sons of Darlene (Haecker '67) and Robert '64 Rademacher, Oberlin, Kansas.

Jamie Rodenburg '99, daughter of Frederick Rodenburg '72, Neola, Iowa.

Meadow Rouse '97, daughter of Michael Rouse '77, Blair.

R.J. Ryan '96, son of James Ryan '66, Blair.

David Shields '98, son of Joseph '69 and Sharon (Dyngneson '69) Shields, Denison, Iowa.

Kyle Slusher '97, son of the late Jeanette (Wallman '68) Slusher, Martell, Nebraska.

Lance Sorensen '99, son of Steven Sorensen '68, Blair.

Mark Taht '98, son of Juri Taht '52, Bowie, Maryland.

Tricia TeSelle '98, daughter of Nancy (Jacobsen '64) and Eugene '63 TeSelle, Tekamah, Nebraska.

Kent Vergamini '97 and Kara (Vergamini) Nieland '96, son and daughter of Robert '71 and Linda (McNichols '71) Vergamini, Morris, Illinois.

Jennifer Willers '97, daughter of Gene Willers '71, Schuyler, Nebraska.

Christian Wulf '99, son of Eldon Wulf '73, Blair. ○



"Take us along"

Alumni: Are you planning to travel this summer? We invite you to pack this spring issue of the Dana Review and have a photo taken of yourself holding it in a setting that identifies the locale, city, or country. To illustrate what we're looking for, John Beck D'50 T'55 and daughter Barbara (Beck '77) Meduna pose with the fall issue in front of the Elgin Marbles at the British Museum, London. (Barbara and husband Don are stationed in England, and John visited them this winter.) The photos alumni submit will appear in the Review, and there will be a drawing for a grand prize. Please send your entries to Review editor Ann George by September 30. (If weight is a concern, all you need to take along is the Review cover.)

College Archives are source for new book

Dr. Ruth Herman Nielsen of Omaha has written a book on the history of the Oaks Indian Center, which has many early ties to Dana College and Trinity Seminary through the former United Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Titled *Leaves and Acorns from Oaks*, it is the first publication based on materials found in the Dana Archives, where Dr. Nielsen is a volunteer.

She has provided the following description of the book: "Far from the tempo of large cities, cushioned by sycamores, redbud, dogwood, persimmons, and a riot of oaks, snuggled neatly away in the northeast corner of Oklahoma, lies an old mission—Oaks Indian Center with Danish roots.

"A young immigrant, N.L. Nielsen, worked in Wisconsin to earn enough money to go to school at Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska. In 1892 the young Dane

left for Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) to teach and preach to the Cherokee. This he did and established a school in what was threateningly called a 'haunted house' in Moody's Indian Territory. Success led him to Blair, Nebraska, to gain synod approval and help as well as to marry Jensine Jensen, who had been accompanied from Denmark by her pastor.

"Now there were two and from these beginnings Oaks Indian Mission was established with a school, a church, and eventually a residential home for children.

"Through the years Danish immigrants and/or their children taught both at Oaks and in a number of surrounding communities. Today the children's home serves 50 Cherokee youth who maintain an active church life in Eben Ezer Congregation and attend school across the street.

"Pastor and Mrs. N.L. Nielsen

worked at Oaks until 1924 when her health made a move necessary. This couple served at Eben Ezer Church in Audubon, Iowa, for five years.

"Mrs. Nielsen passed away in Elk Horn, Iowa, in 1934. Pastor Nielsen finished his long and eventful life in the service of the church in New Brunswick, Canada, where he died on February 9, 1941. Both are buried in the Elk Horn, Iowa, cemetery.

"Leaves and Acorns from Oaks, a personalized history of the missionaries, their parishioners, and their students tells their stories. Included are Cherokee customs, legends, and practices."

All proceeds from the sale of the book will be used for the care of the 50 young Cherokee at Oaks. The book can be ordered from Oaks Indian Center, Oaks, OK 74359. The price of \$12.95 includes postage and handling. ○

'90s

○ **R.J. Ryan '96**, who completed degree requirements at mid-year, is working for Gateway 2000 in North Sioux City, South Dakota. The company manufactures computers and provides technical support.

○ **Nicole Alfredson '95** is assistant director at the Children's Corner, an Omaha daycare center.

○ **John Cromwell '95** does layout and is a press operator for the *Columbus* (Nebr.) *Telegram*.

○ **Luana Evans '95**, Omaha, is a bookkeeper for the Younkers Flower Shop at the Crossroads Mall.

○ **Matthew Leaf '95**, Yorkville, Illinois, is a board operator at WSPY-FM.

○ **James Pestel '95**, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, is a sales associate at Menards in Bellevue.

○ **Keri (Haas) Samson '95** works in marketing fulfillment and also as a receptionist at Cartegraph Systems in Dubuque, Iowa.

○ **Christopher Moore '94** and Jackie Rothmeyer were married on November 25. They live in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Chris is marketing and sales manager for Data Safe Publications Inc. in Albuquerque.

○ **Cheryl (Gibbs '94)** and Michael Mordhorst of Ute, Iowa, are the parents of Allyson Elaine, born last August 23.

○ **Laura Morrison '94** writes, "I am currently attending Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. I will be getting another degree in criminal justice. I am also working at Florence Crittenton, a group home for teenage girls."

○ **Perry Myers '94** and **Angela Vaca '96** were married on December 22 in David City, Nebraska. He works at Woodhouse Ford in Blair. She will graduate from the College of St. Mary, Omaha, in May; she works at Bergan Mercy Child Care Center in Omaha.

○ **Cory Sornson '94** and Jennifer Petersen were married on December 30 in Elk Horn, Iowa. He teaches at Glenwood (Iowa) High School; she is a historian at the Western Heritage Museum in Omaha.

○ **Chris '94** and **Michelle (Klockentager '94) Tauber** of Blair announce the January 1 birth of Kailyn Nicole, their first child. As the first baby born in Washington County in 1996, she received gifts from Blair Memorial Community Hospital and a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond from the Blair

Firefighters' Auxiliary.

○ **Larry Walters '93** of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, works at Kohl's Distribution Center.

○ **Dan Bane '91** of Washington, D.C., is a computer systems specialist at George Washington University.

○ This summer **Audrey Gowen '91** of Lauderdale, Minnesota, will be among 1,700 bicyclists participating in a 469-mile trip from the Twin Cities to Chicago. The July 1-6 event will benefit AIDS victims and research.

○ **Jennifer Johnson '91** and Jerald Gard were married last June 16. They live in Mt. Vernon, Washington. Jennifer has graduated from a diagnostic ultrasound program and is a registered vascular technologist at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham, Washington.

○ **Karen (Froker '91) and Kyle '91 Knapp** of Madison, Nebraska, announce the January 4 birth of their first child, Hannah Marie.

○ **Vicky Timmerman '74 '91** has been named human resources manager at Data Documents, Omaha. The company designs and provides custom business forms, label products, and forms management systems. She was previously director of human resources for Catholic Health Corp. in Omaha.

○ **Anita Woodward '91** and Steve Morse were married on December 23 in Kearney, Nebraska. She is an associate manager with First National Bank of Omaha, and he is an account executive with Barney Insurance. They live in Kearney.

○ **Kelly Zanton '91** and Kent Millington were married on August 4. They live in Ocala, Florida.

○ **Stephanie and Mark Weber '90** of Marshall, Minnesota, announce the January 16 birth of Emma Carolina. Sister Elle is four and brother Esten is two.

'80s

○ Dakota Jon was born on October 19 to William and **Darlene (Christensen '89) Bowman**. Brother Ben is four.

○ **Christi and James Cloyd '89** of Omaha announce the February 4 birth of Anthony James-Griffin.

○ **Teresa (Blaas '89) and Bryan '88 Daum** and daughter Shelby (2) have moved to Battle Creek, Nebraska. Bryan is employed at the Battle Creek Farmer's Co-op in the Inventory Control Fertilizer Division; Teresa is director of speech pathology and assistant rehab director at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Norfolk.

○ **Kimberly and Anthony Nunez '88** of Pisgah, Iowa, announce the August 10 birth of Keenan Michael. He joins A.J. (5) and Alivia (2 1/2).

○ **Rachel Maria** was born on February 2 to Michael and **Maria (Brandes '87) Paulsen** of Paso Robles, California. Brother Nicholas is two. Rachel's and Nicholas' grandmother is Meta Brandes '74 of Dana's Admissions Office.

○ **Mason Dale** was born to Kent and **Diane (Berry '86) Prescott** on October 21, 1994. Brother Jordan is eight and sister Keri is five. The Prescotts recently moved to Waverly, Iowa.

○ **Kris Swank '86** reports that she is spending a year in South Africa as a librarian at a historically disadvantaged college. She has been acquisitions librarian at American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) in Glendale, Arizona.

○ **Steven '83 and Janice (Butts '83) Peterson** have moved from Omaha to Stockton, California, where Steve is director of administrative services for the *San Joaquin County Record*. In Omaha Steve worked for the *Omaha World-Herald*, which owns the *Record*.

○ **Jerry Christensen '82** of Blair has been named business manager at Brownell-Talbot, a private independent college preparatory day school in Omaha. He was previously secretary-treasurer and CEO at Danish Brotherhood in America.

○ **Mike and Brenda (Narjes '82) Olsufka** of St. Paul, Nebraska, announce the October 31 birth of Joseph Henry. Sister Kate is six and brother Matthew is three.

○ **Tom Jacobson '81**, who is attending the University of Minnesota Medical School, has been named to the university's Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha for his outstanding scholastic and academic record and his performance as a medical student and member of society. A pastor, he entered medical school after serving parishes in Chicago and Minneapolis.

○ **JoAnne Roberts '80** and her husband, Stephen Morton, of Norfolk, Nebraska, announce the September 26, 1995, birth of Matthew James Roberts Morton. JoAnne writes, "He joins Michael (17 months) and my two stepchildren, Elizabeth (14 years) and Christian (10 years)."

○ **Rory Sturm '80** has started a new company called Leadership Enterprises, Inc., in Richmond, Virginia. The company specializes in personal and management training and development.

'70s

○ Don and **Barbara (Beck '77) Meduna** are in England at RAF Lakenheath, where Don is a radiologist with the U.S. Air Force. Barb writes, "We would welcome any Dana travelers coming our direction." Their address is: Majors Don and Barb Meduna, PSC 41 Box 2269, APO AE 09464.



**Destiny's
Deep
Sea**

○ **Lance Poldberg '76** is senior pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Sun City, California. He and **Monique (Bentzinger '78)** and their children live in Lake Elsinore.

○ **Carol Krueger '74** is a counselor at the Blue Valley Mental Health Center in Wahoo, Nebraska. She is a licensed clinical social worker and has a master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

○ **Robert Ehmen '73** retired from the Air Force last August after 21 years of service and is now a pilot with Fed Ex. He and **Candace (Wild '73)** and sons Josh and Jared have moved to Missouri Valley, Iowa, from Anchorage, Alaska. They write that they are "excited to be living close to Dana."

○ **Roger Harl '72** of Montgomery, Illinois, has been appointed director of operations at National Van Lines, Inc., in Broadview, Illinois. He is responsible for the divisions of household goods operations, traffic management, and driver procurement services.

○ Security Mutual Life Nebraska has announced the promotion of **David Wallman '71**, FSA, CLU, FLMI, to senior vice president-customer service and chief actuary for the home office in Lincoln.

'50s

○ **Barbara (Whiteside '58) Laursen** of Deshler, Nebraska, was certified as a Parish Ministry Associate (PMA) by Bishop Richard Jessen at the Nebraska Synod Festival '95. She was one of a class of eight who completed a three-year study program. PMAs are lay people who are trained to help out in their local congregation and surrounding congregations with pulpit supply and other areas of leadership as volunteers. With special permission from the bishop, they can also do specific interims in congregations without pastors.

○ **Mel Sick '58** has taken early retirement from Iowa Central Community College after teaching for 26 years in the science department there. Before joining the Iowa Central faculty he taught in high schools for 11 years. He writes that he has moved to Grantsburg, Wisconsin, for his retirement years.

○ **John N. Christensen '57** of San Francisco has started an employer-paid placement agency, JNC & Associates, that is primarily a financial services agency. He also conducts personnel searches on a retainer basis. He most recently served as director of audit administration at Deloitte & Touche in San Francisco.

○ **Wes Jespersen '55**, in a letter reminiscing about his days at Dana, writes

that he has been a volunteer for eight years at the Sunshine Food Pantry in Council Bluffs, Iowa. In 1992 he was appointed Grand Marshal of that community's Pride Week Parade in recognition of his anti-litter volunteer work. He has retired after serving as caretaker of the First Street Apartment House for 32 years. He now lives at Regal Towers in Council Bluffs.

○ **Arne Jessen '54** is interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston, Illinois.

○ In February **Jimmy Sorensen '51** was elected president of the board of directors of the Danish Home in Chicago. He recently was named principal at Nyborg Kondill Nyborg, a company in Roselle, Illinois.

Deaths

○ **Beth (Gabelhouse '77) Henrichs** of Burwell, Nebraska, in February. Survivors include her husband August; sons Joel, John, and James; and her parents.

○ **Evelyn Wohlens '69** on December 23 in Pleasantville, Iowa.

○ **Nancy (Petersen '59) Farren** on March 24, 1995, in Whitmore Lake, Michigan. She was a teacher.

○ **Carl Nielsen '51** of Yankton, South Dakota, on February 10. He received his M.A. in education in 1967 from the University of South Dakota, where he was named to Phi Beta Kappa, and his specialist degree in public school administration in 1983 from Kearney State College. He served as a church choir director and public school administrator in the Nebraska communities of Emerson (principal, 1951-53), Niobrara (principal, 1953-65), Creighton (principal, 1965-81), and Wolbach (superintendent, 1981-84); and in Montrose, South Dakota (superintendent, 1984-91). From 1991-93 he taught music in Newman Grove, Nebraska. He retired to Yankton in 1993 where he became music director for St. John Lutheran Church. Survivors include his wife Phyllis (Benson '58); daughter Jeanmarie Nielsen '78 of the Dana faculty; son Joel, Lincoln, Nebraska; brother LeVern D'54 T'58, Elk Horn, Iowa; and sister Vera Mae Doidge '47, Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

○ **Marie (Mikkelsen '40) Larsen** on February 9 in Billings, Montana. She was the widow of the Rev. Stanley Larsen D'38 T'41. Survivors include sons David S. '64, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, and Steven '67, Spokane, Washington; and daughter Jan Bakko of Billings, Montana.

○ **Byron Langensfeld '38** of Racine, Wisconsin, on March 10. He was a member of the Dana Board of Regents for many years. Survivors include his wife

Mary (Jensen '36), sons Tom '57 and Mark '70 and daughter Janet Smith '60. The next issue of the *Dana Review* will include more information.

○ **Milton Johnson '37** of Cupertino, California, on December 1, 1995. He was a retired pastor. Survivors include his wife Ruth.

○ **Rosa (Kofoid '29) Nelsen** of Wilmette, Illinois, on May 20, 1995. Survivors include her husband Alfred '27.

○ **Ruby (Nelson '22) Townsend** of West Bend, Wisconsin, on December 24, 1995.

Friends

○ **Maureen Rasmussen**, the wife of Kevin Rasmussen '80, Glidden, Iowa, of leukemia on December 5. In addition to Kevin, survivors include son Seth (8) and daughter Caitlin (6).

○ **Randolph Sorensen** of Creighton, Nebraska, on March 7. He was a retired farmer. Survivors include sons Harry '52 of Colorado Springs, Harold '53 of Lafayette, Colorado, and Harvey '57 of Creighton, and daughters Marvene Reinke '68 of Clay, New York, and Mary. ○

Scholarship honors Petersons

The college has established the "Coach Pete and Ruth Peterson Scholarship" to honor the late coach and his wife, who now lives in Portland, Oregon.

For over four decades the Petersons influenced the lives of thousands of Dana students. Coach Pete taught physical education, served as athletic director, and during his 42 years at Dana at one time or another coached every sport. Ruth was counselor and mother-in-residence to countless students.

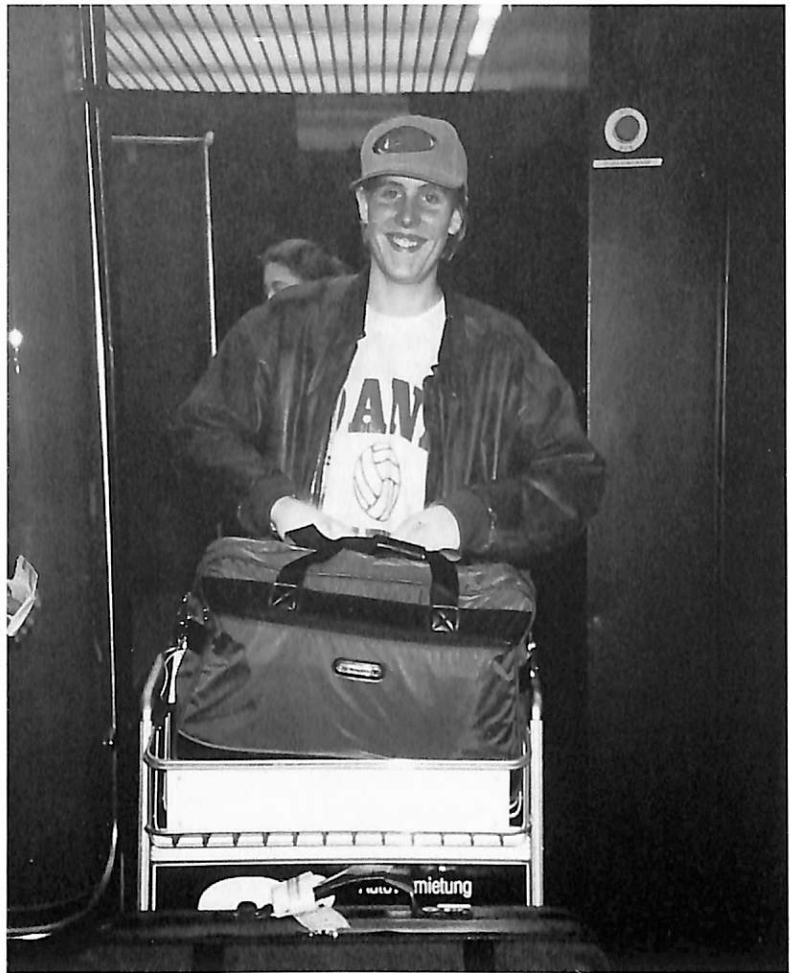
The college's goal for the endowed scholarship is to raise \$25,000. Two scholarships will be awarded annually to student-athletes, one male, one female. The recipients, who will be selected by the director of athletics and the director of financial aid, must be in good academic standing and exemplify the virtues modeled by Coach Pete and Ruth.

Readers wishing to honor the Petersons by contributing to the endowed scholarship can send their gifts to the Development Office, Dana College, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008-1099. Checks should be made out to Dana College with the notation, "Peterson Scholarship Fund." ○

Students study abroad

Wearing a Dana sweatshirt, Jennifer Pfingsten, a junior from DeWitt, Nebraska, arrives at Berlin's Tegel Airfield to attend a German language institute.

She was greeted on her arrival by her German professor at Dana, Dr. Sybille Bartels, who was visiting family members in that city during the month of January. Pfingsten is living with a family in the former East Berlin. In April she began an internship at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. Pfingsten was one of two Dana students who represented the U.S. last summer at an International Youth Camp in Bad Segeberg, Germany. Another junior, Mark Nielsen of Omaha, is spending the semester studying in Latvia; he also lives with a host family. Nielsen's mother, Inta, was born in Latvia, and his Latvian visit is a return trip; his father is Dana alumnus Tom Nielsen '59. In 1994 Nielsen was a member of the January Interim class, led by Bartels, that visited Germany and Denmark; last summer he was a member of the Dana Chorale that gave concerts in those two countries. Both students keep in touch with Dana via e-mail.



Simon establishes fund for student travel

U.S. Senator Paul Simon '49 of Illinois has established a unique program at Dana that will make it easier for students with financial need to study and travel in other countries. He has funded the program with a gift of \$100,000.

Simon, a Dana Regent, has announced plans to retire from the Senate when his term ends this year. His gift comes from surplus campaign funds. Federal election laws say that officeholders can't take such funds with them when they retire, but they can make donations from them.

The objectives of the new program reflect Simon's belief in the value of experiencing other cultures and learning other

languages.

Part of his \$100,000 gift will be made available annually, beginning the next academic year, to a limited number of students who wish to study and travel abroad. Simon has stipulated that the amount a student borrows be considered a "loan," with the student having a moral—but not a legal—obligation to repay it after graduation so that others can continue to benefit from the program.

He has also stipulated that students benefiting from the loan make a presentation about their experiences when they return to the campus. Additional guidelines are being developed.

An editorial in the February

12 *Daily Illini*, the student newspaper at the University of Illinois, commented on Simon's gifts to Dana and several other organizations—Barat College (his wife Jeanne's alma mater), the Carbondale (Ill.) Public Library, the Israel Arts & Science Academy, the Sojourn Women's Center in Springfield, Illinois, and the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. "We cannot think of a more fitting end to Simon's long and distinguished career," the editorial said.

"Throughout his career . . . Simon has epitomized the ideal legislator. . . . His dedication to being a true civil servant and statesman has been as constant as his bow tie." ○

The fashion among colleges today is to be rated a "best buy." Perhaps I am just suffering from sour grapes, but I can't help sharing my concern that too much emphasis is being placed upon being the "best buy" and not enough on being willing to do whatever is necessary to be "the best." At Dana College we are determined to **be the best**, and we believe that when you buy Dana, you do buy the best.

How have we tried to be the best?

First, **we aim to provide the best teaching.** In the ten years that I

have been here, my colleagues and I have taken the position that we will not hire nor retain faculty members who are not "extraordinarily fine teachers." I don't hesitate to claim that instruction at Dana College is among the best of any undergraduate institution in America. We stake our

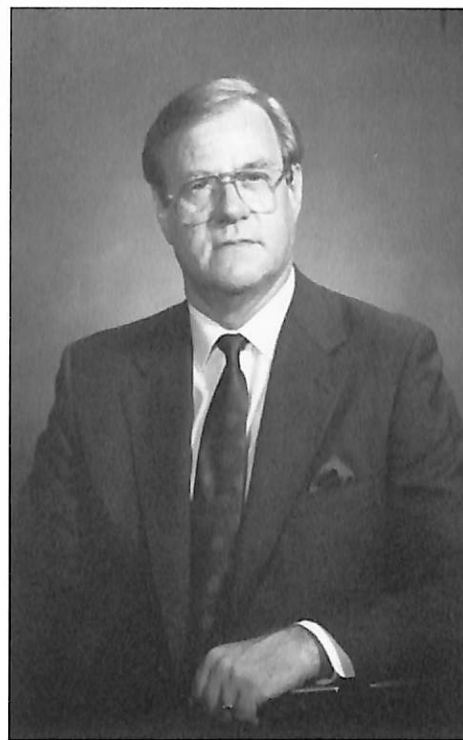
reputation on it. As we conduct faculty searches, we are successful in attracting and hiring the cream of the crop among teachers. They are typically outstanding scholars and researchers, too, but their first love is teaching. They know their subject and are able to articulate it clearly and in a manner that stimulates interest and invites a contagious desire for learning. I have never been associated with a college or university that has more top-quality teachers than I have seen at Dana College. Faculty members here love to teach, and they teach well.

Second, Dana gives students the best opportunity to become leaders in their communities, schools, churches and work or professional organizations. Every Dana student is encouraged and challenged to actively participate in one or more campus organizations or activities. They learn to take responsibility and to gain confidence as they assume leadership. They also learn the value of being good servants and followers, persons who are willing to do their share and more. Dana's size and community emphasis help us occasion leadership development, and Dana faculty and staff

members are role models of responsible leadership and participation.

Third, Dana graduates tend to graduate with a love of learning for a lifetime. At a time when studies such as one reported by the American Council on Education (ACE) suggest a decline in the popularity of the liberal arts, with a dramatic reduction in the percentage of four-year institutions requiring foreign language or philosophy or religion, mathematics, literature, even science and history, Dana still emphasizes these core disciplines. Furthermore, it is virtually impossible to graduate from Dana College without being more literate than most college graduates. The 40-year-old required Dana Liberal Arts Reading Program known as "LARP" assures that students read and critique a wide selection of classic and contemporary literature over their four-year experience. Every student is also required to attend fine arts and cultural events, performances and lectures. This helps assure that students will enjoy educational cultural programs beyond graduation.

Finally, at Dana College we set high standards for everything we do. Our recent decision to change food service contractors was motivated by a desire to offer our students the best food service we can provide. We want to offer a variety of delicious, nutritious food, attractively presented, and provide a dining experience that is a cut above what one typically finds from institutional food service. When we sponsor an event on campus, we seek to go all out to make sure that people are made to feel special and that whatever entertainment or educational program we offer meets the highest standard possible. Our goal is always to do things well. People often remark that our campus is beautiful and our grounds and facilities especially well kept. We may not have everything we desire in facilities, but what we have will be maintained to the best of our ability. I believe that we are able to meet a higher standard of performance and maintenance because of the quality of the people and the work ethic of those who make up the Dana faculty and staff. Dana employees take pride in the campus and in the services they provide to our students, alumni and friends. For example, Dana's leadership in computer services and Internet access has been



made possible by bright, dedicated people who have labored to achieve what many other institutions have not been able to achieve by spending many times more.

I believe that over the last ten years the image of Dana College has grown stronger and more positive year by year. It is certainly not because Dana has such a fine president. Instead, I believe it is because we seek God's help first, and God continues to bless us with a faculty and staff and a student body that takes great pride in what we do here. When our students graduate, they are likely to take pride in doing well, too, and take responsibility to create a better world wherever they go.

At a time when educational leaders are jumping on the bandwagon claiming their institution is a "best buy," I pray that we will have the courage and the dedication to assure that **when one buys Dana, one buys the best.**

Myrvyn F. Christopherson
President

Alumni Council Ballot

The five alumni listed below have been nominated for three-year terms on the Alumni Council. There are two boxes by each name so that husband and wife can vote if they are both alumni. Please circle the number voting 1 2 and return your ballot to the Alumni Office by May 31.

Vote for five

- Bob Coffey '75, Blair. President of Copy Direct, an ad agency. Has completed one elected three-year term.
- Malinda (Wallman '78) Jepsen, Blair. Programmer/Analyst, Mid-America Computer Corp. Has completed one elected three-year term.
- David R. Larsen '60, Gretna, Nebraska. Pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church. Has completed two one-year terms as an appointed member-at-large.
- Arlyce (Fuchs '61) Olsen, Omaha. Teacher, Millard Public Schools. Has completed two one-year terms as an appointed member-at-large.
- Glenn Schacht '70, Sioux City, Iowa. Pastor, Riverside Lutheran Church. Has completed one elected three-year term.
- _____

Please return to:
Alumni Office, Dana College, 2848 College Dr., Blair, NE 68008-1099.

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