

DANA REVIEW

Volume 61, No. 2

An alumni publication of Dana College

Winter 2005

Destiny's Deep Sea

Christopherson retires after 19 years





President's Message

My service as president will end on July 1. Nineteen years is a long time in office for a college president these days, but a relatively short time in the history of Dana. The next longest service at Dana was 15 years by the one who was my president at Dana, Dr. C. C. Madsen. The next longest, 12 years, was by Dr. Richard Morton. Remarkably, all three of us grew up within 4 miles of one another in Wisconsin.

I returned to Dana as president 25 years after I graduated. I prized my student experience, and when I returned I again found a good place staffed by bright, dedicated people. I also found a place that deserved care and feeding. Nineteen years later, I am delighted I came and more convinced than ever that it is an extraordinarily fine undergraduate college. Care and feeding must continue, but the quality of undergraduate education offered here has never been in doubt. The resources are meager, but gifted teachers and dedicated, hardworking staff members serve students whose performance and achievements bring great joy. Add to the mix regents who are "possibility" thinkers, people of vision and generosity, and dreams become reality. All this takes place in a landscape of inspiring beauty. Challenges remain, but I am confident God has bigger plans for Dana. It has been a glorious journey, and I leave optimistic and grateful.

This spring Anne and I will make visits throughout the country to thank alumni and friends who have supported Dana during our years. Dana is stronger than ever, but fiscally not as strong as we need to be. Thanks to your gifts, your prayers, and never-ending encouragement, our journey has been marked by promise and celebration. With God's help, movement toward a greater destiny will continue under new leadership. My prayer is that a new president, when appointed, will receive even greater support.

Recently I was asked what has motivated me during 45 years of college teaching and administration. I explained my goal has not wavered: "to end darkness." That may sound strange, but I believe people who are free and able to eagerly pursue truth and understanding are less likely to be mired in fear, ignorance and uncertainty. Students equipped with needed tools and a lifetime love of learning are more likely to be filled, more likely to walk in light. As a child, I was struck by the words of Jesus to his disciples about another kind of light, light that brightens and lifts the soul: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

A college of the Lutheran church, Dana lights the world by occasioning discovery of knowledge and truth, but we are also called to light the world with the everlasting light of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection ends forever darkness of fear and death. Education inspired by a desire to light the world by both human and divine means, and rooted in love of God and neighbor, is certain to bring about light that will not fade away. It's in this sense that I say my life goal in higher education has been to "end darkness."

I have been blessed all the way in that I have been joined in this effort by many, beginning with my life partner, Anne, whose zeal for spreading light is contagious, and our children, Kirsten, Berit, Bjorn and Nisse, who have supported, enabled and joined us on our journey.

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An alumni publication of Dana College

Winter 2005 Volume 61, No. 2

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We're with you all the Way!

Welcome to the New Dana Review!

Exciting changes are happening with the Dana Review. Beginning this issue, we will be bringing you bigger and better issues with more alumni news and more in-depth coverage of what's going on at Dana.

We're also introducing two new departments. "A Very Brief History of..." launches this issue with everything you ever needed to know about LARP, written by Ann (Harms '54) George. Each issue, Ann and others will tackle the backstory on several uniquely Dana institutions and programs. We're also starting "Whatever Happened to?" where we'll find out what's gone on in some prominent Dana students' lives since they left the hill. This issue we catch up with girl-about-campus Monique (Bentzinger) Poldberg '78. We hope you enjoy all the changes and let us know what people and things you'd like to see appear in these new departments.

To make sure you're getting your Dana news at the best time, the Dana Review is also changing its publication schedule. The next issue will come out in mid-June, to better cover Commencement. The fall issue will come out in mid-November with all the people and action from Homecoming. And the winter issue will be appearing in early March with in-depth features on Dana trends and successes.

We'd also like to hear how you like our changes and what kinds of stories you'd like to hear. Send your comments to:

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Blair, NE 68008
Or e-mail us at:
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Books, Books and More Books

Dana College's C.A. Dana-LIFE Library's already impressive collection received a large boost earlier this academic year with a gift of more than 1,500 books valued at \$30,000 from Joe Porter, curator of Western American history and ethnology at the Center for Western Studies in North Carolina.

The collection is strong in titles on Porter's interests and studies, including American Indian history, sociology, women and contemporary issues, exploration and settlement of the American West, pioneer women and cowgirls, Western American fiction and American naturalists' writings.

"It really makes our whole Western American collection probably the best of any private school in the state," said Tom Nielsen '74, director of library services.

Porter said his collection began as an undergraduate student and grew as he did as a history scholar.

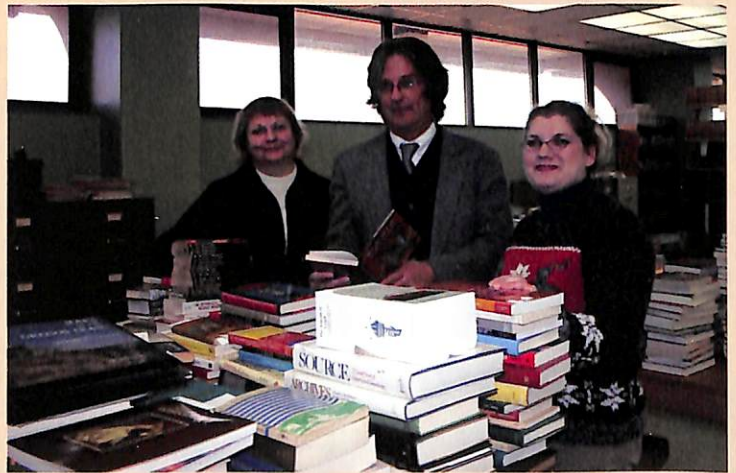
Although Porter gained familiarity with the Omaha area during his time at the Joslyn Museum, it was Richard and Janyce Hunt of Blair who suggested he donate his collection to Dana. The Hunts are long-time friends of Porter as well as strong Dana supporters.

"I've always been very appreciative of the work Lutheran colleges do," Porter said. "I just thought Dana would be a good home for my books."

Nielsen said he was delighted at the prospect of the books, and even more so when they arrived.

"Together with collections we received from the estates of Professor Emeriti Norman Bansen and Luella Nielsen, we have seen significant increases in our collections this year," he said.

The C.A. Dana-LIFE Library is one of the largest private-college libraries in Nebraska, with 115,000 books available to Dana's 620 students. Nielsen expects that Porter's collection will also raise



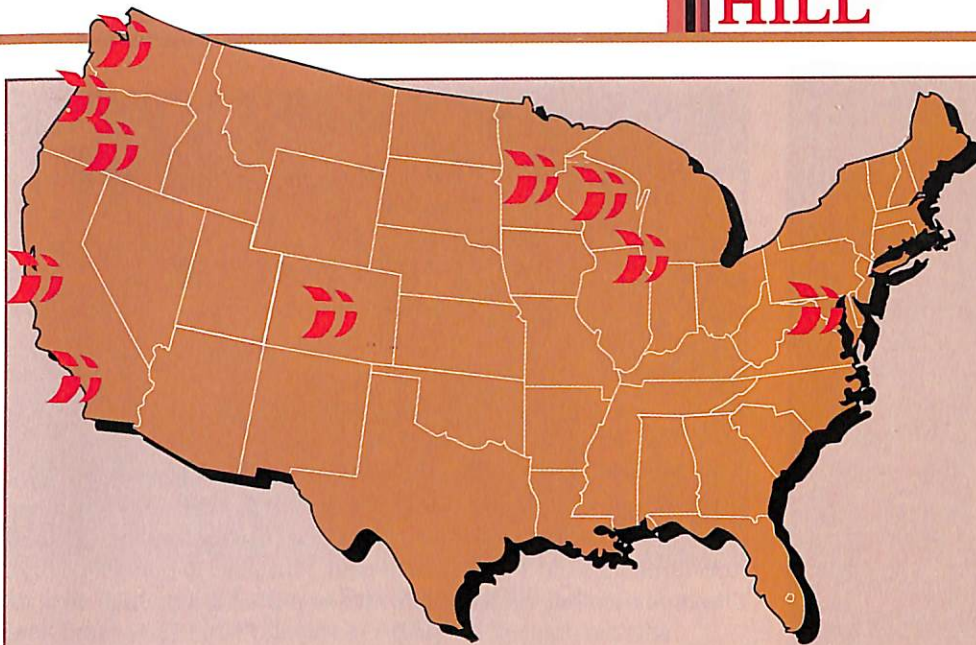
Dana's librarians stand with some of the books donated by Porter. From left, Linda Fleming, circulation librarian, Tom Nielsen '74, director, and Karen Frizzell, instruction and public services librarian.

the number of Dana books requested through inter-library loan from high schools, colleges and universities around the region.

"I'm extremely glad to have donated the collection and hope it will enrich the studies of students there," Porter said.

Dana College President Myrvin Christopherson '61 said he was very appreciative of Porter's gift.

"This is a magnificent gift," Christopherson said. "I first met Joe Porter through Richard and Janyce Hunt. Porter is a first-rate scholar and educator. When he called to offer his library I was thrilled, but I had no idea how comprehensive it is. His gift makes our collection extraordinary. Students for generations will be enlightened thanks to this gift."



Catch the Thank You Tour!

President Myrvin Christopherson '61 and Anne Christopherson, director of special events and projects, will be coming to 10 cities across the country as part of a special Thank You Tour to all the Dana alumni and friends who have helped make their tenure at Dana so successful. Watch your mail for more information on the event near you!

Date	City	Host
Saturday, March 12	Los Angeles, Calif.	Todd & Becca (Brabec '89) Vande Hei
Sunday, March 13	San Francisco, Calif.	Judy (Jensen '65) & Bill Archibald '62
Sunday, April 10	Washington, D.C.	Lilly & Paul Pedersen '42
Friday, May 13	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
Saturday, May 14	Milwaukee, Wis.	Doris (Siersbeck '61) & Luther Kloth '61
Saturday, May 14	Madison, Wis.	Paula (Westfall '69) & Phil Vasby '69
Sunday, May 15	Minneapolis, Minn.	Shirley (Bondo '42) & Ed Hansen D '39 T '42 and Doris (Petersen '47) & Bill Hanson D '44 T '49
Saturday, June 4	Seattle, Wash.	Iva & Myril Schultz '59
Sunday, June 5	Portland, Ore.	Norma & Lee Barney '61
Monday, June 6	Eugene, Ore.	Ruth (Solevad '50) & Al Nyegaard '50
Sunday, June 12	Denver, Colo.	Peggy & Jerry Kirkegaard '65

Help Us Give a Tribute at Dana!

A special gift has been made to Dana College in honor of President Myrv and Anne Christopherson by the Gardner Foundation in Wakefield, Neb. The Gardner Foundation has committed \$500,000 for a challenge grant for the Myrv and Anne Christopherson Endowed Scholarship. All gifts given to Dana College for this scholarship will be matched by the Gardner Foundation to total a \$1 million endowed scholarship in the Christophersons' name.

The Advancement Office invites our entire constituency to make a gift to help meet this challenge match. Please use the envelope in this issue to make your pledge today.

On another note, please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30. Let's hope for a sunny, warm day for our on-campus tribute event for the Christophersons. Festivities will begin at 3 p.m. with Myrv and Anne being honored at our traditional Arbor Day event. Please plan to join us in celebrating and honoring the 19 years of service that Myrv and Anne have given so faithfully to the mission of Dana College. If you can't attend, please send well wishes or special memories of the Christophersons for inclusion in a memory book to Jill Clark, President's Office, Dana College, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008.

Giving's in the Jeans



Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Bob Schmolz '83 deposits the Denim at Dana proceeds into a Salvation Army bucket manned by Dana students Brian Martin '05 and Jennifer Bates '08.

For more than a year, employees at Dana College have turned the traditional "Casual Friday" into more than \$1,000 for local charities and families through the Denim at Dana program.

The program started as an initiative in the Staff Council to give Dana employees a fun way to help contribute to the community and strengthen ties between Dana and other non-profit organizations. Once a month, Dana employees can elect to purchase a \$5 Denim at Dana sticker that allows them to wear blue jeans and Dana apparel for the day. The Staff Council selects a charity or needy family each month to donate the proceeds toward.

"Denim at Dana has been a great program for us," said Sarah Cavanah, communications coordinator and Staff Council member. "We have a lot of fun with it, while raising money for good causes. Many times, we receive contributions of \$10, \$20 or even \$50 from individuals."

The Denim at Dana money has gone to the Blair Animal Shelter, the American Heart Association, the Washington County Food Pantry, victims of the Hallam (Neb.) tornado, the Salvation Army and many more. For two years, the campus has "adopted" an anonymous needy family in December. Instead of the \$5 contribution, employees choose to buy presents for the family from a list provided by the Washington County Ministerial Alliance.

In all, Denim at Dana has raised \$1,546 since its inception in 2003. During the 2003-04 school year, employees raised \$771. So far for the 2004-05 year, the total is already \$775, with five months left to go in the year.

"At Dana, we often depend on the contributions of others to help us achieve our mission," Cavanah said. "It feels great for us to donate to other worthy groups so they can achieve theirs."

Presidential Search Continues

The presidential search committee met on March 7, 2005. At the meeting, the committee reviewed and tested a draft rating form they will use in assessing applicants for the presidency, and they made plans for subsequent meetings and activities. On March 21, they met again to review applications and reduce the pool to a smaller group, whose references will be checked.

The committee will continue to stay in touch throughout the process, and they welcome your comments and questions at any time. You may write to Dennis Gethmann '71, presidential search committee chairman, in care of Mrs. Carla Andersen, assistant director of computer services, Dana College, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008. Or you may contact the committee's consultant, Harold Kolenbrander, at 513-233-2676 (e-mail: hmk@academic-search.org). The committee will treat any information provided as confidential.

Visit the New Online Directory

Dana's new Online Directory is a great way to keep in touch with fellow alumni. It will also enable you to update your contact information with the college in a timely manner. How can you access the new online directory? Go to the alumni page at www.dana.edu/alumni. When you click on the "Online Directory" link, instructions will lead you through the appropriate steps. You'll need to supply your e-mail address and create your password.

Thanks to the response from the last issue of the Dana Review, many alumni have provided the information needed for quick access. If you encounter difficulty, you may want to confirm your contact information, including e-mail address, birth date and phone number with the Alumni Office: 2848 College Dr., Blair, NE 68008 or (800) 444-DANA option #4.

The new online directory is ready for you to use. Log in with your user name and password to:

- Update your own information in your online record
- Use the Online Directory to find classmates and friends
- Control what information about you appears in the Online Directory

Check it out today! Questions? Send an e-mail to alumni@dana.edu.

Winterfest Royalty Announced

At a special coronation ceremony during the Winterfest Dance Feb. 11, it was announced that junior Mark Esser of Woodbine, Iowa, was elected Winterfest King, and senior Ashley Sorensen of Grand Island, Neb., was elected Queen.

The rest of the Winterfest Court included Joe Blackstad '06 of Andover, Minn.; Matt Bloomingdale '05 of Omaha, Neb.; Marisa Bretschneider '06 of Norfolk, Neb.; Matt Bryan '05 of Fort Calhoun, Neb.; Sara Buck '05 of Atlantic, Iowa; Tabby Holman '06 of Logan, Iowa; Karie Lenzen '05 of Sioux City, Iowa; Tyler Mohr '06 of Ocheyedan, Iowa; Scott Taylor '06 of Arapahoe, Neb. and Katrina Woldseth '06 of Parkland, Wash.



Adjunct Instructor of Ceramics Tom Hubbell, Bill Brackers's brother Leon Bracker '67 and Professor of Art Milton Heinrich with the potters wheel donated by the Bracker family.

Art Dept. Gets "Surprise" Gift

On Dec. 1, 2004, Dana College received a great surprise: the gift of a potters wheel to the Art Department in memory of William Bracker, Dana Class of 1962.

The gift, valued at around \$1,000, was made by Brackers Good Earth Clays, Inc. of Lawrence, Kan., Anne Bracker, owner. William "Bill" Bracker established Brackers Good Earth Clays, Inc. His family continues to own and manage the business. They previously established a William Bracker Endowed Scholarship at Dana and contribute to it regularly.

Anne W. Bracker, and her daughters Cindy and Anne M., arranged the arrival of the wheel to be a surprise for the Art Department at Dana, letting only members of Dana's Advancement staff know that the gift was coming.

The Brackers have been long-time friends to the Dana Art Department. After all of the area's equipment was destroyed in the Old Main Building fire of 1988, the Brackers agreed to supply the department with new materials at cost. On one of Bill's last trips to Dana before he succumbed to cancer, he started a fund to help the teachers give "something special" for the students each year to use.

Dr. Milton Heinrich, professor of art, said he always appreciated the Brackers' support and always made sure his students did as well.

"We try not to create selfish artists around here," Heinrich said. "We like to create artists who give back to the community. The Brackers are examples of continued good friends and alumni of the college, which shows the best of the Art Department. They continued to be creative artists and continued to help other people, even after Bill's death."

The wheel will allow Dana to expand its popular ceramics classes to more students. Even with students sharing the college's existing wheels, the department didn't have the space and time to accommodate all the students who wanted to take the class.

Take a Seat for Dana

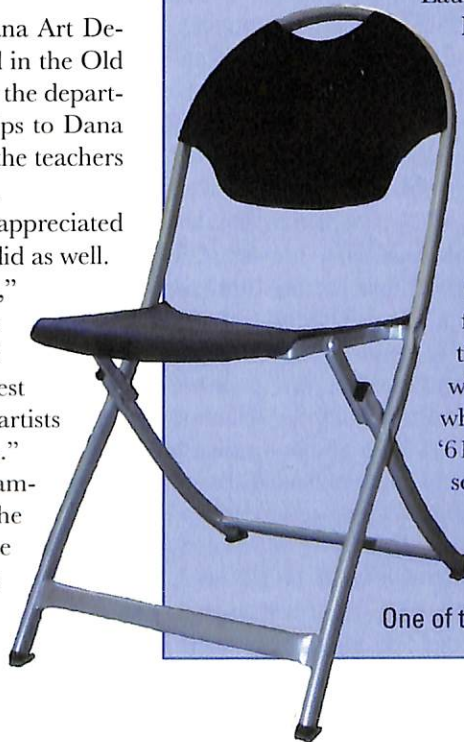
The spouses of Dana Board of Regents members have been very busy. These energetic and innovative ladies have raised funds through the sale of Danish plates and art prints to help purchase and install windows in Trinity Chapel and support other college needs. Their latest effort has resulted in the purchase of 200 chairs for the Gardner-Hawks Center. The attractive Mity-Lite folding chairs will help Dana host events in the gymnasium and the Cooperman Atrium. Additional chairs and tables are the next project.

The chair fund has a fascinating origin. A few years ago, when the wooden bleachers were removed from the north side of the Borup Coliseum floor, Anne Christopherson, director of special events and projects, asked Dana Facilities Management Director Andy Bayerl to cut out and save as much of the wood as possible. His team did so and stored the pieces. Anne then asked master carpenter Phil Larsen '49 of Blair if he could make benches or tables from the wood. The result has been a piece of beautifully handcrafted wood furniture made by Larsen that can serve either as a bench or table. Each piece is individually marked and finished. Recently, Larsen has been experimenting with the creation of another handcrafted item.

The regent spouses then invited donations of \$250 or more from Dana friends whose gifts would benefit the chair fund. Thus far, they have raised about \$6,000. Those who have made donations have been offered one of the tables created by Larsen as a gift from the college. Regent spouses who have been active in the project include: Janice Lippincott '72, Janyce Hunt, Alice Schattauer and Kris (Maschman '74) Coffey of Blair; Gail Laursen and Karan Wittig of Lincoln, Neb., Lucille Sapp of Ashland, Neb., Susan (Jorgensen '59) Andersen of Wesley Chapel, Fla. and Joyce (Vasby '60) Jorgensen of Ripon, Wis.

The women are determined to raise enough money to purchase additional chairs and tables so that we will be able to serve those who choose to attend Dana events. The first time many will see the fruits of their donations to Dana for this project will be April 30 the Arbor Day event at which President Myrvin Christopherson '61 and Anne will be honored for their service to Dana.

—The Dana Board Spouses



One of the new Gardner-Hawks chairs

Calling All Teachers!

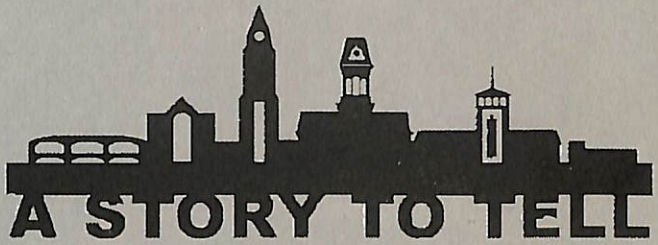
According to the American Association for Employment in Education, the overall teacher shortage of the 1990s is over, but a major teacher shortage still exists in special education.

For the thousands of teachers who have already benefited from a Dana education, your alma mater once again has a special program for you. Dana's Special Education Endorsement Program is for certified teachers who want to increase their marketability or change careers. Dedicated and involved faculty, a highly regarded program and an excellent reputation for placement of our teachers all add up to the Dana difference — an education that enables you to take charge of your life and achieve your goals.

You can add a special education endorsement to your teaching credentials in as little as 15 months at Dana. All classes are conveniently taught in the evenings during the school year and in three-week summer sessions.

If prerequisites have been completed, current elementary teachers will be able to complete their special education endorsement in as few as 24 credit hours. For secondary teachers, it can be as few as 35 credit hours.

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Diane Mann, Assistant Professor of Special Education, 2848 College Drive, Blair, Neb. 68008, (402) 426-7361 or (800) 444-3262, dmann@dana.edu. Or read about the program on the web at www.dana.edu/specialeducation.



A STORY TO TELL

The spirit of Hans Christian Andersen and the magic of Tivoli Gardens will highlight this year's Homecoming weekend, "A Story to Tell." The evening will start with a social hour, followed by a Tivolifest dinner, and new this year, "The Eight O'clock Talk Show" with members of Dana's Kappa Theta Phi and Tau Gamma Rho sororities and Kappa Chi Lambda and Delta Sigma Omega fraternities, along with members of the featured class reunions as the special guests.

Returning to coordinate and produce Saturday evening's Tivolifest celebration is Nathan Krämer '89 who created "The Grand Tour" in 2002 and the "Hofbräuhaus" in 2003. These all-college events have become popular gathering places for returning alumni.

Homecoming weekend begins Sept. 30 and continues through Oct. 2. Julie Rohlfing, director of alumni affairs, and members of the Alumni Council are looking forward to working with Dana alumni at "Homecoming 2005, A Story to Tell."

UELC Reunion to be held June 10–12 in Dubuque

From Salem to Salam!", the 22nd-annual Upper Midwest UELC Reunion will be held Friday evening through Sunday noon, June 10-12, 2005, at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

"From Salem to Salam!" will tell the dynamic story of Salem Danish Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., and its transition to Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in response to the changing context of its ministry. Salam Arabic Lutheran is the first official Arabic Lutheran Church in North America. Rev. Khader El-Yateem, pastor of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, will keynote the reunion and share the transitional ministry of Salem Lutheran and the founding of Salam Arabic Lutheran Church. Rev. El-Yateem will also address the context of Middle East Arab Christians as they look for hope and justice in today's chaotic Middle East. In addition, a video will show the building of Salem Lutheran Church by the Danish immigrants as they settled in Brooklyn.

Saturday afternoon is reserved for the group to attend the popular and exceptional National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. The Smithsonian associated museum is the official museum of the

Mississippi River and draws more than 300,000 visitors a year. Transportation via trolley to and from the museum is included in the registration fee. You will not want to miss this very popular attraction.

Reunion participants will also have opportunity to visit Wartburg's Papua New Guinea Museum, rated among the top three Melanesian oriented museums in North America. Wartburg celebrates its Sesquicentennial this year and reunion guests can visit the Paul and Eva Leo Theology, Art and Justice Gallery featuring a Wartburg historical display. In addition, Augsburg Fortress Bookstore will be open Saturday afternoon.

Above all, the Reunion provides opportunity to renew acquaintances and share memories of a common heritage, to worship and study together at the same time as important mission priorities are considered in the context of today's ever-changing and challenging world.

Limited housing is available at Wartburg Seminary on a "first-come, first served" basis. Rooms include private baths and the main Wartburg buildings offer unlimited accessibility throughout. Persons desiring on campus housing are encouraged to call 1-800-225-5987 ext. 336.

Campus Digest

News about the Dana Community

Dr. Scott Hermanson, assistant professor of English, had a review of Russell Banks's new novel *The Darling* appear in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, on Oct. 17, 2004. It can be found at www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20041017/news_1z1v17world.html.

Prof. Jan Potter, professor of social work and sociology, has been elected as president-elect of the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Potter also recently served as an accreditation site visitor for the Council on Social Work Education. She visited a college in North Carolina Sept. 19–21, 2004.

Prof. Starla Stensaas, associate professor of graphic design, recently was awarded an honorable mention for her net art piece "This Beating Red Tulip," accepted for an online exhibition "Who Do You Think You Are: The Digital Self-Portrait."

At the October annual meeting, **Dr. Myrvin F. Christopherson '61**, president, was re-elected chairman of the board of the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority (NEFA). The seven members of the authority board are appointed by the governor. Christopherson has served on the Board all but one year since 1991. Christopherson was also recently notified that he will be listed in the 2005 edition of Marquis' "Who's Who in the World" and "Who's Who in America." He has been listed in these publications since 1992.

Dr. Lisa Schreiber, assistant professor of communication, attended the National Communication Association conference in Chicago in November 2004, where she presented two papers and served as a respondent for another panel. The first paper, "The Importance of Precision in Language: Communication Research and (So Called) 'Alternative' Medicine," will be published in the spring issue of *Health Communication*. The second paper, "Spirituality and Communication in a Holistic Healing Community," will also be published as a chapter in an edited book about spirituality in health care.

Dana College Coach Steve Costanzo was a guest on the Fox Sports Radio show "Takedown Wrestling" in December, 2004. Takedown Wrestling airs every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

Dr. William Hall, assistant professor of music and director of bands, and **Dr. Claire Bushong**, assistant professor of music, were honored in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2004."

Potter and **Prof. Wynema Morris**, adjunct instructor of social work, gave a presentation entitled "Preparing Culturally Competent Graduates: What Qualities Matter to Our Clients?" at the Annual Baccalaureate Social Work Education Conference. The presentation was based on Potter's interviews with clients on the Omaha Reservation (Macy, Neb.), in the

South Omaha Latino community and in the North Omaha African American community. The conference was held in Detroit, Mich., Nov. 3–7, 2004.

Dr. Peggy Holloway, visiting assistant professor of music, attended the annual conference of the College Music Society Nov. 3–8, 2004, in San Francisco, Calif. Holloway participated in a panel discussion on music in the general education curriculum. After her presentation, Holloway was invited to participate the next morning in a focus group discussion on music appreciation textbooks at the San Francisco offices of McGraw-Hill Publishing. Holloway has served as a textbook reviewer for McGraw-Hill in the past and will now remain a primary collegiate consultant for music in general education textbooks. At the CMS conference, Holloway also attended a meeting for regional officers. She is the treasurer for the Great Plains Regional Chapter.

Clare Cowing, campus accompanist, accompanied the 440-voice choir at the Nebraska Music Educators convention in Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 18–20, 2004. This was the fourth year Cowing has been accompanist for the event.

Bushong, Hall, Holloway, and **Dr. Richard Palmer**, professor of music and Chorale director, attended the Nebraska Music Educators Association Professional In-service Conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nov. 18–20, 2004. Hall presented a research poster

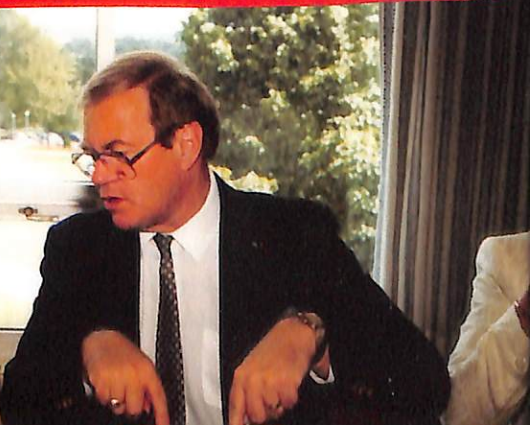
demonstrating the research methodology he developed for producing critical/performing editions of historic music. Hall also presided over a meeting of Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity. Hall is president of the Nebraska chapter.

Wray Wright '01 has accepted a position as admissions counselor/assistant football coach at Dana.

Dr. John Lyden, professor of religion, and the **Rev. Dr. Andrea Ng'weshemi**, campus pastor and assistant professor of religion, attended the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, from Nov. 20–23, 2004. Lyden moderated a panel of the Religion, Film, and Visual Culture Group entitled, "Our Lives Teach Us Who We Are: Issues of Identity."

Diane Nickeson-Ray '84, director of counseling services, attended the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference in Newport, R.I., Jan. 6–8. The conference was titled: "Effective Interventions for Student Mental Health on Campus: Collaboration and Community."

Dr. Scott Hermanson, assistant professor of English, was invited to Cincinnati, Ohio, to moderate a discussion between the critic Tom LeClair and the novelist Richard Powers. The panel was part of the Ropes Lecture series at the University of Cincinnati.



Make *it* Stronger

19 years later, Dr. Myrvin Christopherson leaves Dana better than he found it

In the 1950s, the brightest and the best from Milltown (Wis.) High School found their way to Blair, Neb., and enrolled at Dana College. One of these outstanding young men was Myrvin Christopherson.

Christopherson first stepped foot on campus in the fall of 1957. In many ways he has never left.

He had only made a few trips back to campus since graduating in 1961 before assuming the presidency in 1986, but in his absence he was always thankful for the experience and education he gained as an undergraduate at Dana. "I always thought there was something extraordinary about the experience here," he said. "The professors were personable, and I think challenged me to be better than I would have been."

In the mid-80s, Christopherson was building his career at public universities in Wisconsin. He was associate dean of communication and fine arts at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and was on track to perhaps becoming a president within that system. He had completed his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy and communication at Purdue University, and his first full-time teaching position at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

But there was something that drew him back. "Dana was calling us," he said.

Christopherson began his duties at Dana on July 1, 1986, leaving most of his family behind in Wisconsin for the first year of his presidency. "The first year was not fun in the sense we were separated," he said. "It did give me a chance to devote a lot to the college in the first year."



The Christopherson years were years of growth. On the far left, Myrv drives the bulldozer working on the construction of the Margrethe Durham Center; in the middle, Dana celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the Gardner-Hawks Center just a little more than a year after Anne and Myrv broke ground in 2002, right.

The devotion has never wavered. For the past 19 years, Christopherson and his wife, Anne, have given their life to Dana College and its presidency. “This is not a job to them,” said Richard Hunt, vice president of HunTel Systems of Blair and former chair of the Dana Board of Regents. “This is a vocation. They’re committed to making Dana the finest place they know how to make it.”

Christopherson is quick to give credit to others when recounting the successes of his nearly two-decade tenure. “Most of them have been made by other people while we’ve been here,” he said.

Under Christopherson’s regime, Dana has become a leader in technology. Now one of the most wireless campuses in Nebraska, Christopherson made a significant decision in one of his first days at the helm that has led the college to this point. Dana was at a crossroads in technology in 1986. Should the college continue using a mainframe or convert to personal computers and a local area network? Grant dollars and forward thinkers in the administration, including Christopherson, helped make the decision to move ahead with the new technology. “I think it was the first step in establishing Dana as an early adopter of PCs and moved us into the forefront of technology,” Christopherson said.

New facilities

The landscape of Dana has changed greatly since 1986. The first major change was brought upon by tragedy, but again

it was Christopherson’s forward thinking that made a difference. In the early morning hours of Aug. 25, 1988, Old Main caught fire. “When Old Main burned, it was a threat to the survival of Dana College in some ways,” Christopherson recalled. But the community rallied and raised \$6 million to build the 40,000-square-foot Margrethe Henningson Durham Center and Trinity Chapel, the main classroom facility and new focal point of the campus.

“That was an important event,” Christopherson said. “It became a symbol of Dana’s determination to make it and make it stronger.”

Christopherson was careful that the new building paid tribute to the great structure that it replaced. A 90-foot tower is a central visual of the Durham Center, much like the tower was also a symbol of Old Main. Inside, the Old Main Commemorative Wall honors Old Main and pays tribute to nearly 550 individuals, families and organizations that made gifts of \$5,000 or more to the replacement project.

During Christopherson’s tenure, the Madsen Performing Arts Center was expanded to also house the art department and became the Madsen Fine Arts Center. A new all-weather track, competition soccer field, football and soccer practice fields were installed. The E.C. Hunt Campus Center and Borup Coliseum underwent renovations. Science facilities were upgraded.

In 2003, the Gardner-Hawks Center, a state-of-the-art athletic and recreational facility, opened. Ensuring that Dana had quality athletic facilities is something Christopherson also had a

“The faculty is the strongest it has ever been,” Christopherson said. “We have been able to find the best people we can to embrace our mission.”



Anne Christopherson was honored for her years of devotion to the Sights & Sounds of Christmas during the festival's Sounds of Christmas Concert.

A

nyone who has attended an event or dinner at Dana College in the past 17 years has noticed it either consciously or subconsciously. The extra effort... The flowers... The sharp décor... The well-planned theme...

Anne Christopherson has taken on a dual role during her husband's presidency at Dana College. As director of special projects and events, she has given her time and expertise to making countless on and off campus events reflect well of Dana College.

"I would argue that she has brought a touch of class to a lot of events at Dana College," said President Myrv Christopherson '61.

Anne began her work at the college really as a volunteer. She worked with June Hansen, wife of former Vice President for Business Affairs Keith Hansen, to create centerpieces and other décor for admissions events and opening dinners. She rallied the community together to clean bricks after the Old Main fire, bricks that were later used as donor gifts.

She officially became employed at Dana in 1988. She has headed the efforts behind Opening Dinners, Opening Convocations, Expanding Your Horizons (a science and math conference for girls), graduation ceremonies, building dedications, campus improvements, and numerous receptions for special occasions and notable visitors.

Anne helped create the Arbor Day Celebration, an annual event held each spring to honor major donors and scholarship sponsors. The event also allows the donors to meet the students who have benefited from their gifts and provides Dana the opportunity to enhance the campus through tree plantings.

Perhaps her most visible contribution has been the coordination of the Sights and Sounds of Christmas. The first week of December each year, thousands of visitors come to campus to take in the sights, sounds, tastes and spirit of the Christmas season with a Scandinavian flair. Anne spends countless hours behind the scenes not only working with performers and vendors in planning the event, but also assisting Facilities Management staff in decorating the campus for the holiday season.

"One thing that Anne has really done for the college is beef up Sights and Sounds," said Julie Howland '91. "I know that when I was a freshman and sophomore here, I don't think it was quite at its fullest potential. When I reached my junior and senior years, it just became much more explosive and inviting. Anne has been able to continue that tradition and not let it subside like so many other programs can do."

Anne's devotion to Dana College has extended far beyond her job. Although not a graduate of Dana (she is an alumna of Luther College, a sister institution of Dana), she has committed her life to the college.

She has led the spouses of the members of the Board of Regents in such endeavors as selling Danish plates and original art prints to help fund the stained glass windows in Trinity Chapel. Now she's helping the spouses raise funds for chairs in Gardner-Hawks.

Anne has worked closely with the president in fundraising efforts as well. "Anne has been a very key factor in our ability to win new friends and donors for Dana College," Myrv said.

A Touch of Class



Dana is a school for those who choose to get involved — young Myrv Christopherson was no exception. On the far left, he poses manual in hand — for the Hermes yearbook photo; in the center, Myrv served as a resident assistant, his first job with “authority” at Dana; and far right, Myrv used his height to help the Vikings score on the court.

hand in as an undergraduate. He was student body president at Dana when Borup Coliseum was constructed and helped head up a student campaign to include a swimming pool in the new facility.

Academic excellence

The continued academic excellence of Dana College is something Christopherson takes pride in. “The faculty is the strongest it has ever been,” he said. “We have been able to find the best people we can to embrace our mission.”

Outside accreditations of Dana’s social work, business and education programs have been either initiated or renewed during Christopherson’s presidency, reinforcing his personal bias of the quality of a Dana education.

As an undergraduate Christopherson was one of the charter members of Dana’s chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honor society, and as Dana’s president he pushed to find another way high-achieving students could be recognized as well as challenged. As a result, the Morton Scholars Honors Program saw its start in 1997.

Academic programs have also grown under his leadership. He facilitated and supported the creation of new or revised programs in accounting, psychology, criminal justice, special education, computer science, graphic design, e-studies, interactive media, international studies and sports management.

Students from near and far

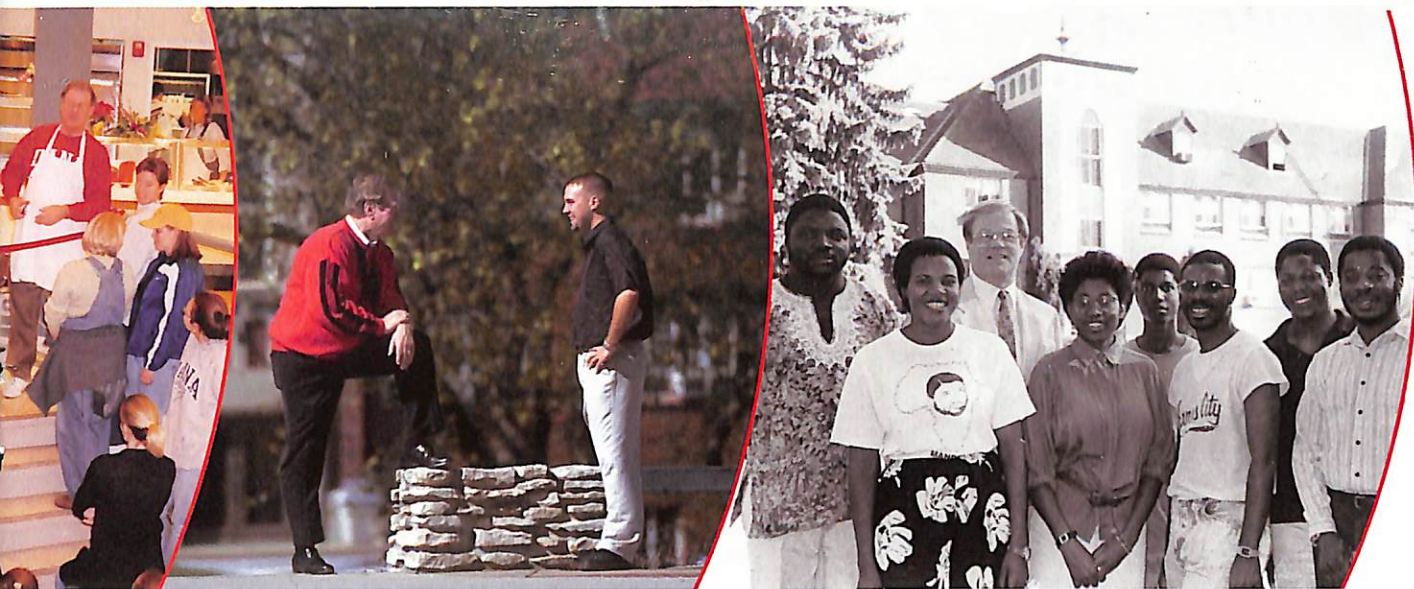
Nearly 2,000 students have graduated from Dana College since 1986 from as near as Blair and as far away as Namibia and Bangladesh. Christopherson’s interest in international students has made Dana College a richer and more diverse community, especially in the late 1980s when a dozen Namibian students studied here. “One of my greatest sources of pride is our involvement and leadership in the Namibian program,” he said.

During one of Christopherson’s first days in office, he received a call from the American Lutheran Church asking if Dana College would accept a student from Namibia. Dana took 12. “In a small way, we were part of an effort to free Namibia,” Christopherson said.

A localized approach to recruiting in the past few years has helped result in the largest student body since the 1970s, with an enrollment nearing 650. The Christophersons develop personal relationships with many of the students at Dana, a touch that means a lot to the students and typifies their college experience. “I think that they are like the parents of Dana College for so many of us students,” said former student body president Julie Howland ’91 of Alexandria, Va.

“The Christophersons have been a part of my Dana experience in just about everything,” echoed Dana senior Shannon Ford-Jefferson of Omaha. “I think they find a way to embrace everyone’s life while they are at Dana at some point in time if it’s not all the time.”

“I think that they are like the parents of Dana College for so many of us students,” said former student body president Julie Howland.



Students have always come first for Christopherson. On the far left, he cuts the ribbon on the remodeled Dining Room in the E.C. Hunt Campus Center, a big plus for students. In the center, he speaks with former Student Senate President Cheston Field '03 on the Korshoj Terrace. And on the far right, Myrv poses with some of the students from Namibia, an outreach program he is extremely proud of.

The Christophersons can be found at most Dana College events from the athletic field to the classroom. "It's a very honest interest that he has in us and he cares," said junior Tyler Mohr of Ocheyedan, Iowa. "It's not that he just goes because it's a priority or he's obligated to be there. You really feel like he wants to be there. He wants to take in the Dana experience with us."

Growing support

When Christopherson took over the presidency, Dana's endowment stood at a paltry \$1 million. Under his leadership, it has grown to more than \$12 million. In total, nearly \$100 million has been secured in current and deferred gifts for scholarships, endowment and campus improvements. The continuing support of alumni and friends is evident through the growth in planned gifts from \$1 million to nearly \$40 million since 1986.

National involvement

"I've tried to make Dana better known by taking an involvement both statewide and nationally," Christopherson said. "It does seem to help when the Dana name is alongside the best of those in the nation."

He has served as a past chairman of both the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska (AICUN), and the Nebraska Independent College Foundation (NICF), and is a past

member of the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. He currently serves as Chairman of the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority (NEFA), as Chairman of the Council of Presidents of the Great Plains Athletics Conference (GPAC), and nationally he is Secretary of the Foundation for Independent Higher Education (FIHE). He is also a member of the Board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), and of the Council of Presidents of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

He is currently the longest serving president among the 28 colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He is past president of the ELCA Presidents Council and of the Lutheran Education Conference of America (LECNA), the greater fellowship of Lutheran Colleges in Canada and the United States.

In his retirement, Christopherson does not plan to stray far from Dana College, at least not yet. He will assume the title of President Emeritus upon his retirement on July 1. He says he hopes he might be of help in fundraising while giving the new president full rein in assuming the leadership role.

Beyond work, Christopherson says he is still unsure where they will live or what he will do in his retirement years. One thing is for certain though. "I would like to write and read and learn to fish again and not have a deadline every day."

"One of my greatest sources of pride is our involvement and leadership in the Namibia program," Christopherson said. "In a small way, we were part of an effort to free Namibia."

Thirty-two students from Vejle Business School in Denmark spent three weeks as students at Dana last fall, touring local businesses and industries like Mogens Bay's (far left) Valmont Industries, maker of irrigation pivots used around the world.



Dana *and the* World

It's trendy to say it now, but Dana was way ahead of the curve when it comes to "thinking globally." Founded in 1884 with the intent of preparing Danish immigrants to minister to other immigrants on the raw North American plains, Dana is one of the few institutions of higher learning in America whose name refers to a foreign nation.

So it comes as no surprise that Dana has a long history of international relations, stretching not only to Europe, but across the globe. Dana students and faculty have visited every continent except Antarctica and international students continue to come to Dana to experience learning American style.

But as the world changes, getting smaller, more connected and sometimes more violent, Dana's approach to international dealings is changing, too. The college is even more committed to ensuring that its students are prepared to live and work in a global community with many different viewpoints and customs. And Dana is reaching out to international students to find new and novel ways to allow them to experience Nebraska and America.

It's a bold, exciting new world. We're excited to expand our role in it.

Globalism is Fundamental

Emphasizing the international is so essential to Dana's education that Dr. Sybille Bartels can tell you, from memory, what page of the College Catalog states Dana's goal for graduates to be able to "examine various ways humans think about live in the world." (It's college goal No. 4 on page 10.)

Bartels, who serves as associate dean of student success, professor of German and director of International Studies and the English Language Institute, said instilling a sense of the global is especially important for Dana, since many of its students come from smaller communities far from any international borders.

"It's not only a goal we have for students," she said. "It's a goal we have for everyone in the community. We really aim to have diversity in our student body."

Exposure to international cultures has also often come through travels during Interim, now called Discovery Term. This three-week January semester has always given students the opportunity to travel the globe with worldly professors and their fellow students. Recently, the faculty at Dana have taken a new approach to travel classes by expanding the number offered each term. This January, students (and

Maria Roesler '05



The Assignment:

1 year in the Dominican Republic studying at a local university and volunteering in an adult-literacy program in an impoverished town on a former sugar plantation



The Traveler:

Roesler is a senior Spanish major originally from Minneapolis, Minn.

Favorite Local Custom:

Carnavalé features wandering *diablos* (devils, seen above) and people with "bladders" filled with "something inside that hurts" run around smacking people on the behind. "That was one of the times I felt more Dominican," Roesler said.

Traveler's Tip:

The Dominican Republic's private transportation systems can get you anywhere you need to go, but you have to speak up. Shouting "Let me off!" is the only way to get bus drivers to stop when you reach your destination.

Hard Lessons:

Roesler discovered that racism is a worldwide problem. In the Dominican Republic, people are discriminated against if they are determined to be of Haitian descent, which can be correctly determined through genealogy or incorrectly assumed based on skin tone.

The Result:

"It was incredible!" she said. "It's one of the best decisions I've made regarding my education. I now have more direction in where I want to go with my life."

Roesler is looking into doing a year-long program in Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and is leaning toward a career in adult literacy programs in foreign countries.

alumni) traveled to Germany, Thailand, Italy and Greece, Hawaii, and numerous American Indian reservations. These students received more than a grade, they returned with valuable learning experiences.

“Discovery Term trips are outstanding first steps abroad for young adults,” Bartels said. “They can travel with others and a guide and pick up another way of thinking — an appreciation for different ways of living in the world.”

A Discovery Term trip often inspires a desire to see a different place for a longer amount of time. Faculty are thrilled when students ask them to help find a situation overseas. Recent students have spent summers, semesters and even full years in Argentina, Germany and the Dominican Republic (see sidebar, previous page.)

“I’ve never had a student who didn’t say it wasn’t a mind-opening and worthwhile experience,” Bartels said.

Bartels’ words echo the sentiments of the late Sen. Paul Simon, who felt international student exchange was a major ingredient of world stability and peace. After his Presidential bid in 1988, Simon donated the rest of his campaign funds to Dana to establish a way for students to easily borrow money for international study. Shortly after his death

in 2003, Dana established the International Studies major to further allow students to explore the world around them.

The World at Dana

On the flip side, Dana has welcomed visitors from outside the United States with open arms for more than a century. The post-Sept. 11 environment has impacted international students heavily, however. Enrollment of international students is down at colleges and universities all over the United States, including Dana.

To adapt to the changing climate, Dana has been looking at different routes of bringing international students to Blair. This fall, 32 students from Vejle Business School in Denmark enrolled at Dana as part-time students for a special three-week course on business practices in America. In between field trips to Valmont Industries, Village Pointe Mall and other local businesses, the students lived, ate and studied with Dana students while on campus, providing a valuable educational resource to both the visitors and the hosts.

The Vejle students also came to the Danish classes of Professor Trine Feuerborn, where they spoke to Dana’s Danish students,

helping them practice their language skills and providing information on a college student’s life in Denmark.

Feuerborn herself is a product of Dana’s commitment to bringing international influences to campus. Born and raised in Denmark, Feuerborn answered an ad for a Danish teacher and came to Dana right out of college.

Feuerborn is the latest in a string of instructors from Ribe Statsseminarium to teach Danish at Dana. (She now also serves as assistant registrar.) Although it was a little intimidating at first, she said being an international student — whether you’re coming to or from America — is a valuable experience for the student and Dana.

“I think (international students) are getting something very good when they come over here,” she said. “And our students definitely have advantages with tuition exchange and all of our connections.”

Although Dana’s international system is definitely one of the best, no one at the college wants to rest on their laurels.

“I’d like to see us do more to develop contacts in countries that are less traditional than Europe,” Feuerborn said. “We have a good start, but we need more students to elect to travel.”

The Assignment:

1 year, 3 months patrolling the streets of Baghdad, Iraq with the National Guard

The Traveler:

Taper is a freshman History for Secondary Teachers major from Curtis, Neb.

The Phone Call:

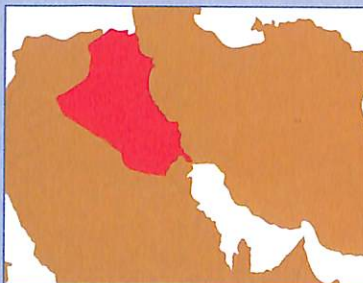
Taper was in the middle of his first wrestling season at Dana when he got the call that his unit was being called up. Within a few months, he had gone from Omaha to Scottsbluff, Neb., to Colorado Springs, Colo., to Kuwait to Baghdad.

The Lessons:

Taper is versed in the religious differences and political consequences in Iraq.

The Result:

Taper, who joined the National Guard because of family tradition, missed out on two wrestling seasons, but feels the work he did in Iraq was well worth it.

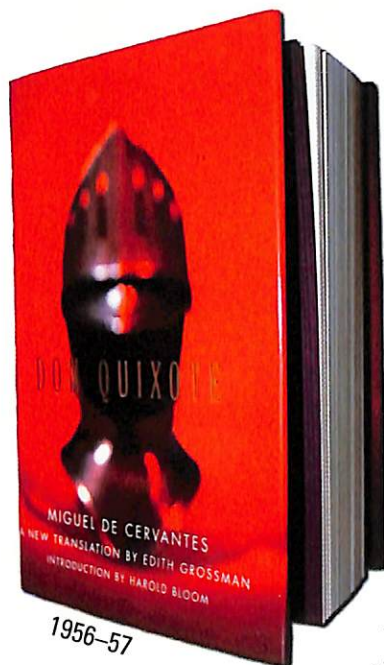


Rusty Taper '08

A Very Brief History of...



by Ann (Harms '54) George



Many cities, towns, and even states have recently been encouraging residents to meet in groups to discuss a selected book. Last year, for example, residents in Lincoln, Neb., read Leif Enger's *Peace Like a River* in a "One Book — One Lincoln" program, and this year Nebraskans are reading Willa Cather's *My Antonia* in a "One Book — One State" program.

Such programs must seem familiar to current students and to anyone who has attended Dana over the past 50 years, because they've all participated in the college's Liberal Arts Reading Program, or LARP.

Yes, LARP, proposed in the fall of 1955, tested the following spring, and launched the next year, is approaching 50, and it's left a trail of more than 350 books. (For a list of all books read, go to www.dana.edu/larp.)

Dr. Elmer Rasmussen '39, professor of psychology and education, described the beginnings of the program in the October 1959 *Association of American Colleges Bulletin*. "Like every other college faculty that is concerned about the intellectual development of its students," he wrote, "the faculty of Dana College spends much time and thought on that topic Such discussion among faculty members resulted in the discovery that most of them had 'read about' many of the great books of the past but had not read the books themselves. They considered the possibility of reading some of these books together and having regular monthly meetings to discuss them. It did not take long to move to the idea of including students in the plan"

Gordon Ferguson, then modern language department chairman, acted on this idea and in the fall of the 1955-56 academic year and presented a plan to the faculty. Rasmussen wrote that "there was almost unanimous approval of the idea, but not the plan for carrying it out." Instead, a faculty committee developed a plan that was debated, modified and finally approved, and the next semester a group of 10 students read Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* in a successful trial run.

LARP has evolved since then, but many operating details worked out by that faculty committee remain, a testament to the care its members took.

Alumni will recognize these details in today's LARP: A faculty-student committee selects

books from various disciplines for the coming year. Twelve to 15 students stay in the same discussion group throughout the semester. The groups continue to represent a cross section of classes and majors. Faculty and staff rotate, meeting with a different group each time.

Students also continue to take multiple-choice quizzes at the start of a session, and in the past how well they've done on the quiz and the quality of their participation in the discussion determined their grades. Those two factors still count, but today there's a third: Students write "reflection" papers at the end of the semester on a common theme they've found in their readings

Depending on when they attended Dana, alumni might recognize two significant changes in the program. The number of required semesters of LARP is one of them. For about the first 25 years, participation was campus wide because students needed eight semesters to graduate. That participation was halved when the requirement was changed to four semesters.

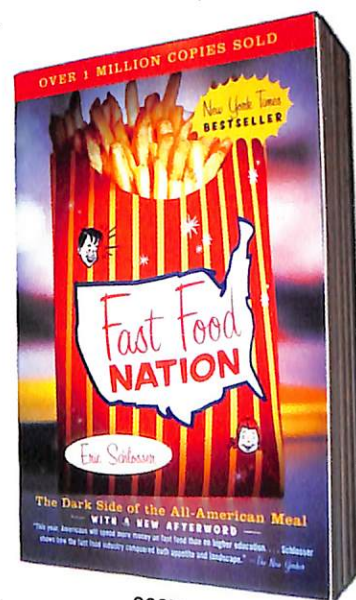
The other is that changes in reading habits and in society have, over the years, influenced the selection of books. In 1956-57, the first full year of LARP, participants read nine classics that included *The Autobiography of Ben Franklin*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, *The Dialogues of Plato*, three plays by Ibsen and Goethe's *Faust, Part One*. By 1961-62 they were also reading a few books on contemporary issues. David Riesman's *The Lonely Crowd* was one of the first of these.

Today most selections reflect current interests: This semester participants are reading Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*, Ursula Le Guin's *The Lathe of Heaven* and Sherman Alexie's *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. Classics do, however, still make the reading list — in the past two years participants have read Willa Cather's *O Pioneers* and Seamus Heaney's new translation of *Beowulf*.

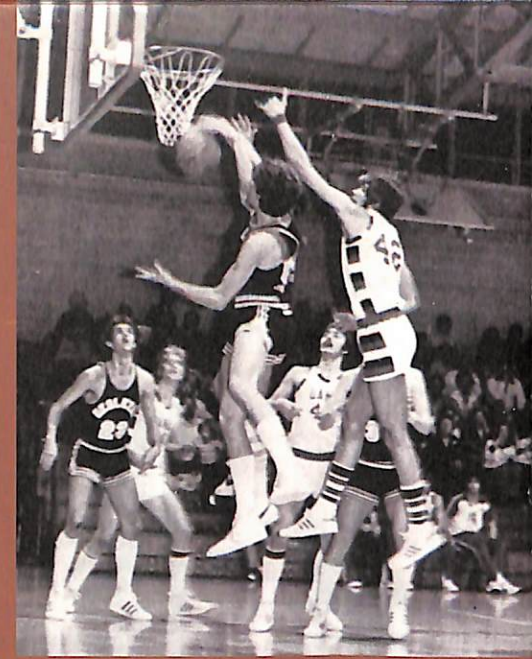
Lori Nielsen '77, director of Learning Resources and a LARP alumna who became its program coordinator this year, stresses the continuing value of LARP as part of Dana's liberal arts education.

She stresses another benefit, too. Faculty members and students linger after class and over coffee to talk about the current book. LARP is a shared experience, she says. From the beginning, participation has created a sense of community, and that continues today.

LARP

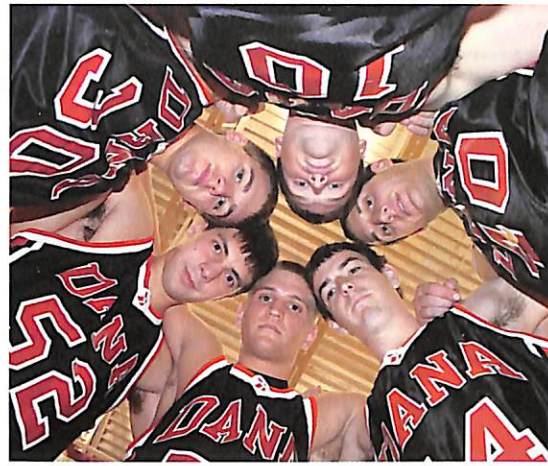


2005



One hundred years means hundreds of faces of Dana basketball. Clockwise from top left: the 1908 team in the oldest known Viking team photo, Gary Cissell '80 battles for a rebound in 1978, the women's and men's teams from 1924. On the opposite page, an example of how much things change that stay the same. On the left is a photo of the 1948-49 team. On the right is a photo of the seniors from the 2004-05 squad taken for the cover of the Men's Basketball program.





100 Years of Hoop-itude

Men's basketball is the longest running sport at Dana College. Much has changed in the sport since the first game was played at Dana 100 years ago. As Peter L. Petersen recounts in his book *A Place Called Dana*: "The first intercollegiate basketball game apparently came in 1904 when Dana defeated Boyles College of Omaha. But it was not until the 1912-1913 school year that the Dana basketball team began to gain recognition outside Blair. Nicknamed the "Dana College Flying Five" and coached by Charles E. Gaydou, this team ran up an impressive winning record. According to one report, Dana roundballers lost only five games in the span of three years. Opponents included local high schools as well as area Y.M.C.A.s and colleges.

Often these pre-war athletic contests were played in facilities not ideally suited for basketball. Paulus F. Falck, a member of the 1913-1914 team and later a coach at Dana, recalled a particularly difficult game at Wayne State Normal College: 'We were considerably handicapped as the gym in the basement of one of their building had a low ceiling supported by two pillars in the center of the floor and the Wayne boys had a knack of ducking behind these pesky pillars when they had possession of the ball so that we were obliged to look out for the pillars and players.'"

The first gymnasium at Dana College was built in 1902. Completed at an estimated cost of \$1,200, the 64-by-34-foot frame structure stood just to the east of present-day Elk Horn Hall. That original gym was torn down after Alumni Memorial Auditorium was built in 1928. Tiny AMA was used until Borup Coliseum opened in 1962. In 2003 Dana College's \$6 million Gardner-Hawks Center became the main athletic venue.

Over the years Dana's facilities have hosted several outstanding athletes — Marion Hudson '56, Gary Cissell '80 and Nathan Babbitt '98, just to name a few. Todd Hinkle '87 holds Dana's school record in career points (2,171), free throws (682) and assists (428). Paul Petersen is Dana's winningest basketball coach. "Coach Pete" led Dana's basketball team for 28 years. Today Dana competes with some of the same schools as teams in the 1940s. Midland Lutheran, Concordia and Peru State are longtime rivals of Dana College.

No history of sport at Dana College would be complete without a story of the rivalry between Dana and Midland Lutheran. Once during a basketball game between the two teams in AMA, emotions became so heated that Dana officials turned off the lights until tempers cooled.

And the 2005 team is leaving their mark on the Dana College record book as well. Junior Mark Esser recently set a new school record for 50 blocked shots in a season.

Thank you for turning Garry Clark '04 from a national qualifier to a National Champion. Thank you for giving Dana's wrestlers the experience they need to maintain their record as the only team to ever win the GPAC Wrestling Championship. Thank you for turning a men's soccer team of barely enough to even play into a full varsity and junior varsity squad. Thank you for letting us play.

Thanks *to* YOU

Dana Athletics couldn't succeed without the help of donors big and small

Nationwide the cost of fielding athletic teams is rising. As budgets tighten, many schools look to fundraising to cover the gap. Rosters are growing at Dana, and coaches are working even harder to provide the best opportunities for Viking student athletes. As a result, fundraising is a vital part of Dana College's athletic programs. Thank you for donating to Viking Athletics.

At Dana, fundraising provides for post-season travel, capital improvements, uniforms, trips and additional operating expenses.

Thank you Viking Club. Membership fees support Viking teams' post-season travel, like indoor track National Champion Garry Clark's trip to Nationals in Tennessee. Last year alone the Vikings advanced women's soccer, cross country, indoor track, outdoor track, men's basketball, wrestling, baseball and softball to post-season play. While Dana always expects success, budgets are made long before the season even starts, and travel to post-season tournaments often has to be paid for through fundraising.

Thank you golfers. The annual Viking Golf Challenge is the Athletic Department's largest fundraiser. Proceeds from the tournament have been used to remodel Dana's wrestling room with new carpet and wall mats; carpet, paint and update equipment in the weight room; replace soccer goal nets; and build a softball and baseball indoor batting cage. To make sure the Athletic Department stretches every dollar to its limit, in all of these projects your donated money was used to purchase the raw materials, while coaches, athletes and volunteers provided the labor for free. The scent of 30 gallons of glue used to complete the padded wrestling room still lingers in Borup Coliseum.

Today's Average Costs	
Soccer game ball	\$90
Football officials	\$700 per game
Wrestling entry fee	\$20 per wrestler
Rental of one	
15-passenger van	\$90 per day
Gas for one	
15-passenger van	\$45/full tank
Men's basketball uniform	\$118
Football helmet	\$140
NAIA official baseballs	\$930/season
Softball bat	\$100

Thank you Phone-A-Thon donors. This year Phone-a-Thon campaigns provided funds for team trips and purchased new uniforms for the men's basketball team. Volleyball will use the funds to support next year's junior varsity team — the first in many years — and baseball will purchase new jerseys and a sound system for Paul Peterson Field.

Football recruits from powerhouse high schools were excited to join the Vikings, but commented on how Dana's equipment was older and more out-dated than at their high schools. Football coaches used a Phone-A-Thon to raise funds for lighter shoulder pads, new jerseys and safer helmets.

Thank you Work-A-Thon sponsors. Your pledges not only provide a service to our community, but also help Viking athletic teams purchase much needed equipment and uniforms. When the track team's roster doubled last year, the team raised nearly \$5,000 through a Work-a-Thon to outfit the entire team in new uniforms and warm-ups that matched — like the teams the Vikings compete against. The football team organized a Work-A-Thon to raise funds for a new five-man blocking sled to help train offensive lineman who protect Tom Lensch '07, the collegiate pass attempts record holder.

Work-A-Thon pledges and donations will send the softball team to a Spring Break tournament in California. There the Vikings will face nationally ranked teams, including a team with Canadian Olympians on its roster and another coached by USA Olympic athlete Amanda Freed (Biola). The trip gives the team a competitive edge against their tough GPAC rivals because they are able to play outdoors and gain game experience before the conference season opens.

Team trips boost morale, build team chemistry and attract recruits. Though trips are costly, the experience gained from competing against top teams far outweighs

the expense. Dana's women's basketball team worked hard this year to raise funds for a trip to a holiday tournament in Hawaii.

Wrestlers annually raise funds to attend the prestigious Cliff Keen Invitational in Las Vegas, Nev. Nearly 50 of the top teams in college wrestling — including Minnesota, Ohio State, Arizona State, Nebraska, Michigan, and Wisconsin — participate in the tournament, making it one of the most highly anticipated tournaments of the season. Few NAIA teams compete in this predominately NCAA Division I tournament.

Fundraising revived Paul Peterson Field and the Dana College baseball team. Five years ago, Dana baseball coaches began the sign program and 100-inning game fundraiser with the goal of building a press box and annually providing for a Spring Break trip. Now the team raises more than \$20,000 each year through a variety of fundraisers. The press box has been built and the team travels South during Spring Break, as well as taking weekend trips to

play nationally ranked teams in Oklahoma and Kansas. Fundraisers also provide for upkeep at the field and will someday pay for the addition of stadium-style bleachers.

And fundraising covers the increased expenses caused by growing rosters. As roster numbers increase, junior varsity teams become even more necessary. However, the budget for most of Dana's junior varsity teams covers officials' fees only.

Men's soccer listed 40 athletes on their roster this season. Fielding a junior varsity team was a must, but no money was budgeted for the expenses. Dana's wrestling team faces the same difficulties. With a roster of 70 wrestlers, Head Wrestling Coach Steve Costanzo relies heavily on fundraising to extend the team's general operating funds. Golf outings, scratch cards and the Pin-to-Win fundraiser all provide the means to travel and make sure our nationally recognized team gets the experience it needs to remain so.

Those who contribute to Viking athletics cannot be thanked enough. Fundraising provides the tools necessary to build successful teams as well as great opportunities and lifelong memories for Viking athletes.

Donations help teams take special trips — like the women's basketball trip to a Hawaii tournament this winter — which helps team morale and recruiting.



VIKINGreport

Athletic Department

Dana College is proud to announce that it has once again been chosen as a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) "Champion of Character" Institution.

The award recognizes NAIA member institutions that have embraced the character program by promoting or implementing activities related to the five core character values of the initiative. This is the fourth year of the recognition program for the Association.

In an effort to give the NAIA's Champions of Character initiative a more active role on campus, the Dana College Athletic Department spearheaded several new projects this school year.

The Viking Elite Student Athletes (VESA) organization was formed to recognize athletes with outstanding character and promote realistic role models in our community.

"Currently we have 24 student athletes involved in off-campus activities. The activities include visits to Crowell Home, Cooper Village, Blair West Elementary and the Cardio Club at Dana College," said Pat Morris '99, co-VESA's staff representative and assistant football coach.

A weekly "Champion of Character" award honors a Dana student who has demonstrated at least one of the core character values, which are: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Servant Leadership and Sportsmanship.

Dana's athletic teams have been involved in several community service projects, including the annual Ladies Auxiliary Rummage

Sale benefiting Memorial Community Hospital and the recent Homeless Challenge fundraiser for Goldenrod Hills Community Action. Teams also volunteered to pick up trash along Highway 133, sort items at Joseph's Coat, a thrift store run by the local ministerial association, and clean up after a fish fry. Volunteers also assisted with on-campus activities such as the Lewis & Clark celebration, student move-in day, the Danish gymnastics performance, and the Sights & Sounds of Christmas. Each year student athletes serve each other by working at Dana's approximately 120 home athletic events.

Baseball

Last year the 29-26 Vikings won the regular season GPAC championship for the second year in a row. Fifteen seniors graduated from the program, and this year the Vikings return only one starter, pitcher Bobby Andrews '05. Twenty-eight newcomers join the team for 2005. The Vikings were picked fifth in the pre-season GPAC poll.

Men's Basketball

Jason Isaacson '05 set a new GPAC single-game high when he scored 34 points for the Dana College Vikings Jan. 15 in Orange City, Iowa. Mark Esser '06 set a new Dana College school record for blocked shots during the Jan. 30 win over Briar Cliff. Esser has 50 blocked shots this season. Former record holders Scott Kaiser (86-87) and Scott Gray (90-91) are tied with 48.

Honors: Jason Isaacson '05 — Columbia College All-Tournament Team

Women's Basketball

The women's basketball continued to improve on last year's disappointing season by snapping up four wins early in competition. The Vikings played well against nationally ranked teams and young standout players like freshman

Amy Nichol '08 hold great promise for the future.

Honors: Amy Nichol '08 — 2004 Hoop 'N' Surf Classic All-Tournament Team

Cross Country

The women's team finished fifth at the GPAC Championships, a big accomplishment for a team that didn't even have enough runners last year to compete. The men finished in seventh place.

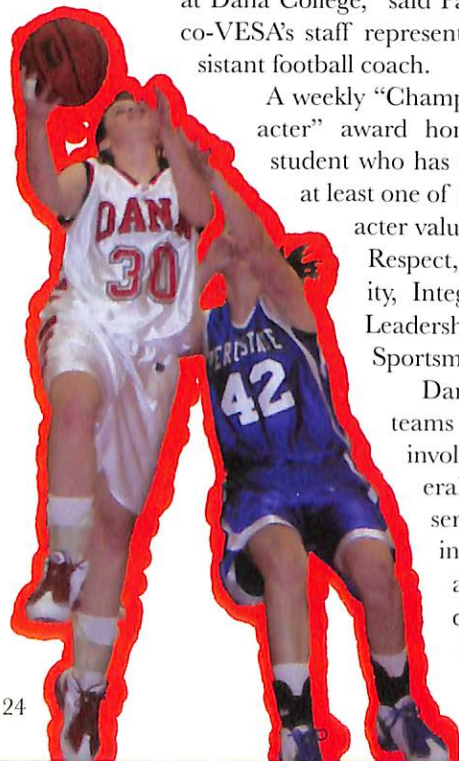
Honors: John Kaup '07 — National Qualifier; Ian Latella '05 — All-Conference, NAIA Scholar Athlete; Dru Weaver '07 — All-Conference, NAIA Scholar Athlete, National Qualifier

Football

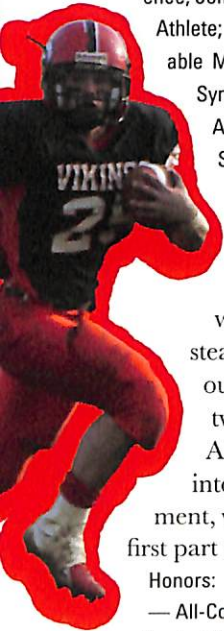
Football finished the season 2-9. Tom Lensch '07 was the NAIA's regular-season total offense leader with 3,395 yards this season. Dan Irwin '06 led the GPAC with 71 receptions, giving him the Dana College school record for receptions in a season.

Dana College will host two football camps in June for middle and high school players wishing to improve their fundamental skills. On June 6 and 7, is an offensive lineman/defensive lineman camp for students in ninth through 12th grades. On June 8, there is a position skills camp. For more information, or to register, contact Viking Assistant Football Coach Marty Costello at (402) 426-7363 or mcostello@dana.edu.

Honors: Javon Bell '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Mitch Bowhay '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Mike Buchanan '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Steve Costello '05 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Chris Finke '05 — NAIA Scholar Athlete; Nick Harms '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Jeremy Havener '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Dan Irwin '06 — Second Team All-Conference; Rick Lebeda '07 — Honorable



Mention All-Conference; Tom Lensch '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Matt Neesen '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Clay Salberg '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Jon Stuehm '05 — NAIA Scholar Athlete; Joe Sweeney '05 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; John Synowicki '06 — NAIA Scholar Athlete; T.J. Weiss '05 — NAIA Scholar Athlete



Golf

The first season of women's golf at Dana went well. The team steadily improved throughout the season, landing two freshmen on the All-Conference team and into the Regional Tournament, which will be held in the first part of May.

Honors: Karla Harshbarger '08 — All-Conference, Regional Qualifier; Brooke McCabe '08 — All-Conference,

Regional Qualifier

Men's Soccer

Men's soccer finished their season 11-8-1, the most wins ever for Dana men's soccer. The team was awarded the NSCAA/Adidas Team Academic Award for posting a team grade point average of 3.14. The award recognizes the Vikings as one of only 73 men's collegiate teams in all NCAA divisions, junior colleges and the NAIA to post a team grade point average of 3.0 or higher during the 2003-04 academic year. This year's team placed five members on the Dana Dean's List.

Honors: Lance Barton '08 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Jake Gradoville '05 — Second Team All-Conference; J.D. Hall '06 — NAIA Scholar Athlete; Eric Johnson '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Brock Karloff '08 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Brent Lorkovic '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference, NAIA Scholar Athlete; Kevin Lorkovic '08 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Aaron McGoldrick '05

— NAIA Scholar Athlete; Shane Thomason '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference

Women's Soccer

Women's soccer finished the season 8-10-2. The Dana College women's soccer team was among 50 teams in every division to be awarded the annual National Soccer Coaches Association of America Ethics / Sportsmanship Award. Honors: Megan Flowers '07 — Second Team All-Conference; Amy Fullenkamp '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference, NAIA Scholar Athlete; Michelle Glanz '05 — First Team All-Conference; Shannon Glanz '07 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Julia Peterson '06 — NAIA Scholar Athlete; Amanda Reddish '05 — Second Team All-Conference, NAIA Scholar Athlete, All-Region; Melissa Respeliers '05 — First Team All-Conference and All-Region; Nikki Tenski '05 — Honorable Mention All-Conference; Jen Thede '06 — NAIA Scholar Athlete

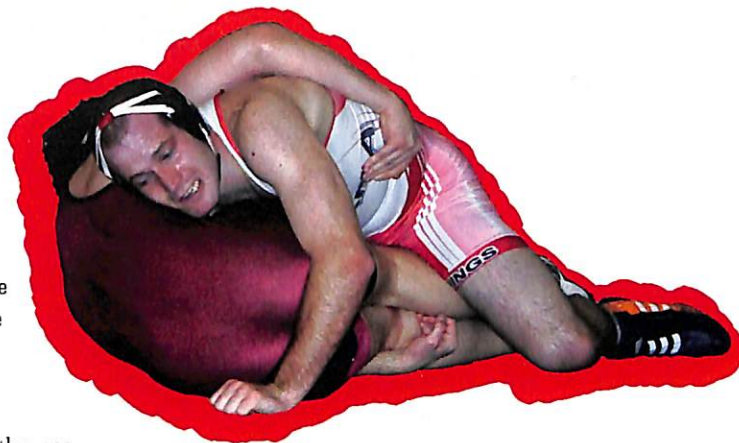
Softball

Shh. Don't tell their opponents, but the 2005 softball team is fueling up for a fiery season. They are young and inexperienced, but very talented. The Vikings are laying low with a pre-season No. 5 GPAC ranking, but the re-energized, well recruited Vikings hope to shock a few top teams.

Track

Boasting one of the largest rosters in history, the Dana track team has 35 athletes competing in the indoor season. Senior Eric Jones '05 broke the Dana 60-meter dash record with a time of 7.14 seconds at the Holiday Inn Invitational in Lincoln, Neb. on Jan. 15.

On April 2, the Vikings host the second annual Dana Open outdoor track meet. A month later, more than 1,000 athletes will descend on Dana's campus for the GPAC track meet May 7.



Volleyball

The volleyball team finished 8-22 on the season, one of the best finishes in recent history, and the best GPAC performance ever by Dana. First-year Head Coach Bruce Atkinson was hardly satisfied. "I have gotten to know more about the level of play in the GPAC, and what is required to win. I know what areas in which our current players need to improve and the type of player that I need to recruit in the future. One nice thing about our team is that we don't have any seniors. Going into this season, we didn't have a single member of our varsity team that had played volleyball since November 2003. That nine-month layoff hurt us as a team. This year we will participate in spring ball and will be actively engaged in weight training and plyometric programs throughout the off-season. I am confident that this team, with the addition of a couple of key recruits, has what it takes to compete for a conference title."

Honors: Christine Davis '06 — Honorable Mention All-Conference

Wrestling

In December, Dana College was ranked third in the nation by the NAIA. This is the highest national ranking for the Vikings under the direction of Head Coach Steve Costanzo and also the highest team ranking in school history. The Vikings boast 10 nationally ranked wrestlers, 22 National qualifiers and a season dual record of 10-5.

Honors: Blair Alderman '06 — Red Raider Invitational Outstanding Wrestling Award

Captions: Women's basketball — Felicia Ellis '08; Football — Matt Neesen '07; Wrestling — Blair Alderman '06

2004 Memorials and Honoraria

Gifts were given to Dana College during 2004 in memory of the following people:

Charlotte Andersen	Paul Krogh '91	Quentin Quist
Cyrus Anderson	Alton Larsen '42	Steve Refsell
Martin & Elsie Dahll Anderson	Karen R. Larsen	Winola Rice
Norman Bansen '47	Einar Legore	Helen Roseman
Dagmar Bligh	Lucy Lindahl '83	Ellen (Hansen '45) Schooley
Jayne Borden	Laura Lorsch	Harold Schou
Brothers of Marjorie (Jorth) Wahlgren	Jim & Gladys Mann	John Seburg '65
Verner Carlsen D'36 T'39	Walt Marshall	Elizabeth (Christensen '48) Servine
Irma (Nelson '41) Christensen	Robert Martin	Paul Simon '49
Margaret Christensen	Ardis (Gramps '51) Mengers	Thelma Sisco
Gene Clements	Leon Meyers	Einor & Else Solevad
Nancy Curley	John Miller	Eloise (Morris '38) Sperati
Gladys Dige '44	Keith Nelson	Collis Steele
Eugene Domingo	Gladys (Hansen '36) Nichols	Robert Stegmaier '64
Deborah Garrison	Chris Nielsen	Howard Swenson
Charles Hansen '50	James A. Nielsen '53	Pat Thisted
Homer Hansen '40	John & Meta Nielsen	Anna May Thomsen
Marion (Nielsen '55) Hansen	Luella Nielsen '42	Carl Thomsen
Paul Hansen '50	Ruth Herman Nielsen	Harry Tostenson
Dania Hundtoft	Betty (Jensen '51) Nygaard	Pauline Touzios
Esther Jensen	Lyle Paulsen D'43 T'45	Thees Wallman
Richard J. Jensen	Emery Petersen D'38 T'43	John Cyrus Warmanen '66
Michael E. Johnson '95	Herbert & Mabel Petersen	Gustie Wolter
Agnes Kinder	Paul Peterson '41	Alwin Zwanziger

The following people were noted in Honoraria given to Dana during 2004:

Edith (Pedersen '37) Bertelsen – 90th Birthday
Karen (Jensen '60) Capel
Myrvin Christopherson '61 – 65th Birthday
Knud Dyby
Ninna (Schultz '33) Engskow – Birthday
Dan Hunt – Service to Dana
Richard Hunt – Service to Board
Keith '56 & Audrey Jensen – 50th Anniversary
Leo Kirchhoff '60 – Friendship & Thank You
Peter '54 & Elna (Nielsen '56) Mathiasen – 50th Anniversary
Paul Neve '41
John W. D'47 T'53 & Liz (Solevad '49) Nielsen – 55th Anniversary & Service
Pastors of First Lutheran Church, Fremont, Neb.
Ruth (Hansen '44) Peterson
Steve '83 & Janice (Butts '83) Peterson
Carl Schattauer T'52 – 80th Birthday

Whatever Happened? to...

Monique Bentzinger

Remember Monique (Bentzinger) Poldberg '78? She was that girl with the long dark hair. (OK, yeah, every girl at Dana in the '70s had long dark hair.) She was in the choir and always seemed to be in all the Art classes, even though she wasn't an Art major. And the Folk Dancers? Remember when the Folk Dancers were one of the biggest groups on campus? Whatever happened to her?

That little freshman from tiny Cook, Neb., is one of the most respected teachers in the state of California, and the recipient of the 2004 California Art Education Association's Outstanding Elementary School Visual Art Educator Award. And she did it by taking Dana's traditional, broad liberal arts tradition and translating it to the modern, standards-based world of elementary school.

If you haven't been around elementary schools in the last few years, the first thing you should know is that they've changed, and it's not just the technology. For decades, states have been developing and implementing standardized goals students should reach at certain stages. (For example, Illinois has a standard that requires eighth graders to be able to identify and appreciate the use of dialogue in literature.) In the last few years, the standardization trend has expanded nationally, especially through the No Child Left Behind Act that sanctions school districts that fail to get students to achieve set learning goals.

It sounds like the exact opposite of the broad, free-flowing interdisciplinary approach Dana was founded on and continues to uphold. But that's not necessarily so. Poldberg has earned her awards and reputation by blending required state standards with the arts to expand her students' educational experiences.

In her Lake Elsinore, Calif., second grade classroom, Poldberg teaches children from a mixture of backgrounds, divided in half by English-only students and English language learners, who primarily come from Spanish-speaking homes. No matter what the lesson, she's found that the arts can help all her diverse students grasp their lessons.



"I'm very much a believer in the arts being important in the every day life of a child," she said. "It gets kids excited — it gets them involved. The arts are fun. The arts are valuable in and of themselves. We can appreciate the world around us through art."

It works like this. Recently, Poldberg's class tackled a science standard that requires students understand changing seasons. She and her students talked about it from this approach and then took it a step further by painting trees in different seasons as part of an art lesson. Because California also has art standards, when they painted their summer tree, Poldberg talked about the role of aspect of space in art. When they moved on to fall, she used the opportunity to discuss the use of repeating colors.

The connection between science and art isn't the end, though. Poldberg had her students write a poem with adjectives (an English standard) about their winter tree paintings. As a member of a federal grant program to study the use of art in the classroom, Poldberg and the other researchers found that there is an important connection to be made between the concrete art-making with its visual imagery and the abstract symbolic text. This is an important step in literacy.

"It is important for us as educators to take a standard and make it interesting and meaningful," Poldberg said. "To do that, we use our own talents and strengths to meet the needs of our diverse students."

Poldberg has a successful life outside the classroom, as well. Her husband, Lance Poldberg '76 teaches fourth grade in the same school as Monique. Their son Matthew is a senior at the University of California-Santa Barbara, and their son Jonathan is a freshman at the University of Southern California.

Lance and Monique recently learned that they had won a grant to work on integrating music, visual art, storytelling and filmmaking into the classroom. In many ways, they will be giving a new life to their experiences at Dana in the 1970s, when a student spent his or her day jumping from classrooms filled with literature, discussion and art to extracurricular activities filled with song and dance.

"It's rewarding for me," she said. "It's a lot of work, but I enjoy it."

Monique Poldberg uses art to inspire her Lake Elsinore, Calif. second grade class.

2000s

Tanya (Chadwick '04) Bruck is a teacher at Harlan (Iowa) Community High School, where the couple makes their home.

Mackenzie Krause '04 and **Cliff Ellis '04** were married on June 12, 2004. They now live in Seattle, Wash.

Anthony Metcalf '04 was recently hired as a technical support representative with Bio-Rad Laboratories in Benicia, Calif., specializing in chemistry/applications with expertise in the area of the D-10 instrument, an ion-exchange HPLC instrument designed for long-term diabetes monitoring, specifically the quantification of HbA1c.

Emily Neve '04 received the 2004 Nebraska New Future Teacher Award from the Nebraska English Language Arts Council on Sept. 18, 2004. Emily lives in Omaha.

Gloria Otto '04 has moved to Branson, Mo., where she is auditioning as a singer for the town's many country music shows.

Inga Roe '04 married Mike Mehlenbacher on July 3, 2004, in Brookings, S.D. Inga works at Community Alliance in Omaha.

Carrie Whitehead '04 is working for the Omaha Public Power District at the Fort Calhoun plant in document control. She lives in Blair.

Derek Fey '03 finished second in the Omaha Marathon in September 2004. Derek is

the new head cross country coach at Dana.

Maureen Gubbels '03 graduated from Creighton University in Omaha with a bachelor's degree in nursing on Aug. 20, 2004. She works as a registered nurse at Methodist Hospital in Omaha on the Acute Care for the Elderly and Acute Rehabilitation units. Maureen received a special award for a group project on planning and implementing a senior citizen health fair at the graduation ceremony.

Todd Maxwell '03 is a convention sales assistant at the Greater Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau. He also performed in the Shelterbelt Theater production of "Shelterskelter 9" in October 2004.

Diane (Grote '03) Thies is teaching kindergarten at Hill-rise Elementary in Elkhorn, Neb. Diane is working on a master's degree in curriculum instruction with an endorsement in early childhood development at Doane College in Crete, Neb. She and her husband, **Michael Thies '03**, live in Omaha.

Megan Ahrens '02 and **Jeremy Willer '02** were married on Nov. 27, 2004, in Omaha. Megan teaches seventh-grade science in Bellevue, Neb., and is an assistant coach for Bellevue West's volleyball team. Jeremy works at Werner Enterprises.

Allison Botkin '02 is the customer relations specialist with Avatech Solutions in Omaha.

Lisa Grasso '02 graduated from the New England Culinary Institute in Essex Junction, Vt., with an associate's of occupational studies in culinary arts degree. She is working for August Home Publishing Company for *Cuisine at Home* magazine in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dan Hansen '02 is claims statistical coordinator at National Indemnity Company in Omaha.

Michelle Krum '02 is the special education teacher at Ralston (Neb.) High School.

Eric Lee '02 married Molly Barber on Oct. 2, 2004, in Memphis, Tenn. Eric is in his third year at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis.

Tiffany (Shellberg '02) Schutt is teaching second grade at Longfellow Elementary School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mindy Streitenberger '02 is working toward a master's degree in counseling at Doane College in Crete, Neb., and working fulltime as residential manager at the Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Retardation.

Lindsay Bamesberger '01 married Anton "Tony" Glaug on Nov. 20, 2004, in Hampton, Neb. Lindsay works for the Harry A. Koch Insurance Co. in Omaha.

Sarah Hernandez '01 is a graduate student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Meaghan Shea '01 married Carl Evans on July 30 in Las

Vegas, Nev. Meaghan works in management.

Amanda Stoffel '01 is teaching in Omaha Public Schools as a primary behavioral disorder teacher. She teaches in a self-contained behavioral-disorder classroom, where she works with children that are autistic and have behavioral disorders. Amanda also coaches girls' soccer at Roncalli Catholic High School in Omaha.

Cody Franzen '00 is the math instructor at Litchfield (Neb.) Public School. Cody and his wife, Melissa, and son, Taylor, live in Grand Island, Neb.

1990s

Ryan Boozikee '99 married Heather Koch on Oct. 2, 2004, in Omaha. Ryan is a senior rep relations specialist at Securities America Inc. in Omaha.

Nikki Kinsey '99 and her business, Sol Chicks Design, were part of the Move Against AIDS: Return of the Dance-a-thon, a charity event dedicated to raising funds for HIV/AIDS programs for Gay Men's Health Crisis. The event, held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, N.Y., was well attended by local, national and international stars. Each artist was presented with a bag containing custom-painted "It's a Hottie" martini glasses created by Sol Chicks Design.

Joel Krominga '99 is vice president and commercial loan officer at Centennial Bank in Omaha, Neb.

Jeremy Rine '99 married Jennifer Beck on Oct. 22, 2004, in Hastings, Neb. Jeremy works at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad in Lincoln, Neb.

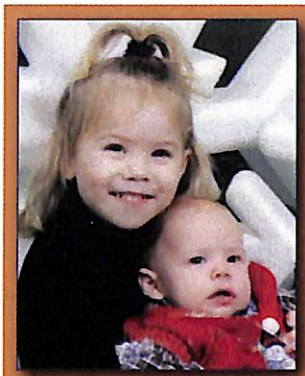
Todd Ashby '98 has been promoted to senior account executive at Envoy Inc., an integrated advertising, marketing and public relations firm based in Omaha. Todd will oversee marketing and advertising efforts for several business-to-business and business-to-consumer clients.



Lynette (Riemersma '98) Gooder and her husband, Mike, welcomed daughter Jessica Ann on Oct. 1, 2004. Jessica weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. She joins big brother, Taylor. The family lives in North Platte, Neb.

Dottie (Whitehill '98) Bossman is teaching English at Logan Fontanelle Middle School in Bellevue, Neb. Her husband, **David Bossman '01** is a high school English teacher and academic coach at Bellevue East High School.

Shawn Isaacs '98 is working for Children's Square USA in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in their emergency shelter.



Ryan Holtam '98 and his wife, Nicky, had a son, Maccoy, in August 2004. Maccoy joins sister, Macy, 3. Ryan and Nicky are family teachers at Boystown, Neb.

Shawn is also an assistant wrestling coach at Treynor (Iowa) High School.

Trevor Tobias '98 married Amy Becher on June 12, 2004, in Omaha. Trevor is an environmental specialist with the Northern Natural Gas Company of Omaha. The couple lives in Bennington, Neb.

Dana Kowalewski '97 married Michael Sall on Dec. 4, 2004, in Omaha. Dana works at Camelot Care Centers Inc. in Omaha.

Dawn (Bernzen '97) Wallschlaeger and her husband, Erich, have three children, Ricky, in college, Taylor, 4, and Jordan, 1. The family lives in Mesa, Ariz.

Ginger Jensen '96 gave a speech and performance at Blair High School in December 2004. Ginger founded Equilibrium, a dance company in Chicago, Ill., in April 2004.

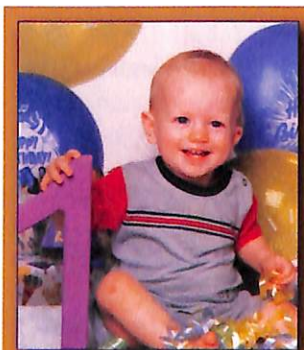
Mike Kahle '96 married Christine Haupt on Oct. 2, 2004. They live in the South Loop in Chicago, Ill., and have a dog, Buddy. Mike does logistics and import/export compliance for CDW. "Having fun in life!" he writes.

Jeff Lutt '96 moved to Great Bend, Kan., with his wife, Melissa, and son, Barrett. He is teaching elementary physical education and coaching eighth-grade football.

Mary Maus '96 is teaching special education at Intermediate School 232 in Crown Heights in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Karri Roberts '96 married Jason T. Moore on Sept. 25, 2004. They welcomed a baby boy, Tucker Jae Moore, on Dec. 3, 2003. Karri has been working at Home Lumber in Castle Rock, Colo., for six years. She's still playing softball all the time and coaches a 16-and-under fast-pitch team.

Jennifer Jensen '95 is a pediatrician at Fremont (Neb.) Area Medical Center. Jennifer sees patients at Kid Care in Fremont.



Kevin Westring '95 and his wife, Jane, had a son, Jacob, on Aug. 29, 2003.

Kristine Flack '94 is business development manager for John Elway Ford in Boulder, Colo.

Angie (Heise '94) Knudsen and her husband, Dan, welcomed a daughter, Sydney, on Sept. 20, 2004. Sydney joins older sister, Holli. Angie is a business manager for Home Instead Senior Care in Fremont, Neb. The family lives in Omaha.

Jennefer Neumeister '94 married Steve Hilgenkamp on Nov. 22, 2003. They live in Arlington, Neb. Jennefer teaches third grade.

Kimberly (Sloan '93) Bergman and her husband, Scott, welcomed a daughter, Karlee Renae, on Nov. 30, 2004. She joins sisters Kaitlyn, 8, and Cassidy, 5. The family lives in Dacono, Colo.

Edward "Terry" Breckenridge '93 and his wife, Lisa, live in Omaha, with their dog, Justice. Terry runs his own insurance agency with American Family Insurance.

Maria Amakali '91 finished her master of engineering degree at IHE in Delt, the Netherlands in 2001 on water and environmental resources management. She is chief hydrologist in the Department of Water Affairs in Namibia.

Craig Dew '90 and his wife, Becky, moved back to Council Bluffs, Iowa, with their four children. Craig works with behavioral students at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs and is coaching for the Iowa Blackhawks Professional

Arena Football Team. He also operates his own youth camps and youth programs.

Andrew Ferguson '90 has joined the firm of Valentine, O'Toole, McQuillan & Gordon in Omaha. Andrew practices in Omaha and Blair.



Lara Jean (McBride '90) O'Connor and her husband, Dave, welcomed their first child. Anna-grace Gwyneth was born May 7, 2004 and arrived home to Golden, Colo. on Oct. 28, 2004.

1980s

Grant Matthies '89 was named to the Midlands Business Journal's "40 Under 40" issue for 2004. Grant is a principal of SilverStone Group and has been instrumental in growing the firm's group health and life division's revenue from \$3 million to more than \$7 million. With his wife, Cindy, he has four children, Morgan, 10, Blaine, 6, Ava, 3, and Max, 7 months.

Brad Best '83 is principal at Creighton (Neb.) High School. The school was named a "No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School of 2004," in October 2004. Only those schools that are nominated by officials from the Nebraska Depart-



ment of Education based upon student achievement results are considered at the national level.

For many musicians, performing at Carnegie Hall in New York is the goal toward which they work. For one Dana College graduate that goal was achieved not only by her, but for 124 intermediate school students as well.

For Roxanne (Schwandt '78) Fauque, the adventure began as an invitation to perform the world premiere of "The Dreams of Montana Children, Op. 90," written by Dr. Eric Funk of Montana State University. It was at the Madison River Music Festival that a jurist from Carnegie Hall heard the children perform.

Both the uniqueness of the piece and the quality of the children's voices prompted Jonathan Griffith, assistant conductor in residence at Carnegie Hall, to invite Roxanne's choir to perform at the famed New York venue in April 2004.

Roxanne's Belgrade (Mont.) Intermediate School Choir also performed "the Seasons Op56." This music is based on the Assiniboine legend of the seasons. The audience was impressed by the professionalism and maturity of the students.

Roxanne resides in Bozeman, Mont. with her husband, Alan, and daughter, Emily. She continues to teach intermediate school music and choirs, as well as performing professionally with her husband.

John Ragan '82 entered Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., as a student in the doctor of ministry program in the fall of 2004. John has served as pastor in Graceville, Minn., and worked for Lutheran services in Watertown, S.D., Sisseton, S.D., Wilmot, S.D. and Lake Andes, S.D.

Scott Buchanan '81 is principal of Watseka (Ill.) Community High School. The couple lives in Bourbonnais, Ill.

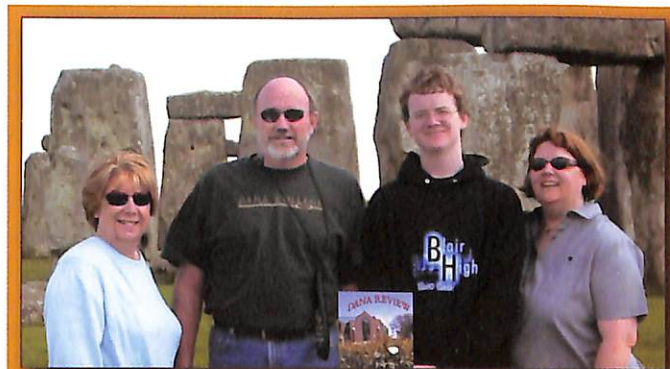
1970s

Rhonda (Oelrichs '78) Rose has been hired as the vice president of finance and operations for the National PACE Association in Alexandria, Va., where she and her husband now live.

Joyce (Wulf '78) Snide received a master of special education degree on Dec. 17, 2004. She teaches at Brook Valley School in Omaha.

Mary Kay (Petersen '74) Hennings had her second article accepted for publication in the December 2004 issue of *Alliance Life*, a national

Christian magazine. The article was about her struggles in adapting to inner-city teaching — and the joy that comes as a result — at Liberty Elementary, a new school in the Omaha Public School system. She and her husband, **Dennis Hennings '72**, live in Omaha.



Debra Wallman '76, Bob Jepsen '78, Chris Jepsen, son of Bob and Malinda, and **Malinda (Wallman '78) Jepsen** spent a week in England and France last spring visiting Bob and Malinda's oldest son, Aaron, while he was on tour there with the Young Americans. This picture was taken at Stonehenge. "It was a great educational trip, and we visited many of the places and artworks we studied while in Humanities!" writes Malinda. "Notice Bob is even wearing a Dana t-shirt."



A group of '70s alumnae came to Blair to have a mini-Dana Reunion and tour the campus. Picture, from left, are **Yvonne (Scheuring '79) Gaul**, **Cindy (Peterson '78) Scheuring**, **Joyce Wulf-Snide '78**, **Connie Jones '78**, **Debbie (Petersen '78) Schjodt**, **Gwen Rasmussen '78**, **Sandy Sonderup '78** and **Shirley Steffens '77**.

1960s

Peter Nessen '69 is chairman and chief operating officer at eresourceful LLC.

Jon Christensen '68 remarried Patti Miller in July of 2004. Jon has returned to private psychotherapy practice in Wauwatosa, Wis. He has joined the Behavioral Health and Business Development Institute of Performance Enhancement as an addiction specialist and employee assistance consultant.

Chuck Scott '68 is superintendent at the Avoca, Hancock, Shelby and Tennant (Iowa) Community School District.

Tom Wicks '68 is the director of educational services for both the Valley and Waterloo school districts in Nebraska.

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen '65 shared her memories of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for a special section in the *Minneapolis (Minn.) Star Tribune* on Jan. 17. Vivian is president and CEO of InterRace, a diversity think tank at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Deaths

Doris (Marley) Michael '72 died Jan. 2 at her home in Logan, Iowa. Doris taught school for 34 years in Mag-

olia, Iowa, and Logan. She was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Logan, and enjoyed quilting so much she made many quilts for grandchildren as well as for various mission projects. Survivors include her husband, Robert, a son, three daughters, 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two sisters.

Norma (Higgins '70) Brunton died Nov. 21, 2004, in Blair. She was an elementary teacher in the Herman and Tekamah schools in Nebraska. She was a member of Eastern Star Chapter No. 216. Survivors include a daughter, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and a sister.

Ardis (Grams '50) Mengers died Nov. 24, 2004, in Grass Valley, Calif., after a short illness. She was a member of the Dana College Choir and also sang in mixed quartets and other small vocal groups. She is survived by a brother, three daughters and three grandchildren.

James Sommers '41 died Nov. 14, 2004 in Chadron, Neb. He served overseas in the U.S. Army during World War II in the China-Burma-India Theater, earning the Bronze Star and other awards in combat. He and his wife, Genevieve, ran dry cleaning businesses in Chadron. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Chadron, Masonic Lodge, American Legion, VFW and the Dawes County Museum. Survivors include a son, two daughters, six grandchildren and a sister,

Clarice (Sommers '52) LeMaster.

Stanley Bach '37 died Dec. 29, 2004 in Omaha. Stanley served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945, and was on the staff at Children's Hospital from 1949 to 1998. Survivors include his wife, Lulu, and three children.

Vivian (Willesen '37) Keating died Oct. 11, 2004, in New Port Richey, Fla. Vivian held civil service jobs. Survivors include two daughters, including Vicki (Keating '70) Croft, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and two sisters.

Louella (Suverkrubbe '36) Christensen died Sept. 3, 2004, in Omaha. She taught rural school in Nebraska at Maney, Bisbee, Nashville and Ponca. She also worked part-time at Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Blair from 1969 to 1972. Survivors include three sons, a daughter, 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Phil Magnussen '31 died Nov. 29, 2004, in Phoenix, Ariz. He had worked in the printing business most of his life, starting as general manager of the Lutheran Publishing House in Blair. He believed strongly in community and church service, serving on the Board of Regents at Dana, on church council, Lions Club and various other organizations. He is survived by his two daughters, including Judy (Magnussen '63) Jensen, a son, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Five Coffey siblings, plus one spouse, gathered in Vicksburg, Miss. for an aunt's 100th birthday and a mini-Dana reunion. Pictured, from left, are **Jim Coffey '50**, **Jean (Coffey '58) Pristas**, **Joan (Coffey '58) Smith**, **Dick Coffey '68**, **Joan (Nelson '54) Coffey** and **Bob Coffey '53**.

Feedback Form

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Step 2:

- I have alumni information for Destiny's Deep Sea.
- I have an idea for "A Brief History of..." (Page 19)
- I have an idea for "Whatever Happened to?" (Page 27)
- I have an idea/comment about the Dana Review.
- I would like to be included in the online Alumni Directory. (Note: E-mail and phone number required.)

Step 3:

My information/idea is:

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