

DANA REVIEW

WOMEN at DaNa

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WOMEN OF
BIOLOGY



Unsung Heroes

A good friend of education, Dr. Liz Karnes, died at home in Omaha April 24 after a 12-year battle with cancer. We had honored her more than a year ago at our January convocation, but her cancer treatments precluded her from being present to receive the honorary degree. The mother of four beautiful daughters, Liz was a remarkable woman who gave generously to board memberships and public service along with husband, former U.S. Senator David Karnes.

At our Arbor Day event we honored the late John R. and Elizabeth "Libby" Davis Lauritzen family. Libby is a key member of the family team, with her late husband, John, and son, Bruce, who have built to prominence the First National Bank of Omaha and many other banks, including Blair's own Washington Country Bank. Libby is another remarkable woman who has generously supported the arts, nature and education while bringing dignity to the role of mother.

Three others in recent years who fit that role and have been so important to greater Omaha, Neb. and Dana, are the late Marge Hennigson Durham, the late Myrna Hawks, and Dana Board of Regents member Jeanne Gardner of Wakefield, Neb.

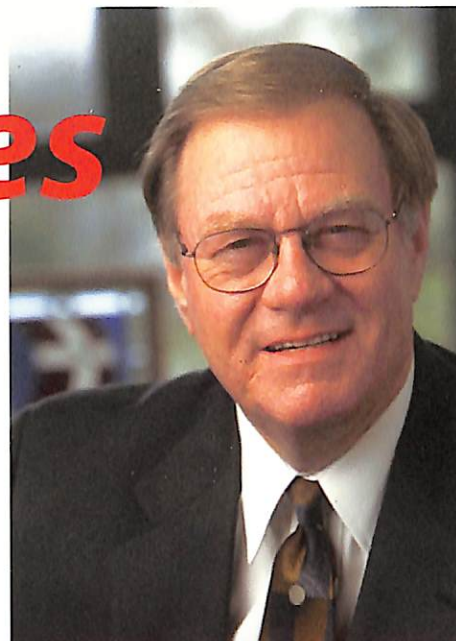
Women often function behind the scenes. You may not agree, but the verse I found on a greeting card recently, merits sharing. It reads, "Whatever *women* do, they must do *twice* as well as *men* to be thought *half* as good." Truthfully, I have seen it with my own wife, Anne. She routinely does twice as much as, and better than, I, but because I hold the office of president, I often get greater mention. Of course, I may receive twice the criticism I'd like coming my way, too, but

that is probably warranted.

The bronze plate outside of my office in Pioneer Memorial reads: "This building is named Pioneer Memorial in memory of A.M. Andersen, Kr. Anker, C.X. Hansen, P.S. Vig, G.B. Christiansen, and many other faithful men and women who contributed to the development and influence of Dana College and Trinity Seminary." The men listed were instrumental in our founding and development as an institution and greatly merit our honor. Yet, I am left to wonder about the women. What is the story about the women partners to Dana's founders? They gave birth to and reared their children, and assisted their spouses at home and at the college. I can't imagine being able to do my job nearly so well without my wife's full support and partnership.

I can't either imagine a Dana College even half as good as it is without the women faculty members, student leaders and staff members who have been instrumental in teaching, counseling, directing, cooking, cleaning and providing clerical and administrative support for Dana students and others in the community. Happily, women are winning key positions in colleges like Dana.

Yet, only one of our ELCA colleges or universities has been led by a woman president and only a few, including Dana, have ever been served by a woman as chief academic officer. Three of the five campus pastors serving Dana in my 17-year tenure as president have been women, and many of our leading faculty and staff members are females. We look with pride to our all-female department of biology, and the many women in director or department head roles, but the progression to full partnership for women has been slow.



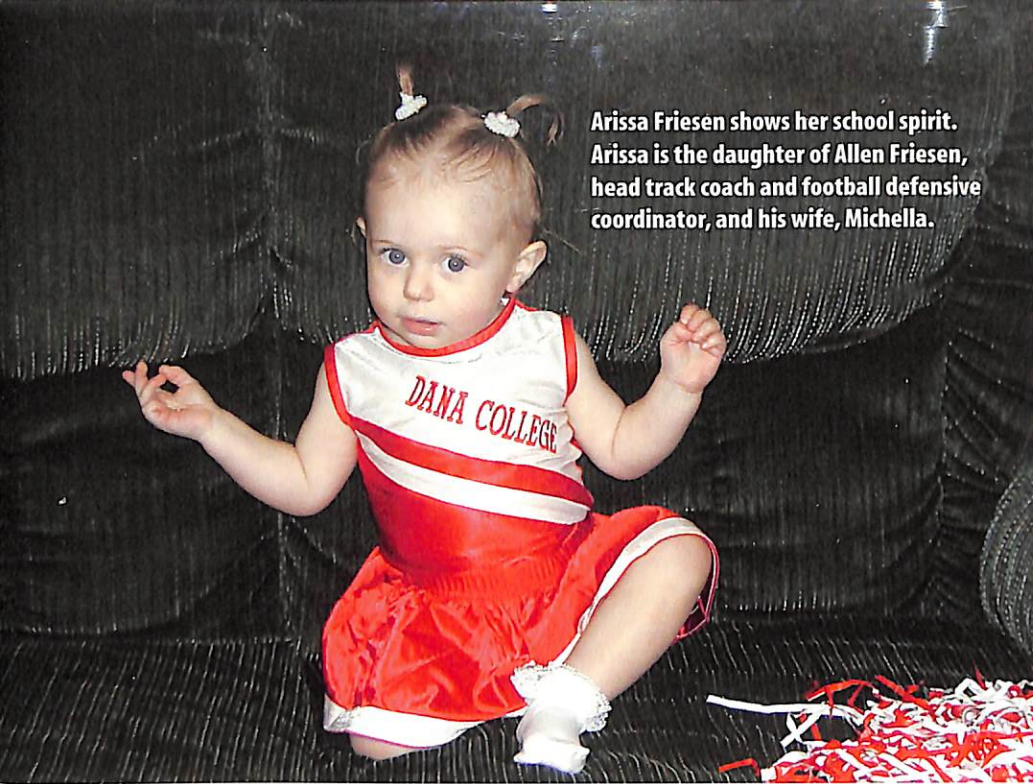
President Myrvin F. Christopherson

We can and must do better as we enter a new century where women are equipped to take on leadership roles long overdue to them. The role played by women is featured throughout this issue of the REVIEW. As you read, you might reflect upon those women who have shaped your life, whether at Dana or elsewhere.

I would like to call attention to one woman who has had a significant impact on Dana over the past 25 years. I refer to Carolyn Potter, administrative assistant to the president. None of the very able assistants I have known for more than 40 years in higher education has exceeded her speed and accuracy at shorthand or on the keyboard. Carolyn has typed tens of thousands of letters and contracts for five presidents, answered and initiated thousands of phone calls, made countless appointments, prepared volumes of meeting minutes for faculty, staff, and regents, and entertained a small army of students, employees and other visitors. She does it all without so much as a harsh word about anyone.

When the history of Dana is written again, I hope more mention will be made of the many talented women who have served Dana so ably, often with scant recognition.

They are among the unsung heroes.



Arissa Friesen shows her school spirit. Arissa is the daughter of Allen Friesen, head track coach and football defensive coordinator, and his wife, Michella.

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The new Borup Addition takes shape

DANA REVIEW

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On the Hill

Lauritzens Honored at Arbor Day

More than 150 people turned out on a cool April afternoon to celebrate Arbor Day and Dana donors April 24 at Dana College. A 16-foot-tall pin oak tree was planted near the north end of the Durham Center in tribute to the John R. and Elizabeth Lauritzen family.

Before his death on July 21, 2000, John Ronnow Lauritzen was a leading bank executive, innovator and a supporter of Dana, greater Omaha, Nebraska and his nation. After Old Main burned in 1986, Washington County Bank, of which the Lauritzens are the major stockholders, offered assistance in

building an addition to the Madsen Fine Arts Center and construction of the Durham Center.

"Over the 17 years of my presidency, John Ronnow and Elizabeth Davis Lauritzen and their son, Bruce Ronnow Lauritzen, have been among Dana's best friends and supporters along with their banks, the Washington County Bank and the First National Bank of Omaha, the Lauritzen Corporation and the Lauritzen Foundation," Dr. Myrvin Christopherson, president, told the audience. "John and Libby, Bruce and his wife, Kimball, have been at the forefront of much of the cultural and educational enrichment projects in Omaha and Nebraska."

Libby and Bruce Lauritzen, chairman of First National Bank of Omaha, attended the



This year's Arbor Day honorees prepare to work up an appetite before the appetizer feast while children help plant Dana's new tree in the background. From left, Anne Christopherson, Libby Lauritzen, Myrv Christopherson, Bruce Lauritzen and Mike Mahlendorf, Washington County Bank president.

ceremony. Although she did not address the audience, special attention was given to Libby Lauritzen's efforts for Dana College and other non-profit organizations in Nebraska.

"Libby could choose to have nothing to do with us," Christopherson said. "She isn't Danish, Lutheran (she's Episcopalian, so that's close), and she is not a Dana alumna. What she is, though, is a classy lady with impeccable taste."

At the end of the ceremony, Christopherson presented Libby Lauritzen with the rare honor of being named an honorary alumna.

"Libby, you are a godsend to us at Dana College," Christopherson said. "We love you, Libby."

Stained Glass Window Dedicated

The first of three planned stained glass windows for Trinity Chapel was installed in April and dedicated at the Arbor Day celebration, April 24.

The window, entitled "Father/Creation," was done by glass artist Jeff Schmitz of Heritage Stained Glass of Omaha and designer/artist Ken Hosmer of North Platte, Neb.

Several people made gifts to the chapel window fund, led by the spouses of the Dana College Board of Regents. The spouses have been selling a collection of Danish plates and signed and numbered stained glass hearts (made from the remainder of the glass from the Father/Creation window) to help raise money for the fund. To view the plates and hearts, please visit www.dana.edu/danish_plates.



Workers install "Father/Creation," the first of three windows planned for Trinity Chapel.

Alumni Travel to Caribbean, Brazil

Two new trips have been added to the Dana Alumni Travel plans for 2004. In February, alumni can board the S/S Norway for a 8-day cruise around the Eastern Caribbean. Return to the genteel days of traditional cruising with wonderful service, elegant appointments and formal dining. Ports of call include St. Maarten, St. Thomas and Great Stirrup Cay. Prices start at \$399 without airfare. Cruise dates are Feb. 15–22, 2004.

A summer trip to Brazil was a special request by Ruth (Larsen '51) Benson. Her former pastor, Donald Nelson, spends six months a year in Brazil and helped design a unique tour for Dana alumni, educators, history buffs and people interested in mission work.

The 11-day tour (June 17–27, 2004) will visit Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso, Cuiaba/Campo Novo do Parecis, Iguassu Falls, Rio de Janeiro, and Garpoaba. Planned activities include visits to Lutheran mission schools, the countryside and the beach.

The approximate cost per person (departing from Chicago) is \$2,125. The tour is limited to 20 participants.

For more information, contact Kathy (Wollenhaupt '63) Shaw at (800) 800-5743 or KatiDid64@aol.com.

Hofbräuhaus Joins Homecoming

Plans are well underway for DanaFest (a.k.a. Homecoming 2003), Oct. 10–12. The biggest new Homecoming event is the Hofbräuhaus in the historic Blair Fire Hall on Saturday, Oct. 11. Planners have created an all-alumni event that accommodates reunion classes as well as friends looking to get together in a festive atmosphere.

The Hofbräuhaus will feature a German dinner, cash bar and a nostalgic Dana program with something for alumni of every decade. The entertainment, directed by Nathan Krämer '89, will feature the talents of more than 50 Dana alumni and will be emceed by Omaha radio personality Karla (Schutt '81) James. The lineup includes humorous looks at LARP quizzes and choir tours, after-hours in Old Main and several surprises.

Space is limited, so make your reservations for this event as soon as you receive your Homecoming brochure in the mail early this summer!

Homecoming wouldn't be Homecoming without some favorites like the aebleskiver breakfast, choir reunion, alumni worship in Trinity Chapel, Viking football and volleyball games, and the alumni basketball scrimmages. (We also promise you'll sing "Hail Dana" more than once.) Members of the class of '53 will become Venerable Vikings on Sunday afternoon.



Chorale to Europe

Performing in the Rebild Hills at the largest Fourth of July festival outside of the United States will highlight the Dana College Chorale's tour of northern Germany and Denmark this summer.

The 40-member Chorale will leave on tour June 22 and return to the United States on July 8. The group's last trip to Europe was in 1999.

A full performance schedule is planned:

June 25

Otto Flath Art Hall in Bad Segeberg, Germany

June 27

St. George's Church in Oeversee, Germany

June 29

Ribe Cathedral in Ribe, Denmark

June 30

Fest Hall at Vejle Business College in Vejle, Denmark

July 1

Legoland

July 2

Odense Cathedral in Odense, Denmark

July 4

Fourth of July Festival in Rebild Hills, Denmark

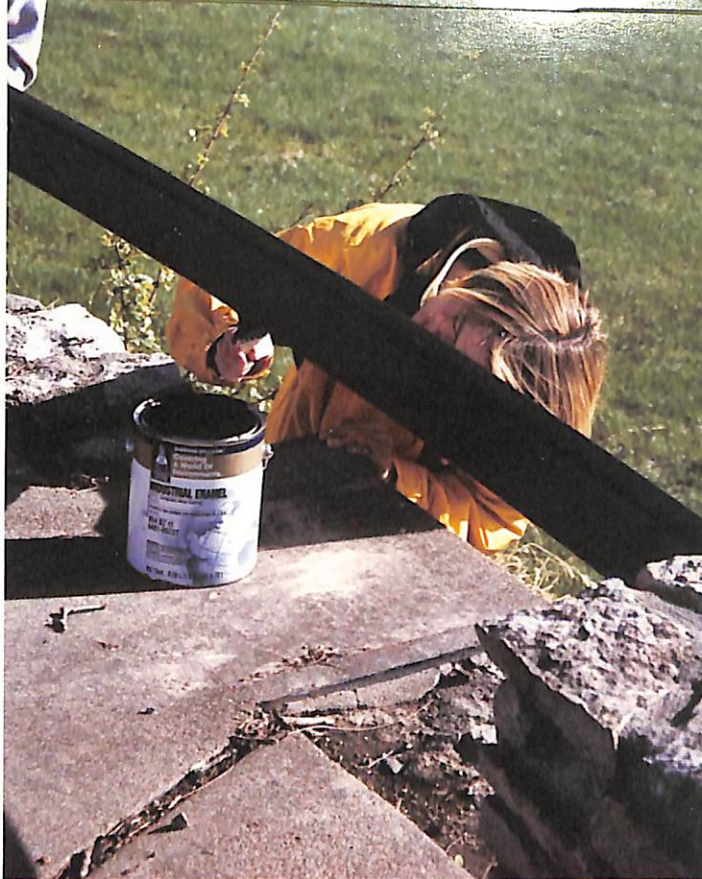
July 6

Performance TBA in or near Copenhagen, Denmark

Three categories of awards will be presented during the weekend. On Friday evening Heidi Grappendorf '95, John Hibbing '76, Jim Krueger '85, Leo McKillip and Fran Morrow '53 will be named to the Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday. The Awards Buffet on Saturday will honor Distinguished Alumni Rev. Ried Neve D'48 T'51 and Dr. Larric Stone '57. Julie Howland '91 will join the ranks of the Outstanding Young Alumni.

We invite you to attend the dedication of the Borup Coliseum Addition on Saturday. On Friday evening you are invited to come to Trinity Chapel for a special musical dedication and program.

Some other features to note are class reunions for the classes of '53, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88 and '93, the publication of a new book by Lur Publications (*Attracted to America*), a professional face painter, gymnastic workshops and a demonstration by Danish Gymnasts.



Professor Trine Feuerborn, instructor of Danish, makes sure to get every last spot on the Korshoj Terrace railing during Campus Beautification Day, April 21

Campus Gets a Makeover

Fifty-five Dana College faculty, staff and students volunteered to help make physical improvements during Dana's Campus Beautification Day, April 21. The project was partly funded by the Dana community's own financial contributions, as well as matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a fraternal benefit society.

The volunteers, including 16 Thrivent members, put in more than 216 hours of volunteer work sprucing up the campus.

"There was mulching and planting, and mulching and painting, and mulching and trash pickup (and more mulching), and trimming done throughout the campus," said Wendy Grasz, administrative assistant for maintenance and the business office, and campus coordinator for the event.

Specific improvements included the painting of several railings, Viking Field's pressbox and the historic lampposts on Korshoj Terrace, the planting of several flower beds around campus, including the Dana logo facing Borup Coliseum, and trash pickup across campus.

Dana employees contributed \$736 to buy materials for the day, with Thrivent matching \$600. Event planners are discussing making Campus Beautification Day an annual event.

"The Campus Beautification Day was a huge success," Grasz said. "Many thanks to everyone involved. I believe Dana College has one of the most beautiful campuses in the Mid-

west. I am thankful we have so many employees willing to work together to help keep it that way."

Encounter Reunion in 2004

Back in the days before the ELCA, the Central District Luther League held Encounter School at Dana for a week each summer. An Encounter School reunion is now in the works for July 2004. Organizers are trying to get the word out to anyone who might be interested. For more details on the reunion or how you can help spread the word, contact Dawn Meyer at dawnmeyer@juno.com or (505) 298-0311.

American Indian Activist Visits

Dana hosted Vernon Bellecourt, spokesperson for the American Indian Movement, March 3 in The Forum.

Bellecourt has been a leader in American Indian Movement (AIM) actions ranging from the 1972 occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington to the 1992 Redskin Super Bowl demonstrations. He is co-founder and first executive director of the Denver AIM Chapter.

Bellecourt's talk at Dana followed a protest, march and panel discussion in Lincoln March 1-2 in response to a perceived lack of enforcement of alcohol sales and distribution laws in White Clay, Neb. Whiteclay is a short distance from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, home to more than 38,000 Lakota Indians. Allegations of improper business practices in White Clay, as well as a high rate of violence including several murders, have been among the major issues in the American Indian community.

Bellecourt was introduced by Frank LaMere, also prominent in American Indian activism. LaMere visits Dana nearly every year to speak to students about issues facing American Indians in Nebraska. He received the Nebraskans for Peace Peace Maker of the Year award in 2001.

Both speakers urged students to become actively involved in all sorts of civic issues in their lives, something they said Dana students are well known for. Several of Dana's students from Hawaii attended the protest and sessions in Lincoln, and former and current students have contributed to pushing for and changing current Nebraska laws.



AIM activist Vernon Bellecourt addresses an audience in The Forum

Campus Digest

Stephanie Collins '03 gave her senior thesis presentation, "Physical Activity Improves Subjects' Self-Perception, Aerobic Capacity, and Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease," Feb. 12 in The Forum.

Michelle Kempke Eppler, registrar and affirmative action officer, hosted a statewide joint meeting with NAFSA: Association of International Educators and the Nebraska Association of College Registrars & Admission Officers to discuss the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System Feb. 21 at Dana.

Professor Volker Langeheine, German scholar-in-residence, was invited to serve on the Board of Directors of Omaha's Sister Cities Association.

Dr. Claire Bushong, assistant professor of music, has been appointed review editor for *Cross Accent*, the journal of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

Dr. Scott Hermanson, assistant professor of English, published a review of Joe Tabbi's book *Cognitive Fictions* in the March/April edition of *American Book Review*.

Professor William Hall, director of instrumental studies, Dana College Band conductor and assistant professor of music education, served as guest conductor of the Gretna Middle School Band and the Gretna High School Band for their concert Feb. 27. He also addressed the audience on the "Academic Values of Continuing Music Participation."

Professor Jan Potter, professor of social work, represented Dana College as a judge for the African American History Challenge for Omaha area high school students Feb. 22 at Benson High School in Omaha.

Dr. Brian Viets, provost and dean of the college, presented "Lutheran College or Public University? There's a Difference and It Lasts a Lifetime" at the Lutheran College Fair March 23 in Omaha.

Dr. Iain Anderson, assistant professor of history, led a panel entitled "Visions of the New South" at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha March 7.

Professor Richard Potter, associate professor of social work, was the luncheon speaker for the Eastern Region meeting of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers on March 13. His topic was "Dangerous Minds: This Year in Nebraska Lawmaking."

Professor Jan Potter served as a re-accreditation site visitor for the Council on Social Work Education. She visited a college in Michigan March 15-18.

Dr. John Mark Nielsen '73, professor of English, presented a paper at the 27th annual interdisciplinary symposium sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska on March 28. His paper was entitled, "The Cups of Blood are Emptied: Folkelighed and Pietisme in Two Danish Immigrant Schools on the Great Plains."

Dr. John Mark Nielsen '73 and his wife, Dawn (Carper '74), presented their Nebraska Humanities Council presentation, "Voices from the New Land" at the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Neb., on March 16.

Brokee Allerdings '04, Jessica Angus '03, Derek Davis '03, Natalie Hornig '03, Kjaer Kirkegaard '03, Christina Labs '03, William Mathis '03 and Mary Rist '03 exhibited their work the The Forum Gallery during the Dana College Annual Senior Student Art Show, April 4-19.

Dr. Myrvin Christopherson '61, president, was the keynote speaker for a stewardship event April 5-6 at Messiah Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation in Auburn, Wash. He was also the guest preacher at Sunday worship.

Dr. Myrvin Christopherson '61, made a featured presentation to college and university presidents at the annual meeting of the Higher Learning Commission in Chicago, Ill., on April 14.

Darrell Dibben, professor emeritus of communication, and **Bob Schmoll**, vice president and chief financial officer, served as judges for the public speaking competition at the 2003 Future Business Leaders of America Nebraska State Leadership Conference in Omaha April 3.

Jim Falk and the **Dana College Dining Services staff** were selected as one of four Sodexo accounts as having the best fall dining report. Falk was also singled out for his excellent reporting on activities at Dana.

Amy Miller '03 gave her Morton Scholar presentation April 23 in The Forum on "Factors Related to Eating Disorders."

Jessica Donnell '03 gave her Morton Scholar presentation, "Tarzan v. Gummi Tarzan: Ole Lund Kirkegaard's Use of Hero from Popular Culture to Address Child Peer Abuse and Adult-Child Relationships," April 28 in the E.C. Hunt Campus Center.

Professor Volker Langeheine, German scholar-in-residence, and **Dr. Sybille Bartels**, associate dean for student success, director of International Studies and ESL and professor of German, judged competitions at the Nebraska Association of Students of German's annual convention at Millard North High School in Omaha. Nearly 400 students

from 22 schools participated in the German language and culture events March 29. Dr. Bartels, serving as Nebraska testing chairwoman for the national exam, announced that Nebraska's nominee won an American Association of Teachers of German/Pädagogischer Austauschdienst summer trip to Germany. The winner was Jeremy Hanson, son of Mary and Alan Hanson '76.

Dr. Sybille Bartels and **Professor Diana Brown**, associate professor of French and Spanish, attended the Nebraska Department of Education's symposium on "The Pre-K-16 Foreign Language Initiative," at Creighton University in Omaha April 21.

Dale "Juice" Lemon, former Dana Baseball coach and professor emeritus of physical education, received the Nebraska Baseball Hall of Fame's Medal of Honor for his contributions to baseball.

Dr. Mark Sand, associate professor of mathematics, attended the meeting of the Nebraska/Southeast South Dakota section of the Mathematical Association of America, held March 28-29 at the University of South Dakota. He gave a presentation entitled, "Some Mathematics of the Financial World."

Dr. Mark Sand gave a presentation at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., in April. The presentation was entitled "Earth Math," and was a survey of some of the ways in which mathematics is used to study the size, shape and characteristics of Earth.

Professor Richard Potter and **Professor Jan Potter** gave an invited presentation at the annual conference of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in Omaha on March 29. The presentation was entitled, "Alternative Approaches to Mind/Body/Spiritual Health."

Dr. Brian Viets, provost and dean of the college, has been named to the Board of Trustees for the BryanLGH College of Health Sciences (formerly Lincoln General Hospital) in Lincoln, Neb.

The 2003 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* will include the following Dana College students who have been selected as outstanding campus leaders: **Toni Ahrendt '03, Rachel Ahrens '03, Kevin Bartak '04, Mara Bartlett '04, Christian Beckendorf '04, Sara Buck '05, Sarah Davis '03, Luke Dea '04, Jillian Dreesen '03, Darrell Greene '04, Kelly Heller '04, Lauri Kahl '03, Mackenzie Krause '04, Jennifer Miller '04, Carle Mock '03, Emily Neve '04, Dustin Nielsen '04, Inga Roe '04, Wendi Sieh '04, Lindsey Sparks '03, Marta Walker '03, Alicia Widtfeldt '03, Justin Wiese '03, Heather Wonders '03 and Michelle Young '04.**



WOMEN at DaNa

They haven't always been recognized, but they've been here as long as the men. When Trinity Seminary opened in 1884, there were four students, two teachers and one cook — Laurine Marie Andersen, A.M. Andersen's wife. Thousands of women have served or been served at Dana College since. And whether they've been part of an all-women biology faculty (at left), campus hostess or scholar-athlete, Dana's women have never been typical. The following are stories of women who lived outside the box.

BEGIN WITH VISION

Normal liver tissue



What We are Doing

Students and faculty in the Dana College Biology Department are investigating scientific questions that may lead to a better understanding of how the liver functions, and more specifically what types of agents (alcohol, viral infections, bacterial infections...) cause liver cells to be damaged. The motto of this endeavor is "Great Discoveries Begin With Vision" and refers not only to the "vision" needed to ask appropriate scientific questions, but also the method that is being used to try to answer these questions.

One of my professors in graduate

school, who taught me how to do electron and confocal microscopy, often used the old adage, "a picture is worth a thousand words" to refer to how much we can learn about science by just looking and observing what nature is telling us about a particular situation. So, we are looking — looking to see what changes can be detected at the cellular level when liver cells are subjected to a variety of different treatments. Most people know alcohol can be very damaging to the liver. Not nearly as well recognized is that certain types of viral and bacterial infections can also cause liver damage. If we look at liver cells taken from healthy mice and compare them to liver cells

taken from mice that have, for instance, been fed a diet with alcohol, we may be able to more fully understand why alcohol (or specific microbial infections) causes the damage it does.

Collaborations

This project is a collaboration with Dr. Thomas Jerrels of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Jerrels graciously supplies us with prepared slides, which we then use to look for cellular changes. Presently, we are not fully equipped to prepare our own microscope slides, so we are thankful and appreciative to have these connections. We hope as this

Liver tissue showing a virus



WOMEN OF BIOLOGY

Every year, Dr. Carla Delucchi, professor of biology, did a particular exercise with her students. The point was to determine whether adult males are taller than adult females. Of course, everyone already knew the answer, but the important part of the lesson was to gather, record and analyze the data properly.

Only it reached a point where the students couldn't do it properly. There weren't enough men in the class to provide a statistically valid comparison. The experiment had to be modified to compare the weights of male and female mice.

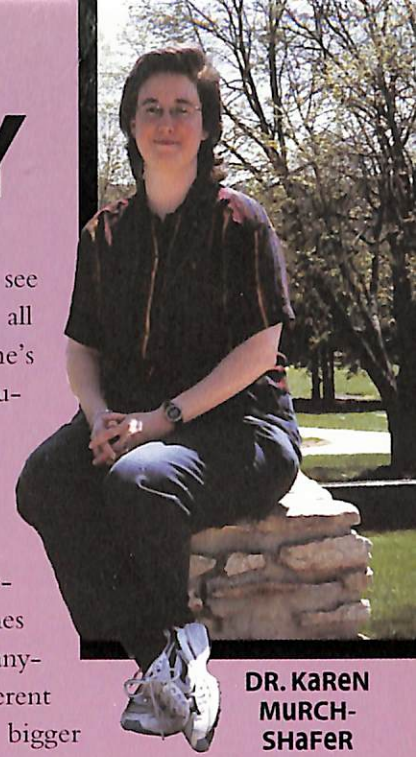
At Dana, the old feeling of science not being part of a "woman's world" has completely broke down. All three faculty members are women, and so are 60 percent of the majors. The numbers seems amazing and mundane at the same time. Amazing from the historical perspective: Dana only started conferring degrees on women three or four generations ago, and, for the most part, they were teaching degrees. Mundane from the students' point of view: What really is the difference between having all women instructors and having all men (or mixed)?

For Delucchi, Dana students *do* see a big difference, but not because all the instructors are women. She's been to plenty of schools where students were lined up outside the instructor's door, hoping to get five minutes to ask course-related questions. It's a scene completely alien to Dana's small, close-knit department. Classes sometimes function more like families than anything else, which can mean a different teaching environment than a bigger school.

"My job is not to be my student's mom," Delucchi says. "My job is to teach them to become scientists."

She tries to provide a balanced atmosphere. Students have felt close enough to parody her pregnancy during a skit, but they call her Dr. Delucchi, not Carla.

Dr. Karen Murch-Shafer, assistant professor of biology,



DR. KAREN MURCH-SHAFER

STORY BY DR. KAREN MURCH-SHAFER ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

research project grows at Dana, we will be able to expand the aspects we do onsite.

What We've Learned So Far

In the few months we have been working on this project we have been successful at getting some good cellular images and are in the process of analyzing them. What is really exciting is now that we are understanding more about the nature of liver tissue and our imaging capabilities, we are realizing many more questions we can investigate. When you jump into a project such as this you often end up with more questions. It's one of the great things about doing research. The more you learn, the more interesting

and important questions you want to explore. Once we become skilled at making microscope slides from animal tissues, and proficient at using a digital camera on a microscope (which has some added complexities), we can ask a huge variety of questions from basic research to very applied problem solving.

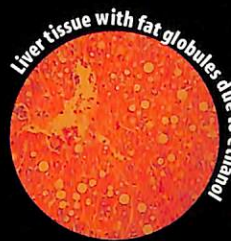
Grant

This research endeavor was made possible through a grant that I received from the National Science Foundation as part of the EPSCoR Small Grant Program for Nebraska Women in Science. The funds received from this competitive grant were used to purchase a high resolution digital camera we

mounted onto a microscope and allowed for a stipend for two student researchers.

Student Researchers

Ashley Sorensen '05 and Amanda Reddish '05, both sophomore biology majors, have had the opportunity to work on this challenging research project this semester. Ashley and Amanda were offered summer research positions working at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Jerrels. This kind of research opportunity provides students with such a great learning experience. We hope to find a way to continue funding for next year.



agrees the difference between a university biology department and one at a small school like Dana is much larger than the difference between a male-dominated and a female-dominated department. She's seen them both, the universities as a student and colleges as a teacher.

"I never remember talking to any faculty members about what I was going to do with my life as a student," Murch-Shafer says. "Now I do that all the time with my students."

The students are much closer to one another, as well. Murch-Shafer says she went on field trips as a student where she didn't know anyone at all. For her Dana students, it's exactly the opposite.

"My students study together, they commiserate together, they complain together, they eat together," she says.

Two of her students will even spend the summer interning together. After spending the spring semester working on a joint University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) grant project with Murch-Shafer (see "Begin with Vision," page 8), Ashley Sorensen '05 and Amanda Reddish '05 have earned spots at UNMC for the summer.

Reddish says she's excited about the opportunity and about the work the three of them have done on the grant. It's been great training for her goal of becoming a physician's assistant. But as a talented, smart and active woman (she's an all-conference soccer player), Reddish often faces the same question.

"People ask, 'Why not just be a doctor if you can?'"

The answer for Reddish has everything to do with being a woman, but nothing to do with whether she could handle medical school.

"I grew up with a single mom, and it was a struggle," she says. "It's kind of frustrating that I won't make as much (money) as doctors, but I want a family and a life. You just don't have a life as a physician."

It's the final hurdle for women in biology, says Dr. Nicole Kaufman, assistant professor of biology.

There are more women than men seeking bachelor's degrees in the United States today, but not as many go on to seek advanced degrees.

"In junior high, girls lose interest in science," Kaufman says. "Young girls are sent the message that science isn't for

them."

Kaufman has seen firsthand how the very competitive environment in the research world can turn women off. It wasn't until after she received her doctoral degree that Kaufman got a taste of teaching, and she has never looked back.

"As a teacher, I don't have to write grants to pay salaries, and I don't have to fire people if I don't get those grants."

But she says students shouldn't assume that certain kinds of jobs are more or less demanding than others.

"For the first time in my life I have a job that I can't complete in nine-hour days," she says.

Her desire to teach put her in a similar situation to Reddish's.

"Teaching was a bad word in graduate school," she says. "I never confided to my professors that my intention was to teach undergraduates."

She remembers a professor telling her at her dissertation defense that she would make an excellent teacher. When she told him that was what she intended to do, her professor looked crushed.

Pursuing advanced degrees didn't keep Dana's biology faculty from having time for family. All three are mothers, and all three see that as a great example to students.

"Students see from us that you can be a professor and a mom and a wife," says Murch-Shafer. "We all live our lives on how we see different people. Having more options of whom you base it on can only be positive."

If anything, role modeling may be where Dana's department has a flaw, Delucchi says.

"We might need a male role model," she says. "It's true that women are more in need of role models (than men). But there might be students who would be more comfortable with a male."

Biology and computer science major Wynn Fangmeier '04 says it's something he's never even thought of. (He never really thought much about the biology faculty being all female, either.) He's noticed the biology instructors talk about their children a little more than other instructors, but he's never felt uncomfortable about being a male in the minority.

"Sometimes you see men as all straight-forward serious," he says. "The biology faculty liven it up. They are very into science. They keep it interesting."



DR. NICOLE KAUFMAN

DR. CARLA DELUCCHI



SUPER STEPH

Dana College senior Stephanie Collins is not one to let the world pass her by. She is the first one out to greet it.

You can see her running up the Dana hill at dawn or after dark, challenging herself and the elements. During the day, she is tutoring in the Learning Center in the C.A. Dana-LIFE Library, challenging a fellow student to succeed. In the evening, she is at a Student Senate meeting challenging the status quo, working to solve another student's concern.

The three-time NAIA All-American for the Dana College track team is more than an average college athlete. Her success on the track is only the beginning of her success as a student at Dana College.

The Shelby, Iowa, native was recruited at Dana by cross country and track coach Jay Birmingham as a middle distance runner. But even then, the chance to be a collegiate athlete was only part of the draw. "I came to Dana because I was going to be able to double major and still graduate in four years, and I could pursue my running, which I love to do," Stephanie said.

Stephanie's love of running began with her first track meet in junior high. She won all of her races that day and she was hooked. Her mom, Nancy, served as her coach all the way through high school. "I definitely had the natural ability and desire to run," Stephanie said. "It was something I wanted to follow through with."

Even as a dedicated athlete, Stephanie had to take it up a notch and overcome adversity to experience success at the college level. "It's a whole new mindset," she said. "You have to dedicate everything to it."

The dedication includes running early in the morning when many college students are still in bed as well as late at night. "In order to be successful, it is necessary. I would definitely do it all over again," Stephanie said.

"I love competition. I thrive on it. I love being expected to do more than everyone else does."

Not everything has come so easily, however. Stephanie acquired asthma her freshman year of college, an obvious obstacle to a distance runner. She had knee surgery last summer, preventing her from completing any off-season training for cross country. "I had no expectations for the season," she said. "I hadn't trained like everyone else had. I didn't deserve to do well."

But she did experience a great deal of success in the fall, leading the Dana women in most races, including finishing sixth at the Great Plains Athletic Conference meet. Stephanie was in line to qualify for cross country Nationals when she collapsed with an asthma attack only 600 meters from the finish



line at the Region IV meet.

"There were a lot of tears shed over that one, but I picked up my head and started training and focusing on indoor track. God has a purpose for everything and I am so grateful to be able to run," Stephanie said.

Stephanie has made the most of her four years at Dana College. Student Senate treasurer, Learning Center tutor, Dana Diplomat, president of the Morton Scholar Honors Program, four-time NAIA Academic All-American, Winterfest Queen, Orientation Leader, Senior Class Agent, 2001 Dana College Student Athlete of the Year... The list of activities and successes goes on and on.

What Stephanie marks as one of her greatest achievements at Dana was being named Student-Athlete of the year as a sophomore. "All of my hard work didn't go unnoticed on the track and in the classroom," she said. "It was a true motivator for the following years."

"The more you put into a college experience, the more you get out of it," Stephanie said. "Everyone should just get involved. That's how you get to know people."

Stephanie's love of learning and quest for a challenge will not end with graduation this spring. Graduating with degrees in both biology and physical education, Stephanie has been accepted to the University of Nebraska Medical Center this fall, where she will pursue a career in physical therapy.

WHITE-GLOVE LADY

Anyone meeting Alice Laaker only once was unlikely to forget her, and certainly former students to whom she was a friend and confidante during their years at Dana won't forget her either. They remember her for the influence she's had on their lives, for her enthusiasms and, yes, for her endearing quirks.

When Alice became dean of women in 1961, she and her husband, Allen, moved into the apartment in Mickelsen Hall. As superintendents at the Crowell Home in Blair, they'd already befriended students who gave programs there, and now as house parents they became friends with many more. After Allen's death in 1972, Alice became campus hostess and also resident hostess in the college's Elk Horn Hall Conference-Retreat Center. She retired in 1985 but continued to help at campus events until her death after a brief illness on Nov. 13, 1990.

What was it about Alice that makes her so unforgettable?

"She was a gracious lady who made every person she visited with feel like they were the most important person in the world," Barbara (Wolf '73) Triplett says.

She recalls meeting Alice: "Coming to

STORY BY ANN (HARMS '54) GEORGE



Dana was a huge step in my life. I was scared and homesick. Alice Laaker greeted me at the door of Mickelsen Hall and introduced herself. She wanted to know who I was. Then she proceeded to tell me what room I was in and who my roommate was and where she was from, with *no* paper in her hand. She had memorized the entire roster of freshman girls in the dorm!"

Nathan Krämer '89 knew Alice only in the last years of her life. He met her for the first time when he was a high school student attending a Luther League conference in Elk Horn Hall. She made such a vivid impression that he told his mother all about "this remarkable lady" he met when he returned home. Later, as a Dana student, he'd visit her regularly at 9:30 Thursday nights. They'd talk about the week over snacks for about 20 minutes and then go into the chapel for a short prayer. "Then she'd give me a quick kiss on the cheek and send me on my way."

To many, including students from other countries, she was "Mother Laaker."

Triplett and Krämer remember her tact. "I had a habit of playing the piano too loudly at night," Triplett says. "Every single time she walked by the piano in Mickelsen Hall, she would kindly say (as only Mother Laaker could express it), 'Softer on the bass, Barbara!'"

Krämer says, "There are many difficult and uncomfortable situations in life where I often pause to think, how would Alice handle this? When I approach a problem the way I think Alice might have, things turn out right."

She was interested in many things and in everyone. Krämer remembers evening meals in the cafeteria when she'd join a

Dana Women's Timeline

1884
Laurine Marie Andersen
First president's wife & first college cook

1899-1900
Mathilda Berg
Alice Robbins Foght
First women faculty members

1891
First summer session (a.k.a. "girls' school") for women students

1912
Minnie Jensen '12
First student (male or female) receive basic teaching certificate

Compiled by Ann (Harms '54) George

Sources: Dana College Archive, *Saga of the Tower* by William E. Christensen, *A Place Called Dana* by Peter L. Petersen

table of athletes. She'd give them the sports section of the *Omaha World-Herald* and talk about its contents with them. They always welcomed her, he says.

She was a Methodist devoted to her church.

She loved music. In recognition of the support she and Allen gave the performing arts, the backstage greenroom/lounge in the Madsen Fine Arts Center was named the "Laaker Room."

And she loved nature. Krämer recalls a visit one early spring morning to Elk Horn Hall where he found her ironing tea napkins. Their talk ranged from the importance of taking care of good linens ("I'm sure your mother takes care of her linens," she said) to the pair of cardinals she'd spotted the day before and the budding trees and early spring flowers.

Alice often took elderly shut-in friends for rides in the country so they could enjoy nature, too. She was such a slow driver her friends must not have missed much. She told the story on herself of the time a highway patrolman stopped her on the Interstate because she was driving well below the minimum speed. He laughed, she said, and told her he could hardly wait to get back to tell his colleagues about stopping someone for driving too slow.

She had other memorable quirks. "Who could forget her gloves?" Triplett asks. "Joseph may have had an amazing Technicolor coat, but he couldn't hold a candle to Alice Laaker's colorful assortment of gloves. There were gloves for any holiday, funeral, wedding or special occasion. Some of us wondered if they reproduced in Mother Laaker's closet overnight."

As Elk Horn Hall hostess, she'd leave handwritten notes on scraps of paper for guests and service people. Krämer remembers those she'd write the garbage collector and laundry truck driver, "celebrating the wonders of nature and giving them good wishes for the day." He's kept and treasures

the several dozen notes she wrote him.

He also recalls her habit of leaving her keys on the floor of her car "so she wouldn't, she said, inconvenience the car thieves too much." Even today, when he and his wife, Amy, leave their house on a quick errand, "We often just leave our radio or classical music playing in memory of Alice, because that way the burglars will have something pleasant to listen to," Krämer says.

"After Alice retired and after Amy and I were married," Krämer says, "Alice would call to say she'd like to stop by 'for only a moment,' and we'd hold supper just so we could run out to meet her. Alice was a woman who held a unique kind of social power."

Dana and Blair have both honored this remarkable, unassuming woman. Dana gave her its College-Community Service Award in 1975 and, when she retired in 1985, named her campus hostess emerita and established a scholarship fund in her name, which continues to support students. Blair's Chamber of Commerce gave her its Community Service Award in 1989. The American Lutheran Church Women of the ALC's Central District, an organization that met in Elk Horn Hall, also honored her. And alumni at a 1989 Homecoming birthday party that celebrated her 80th year were able to tell her how much they valued and loved her.

Triplett says, "Alice was one in a million. God gave her a gift, and then He gave Dana the gift of Alice Laaker."

"Alice was a kind, nurturing mother — my 'alma mater,'" Krämer says. "Some of the finest people I've known have been at Dana, and they've enriched my life. Alice is definitely one of those people. I feel honored to have been influenced by people at Dana like her."

Alice was one in a million. God gave her a gift, and then He gave Dana the gift of Alice Laaker.
—Barbara (Wolf '73) Triplett

1922

Esther Bonnesen '22

First student (male or female) to receive a bachelor of arts degree



1964

Margaret Fischer

First woman regent



1987

Kathleen O'Connor

First woman vice president for academic affairs



1953-1954

Ann Harms '54

First woman student government president



1985

Terry Cassell

First woman campus pastor

1993

Kathy Foley

First woman athletic director



Members of the class pose with Wildlife and Parks Representative Mike Tyndell on the Omaha Reservation. First row, from left: Sara Gutzwiller '04, Maria Roesler '05, Theresa Peterson '04 and Debbie Beall '06; second row, from left: Amy Miller '03, Amber Meister '06 and Heather Wonders '03.

Dear Journal...

Lessons learned on a Interim trip to the First Nations

Photos courtesy Sara Gutzwiller '04

Maria Roesler '05

Everyone that met with us and talked with us was very happy to have us at the rez and was very hospitable. There was just a lot of generosity and welcoming...

Everyone is very intelligent and has much insight to add to our learning. I believe that the class is much enhanced by the group learning that is taking place, and the group doing things together as a whole. I also believe that that is very fitting and appropriate. Native Americans value a group cohesiveness and togetherness with each person related and connected to the other. No one stands alone. And so, too, I believe that it is fitting that our group stands together so well, and learns together, and from each other. Without meaning or trying to, we have taken a value and tradition and have made it partly our own in such a very short time. And I doubt that we really realize it...

On both reservations that we have been on, we have been thanked profusely for coming and taking our time to learn about them. Our parents and family have been thanked for sharing us, and our ancestors have even been thanked for taking part in creating us so that we can go there. In our society, saying "thank you" is a very small thing, which is done quickly and almost impersonally. Often times we take things

The First Nations Interim group of eight young women (above, minus Stephanie Miller '06, who's behind the camera) and Professor of Social Work Jan Potter spent the Interim session learning about the culture, spirituality, history, everyday life and uncommon challenges of Native Americans living on the northern Great Plains. The class traveled to the Omaha, Winnebago, Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations, and met with several leaders and teachers on the way.

The following are excerpts from class members' journals kept during the class:

Sara Gutzwiller '04

Wow! [Albert White Hat, professor of Lakota Studies at Sinte Gleska Tribal College on the Rosebud Reservation] actually took us to the sweat lodge, let us look inside it, and then invited us to come back and join in a sweat ceremony. And when he said he was going to show us the Sun Dance place I thought we were going to see it from a distance, but he actually took us into the middle of the dance grounds. It was so surreal. It was so quiet, and even though it was snowing, it wasn't cold at all. I was so honored to be there, and even before Theresa [Peterson '04] started talking and crying, I was almost overcome by tears when we were just standing there. Albert was such a cool guy. The museum was really cool, too. And the fact that he showed us the vault and the other stuff downstairs was just unreal. How often do people allow guests to see pieces that aren't on display?...

Wounded Knee [Cemetery, site of a famous massacre of Lakotas in 1890] was really powerful. It's really hard to write about because there really aren't words that describe it. I got this feeling — I don't know how to explain it — when we were up there. Kind of like I shouldn't be up there. But I felt so honored to be up there...

Oh my God, dinner was so good! I can't believe all the food [Sara Berridge — human resources director at HoChunk, Inc, community volunteer, and host for the class — and her mother, Vi] made for us. Indian tacos with homemade salsa on real homemade FRYBREAD!! It was so good. That was the best frybread I've ever had. I ate so much; I'm stuffed. It was nice that a lot of her family came over for dinner...

This was the best class I've ever had and probably the best trip I've ever been on. I feel so rich for learning so many new things.

for granted, and do not thank people for as many things as we really should be thanking them for. All this thankfulness really makes you feel good and teaches you not to take things for granted as much. Our culture could gain a lot to even gain a small amount of the thankfulness that is found within the Native community...

This Interim travel has been much more of a spiritual and emotional journey than an intellectual one, but I have still learned tons. I have come back as a very different person inside, but don't know how to let people know that on the outside. I have found something of myself there. The people that our group encountered have taught me many values in life, like thankfulness, and a new value on time that I hope to take with me all my life. There are stereotypes that I held that have been broken, and a desire to break other stereotypes has grown within me. I now grasp a better idea of the issues facing Native American communities today, both good and bad. I also know more about the historical problems, events and issues that have impacted these communities. I am very glad that I went on this trip, as I have gained new friends and a new perspective and outlook on life.

Heather Wenders '03

I did not ... think that this would be such a changing trip, but I learned more about myself in three weeks than I did my entire college career...

There are many more stories of hope that can be found on the reservations, as well. I found them talking to people and

hearing their stories. I also was privileged to see someone else's hopes turn into a reality. While at the Pine Ridge Reservation, the first stop we made was at the Boys and Girls Club. This was a newly built building, but the club had been a part of the town for a few years already. There was a young native woman that was best known for her basketball abilities, but also had high hopes for her community. She wanted the youth to have a place to go, so they would not get into drugs or alcohol, and while she was alive she kept emphasizing and working on this hope. Unfortunately she was killed in a car accident her senior year of high school. However, her mother took on the initiative of her daughter, and about three months after she died started the Boys and Girls Club in an old factory. She did not start with much, but with work, she eventually was able to build the new building that we were privileged to see. This young girl's hopes were answered and proved that it can happen anywhere; the Pine Ridge Reservation is one of the poorest Native nations in the country and is the first one to have a Boys and Girls Club...

This theme of acceptance is something I feel that we saw a lot on our travels. I do not mean that they are accepting of the situation they are in; but rather, they accepted us coming into their homes and their communities. This was something that few of us had felt before. My biggest example of this was when we were in Winnebago and Sara [Berridge] welcomed us into her home. Her mother cooked us all our meals, and her entire family welcomed us...

Another part of this welcoming or acceptance that we felt was at our home stays. Theresa and I stayed at Sara's mother's house, and she gave up her bed and her granddaughter gave up hers as well. There were only two of us and we were prepared to sleep on the floor, but they gave us their beds and they slept in the living room. When it was our last morning there, they even gave us a gift. They gave us a little figurine that represented the month in which we were born. When we returned to Sara's home, she also gave us a gift, a small satchel that had a cross pin on the front that her son had designed, and it was filled with cedar, which we learned was used for praying...

While we were at Rosebud, we met Albert White Hat. He came and spoke to us about his life, his culture. After his talk to us, which was giving enough (time is a precious gift), he ate lunch with us. After lunch he then took us to see the sweat lodge in his backyard and he then took us to the Sun Dance grounds. These are two very holy places, and he welcomed us there. He even invited us back to join in a sweat sometime. He also explained that they had an open-door policy about the Sun Dance, they would let anyone from any ethnicity experience and even take part in their Sun Dance if they took it seriously. I was amazed at the acceptance...

The third was the Tribal Council meeting that four of us attended. It was late in the day and we were all tired, but there was a tribal council meeting that we had wanted to see. So those of us that really wanted went ahead and went. When we got there it had already been going for about an hour, but we were allowed in. When we sat down, the man in front of us who was part of the meeting turned around and asked us where we were from.

He then at the end of the meeting asked the members to welcome us and to let us walk around and shake everyone's hands. They all shook our hands and welcomed us. I could not believe that they were so welcoming to four white women who were late to their meeting.

Some friends we met: Trudy Cadau and Dr. Rudi Mitchell, Omaha tribal guidance and development center representatives



For Slugger Chris Zachgo Nebraska's Practically the Tropics

He's a two-time Honorable Mention All-Conference player (2001 and 2002); a Top 100 player to watch in the NAIA according to *Collegiate Baseball News*; a three-year starter who has helped rebuild the Dana baseball program; and a key player on a team that was near perfect in the first half of conference play this year.

It leads Viking fans to expect a lot out of Chris Zachgo '05, but if there's pressure, Zachgo doesn't show it. He is as laid back as they come. A junior from Delta Junction, Alaska, Zachgo misses the arctic, his mom's cooking and his hobbies of hunting and "snowmachining." Kristen Gay, sports information director and head women's soccer coach, sat down with Zachgo to discuss, reminisce, and learn about the life of a young man from the frozen north who has turned into quite the boy of summer.

Gay: What was it like playing baseball in Alaska?

Zachgo: It was a small town, very secluded and not many opportunities for advancement past youth sports. Our high school season was only 12 games. We would have to travel 100 miles to Fairbanks to play with a traveling team or on a summer team.

How long have you been playing?

Since I was 5. I started playing tee ball and my mom was my first coach. After that my dad took over and was my coach until college.

Speaking of college, how did you hear about Dana College?

Actually, my Legion coach played at Bellevue University (in Omaha) and the rest is history.

You have a couple of teammates that are from Alaska, how do you get along with them?

I played high school baseball with (Kyle) Hatch. One day I was pitching against him and hit him in the face with a fastball ... fractured his face. I felt bad. (Chuckles) We still talk.

Being from Alaska, is there anything "Alaskan" you do?

Well, I like to go hunting and trapping, but I haven't done that here. I do have a fox skin hanging in my dorm room. The guys like to tease me about living in an igloo.

How has your experience been at Dana College?

I love it. I like all my classes and it's pretty laid back.

You were picked as one of the Top 100 NAIA players to watch by *Collegiate Baseball News*. Is there any pressure on you this season to perform?

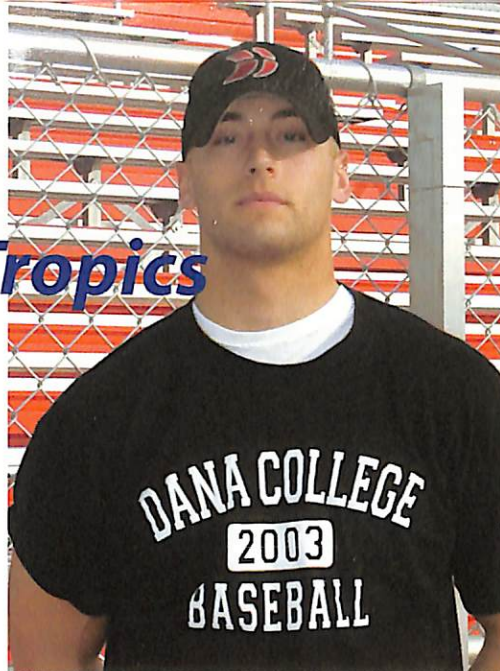
At first there was some pressure, because I'm not used to all the awards and honors. We had some new guys come in, and I felt I had to establish myself as a good player. Now, I'm just comfortable where I am.

Favorite position?

That's tough. I like the outfield, because I can play every game, and as a pitcher you are in a 4 to 5 game rotation.

Favorite pitch?

A two-sink fastball or a changeup.



Do you think you've grown over the years as a person and player?

Definitely. I've never spent time away from home and I've had to grow up fast and be on my own. I'm glad I came here.

What is the biggest change over the years within the baseball program?

A couple of years ago we had a starting lineup of all freshmen. Now we have seasoned veterans. The atmosphere is laid back, but Coach (Damon) Day has high expectations for every one of his players and this program.

What's the mood of the team after being ranked No. 4 in the region and having a 9-1 conference record?

I think we are confident, but we also know there is a long stretch of baseball to be played. This year we have all around better play defensively, offensively, and solid pitching.

Is Dana respected in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC)?

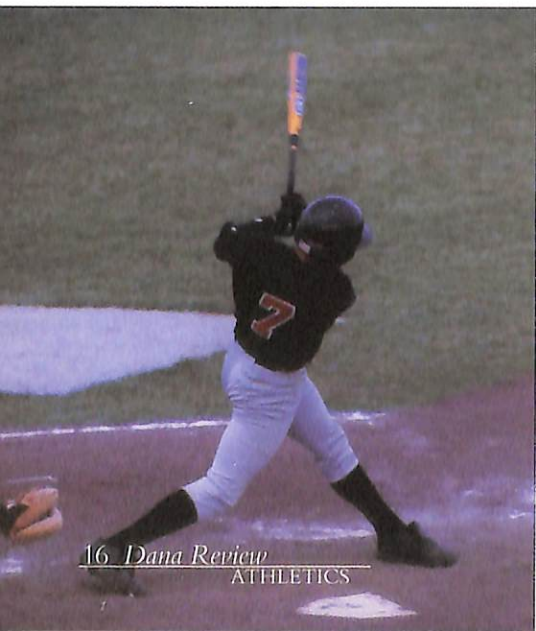
Not as much as we deserve. I think we have to put more talented teams away before we gain respect from our conference.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

I'm missing the Arctic Man.

What's that?

It's a huge "snow-machining" weekend. People from everywhere come out and just ride. There's a race, but most people just come to have a good time.



Wrestling Proves *It's One of the Best*

The Dana College wrestling team earned their best finish at NAIA Nationals in school history and brought home an all-time high of four All-American wrestlers in a single season.

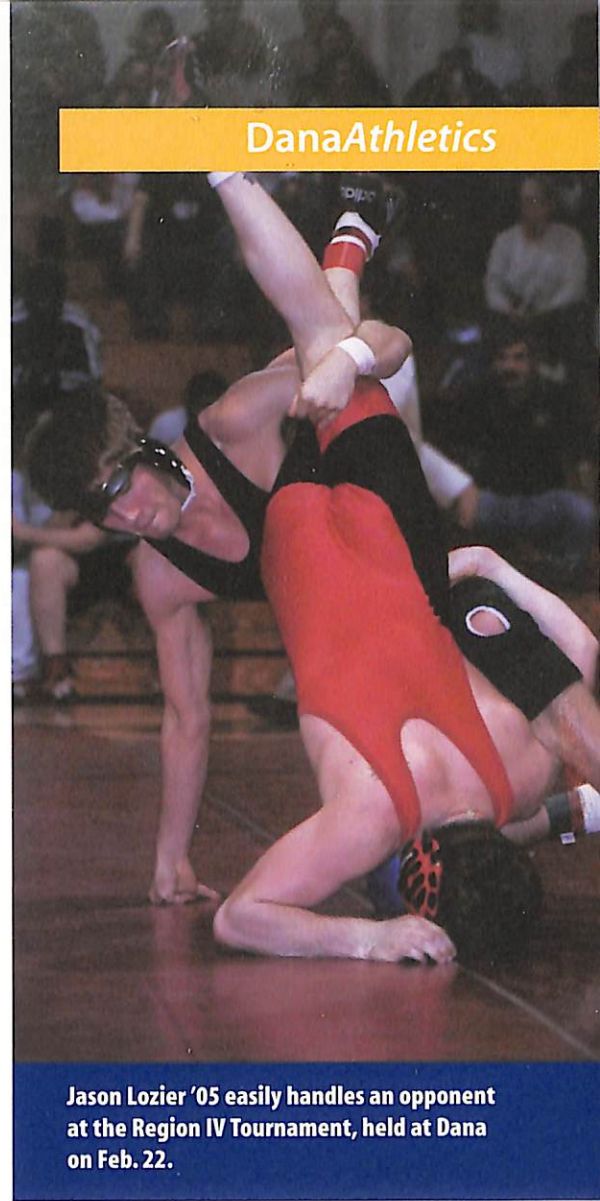
The Vikings finished in 11th place at Nationals with 51 points, 2 points behind ninth place Bacone College of Oklahoma. The Missouri Valley College Vikings won their third National Championship, finishing with 139.5 points to outdistance defending National Champion Lindenwood University with 134.5 points.

Dana's Leister Bowling '05 (165 pounds) finished third to lead all Viking wrestlers. He won his 44th match of the season by beating defending National Champion Pat Cadwallader 4-2 in the consolation championship.

Jason Lozier '05 (141 pounds) finished sixth, defeated in the fifth place

match by Oscar Frias of Southern Oregon University 5-2. Ed Schmitt '03 (184 pounds) earned a fourth place finish, losing to Mario Thomas of Missouri Valley College 5-4 in the consolation championship. Wynn Fangmeier '03 (197 pounds) finished in the eighth place spot as he was defeated by Jess Alford of Cumberland College (Ky.) 10-1.

"It was a big step for the program to earn it's best finish in school history," said Coach Steve Costanzo. "We are getting better every year and that's all you can ask of the kids. I had a great time with these guys this year. They are a very coachable team and showed a good work-ethic character for me. The future looks real good as we only lose three seniors. I look forward to next season and I will be hitting the trail hard to bring in another good recruiting class."



Jason Lozier '05 easily handles an opponent at the Region IV Tournament, held at Dana on Feb. 22.

Men's Basketball keys to next season: *Experience, Experience, Experience*

A failure at times to put together two solid halves of basketball led to a somewhat disappointing 11-20 finish to the Dana College men's basketball season. Highlights of the season included an upset of Great Plains Athletic Conference rival Midland Lutheran, 82-76, to give the Vikings a midseason boost; a win over Jamestown College, a team that finished the season ranked fourth in the NAIA; and a victory over conference foe Briar Cliff to break an 11-game losing streak against the Chargers.

Jeff Tesmer '03 and Derek Hack '03 provided senior leadership for the Vikings. Tesmer, who earned Honor-

able Mention All-Conference honors, scored the 1,000th point of his career against York College Nov. 26. The floor general led the team in assists with 125.

Hack, a First-Team All-Conference player in the GPAC, had eight double-doubles during the course of his senior campaign and led the Vikings with 485 points, averaging 16.7 per game. He also tallied 19 blocked shots and 7.5 rebounds per contest.

Junior Chad Harder '04 came up big on the defensive end this season, wreaking havoc on Viking opponents. Harder had 58 steals this season to lead

the Vikings.

Sophomore Bruce Erdmann '05 also earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors for averaging 12.2 points per game. He tallied 42 assists and 44 steals in the season.

With only four seniors (Jon Mauro '03 and Brent Bintner '03 were injured for the majority of the season), everyone got to see the floor and gain valuable playing experience.

The Vikings return 11 varsity players to their roster for next year. "We are young, but experienced. The future looks bright for Dana basketball," said Coach Chris Fear.

Women's Basketball: *Grow With Every Game*

The young Dana College women's basketball team was dealt more than its share of adversity in 2002-03. An already small roster, shortened further by injury and military service, led to a winless campaign. Those things, combined with competing in arguably the toughest NAIA conference in the nation, led to a 0-22 finish in Head Coach Brenda Mechels' inaugural season.

Although the Vikings did not win a game this year, Coach Mechels believes her team showed improvement with each game. "We had to overcome a number of obstacles during this year. Our leading scorer, Samanta Alapa ('05), tore her ACL in mid-season, Janine Jones ('03) was called up to defend our country, Michelle Glanz ('05) and Erin

Stoffel ('04) weren't 100 percent due to injuries, and playing all season with eight players says enough about our team," Mechels said.

The Vikings focused on things they had control over, like continuing to practice hard and remaining positive throughout this entire experience. "The team rallied behind one another and we can definitely build on the situation for next year," said sophomore guard Glanz.

And build they will. Coach Mechels and her staff are in the midst of recruiting and are excited about the opportunity to bring in some great players who can compete in the tough Great Plains Athletic Conference.

Three players averaged in double figures for Dana College: Alapa, 12.0



Mili Monis '04 evades the Briar Cliff defense at a home game, Feb. 15.

points per game (ppg); Stoffel, 11.0 ppg; and Glanz, 10.2 ppg.

Stoffel was named Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Junior Mili Monis '04 led the Vikings in assists with 29 and steals with 31.

Spring *Mid-Season Reports*

Baseball

For the first time in several years, Dana baseball received national votes in the NAIA poll. At mid-season, there weren't enough votes to earn a national ranking, but the Vikes were listed as No. 5 in Region IV.

Eleven of Dana's 15 losses have been to nationally ranked teams, and seven were ranked in the Top 10. None of these games were played at home.

Dana launched into the conference season on fire, going undefeated for the first nine games. Offensive leaders include Mark Listenberger '04 (.412), Jon Moench '03 (.371) and Kenny Nicoll '04 (.342).

Softball

At midseason, the Dana College softball team sat in the middle of the highly competitive Great Plains Athletic Conference. The Vikings had a 17-10 record (6-4 in the GPAC) and were ranked seventh in NAIA Region IV.

On the way, the Vikings upset the GPAC-leading Concordia Bulldogs April 2. Cindy Ruch '06 set a new school record for wins when she reached 10 at the Dana Invitational March 23.

At midseason, Erica Duncan '04 was leading at the plate, with 32 hits, 15 RBIs and batting .421. Ruch leads pitchers with 48 strikeouts and a 1.42 ERA.

Track

Track finished the indoor portion of its season on a high note, with four team members earning All-America status at the NAIA Indoor Track Championships.

Matt Maltby '03 put the shot 51 feet, 6½ inches for second place at Nationals. Stephanie Collins '03 was third in the 1,000-meter run, setting a new school record at 2:57.17. (She held the old record, as well.) Garry Clark '04 placed third in the 600-meter dash with a time of 1:19.50. Allen Wagner '03 placed sixth in the mile run, with his best time of the season, 4:17.95.

Coach Allen Friesen was looking forward to the outdoor season.

Non-Traditional Pioneers



Clayton '65 and Lila Nietfeld at home in Eaton, Colo.

Clayton and Lila Nietfeld have learned throughout their lives that the Lord will provide and He will lead you where you need to go.

With eight grades of formal education, Clayton chose to work as a farm laborer, thus taking an indirect route to Dana College and likewise to the ministry. While he was experiencing discouraging times as a Colorado wheat farmer, area ministers pushed Clayton toward serving the church. Dr. Erwin Fritschel, president of the Central District of the American Lutheran Church, asked Clayton to serve as parish worker for the Central District, a precursor for his ministry to follow. While serving in this capacity, helping start new mission churches and also serving as a licensed lay assistant for Pastor Harold Brokering in Denver, Clayton was encouraged to set his sights on the ordained ministry.

In 1961, at age 34, the future Lutheran pastor resigned his lay assistant position, took his wife and three young children and enrolled at Dana College. He met with Dana College President Dr. Clifford Madsen, who agreed to enroll Clayton on probation.

"My spirit just said Dana was the place for me," Clayton said. "The Lord led us there.

"We were graciously accepted and enriched by the warmth of the people of

the community, First Lutheran Church, Dana College persons and events, and by many neighbors and friends who took us in," he said.

The young family set up housekeeping within walking distance to Dana, First Lutheran Church and the grocery store. Forced to live very frugally while raising three children and paying for college, the family used less than a tank of gas in their car during that first semester at Dana.

The Nietfelds were blessed with good neighbors who had special concerns for them. In the summer and fall, they shared fruits and vegetables from their gardens that the Nietfelds were able to can and eat year-round.

Lila babysat neighborhood children while Clayton attended college and served as chaplain for Good Shepherd Home, served a little country church at Malmo, Neb., and during the summer months worked at DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge.

Even though Clayton was enrolled as a nontraditional student when it was not as customary as it is today, he was accepted by the other students, most of whom were 15 years his junior. "I think I was older than some of the professors," he quipped. He participated in the Dana College Choir and spent many hours at the library.

"Dana helped me take a very important step from the lay ministry to seminary and then to the ministry," Clayton said. He credits the kindness and concern of his professors and staff in helping him succeed.

Following his graduation from Dana, he completed his studies at Wartburg Seminary in 1968. He served parishes in Dodge City, Kan., Englewood, Colo., a short stint with the missions in the Seward Peninsula of Alaska, and Pickrell, Neb., until he retired in 1996.

"Having been blessed in numerous ways, we feel it is our special privilege to serve the Lord with gifts, talents and opportunities with that which the Lord has placed in our trust," Clayton said. Especially meaningful to the Nietfelds is the scripture: "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase." (Prov. 3:9) NKJV

The Nietfelds give annually to Dana College and are also Dana Builders, having included the college in their will. They have also established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust with the ELCA Foundation, naming Dana as one of several charities to be an ultimate beneficiary.

"Clayton and Lila are 'giving people,'" said Dana College President Dr. Myrvin Christopherson. "Out of their deep Christian faith, they have given their lives unselfishly in service to their church, their family and all who are their neighbors. They are the consummate 'cheerful giver' couple. We are most grateful that their giving plans include Dana College."

"We are thankful for the Christian guidance given to us by our parents, the many pastors with whom Clayton has worked, the many witnessing friends throughout the years and again, the influence our entire family received while at Dana College," the Nietfelds said.

Destiny's Deep Sea

00s

Jason Dannelly '02 is working as a personal banker and loan officer at US Bank. Jason is also doing play-by-play for college and high school sporting events on radio station KRGI in Grand Island, Neb., where he lives.

Curtis Isaacson '02 is the choral director at Northwest High School in Omaha.

B.J. Kolbe '02 married Sara Osborne March 1. B.J. is employed by Gage Brothers Concrete Products, Inc., of Sioux Falls, S.D.

Anne Laughery '02 has recently joined Clarkson College in Omaha as an admissions counselor.

Bill '01 and Jessica (Schwenn '02) Potts, had a baby girl named Brynn Cassandra on Jan. 10. Brynn weighed 8

pounds, 1/2 ounce, and was 20 inches long. They live in Rockford, Ill.

Ruel Cooper '00 married Celina Beltran on Nov. 30, 2002, in Tucson, Ariz. They recently moved to Denver, Colo., and Ruel accepted a job as a commodities trader at Select Natural Gas LLC.

Cheryl Karl '00 is attending occupational therapy school at Creighton University in Omaha. Cheryl headed to San Angelo, Texas, for 12 weeks of fieldwork in May, and will go on to professional trajectory fieldwork in the fall. Cheryl is living in Bellevue, Neb.

90s

Sara (Crawford '99) and Chad '96 Foust welcomed their son, Kadin Michael, Sept. 15, 2002. The couple recently moved to Watertown, S.D., where Chad has been appointed director of the Terry Redlin Freshwater Institute. Sara is employed as a home-based therapist working with children and families.

Joni (Travis '99) and Tony '99 Eitzmann welcomed their first daughter, Kelsey Morgan, on Dec. 5, 2002. Kelsey weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 20 1/2 inches long. The Eitzmanns live in Gretna, Neb.

Kolette (Haskell '99) and Cedric Satterfield '99 had a girl on Feb. 6. Briallen Eileen weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20 inches long. She joins brother Trevelian, 3. Cedric is working at the Tecumseh (Neb.) State Correction Institution, and Kolette is a stay-at-home mom. They live in Sterling, Neb.

Chana (Bammerlin '98) Orton had artwork displayed at the Kaleidoscope Gallery #113 in Bassett, Neb. Her



Mom Jamie (Rodenburg '99) Ryba and Grandpa Fred Rodenburg '72 pose with new addition Hunter Lee Ryba, born Nov. 21, 2002. Hunter is Matt and Jamie Ryba's first child, and Fred's fifth grandchild. Jamie is teaching third grade at Franklin Elementary School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where her family lives.

Have a new addition to your family? Send us a photo! DANA REVIEW, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008.

work may be found in at least seven states throughout the Midwest. Chana and husband, Jason '98, have a 2-year-old daughter, Caitlin, and are living on the family ranch in Mills, Neb.

Soren Schmidt '98, program director at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Minn., has been named to *United Who's Who Executives and Professionals*. Soren is also director of an ecumenical community choir.

Karin (Jaeger '97) Lewis and her husband, Chris, had a son, Jaeger Ryan Lewis, on May 29, 2002. They are living in Omaha.

D.J. Walton '97 married Nanette Curtis on April 19. D.J. is an assistant coordinator of Nebraska Juvenile Services for Family Service in Omaha.

Johan Windmuller '97 joined the Blair Police Department after several years with the Fremont (Neb.) Police Department.

Libby Hansen '95 married William Shelton April 5 in Jacksonville, Iowa. Libby is assistant manager at a Christopher and Banks store in Omaha.

Gretchen Last '95 married Michael Stanley, Dec. 21, 2002. Gretchen is teaching K-4 music in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She is also the director of the Fort Dodge Civic Glee Club and will be starting as the Chancel Choir director for First Presbyterian Church in the fall. The couple is living in Fort Dodge.



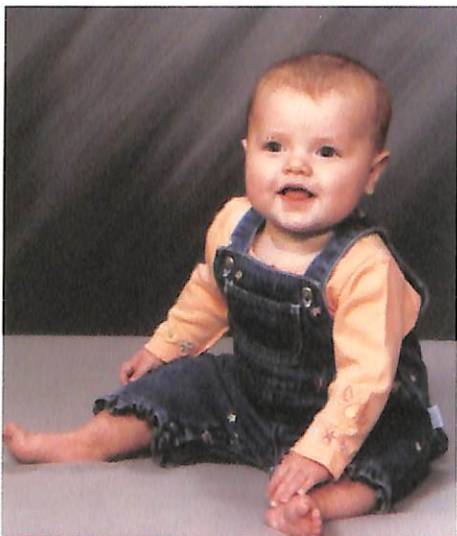
Heather (Olsen '97) and Chris '97 McCain had a baby girl on Sept. 6, 2002. Her name is Tayler Sydney. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 19 inches long. They live in Omaha.



Becky (Johnson '92) Davenport and husband, Wade, share their Viking spirit with their son, Joshua James Davenport, who was born June 18, 2002.

Brian Williams '95 received his masters degree in business administration with a marketing concentration from Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minn., on Dec. 18, 2002. Brian has accepted a position as marketing manager of the Agriculture Business Unit with Foss North America, Inc. He is living in Minnetonka, Minn.

Stacey (Harris '94) and Mike '93 Maxwell announce the birth of their son, Dalton Michael. He was born on Nov. 8, 2002, and joins sister, CheyAnne, 8. Mike is a sales manager with Lowe's Home Improvement of



Kara (Koehler '96) Johnson and husband, Matt, welcomed their daughter, Paige Elizabeth, on Aug. 2, 2002. Kara has resigned as a medical technologist to be a stay-at-home mom. The family lives in Omaha.

Southwest Omaha and Stacey is with Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Karen Clements '92 has moved back to Blair from Chicago. She is working as an accountant at American Mail Service in Ralston, Neb.

Russ Wilcox '91 was named to the *Norfolk (Neb.) Daily News*' "20 under 40" recognition program for his involvement in civic organizations. Russ is vice president at BankFirst of Norfolk, where he and his family live.

Christina Zayat '91 is celebrating her ninth year at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. Christina works in the mailroom/fulfillment department and lives in Cooperstown.

Stacey Lien '90 is project manager at West Corporation, supporting AT&T wholesale customers. Stacey is also a Mary Kay consultant. She lives in Omaha.

Scott Wagner '90 has been named a vice president at First National Bank of Omaha. Scott is responsible for all marketing activities for the partnership marketing segment of the bankcard consumer bank area. He lives in Gretna, Neb.

80s

Ted '89 and Margie (Miller '87) Bansen have joined the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society and are expanding their farming operation in Blair. Their new endeavor involves raising free-range chicken eggs through the purchase of Blue J Acres Agriculture.

Andrew Madsen '89 and wife, Heather, have a new daughter, Emma Maria, born Dec. 22, 2002. She joins sister, Madeleine, 2. They reside in Milwaukee, Wis., where Andrew works for the forestry service.

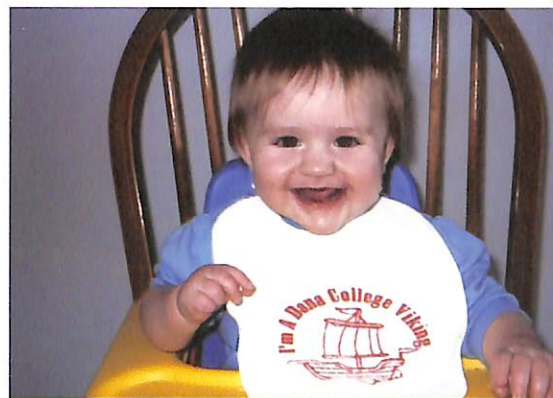
Carin (Mayr '89) Rowan has accepted a position as a physical therapist at Memorial Peds Rehab. She and her husband, Rex, have two children, Reed, 5, and Rece, 11 months. They are living in Colorado Springs, Colo.



Joanie Loontjer '96 married Carlos Ramirez on June 21, 2002. The couple is living in Spencer, Iowa.

Julia (Schroeder '87) Macek is a licensed clinical social worker and is working as a clinical supervisor at a mental health agency in Maine. Julia and her husband, David, have two children, Kristin, 6, and Aaron, 2. They are building a home in the hills of northern Maine, near New Sweden.

Jeffrey Langholz '86 has co-written a book, *You Can Prevent Global Warming (and Save Money!): 51 Easy Ways*. The book is published by Andrews McMeel Publishing and went on sale April 22 (Earth Day) for \$10.95. Jeffrey is an environmental policy expert on the faculty at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. He was also awarded the Allen Griffin Award for outstanding teaching by the Community Foundation for Monterey County.



Denise (Muetting '81) Falcon and husband, Dan, have a little Viking of their own. Jolie was born Jan. 21, 2002. The Falcon family lives in Omaha.

Debra Cleaver '84 married Randy Farris in February. They have three children, Derek, 15; Kay, 14; and Ian, 10. Debra has been a special education teacher at West Harrison Community School for 15 years. They live in Mondamin, Iowa.



Bodil (Strøm '61) Johnson married the Rev. Jørn Müller on Jan. 18 in Portland, Ore. Bodil was instructor in Danish at Dana from 1966 to 1984 and in German from 1976 to 1984. The Müllers have two homes, in Fortuna, Calif., and in Hillsboro, Ore. You can usually reach them at bodil@myfirstlink.net.

Janelle (Tippery '82) Ray was featured in an article in the *Blair Enterprise*. Janelle shared her approach to teaching both fifth grade and sixth grade students simultaneously. She lives with her husband, John, and children — Grant, 17, Abrah, 17, and Morgan, 14 — and teaches in Herman, Neb.



Winifred (Nikolaisen '34) Paulsen Nelson (seated) celebrated her 90th birthday in December 2002. She was joined by her daughters: left, Marlene Paulsen '58 of Nivaa, Denmark, and, right, Jeanette (Paulsen '61) Larson of Pipestone, Minn., as well as her son-in-law Bob Larson '58. Winifred lives in Pipestone.

Jolene (Darrington '80) Lammert is teaching kindergarten full-time in Treynor, Iowa. Jolene and her family live in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

70s

Dr. Donald Baack '75 has been appointed to a visiting professor position at the University of Paris-Dauphine for the summer of 2003. He will serve as a liaison for French students who are seeking to take courses in various U.S. colleges and will be responsible for testing their English skills. In June, Donald will also make a presentation at the European Applied Business Research Conference in Venice, Italy. The topic is "The Effects of 9-11 on the Marketing Communication Industry." Donald is professor of management at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. He lives in Joplin, Mo.

Bob Bair '72 has been elected as a regional director of the Journalism Education Association. Bob is a journalism teacher at Blair High School.

Lora (Lunzmann '72) Black had a short story and poem published in *Rural Voices: Literature From Rural Nebraska*. Lora lives in Lincoln, Neb.

Nancy (Jensen '72) Gardner has been teaching for more than 30 years in Blair second grade classrooms. She was featured in a *Blair Enterprise* series on teachers and staff in Washington County.

Michael Beech '70 has developed a speciality mental health rehabilitation practice using fishing as therapy in New England. Last October, he presented a paper outlining the conceptual framework and initial results from five years of use with this practice at the biannual conference of the Aquatic Resource Educators Association in Chico Hot Springs, Mont.

Dick Zion '70 is a museum guide at the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Dick plays the banjo and is in charge of the Jam and Bread jam sessions held each Thursday at the center. Dick is involved in programs on the music of the Lewis and Clark era.



Gladys (Lyngge '45) Hughes presented her original scriptural dramatic monologue, "Seven Books to Ruth," in Nebraska and Iowa in May. Gladys was honored by the University of Nebraska in 2002 with the Teachers College Alumni Association Award of Excellence. She directs and acts in the local theater in her hometown of Picayune, Miss., and is the author of three novels, a children's book and a novelty book.

He also does historical research and writes. Dick lives in Council Bluffs.

60s

Lynn Barnes '64 was honored in March for 35 years of coaching excellence in the Atlantic, Iowa, wrestling program. Lynn retired from his position as junior high wrestling coach at the end of the 2002-03 season.

Brenda (Francis '63) Krueger and husband, Sieghard, retired from teaching careers in elementary and college settings (Sieghard is a former member of the Dana faculty), and continue to teach as ELCA missionaries. They serve in Slovakia.

Deaths

Edith (Carlson) Johnson '70 died March 24 in Lincoln, Neb. Before she came to Dana, Edith taught at rural schools near the Nebraska towns of Oakland, Alvo and Lexington. She received her degree at age 60, four years before she retired in 1974. Survivors include a son, a daughter, two brothers, a

sister, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Lawrence McGinn '69 died Dec. 18, 2002, from a brain tumor. Larry was a retired firefighter in Monument, Colo., where he had made his home for 30 years. He was a rigger in the Air Force Reserves and served during the Gulf War. After becoming ill, he moved to Florida to be with his mother, sister, brother, niece and nephew.

Geneva Symonds '67 died Jan. 12 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Geneva taught elementary school for 42 years in the Iowa towns of Mercer, Carbon and Messena, including more than 24 years at Walnut Grove School in Council Bluffs. She was a member of St. Peter's Church Altar and Rosary societies, Catholic Daughters of America, St. Anthony's Court #330, Chapter 12 of PEO Sisterhood, Kappa Kappa Iota and Delta Kappa Gamma. Survivors include two sons and four grandchildren.

Ron Beck '66 died suddenly in Delta Junction, Alaska, in January. He had been a school principal for 17 years. He was a member of the '64 Viking football team, which won the conference championship. He is survived by his mother, brother Roger '64; wife, Shirley; a son and two daughters.

Elva (Jensen '53) Castello died suddenly after returning from visiting her children with her husband, Richard. Elva was 70 years old and lived in Moorcroft, Wyo.

Janet (Edquist '42) Slack died March 2 in Inverness, Iowa. She was a retired manager of the catalog office for Montgomery Ward, with more than 20 years of service. Survivors include two sons and one daughter, two sisters, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

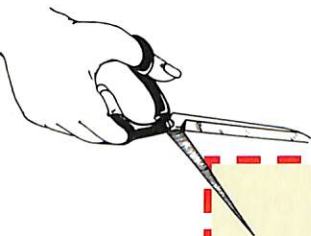
Leland Larsen '41 died March 8 in Kearney, Neb. As a chairman of the math department at Kearney State College, Leland was instrumental in fostering the computer science department. He devel-

oped a new math technique and lectured on it around the country. Survivors include his wife, Ellen (Houtwed '39), two sons and a daughter, a brother, Alton '42, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Enoch Rasmussen '41 died March 14 in Des Moines, Iowa. Enoch taught agriculture and general science in Nebraska and Iowa for 30 years. His hobbies included amateur radio, gardening, fishing and hunting. Survivors include his wife, Gena (Madsen '41); a daughter; three sons, including Paul '68 and Laurence '72; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; three sisters; and a brother.

Eloise (Morris '38) Sperati died March 12 in Parkersburg, W.V. Eloise worked in the Library of Congress as an associate editor of the 14th Edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification System. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Blair. Survivors include her husband, Carleton, two sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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