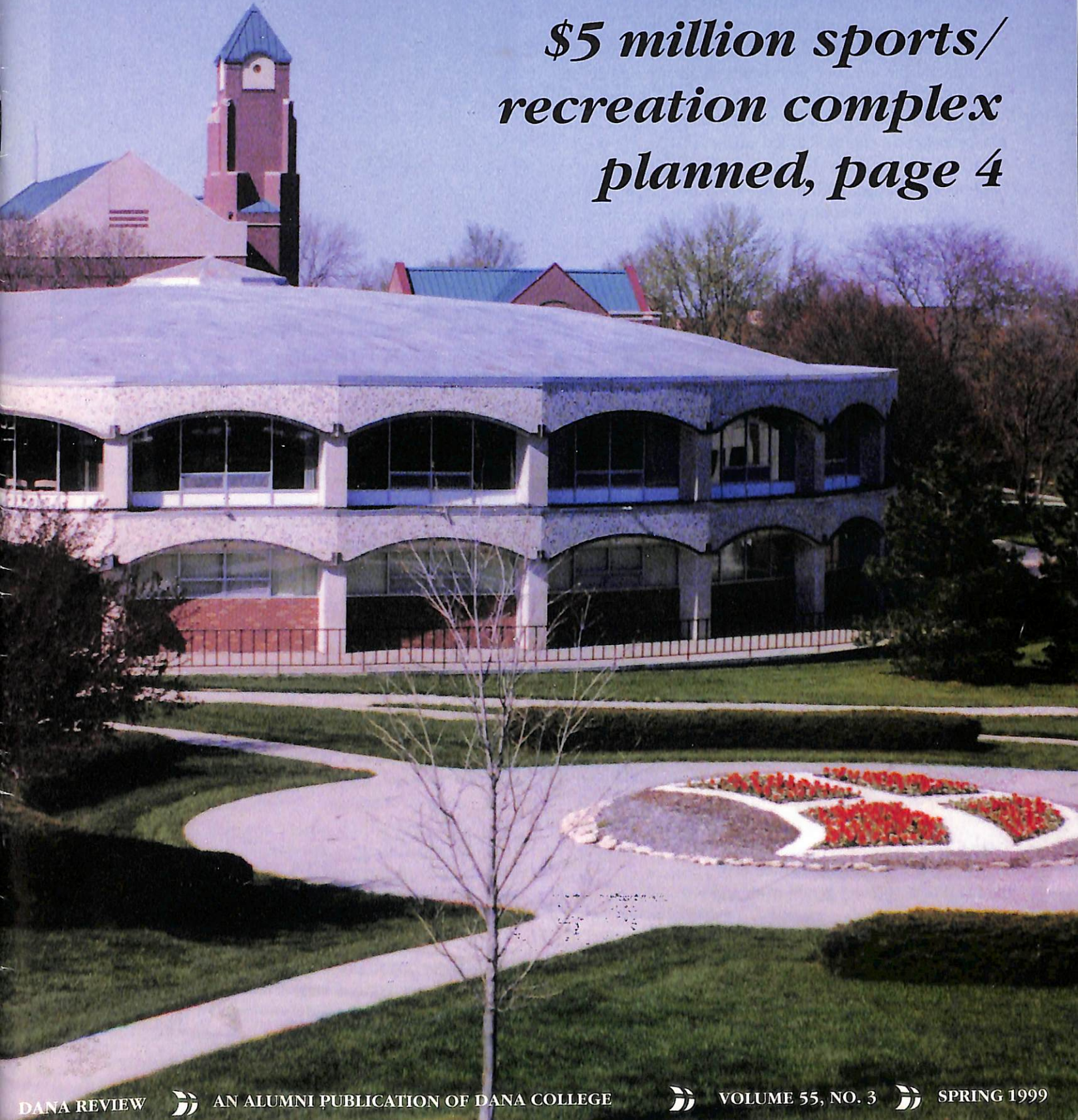


# Dana Review

*\$5 million sports/  
recreation complex  
planned, page 4*



# Liberal arts benefits outweigh costs

By Dr. Myrvin F. Christopherson '61, President of Dana College

It was my pleasure in April to join Dana students and faculty at an illustrated lecture by a celebrated Nebraska photographer, Joel Sartorie. Sartorie is a gifted wildlife and endangered species photographer, often featured in *The National Geographic* magazine.

A student asked Sartorie, "What preparation do you recommend for someone who wants to pursue a career in journalistic photography?"

Sartorie answered that the mechanics of photography or photojournalism can be learned easily enough, but what separates the best from the rest is how you think, make judgments, and deal with people. Basically, Sartorie told the student he should get a good foundation in aesthetics, in the fine arts, literature, and the sciences. "Get a good liberal arts education."

His response pleased me, I suppose, because it confirms my own bias. I fear too many today are looking for the least expensive way to a degree. After 39 years of college teaching and administration, I have concluded that those who are most fulfilled are often those who have discovered a love of learning and continue that excitement the rest of their lives. Liberal arts colleges of the church,

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

like Dana, are particularly adept at instilling that love of learning.

Photographer Sartorie made what I think is an important observation, namely, that while it is important to learn specific skills and competencies which equip you to do a specific job, it is the general knowledge and liberal arts foundation that sustains you.

A recent team of social work site evaluators made a similar observation while reviewing Dana's national accredited social work program. They saw that Dana is blessed with gifted professors who can boast of one of the best undergraduate social work programs anywhere, but what adds markedly to our program, the visitors said, is the outstanding liberal arts preparation of every student.

The student who explores important core issues that weigh on every person and effect every enterprise—e.g. good and evil, life and death, truth and beauty, economy and morality—is the student who is likely to be able to relate and function effectively with those issues.

Special features of the Dana education, like our required Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP), portfolio review, rich internship, study abroad and service opportunities and a capstone senior seminar, give the Dana student a competitive advantage over many who come out of the programs more vocationally focused.

I am disappointed that some prospective students or



parents conclude that it isn't worth the \$2,000-\$5,000 per year (after financial aid) to attend Dana. How much is the individual attention given to every Dana student worth? What price should be paid for outstanding teaching in every class and what is it worth to know that the Dana graduate will be among the most literate and the best read graduates in America?

Then, too, should we charge extra for caring about the character development of every student? And what price tag should be put on our efforts to occasion spiritual growth and to model for and nurture Christian charity in our students?

Should we charge a premium for giving every student opportunity to participate in campus activities—athletics, music, student government, and service?

What is it worth to know that your son, daughter or grandchild is at a place that teaches love of self and neighbor, that deplores hatred and prizes constructive dialog over anger, greed and violence?

As one parent told me recently, "The people, small class size, emphasis on quality teaching, graduation in four years for most students, combined with Dana's liberal arts core and enviable record of nearly 100 percent job placement year after year makes Dana an excellent buy."

And what is the benefit to society of colleges like Dana?

Might we see improvement in the behavior of people throughout the world if more came to prize the core values that Dana has always sought to inspire? Might graduates be better prepared for responsible citizenship and for lifetimes of service to community and human needs?

Might there be greater charity toward one another, and a

See **LIBERAL ARTS**, page 19



# DANA REVIEW

AN ALUMNI PUBLICATION OF DANA COLLEGE

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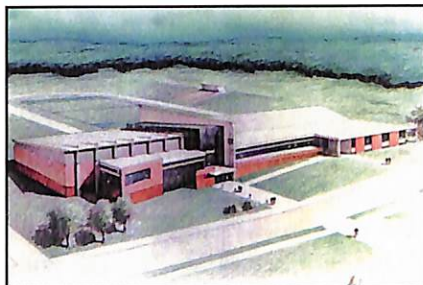
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The DANA REVIEW is published four times annually for distribution to alumni and friends of Dana College and Trinity Seminary by Dana College, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008. Third-class postage paid at Blair, NE, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DANA COLLEGE, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008-1099.

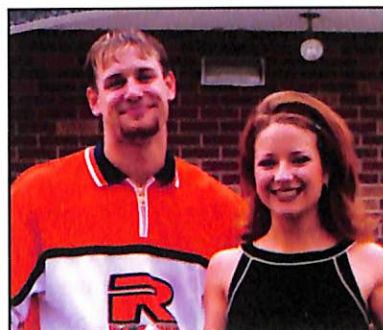
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**DanaCollege**  
Blair, Nebraska 68008

4



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## INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

# \$5 million addition/renovation planned for Borup Coliseum

When Carol Haussermann '69 began teaching at Dana College in 1969, Borup Coliseum was a state-of-the-art facility. Completed in 1962, it provided more than adequate practice and competition space for the five men's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) sports and single women's Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) sport.

Thirty-seven years later, physical education and athletics have changed dramatically, but Borup Coliseum, except for the addition of Wurdeman Pavilion in 1981, is virtually the same.

Since the addition of NAIA women's athletics in the early 1970s, the number of competitive sports teams fielded by the Vikings has nearly doubled. That number has continued to grow, as Dana added

NAIA women's soccer as recent as 1996.

Physical education has also changed dramatically over the past few decades. "We've added a significant number of courses and therefore faculty," said Haussermann, chair of the physical education department. Required credit hours for the physical education major have increased. The department also offers a coaching endorsement as well as emphases in athletic training and sport management.

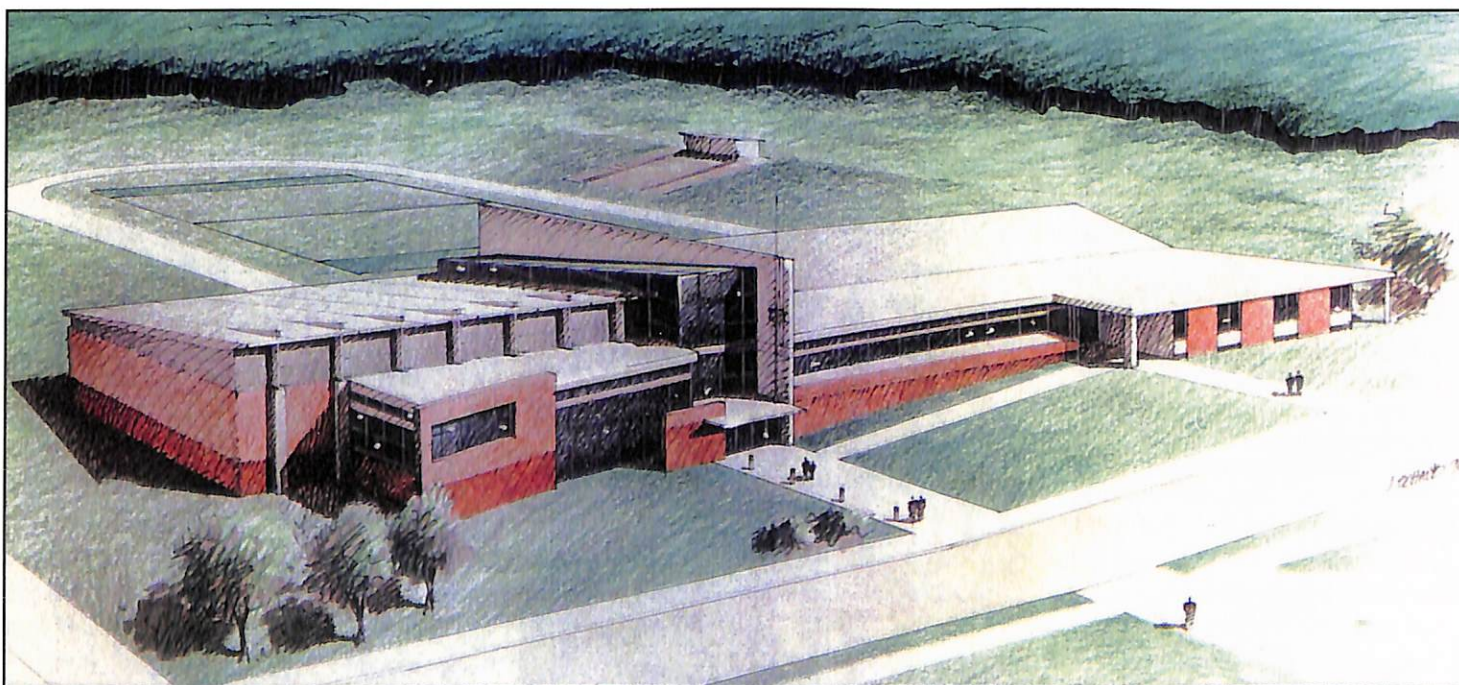
Classroom space is severely limited in Borup Coliseum, although class numbers are not. Last fall, more than 80 percent of the student body was enrolled in physical education courses. The space currently houses only two classrooms, as one was converted a few years ago to a fitness room.

"Fortunately we've outgrown (Borup Coliseum)," Haussermann said. "If we could still be living in the same building as in 1965, we wouldn't be serving students."

Plans are in the works to alleviate the overcrowded conditions and transform Borup Coliseum once again into a state-of-the-art facility. Fund raising has begun for the renovation and addition project for Borup Coliseum and the outdoor athletic fields. Cost estimates for the project are \$5 million. Major lead gifts from local foundations will be combined with matching gifts from Dana alumni and friends to make the project a reality.

Work on the Viking practice fields has already begun. Some locker room renovation will begin immediately following commencement this spring.

See **BORUP**, next page



*ARTIST'S RENDITION: The proposed addition to Borup Coliseum will be largely to the east of the current structure. The*

*renovated portion of the building and the new addition will be connected by an attractive glass commons area.*

# INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

## Borup

From previous page

As additional funds become available, the major renovation and addition will begin.

Finding times for athletic practices in Borup has been an increasingly difficult challenge, especially in the late fall and early spring when sports seasons overlap. Scheduling intramural activities is even more difficult, as competitive sports receive priority.

Practices for this past season were scheduled as late as 9-11 p.m. "That makes for a late night," said Luke Connell, a first-year student and varsity men's basketball player from Lincoln Southeast High School.

Scheduling practice is not the only issue. Recreation time in the gym for other students is virtually non-existent at the peak of the sports seasons.

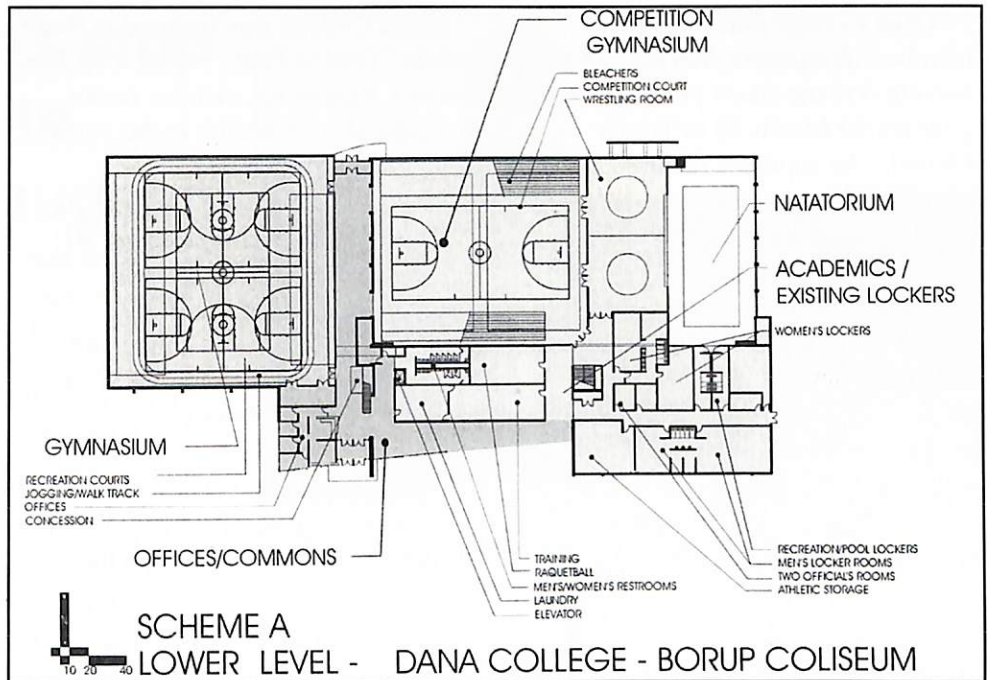
"There's no open gym for other students or time for pick-up games," Connell said.

The proposed renovation addresses these immediate space needs. The current gymnasium will be remodeled into two practice courts, which can be converted into a single competition court. A second air-conditioned gym will be added, providing two recreation courts surrounded by a jogging and walking track. With additional funding, a third court may be added.

The renovations will provide an opportunity to have an intramural program that is varied and consistent, Haussermann said. A number of different intramural activities may be scheduled simultaneously, providing more variety and meeting the needs of more students.

Additional gym space will not be the only fitness needs addressed by the improvements.

"More and more students are interested in personal fitness," Haussermann said. The proposed addition also provides an attractive fitness facility with designated areas



**LOWER LEVEL:** Plans for the lower level include an additional gymnasium and renovated locker rooms and storage.

for free weights and cardiovascular fitness.

Renovations will address academic needs as well, including one large classroom, two medium classrooms, two conference rooms and a new human performance lab. The performance lab will promote student research and faculty demonstrations.

Twelve private air-conditioned offices will be added, replacing the tiny offices the physical education faculty currently share. A comprehensive athletic training center as well as much needed storage will also be included in the new facility.

With the help of special funding, the outdoor cinder track may be converted to an all-weather surface.

"Prospective students and their parents are becoming increasingly selective as they search for a college to attend," Haussermann said. "A recreation/sports facility such as this could serve as a showcase for Dana College and help us recruit athletes and other students alike.

"We have some really good people and really good programs," she said. "Now we need the facilities."

## Quick facts

- More than one-third of the Dana student body competes in one or more intercollegiate sports.

- During the 1998 fall semester, more than 80 percent of the student body was enrolled in physical education courses.

- Nearly one-half of the student body participates in intramural sports.

- During the past year, Dana has sponsored more than 15 different intramural programs.

- Borup Coliseum was dedicated on April 29, 1962, and was built at a cost of \$459,000.



# CAMPUS DIGEST

Dana College music faculty members **Jeanmarie Nielsen '78** and **Solveig Nyberg-Akert** presented a joint recital March 24 in Trinity Chapel. The sopranos featured 20th century art songs as well as duets by Bach, Rossini and Delibes.

For the 7th year, Dana College hosted the **Expanding Your Horizons Conference**, held on March 15. Expanding Your Horizons is a math, science and technology conference for junior high age girls. Over 200 seventh, eighth and ninth grade girls from 20 Nebraska schools attended the morning event.

**Thomas Hansen**, director of development, was recently elected to the International Board of Directors of the Rebuild National Park Society, a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote friendship between the people of Denmark and the United States.

**Bill Hall**, assistant professor of music, was selected as the conductor for the Rolling Hills Honor Band in Iowa in March.

At their February meeting, the Board of Regents approved tenure for **Dr. Carla Delucchi**, associate professor of biology; **Dr. Kathleen McSharry**, assistant professor of English; and **Dr. Jeffery Solheim**, assistant professor of computer science. Solheim was also promoted to the rank of associate professor.

**Dr. Betty Jean Harmsen**, assistant professor of mathematics, has had an article accepted for publication in the special issue on Continuous and Discrete Hamiltonian Systems, published by the journal *Dynamic Systems and Applications*. The title of her article is "Connections Between Difference Equations and Algebraic Geometry."

Dana College was featured in the article "Testing Faith," written by **Rev. Joanne Richmond**, campus pastor, and published in March in the magazine, *Lutheran Partners*.

**Dr. Myrvin Christopherson '61**, president of Dana College, was elected vice chair of the ELCA Council of College and University Presidents at their meeting in Washington, D.C., in February.

**Sieg Krueger**, assistant professor of communication, received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensics Association (NIFA) in February. Krueger has served as Dana's director of forensics for many years. His coaching abilities have produced state and national champions. He has been an active member of NIFA for over 20 years and has served twice as executive secretary. The highest award the association bestows, the Distinguished Service Award is given to individuals in recognition of their service and dedication to the field of college forensics.

**Dana College's distance medley relay team** was featured in a two-page four-color spread of *Nebraska Sports America Magazine*, previewing the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships in February.

**Brett Schofield '99** of Ashland and **Gina Flood '00** of Newman Grove were elected Winterfest King and Queen in February. The pair was crowned at the Winterfest dance, which was held at Mister C's Steakhouse in Omaha. Other members of the court were **Justin Dannelly '00** of St. Edward, **Brian Jones '00** of Columbus, **Matt Kern '00** of Scotia, **Mark Lepper '00** of St. Paul, **Rachel Hospodka '00** of Omaha, **Jenny Lemmerman '00** of West Point,

**Becca Plowman '99** of Ponca and **Deneen Schriver '99** of Albion.

**Dr. Clark Spencer Larsen**, a noted bioanthropologist and author, made a pair of public presentations at Dana College April 26 in memory of his father, **Leon Larsen**, a native of Ruskin, Neb., who attended Dana College in the 1940s.

**Rachel Heitmann '99**, **Sarah Pierce '99**, **Elizabeth Lange '00** and **Wendy Troff '01** participated in the annual Goethe Institute tests which assess advanced language proficiency of students of German all over the world. The three and a half hour long tests included a personal interview.

The Dana College Theater Department presented Stephen Schwartz's new musical "**Children of Eden**," April 28-May 2. The performance retold the first 11 books of Genesis. The cast included **Jenny Lemmerman '00** as Eve, **David Bossman '00** as Adam, **Matt Worley '99** as Cain, **A.D. Ward '00** as the Father, **Matt Haufle '99** as Noah, **Tara Stark '99** as Mama Noah and **Jenny Patience '99** as Yonah.

**Barb Zimmerman**, instructor in psychology, presented a poster entitled "Race Schema Factors as Predictors of White Preschoolers' Prosocial Behaviors toward White and African-American Children" at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Albuquerque, N.M., on April 16.

**Jorg Nehter**, consultant and former mayor of Bad Segeberg, Germany, visited the Dana College campus in April. He visited the Strategic Management and International Economics and Trade classes and was present for a public discussion entitled, "European Politics and Trade—Current Issues."



# Aspirations don't stop at Student Senate President for Knudsen

By Carrie L. (Larkins '94) Reed  
Editor, Dana Review

The political aspirations of Dana College's new student body president do not stop with his newly elected office.

Ogallala junior Mark Knudsen plans to enter the local, state and even federal political arenas as his career progresses.

The history major hopes to enter the Marines upon graduation in 2000 and be accepted into the Judge Advocate General (JAG) program. He plans to attend law school and throw his hat into the political area within five to 10 years. His goals even include the possibility of a seat in Congress. "That's a little down the road yet," Knudsen said.

Knudsen first ran for student government as a sophomore and was elected as a class representative. "I wanted to be involved in the decision-making process of the student body," he said. "Senate's the vehicle to be able to do that more so than any other."

After two years as a class representative, Knudsen decided to take his leadership role one step further and run for Student Senate President. He is a second-generation Dana Student Senate President as his father, Herb, also held the office as a senior in 1962-63.

"Of all the people at Dana, I might be the most qualified," Knudsen said. "I'm basically a liaison between all the different groups at Dana. I know everybody and am liked by everybody. I hear everyone's voices and they respect me."

Two major goals for Knudsen and the rest of the Senate in the upcoming

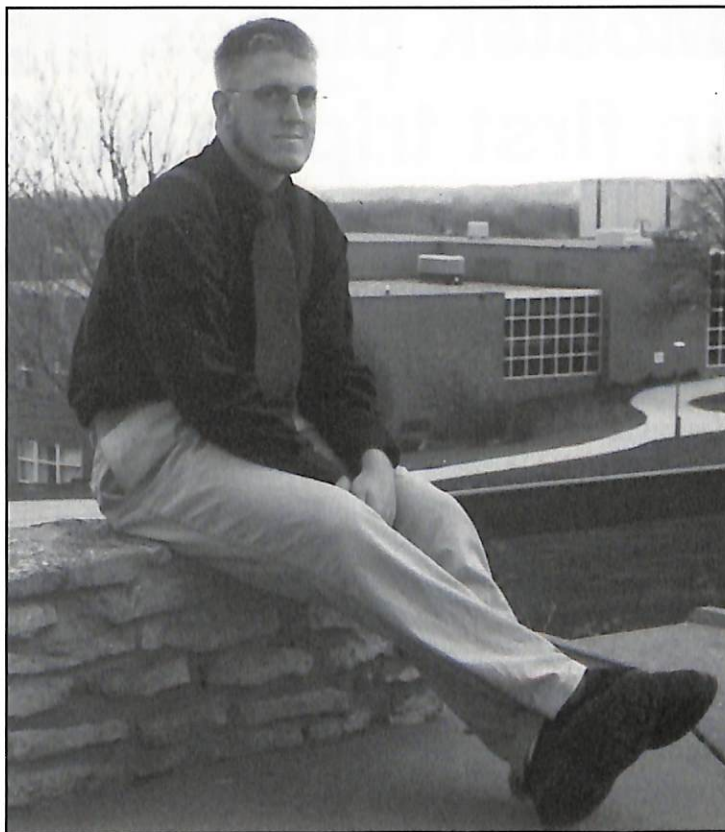
year are to improve relations between Dana and the Blair community and to increase school spirit. A committee will be organized to attend Blair City Council meetings and be available to both express concerns and receive feedback from the community.

Knudsen also hopes to provide student input on the proposed addition and renovation of Borup Coliseum. He says he will look forward to his bi-annual meetings with the Dana Board of Regents to express additional proposals and concerns. "In the old Knudsen tradition, I can put a fire underneath them a little," he said.

Knudsen said he chose Dana College because of good scholarships,

excellent faculty and the size of the student body. "It's a place where I can obviously make an impact," he said. "Coming to Dana has allowed me to take the skills I have and exploit them the most."

He is the son of Herb '63 and Karen (Nielsen '65) Knudsen of Ogallala.



Mark Knudsen, student body president

## Student Senators elected

The Dana College student body elected new leadership for the 1999-2000 academic year this spring.

Mark Knudsen '00 of Ogallala will serve as student body president. Other executive officers are Thomas Blase '00 of Polk, vice president; Gina Flood '00 of Newman Grove as secretary; and Wray Wright '00 of Sioux City, Iowa, as treasurer.

Senior class representatives are Lisa Decker of Huntley, Jeremy Havekost of Bennington, James Walsh of Omaha, and Amber Weber of Tilden.

Junior representatives for 1999-2000 are Jessica Chambers of Bennington, Dan Kennedy of Fort Collins, Colo., Jill Oestmann of Fort Calhoun and Megan Olson of Mullen.

Sophomores will be Toni Ahrendt of Lincoln, Jason Dannelly of St. Edward, Kelly Kuiken of Fairfield, Iowa, and Mark Sukraw of Bennington.



# Mostek places eighth in first trip to Nationals

By *Carrie L. (Larkins '94) Reed*  
 Editor, Dana Review

**H**e saved the best for last. Sophomore Viking wrestler Perry Mostek (Newman Grove) upset the No. 4 seed in the first round of the NAIA Nationals March 19-20 and went on to take eighth in the 197-pound weight class.

Dana Head Wrestling Coach Ron Beaman '74 said the NAIA National Tourney was the best Mostek had wrestled all year.

Mostek won two matches and lost three en route to his eighth place medal. His first round victory was a 3-2 decision over Travis Gilbert of Anderson (S.C.). He suffered a narrow loss in the quarterfinals, dropping a 4-3 decision to fifth-seed Brian Scislo of Findlay (Ohio).

Mostek rebounded for an 11-8 victory over Kevin Lasagna of Huron (S.D.) in the consolation bracket to qualify for a medal match. He was defeated in the seventh-place match 6-0 by No. 2 seed Jamie Haddon of Southern Oregon.

Sophomore Dax Doran (Harlan, Iowa) and freshman Nate Hoeft (Millard North/Omaha) both picked up a win in their respective weight classes at the National Meet.

Doran, who entered the meet as the seventh seed, pinned his first opponent, Dustin Bentz of Cumberland (Ky.) in the first round in 2:36. The heavyweight, who was slowed by illness, dropped his next two matches and was eliminated from the meet.

After being pinned in the first round, Hoeft, wrestling at 133 pounds, dominated for a 16-6 decision over Tony Loscalzo of Embry-Riddle (Ariz.) in his second match. Beaman



## Season records National qualifiers

Nate Hoeft (133)	12-10
Steve Jenny (149)	8-5
Ryan Barrett (174)	9-15
Perry Mostek (197)	14-16
Dax Doran (275)	20-13

said if Hoeft had been wrestling in the other half of the bracket, he may have had a chance to medal.

Dana's other two National qualifiers, Steve Jenny (3rd Yr., Columbus Lakeview/Monroe) and Ryan Barrett (4th Yr., Banner County/Harrisburg), did not find their way to the winner's circle at the big meet.

Jenny, however, was one of only six wrestlers named as NAIA All-American Scholar-Athletes. "It was something he has pointed to for a couple of years," Beaman said. Jenny sports a 3.75 grade point average in physical education and business.

Also qualifying for the meet but not competing due to injury was Darold Foster (3rd Yr., Papillion-LaVista). Foster finished eighth at Nationals in 1998, and also qualified as a freshman.

The Vikings placed 19th in the National Meet with nine points.

## Midland ends men's basketball season

A lack of an offensive spark was too much to overcome as the Dana Vikings fell to Midland Lutheran College, 76-62, Feb. 23 in Fremont. The loss ended the Vikings' season with a 9-20 record.

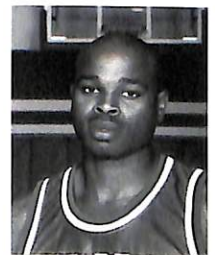
Looking at only the final season record, Coach Dave Jensen said the season was disappointing, but he believes strides were made in the men's basketball program. The Vikings scored victories over Mount Marty (ranked 18th nationally in the final NAIA poll), Midland on the road and Hastings College (for the first time under Jensen's leadership). Dana also played NIAC conference champ Nebraska Wesleyan within two on Jan. 30 at Borup Coliseum.



*Oestmann*

"The seniors showed great leadership for us all year," Jensen said. Seniors Matt Oestmann (Fort Calhoun) and Tony Jackson (Gentry/Indianola, Miss.) were named to the NIAC All-Conference Honorable Mention list. K.C. Tupa (Rolla, N.D.) and Chris Wulf (Blair) also played their final games as Vikings.

Despite the loss of four seniors to graduation, Jensen has a solid core of players returning, including three starters. Sophomore Michael



*Jackson*

Johnson was named to the NIAC first team after averaging 16.7 points per game for the Vikings. Freshman Luke Connell (Southeast/Lincoln) and junior Ruel Cooper (Canyon Del Oro/Tucson, Ariz.) also held starting spots for Dana this season.

## Strong Viking finish not enough to upset Raiders

The Dana Vikings' women's basketball team put together one of their best games of the season to finish off their 1998-99 campaign, but it wasn't enough.

Northwestern College, seeded second in the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference tournament and ranked 16th in the nation, overpowered the Vikings, 85-71, in the first round of the tourney Feb. 24.

The Vikings finished the season with a 5-22 mark and a 0-13 record in the NIAC. First-year head coach Judy Vaughn said her team cannot be accurately gauged by wins and losses. Dana lost a number of close games early on and many conference matchups were closer than the final score indicated.

Dana will have two large holes to fill when the team returns to action next year. Senior Jodi Bradley (St. Edmond/Fort



Bradley

Dodge, Iowa) will be lost to graduation and Sarah Klein (3rd Yr., Bishop Heelan/Sioux City, Iowa) will go on to dental school.



Klein

"We have a good nucleus of kids coming back," she said. "We need to build around that."

## Snedigar named NIAC honorable mention

Junior Elizabeth Snedigar of Clarinda, Iowa, was named to the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference honorable mention women's basketball team for the 1998-99 season. She tallied 11.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per game.

## Two more qualify for national marathon

Aaron Schlote and Allen Wagner battled blustery conditions March 28 to tie for first place in the annual Eastern Nebraska Half-Marathon in Tekamah. Their time, 1:12:11, was under the 1:13:00 required to qualify for the NAIA National Championship marathon to be held in May.

Schlote, a sophomore from Plainview, and Wagner, a freshman from Kona, Hawaii, averaged 5:31 per mile for the 13 mile, 193 yard distance along US Highway 75.

"This is the toughest standard in the event's history," said Dana Head Track Coach Jay Birmingham. "The qualifying time has varied from 1:13:30 to 1:15:00 over the past five seasons."

The long-distance duo join a pair of Dana teammates who qualified for the marathon at earlier events. Senior Bob Spangler (Grant) ran 1:11:19 in December and freshman Derek Fey (Westside/Omaha) set a new Dana record with a 1:09:25 in February.

"We've had tremendous success in the marathon," Birmingham said. "It's a tribute to the dedication level of the students who join our program at Dana."

This will mark the third time Spangler has competed in the marathon at Nationals and it will be Schlote's second national marathon start.

This year's championships are slated for May 26 in Palm Beach County, Fla.

## Nielsen sets Dana record, finishes 11th at Nationals

A pair of personal records in two days helped Dana College sophomore Tiffani Nielsen to an 11th place finish and a new Dana record in the 5,000 meters at the NAIA National Championships indoor meet Feb. 25-27.

Nielsen (Underwood, Iowa) clipped 13 seconds off her personal best in the prelims. Running with the pack throughout the race, she placed seventh in her heat in 18:51.37. That earned her a place on the starting line in the finals, the first in the women's 5K in Dana track history. But that was just the prelude.

In the following night's final, racing against all the best in the NAIA ranks, Nielsen pared another nine seconds from her personal best and placed 11th in 18:42.51. That clocking broke the Dana school record of 18:45.83 set a year ago by All-American Angie Sparacino '98.

Dana junior Scott Stanley (Malvern, Iowa) also had to run two tough 5,000s in two days. Stanley advanced to the finals with a hard-fought fourth place in his prelim in 15:08.94. In the finale, he battled to a ninth place finish in 15:06.86.

## Dana students named NAIA Scholar-Athletes

Three Dana College basketball players were named NAIA All-American Scholar Athletes for the 1998-99 seasons.

Sarah Klein, a junior from Sioux City, Iowa, earned a spot on the women's basketball list. Klein boasts a 3.96 grade point average with a major in biology at Dana.

Teammate Elizabeth Snedigar, a junior from Clarinda, Iowa, was also named to the women's list. Snedigar, a biology major, has a 3.81 GPA.

K.C. Tupa of Rolla, N.D., earned All-American Scholar-Athlete status for the men's basketball team. Tupa, a senior social science/education major, has maintained a 3.53 GPA thus far at Dana College.

To earn NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete status, athletes must be a junior or senior who participates in varsity athletics and has at least a 3.50 GPA based on a 4.0 system.





**ON THE ROAD:** The 35-voice Dana Chorale will tour Denmark and northern Germany following graduation. The Chorale is directed by Dr. Richard Palmer.

## Dana Chorale to tour Denmark, Germany

The Dana College Chorale will tour Denmark and northern Germany this spring. The group will leave from Omaha's Eppley Airfield on May 25 and return June 9.

While in Europe, they will perform in churches, concert halls and amusement parks. They will stay in youth hostels, hotels, tourist cabins on the Roskilde Fjord and with host families. For most members of the 35-voice chorale, this will be their first visit to Europe. During the trip, several will meet relatives for the first time.

The director of the chorale, Dr. Richard Palmer, and his wife, Leslie, will accompany the group. Dana's president, Dr. Myrvin Christopherson '61, and his wife, Anne, will also join the tour, along with Barry Anderson '73, director of college relations, and his wife, Nancy (Comfort '75).

The Dana Women's Club, Danish Brotherhood Lodge 206 in Blair, Nebraska Danish Sisterhood of America and Woodmen of the World have made contributions to the tour,

### TOUR SCHEDULE

<b>May 26</b>	Arrive Hamburg, Germany
<b>May 27</b>	Concert: Otto Flath Art Hall, Bad Segeberg, Germany
<b>May 28</b>	Concert: St. Georges Kirke, Oeversee, Germany
<b>May 30</b>	Concert: Ribe Domkirke, Ribe, Denmark
<b>May 31</b>	Concert: Legoland, Billund, Denmark
<b>June 1</b>	Concert: Vejle Musikteatret, Vejle, Denmark
<b>June 2</b>	Concert: Aarhus Oldtown, Aarhus, Denmark
<b>June 3</b>	Concert: Odense Radhushallen, Odense, Denmark
<b>June 4</b>	Concert: Skt. Hans Kirke, Odense, Denmark
<b>June 6</b>	Private concert: Bramsnaes Musikskole, Roskilde, Denmark
<b>June 7</b>	Two concerts: Tivoli, Copenhagen, Denmark
<b>June 9</b>	Return to Omaha

helping the college keep the cost to students low enough that 35 of the 40 members of the group can take part.

Historically, the Dana College Chorale has traveled to both Europe and the Orient. The last European tour was a 15-day trip in 1995. The goal is

to tour every four years so that every member of the chorale has a change to travel abroad at least once during his or her college years.

Watch for a report on the tour, with pictures, in an upcoming edition of the *Dana Review*.

## The next "Dawson's Creek?"

# Dannelly, Lemmerman cast in TV pilot

By Carrie L. (Larkins '94) Reed  
Editor, Dana Review

Teen heart throbs? Maybe.  
TV stars? It's too soon to tell.

Two Dana College students recently had the opportunity to act in a pilot for a television soap opera in Omaha.

Freshman Jason Dannelly of St. Edward is no stranger to acting. He was named "Outstanding Male Performer" at the state play production contest as a high school senior.

It may have been his name on the Nebraska School Activities Association website which got him the in on this acting job. "I guess it was kind of luck of the draw," Dannelly said.

Dannelly contacted junior Jenny Lemmerman of West Point, also no stranger to the stage. After tryouts, the two were cast in leading roles in the teen soap opera, "In Our Lifetime."

Tari Robinson, a writer originally from Omaha, developed the script and brought it back to the Midwest to shoot the pilot. She and her agent, Beau Carson, also an Omaha native, will take the pilot footage to Los Angeles to try to sell the program as a series to a network.

"They feel it's a new idea," Lemmerman said. "I personally think it's the same thing that is going on right now."

The soap opera is targeted toward a teenage audience and may be compared to a combination between "Dawson's Creek" and "Saved by the Bell," Lemmerman said.

If the show is sold, Robinson and Carson plan to bring it back to Omaha for production. "I think the only edge we have is that it can come back to the Midwest," Lemmerman said.



**ASPIRING ACTORS:** Freshman Jason Dannelly and junior Jenny Lemmerman had the opportunity to act in a television pilot recently in Omaha. If the pilot is sold and the roles are not recast, the two may have a chance to become television stars.

“  
If it ever worked out, it would be great. It would be a wonderful place to start. But something like this is always a shot in the dark.”

-Jenny Lemmerman, Dana junior

Even if the pilot is sold, Lemmerman and Dannelly are not guaranteed they will keep their roles in the series. "The producer says she'll fight to the death to keep the original actors in it," Dannelly said.

Lemmerman is not optimistic that will happen. "If it ever worked out, it would be great," she said. "It would be a wonderful place to start. Something like this is always a shot in the dark."

Dannelly was cast as football star and teen idol, Brian Miller. "The

football part was pretty easy for me, but not the teen heart throb," he said.

Lemmerman played Gayden Smith, best friend of Brian Miller's girlfriend, Tiffani Wright. "It was fun," she said. "Hopefully I learned enough from it to take with me."

The entire project lasted only about a month. Rehearsals were held evenings twice a week for about three weeks. The pilot, a one-hour episode, was filmed in two days. All filming was completed in Omaha.

The actors were not paid, but they were expected to be professional. "They expected a lot," Lemmerman said, "and to be perfect every night."

Both Dannelly and Lemmerman said they have professional acting aspirations, especially if this pilot would turn into a television series.

"Anything I could get would be great," Dannelly said.



## Human Genome Project founder, renowned organist to be honored as Distinguished Alumni

By Carrie L. (Larkins '94) Reed  
Editor, Dana Review

**D**istinguished and future alumni will be honored during Commencement Weekend at Dana College May 22-23.

One hundred eight Dana seniors will earn alumni status as they receive their diplomas during commencement exercises at 1 p.m. Sunday. Baccalareate is planned for earlier in the day at 10 a.m. Both events will be held in Borup Coliseum.

Several seniors will be honored for their service to Dana College with the receipt of Campus Service Awards Saturday during the annual Recognition Dinner on Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

David Smith '59 and Dennis Schmidt '71 will receive the Distinguished Alumni Awards during the dinner

Tickets are available for \$10 by calling the Alumni Affairs Office at 402-426-7235. Reservations must be made by May 14.

### Inspired scientist founds Human Genome Project

The existence of DNA was a recent discovery when David Smith '59 was a student listening to C. Arthur Christensen's embryology lectures at Dana College.

It inspired the young scientist. Smith took that intriguing discovery and made it into an extraordinary career as one of the founders of the Department of Energy's Human Genome Project.

"Dr. Christensen opened my eyes to the significance of this discovery and the importance of DNA in all aspects of life," Smith said. "From there, my main scientific motivation

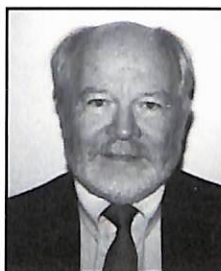
was almost philosophical."

The exceptional scientist, now retired and living in Hagerstown, Md., will receive one of two Distinguished Alumni Awards from Dana College on graduation weekend, May 22.

After doctoral studies in biochemistry at the University of Southern California, Smith began his career with the U.S. Department of Energy at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1964. In 1977 he began managing the molecular biology programs at the Energy Research and Development Administration in Germantown, Md. Here Smith's ideas about the importance of understanding DNA eventually took shape and became a rationale guiding the Department of Energy toward implementation of what has become the largest project to be carried out in biology, the Human Genome Project.

The Human Genome Project formally began in 1990 to discover all the 60,000 to 80,000 human genes and make them accessible for further biological study. Another project goal is to determine the complete sequence of the 3 billion DNA subunits.

From 1991 until his retirement in 1996, Smith directed \$225 million per year research programs in the areas of human genome research and other areas of biology. Upon his retirement from the Department of Energy, he received the Distinguished Career Service Award, citing his 20-year career in promoting sound science and extraordinary contributions in launching, developing and nurturing the



Smith

Human Genome Program.

Smith and his wife, Carolyn, are the parents of three daughters: Leslie Marsh, Danelle Archer and Deonne Dixon.

*Editor's Note: Some information for this article was taken from the Human Genome News, Sept.-Dec. 1995.*

### Organist to be honored

When Dennis Schmidt '71 first tried to put his feet to the organ pedals at Dana College at age 13, he couldn't reach them.

A few decades later, Schmidt can't keep his feet off of the pedals and has played recitals all over the United States and Europe.

The renowned musician will receive one of two Distinguished Alumni Awards on graduation weekend at Dana College, May 22.

Schmidt has performed the organ in such prestigious sanctuaries as Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in England, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and St. Thomas Church in Leipzig (where J.S. Bach is buried).

He has worked as an organist and/or choir director for 11 different congregations all over the United States since first playing for his father's congregation at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Neb., in 1963.

During 1984-85 he performed and recorded the complete organ works of Bach in 17 public recitals. Schmidt accompanied world-famous cellist Yo



Schmidt

See **DISTINGUISHED**, next page

## Plans for Homecoming 1999 are underway

There is still time to join us in planning and preparing for Homecoming 1999. Call or e-mail Julie (Thorson) Rohlfing '70 in the Alumni Office, 1-800-444-DANA or jrohlf@fs1.dana.edu. The celebration is planned for Oct. 1-3.

### **Back by popular demand:**

● **Class Reunions:** Reunions are planned involving 10 classes: 1994, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954, 1949.

● **All-Alumni Reunion:** Gather under the tent after the football game Saturday to locate friends and classmates. Watch later mailings for some

exciting news about the barbecue!

● **Alumni Revue:** The variety show, introduced at 1998 Homecoming, takes on a new name and new performers. Contact Jeanmarie Nielsen, 402-426-7318, or Rohlfing, 402-426-7235, if you would like to participate.

● **Athletic Hall of Fame inductions:** A team is among the honorees for 1999.

● **Athletic Contests:** Cross country invitational, home soccer, volleyball and football contests are scheduled along with alumni basketball and baseball games.

● **Book signing**

● **Space TREK:** Future Dana Vikings in grades 3-9 are invited to fly the simulated space shuttle Horizon in Elkhorn Hall.

### **New this year:**

- **Meet the Professors Reception**
- **Distinguished Alumni Award**
- **A reunion for all who graduated more than 50 years ago!**
- **More programming for families with children!**

### **Corrections:**

Forrest "Red" Leighton served in the U.S. Marine Corps, not the United States Army as was stated in the Winter 1999 edition of the *Dana Review*.

The employees featured in the photograph accompanying the story "College co-ops with local businesses to create computer training lab" were from Memorial Community Hospital in Blair, not Mid-America Computer Corporation.

## Distinguished

From previous page

Yo Ma in a program in New Hampshire in 1989.

Professor Emeritus Paul Neve was Schmidt's mentor. "My father brought me to Dana for the first time when I was very young to pursue organ lessons with Paul Neve on the organ at Alumni Memorial Auditorium," Schmidt said. "I had been playing on an electronic organ at our church, so the idea of playing an organ with pipes was intriguing.

"When I first went, Paul said my legs were not long enough to play the pedals. So I came back when I was about 15, and every other Saturday my father began to take me up to AMA for organ lessons," he said. "When it came time to pick a college, I chose Dana to continue my organ study with Paul."

While a student at Dana, Schmidt received one of his first big breaks to perform publicly to a large audience. In 1968 he auditioned for the organist position at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha, was hired for the position and served there throughout college.

"Being on television every Sunday, even though people could only see my back, and having the opportunity to play a wonderful Aeolian-Skinner organ was a special thrill," Schmidt said.

Since 1993, Schmidt has worked as executive director of The Bach Festival of Philadelphia and as organist/director of music at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wilmington, Del.

He earned his master of divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1975 and his master of music from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1976. Schmidt completed his doctor of musical arts at the University of Michigan in 1978.

He has served as board member, dean, state chairman and district convener for the American Guild of Organists.

Schmidt, who currently resides in Norristown, Pa., will give a special recital on campus May 22 at 2:30 p.m. in Trinity Chapel. The recital is open to the public at no charge.



**Homecoming  
1999**

**October 1-3**

**10 class reunions!!**  
1994, 1989, 1984, 1979,  
1974, 1969, 1964, 1959,  
1954, 1949



# Computerthon raises \$7,500

The 1999 Computerthon raised more than \$7,500 to improve computer services on campus.

Fourteen Student Senators called parents of current students over a three night span to raise the money. The Student Senate pitched in an additional \$1,000.

The funds will be used to purchase new computers for the residence halls. Each residence hall is equipped with a small 24-hour computer lab for student use.

This is the second year of the Computerthon for Dana College. In previous years, funds were used to purchase new library books.

## Former professor listed in "Who's Who"

Dr. Dennis Henneman, a former professor at Dana College, has been listed in the third edition of the "Marquis Who's Who in Entertainment 1998-1999."

"Marquis Who's Who in Entertainment" is a guide to 19,000 of the most influential people in the American entertainment industry. Candidates must have held a position of responsibility or have attained a significant achievement in their field to be selected for the publication.

Henneman served as director of theater at Dana from 1967 to 1978. During his tenure at Dana, he was also selected for inclusion in the bicentennial edition of "Who's Who in Nebraska." He has been teaching and producing theater at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, since 1980.

Henneman credits his professional success to the values and skills he learned teaching and producing theater at Dana College. He would like to thank his current and former students because "they have taught me far more than I have ever taught them."



**DANA WEDDING:** Gretchen Last '95 brought her Dana Review to the Aug. 8, 1998, wedding of Fafani Goecke '97 and Gerd Bents '99. The Grafton, Wis., wedding was attended by many Dana alumni and students. Even one of the pastors (Jerry Petersen '57) was a Dana grad. Pictured are (front row, from left) Sarah (Kobs '97) Kock, Sara Hildreth '97, Goecke, Last, Janelle Kahl '99, Elaine Rivard '98, Lindsay Bruning '99, (back row) Tim Marsden '97, Ryan Holtam '98, Matt Worley '99, Bents, Shane Koepke '99, and Dan Olsen '98.



**REUNION OF FIRST MINISTRY:** In June 1928, the Rev. Carl A. Nelson D'25 T'28 began his ministry at English Lutheran Church in Avoca, Iowa. The first children to attend the Sunday School were the four eldest children of Dr. and Mrs. A.M. Pedersen (Dr. Pedersen attended the Dana Academy in the early 1900s.) On May 31, 1998, 70 years later, a reunion of Dr. Pedersen's children was held in Riverside, Calif. Also included were two of Pastor Nelson's children. Pictured are (front row, from left) Rev. C.I. "Jerry" Lund D'49 T'52, Maryann (Nelson '49) Lund, Helen (Pedersen '42) McNichols, Ruth (Pedersen '55) Christensen, Pamela (Rhoades '57) Pedersen, Dr. Carl M. Pedersen '53, Dr. Paul D. Pedersen '42, (back row) Rev. Paul C. Johnsen D'49 T'52, C. Joyce (Nelson '50) Johnsen, Mary E. (Jensen '46) Pedersen, Dr. Arthur M. Pedersen '45 and Neil Christensen '55.



**REUNION:** Fourteen Dana alumni (1969-1971) were reunited last summer for an overnight weekend in Walnut, Iowa. They spent the time together reminiscing as well as catching up on the details of each others' lives for the past several years. The group is planning their next reunion in the summer of 2000 at Dana. Pictured are: (back row, from left) Nancy (Simons '71) Wedberg, Paige (Yowell '70) Peterson, Nancy (Munn '70) Anderson, (second row) Fran (Pedersen '69) Anderson, Jan (Schneider '71) Young, Karen (Lausterer '70) Riddle, (third row) Paula (Westfall '69) Vasby, Nancy (Blobaum '70) Ludwig, Eileen (Taake '69) Simonsen, Diane (Schmidt '71) Christenson, Betsy (Buck '69) Anderson, (front row) Sandy (Grevlos '70) Fink, Toni (Bailey '70) Feuerbach, Jean (Brehm '71) Shelstad.

## Travels with the Dana Review



**ROSES:** Margaret (Christiansen '53) Madsen and Roma (Geisler '54) Bunch took the Dana Review along to the Tournament of Roses Parade in California



**FELLOW TEACHERS:** Becky (Masoner '78) McCain writes: "Last year, I was hired to teach at Leverett Elementary in Fayetteville, Ark. This fall I received my Dana Review and was surprised to see Trista (Witt '95) Cowart's picture in the Review. She teaches music at Leverett. We're certain we are the only Dana graduates in Fayetteville and we're in the same school!"



**IRISH TRAVELS:** John D'50 T'55 and Ginny (Lippincott '51) Beck and their daughter Barbara (Beck '77) Meduna travel to the very top of Inland Eire in Ireland with their Dana Review in hand.



# DESTINY'S DEEP SEA

## '90s

*Class reunion: 1994—*

*Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3, 1999*

● **Mary Jo Greenwood '98** has accepted a position as a psych tech on the child psych floor at Alegent Hospital of the Midlands in Omaha.

● **Brent Jensen '98** and **Susan Weddingfeld '98** were married March 20, 1999, in Blair. Brent works for Ameritrade in Omaha. Susan teaches and coaches at Benson High School in Omaha.

● **Reed Mayberry '98** has been named Midwest sales representative for AgrEvo USA Co., based in Minneapolis, Minn. He serves 15 counties outside of Kearney, Neb., south to the Kansas state line and west to the Colorado line. He previously was a sales representative for FMC Corporation and a sales intern at American Cyanamid.

● **Kayleen Wilson '98** has a new job in customer relations at Legends Photography in Arlington Heights, Ill. She lives in Chicago.

● **Charles and Nicole (Parrack '97) Minniss** are the parents of a daughter, Nodikka Danielle, who was born Jan. 10, 1999. The family is living in Charlotte, N.C., where Nicole is teaching.

● **Shawn '96 and Barbara (Bentley '94) Bluml** are the parents of a son, Tatem Thomas James, who was born Feb. 5, 1999. He joins a brother, Tucker John Buzz, age two.

● **Ann Neumeister '95** and Jeffrey Gigstad were married March 6, 1999, in Red Oak, Iowa. Ann continues to teach special education at Red Oak Middle School.

### ALUMNI WANTED

*We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1994.*

*If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.*

Phaedra Freeman  
Scott Gregory  
Susan Lee Johnson  
Jeffrey Kemp  
Kari Kups  
Sonia Farwell Leece  
Chin-Hing Lim  
Matthew Metschke  
Jerry Norris  
Shane Rencountre  
Shannon Thomsen  
Kevin Westring  
Siew-Khim Yap

● **Kristin Olsen '93** and Ken Koubsky were married Dec. 18, 1998, in Omaha. Kristin is a seventh and eighth grade language arts teacher at St. Joan of Arc School.

● **Joel '92 and Jennifer (Newman '95) Morgan** are the parents of a son, Noah, who was born March 9, 1999.

● **Jim and Lois (Behrens '92) Jones** of Omaha are the parents of a daughter, Reagan Elizabeth, who was born Jan. 6, 1999. She weighed 8 pounds, 2.5 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches long.

● **Angela Trask '90** has started her own Montessori school called "Early Childhood Educational Center." The school opened Feb. 1, 1999.

## '80s

*Class reunions: 1989 & 1984—*

*Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3, 1999*

### ALUMNI WANTED

*We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1989.*

*If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.*

Cheryl Becks Adkins  
Michael Bremer  
Jay Ellingson  
Yuji Ikeda  
Sandy McGill  
Greta Pedersen  
Jeff Probasco  
Kenneth Sliva  
Patti Stevenson  
Melanie Trask

● **Janet and Dr. Michael Moore '89** are the parents of a daughter, Macie Ryan, who was born Feb. 25, 1999.

● **Larry '89 and Karyn (Hillesland '89) Overbeck** are the parents of a daughter, Anna Elaine, who was born April 8, 1999. She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

● In November 1998, **Merri (Clements '86) Dibben** was promoted to accounting manager at Mid America Computer Corporation (MACC) in Blair. She began working at MACC in May 1995. MACC is a full-line service bureau, providing billing and data processing services to independent telephone, cellular, IXC, Internet, paging and cable television companies in 26 states.

● **Julie Grauerholz '86** has been working for AmeriCorp since 1996. The first year,

she helped plant 5,000 cottonwood trees at Glen Elder Lake in Kansas, a lake which had been destroyed by the 1993 flood. She is now working with the American Red Cross in Hays, Kan. During spring break, she went with AmeriCorp to South Carolina where they helped with a soup kitchen for the homeless and building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

● **Veronica Rief '86** has been hired by Metropolitan Community College to teach Art History and Drawing II courses. She also continues to teach art at Marian High School in Omaha.

● **Jim '85 and Sheryl (Petersen '87) Krueger** are the parents of a son, Alec James. He was born March 16, 1999. He joins brothers, Jake and Kole.

● **Lawrence White '85** of Kent, Wash., was recently appointed to the Governor's Commission for Early Learning. He is on the executive board of directors of Boys and Girls Club and chairs the initiative, "Kids at Hope."

### ALUMNI WANTED

*We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1984.*

*If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.*

Keith Aardema  
Connie Anderson  
Michael Bloemer  
Joanne Jorgenson Cannon  
Margaret Dutch  
Phillip Fredrick  
Marianne Jespersen  
Ronald Kyser  
Lawrence Lazzaro  
Jeffrey Miller  
Margaret Mohrbutter  
Kirsten Lady Moore  
Lorraine Fletcher Morrison  
Thomas Norby  
Julie Frisk Pedersen  
Mary Beth Anderson Pena  
Chris Peterson  
Michael Pietzmeier  
Tom Schimerowski  
Valerie Hermansen Schlickbernd  
Laurie Hendrix Sealey  
John Storey

● **Curtis E. Fett '82** was recognized as an Executive's Club Qualifier with Lutheran Brotherhood at an awards banquet in January. The honor is based on the sale of insurance and investment products to Lutherans. In December 1998, Fett



# DESTINY'S DEEP SEA

received the National Quality Award for the eighth year and the National Sales Achievement Award for the tenth year. These awards, presented by the National Association of Life Underwriters, promote and recognize excellence in client and customer representation. Fett also qualified for membership in the Million Dollar Round Table for the seventh year during 1998. Only six percent of the world's life insurance agents qualify each year. Fett has been in the insurance industry for 17 years and a district representative for Lutheran Brotherhood since 1990.

● **Carol (Olsen '82) and Todd Swenson '82** are the parents of a son, Erik Andrew, who was born Oct. 25, 1998. He joins two sisters, Anna, age 8, and Sarah, age 5.

## '70s

*Class reunions: 1979 & 1974—*

*Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3, 1999*

### ALUMNI WANTED

*We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1979.*

*If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.*

Dale Gatson  
Rolf Ingvoldstad  
Deborah Kolbegen  
Deasha Dary Karl Shorter Malone  
Darryl Mays  
Godwin Onwuelezi  
Kerry Rattinger  
James Rizik  
Kenneth Schutt  
Rachel Thoson  
Christine Paasch Videbeck  
Dan Yandell

● **Michael '75 and Shirley (Kennett '77) McCallum** moved from South Dakota to Jackson, Minn., where Michael was installed as the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church last May.

## We want to hear from you!

*Let us know about your promotion, new addition to the family, award or anything else happening in your life. We welcome you to also submit photographs of you and your family for Destiny's Deep Sea. Send Destiny's Deep Sea via e-mail to [creed@fs1.dana.edu](mailto:creed@fs1.dana.edu).*

### ALUMNI WANTED

*We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1974.*

*If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.*

Jerome Beatty  
Donald Beckman  
Connie Wiese Brock  
Dale Grant  
Brad Hansen  
Carol Vittitoe Hardenbrook  
Pamela Muscle Hunt  
Kenneth Ideus  
Beverly Jedynak  
Gary Jensen  
Greta Jones  
Karen Knutson  
Suzanne Larsen  
Donald Mai  
J. Douglas Mauk  
Donald Newman  
Darlene Gebhard Newman  
James Reinig  
Thomas Reis  
John Roberts  
Ronald Schneider  
Connie Schreier  
Ulla Rasmussen Smeland  
Marilyn Roberts Stewart  
Vickie Brubaker Strickler  
Roger Vaad

● **Brent Siegrist '74** was elected speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives in April. He has served as a Republican in the Iowa House of Representatives since 1985. Before running for political office, Siegrist taught government classes for 10 years at Missouri Valley High School. After being elected, he continued teaching and coaching part time for eight years.

● **Jerome Godson '71** and Jane Donlon were married in Strawberry Point, Iowa, on Dec. 27, 1998. Jerome began work as pastor of First Lutheran Church in Ogema, Wis., and First Lutheran Church in Westboro, Wis., on Jan. 31, 1999.

● **Ruby (Totman '71) Hermeier** of Ringsted, Iowa, was named the 1999 Iowa Mother of the Year in February. She and her husband, Gene, are the parents of four daughters and the grandparents of seven.

● The Outstanding Nebraska German Teacher Award was presented to **Art Beckman '70** at the spring workshop for the Nebraska Association of Teachers of German March 6 in Omaha.

## '60s

*Class reunions: 1969 & 1964—*

*Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3, 1999*

### ALUMNI WANTED

*We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1969.*

*If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.*

Mary Aho  
Donald Anderson  
Arnold Beerenstrauch  
Susan Bromstad  
Donald Clark  
Sally Veeh Demeno  
Enoch Egbosimbah  
Rebecca Simpson Epstein  
John Fanta  
Kathleen Grubbe  
Sharon Hemmingsen Heaton  
Danny Josephsen  
Margie Senseney Lambrecht  
Lela Hansen Miller  
Linda Cleaver Neff  
L. Murray Nelson  
Marlys Larson Olson  
Donna Heuke Parrilla  
Ronald Perry  
Gary Post  
Kathryn Gamble Randall  
Lynell Marbach Ruppert  
Jeff Santoki  
Jonathan Schur  
William Shomsky  
Karen Anderson Shomsky  
David Thompson  
Sally Andrews Van Oudenhoven  
Richard Ward  
Robert Wildman  
Karen Willardsen Wright  
Frances Yager

● **Rev. Stan '68 and Cheryl (Paulsen '68) Nielsen** have moved to Harlan, Iowa. Stan has resigned as pastor of United Lutheran Church in Shelby, Iowa, due to medical disability after the discovery of a malignant brain tumor in November 1997.

## Bookmark us at:

[www.dana.edu/  
people/  
alumni.html](http://www.dana.edu/people/alumni.html)



# DESTINY'S DEEP SEA

## ALUMNI WANTED

We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1964.

If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.

Pamela Huss Barber  
Lois Sorensen Brown  
Gail Dunning  
Gerald Fegter  
Betty Platt Grasso  
James Hanks  
Francis Haviland  
Patricia Heist  
Carolyn Danielsen Johnson  
Gary Klever  
Marvin Meredith  
Verna Knudsen Misfeld  
Helen Stoddard Mordhorst  
Faylene Christensen Mueller  
John Murdock  
Emma Oloff  
Barbara Olson  
Janice Jensen Parkhill  
Luana Peterson  
Janice Jensen Peterson  
Ronald Petrick  
Charles Price  
Lynne Rasmussen Ramsay  
David Rasmussen  
Judith Losh Shaw  
Sally Koppelman Sinclair  
Ronald Sommerer  
Phillip Spindt  
Lavae Pohlman Straub  
JoAnn Urie  
Barbara Wahl  
Mary Michaelson Withem

## '50s

Class reunions: 1959 & 1954—

Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3, 1999

## ALUMNI WANTED

We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1959.

If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.

Shirley Nelson Eckholm  
Wendell Hendricksen  
Don Kruse  
Norma Cleary Ludwig  
Malcolm Pedersen  
Doris Flarup Petrick  
Marie Hofeling Pieper  
Judy Wilson Rakestraw  
Lee Ramage  
D. William Saint

## ALUMNI WANTED

We're looking for a few lost Vikings from the Class of 1954.

If you have any information on the following individuals, please contact the Alumni Office.

Shirley Peterson Durben  
Gaylen Hafar  
Alvin Hansen  
Peter Mathiasen  
Malcolm Pedersen

● **Rev. Art Simon '52**, founder of Bread for the World, was the featured speaker at the worship services at First Lutheran Church in Blair the weekend of April 24-25. Bread for the World is a Christian organization of 44,000 members which lobbies Congress on behalf of hungry people of the United States and overseas.

● The Feb. 20, 1999, wedding of **Ruth (Larsen '51) Randall** and Duane Benson was featured in Michael Kelly's column in the *Omaha World-Herald*. It read, in part: "The wedding today is at St. Paul Lutheran Church in rural Iowa just northeast of Omaha. She and Duane were baptized and confirmed there. They attended Underwood (Iowa) High School. 'We never dated then,' she said, 'but we admired each other.' Ruth's husband, Bob Randall of Omaha, died in a 1975 truck accident. Duane's wife, Kathryn, died last year. Both are buried in the St. Paul church cemetery, with space for their first spouses. . . Ruth and Duane, a retired farmer, renewed acquaintance at a high school reunion, followed by letters, calls and visits. Attending today will be Ruth's three children and eight grandchildren and Duane's three children and 13 grandchildren."

## '40s

Class reunion: 1949—

Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3, 1999

## '30s

● The ministry of **John Christensen '35** of Ludington, Mich., was featured in an article in the Ludington Daily News in March. The article read, in part: "When you get to be 92, it may be easier to say what hasn't changed than what has. Living in Ludington for the last 60 years, the Rev. John Christensen, 92, has followed the area through some big changes, but

he's also taken inventory on some of those wonderful things that don't seem to budge. . . Even though he's been "retired" for nearly 28 years, he remains a regular fixture at the local hospital and at nursing homes where he passes out literature and well-wishes to many patients."

## Deaths

● **Frances Yager '69** of Missouri Valley, Iowa, died Jan. 29, 1999, at the age of 84. She taught in rural Missouri Valley, Mondamin and Little Sioux schools and retired from the Missouri Valley school system as a fourth grade teacher. Survivors include a daughter, Rebecca McDunn, and two grandchildren.

● **Harriet (Wachter '68) Laughlin** of Herman died March 29, 1999, at the age of 84. She taught school in the Herman area for 35 years. Survivors include her husband, Howard; a son, Keith, and a daughter, Patricia (Wachter '77) Andersen.

● **Bertha L. Jarvis '65** of Pea Ridge, Ark., died on March 11, 1999.

● **Mildred (Siersbeck '51) Rasmussen** of Colorado Springs, Colo., died Feb. 25, 1999, at the age of 69. She worked in the cafeteria at Coronado High School from 1975-1985. Her father, Lawrence Siersbeck, was president of Dana College from 1938-1944. Survivors include her husband, Warren '51; three sons, Larry '74, Steve and David; a daughter, Julie (Rasmussen '79) Beck; two sisters, Marilyn (Siersbeck '51) Erling and Sylvia (Siersbeck '54) Larsen; and seven grandchildren.

● **Gerald Hatt '49** of Dannebrog died March 21, 1999, at the age of 73. He taught at Dana College; Shelby (Iowa) Public School; Schuyler Public School; and Midwornton High School. He then entered the TV repair and sales business, returning to teaching music at Central City in 1974. He retired in 1978 and moved to Dannebrog in 1992. Survivors include a daughter, Karen Lehn; a son, Gregory '77; two sisters, Phyllis Minne and Arlene (Hatt '50) Hansen; and a brother, Russell '67.

● **Rose Marie (Nore '43) Limbo** of Omaha died Feb. 16, 1999, at the age of 77. She taught country school for several years and then farmed with her husband, Milan. Survivors include two sons, Keith



'67 and Kurtis; two daughters, Susan Wengel and Kristi Kendall; one brother, Iver Nore; and 12 grandchildren.

● **Viola (Hansen '35) Carlsen** of Blair died Jan. 30, 1999, at the age of 86. She taught elementary education in Omaha for 25 years until her retirement in 1978.

Survivors include her husband, Viggo '35; a son, David; two daughters, Ellen (Carlsen '67) Ellick, and Norma (Carlsen '69) Glodas; and four grandchildren.

● **Alfa (Hanson '31) Junker** of Topeka, Kan., died March 15, 1999, at the age of 92. Survivors include a daughter, Melba (Junker '60) Waggoner; two sons, Waldo '62 and Harry '67; a brother; a sister; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### Friends

● **Maren Lawson** of Omaha, a longtime Danish-American friend of Dana College, died in April at the age of 100.

● **Joyce Ragan**, wife of longtime Dana College business professor Gil Ragan, died March 13, 1999, as she was undergoing treatment for liver cancer. Survivors include her husband, and their children, John '82, David '86, Liam '90 and Kathleen '91.

## Liberal arts

From page 2

decline in hostility, hatred and violence? What would that be worth?

God help us to preserve, revitalize and secure needed support for the mission that Christ inspired in the pioneer preachers and teachers who sacrificed to establish this fine college 115 years ago.

And thank you, photographer Sartorie, for reminding me of the value of a liberal arts education for which Dana has long been recognized.

Some suggest private residential liberal arts colleges like Dana are a thing of the past—too expensive, too small, inefficient, and no longer needed in the current age of technology. I think we just might be more needed than ever.

## New Alumni Council members, officers named

The Dana Alumni Council approved the appointment and election of council members for one and three year terms.

Danette Johns '82 was approved for her second term on the board. Rhonda (Oelrichs '78) Rose was appointed to her first one-year term.

Three-year electees were Dixie Whitlow '93, Nathan Kramer '89 and Helen (Hansen '68) Sorenson.

New council officers for the upcoming year are Shawn Lorenzen '91, president; Alan Pedersen '80, vice president; and Paul Madsen '80, secretary.

If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Alumni Council in upcoming years, contact Julie (Thorsen) Rohlfling '70, director of alumni affairs, at 402-426-7235.

A reminder that the Dana flags are still available for purchase through the Alumni Council. The flags, 34" x 44", cost only \$37 each, including tax, shipping and handling. They are made of red cloth with white print.

Proceeds from the project benefit student activities and scholarships.

To order your flag, send \$37 to the Dana College Alumni Office, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008.



**RETIREMENT:** Joan Masters was honored upon her retirement from Dana College in February. She served as a valuable member of the housekeeping staff for 28 years. A campus coffee was held in her honor.



## Gerson spearheads Hurricane Mitch relief effort

*Editor's note: The following article originally appeared in the Jan. 19-21, 1999, issue of the Alameda (Calif.) Journal. It is written by Peter Hegarty and is reprinted here with permission.*

Thanks to a Spanish teacher and his students at Encinal High School, the plight of the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua has been eased a little.

Instead of spending a recent Sunday watching television, Michael Gerson '98 and 24 of his students were in a San Francisco warehouse, loading boxes filled with relief supplies destined for the Central American nation.

Their effort came on the heels of Gerson's and his friend Aldo Bermudez' trip to Nicaragua during the high school's Christmas break to hand-deliver other supplies.

Now Gerson hopes what they've done will inspire others to pitch in and help.

"You can take an idea, augment it, and within a week's time, you can be doing something huge," Gerson says.

Underlining his point, Gerson and Bermudez—an Encinal High graduate—spent all day Jan. 15 showing slides of the hurricane's devastation to each of Gerson's Spanish classes.

Their slides showed fields stripped by the wind and rain to the bare earth. Others showed bridges and roads that had been completely washed away.

Among the places the pair visited while in Nicaragua was a home for children whose parents had been killed during the hurricane.

More than 40 children were there, many refusing to be left alone. Others just stood looking at Gerson and Bermudez, clutching stuffed toys.

"It was very disturbing, very depressing," Gerson says.

Interspersed with the slide show, however, were lessons on geography, history and Spanish—plus Gerson reminded the students of how lucky they are to be receiving an education.

Pictured in the slides was a street child named Pablo, whom Gerson and Bermudez had befriended during their trip.

"He would die to be in any one of your shoes—and some of you kids take school for granted," Gerson told the students gathered in Room 408 for the presentation. "He would trade shoes with any of you."

“*He would die to be in any one of your shoes—and some of you take school for granted. He would trade shoes with any of you.*”

—Mike Gerson '98, referring to a slide of a street child in Nicaragua

A pop quiz came after the projector was switched off and the overhead lights switched on.

"What's the capital of Nicaragua?" Gerson asked.

Hands shot up around the room.

"Managua," a student said.

"What percentage of the population is illiterate?"

"Seventy-six percent."

"Name four kinds of animals found in Nicaragua."

The replies came slower this time.

"What were you doing, sleeping?"

Gerson asked, looking around the room. "I showed you about 20."

Every student giving a correct answer gets a small piece of candy, tossed by Gerson across the room.

Gerson and Bermudez say they

have raised \$1,000 for hurricane relief.

They have hosted a fund-raiser at The Whole Shabang on Webster Street.

But Hurricane Mitch was so destructive that much of the relief aid could only be brought in by helicopter.

As a result, many of those living in the remotest parts of Nicaragua—a country where poverty was widespread even before the hurricane struck—still need help.

Both Gerson and Bermudez say they may return to Nicaragua this summer with more supplies.

Gerson first visited the country two years ago as a baseball player with the evangelical group Athletes in Action.

He had been attending St. Joseph Notre High School when he moved to Mexico at age 16 to play baseball with the group.

"I had an opportunity to play baseball there and I took it," he says. In Mexico, he learned to speak Spanish.

Gerson graduated from Oakland's Skyline High School upon his return.

Having friends in Nicaragua helped spur his relief efforts, Gerson says. Bermudez' family is Nicaraguan.

If he does return, Gerson says he would like to bring Encinal students with him to distribute aid.

And many of those teens say they're eager to go.

"You get a great feeling helping people and making a difference," says Kadyzshea Cintron, a 14-year-old freshman who pitched in at the San Francisco warehouse.

Junior Dontrelle Willis, 17, who also spent that Sunday loading boxes, says he would gladly travel with Gerson and Bermudez to Nicaragua.

"Anything I could do to help," Willis says. "I would back them 100 percent."

# National Champion marathoner turns sights to 2000 Olympic Games

Angie Sparacino's love of running the wide open spaces began during her childhood in Texas.

"I was always able to run forever," said the 1998 Dana graduate. "Being the oldest of 11 kids, I just needed to go somewhere to think."

Since her youth, Sparacino has given a lot of thought and a lot of time to her running career. Now the 1997 NAIA National Champion has a lofty goal—the Olympics.

"My love for running started back with field day in elementary school," Sparacino said. She always enjoyed the sport but was only an average runner at St. Pius X High School in Houston.

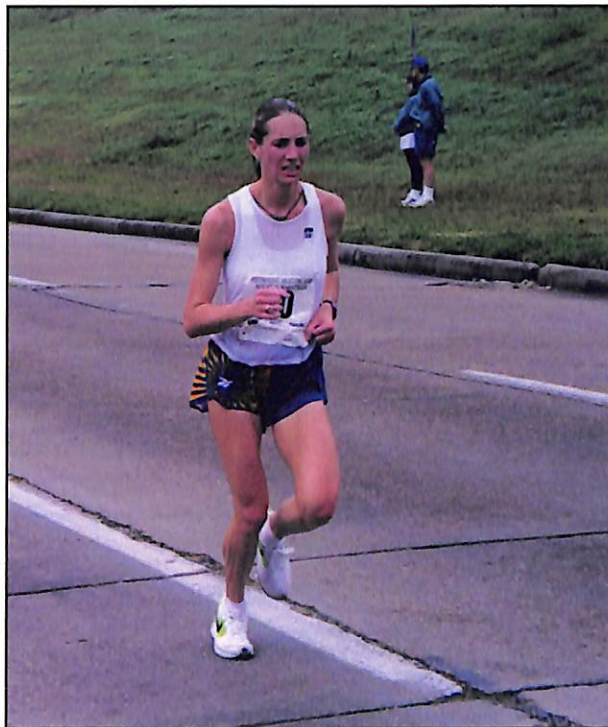
"I just wanted to run in college," she said. "I didn't really care where. Coach (Jay) Birmingham called me and he just kept calling and calling. No one, including myself, would have ever imagined that Dana College, a small liberal arts college in Blair, Nebraska, would someday serve as the home base of my serious running career."

Sparacino was in the first recruiting class in the revival of the Dana cross country and track programs.

"While at Dana, my running abilities started out slowly, but quickly improved," she said. Sparacino culminated her junior season by winning the NAIA national marathon in May 1997, becoming Dana's first national champion.

"I've always wanted to be a marathoner," she said, "even before I knew how far it was."

It wasn't until Sparacino won the



*RUNNING TOWARD OLYMPIC GOAL: Angie Sparacino competes at a Houston marathon.*

national title that she and Coach Birmingham fully saw her potential. "I knew I was decent, but I didn't know I was that fast," she said.

"Since completing college, I have realized that my journey to achieve all I can through my running has just begun," Sparacino said. "With the skills and attitudes I learned from both Coach Birmingham and professors at Dana, I have gone on to live my life as a professional runner, substitute teacher, and swim team coach."

Now the All-American runner is only five minutes away from an Olympic Trials qualifying time in the 26.2 mile run. In her first attempt at making the Olympic Trials Marathon (in competition at Houston in January), she improved her personal best time by two minutes.

Sparacino hopes to knock at least five more minutes off of her time at

the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minn., on June 19. She must run a marathon in 2 hours and 50 minutes or better in order to participate in the 2000 Olympic Trials Marathon scheduled for February 2000 in Columbia, S.C.

Training for the aspiring Olympian has not changed much from her college days. Sparacino runs the same four-mile loop through the city of Blair as she did before. Her hill training is done at Black Elk-Neihardt Park. On weekends she completes a longer 15-24 mile run in the country in Washington County. Birmingham still serves as her coach.

Sparacino has competed in a number of races to serve as preparation for a qualifying marathon. This fall she competed in a 10-mile run in Park Forest, Ill., as an alumnus in the Dana Homecoming cross country meet, and in half-marathons at Atlantic City, N.J., and Jacksonville, Fla., in preparation for her first qualifying attempt in Houston.

Training is costly, however. Sparacino's estimated expenses for training, travel, racing, etc., are expected to reach \$15,000 in a single year. She spends much of her off-time searching out sponsors to support her quest.

"Angie has what it takes to reach the Olympic Trials standard, despite her young age," Birmingham said. "I have coached three other women into the Trials on five occasions since 1984. Angie may well be the best yet!"



# Pagel retires after four decades at Dana

**W**hen Phil Pagel first came to the Dana College campus in 1952 as a student from Poy Sippi, Wis., he planned to stay for maybe a year.

He never imagined that he would not only graduate from the small, liberal arts school, he would also spend nearly his entire professional career there.

"If you were of college age and a member of the UELC, there was only one choice of where you would go," he said. "Of course you come, it gets under your skin and you stay," he said.

After 40 years of service at Dana College, Pagel officially retired Dec. 31, 1998.

Pagel's career didn't start at Dana, however. After graduating from Dana College with the first ever degree in speech and theater in 1956, Pagel returned to Wisconsin to teach.

In the summer of 1958, he received a call from Dana President C.C. Madsen, recruiting him to return to Dana to work in the admissions office. Pagel accepted the position, starting at the beginning of the 1958-59 academic year. The position was broad with Pagel serving as director, staff and secretary. He prepared all of the printed materials sent out by the office and traveled from coast-to-coast six months out of the year.

The following year, he was promoted to director of public relations. In 1985 he was appointed vice president of institutional advancement with responsibilities for public relations, admissions, alumni and development. From 1994-1998, he served as assistant to the president.

Over the past 40 years, Pagel has had a hand in nearly every event and every publication of Dana College. He planned the visits of such famous

people as Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Victor Borge and Lauritz Melchior. He developed the Dana logo. He helped plan the first and successive Sights and Sounds of Christmas celebrations. He planned the dedications of all of the buildings on campus, except for Pioneer Memorial, Argo Hall and Elk Horn Hall. He coordinated the inaugurations of five Dana presidents.

Pagel considers the development of the logo one of his most significant contributions to the college.

In 1979-80, he worked with a young artist at Bozell and Jacobs in Omaha to develop a concept for the logo.

"We needed something that said 'Dana College.' We needed something that once you see it, you're never going to forget it," Pagel said.

The Dana "D" was born, incorporating the Danish flag, a Viking sail and the Christian cross. The red sail is still used on all Dana publications, signs and letterhead.

Another great accomplishment of the longtime employee was the creation of the Sights and Sounds of Christmas, one of the most renowned holiday celebrations in the Midwest.

For years prior to the first Sights and Sounds, Dana had presented traditional band and choir concerts at Christmastime. In 1973, what would become Sights and Sounds was first packaged as a "Christmas Open House." The band and choir concerts were combined with a couple of other events during the day.

In 1974, "Let's Make it Danish" and the Santa Lucia singers were added to the day's events as well as a coffee hour after the concert. The



**GREAT DANE:** Phil Pagel was named a Great Dane of Dana College in February.

reception featured authentic Danish pastries flown to Blair from Denmark! This was also the first time the name "Sights and Sounds of Christmas" was used for the event.

In 1975, the Scandinavian smorgasbord was added and the modern Sights and Sounds was born.

Among the significant trips for Pagel as a Dana ambassador were with the Dana Folk Dancers to President Jimmy Carter's inauguration in Washington, D.C., and with the folk dancers and the Dana College Chorale to Disney World.

Pagel was honored in February by being inducted into the "Great Danes of Dana," an award he helped create, but had never received.

"It's been a great ride," said Pagel of his Dana career. "I've met a lot of interesting people. I've been blessed to have some great, great students work for me."

Pagel does not have many concrete plans for his retirement, although he plans to continue to garden and do some writing.

"I'm just going to enjoy anything and everything."

# Five retire from Board of Regents

Five longtime members of the Dana College Board of Regents retired from the board in February. All five have made significant contributions to Dana College and were honored as Regents Emeriti at the winter meeting.

Herbert Knudsen '63 of Ogallala, Jane (Hendrick '73) Prochaska of Omaha, and Jim Taylor of Blair were first elected to the board in 1985 and Don Jorgensen '60 of Ripon, Wis., and Elsie Burkland of Omaha were elected in 1986.

Knudsen is president of Natural Fibers Corporation in Ogallala. He and his wife, Karen (Nielsen '65) have four children, Peter, Deborah, Karl and Mark. Mark '00 is currently a student at Dana College and was recently elected Student Senate President.



Knudsen

"Entrepreneur and experienced in the large corporation as well as the small business, Herb reminded Regents and Administration of the need to practice good business and marketing practices at Dana," said Dana President Myrvin Christopherson '61. "As a student he was inventive and resourceful. He carried that into his role as Regent."

Judge Prochaska worked in her own private law practice from 1976-1985, when she was appointed a Douglas County judge in Omaha. She and her husband, Donald, live in Omaha.



Prochaska

"Jane is bright and knowledgeable about the law," Christopherson said. "More important, she cared about the

rights of people and wanted the best for our students. We were fortunate to have a judge of her caliber on our board."

Taylor is president of Taylor Oil in Blair. He and his wife, Rae, have three children, Brad, Steve and Kimberly.



Taylor

"Jim helped build solid relations with the Blair community while bringing his successful business experience to our board. He's been a joy to work with, and will be greatly missed," Christopherson said.

Jorgensen is a retired executive of J.M. Smuckers Company. He served as chair of the board from 1990-1999. He and his wife, Joyce (Vasby '60), have three children: Jane, Joel '91 and Mark.



Jorgensen

"Don has brought outstanding leadership to our board," Christopherson said. "Don loves Dana and knows how a Dana education prepared him, his brother and several members of his family for success in business. He led by example and by challenging every member to give his or her all to help move Dana to higher standards of service."

Burkland is a homemaker and officer in Walker Tire Company. She has been highly involved in Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha. She and her husband, Fred, have four children.



Burkland

"Always positive and supportive, Elsie reminded us of our Christian and service mission," Christopherson said. "She cared about students and about Dana and wanted the best for both. She will definitely be missed."

The five outgoing Regents were replaced by Mary (Heistnad '80) Bro, Dennis Gethmann '71, Rev. Keith Nelson, Rev. Kip Tyler '80 and Richard Vierk '68.

## Board of Regents

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Marc Petersen, vice chairman  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Rev. Carl Schattauer, Jr., secretary  
*Omaha, Nebraska*

Mogens Bay  
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*St. Louis, Missouri*

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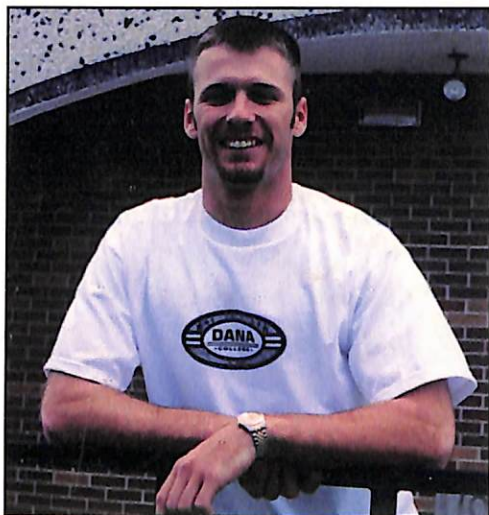
# SHOPPING AT THE DANA BOOKSTORE

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Also available as sweatshirt. M-L-XL-XXL.  
T-shirt (90% cotton/10% polyester) \$14.50; Sweatshirt (50-50) \$24.00

Dana cap with logo, adjustable, red with red bill.  
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Clothing modeled by 1998-99 Student Body President Matt Kern '00 of Scotia and 1998 Miss Nebraska Jenny Lemmerman '00 of West Point.

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