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# Dana Review

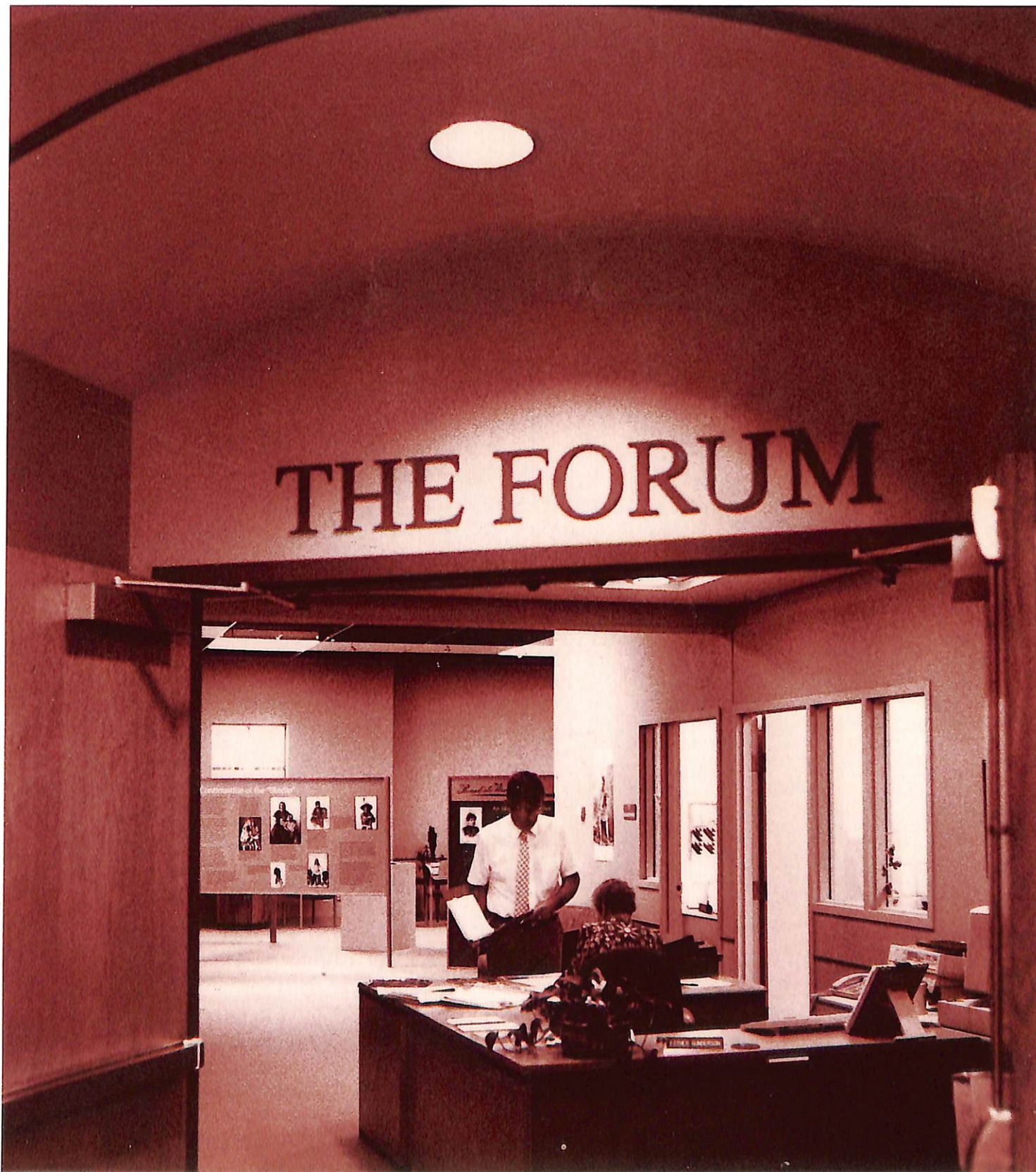
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# What's Happening at Dana:

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*On the cover—*  
As a center for the liberal arts, The Forum in the Classroom Center features art exhibits and a space for a variety of programs and speakers. It's also a place where students can study and where members of the Dana community can meet. Pictured are speech professor Sieg Krueger and Esther Gunderson, administrative assistant in The Forum.  
*Photo by George Gardner*

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For administrative offices, call 1-800-444-DANA. Dana's World Wide Web site is at <<http://www.dana.edu>>.

# *Queen of Denmark appoints Christopherson Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog; presentation is planned for Homecoming*

President Christopherson has been notified by Denmark's Ambassador to the U.S., K.E. Tygesen, that Queen Margrethe II has appointed Christopherson Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog.

About the award, Christopherson said: "While I am quite sure there are many more deserving of this award than I, I am grateful for the recognition which reflects favorably on Dana College and the many who labor diligently to

celebrate the heritage of this college and study about and promote understanding of and good relations with Denmark."

The award presentation will be a Homecoming highlight, and alumni and friends are invited to attend. It will be held on Friday, September 26, at 8:30 p.m. in the Lauritzen Theater of the Madsen Fine Arts Center. A reception will follow the ceremony.

Alumni and friends are also invited to attend a buffet dinner and

short program in the E.C. Hunt Campus Center that will precede the award presentation. The dinner is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Dinner reservations are necessary and can be made by calling the Alumni Office at (402) 426-7235; alumni can also make reservations by using the form attached to the Homecoming schedule/mailer they'll receive in August. Cost of the dinner is \$15 per person. There is no charge for the 8:30 p.m. presentation ceremony. ○

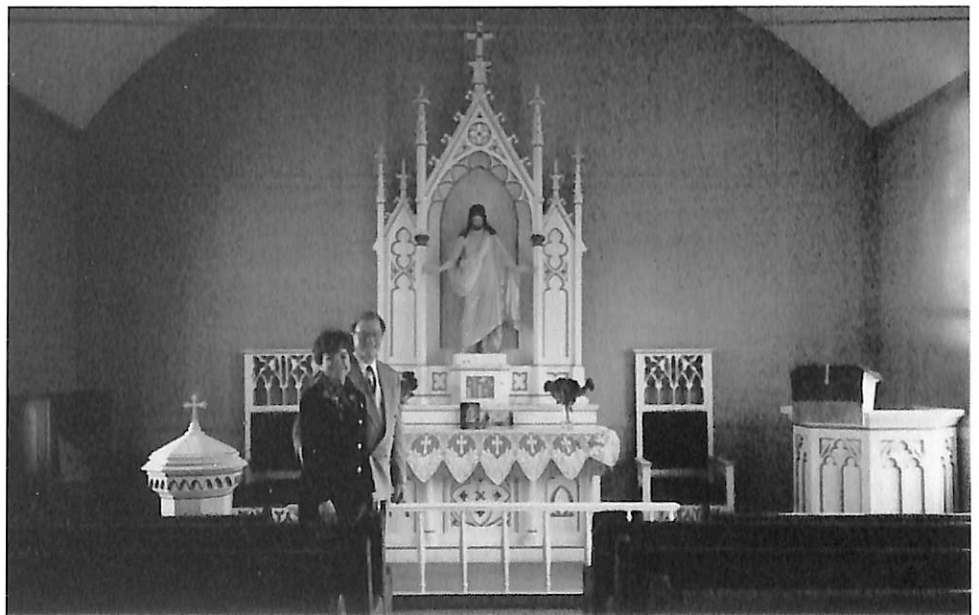
## Christophersons visit Denmark for opening of Odense exhibit, "Danes on the Prairie"

Dana has been an important resource for a major two-year exhibit called "Danes on the Prairie" that opened in Odense, Denmark, on May 1.

President Christopherson '61 and his wife, Anne, were invited to represent Dana at the opening. President Christopherson spoke at the opening on the theme, "Danishness in the U.S. Today."

The exhibit includes a reproduction of the main street of Dannebrog, Nebraska, at the turn of the century. It also includes an exact, full-scale replica of the church in Farwell, Nebraska, that belonged to the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church (UDELIC, the synod later known as the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, or UELC).

The altar, two ecclesiastical chairs, pulpit and baptismal font in the replica are on loan from Dana.



*The Christophersons in the church replica. The altar, chairs, font and pulpit are on loan from Dana.*

They were given to the college by the former UELC congregation in Beresford, South Dakota.

Over the past several years, the chief museum director from Odense,

Torben Grongaard Jeppesen, and other Danes involved in planning the exhibit have visited the campus for research in the college's Danish

*(continued on pg. 4)*

# Homecoming brunch/awards ceremony to honor Sandra Ellis, Ronda Fritz, Barry Olson

Three alumni will be honored at the 11:30 a.m. Homecoming brunch on Saturday, September 27.

Sandra (Ohrt '86) Ellis of Blair will receive the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and Ronda Fritz '87 of Beatrice, Nebraska, and Barry Olson '76 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sandra Ellis is director of administrative services at Mid America Computer Corp. in Blair. She is a former senior tax consultant in the Omaha offices of Deloitte & Touche. Ellis is a member of the Blair City Council, and she has served on the board of Blair Memorial Community Hospital and on a Chamber of Commerce committee

studying future needs of the community.

Ronda Fritz was a letter winner in basketball and softball at Dana. She teaches middle school health and physical education in the Beatrice Public Schools. She also coaches middle school volleyball and track and is the girls' basketball coach for grades 9-12. Her volunteer work in the community includes coaching for the YMCA's youth basketball and volleyball programs. At Dana she received all-conference and all-district honors in basketball and was twice named her team's most valuable player. She finished her basketball career as Dana's all-time leading scorer.

Barry Olson, a baseball letter

winner at Dana, is a junior high school science teacher and coach in Owatonna, Minnesota. This year he was named Zone 8 Lion of the Year for Southern Minnesota and Section 1AAA Coach of the Year at Owatonna High School. The girls' basketball team he coaches placed third at the state tournament. He is head negotiator for the Owatonna Education Association, president of the Blooming Prairie Recreation Association and a trustee at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. At Dana Olson won all-district and all-conference honors, and as a senior he received the Coach Rufus Olson Memorial Award. ○

## Exhibit depicts immigrant life



(continued from pg. 3)  
Immigrant Archive. The two most recent among them stayed on campus while taping interviews with Danish-speaking area residents for Danish Radio programs aired in conjunction with the exhibit. ○



Left: President Christopherson is interviewed by a Danish television crew near the church replica. Right: Anne Christopherson visits Dannebrog's 19th century "main street."

## Book signings at Homecoming

Four alumni who have written or edited and translated books this past year will be in the Campus Center on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at Homecoming to sign their books. At a Saturday morning program they'll also talk about their experiences in writing and publishing.

The four alumni and their books are:

- Don Baack '75, *How to Survive Your Child's College Education: From Application to Graduation*, Citadel Press, an imprint of the Carol Publishing Group.
- Gladys (Lyngé '45) Hughes, *Good-Bye, Forever: A Novel*, Pinecone Press.
- John W. Nielsen D'48 T'53, editor, and Ninna (Schultz '33) Engskow, translator, *Many Danes, Some Norwegians: Karen Miller's Diary - 1894*, Lur Publications. (This book is the second to be published based on original materials in the college's Danish Immigrant Archive.)

# Commencement Weekend events recognize achievements of graduating seniors, religion professor, Blair resident

Commencement Weekend kudos went to:

○ Blair attorney John O'Hanlon, recipient of this year's College-Community Service Award, Dana's highest nonacademic honor. As the fourth generation to practice in the O'Hanlon family law firm and the third generation to donate legal services to Dana, O'Hanlon was thanked by President Christopher for his "continuing and invaluable advice and counsel to the administration and Regents of Dana College." O'Hanlon has also been involved in a variety of local activities, among them the Chamber of Commerce, the Blair Golf Club Board of Directors and the Blair Airport Authority.

○ Dr. Delvin Hutton, professor emeritus of Greek and religion, who was named professor emeritus (see page 10).

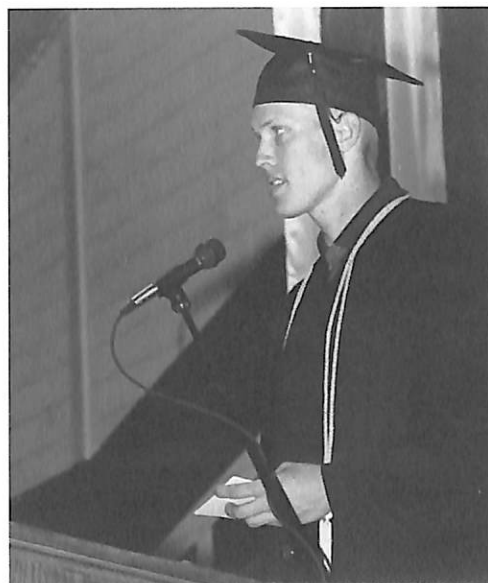
○ Valedictorians Roisin Bell of Bellevue, Nebraska; Lars Jensen of Daugaard, Denmark; Janet Pattee of Avoca, Iowa; and Julie Seeba of Omaha. All received their degrees *summa cum laude*. Bell majored in English and Spanish, Jensen in business administration and German, Pattee in music education and psychology, and Seeba in biology and chemistry.

○ These seniors who graduated with academic honors: *summa cum laude* (in addition to the valedictorians listed above): Paul Gardner (Plattsmouth, Nebr.), Sara Hildreth (Red Oak, Iowa), Amy Johnson (Ft. Calhoun, Nebr.), Nancy Kemmish (Crescent, Iowa), Kerry Maas (Parkston, S.D.), Sarah Packard (Cumming, Iowa), Sarah Peterson

(Gillette, Wyo.), Jeremy Rademacher (Canada), Sandra Smith (Blair), Teri Warrick (Blair); *magna cum laude*: Jeffrey Bryan (Blair), Stephanie Carlson (Omaha), Rhonda Dierking (Lincoln, Nebr.), Shawn Fasbender (Omaha), Fafani Goecke (Grafton, Wisc.), Christina Hall (Blair), Sara Howieson (Delavan, Minn.), Jane Jackson (Blair), Karin Jaeger (Omaha), Sara Kobs (Walnut, Iowa), Ryan Luebbe (Lincoln, Nebr.), Timothy Marsden (Red Oak, Iowa), Mark Nielsen (Omaha), Heather Olsen (Minden, Iowa), Janet Reisdorff (David City, Nebr.), Erin Roubicek (Waterloo, Nebr.), Marty Santoni (Casper, Wyo.), Kyle Slusher (Martell, Nebr.), David Walton (Crescent, Iowa), Johan Windmuller, Roskilde, Denmark; *cum laude*: Nichol Buenning (Parkston, S.D.), Mercedes Buller (Beemer, Nebr.), Kyla Clay (Beresford, S.D.), Carolyn Copenharve (Omaha), Matthew Cox (Saratoga, Wyo.), Catherine Fletcher (Omaha), Kristin Hansen (Ruskin, Nebr.), Michael Hanson (Missouri Valley, Iowa), Chana Harbottle (Blair), Sandra Jedlicka (Schuyler, Nebr.), Jennimarie Joslin (Colorado

Springs, Colo.), Heather Kelley (Omaha), Audra Kobs (Blair), Karla Meyer (Orchard, Nebr.), Thomas Munger (Blair), Benjamin Olson (Cambridge, Iowa), Jennifer Pfungsten (DeWitt, Nebr.), Heather Robinson (Omaha), Angela Rodenburg (Neola, Iowa), Erica Swanson (Omaha).

○ Seniors receiving Campus Service Awards at the Recognition Dinner the evening before Commencement: Roisin Bell (Bellevue, Nebr.), Kyla Clay (Beresford, S.D.), Shawn Fasbender (Omaha), Paul Gardner (Plattsmouth, Nebr.), Heidi Gerth (Winona, Minn.), Reginald Gilbert (Angleton, Tex.),



Shawn Fasbender was chosen by classmates to deliver the message from the Class of 1997. Photo by Paul Clark

Sarah Kobs (Walnut, Iowa), Orville Larsen (Council Bluffs, Iowa), Kerry Maas (Parkston, S.D.), Timothy Marsden (Red Oak, Iowa), Sarah Packard (Cumming, Iowa), Jeremy Rademacher (Canada), Janet Reisdorff (David City, Nebr.), Sandra Smith (Blair).

○ Distinguished Alumni Dr. Arthur Pedersen '45 of Gaffney, South Carolina, and Carol Wood '73 of Council Bluffs, Iowa, also honored at the Recognition Dinner. (See spring issue of the *Dana Review*.) ○

# Chapel service commissions 18 seniors active in Campus Ministry program

Every spring for the past four years, graduating seniors active in Dana's Campus Ministry have been honored for their contributions at a special ceremony commissioning them through liturgy, prayers, and music to continue to lead lives of service following the example of Jesus.

This year the ceremony took place in Trinity Chapel on May 6. The commissioning is based John

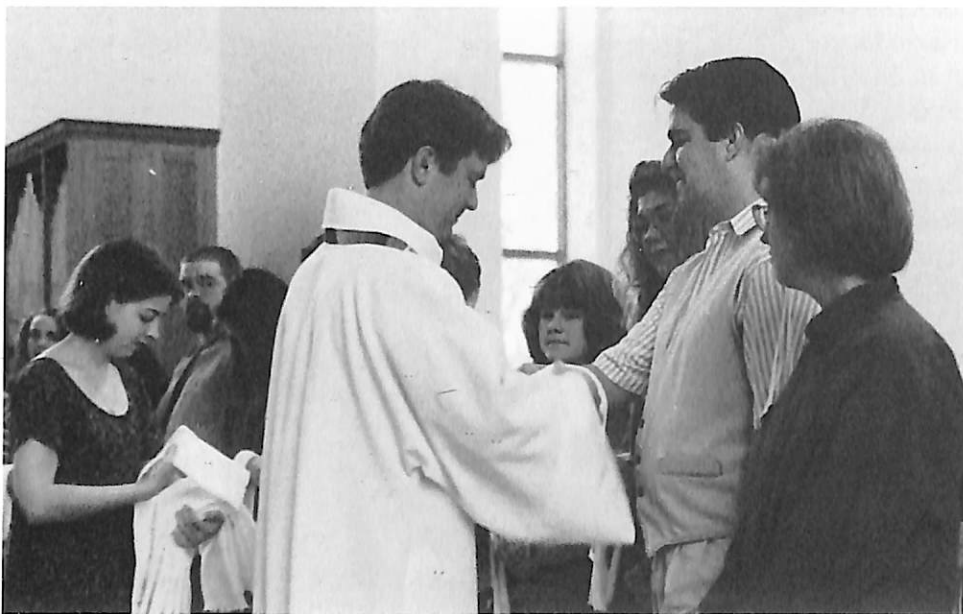
13:5, which describes Christ's washing of the disciples' feet.

The seniors were also given "servant towels," hand towels cross-stitched with "Dana" across the front by several members of the college community. The towels symbolize the servant status to which the seniors are called to carry out their vocations as Christians.

Eighteen seniors were commissioned this year: Rachel

Brotherton (Muscatine, Iowa), Mary Bruns (Chapman, Nebr.), Nichol Buenning (Parkston, S.D.), Mercedes Buller (Beemer, Nebr.), Kyla Clay (Beresford, S.D.), Diane Crawford (LaSalle, Colo.), Heidi Gerth (Winona, Minn.), Fafani Goecke (Grafton, Wisc.), Sara Hildreth (Red Oak, Iowa), Sarah Kobs (Walnut, Iowa), Orville Larsen, Jr. (Council Bluffs, Iowa), Tim Marsden (Red Oak, Iowa), Niki Moulds (Fairbank, Iowa), Sarah Packard (Cumming, Iowa), Chestnut Pearl (Rocky Ford, Colo.), Sarah Peterson (Gillette, Wyo.), Derrick Weyand (New Port Richey, Fla.) and Jennifer Willers (Schuyler, Nebr.).

Four members of the Dana community have cross-stitched the towels all four years: Jill Clark, assistant to the registrar; Esther Gunderson '96, administrative assistant for Campus Ministries and The Forum; Carol Haussermann '69, assistant professor of physical education; and Sandy Sonderup '78, director of student accounts. Others who have helped include JoAnn Beck, hall director; Jeanmarie Nielsen '78, assistant professor of music; Mary Mayo, communications coordinator; and Kay (Peterson '73) Schjodt, bookstore assistant. ○



Graduating seniors who have been active in Campus Ministry were thanked on May 6 at a ceremony that commissioned them to continue to serve in new venues. Campus Pastor Michael Ostrom conducted the ceremony. Photo by Barry Anderson

## *Lutheran Brotherhood introduces new benefit*

"CharitAbility for Life," a new benefit offered by Lutheran Brotherhood, gives members an opportunity to extend their charitable contributions of life insurance.

According to Lutheran Brotherhood, when a member designates a Lutheran college, university or other Lutheran

charitable organization as the beneficiary of at least \$1,000 of the death benefit proceeds in his or her life insurance contract, Lutheran Brotherhood will contribute an additional ten percent to that organization, up to \$25,000 per insured.

For example, if a member designates Dana as the beneficiary of

his or her \$100,000 life insurance contract, at the member's death Dana would receive \$110,000--the death benefit plus an additional ten percent.

Additional information can be obtained through Lutheran Brotherhood district representatives or by calling 1-800-365-4012, ext. 914. ○

## Korshoj property

Bob Schmoll '83, vice president for business affairs, has a temporary new hat—that of real estate developer for Dana College.

The property being developed is in north Blair along Adams Street. It was received by the college in 1991 through the Simon and Virginia Korshoj estate. The development will be called "Korshoj Estates."

In a memo to Dana employees, Schmoll explained: "Since the college took ownership, there have been many attempts to sell the property as one complete parcel but we have not been able to secure a buyer. Inasmuch as the City of Blair owns an adjacent parcel of property, it has been instrumental in a joint effort to include the creation of a park as part of the development.

"After a detailed analysis it was determined that if the college served as the developer of the property, it would maximize its return. At their February meeting the Board of Regents approved the plan for development and the project was started shortly thereafter."

Since Schmoll's memo, the final plat has been approved by the Blair City Council. There are 17 building sites.

## Kirchhoff a "Dana Ambassador"

Dr. Leo Kirchhoff '60 is professor of education at California State University in Chico. He's also an inveterate traveler who has circled the globe many times. (A few examples of his travels: Last summer he followed the Silk Route through Pakistan and China. This past January he visited Australia and New Zealand, and this summer he's in Ghana on a Fulbright-Hays study tour.)

Wherever he is, he's a Dana ambassador—"one of our very best," according to Michael Jones '71, vice president for institutional advancement.

"Leo helps Dana in many ways," Jones says. "He keeps in touch by telephone, letters and e-mail and visits the campus several times a year. He writes letters to prospective students in the Chico area. He has established a scholarship, the Kirchhoff-Minderman Endowed Scholarship, in honor of

his parents. He's given the college an extensive collection of art acquired on his travels. His name, and his uncle Herman's, are on the Commemorative Wall. He's a Dana Builder. And he visits our alumni

when he travels--most recently, for example, in Japan and Namibia."

Jones also notes that Kirchhoff has given Dana over 500,000 Frequent Flyer miles. These miles, he says, have helped faculty members to attend conferences, the Development staff to visit prospective donors, and President and Mrs.

Christopherson to travel to Denmark this

spring for the opening of the "Danes on the Prairie" exhibit in Odense, where Dr. Christopherson spoke.

"We're very grateful for alumni like Leo who have made Dana a continuing part of their lives," Jones says. "In doing so, they've become important members of our extended Dana family. They help sustain us in our mission." ○



## Documentary on Bethsaida dig premieres on TV

On Sunday, June 22, Nebraska Educational Television (NETV) premiered an hour-long documentary titled "The Lost City of Bethsaida."

Dana belongs to a consortium of colleges and universities whose faculty and students participate in the Bethsaida dig. Several members of the Dana community were involved in the documentary, which was produced by the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

Bethsaida is the third-most frequently mentioned Galilean

village in the Gospels. It was home to at least five of Jesus' 12 apostles and it was where he recruited his "fishers of men." Jesus fed the multitudes near Bethsaida, and he walked on the waters near its shores.

Bethsaida was abandoned in the first century during the Jewish/Roman wars, and the site was lost until the late 1980s. It is considered one of the most important archaeological finds in recent years.

Dana participants in the documentary include Dr. Del Hutton, professor of Greek and

religion, who is featured as an on-screen expert, and Barry Anderson '73, director of college relations and marketing, who composed the score and was the creative consultant. Anderson is the former marketing manager for UNO television. Closing credits also list Dana as an underwriter.

The documentary is being distributed to other state television networks. It will be translated or captioned for Israeli and German television. ○

Two faculty members have been recognized for excellence in teaching. Students named *Dr. Kathleen McSharry* (English) their Professor of the Year, and HunTel Systems presented *Dr. Dorothy Olson* (elementary education) with its Golden Apple Award.

*President Myroin Christopherson '61* has been asked to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

NAICU is the major voice of independent colleges and universities in the U.S.

He will represent Region VII, which includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. He has also been asked to serve on the NAICU's Policy Analysis and Public Relations Committee.

Christopherson has also been re-elected chairman of the board of the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority (NEFA), the finance authority established to issue tax-exempt bonds to Nebraska's independent colleges for capital improvements.

This spring members of the graduating *Class of 1997* raised over \$14,425 in pledges as their class gift to the Dana Scholars Fund. The amount is the highest ever pledged by a graduating class. The class will be recognized on the Old Main Commemorative Wall and on the new brick structure that will house the bell given to the college by the City of Bad Segeberg, Germany.

Student Senate officers for the 1997-98 academic year are: president, *Rodney Ronk '98* of Emerson, Iowa; vice president, *Sara Crawford '99* of Watertown, South Dakota; treasurer, *Denecia Siemers '98* of South Bend, Nebraska; and secretary, *Carla Jo Krance '99* of Central City, Nebraska.

Over 30 employers participated in an April 8 Career Fair sponsored by the college's Office of Career Services. They represented a variety of employment opportunities, including social services

and business. They recruited for full-time, part-time and summer jobs as well as internships. Representatives from several graduate schools also participated. According to Career Services director *Mary Jo (Andrews '59) Kubie*, "Most of the employers indicated an interest in all majors because they realize the importance of the skills learned through a liberal arts background."

*Dr. Robert Moussetis* (business administration) presented two papers at the Academy of International Business, Southwest Regional Meeting, held in New Orleans March 11-15. The titles of his papers were "The Relationship of International Societal Strategy and Performance" and "Management Values and Joint Venture Success in China."

*Prof. Jan Potter* (social work) presented a paper at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, held in Chicago March 5-9. Her paper was titled "Mapping the Territory: Inclusive Approaches to Teaching HBSE [Human Behavior in the Social Environment] Spirituality Content." Profs. Lou Ann Stednitz and Richard Potter (both social work) also attended the meeting.

Fifteen Dana students were inducted on May 8 into *Alpha Mu Gamma*, the national foreign language honor society. Inductees must have a high grade point average and a grade of 4.0 for at least two semesters. The languages and inductees: *Danish*--Mercedes Buller '97 (Beemer, Nebr.), Lindsey Donnelly '00 (Tekamah, Nebr.), Deena Knapp '00 (Anita, Iowa); *German*--Elizabeth Lange '00 (Glenwood Springs, Colo.), Cheryl Karl '00 (Bellevue, Nebr.), Angie Bentjen '99 (Albion, Nebr.), Kevin Ronnenkamp '99 (Albion, Nebr.), Carolyn Scrivner '00 (Des Moines, Iowa); *Spanish*--Jennimarie Joslin '97 (Colorado Springs, Colo.), Rachel Hospodka '00 (Omaha), Kelly Leimbach '00 (Ft. Calhoun, Nebr.), Michelle Hurt '00 (Seward, Nebr.), Janelle Kahl '99 (Seward, Nebr.), Laura Hiebenthal '99 (Milford, Nebr.) and Kelly Mundhenke '98 (Ponca, Nebr.).

Two faculty members and a staff member have received study grants from the Division for Higher Education and Schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. *Dr. Richard Jorgensen '64* (history) and *Prof. Starla Stensaas*

(graphic design) were awarded grants for study this summer, and *Tom Nielsen '74* (library circulation assistant), for study during the fall 1997 semester.

*Bob Schmoll '83*, vice president for business affairs, has been invited to serve on an ad hoc committee of the ELCA's Division for Higher Education and Schools to explore areas where ELCA colleges and universities might work together for their mutual benefit, such as the purchase of software, capital financing pools, telephone services and smart cards. Schmoll has also been reappointed to a three-year term on the ELCA Risk Management Advisory Council.

*Nancy Penna*, registrar and assistant dean of the college, attended the national conference of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Salt Lake City on April 20-25. She has been named to the organization's national Professional Development Committee.

*Prof. Michael Anderson* (music) has been elected to a four-year term on the Board of Directors of the International Trumpet Guild. His term begins in October. Anderson was one of six directors elected from 44 candidates. The ITG is a professional organization serving trumpet players world wide. Anderson currently is a member of the ITG Technology Committee. He is one of three directors for the ITG Web Site housed at Dana, has presented and performed at the last two International Brassfest Conferences and has been published in the *ITG Journal*.

Sports Information Director *Paul Clark* was selected to serve on the official statistics and media relations staff at the 41st Annual NAIA World Series. He worked as an official scorer for the national championship tournament, provided information to the media and wrote game summaries and tourney notes for the NAIA's World Wide Web page.

The college's *Campus Ministry* program again sponsored a trip over spring break to San Antonio, Texas. Students did light construction work at Camp Chrysalis of the Lutheran Outdoor and Retreat Ministries of the Southwest. They also served dinner at a meal center for the poor and homeless. ○

# Tree planting, bell dedication mark Arbor Day



The college's Arbor Day Scholars Celebration on April 25 opened with an outdoor program on the Korshoj Terrace that included the dedication of a hundred-year-old bell from Bad Segeberg, Germany, and a tree planting. Subsequent events included an Internet demonstration by students, an exhibit of student art, a dinner at which the sponsors of scholarships and student recipients were special guests, and the spring musical, *Guys and Dolls*. O

## Student intern at Bertrand Museum gains experience

Humanities major Jennifer Willers '97 learned how a museum runs last semester by "shadowing" a Bertrand Museum technician at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge east of Blair.

The museum exhibits artifacts excavated from the Bertrand, a river boat that sank in the Missouri on April 1, 1865.

"I'm interested in American history and the Civil War," Willers said, "and I learned a lot." She interned at the museum 12 hours a week, or 84 hours over the semester, helping--for example--inventory artifacts and sort glass fragments and learning about the importance of temperature and humidity levels.

Willers, whose home is in Schuyler, Nebraska, is considering museum work as a career option. She reported on her experiences at the Bertrand Museum in a paper she presented this spring at a Humanities Senior Seminar.



**Above:** Bad Segeberg Mayor Jorg Nelter (at right, with President Christopherson) returned to the campus for the dedication of the bell he had presented to Dana at the October 1993 dedication of the Classroom Center. The bell will be displayed in a setting designed by Art Professor Milt Heinrich (note drawing at far right). The structure replaces the old welcome sign on College Drive across from Pioneer Memorial. **Below:** Participating in the tree planting ceremony were (from left), with President Christopherson (center): Scholarship sponsors Pat and Don Swanson, Omaha; Bob and Lois Blobaum, Blair; Anna and Gordon Rasmussen, Fergus Falls, Minnesota; and Gunnar Horn, Omaha. Assisting them were alumni children (from left) Colin Anderson, the son of Profs. Jeanmarie Nielsen '78 and Michael Anderson, and Karin and Erik Schmidt, the daughter and son of Jerry '80 and Ruth (Behrens '81) Schmidt, all of Blair. Photos by Gregg Pejzar

# Prof. Hutton at Honors Program poses question, "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?"

We believe that the following address given by Dr. Delwin Hutton, professor of Greek and religion, at the college's May 8 honors program will interest many of our readers. Hutton, who joined the Dana faculty in 1964, was named professor emeritus at May 18 Commencement ceremonies. He will continue to teach part time and serve as director of the college's new Honors Program. Hutton received his B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University, his B.D. from Wartburg Theological Seminary, and his Th.M. and Th.D. from Harvard University.

Honored students and families, esteemed colleagues, and friends of Dana College: There is a saying which characterizes much of life: "The more things change, the more they stay the same." This observation seems to be true of life at Dana as well. For as long as I have been associated with Dana, the Administration has struggled to find ways to increase enrollment and balance the budget; the Faculty has felt the need to periodically reinvent the general education program; and students have been concerned with cost containment and the quality of social life on campus. Fundamental issues don't seem to change very much.

One such issue that does not seem to change very much at Dana, or at colleges and universities like Dana, is that of its identity and mission. For as long as I have been here, and I suspect long before I came, the question, "What is Dana's mission in American higher education?" has been raised, reflected upon, debated, and even answered. According to its Articles of Incorporation, the mission of Dana College is "the establishment and maintenance of an institution of learning of collegiate rank, in which higher education shall be given in harmony with the Christian faith as taught by the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America." But what is meant by offering higher education "in harmony with the Christian faith," and how is the teaching of the ELCA reflected here at Dana? Sometimes Dana is described as a "college of the church" or a "church-related college." But in what sense is Dana an expression of the church, or how is it related to one particular denomination and yet attempts to serve students of all denominations? Another way in which the identity of Dana is sometimes described is to speak of its dual characteristics of being a "community of faith" and a "community of learning." But are these two communities identical and interchangeable or merely co-existent?

Such questions regarding the identity and mission of Dana represent the continuation of a debate which has been going on within the Christian community for at least 1800 years. This debate has to do with the relationship between Christian faith and contemporary culture, human reason and divine revelation, the glorification of God and the celebration of human achievement. Perhaps no one in the Christian tradition has posed the question about this relationship more clearly than did Tertullian of Carthage in North Africa. One of the greatest Western theologians of the Patristic period, Tertullian defended Christianity against critics and heretics, was the first to apply the term "trinity" to the three persons of the Christian Godhead, and proposed that Christ was one person with two natures, fully human and fully divine.

In his *Prescriptions Against Heretics*, written about 200, Tertullian launched a vigorous attack against Gnostics and other heretics. He regarded philosophical speculation as the seedbed of all heresy and hence inimical to the church's faith. Drawing a clear line between culture on the one

hand and faith on the other, Tertullian threw down the gauntlet with these memorable words: "What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem? What concord is there between the Academy and the Church?" For Tertullian "Athens," the intellectual center of ancient Greece, the city of Plato and Aristotle, represented the epitome of human culture, the exercise of reason, the community of scholars, the glorification of mankind. "Jerusalem," on the other hand, the spiritual center of ancient Israel, the city of David and Jesus, represented the epitome of the realm of the Spirit, the reception of divine revelation, the community of faith, the glorification of God. And for Tertullian the transcendent values associated with Jerusalem could not be compromised by the transitory values of Athens.

Tertullian's question, "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" has reverberated down through the centuries. The Christian church has struggled with human culture, the exercise of reason, the community of scholars, and the glorification of mankind. In the early period of its history it adopted and baptized the classical cultures of Greece and Rome. With the rise of monasticism it tried rejecting and abandoning the dominant culture. During the Middle Ages it even tried to dominate and give shape to culture. And it seems that ever since the Renaissance and Enlightenment, reason and revelation, church and culture have coexisted in a state of detente, a kind of uneasy "cold war."

For our purposes this evening, we may consider briefly the possibility of three basic responses to the question, "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" These basic responses were suggested already some years ago by a Report of the Danforth Commission entitled "Eight Hundred Colleges Face the Future." This report

on church-related colleges in North American divided these institutions of higher education into three categories: "defender of the faith" colleges; "non-affirming" colleges; and "free Christian" colleges. I would like to use this Danforth typology to suggest how one might answer Tertullian's question in relation to Dana College.

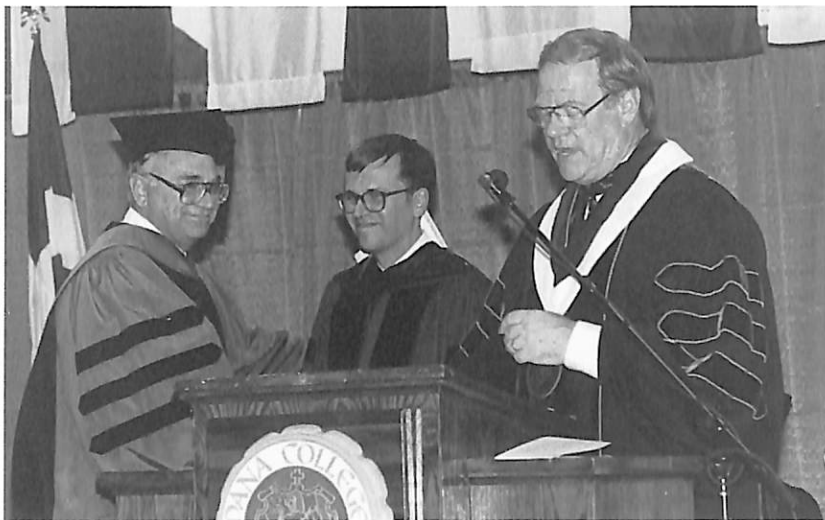
The first response that we might give is, I suspect, the one with which Tertullian would have been most satisfied. This answer is implied in the Danforth category "defender of the faith." "What does

Athens have to do with Jerusalem?" "Defender of the faith" colleges would answer, "Little or nothing." This response, in effect, regards the expression "church college" as an oxymoron, for the two seem in the final analysis to be mutually exclusive. There can be no fruitful dialogue between faith and reason, for the exercise of reason must ultimately surrender to the claims of faith. This is the position of a

reactionary fundamentalism or doctrinaire orthodoxy which assumes that the only appropriate use of our critical faculties is to affirm and defend "the truths" which have been "divinely revealed" and articulated in theological systems. My basic response to this position is expressed in the bumper sticker which I saw some years ago: "Christ died to take away our sins, not our minds." I would not champion this first response for Dana College.

The second response that might be given to Tertullian's question is characterized in the Danforth Report as "non-affirming." This is the college or university which, although nominally affiliated with the Christian tradition, says in effect, that in order to be a part of contemporary culture, we are going to put our faith claims on

hold or at least relegate them to the level of private reflection and opinion as having no institutional credibility. Such a "non-affirming" position regards religious tradition or church relationship to be of value primarily for public relations purposes or for fund raising. It considers the essential marks of a quality education a distinguished faculty which can obtain research grants and publish, and bright students who can get into graduate schools or find well-paying jobs upon graduation. Now I have



Dr. Delvin Hutton (left) was named "professor emeritus" at Commencement. Participants in the ceremony were Dr. John Lyden (center), associate professor of religion, and President Christopherson. Photo by Paul Clark

nothing against research, publishing, bright students, or good paying jobs. But it seems to me that to make these the only indicators of a good education is to overlook the importance of character formation and the goal of service to others. It is to seek the glory of Athens without the humble service of Jerusalem.

Finally, there is the third response to Tertullian's question which is represented in the Danforth designation "free Christian" college. This is the response which considers Christian faith and human culture to be in legitimate dialogue with one another and regards both reason and revelation to be dimensions of a common quest for ultimate Truth. The dialogue between faith and culture is one in which culture rightly demands authenticity and relevance from faith

claims, and faith challenges culture to look beyond its obsession with "the here and now" and to consider its achievements from the view of eternity. Both human reason and divine revelation are complementary in search for ultimate Truth, for the Creator has given us the gift of reason with which we appropriate and interpret the disclosure of His will. Human reason can prevent religious faith from degenerating into mindless superstition, and religious faith can prevent human reason from being

satisfied with a finite grasp of reality.

"What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" For those of us who live in both realms, the physical and the spiritual, the world of critical reasoning and of divine revelation, the celebration of human culture and the glorification of God, Athens and Jerusalem symbolize both the paradoxical and the complementary nature of reality. Since I live in both worlds, I need to function as a total

person, not a disembodied spirit, nor a physical being without spiritual needs.

So, what might be some of the implications of this complementary but paradoxical relationship between Athens and Jerusalem, culture and faith, reason and revelation for our lives at Dana?

First, at Dana nothing should be off limits from investigation and there should be no institutional orthodoxy except the doctrine of the right to pursue the truth. Unless the college motto, *Veritas Vincit*, "Truth Conquers," is only a meaningless slogan, it ought to express our conviction that truth can withstand our scrutiny and that in fact the search for truth is a religious quest since ultimate Truth belongs only to God.

(continued on pg. 13)

○ **Candice Hogden '81** of Custer, Wisconsin, and her two sisters have recorded their first album, "A Christmas Gift." It will be released in September. The three call their vocal group "Embrace." The album, available on CD and tape, features a variety of traditional and contemporary Christmas music.

○ Bro Business Center, which is owned by **Bruce Bro '80** of Harlan, Iowa, has received the "Award of Excellence" from the Business Technology Association as the top U.S. business equipment dealership with sales under \$5 million. The Business Technology Association is the

international organization serving dealers in the business equipment industry. The award was presented at a Los Angeles trade show. Bro's company has had an annual growth rate of 25 percent.

○ Sport for Understanding (SFU), a nonprofit, international exchange program for teenage athletes, selected **Jeff Fahrenkrug '80** of Fontanelle, Iowa, to coach a girls' volleyball team traveling in Italy from June 23-July 21. The trip was his third with SFU. Fahrenkrug coaches girls' volleyball at Bridgewater-Fontanelle Junior High School.

○ **Dr. Don Baack '75**, associate professor of management at Pittsburg State University in Kansas, has received the 1996 Excellence in Scholarly Activity Award for the PSU Kelce School of Business. The plaque and honorarium were presented at the 1997 Kelce Awards Banquet on April 22. During the 1996 calendar year, Baack co-authored a textbook and contracted to publish another as a solo author. He also completed a contract

to publish a popular press book titled *How to Survive Your Child's College Education: From Application to Graduation*. It will be released in August by Citadel Press. (See story about book signings at Homecoming on page 4.) Baack also published ten journal articles and conference papers during the year. He is the only Kelce faculty member to receive the Scholarly Activity Award twice, having been previously recognized in 1991. He joined the faculty at Pittsburg State in 1988.

○ **Brent Siegrist '74**, majority leader in the Iowa House of Representatives, was the subject of a lengthy "People you should know" interview in the June 29 edition of the *Des Moines Sunday Register*. The feature was headed, "Brent Siegrist: From social-studies teacher to the Statehouse," with a sidebar headed "Easy to like: Settling in with Siegrist." The interview closed with Siegrist telling *The Register*, "...what people want out of their leaders or their politicians is just to listen to them and then be honest with them, and that's always what we've tried to do and always what I've tried to do." Siegrist, a Republican from Council Bluffs, represents Iowa's 84th District.

○ **Carol (Canoyer '70) Miller**, who has taught in the Lewis Central Community School District, Council Bluffs, Iowa, for 25 years, was honored in May at the University of Iowa by the Belin Institute because two of her students named her the most influential teacher in their lives. In May she also received a Community Service Award from the Council Bluffs Noon Rotary Club.

○ The return visit of **Everett Johnson '60** to Sheldon (Iowa) High School, where he conducted a two-day clinic for vocal students, was the subject of a feature story in the *Sheldon Mail-Sun*. Johnson taught at Sheldon before he was named executive secretary of the Iowa High School Music Association. Last year Johnson received the Robert McCowen Award from the Iowa

Choral Directors Association.

○ **Dr. Rodney Wead '57** has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the nation's largest settlement house, Grace Hill in St. Louis, Missouri. He has served as executive director at Neighborhood House in Columbus, Ohio, for the past five years. A feature story about his selection appeared in *The Columbus Dispatch*. *Dispatch* staff reporter Felix Hoover noted that Wead follows George Eberle Jr., a 40-year veteran at Grace Hill. The chairman of the search committee told Hoover that "the committee wasn't looking for a clone of Eberle but wanted someone who could carry on his tradition of helping people learn to help themselves and others."

○ **Dr. Art and Glennis (DeVasure '50) Nicolai** of Lincoln, Nebraska, recently participated in a Global Volunteers service program in Italy. They spent two weeks teaching conversational English to middle school students in Ostuni on the Adriatic coast. The Nicolais have also participated in other programs sponsored by Global Volunteers. Both spent a week in Arcola, Mississippi, in a service program, and Art taught English in Poland for two weeks.

○ Retired kindergarten teacher **Heleen Nielsen '38** of Storm Lake, Iowa, has published a book of "kindergarten wisdom" titled *Were You Here Tomorrow*. A feature story about Nielsen, who attended Dana in 1934-35, appeared recently in the *Storm Lake Pilot*. About the title, staff writer Mary Pieper wrote, "...when Nielsen returned to the classroom after being ill for a day, one of her students asked her, 'Were you here tomorrow?'" The book is illustrated with kindergarten artwork Nielsen saved over the years. Two former students who work for Mills Financial Marketing in Storm Lake helped produce the book. One of them told Pieper that in addition to the usual things children learn in kindergarten, Nielsen taught her students to "be kind to each other." ○

## *New alumni directory will be mailed in October.*

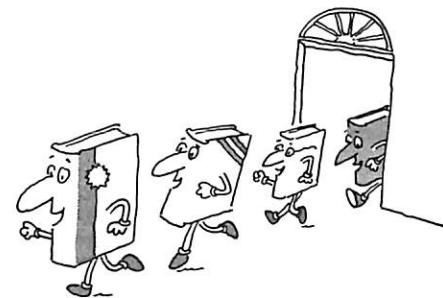
**O**ur Dana College Alumni Directory project is nearing completion.

This comprehensive new volume is a compilation of the most current data available on over 8,500 Dana College and Trinity Seminary alumni that has been obtained from questionnaire mailings, telephone verification and/or alumni records. Now that the editing, proofreading and printing are almost finished, distribution will begin soon.

All alumni who reserved a copy of the directory during the

verification phase of the project should be receiving their copies around mid-October. The directory can be purchased only through the publisher. If you have a question about your order, or if you wish to place an order, please contact our publisher directly at the following address:

Customer Service Department  
Bernard C. Harris Publishing  
Co., Inc.  
16 Koger Center Suite 103  
Norfolk, VA 23503  
Phone: 1-800-877-6554



This new directory is an excellent way of getting reacquainted with former Dana College classmates. To those who returned their questionnaires -- many thanks for your cooperation. And, to those who ordered a copy -- enjoy! ○

## On Athens/Jerusalem: "We have unique heritage"

*(continued from pg. 11)*

Second, at Dana the entire educational enterprise ought to be permeated with a sense of coherence and purpose. Ideally, we are dealing not with disparate tidbits of knowledge but with a holistic understanding of self in relation to others and the created order. This is the goal of our general education program, from "Foundations for Lifelong Learning" to "The Liberal Arts Senior Seminar." Because we take seriously participation in both the world of modern culture and at the same time the community of faith, our goal is to graduate educated men and women who will seek to make contributions in their chosen careers and who will also respond with compassion to the needs of others. Colleges of the church like Dana fail in their mission if they do not sensitize students to the ethical implications of the Christian faith, if their graduates do not go out with a sense of responsibility to contribute in a positive way to society.

And finally, at Dana, a college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we have a unique heritage for relating faith to culture, reason to revelation. Let me mention only three aspects of that heritage. First, we

should not forget that the Lutheran Church was born in a university. Both Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon, Luther's right hand theologian, were professors at the University of Wittenberg, and the movement which they began has never ceased to maintain schools, colleges and universities.

Second, the cardinal principal of the Protestant Reformation, justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, means that each one of us is freed by the gospel to inquire into and to challenge both culture and religious systems. Our relationship with God is a gift of pure grace; neither our rationality nor our spirituality can add to or detract from that gift of grace.

And third, the Lutheran understanding of vocation, according to which each Christian is to become a little Christ to the neighbor, provides us and our graduates with a vision of what we are called to be.

Yes, Tertullian, "Athens," the symbol of critical inquiry and human culture does have something to do with "Jerusalem," the symbol of divine revelation and religious faith. We are created by God to live in both realms. At colleges like Dana we can carry on the dialogue between faith and reason

in response to the Creator and for the sake of the world. At a college like Dana we can celebrate human cultural achievement and the exercise of reason, but insist that they be placed under the scrutiny of God's justice and loving concern for all. Through divine revelation we can seek to understand God's ways in human history and the created order, but do so using all the gifts of the Creator, including the power of reason and critical thinking. To claim the Christian faith is not to be so possessed by it as to shut out all critical reflection. Nor, on the other hand, does reflecting upon the Christian faith and subjecting it to critical study prevent one from attempting to live it.

So Dana student, Dana faculty, Dana administrator, with which city do you identify? Athens, the city which celebrates human reason and culture, or Jerusalem, the city which points to divine revelation and faith? Or do you seek the path of synthesis which leads paradoxically to both and then continues beyond into the infinite reaches of God's ultimate reality? Dana's future as a community of faith and as a community of learning will be shaped by how we and those who come after us answer this question. ○

# Student-athlete is Dana's first national champ; six named All-America Scholar-Athletes

by Paul Clark, Sports Information Director

## Track

On the morning of May 23, Angie Sparacino did what no other Dana student-athlete has ever done--she became a national champion.

Sparacino won the women's marathon at the NAIA National Championships to head the list of four Dana All-Americans at the national meet.

Running in her first full marathon ever, Sparacino shocked the field with a winning time of 2:57:18.3. The junior from Houston, Texas, took the lead about 19 miles into the race and ended up beating her nearest challenger by over two minutes. Sparacino's time was about eight minutes off the NAIA women's marathon record.

Also placing in the top six and earning All-American honors in the women's marathon were Anna Hovde and Amanda Buttry. Hovde, a junior from Gillette, Wyoming, timed in 3:07:46 and placed fourth while Buttry, a sophomore from Shenandoah, Iowa, was sixth in 3:09:54.7. That threesome, along with junior Andrea Spreen in the javelin throw, scored 19 team points to put the Dana women in 18th place at the national meet. Spreen, from Elkader, Iowa, placed eighth in the javelin with a top throw of 128-1.

For the Dana men, junior Ben Sandy earned All-American honors in the men's marathon for a second straight year. Sandy finished third at nationals in a time of 2:24:54.1. That mark would have won 19 of the

previous 25 national marathons and shaved 13 minutes off Sandy's old school record. The Newcastle, Wyoming, native is now Dana's first four-time All-American, having achieved that honor twice in cross country as well.

Rounding out Dana's 11-person contingent at nationals were: Max Grady '98 (Dunlap, IA)--men's 1,500-meter run, Will Hardin '00 (Norfolk, NE)--men's high jump and triple jump, Jason Mitchell '98 (Sidney, NE)--men's 400-meter dash, Matt Poulter '99 (Essex, IA)--men's marathon, Lynette Riemersma '98 (Red Cloud, NE)--women's discus throw, Bob Spangler '99 (Ogallala, NE)--men's marathon.

The Dana men placed third and the women seventh at the Nebraska-Iowa Conference (NIAC) Championships May 3 in Crete, Nebraska. Sandy won both the men's 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs for a second straight year, boosting his career total for NIAC titles in track and cross country to nine. Sandy timed in 15:16:68 to win the 5k and 32:13.14 to win the 10k.

Grady won the men's 1,500 meters at the NIAC meet with a school-record time of 3:56.86. Spreen won her second NIAC women's javelin title in three years with a school-record throw of 131-3. Back on the men's side, the Vikings got three third-place finishes from Hardin--in the high jump, long jump and triple jump--and Spangler and Poulter nailed down third-place finishes in the 10k and men's steeplechase, respectively.

Chris Wulf '99 (Blair)--high jump, Mitchell--400 meters, and Neal Smith '98 (Gillette, WY)--800 and 1,500 meters, were also top-six

placers as the Dana men scored 66.5 team points. For the Viking women, Riemersma--discus, Amber Weber '00 (Tilden, NE)--high jump and triple jump, Buttry--800 and 5,000 meters, and Sparacino--3,000 meters, were NIAC placers.

## Softball

For the 17th time in as many seasons, the Dana softball team was right in the thick of the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference (NIAC) title chase this spring.

Northwestern IA eventually edged Dana for the conference crown, but the Vikings finished in sole possession of second place with a 14-4 league record. In every season since softball became an NIAC sport in 1981, Dana has finished first or second in the final conference standings. This year's runner-up finish was especially sweet after league coaches tabbed the Vikings for no better than fourth place in a pre-season poll.

Dana went 19-19 overall in 1997 with a line-up dominated by sophomores and first-year players. The Vikings beat NCAA Division II opponents Northwest Missouri State and Phillips OK to highlight their nonconference schedule and won their first eight games in NIAC play before losing to Northwestern at the NIAC Round Robin tournament. That was Dana's only loss at the round robin and its first there in three seasons--the Vikings have gone 17-1 at the annual tourney over the past three seasons.

The Vikings were at 9-4 in the conference before finishing strong with five straight NIAC victories. Seeded second in the post-season conference tournament, the Vikings



Sports

beat Nebraska Wesleyan (8-0) and Hastings (10-9) before losses to Northwestern (3-0) and Concordia (3-6) ended their season one win shy of a trip to the NAIA Great Plains regional tourney.

Senior designated player Melinda Almand from Chino, California, and first-year pitcher Jennifer Schneider of Council Bluffs, Iowa, were chosen first-team All-NIAC. Almand, the last remaining player from Dana's 1994 national tournament team, hit .386 on the year despite missing ten games with a knee injury. Schneider was 11-11 on the season, including an 8-2 mark in NIAC games.

Dana dominated the All-NIAC second team with five selections: Heather Kelley, senior outfielder, Omaha; Lisa Cady, sophomore first baseman, Omaha; Tara Furstenu, sophomore pitcher, Strasburg, Colorado; Lisa Shefland, first-year second baseman, Omaha; Jessi

## Homecoming for ex-Vikings

Former members of the women's and men's basketball teams and the baseball team are invited to participate in these Homecoming activities:

○ On Saturday, September 27, at 9 a.m.: Women's basketball scrimmage (varsity vs. alumnae) in Borup Coliseum. To participate, call the women's basketball office at (402)-426-7283.

○ On Saturday, September 27, at 10 a.m.: Men's basketball scrimmage (varsity vs. alumni) in Borup. To participate, call Coach Dave Jensen at (402) 426-7294.

○ On Sunday, September 28, at 11 a.m.: Oldtimers' baseball reunion, with a home run contest for alumni followed by game (alumni vs. varsity), Peterson Field. To participate, call the Coach Paul Davis at (402) 426-7374.

Thomsen, first-year catcher, Omaha. Outfielder Taffy Forsen '98 (Herman, NE) and shortstop Amy Klusmeier '99 (Sheboygan, WI) were named honorable mention all-conference.

### Baseball

It was a season of great highs and disappointing lows for the baseball team, but the Vikings finished strong in the first NIAC post-season tournament since 1970.

After winning the NIAC championship and going to regionals last year, anything less was going to be unsatisfying for the Vikings and a final overall record of 22-23 was indeed. Dana had winning streaks of five and six games after losing eight straight early in the season. In the NIAC, Dana was limping along at 7-8 going into the final week of the season, but the Vikings rolled to four straight league wins to finish in fourth place in the conference at 11-8.

That secured the fourth and final spot in the post-season conference tournament at Hastings. Dana beat the regular-season champion host school twice, shelling Bronco ace and pro draft pick Matt Jurgena in a 16-12 win and then pulling out a wild 11-10 triumph. Dana played Midland Lutheran three times at the tournament, losing 6-2 and winning 6-4 to set up a winner-take-all championship game. Midland prevailed in the final 14-10 and went on to the NAIA Great Plains regional.

Five Dana players were named All-NIAC first team, including seniors Shawn Fasbender, Mike Gerson and Lee Heimes. Fasbender, a first baseman from Omaha, hit .324 on the season. Gerson, an infielder from Alameda, California, led Dana hitters with a .414 average and Heimes, an outfielder from Hartington, Nebraska, hit .352 and stole 28 bases.

Also making the first team for Dana were junior outfielder Jacob White and sophomore pitcher Corey

Johnson. White, from Alameda, California, hit .409 for the Vikings while Johnson, from Blair, was the ace of the Viking staff with a 7-2 overall record and a 6-0 regular-season mark against NIAC opponents.

Dana's honorable mention picks were pitcher Sam Breuklander '99 (Indianola, IA) and outfielders John Chandler '97 (Talbot, TN) and Rich Martell '99 (Margate, FL).

### All-America Scholar-Athletes

Dana had six individuals chosen for NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors at the conclusion of the spring sports season.

Ben Sandy from men's track, Shawn Fasbender and Mike Gerson from baseball, and Anna Hovde, Angie Sparacino and Sandy Smith '97 (Superior, NE) from women's track were all given the NAIA's highest honor for scholastic and athletic achievement. There were 40 student-athletes nationwide honored in men's track, 59 in baseball and 61 in women's track.

To be eligible for the NAIA All-America Scholar-Athlete award, an individual must be a junior or senior academically with a 3.50 cumulative grade point average or above. Student-athletes must also be significant contributors at the varsity level in their sport.

For the entire 1996/97 academic year, Dana student-athletes were given 16 All-America Scholar-Athlete awards, the most in school history, surpassing the 12 honorees from the 1995-96 year.

In addition, Fasbender was named second-team GTE Academic All-American in men's basketball, and he and Gerson were picked for the GTE Academic All-District second team in baseball. The GTE awards are voted on by the membership of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) organization. ○

## '90s

- *Jennifer Aron '97 and Matthew Hammes* were married on May 30 in Omaha.
- *Roisin Bell '97* is attending law school at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- *Jeff Buman '97* of Harlan, Iowa, is farming with his father.
- *Stephanie Carlson '97* will teach art this fall in the Omaha Public Schools.
- *Travis Davison '97* is a claims representative/auto specialist for Allied Group Insurance in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- *Rhonda Dierking '97* is a Medicare auditor at Mutual of Omaha in Omaha.
- *Shawn Fasbender '97* is an auditor at KPMG Peat Marwick in Omaha.
- This fall *Paul Gardner '97* will study physical therapy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.
- *Fafani Goecke '97* will teach fifth grade this fall in Laurinberg, North Carolina.
- *Christina Hall '97* is a software licensing administrator at Inacom in Omaha.
- *Kristin Hansen '97* is a management trainee at Walgreen Co. in LaVista, Nebraska.
- This fall *Michael Hanson '97* will teach vocal and instrumental music in Lynch, Nebraska.
- *Chana Harbottle '97* is an accounts payable assistant at Mid America Computer Corp. in Blair.
- *Sara Hildreth '97* is attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.
- *Kari Jaeger '97* will teach art and graphic arts this fall in the Lewis Central Public Schools in Council Bluffs, Iowa.
- *Sandra Jedlicka '97* will study pharmacy this fall at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.
- *Lars Jensen '97* is working in the International Division at Valmont Industries in Valley, Nebraska.
- *Amy Johnson '97 and Mark Gustafson '97* were married in Blair on July 26. Amy will be a special education teacher for grades 4-6 this fall at Roosevelt Elementary School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

- *Diane Katzdorn '97* is a sales associate at Von Maur at the Westroads Mall in Omaha.
- *Sarah (Kobs '97) Koch* will teach vocal and general music, kindergarten-grade 8, this fall at Holy Family School in Des Moines, Iowa.
- *Ryan Luebke '97* is a crop accountant for Accepted Insurance Companies in Omaha.
- *Kerry Maas '97* will be a graduate student in library science at Syracuse University this fall.
- *Tim Marsden '97* will teach music this fall in the Omaha Public Schools.
- This fall *Kim McGregor '97* will teach special education, kindergarten-grade 2 in Bennington, Nebraska.
- *Karla Meyer '97* will teach business education for grades 7-12 this fall at Blue Hill (Nebr.) Public School.
- *Kara (Vergamini) Nieland '97* works for Hawkeye Real Estate in Council Bluffs, Iowa, as a property manager.
- *Robert Nieland '97* is a financial planner for The Franklin, working out of Lincoln, Nebraska, in Omaha and Council Bluffs.
- *Benjamin Olson '97* will be a graduate student in chemistry this fall at Iowa State University.
- *Sarah Packard '97* is studying veterinary medicine at Iowa State University.
- *Sarah Peterson '97* will leave for Haiti on September 14 as an agro-business volunteer in the Peace Corps. Her work will focus on the development of agro-businesses and the training of local farmers to sustain business setups. She will also work with fruit tree and vegetable production, help farmers and farming groups produce and market their products, and train local youth to operate and manage processing facilities.
- *Peterson*, who worked as a Dana admissions counselor this past semester, has also taught agriculture techniques at Boys Town in Omaha.
- *Jennifer Pfingsten '97* has received a "Bundestag Grant" from the German government to study in Germany.
- *Janet Reisdorff '97* is a personal banking trainee at Shelby County State Bank in Harlan, Iowa.
- *Erin Roubicek '97* is assistant director/teacher at Country Care Child Care Center in Waterloo, Nebraska.

- *Meadow Rouse '97* is a family support worker at Options Counseling Center in Fremont, Nebraska.
- This fall *Julie Seeba '97* will be a graduate student in the doctoral program in organic chemistry at the University of Iowa.
- *Sandy Smith '97* will teach English this fall at Carver Middle School in Laurinberg, North Carolina.
- *Erica Swanson '97* is a graphic design/marketing specialist at Pacific Realty Group, Inc., in Omaha.
- *Teri Warrick '97* will teach first grade this fall for Blair Community Schools.
- Jackson Patrick was born on April 15 to *Paula (Cultice '96) and Pat '96 Forck* of Lubbock, Texas. Scott is an accountant at a local CPA firm.
- *A correction:* The first name of *Sherry (DeForest '96) Guyette's* husband is Michael, not Larry as reported in the fall Review. They married on June 22, 1996.
- Rebekah Christine was born on January 13 to *Camilla (Larsson '96) and Kary '94 Knapp* of Blair. Her sister, Alexandra, is two.
- *Anne (Bodenstedt) Pestel '96* will be a full-time special education teacher at Malvern, Iowa, this fall. She taught there part time last year.
- *Karen (Wescott '96) Phillips* has joined the Helen Burney Agency and Life Investors of Valentine, Nebraska, as a sales representative.
- *Matt '96 and Erin (Foulkes '96) Rega* live in Winter Park, Florida. Matt will teach second grade this fall at Sterling Park Elementary School for the Seminole County Public Schools in Casselberry, an Orlando suburb.
- *Lee Daugherty '95* will teach fourth grade this fall at De Zavaha Elementary School in Channel View, Texas.
- *Joe Fustos '95* will teach vocal music 7-12 this fall in the Lexington, Nebraska, public schools.
- *Rieko Ikeda '95* is a graduate student in computer science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This summer and fall she's attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She and fiance Alexis Hayes plan an August 22 wedding.
- *Kate (Eller '95) Johnson* has a new job as graphic designer at Smart Graphics in Prairie Village, Kansas.
- *Todd Maschino '95* will teach physical education 9-12 and coach in Spencer, Iowa, this fall. His coaching duties include

Destiny's  
Deep  
Sea

serving as assistant football coach.

○ *Ann Neumeister '95* will teach special education at the Middle School in Red Oak, Iowa, this fall.

○ *Keri (Haas '95) and Dave '91 Samson* of Dubuque, Iowa, announce the birth of their second child, Megan, on October 10, 1996. She joins Tyler (2). Dave is a regional account executive, and Keri is a marketing/communications specialist, both at CarteGraph Systems Inc.

○ Victoria Rose was born on April 7 to *Michelle (Bevan-Rosholm) '95 and Peter '91 Sierant* of Kansas City, Kansas.

○ *Trista Witt '95* and Adam Cowart were married on July 12 in Papillion, Nebraska. They'll live in Arkansas, where Trista will teach K-6 music at Leverett Elementary School in Fayetteville.

○ *Shelli Wiebelhaus '94* and Charlie Oborny were married on July 26 in Neligh, Nebraska. They live in Omaha. This fall Shelli will be a second/third grade special needs teacher at Bloomer Elementary School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

○ *Kris Grappendorf '93* teaches physical education at California State in Bakersfield, where she is also developing a fitness program.

○ *Carol Mueller '93* has a new job as a social worker at Immanuel Medical Center in Omaha.

○ Gabrielle Mary was born to *Melanie (Larson '93) and Bryan '93 Scheer* of Reno, Nevada, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

○ *Lisa (LeMaster '93) Wiebelhaus* is manager of the new Burger King in Crete, Nebraska.

○ *Keely Gibbs '92* is camp coordinator for Upward Bound in Lyons, Oregon. The year-round camp is a special needs facility for the mentally and/or physically handicapped, ages 12-99.

○ *Cheryl and David Hartman '92* of Gilbertsville, Iowa, announce the December 6, 1996, birth of Brooke Lorraine. David teaches social studies at Don Bosco High School in Gilbertsville.

○ *Kurt James '92* of Manhattan Beach, California, has a new job as marketing director at The First Tier, a high tech computer consulting firm in El Segundo that specializes in the deployment of customer information management systems.

○ *Rob Wright '92* is a management trainee at Menards in Omaha.

○ *Shelley Edwards '91* and Christian Elder of Denver, Colorado, announce the December 20, 1996, birth of Cory Michael Elder-Edwards.

○ *Tina Zayat '91* has moved to Cooperstown, New York, where she works at the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Farmers' Museum and Herder's Cottage Restaurant.

○ *Dr. Cory Wilson '90* and his wife, Michal, of Vancouver, Washington, announce the June 5 birth of their first child, Caleb Scott.

## '80s

○ *Paul Jensen '89* received his M.D. on May 10. He and *Jayne (Stein '89)* have moved to Mason City, Iowa, where Paul is a family practice residence physician at North Iowa Mercy Health Center.

○ *Mark and Terri (Pedersen '85) Summey* of Emporia, Kansas, announce the April 30 birth of Derek Wayne. He joins sister Emma. Terri is a reference and electronic resources librarian at Emporia State University, and Mark is with the Emporia Police Department.

○ *Michael Martin '83* has completed his M.S. in rhetoric and technical communication (RTC) at Michigan Technological University. He is a Ph.D. candidate in RTC and has been awarded a three-year full fellowship to continue his studies. He will do his dissertation work with Dr. Donald Juel, professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary.

○ *Peggy (Coonce '82) McGough* of Houston, Texas, writes that "Kelley Elizabeth, born December 14, 1996, has been learning methods of wrapping Dad [Steve] around her little finger from older sister Christine."

○ *The Rev. Rhonda Wellsandt-Zell '81* and Terry Zell of Huron, South Dakota, announce the birth of Alexander William on June 17.

○ *Mary (Heistand '80) Bro* has been named president of IntelliSell, an Omaha telemarketing firm that was recently acquired by International Data Response Corp.

## '70s

○ *Dr. William Yates '74* has been named professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa campus. He previously was professor of psychiatry and family medicine at the University of Iowa College of Medicine. At Oklahoma he

directs a community-based psychiatry program with six full-time faculty members, 70 volunteer faculty members and 16 resident physicians in post-graduate psychiatry training. He also supervises psychiatry training for residents in the family practice training program.

○ *Steve Hardiman '73* of Council Bluffs, Iowa, received his Ed.D. in educational administration in May from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

○ *Vicki (Keating '70) Croft*, head of the Veterinary Medical/Pharmacy Library at Washington State University, presented a paper this summer at a conference in Copenhagen and visited the other Scandinavian countries and Eastern Europe.

## Deaths

○ *Margaret Hansen '96* of Blair on June 13, at the age of 81. In May 1996 she earned the distinction of being the oldest person ever to receive a degree from Dana. Survivors include sons David and Richard and daughter Jane Gilbert.

○ *Dr. Steven Larson '76* of Marquette, Michigan, on May 26, in a car accident. He was an ER physician. Survivors include his wife, Gayle (Akland '79), and sons Ross and Greg.

○ *Phyllis Stafford '72* on April 25 of Norfolk, Nebraska. She was a retired teacher. Survivors include her husband, Bill, and son Richard.

○ *Taletta Elfeldt '64* on May 5 of Hastings, Nebraska. She taught school for more than 40 years in Huntley, Minden, and Blair, Nebraska. Survivors include her nieces, Mary Jo (Nielsen '62) Kubik and Janet (Nielsen '58) Cameron.

○ *Lee Guyer '49* of Wayzata, Minnesota, on June 25. He purchased Vent-A-Hood in 1969 and founded Guyer's Builders Supply in 1975 and Highline Distributing in 1980. Survivors include his wife, Ione (Jespersen '50); sons Hal and Randy; daughter Kristin Jones; sisters Lyla '44 Woodworth and Mildred '50 Hill; and brother Glenn.

○ *Mildred (Madsen '45) Paulsen Christensen* on May 11 of Minden, Nebraska. She was a retired registered nurse. Survivors include her husband, Alvin.

○ *Elvira (Nielsen '33) Mumm* on April 16 of Elk Horn, Iowa. She was a retired teacher. Survivors include three daughters and two sons.

○ *Evelyn (Bonnesen '28) Faaborg* of West Des Moines, Iowa, on March 3. She was a retired cashier and bookkeeper. Survivors include three daughters and one son. ○

# Professor, four students bike across Denmark

By Barry Anderson '73, director of college relations and marketing

Three Dana College students have returned from an adventure they will long remember--a bike ride across Denmark.

Dr. John Mark Nielsen '73, professor of English at Dana, led the group on a tour that began May 21 and ended 21 days later with a return flight from Copenhagen to Omaha.

Participating in the trip were Marnie Jensen of Cairo, Nebraska; Sonya Weber of Cozad, Nebraska; and Laura Meldrum of Mertztown, Pennsylvania.

The Dana students' trip was widely reported in the Danish media with stories and photos in four major newspapers and a feature story shot for Danmarks Radio-TV2 to be aired in conjunction with President Clinton's visit to Denmark in July.

After several days and nights in Copenhagen and famous Tivoli park, the group picked up their rented bicycles. Covering from 10-40 miles a day, they visited castles, cathedrals, history museums,

art museums and many historic sites as they crossed the country.

"Getting there" was indeed half the fun, as their bike route took them through the picturesque Danish countryside, along dikes to the North Sea and on ferries and bridges between islands.

tree and are studying the Danish language at Dana.

"My grandmother would often tell me about Denmark and Danish traditions," Jensen told one Danish newspaper. "That's why I wanted to study Danish, so I could learn more about this country."

"Danish is easier to understand than to speak," Meldrum told a reporter. "That's why it's been really good to come to Denmark and hear the language being used."

It is common for Dana students to visit foreign countries to immerse themselves in the languages and cultures they are studying.

A high point of the trip was a stop at the Odensemuseet, a museum in the city of Odense, where an exhibit called "Danes on the Prairie" tells the story of Danish pioneers who settled in America's Midwest. Dana College and its Danish Immigrant Archive played an important role in the research and collection of artifacts for the exhibit (see page 3). Nielsen has made a specialty of the study of the Danish immigrant experience. ○



The bike ride by Dana students across Denmark was widely publicized there. In the news photo above are (from left) Dr. John Mark Nielsen, Sonya Weber, Marnie Jensen and Laura Meldrum.

After crossing the country, they returned to Copenhagen by train.

All three students have Danish ancestors in their family

## Silpa Petersen: Father a student here in 1884

The spring issue of the *Dana Review* included an obituary for Silpa (Petersen '18) Petersen, who died in February in Northfield, Minnesota. She was 97-1/2 years old.

Since then we've learned that Mrs. Petersen was the last remaining child of the Rev. P.M. Petersen, one of the four original Trinity Seminary students who lived and studied in the Blair home of the Rev. A.M. Andersen in 1884, the year the seminary was established. Andersen

was its first president. (Dana traces its beginnings to the founding of Trinity Seminary in 1884.

Andersen's home, where he first held classes, still stands on Park St.)

We thank Donna Petersen and her mother, Alma (Madsen '22) Petersen, of San Francisco for sending us this information.

"As my Father's [Spener Petersen D'22 T'24] only living sister," Donna Petersen wrote, "Aunt Silpa was always a very special

member of our family. Her husband was Rev. A.R. Petersen--who served Immanuel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Immanuel in Easton, California--and later was a teacher at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis."

She noted that Silpa Petersen is survived by three children--the Rev. Richard Petersen, Marcia Vanderbilt and Carol Anderson--and by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"Oh, Lord, will it ever get easier?" These are words that I catch myself uttering now and then. But, in the next breath I reflect, "What a joy it is to serve here."

I am now beginning my twelfth year as Dana's president. What a wonderful opportunity it has been for Anne and me to serve Dana. The people have been a joy. Dana is blessed with talented, creative, energetic and challenging students.

The faculty and staff bring to their jobs a work ethic that other institutions envy. They give unselfishly of themselves in service to our students and to the other constituents we serve. They are proud of Dana College and hold to high standards.

Yet, the challenge for private liberal arts colleges of the church like Dana is at times greater than one would like. In moments of stress when enrollment doesn't come in as hoped for or gift income is below the target, the endowment is woefully inadequate and we lose an athletic contest that we should surely have won—such are the times one wonders if it's all worthwhile.

However, almost every day I come across a student or Dana employee who gives me cause to celebrate. We just graduated the largest Dana class in recent history. As I shook hands with each one, I was struck by how each had grown and matured over his or her years at Dana. Naturally, some of this growth can be attributed to chronological maturity. But, the growth I see in Dana students does not come simply from being four years older than when they started. I am convinced that the majority of them leave Dana with a new lease on life, one that makes them more willing to take responsibility for their actions, more desirous of giving back to society. Here they get to know at close

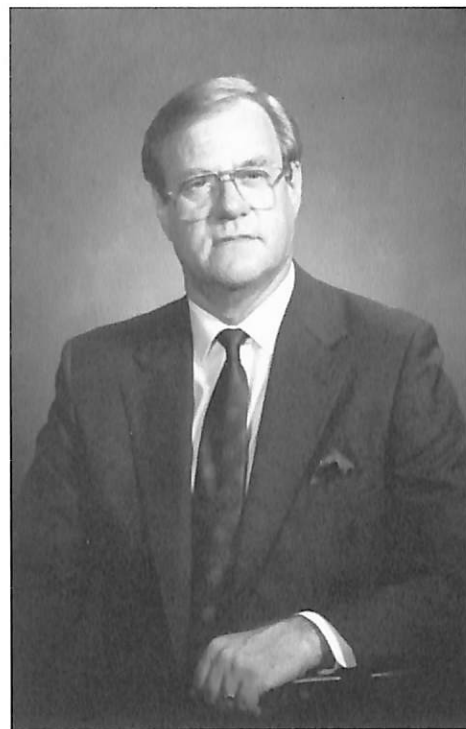
view teachers and staff members who daily offer models of creative and critical thinking and problem solving. But here they also see at close view models of morality, of service, and models of Christian love.

I believe most Dana students also leave with an appetite for learning. Scores of them feed back to us that their course work and professors left them with a desire to continue learning. A high percentage go on to graduate or professional schools or other continued study sometime after graduation. If my own experience is any guide, they leave Dana with a confidence and self-assurance that is rare among graduates. This happens because at Dana students are required to assume leadership for various projects, activities and events. They are known well by their professors and advisers and are expected to take an active role in campus life. Hence, following graduation when they enter the work force or become involved in their community, school or church, they will tend to be active participants.

Dana graduates will be more literate than most of their peers from other schools because of required courses like the Dana Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP) and other experiences that require they attend outside lectures, fine arts events and exhibits.

In this way, they acquire an appreciation for the fine and performing arts as well as current affairs and sporting events. Hence, they are able to converse intelligently and work effectively with a diverse range of people. The intimate size of the Dana community makes it likely that they will know quite well people of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, too.

In short, Dana graduates are extraordinary people who grow in learning and in faith during their college years. That is our business, our reason for being. At Dana we enjoy the freedom to openly acknowledge that each student is a gift of God, and our mission is to help each one



develop his or her gifts and use them to the glory of God and the benefit of humankind.

Having taught at several outstanding large public universities, I recognize that they offer some special programs, facilities and experiences that we cannot match, and at a cost that is lowered by state subsidy not available to Dana. Of course, I may have a slight bias, but the cost benefit ratio of the Dana experience impresses me as being so rich that it is hard for me to fathom that parents and students would not gladly pay the small difference required to attend a place like Dana.

After eleven years, I can say it is a joy to be able to serve at Dana. It is what I see happening to students here that keeps me going. We do make a positive difference in the lives of most who come here. And this makes it all worthwhile. Of course, I will probably never stop asking, "Oh, Lord, will it ever get easier?"

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myrvin F. Christopherson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Myrvin F. Christopherson  
President

## From the President

*It has pleased Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark,*

*to appoint*

*President Myrvin F. Christopherson  
Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog*

*Your presence is requested at the presentation  
by Ambassador K. E. Tygesen of Denmark  
at Homecoming  
Friday, September 26, 1997, 8:30 p.m.*

*Dana College Madsen Fine Arts Center,  
Lauritzen Theater  
Blair, Nebraska*

*Reception immediately following*



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