

# DANA REVIEW

An alumni publication of Dana College

## Learning Through Service

Dana students introduce elementary students to the wonders of biology

Spring 2006  
Volume 62, No. 3

# Dana by Design: Planning and Visioning in 2006

In the winter 2005 *Dana Review*, I shared introductory remarks about the strategic planning process. In February of this year, the strategic planning was initiated with a gathering of community leaders, regents, parents, students, faculty and staff sharing ideas about the internal strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and challenges facing Dana. Task forces, comprised of board members, students, faculty and staff, continued the work throughout the winter and spring. Their reports are due in early summer. The complete plan will be written and then will be presented to the Board of Regents at a special meeting in early August.



### Goals

Many times since my presidency began just a year ago, alumni and friends of the College have

asked, "What is your vision for Dana?" Before I can assert an authentic, dynamic vision, I must know the culture and substance of the institution. However, there are four interdependent goals that will drive the vision and the Dana by Design plan:

1. To achieve fiscal stability, i.e., a balanced budget, within five years.
2. To ensure rigorous, quality, academic experiences and co-curricular experiences that are challenging and meaningful to Dana students.
3. To increase the endowment.
4. To increase enrollment by recruiting and retaining students for whom Dana is a fit and by providing the academic and co-curricular programs that attract students.

Assuring the attainment of these goals will position Dana for a strong and vibrant future.

### The planning process

Well-known planning authority George Keller tells us that planning must be participatory and controversy-tolerant, that looking outward is important because the environment is changing and competitive, that there must be an attitude of active control over the institution's future rather than one of passivity or desperation. Real planning is about setting priorities and making choices – difficult choices. It is about having goals and dreams, but it is also about recognizing limitations and letting things go. Planning must concentrate on specific decisions and actions based upon well-defined priorities, and it must provide the means for achieving goals rather than stop with the goals themselves. The process will be imperfect, and it never really ends.

With Keller's instructions in mind, four task forces were created to engage in candid discussions around four topics.

They were asked to work toward consensus, to consider the best of long-standing values of the College and emerging educational needs in society, to be responsive to issues of service and leadership, to adhere to principles of good practice in undergraduate education, and to consider cost-effective delivery systems, all with the clear promise of generating enthusiasm among and support of students, alumni, and other potential supporters of the College.

The charge to the **Core Values/Mission Committee** was to identify core values and to develop a mission statement for the institution. They examined what it means to have a college program that is grounded both in the liberal arts and in a professional program while being mindful of both the history of the institution and of our competition in today's environment. This group was comprised of the co-chairs of the three task forces, senior staff, the chairman of the Board of Directors, the president of the student body, the president of the Faculty Senate, and the president of the College.

The charge to the task force addressing **Criteria for Evaluating Departments and Programs** was to identify and prioritize criteria for assessing strong academic departments and programs that are central to Dana's mission and to define Dana's niche in the academic marketplace.

The charge to the **Enrollment Management** task force was to conduct a thorough review of all aspects of enrollment management including recruitment, student life and retention. This group examined short- and long-term goals to improve retention and strategies on how to effectively blend the academic and co-curricular aspects of the students' experience.

The assignment of the **Resource Utilization** task force was to review and make recommendations about campus resource utilization. They reviewed the recommendations and actions of the 2004 Strategic Plan Task Force to assess progress and explored further efficiencies that might be achieved.

I am grateful for the willingness of the Dana community to participate in this important process. I am confident that through the honest communication and collaborative work of the task forces, we will create a strong future full of promise for Dana College.

My hope is that Dana College will be known as a place where students are on the move, serving others through civic engagement locally and internationally, exploring issues of faith and spirituality, preparing for professions and/or graduate education, and learning about leadership in co-curricular activities, in the classroom, on the stage, on the athletic field or court, and in the residence halls – that it will be known as a place where minds and bodies are challenged and where issues of spirituality, ethics and faith are freely explored and developed.

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*We're with you all the Way!*



**HELPING HANDS:** Forty-one Dana students spent their spring break in Louisiana helping with the clean-up from last year's Hurricane Katrina. The students were divided into three teams. Here, one of the teams poses with Irene (back row, fourth from left), whose home was damaged by the storm. In the front row, from left, are Lindsay Van Horn, Kendra Johnson and Heather Kahnk. In the back are Mark Walker, Nichole Syverson, Jason Isaacson, Jenna Gray, Trevor Gochenour, Nick Ricceri and Alli Mueller.

## Students Bring Hope to Katrina Victims

Instead of Miami Beach, Fla., or Cancun, Mexico, several Dana College students spent their spring break in what may seem an unlikely vacation destination – Slidell, La.

The students – 41 in all – traveled to the city of about 31,000 near New Orleans to help with the clean-up efforts that are still under way following last August's Hurricane Katrina. The storm, one of the costliest and deadliest hurricanes in American history, caused major damage along the coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The students were the third group from Dana to assist with the hurricane clean-up. In October, eight members of the student organization Campus Crusade for Christ spent their fall break in Pass Christian, Miss., and in January, an 18-student group from Dana and Midland Lutheran College in Fremont traveled to the area.

Jeni Lindsteadt, a sophomore from Hastings, Neb., organized the fall and spring break trips. She said she was surprised by how many students were willing to give up their vacation time to volunteer.

The students made the 1,100-mile trip from Blair to Louisiana in seven mini-vans

donated by Woodhouse, an automotive dealership in Blair. When they arrived in Slidell, they teamed with Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corporation, a non-profit humanitarian organization based in Virginia Beach, Va. The group provides short-term relief and development assistance to economically disadvantaged people and victims of disaster throughout the world.



The students were divided into three work teams, each of which was assigned to a different neighborhood in Slidell and surrounding towns. Over four days, the students helped gut several homes, removing moldy furniture, carpet, drywall and other household items damaged or destroyed by the storm.

In the evenings, they returned to Slidell where they stayed at a Lutheran church.

Working in neighborhoods that had been almost completely obliterated by the hurricane gave the students a sense of how much of the area residents' lives had been washed away by the storm.

In one of the homes on which they worked, the students came across several photo albums. Realizing how difficult it must be for the hurricane victims to lose some of their most treasured mementos, the students clipped the moldy sections off the photos and created a collage that they presented to the woman who owned the house.

"She was so appreciative," said Heather Kahnk, a sophomore from Arlington, Neb.

The trip had such an impact on the students that many said they plan to return to the area this summer to continue helping with the rebuilding efforts.

"It was an awesome experience to bond as a group and to show people that God is real and still alive and that His presence was there (in Louisiana)," said Erin Sanders, a junior from Omaha. "I think we brought a lot of hope to a lot of people there."

Dana Campus Pastor Andrea Ng'weshemi said the trip was an excellent opportunity for the students to learn and grow through service to those in need.

"I am so proud of these students for representing our community so well," Ng'weshemi said. "At Dana College, we take service learning seriously not only because it gives students a chance to live out their values – religious or otherwise – and to create change in the life of others, but also because it gives the students the opportunity to explore their own potential."

**SPRING CLEANING:** Dana students Trevor Gochenour (left) and Nick Ricceri remove debris from a hurricane-damaged home.

# Jazzy Affair Planned for Homecoming '06

Homecoming 2006 is planned to be a "jazzy affair with a carnival flair." Make plans now to join your friends and classmates on the hill Oct. 6-8.

Jazz music is planned as part of the festivities both Saturday and Sunday. The Columbus Jazz Orchestra, including alumna Iris (Frey '78) Doolittle, will perform at the All-Alumni Dinner Saturday evening. Dana's Jazz Ensemble will provide music during the All-Alumni Brunch Sunday morning.

Alumni have many occasions to gather together both on and off campus as part of the three-day event. On Friday evening, seven alumni will be honored at the Awards Buffet. Philip O. Larsen '62 and Brian Serr '81 will receive the college's Distinguished Alumni Award. Kevin Wass '93 will be honored as the Outstanding Young Alumnus.



Kirk McLaughlin '72, Joan (Scherbring '90) Musich, Wayne Peterson '63 and Mary (Welp '81) Simms will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Following the Awards Buffet, alumni can gather at Fernando's Café and Cantina or the Blair Bowling Center.

New to Saturday's schedule is an Alumni College, featuring an alumni session of

the Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP), which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The chosen LARP text is "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac. This book is available at the Dana Bookstore. Child care will be available to allow alumni to attend the Alumni College sessions.

Following Saturday afternoon's football game, reunion classes are invited to gather in the Gardner-Hawks Center for a reception, including a cash bar. All alumni are invited to stay on campus for a carnival, featuring midway games and snacks, as well as the all-alumni dinner.

The Venerable Vikings, those whose 50th reunion year has passed, will be honored during Sunday's brunch.

Watch your mail for more details surrounding Homecoming 2006 or visit [www.dana.edu/alumni](http://www.dana.edu/alumni).

## Student Body Honors Staff Member, Professor of the Year

Each spring, the student body of Dana College honors a faculty member and a staff member of the year. Recipients are chosen by a vote of the entire student body. Dr. Diane Mann, assistant professor of special education, was voted 2005-06 Professor of the Year, and Matt Bloomingdale, residence life coordinator, was voted Staff Member of the Year.

"Dr. Mann always makes herself available to answer students' questions," said junior Lisa Schneider, who presented the Professor of the Year Award to Mann. "She gives 110 percent in the classroom."

Mann has taught at Dana since 2001. She served as co-chair of the Education Department and also coordinated the department's recent successful effort to be recertified by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Mann holds a bachelor of science degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, a master of education degree from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and a doctor of education

from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is also a pilot and a former exchange teacher in Australia.

Recipients of the Professor of the Year Award must have demonstrated excellence in teaching, positive interpersonal relationships, organization and classroom management, intellectual stimulation and desirable behavior outside the classroom.

In presenting the Staff Member of the Year Award, senior Tyler Mohr had this to say about Bloomingdale: "You will always see a smile on Matt's face. He is always helpful, and whenever there is something wrong, he faces it head-on and comes up with a solution."

Bloomingdale graduated from Dana in 2005 with a degree in organizational communication and a minor in English. As a student, he participated in cross-country and track and was a resident assistant, student hall director and president of the Student Senate. This past year, he has served as chair of the Staff Council.



Junior Lisa Schneider (left) presents Dr. Diane Mann, assistant professor of special education, with the 2005-06 Professor of the Year Award.



Dana College senior Tyler Mohr (left) presents Matt Bloomingdale, residence life coordinator, with the 2005-06 Staff Member of the Year Award.

## Philipp Awarded Honorary Doctorate

Rev. Dr. Duane Larson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, awarded **Dr. Janet Philipp**, Dana College president, an honorary doctor of divinity degree at Wartburg's commencement on May 14. Philipp served on the Wartburg Seminary Board of Directors for nine years, the last four as chair of the board. Her husband, Rev. Frank Philipp, is a graduate of Wartburg Seminary.



Music Educators National In-service Conference in Salt Lake City April 20-22. While there, Hall presented his research, "A Rationale and Methodology for Producing Critical/Performing Editions as Dissertations in Music Education."

**Dr. Peggy Holloway**, assistant professor of music, presented a lecture recital titled "Down on the Bayou: Where the French Romance meets the American Parlor Song" at the annual convention of the Great Plains Chapter of the College Music Society, March 11-12 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The presentation featured French-influenced 19th and early 20th century songs by composers with ties to the Caribbean and, in particular, to the Louisiana gulf coast. Holloway is the treasurer for the Great Plains chapter and also served as the registrar for the weekend event. The College Music Society is a national organization dedicated to all areas of music teaching and performance at the college and university level.

**Patti Nielsen, R.N.**, attended and served as facilitator for three speakers at the regional Central College Health Association conference March 15-17 in Lincoln, Neb. The theme was "Harmony in Health."

On March 31, **Prof. Richard Potter** moderated a panel on "Ethical Issues and the Social Work Practitioner" at the 2006 NASW Nebraska Annual Conference in Omaha. **Prof. Jan Potter**, in her role as president of the chapter, served as the master of ceremonies for the event, which was attended by more than 200 social workers from across the state of Nebraska.

**Dr. Karen Murch-Shafer**, **Dr. Carla Delucchi**, and **Brynn Lastovica** (senior biology major) attended the Nebraska Academy of Science meeting in Lincoln on April 21. Delucchi presented a talk titled "A Comparison of a Point and a Quadrat Method of Sampling Prairie Vegetation." Lastovica presented a talk titled "PERP,

a Mediator of p53 Dependent Apoptosis, is Induced and Translocated to Nucleus Following Ischemic Renal Injury."

**Dr. Sybille Bartels** served as judge at the annual convention of Nebraska Students of German, March 25, at Westside High School.

**Tom Hubbell**, adjunct instructor of ceramics, won the annual Shimpo Award of Excellence competition. Nidec-Shimpo in Chicago is an international ceramics tool and equipment manufacturer and have purchased Hubbell's winning piece for their permanent collection. Hubbell was also selected for inclusion in the annual Strictly Functional Pottery national exhibit in Lancaster, Pa. One hundred five pieces were selected nationwide from over 1,100 applications from 400 artists.

**Lori Nielsen**, director of learning resources, attended the Heartland CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) Annual Spring Conference on April 6-7 in Kansas City, Mo. The conference title was "Brain-Compatible Teaching and Learning."

**Bob Schmoll**, executive vice president and chief financial officer, and **Dr. Kate Joeckel**, associate professor of communication, served as judges for the public speaking competition at the 2006 FBLA State Leadership Conference.

**Dr. Peggy Holloway**, a member of the Arts Board at First United Methodist Church in Omaha, assisted in the development and production of the Musical Revue "Free to Be," presented May 12 and 14 at the church. The revue, billed as a celebration of rights, freedom, and integrity, was conceived as an auditioned talent show.

A literary journal *Artesanias Literarias* from Israel published an article about **Prof. Diana Brown's** research on the poet Margalit Matitiah (who writes in the Judeo Spanish language). The article also contains a short historical aspect of the Jews in Greece from 1492 up to the Holocaust, and the involvement of the Greek citizens during World War II to rescue the Jews.

Ten Dana College Social Work students and **Professors Jo Peterson** and **Jan Potter** attended the Nebraska NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Lincoln on Feb. 23. Almost 200 students from across Nebraska attended the conference, which featured presentations by state senators as well as representatives of numerous social agencies and advocacy organizations. As chair of the NASW PACE Committee, Peterson presented at the conference, while Potter, president of the Nebraska NASW, opened the conference.

**Rev. Dr. Andrea Ng'weshemi** attended the Missouri Valley History Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha March 2-4 and presented a paper entitled "African Christians or Europhile Christians? A Study of Western Missionaries' Approach in Evangelizing and Making Christian Converts in East Africa."

**Dr. Iain Anderson** and **Dr. Stewart Brewer**, Department of History, attended the Missouri Valley History Conference, March 2-4. Anderson commented on three papers in the panel "Memory and Popular Perceptions," and Brewer chaired the panel "Early Modern Atlantic History."

**Dr. William Hall**, associate professor of music, attended the

# Legacy Campaign Surpasses Goal

The Dana College Legacy Campaign, the institution's most successful fund-raising campaign ever, concluded on May 31. The nine-year effort secured more than \$62.3 million for endowment resources, scholarship support, campus facilities and planned gifts from Dana's alumni, parents, friends, foundations, corporations, churches and organizations.

"The Legacy Campaign has exceeded our highest expectations," said Dr. Janet Philipp, president. "Our donors have given faithfully and sacrificially to ensure that Dana's rich heritage of faith-informed liberal arts education extends to future generations of students."

When the Legacy Campaign began in 1997, the goal was to secure \$40 million, which was evenly divided between current and deferred gifts. When that goal was surpassed four years ago, the Dana College Board of Regents extended the campaign and increased the goal to \$60 million.

As the campaign comes to a close, Dana's generous donors have committed more than \$34.21 million in cash gifts and pledges and \$28.09 million in planned gifts to the Legacy Campaign.

The Legacy Campaign has enabled Dana to address the most pressing needs on its campus, including building endowment resources, expanding scholarship support, improving campus facilities and increasing planned gifts.

Improvements to campus facilities include the dining hall and student center, doubling its recreational and athletic facilities and upgrading science technology and resources. In addition, a new suite-style residence hall is nearly complete and will be open for occupancy this fall.

The Legacy Campaign has also provided Dana with a firm foundation for launching its next initiative—the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan that



Donors who contributed \$5,000 or more to the Dana College Legacy Campaign are commemorated on the Legacy Wall in the Cooperman Atrium of the Gardner-Hawks Center.

will guide the college during the next several years.

Campaign donors who contributed \$5,000 or more are commemorated on the Legacy Wall in the atrium lobby of the new Gardner-Hawks Center.

## Petersen Discusses Reasons for Giving

Throughout his career, Dana alumnus Marc Petersen '63 of Omaha has worked alongside people with degrees from larger and more well known schools like Harvard, Duke and Texas A&M. But never has he felt inferior to them.

"I never felt like I had to take a back seat to those people who had degrees from more renowned institutions than Dana College," Petersen said. "The education and background that I got at Dana College was, in my opinion, equal to, and in some ways superior to, the education of those people."

Petersen was the keynote speaker at the 25th annual Dana Builders Luncheon May 19. He and his wife, Carlene

(Benson '62), are members of the Dana Builders.

The quality of the education he and his wife received at Dana and the opportunities it has afforded them are the primary reasons they decided to become Builders, Petersen said.

"Because of the tools Dana provided us, we've had the opportunities of a lifetime, and we've received many, many great blessings," he said. "We feel we need to share some of those blessings."

Petersen encouraged other Builders to consider making annual donations in addition to their deferred gifts in order to help the college maintain its high quality of education.



Dana alumnus Marc Petersen '63 spoke at the 25th annual Builders Luncheon May 19.

1884

*Moving forward  
with*

# Confidence

Dana College ushered in a new era with the inauguration of its 17th president, Dr. Janet Philipp, on April 28, 2006. In her inaugural address, President Philipp discussed the need for the college to move forward with confidence.

Dana College's 17th president, Dr. Janet Philipp, and her husband, Rev. Frank Philipp, lead the recessional from the Gardner-Hawks Center at the conclusion of the inauguration ceremony.

*Photo by Joe Burns,  
Washington County  
Pilot-Tribune Photographer.*



Dana

Welcome



The inaugural celebration kicked off on Wednesday, April 26, with a faculty and staff reception in the Cooperman Atrium. On Thursday and Friday, students displayed some of their class projects at an academic showcase. Pictured above (at center), Amanda Smith (left) and Lauren Welsh show visitors a live starfish while Heather Fischer (above left) explains a chemistry project on dyes.

**T**hank you, President Larson. I am deeply honored that you have taken the time to share this day of celebration with me and with my colleagues at Dana College.

Members of the platform party and other distinguished guests, Dana College Board of Regents, faculty, staff, students, alumni, family and friends – welcome. Frank and I thank you for taking time to be here today. We are honored and blessed to have each one of you here to help us, and especially to help Dana College enjoy this time of celebration. Thank you again.

Let me begin by acknowledging the Presidential Search Committee, committee chair Dennis Gethmann and board chair Rich Vierk and the board for giving me this opportunity. Also, I would like to express appreciation to everyone at Dana for the warm reception and great support they have given to Frank and me. There are a number of citizens of Blair and Washington County here today. They too have welcomed us warmly.

We are enjoying a three-day celebration, the purpose of which is to showcase Dana College, students, faculty, and staff. In that regard, I would like to thank the Inauguration Planning Committee, especially Professor Milt Heinrich who chaired the committee. Many others worked overtime the past few weeks to make this event a class act and to make our campus as attractive as it can be. My sincere thanks to each of you.

On behalf of Dana, I want to welcome the presidents and delegates who are representing our sister institutions across the country and the leaders of our hometown community, Washington County and Blair, Neb.

Greetings as well to our own family and friends, in particular to our daughter, Laura, who is a doctoral student at the University of Houston, and our son, Michael, a doctoral student at Georgia State University, and his soon-to-be bride, Erin Wolfe. They are each representing their respective alma maters today. The Krogstad-Philipp family contingent is led by my mother, Dorothy Krogstad, from Osage, Iowa, her sister and sister's husband, and my sisters Jane and Jean and nephew Matthew. My sister Janan was not able to attend.

My father, Glen Krogstad, died just over a year ago. He was so proud of his four daughters. His family is represented too by his sister, Sylvia, and her husband, as well as cousins from Arizona and New Mexico.

It was a loss to all of us when Frank's parents died early in our marriage. They were great supporters of education and the Church and would have been proud to be here today as well. Frank's family is represented today by his sister Ann and brother Jim. Please help me welcome them all to Dana.

To our special friends and colleagues who have traveled from a distance, thanks for taking the time to be with us.

And very special greetings to my predecessor, President Emeritus Myrv Christopherson, and his wife, Anne.

As everyone at Dana knows, and as our family and friends also know, I am not in this venture alone. I would like to introduce and to thank again, Dana's first gentleman, my husband, Frank. We are partners in life and he is truly my solid support. Thank you, Frank!

Thank you all for honoring both Dana College and me by your presence here today. I am most grateful.

Today I will talk about matters important to the future of Dana College, the matter of character of this college and its community. And I will talk about challenges ahead that can be surmounted only with confidence and the abilities of our community.

To provide a context, first let me relate some history about the founding of Dana College. In 1870, there was an ever-increasing Danish immigrant population in the United States. Claus Laurits Clausen, a Danish pastor, was serving a sizable Norwegian congregation in St. Ansgar, Iowa. He met in St. Ansgar with 17 other pastors – all Norwegian – to form a conference to establish Augsburg Seminary, the first such institution in the Midwest. You must know that my hometown is Osage, Iowa, just a short distance from St. Ansgar.

The Danes eventually organized the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Association. In September of 1884 (122 years ago), six Danish pastors met in Argo, Neb., just 15 miles northwest of Blair, to discuss establishing their own seminary. The Rev. A.M. Andersen was serving as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Argo. He later became the first president of Trinity Seminary, the forerunner of Dana College. Many of you Dana students and alumni are recipients of the A.M. Andersen scholarship, and a number of Dana women students live in Argo Hall. Old Main, the predecessor building to the current Durham Classroom Center, was built just two years later in 1886 with Blair, a growing and thriving town, contributing \$3,000 – half of the cost to build Old Main.

Dana's founding ideals included a strong emphasis on spiritual life derived from its initial function as a seminary. But at the turn of the century, it was the fourth president, Kristian Anker – described as the educator among the founding fathers – who moved the college to a more traditional American education pattern for "our talented young people who desire an education that prepares them for various professional occupations." Within 10 years (1910), the basketball team was formed, winning its first championship in 1931. The Dana Chorale traces its roots to 1914 with the first choir trip to Denmark in 1929. The first football game was played on November 19, 1926 – 80 years ago. Student government was reconstituted in 1924 with the purpose to facilitate the handling of the many issues that confront students from time to time, not much different from the purpose of today's student government.

And, finally, it was the second president of the Dana-Trinity student body, Magnus Christiansen, who authored the lines to the school song, "Hail Dana," which we will sing shortly.

One more historical note: Many of you know that while my Lutheran roots run deep, I am not Danish. I do, however, have a Norwegian heritage. As I was reading the history of Dana in the book "A Place Called Dana," I noted that the synod, or what would be the Board of Regents today, was having a hard time finding a Danish immigrant clergy to be president of the college in 1938. One exasperated delegate asked, "Should we have to choose a Norwegian?" Well, they did choose a Norwegian, but waited 60 additional years before that happened!



A tree planting ceremony was held Thursday, April 27, to commemorate President Philipp's inauguration. Among the speakers at the event were Board of Regents Vice Chair Dennis Gethmann (top left) and Cathy Leavitt (top right) from the University of Wisconsin – Rock County. Dr. Bill Hall (center), associate professor of music and director of bands, and some of his students provided music at the event. Above, President Philipp helps plant a white oak tree.



The Dana Game Show (top) pitted students' knowledge about President Philipp against her knowledge of the college. The students proved no match for President Philipp, who was "crowned" the champion (center). Everyone was a winner at a 50th birthday party for the Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP). Above, Brandi Koester Sestak (right), student activities coordinator, serves cake and ice cream to students.

As you can tell, our forefathers held strong convictions about what was needed to properly educate young men and later, women. They took risks, not knowing what the future would hold but having the confidence to move ahead. We must never lose the vision and tenacity of those who went before us.

We, too, must garner confidence for the future, face the facts and reinforce our responsibilities. When a person, organization or institution like Dana College has confidence, positive energy is unleashed. People become connected with shared goals. They do important work together. They communicate respect, demonstrate inclusion and exhibit transparent processes with open debate and dialog. They find natural connectors, seek solutions and collaborations. They stress collective goals that unite people and encourage initiatives for improvement. People and organizations with confidence invest in numerous small wins in many places and many people and emphasize sources of hope. Confidence helps people take control of circumstances rather than be dragged along by them. All of us here today – whether a student working furiously as the semester or your career at Dana comes to a close, a faculty member challenged with providing the best possible learning environment for your students, a staff member who has recently spent an inordinate amount of time preparing for the events of the past three days, a board member with a fiduciary responsibility for Dana College, or the president of Dana College – strive to accomplish our goals, to make our lives – and more importantly, the lives of others – better.

Rosabeth Moss Kanter, an internationally known business leader and professor of business administration at Harvard University is the author of a book titled: "Confidence: How Winning Streaks and Losing Streaks Begin and End." She outlines three cornerstones or elements of confidence. They are accountability, collaboration, and initiative.

The first element of confidence is accountability – individual accountability. Teams and systems aren't accountable – people are. To be accountable is to be responsible, to be answerable, to be liable – facing facts and reinforcing responsibility. The first aspect of accountability is the fostering of straight talk, as Kantor describes it. This includes open discussions where facts are squarely faced and promises are based on reality. With straight talk there are objective discussions of strengths and weaknesses without fear of embarrassment. Everyone on the team or in the organization has an opportunity to contribute before decisions are made and then pledge to support them once they are made. Excellence is expected and rewarded.

The second component of accountability is to communicate expectations clearly, to constantly repeat standards, and to clearly articulate goals and priorities. In this way, leaders set people up to succeed. The third aspect of accountability is to make information transparent and accessible and to give widespread access to performance data. When people withhold information from each other, it is the start of a losing streak.

A recent article in the *Omaha World-Herald* described the confidence-building taking place in the Dana softball team. The heartbreaking losses last spring that ended the season far short of their goals are being recast this year. Senior leadership, improved attitudes, less dwelling on costly errors, and more focus on solutions has made the team closer and tougher and, not incidentally, more successful this spring as they move towards the conference championship.

Here at Dana College, accountability is exemplified in the straight talk about the challenges and decisions we face and the outcome of a stronger, more focused institution that offers excellence in all we do. We know it will not be easy, but then success and progress are never easy. From a poem titled "Exposure" by Anthony de Mello, a Jesuit priest, we hear the words – "I think of the times when I drew back from taking risks, when I was comfortable and safe; those were the times when I was stagnated. I think of other times when I dared to take a chance, to make a mistake, to be a failure, and a fool, and to be criticized by others, when I dared to risk being hurt and to cause pain to others, I was alive. Life goes hand in hand with change. What does not change is dead."

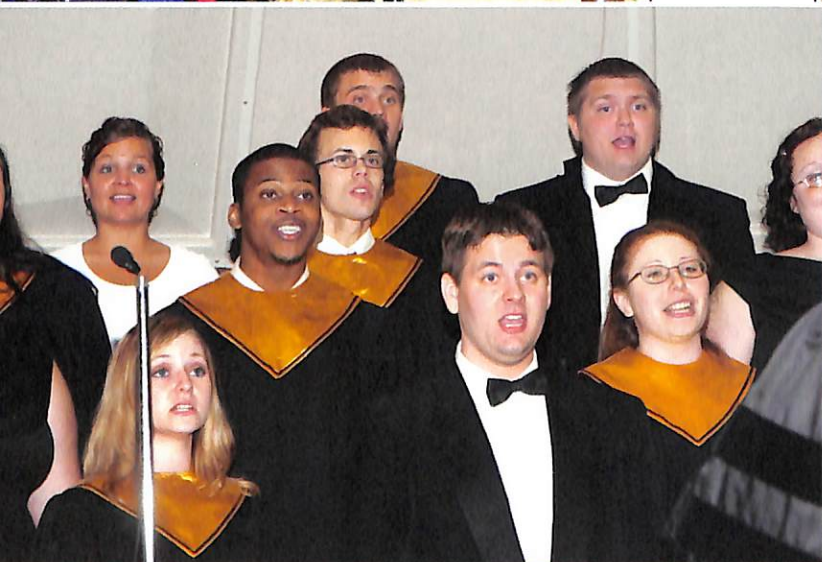
The second cornerstone of confidence includes mutual respect, communication and collaboration. Confidence blooms when people feel connected rather than isolated – they are willing to engage and commit to each other. People want to work together. A culture of pride stems from respect for talents and potential of others in the system. Consistent, structured, collaborative conversations across disciplines is a common theme in every winning team or organization.

Here is a recent example of collaboration and communication among the students in this audience today: Forty-one Dana students spent their spring break helping hurricane victims in Slidell, La. They represented members of Campus Crusade for Christ and other campus ministry groups. They raised money for their trip, and transportation was donated by Woodhouse Auto. They had their share of road blocks including flat tires, illnesses, wrong turns that led to other states, and of course a bit of crankiness from the 18-plus-hour drive. When they finally arrived in Slidell, they stayed at Bethany Lutheran Church. The students worked in teams ranging from 10 to 13 students in a group. They removed furniture, flooring, walls and ceilings from damaged homes, salvaging as much as possible and providing emotional support for residents. Then, the students slept on pews in the sanctuary. Much communication and collaboration occurred to make this trip happen. Their confidence in their ability to make a difference was strengthened by this experience.

The third cornerstone of confidence is to inspire initiative, innovation, and imagination. Confidence is enhanced when people are empowered to take action, solve problems, voice their ideas, and create innovation. It is easy for all of us to get stuck in assumptions that are no longer appropriate as the business of which we are a part changes around us. When we welcome new ideas, treat



Inauguration day – Friday, April 28 – began with a prayer service in Trinity Chapel (top) featuring music and dance performances by students and faculty. The inauguration ceremony began at 2 p.m. in the Gardner-Hawks Center. During the processional, student organizations and athletic teams – including the softball team (center) – entered together. Faculty Marshal Dr. Mark Sand (above), carrying the college's new mace, led the academic procession.



The Rev. David deFreese (top left), bishop of the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA, and Rich Vierk (top right), chair of the Board of Regents, presented Dr. Philipp with the presidential chain of office. Following her installation, President Philipp delivered her inaugural address, "Confidence." The Dana College Chorale (above), under the direction of Dr. Richard Palmer, had everyone clapping along to their rousing performance of "Praise His Holy Name."

people as experts in their own work, and encourage small wins and grassroots innovations, then confidence grows. Winning streaks are characterized by continuity and continual investment.

An example of innovation and initiative on the Dana campus occurred this spring with the Student Senate. In recent years, Student Senate has accepted the responsibility to improve the experience of students at Dana College by initiating various improvement projects, policy changes, and student activity program offerings. This year's Student Senate approved a grant of \$2,000 to be given to one Dana College academic department. The purpose of the grant is to allow faculty a means of providing a unique, creative, and academically challenging experience outside the classroom setting. Student Senate envisioned the funds to be used to take students off campus (trips, seminars, retreats), bring external resources to the students (such as outside speakers), or to create another experience otherwise not possible to students (rocket launch for physics students, re-enactment of a history battle, science fair, etc.) – something that could not be accomplished within the department's existing budget.

Congratulations to the Spanish Department for receiving the \$2,000 Academic Department Grant sponsored by the Dana College Student Senate! In October they will host an international conference titled "A Frail Sense of Freedom: Greece and the Holocaust." The keynote speaker is an internationally acclaimed poet from Israel. Also in attendance will be representatives from the Kripke Jewish Federation Library, as well as the Jewish, Greek and Italian communities. They will make presentations about the Rescue of the Greek Jews by the Greek citizens and the involvement of academia and the students to protect the Greek Jews. Thanks to the Student Senate for taking the initiative for this confidence-building project.

Confidence is not only internal to the team or to the organization. Stakeholders and the public must also earn our trust to have confidence in what we do. Sports teams will not have fans and sponsors if their public has lost confidence. And, organizations and institutions must prove every day that their work is worthy of support.

Together, the three cornerstones of confidence – accountability, collaboration, and initiative – make continued success more likely and suggest a responsibility to a wider network outside the organization. The years ahead are tenuous and will be tough, but also inclusive, wide open, and promising. There is much work to be done, but working together, Dana College will succeed.

David McNally has described the differences between what it means to just survive and what it means to thrive and succeed. This is a paraphrase of this work:

Communities and organizations that merely survive, see the future as uncertain. Those that thrive, see the future as unlimited.

Communities and organizations that merely survive, try to keep up with change. Those that thrive, work to anticipate change.

Communities and organizations that merely survive, react to events. Those that thrive, initiate events.

# 62 Years Later, Alumna is Again a Witness to History

As a freshman at Dana College in 1944, Alvina (Larsen '48) Hjortsvang sat in awe in Alumni Memorial Auditorium with her classmates as Dr. Richard Morton was inaugurated as president of Dana College.

"An academic procession for a freshman in college was very impressive," she said. "It was a very majestic thing. It was really my introduction to the color of the academic world."

This spring, Hjortsvang found herself in the audience at the inauguration of Dr. Janet Philipp as the 17th president of Dana College. As a member of Dana's Alumni Council, she had met Philipp and wanted to attend to show her support for the new administration.

"At this stage in my life, you reflect on the significance of an event such as this in the history of the institution," she said. "The impact extends far, far beyond Janet Philipp's time at Dana College."

Communities and organizations that merely survive, ignore opportunity. Those that thrive, work to create opportunity.

Finally, in regard to people – survivors focus on what they can get, while thrivers focus on what they can give.

Dana College does have an unlimited future. We will anticipate change, initiate events, create opportunities, and identify ways to 'give back' that will improve lives.

Finally, over 35 years ago, as the newly elected president of the student senate, I prepared an address for the student body at the college I was attending. Living in Washington D.C., I enjoyed in particular visiting the Jefferson Memorial and used these words of Thomas Jefferson which are inscribed in the memorial:

*"I am certainly not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to still wear the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."*

Our visionary leaders dreamed boldly 122 years ago, and we can do nothing less today. If we remain true to the best of our past, excellence, faith, and service, our journeys will take us to places not imagined by the founding fathers. So here we are, celebrating our place in that journey today, building confidence for the future. Let us join together in that journey.

**Thank you.**

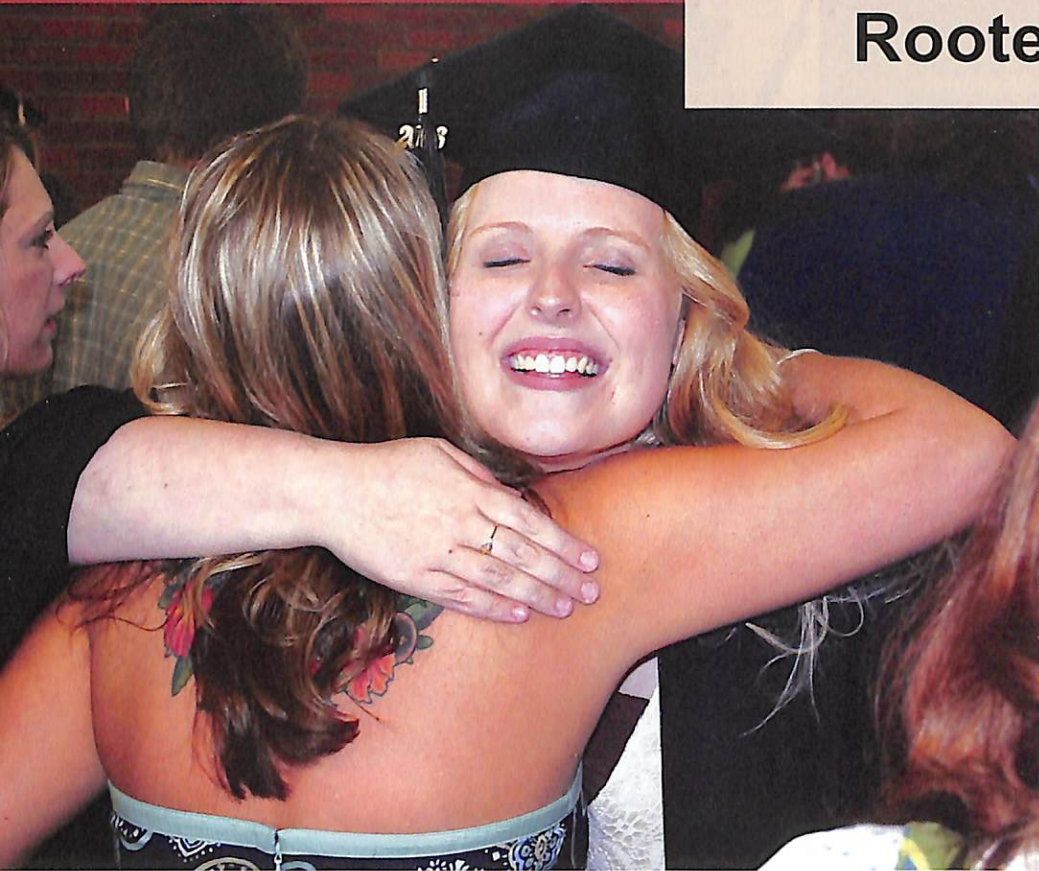
Photos by Dana College Relations staff; Joe Burns, Washington County Pilot-Tribune photographer; and Michael Dwyer Photography.



The Dana College Concert Band (top), directed by Dr. William Hall, performed during the ceremony. President Philipp was presented with ceremonial gifts, including a chain from Dana College alumni representative Paul Johnson '76 (center) signifying the alumni's link to all parts of the globe and to generations of graduates past, present and future. After the program, Rev. Frank Philipp (above left) and President Philipp greeted guests in Borup Coliseum.

# Growing toward the future

## Rooted in tradition



Graduate Kelli Inman of Hershey receives a congratulatory hug following the 2006 commencement ceremony at the Gardner-Hawks Center.

## 98 Graduates Ready to Branch Out

“Growing toward the future, rooted in tradition” was the theme 2006 graduate Katrina Woldseth, an English and iMedia major from Parkland, Wash., chose for the program she designed for Dana College’s 2006 commencement ceremony.

It’s an appropriate motto for the 98 seniors who were awarded bachelor’s degrees May 20 in the Gardner-Hawks Center. The graduates will take the knowledge they gained at Dana and branch out into new jobs or continue their education at graduate school.

Graduation weekend, which included Baccalaureate and the Graduate Recognition Dinner on Friday, May 19, followed by commencement on Saturday, was an opportunity for graduates and their coaches, professors and families to celebrate the growth the graduates have experienced during their time at Dana.

It also was an opportunity for the graduates to taste the fruits of their labor in the form of academic and leadership awards and their diplomas.

Among those honored during the commencement ceremony were valedictorians John Hall of Ogallala and Julia Peterson and John Synowicki, both of Omaha.

Three Morton Scholars also were recognized: Brandie Carlson of O’Neill, Hannah Heckart of Danville, Iowa, and Jesse Valdez of Las Vegas, N.M.

Three valedictorians were honored during commencement: John Synowicki (left) and Julia Peterson, both of Omaha, and John Hall (right) of Ogallala.

Students who are qualified to participate in the Dana Honors Program are designated “Morton Scholars” in honor of the late Dr. Richard E. Morton, president of Dana College and Trinity Seminary from 1944-56. The Honors Program is designed to challenge academically gifted students to realize their full intellectual, social and spiritual potential. A minimum of 20 semester hours of honors credit is required to graduate as a Morton Scholar.

Also during the ceremony, Dana College President Dr. Janet Philipp presented the 2006 College-Community Service Award to the Blair Area Chamber of Commerce. The award, established in 1965, recognizes and thanks selected residents and organizations in the Blair community for their individual support and contributions to college and community activities.

At the conclusion of the commencement ceremony, President Philipp handed out Dana College license plate frames to all of the graduates. In her address earlier in the ceremony, she said the frames symbolize the “license” the graduates’ degrees give them to begin their careers or to further their education.



2006 graduate Katrina Woldseth designed the program for commencement.





Five seniors were honored with special awards at the Graduate Recognition Dinner on May 19. They were, from left, Marisa Bretschneider, Tyler Mohr, Brynn Lastovica, Chris Humphries and Katrina Woldseth.

## Five Honored for Leadership, Service

Five seniors were honored with special awards at the annual Graduate Recognition Dinner on May 19.

Receiving awards were:

**Brynn Lastovica**, Dana College Award for Service in Religious Life. This award recognizes a member(s) of the graduating class who has excelled at serving the college in the area of religious life. Lastovica was chosen for “leading Campus Crusade for Christ for three years, for acting as a Christian role model and always putting others before herself, and for demonstrating a day-to-day ability to do the little things with great love.”

**Katrina Woldseth**, Dana College Award for Excellence in Service. Annually given to one or two members of the graduating class, this award recognizes individual accomplishments in the area of service to others. Woldseth was chosen for her “commitment to Dana through her dedication to residence life, academics, the choir, theater and dance team and for her dedication as a citizen of the Blair community.”

**Tyler Mohr**, Dana College Community Enrichment Award. This award recognizes an outstanding member(s) of the senior class who has served as an advocate for celebrating inclusiveness and respect for all at Dana College. Mohr was selected

for “showing enthusiasm for the development and growth of the student body, challenging other students to do their part in making Dana College a better place and, as student body president, for listening to what students had to say and putting their ideas into action.”

**Chris Humphries**, Dana College Award for Excellence in Leadership. Annually given to one or two members of the graduating class, this award recognizes accomplishments in the area of leadership. Humphries was selected for “providing quiet leadership as a student, athlete and coach, resident assistant, friend and employee, for demonstrating an ability to work with others to accomplish goals and solve problems, and for showing a respectful approach and commitment to the regulations of the college.”

**Marisa Bretschneider**, “Spirit of Dana” Award. This award recognizes a member(s) of the senior class whose character best exemplifies the ideals of Dana College. Bretschneider was selected for “showing leadership on and off the softball field, for volunteering her time in the training room, in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and at information booths, for showing her commitment to promoting a positive attitude on campus and for demonstrating her love for Dana College.”

## 2006 Graduates

### Summa Cum Laude

Kimberly Berg  
Sara Buck  
John Hall  
Brynn Lastovica  
Dru McMillan  
Julia Peterson  
John Synowicki  
Christina Ulmer

Andrew Cox  
Wade Danielson  
Constantinos Dimas  
Dajuan Draper  
Christopher Egan  
Bruce Erdmann  
Magdalena Flynn  
Jacob Gradoville  
Ryan Grudle  
Daniel Hagen  
Michael Hamm  
Scott Hansel

### Magna Cum Laude

Heidi Antonson  
Amanda Bartling  
Marisa Bretschneider  
Amy Fullenkamp  
Amanda Groen  
Leslie Halligan  
Hannah Heckart  
Brent Lorkovic  
Amber Meister  
Tyler Mohr  
Katrina Woldseth

Ben Henderson  
Adryan Higgins  
Tyler Hodges  
Tabetha Holman  
Leigh Hornbuckle  
Tobias Howard  
Rebecca Hultgren  
Christopher Humphries  
Kelli Inman  
Jason Isaacson  
Barry Jurgensen  
Stephanie Kruger  
Megan Lazoritz  
Trent Leichter  
Dante Lewis

### Cum Laude

Michael Burton  
Bernardo Cueto  
Mark Esser  
Matthew Hodgson  
Nick Kroon  
Carie Mann

Lorchineng Lo  
Brandon Lombardo  
Marshall Marquardt  
Aniela Metro  
Travis Powers  
Troy Quick  
David Reed  
Shauna Riggs  
Clayton Romero  
Joyce Roth

### Graduates

Tregan Albers II  
Samanta Alapa  
Callie Arnold  
Alexander Ash  
Antonio Barber  
Shane Barsell  
Amy Bergh  
Lindsey Bliemeister  
Sara Bojanski  
Joel Brewer  
Byron Burdick  
Christine Burkey  
Natalie Bussing  
Anthony Byers  
Brandie Carlson  
Devin Chenault  
Cisco Cole

Jennifer Ruckman  
Tracie Ruwe  
Jana Salmon  
Chenel Sanders  
Cameron Schweitzer  
Andrea Smith  
Jamie Snyder  
Natalie Snyder  
Amber Sprecher  
Lindsay Stigge  
Marcus Taylor  
Scott Taylor  
Danielle Ternus  
Matthew Tigani  
Jesse Valdez  
Krista Walter  
Christopher Williams  
Kori Williamsen  
Terry Zitkovich Jr.

# Honoring Service



Dana President Janet Philipp (right) presents the 2006 College-Community Service Award to Harriet Waite, executive director of the Blair Chamber of Commerce, during commencement.

## Blair Chamber Recognized for Service to College, Community

The Blair Area Chamber of Commerce was honored during Dana College's commencement ceremonies May 20 with the 2006 College-Community Service Award. Executive Director of the Chamber, Harriet Waite '74, accepted the award on behalf of the Chamber.

The Blair Area Chamber of Commerce began in the 1930s as the Blair Businessmen's Club. It has supported the Blair business community as an official chamber office since 1958. Now 235 members strong, the Chamber provides a voice for Blair area businesses, including Dana College, and directs future development in the region. The Chamber provides its members endless opportunities for networking, education and community service.

Dana College's relationship with the Chamber was enhanced in June of 2002 when Dana alumna Harriet Waite took the position of executive director.

"Harriet is often the facilitator that makes the

connections happen," said Dana College President Janet Philipp during the presentation. "She always thinks of Dana College and how we can work together with all aspects of the Blair community. Harriet is the ears, eyes, voice, and face of the Blair Area Chamber of Commerce that has and continues to help bring our community together for the benefit of all."

Associate Professor of Communication Kate Joeckel has been invited to join the Chamber Board of Directors to continue to build the connections between Dana College and the Blair community.

"All of these items are evidence of a mutually supportive relationship between Blair and Dana College," Philipp said.

The College-Community Service Award was established by Dana College in 1965 to recognize and to thank selected residents and organizations in the Blair community for their individual support and contributions to college and community activities.

## Delvin, Trudy Hutton Receive 2006 Hanson Servant Award

Rev. Dr. Delvin and Trudy Hutton of Blair were honored during Dana College's graduation weekend with the presentation of the Hanson Servant Award during the college's annual Builders Luncheon.

The couple has a long history of service to Washington County and the Lutheran Church. They have been members of First Lutheran Church in Blair since 1964 when Del, an ordained Lutheran pastor, came to Dana College to teach Greek and religion.

Del taught at Dana for 35 years, serving as chair of the religion department for 26 years. He served on Faculty Senate and various faculty committees, including the planning committee for the new Dana-LIFE Library. He developed the Morton Scholars Honors Program and served as its director from 1995-1999.

He has also worked as an adjunct professor at Midland Lutheran College, Central Lutheran Seminary, Wartburg Theological Seminary, the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

He has preached more than 500 sermons as pulpit supply in Nebraska and Iowa, and since his retirement from Dana in 1999, he has served as interim pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pender and as visitation pastor at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fremont.

Trudy worked as a secretary and receptionist at Blair Mental Health Center for 15 years before earning her bachelor's degree in psychology from Dana College and a master's degree in agency counseling from the



University of Nebraska-Omaha. She worked as a certified mental health therapist at Immanuel/Alegent Health Satellite Clinics in Fremont and Blair until retiring in 1999.

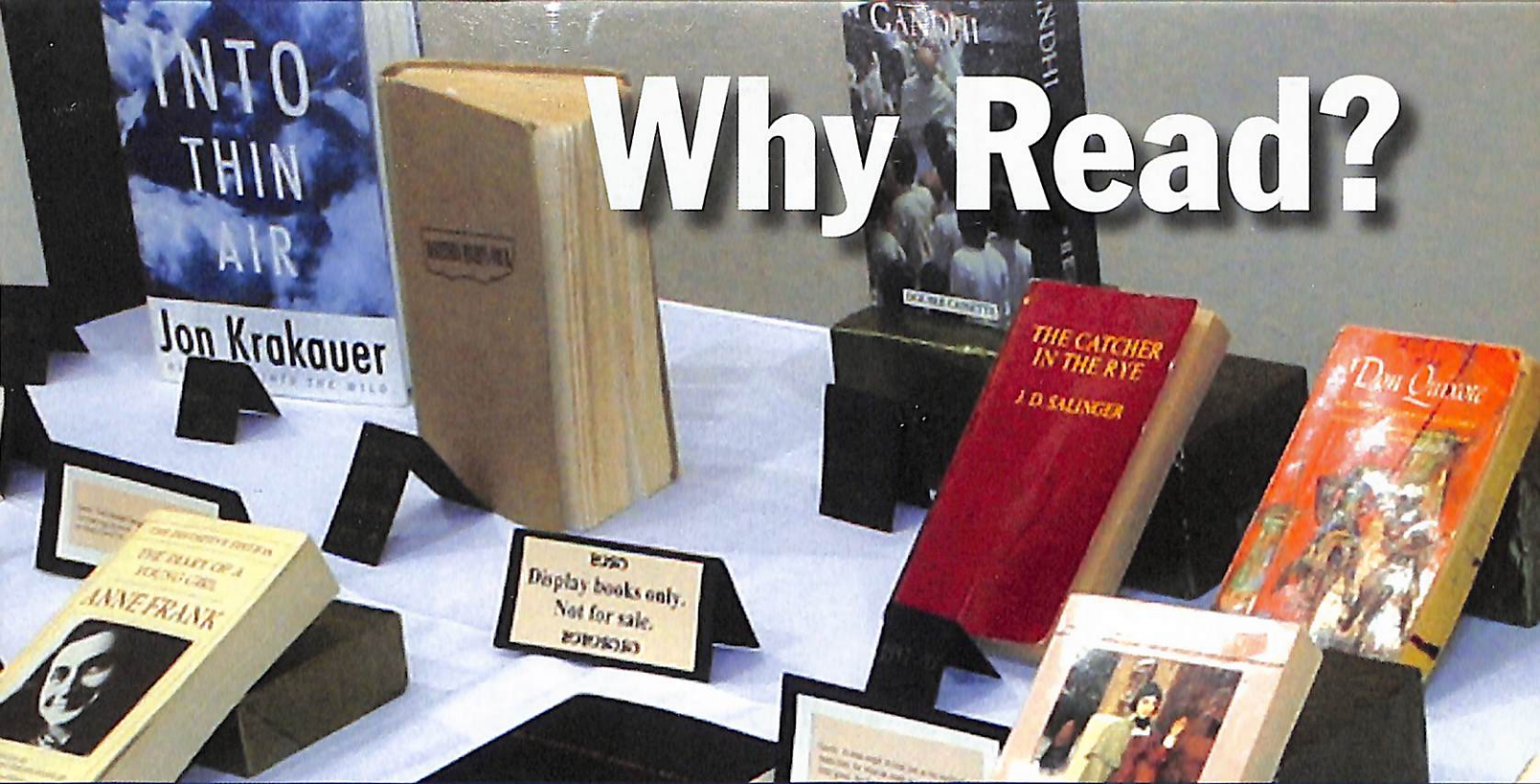
Both Del and Trudy are long-time choir members, teachers and committee members at First Lutheran. Together they were instrumental in establishing a Covenant Church relationship between First Lutheran and Bread for the World.

They have participated as volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service-CROP Walk for World Hunger, Washington County Recycling Center, Washington County Food Pantry and Joseph's Coat.

"Their service to God and their community has been tireless," said Dana College President Janet Philipp.

The Clifford T. and D. Florence Hanson Servant Award was established in 2001 to honor individuals who have spent their lives in unselfish service to others. During their lifetimes, the Hansons were inspired by their Christian faith to give generously of themselves in service to their church, Dana College, their community and their country.

# Why Read?



## *Symposium examines the value of reading and of obtaining a liberal arts education.*

“Why do I need to read this?” is a question students – and even some faculty members – have probably asked in regard to some of the books they’ve been required to read for Dana’s Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP).

One answer to this question can be found in the goals of LARP, which are listed in the college catalog: to “encourage development of oral and written communication skills through critical reading and thinking” and to “enhance students’ and faculty members’ understanding and appreciation of the liberal arts and promote a sense of community.”

Mark Edmundson, a professor of English at the University of Virginia, gave his own response to the question of why people should read at a symposium April 28. The event was part of the celebration leading up to the inauguration of Dana President Janet Philipp.

During his visit, Edmundson also participated in a discus-

sion with faculty and students about the strengths and weaknesses of LARP, which marks its 50th anniversary this year.

In his remarks at the symposium, Edmundson said that from a young age, everyone is socialized, or influenced, by parents, teachers, clergy and coaches. For some, these early interactions are enough to help them decide what type of person they want to be and what they want to do with their lives. Others need something more, he said.

“For many people, (being socialized in conventional ways) is not enough – they need a second chance,” Edmundson said. “They need new teachers, new role models – new parents, as it were – to help guide them into a different future.”

Reading, he said, can provide that second chance.

“(Reading) is a chance to socialize again. It’s a chance, through an amazing effort of mind and heart, to give birth to yourself one more time as a slightly different creature than everybody thought you were going to be.”

People often carry within themselves “wayward” desires, hopes, feelings and aspirations that point in a direction other than the one they were taught to follow early in life, Edmundson said.

If they do not discover what these desires are, they are likely to fail at their careers and live unhappy lives, he said.

“Most people who fail, fail because they are not doing what they ought to be doing in this world,” he said. “They are pretending to be someone they are not. Whatever is inside them does not say ‘corporate lawyer,’ it says ‘environmentalist,’ or it

does not say ‘environmentalist,’ it says ‘corporate lawyer.’”

People achieve success when they find their own meaning in life and when they choose a career doing something they truly enjoy, Edmundson said. Reading books and obtaining a liberal arts education can help people make those choices.

“There’s no better way than in reading great books or in talking with knowledgeable older people to help you think about who you are and what it is you want in this world.”

Edmundson said that in order for programs like LARP to have the greatest impact on students, the books that are chosen should be controversial and provocative.

“The idea of this kind of a program should be to give people that most valuable of human opportunities – a chance to go away from home and to reconsider and, if necessary, transvalue all of their facts. There is nothing so rich and wonderful as that opportunity.”



Edmundson



A group of elementary students learns about Bess bugs during a visit to Dana College's biology department.

# Learning Through Service

Beth Richmond already knew something about sea stars and sea urchins from reading biology textbooks and listening to classroom lectures. What she didn't know was how challenging it can be to take care of them – and to keep them alive.

“You have to make sure the amount of salt in the water in their tank is at the right level,” she said. “Also, sea stars and sea urchins get stressed if you handle them too much, so you have to minimize that.”

These are just a few of the things Richmond, a freshman biology major, learned by participating in a service-learning project through her Introduction to Microbiology, Zoology and Physiology class taught by Dr. Karen Murch-Shafer, assistant professor of biology.

Service-learning is a method of teaching, learning and reflecting that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service. The goal is to enrich students' learning experience, teach civic responsibility and encourage lifelong involvement in the community.

Murch-Shafer is a strong believer in the effectiveness of service-learning. While teaching at another school, she offered service-learning projects in most of her classes. She also was a member of a committee that promoted the teaching method.

"(At my previous job) I had so much fun with service-learning projects, and my students had so much fun too," she said.

The opportunity to organize a service-learning project at Dana arose this year when some generous alumni donated money to support research and science outreach, Murch-Shafer said.

With the availability of funds, Murch-Shafer decided to take the idea of doing a service-learning project to her Introduction to Microbiology, Zoology and Physiology students. The response was positive. "They were very excited about it," she said.

Murch-Shafer gave her students some ideas on what they could do for their project, but left the final decision to them. They decided to create a hands-on "zoo" with displays on several different invertebrates – animals that lack backbones.

The 16 students then were divided into six groups, and each group selected a different invertebrate with which to work. Murch-Shafer purchased the animals and the equipment

needed to provide a habitat for them. The students were responsible for taking care of the animals, doing research on them and creating a display for the zoo.

One group chose to feature live echinoderms – a group of marine animals that includes sea stars and sea urchins – for people to see and touch.

Another group set up a space-age ant farm, which was filled with a gel-like substance developed by NASA. The gel served both as food for the ants and as the material in which they could build their tunnels.

As part of their display, a third group showed the effects of caffeine on spiders. Those that were given caffeine spun irregular-shaped webs.

Other groups created displays on termites, hermit crabs and Bess bugs – a type of beetle that can move objects more than 20 times its own body weight.

The students originally planned to take their invertebrate zoo just to an elementary class in Blair. Later, they decided to expand their audience. They invited elementary school students from Omaha and other area towns to the Dana campus to see the zoo. More than 60 students viewed the exhibit during the spring semester, Murch-Shafer said.

In April, the class took its zoo on the road to the Omaha Children's Museum where nearly 200 people visited the exhibit.

"It was a neat experience going to the Children's Mu-



Dana students Katie Japp (left) and Beau Viergutz teach elementary students about hermit crabs.

seum," said freshman Lauren Welshonse, whose group worked with Bess bugs. "It was fun seeing how amazed the kids were by the insects and the other animals. Quite a few adults came too and were just as interested as the kids."

After their presentations, the class received dozens of thank-you letters from elementary students who saw the exhibit. Some wrote that after seeing the zoo, they wanted to become a biologist.

Sparking younger students' interest in biology was something Murch-Shafer said she and her students had hoped to accomplish with the project.

"I think it's critical having young kids see college students really enjoying what they're doing and seeing them excited about it," she said. "Probably

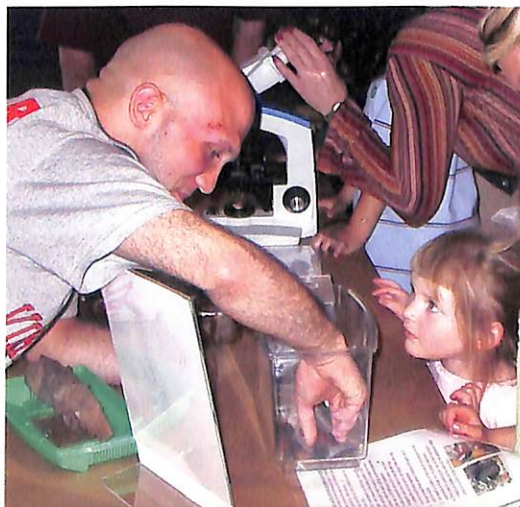
everyone who has gone into science as a career has had an experience like that sometime during their life when their interest in

science was sparked by someone."

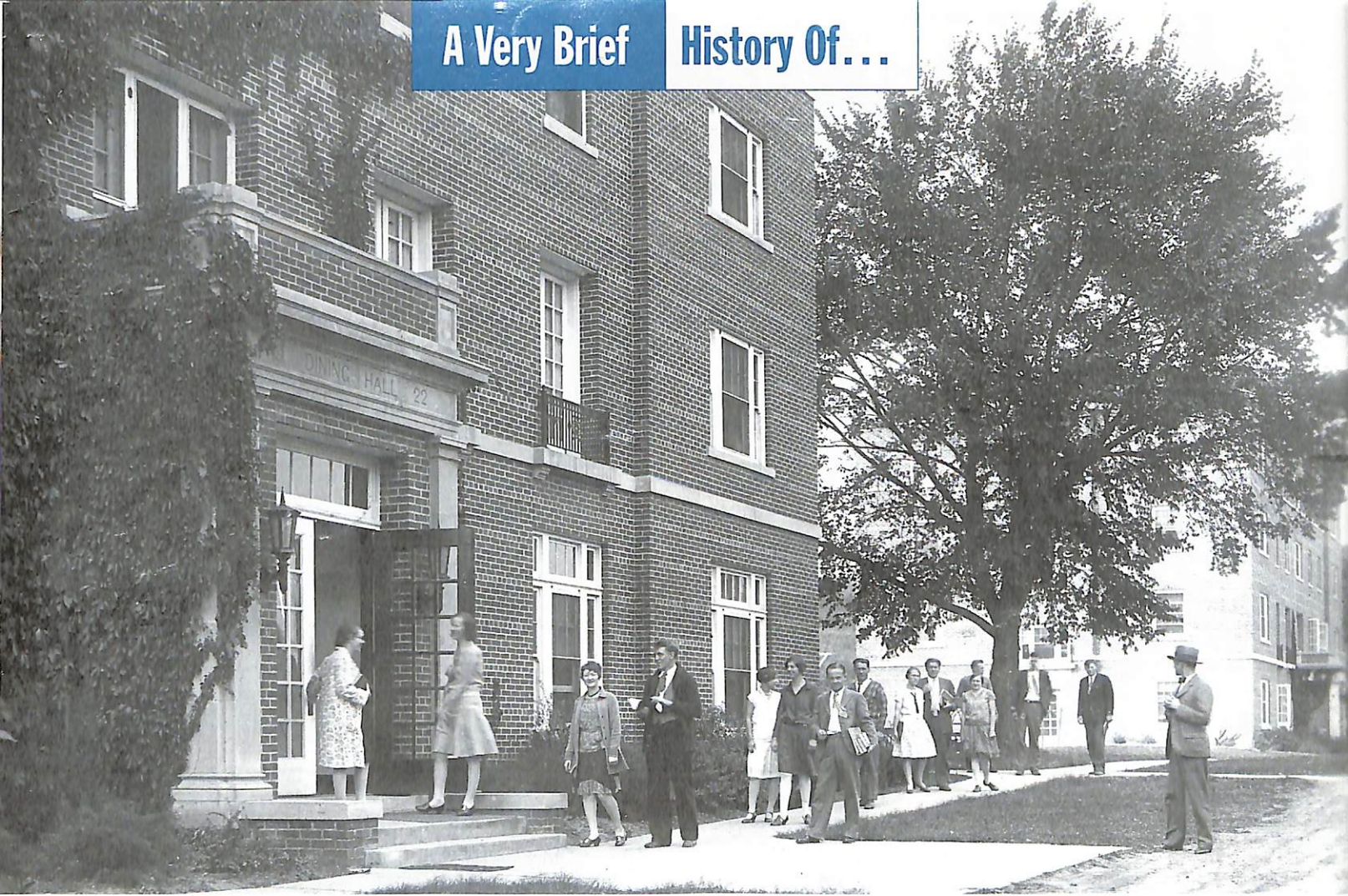
Murch-Shafer said she hopes to continue offering service-learning projects as part of her classes if the funds are available. She believes projects such as the one her class did this spring give students a sense of accomplishment and help them discover what it feels like to give something back to others through service. She also believes service-learning projects help reinforce what students learn in the classroom.

"All of my students became teachers themselves through this project, and you never learn something as well as you do when you teach it to someone else," she said. "I think every group learned something through this project, and I think it's something they'll remember."

Richmond said she would like to participate in a service-learning project again if she has the opportunity to do so. "I learned a lot, and I loved teaching and showing people things they didn't know."



Dana student Teddy Gillespie retrieves a hermit crab from its cage for an Omaha Children's Museum visitor to get a closer look.



**MORE THAN A DORMITORY:** Built in 1923 as a women’s residence hall, Argo Hall also served as the school cafeteria for 43 years until 1966 when the E.C. Hunt Campus Center opened. In this 1930 photo, students wait in line for lunch. Meals were served family style with six students to a table.

# Argo Hall

For its first 40 years, Argo Hall wasn’t “Argo Hall.” It was the “women’s dormitory” or “women’s hall,” but there were early variations.

The 1923 issue of *The Alumni*, a yearly publication, announced that “The new ladies’ dormitory is about completed.” A few months later, the November 1923 *Hermes* reported that the dedication of “the new Girls Dormitory” had been the first event of the school year.

And it’s “Girls Dormitory” that’s engraved over Argo’s north door. (In contrast, the name over the front door of Elk Horn Hall, Argo’s companion building to the north, is “The Men’s Dormitory.”)

“Girls Dormitory” recalls a time when many colleges, including Dana, acted “in

loco parentis” (in place of parents), especially for their women students. Women had curfews, and they had to “sign out” in the evening when they left their dorm and whenever they left the campus, indicating the time, where they were going and with whom. When they returned, they signed in. At Dana the dean of women, who lived in the dorm, checked this register before she locked the doors for the night. And for many years, “lights out” followed within an hour or two. Students needing to study retreated to the second floor lounge.

Over time these rules changed and eventually disappeared, but they certainly made life in Argo in about its first four decades different from the next four. (There were, for example, the warning shouts of

“man on floor” – usually a repairman; students who leaned from windows after hours to lower pillowcases tied to ropes for obliging male friends to fill with canteen food; the annual open house for male students, with a competition for the best room; and the panty raids of the mid-to-late ‘50s, one of them foiled by a dean of women who invited the raiders and dorm residents into the dining hall for ice cream.)

By 1963 several new buildings, including additional residence halls for men and women, had names. Peter L. Petersen ’61, in *A Place Called Dana: The Centennial History of Trinity Seminary and Dana College*, writes, “Clearly the two dorms built during... the 1920s needed more exact designations... In late 1963, therefore, the regents approved

renaming the two structures. The south building was christened Argo Hall in honor of the now-vanished community [about 15 miles northwest of Blair] where the Blair Church [predecessor of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC)] was officially formed in 1884 and the first steps taken toward the creation of Trinity Seminary. The north building became Elk Horn Hall, commemorating the Iowa community of Elk Horn, birthplace of Elk Horn College, which moved to Blair in 1899.”

The two dormitories were realizations of a “Greater Dana” plan developed in the early 1920s. A drawing by the architectural firm of J. Chris Jensen and G.R. Larson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the 1921 *Alumni* proposes a completely new campus with five buildings. Looking south from College Drive, the drawing shows the five enclosing a quadrangle on three sides. Elk Horn Hall and Argo Hall are on the west side, looking much as they do today, but with three floors instead of four. They face two identical buildings on the east side. At the south end a stately fifth structure faces north. (Old Main, built in 1884, would have been razed; instead, it remained the dominant building on campus until it burned in 1988.)

This “plan for Greater Dana,” the 1921 *Alumni* reports, was approved at the UELC convention, with acceptance “leaving room for possible modifications as to grouping and site of buildings.” (Elk Horn Hall was completed in 1927.)

Several photographs in the March 1923 *Hermes* show Argo under construction. One, taken before the second floor was built, identifies a “Mr. Gebuhr, Archt., in Dining Hall Entrance.” Two others show different views of the building with a partially completed fourth floor.

A photo from the top floor shows the northwest corner of Old Main and “Puella Town,” the women’s dormitory, built in 1899, that the new structure was replacing. (Bill Christensen, in his 75-year history of Dana and Trinity Seminary, *Saga of the Tower*, writes, “The nickname appears to have been coined early in the dormitory’s existence by some student who had just learned that the Latin word for ‘girl’ is ‘puella.’”)

The photo caption identifying Mr. Gebuhr indicates that Argo Hall was to be more than a women’s dormitory, and the



**HOME AWAY FROM HOME:** Alvena (Larsen '48) Hjortsvang (left) and Peggy (Christensen '48) Peterson are pictured in their dorm room during the 1944-45 school year.

inscription on the lintel above the main entrance reads “19 Dining Hall 22” – the year construction started. It would be the dining hall for 43 years.

For many years, students waiting for its doors to open gathered under a large Dutch elm at the northeast corner of the building. The first to arrive often sat on a white wooden bench built around the tree – it was a popular meeting place. (The tree was eventually a victim of the disease that killed most Dutch elms across the country.)

Meals were served family style, with six students at a table. Because students had weekly table assignments for lunch and dinner Mondays through Fridays, eventually everyone knew one another. Each table had an assigned host and hostess. Students dressed up for dinner on Wednesday evening and Sunday noon.

Some students worked in the kitchen and waited on tables to help pay their college expenses. The January 15, 1940, *Hermes* describes a typical weekday meal: “Meat, potatoes and gravy are shuttled

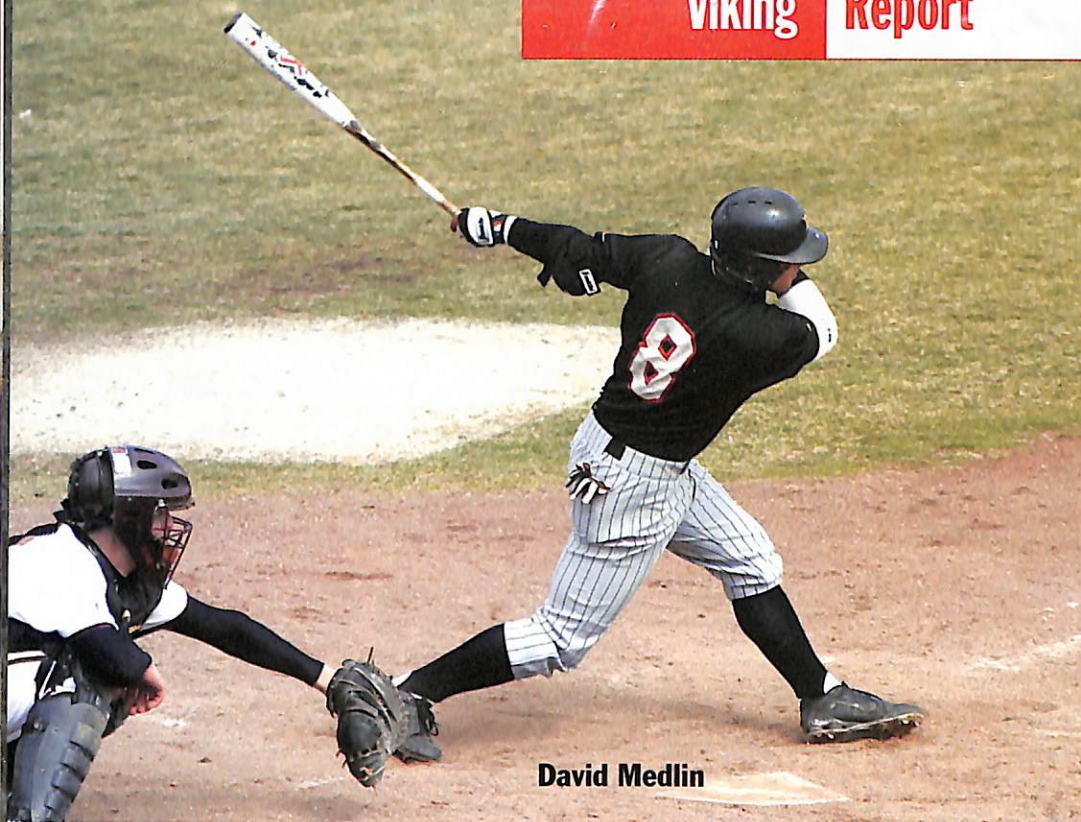
around the tables with feverish movements. Hands begin to go up. Soon there are dozens of them – all striving anxiously to capture the exclusive attention of some waitress. Like birds on wing these busy girls flit about and like birds on wing they are elusive and hard to catch. Some are occasionally so successful as to gain for themselves one of those rare seconds of meat and salad.”

By 1959 serving family style was no longer practical because of the growing number of students, and the September 7 *Hermes* reports that “The installation of the new cafeteria line and all new kitchen equipment will make food preparation easier and more efficient.” Students continued to eat in Argo until 1966, when the E.C. Hunt Campus Center, with a cafeteria and kitchen on the second floor, opened.

Argo wasn’t called “Puella Town.” Its dining hall was for everyone, and it even housed male students for several years in the early ‘60s. Otherwise, it has always been a women’s residence hall. This is “a brief history” of a building that’s more than 80 years old, but its real history is in the memories of the hundreds of women – and some men – who have lived there.



**POPULAR HANG-OUT:** The bench at the base of an elm tree that once stood just north of Argo Hall was a popular meeting place for several generations of Dana students. Pictured in this 1957 photo are, from left, Delores (Petersen '58) Jorgensen, D’Arlene (Morton '58) Rosenau, Jack Linahan '59 and Ed Ellis '59.



**David Medlin**

## ■ Baseball

The Dana Vikings Baseball Team finished the 2006 season with a record of 17-27 for eighth place in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.

Catcher Mike Dobre (Pompano Beach, Fla.) and utility David Medlin (Palmdale, Calif.) were selected First Team All-GPAC.

Dobre, a freshman catcher for the Vikings, batted .353 this season. He hit nine doubles and drove in 20 RBIs. He had only three errors on 153 chances. He was the only freshman chosen for the First Team.

Medlin, a utility player, split time between left field and first base. Medlin's slugging percentage of .582 was fifth highest in the GPAC this season. He hit nine doubles, four triples, three home runs and batted in 21 RBIs.

Pete Casarotto (Phoenix, Ariz.) was named relief pitcher for the Second Team All-GPAC. Casarotto led the league with 10 saves, setting a Dana College school record for saves in a season.

Dustin Anthony (Globe, Ariz.), Mike Smith (Palmdale, Calif.) and Kevin Brown (Camarillo, Calif.) received honorable mention.

Junior catcher Greg Wilmes (Creighton, Neb.) was named 2006 NAIA Baseball Scholar Athlete.

## ■ Men's Basketball

The *Omaha World-Herald* named Dana's Jason Isaacson (Council Bluffs, Iowa) captain of the 2006 All-Nebraska basketball team. Here is what the article in the *Omaha World-Herald*, written by Marjie Ducey, said:

"Jason Isaacson was the go-to player, or, as Dana coach Chris Fear called him, the 'heart beat.'

"Dana didn't have a standout season, but Isaacson had a huge year. The Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln graduate, an honorable mention All-American, averaged 25 points per game and had more than 100 assists from the point guard position.

"Everything we did kind of went through him," Fear said.

"The Vikings went 14-18 and advanced to the second round of the GPAC postseason tournament after winning a first-round game for the first time.

"Isaacson, Fear said, set a positive tone. "He just had an unbelievable season," Fear said.

"He's joined on the first team, which was chosen through voting by Nebraska's NAIA coaches, by Brent Cole of Doane College, Nate Harris of York College, Joe Webb of Bellevue University and Jon Ziegler of Concordia University."

Seniors Mark Esser (Woodbine,

Iowa) and Tyler Mohr (Ocheyedan, Iowa) were honored as 2006 NAIA Scholar Athletes.

## ■ Women's Basketball

Nicole Hull (Moorhead, Iowa) earned recognition as an NAIA Scholar Athlete. Hull, the Vikings' only upperclassman, is studying biology at Dana College.

Nine recruits have signed with Dana women's basketball. Among them is another Treynor High (Iowa) grad, Tricia Trotter.

Trotter, a 5-7 guard, is a three-time All-Western Iowa Conference, three-time All-District, and three-time All-State (third team) player. In 2004 and 2006, she was named to the Iowa State Tournament team. This season Trotter exceeded 1,000 career points

"Tricia is extremely competitive and works hard," said Dana's coach Brenda Mechels.

Considered a basketball powerhouse in the Western Iowa Conference, Treynor High has qualified teams for the state tournament 11 times in the last 12 seasons under Head Coach Gail Hartigan.

"Coach Hartigan is a good coach. The Treynor girls are fundamentally sound," said Mechels, "and they know how to win." These are reasons why Mechels likes to recruit the Treynor girls.

Trotter is the third Treynor basketball player to commit to Dana College. Teammate Megan Gerdes has committed to play softball and basketball at Dana this fall. Amanda Bryant, a current Viking basketball player, is also a Treynor High grad.

## ■ Football

The Viking football team has signed 33 players for this fall. The class is highlighted by several local standouts. Philip Barrientos (LB), Omaha South, was named Super All-State Linebacker in Nebraska. Tyler Smith (RB), Bellevue West, led the metro in rushing as a senior. Tyler Wilcox (WR), Omaha Burke, was one of the leading receivers in the metro the last three years. George Drinnin (LB), Omaha Northwest, was also one of the top linebackers in Omaha and received honorable mention All-State. Clark Allen (OL), Abraham Lincoln, was named first team All-City in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Kyle Wilson (RB), Platteview, is a top run-

ning back who will be participating in the Shrine Bowl.

Anthony Kerr has joined the Dana College football staff as the special teams coordinator and secondary coach. Kerr played strong safety at Mesa State in Grand Junction, Colo., where he earned a master's degree in sports management. He also served as Mesa State's linebackers coach and special teams coordinator for six years. Anthony and his wife, Anna, live in Omaha.

## ■ Soccer

Coaches of both the men's and women's soccer teams said they are excited about their 2006 recruiting classes.

The men's soccer team will welcome six freshmen to campus this fall.

"We have added a few players who will bring an exciting dynamic to our team next year," said Shad Beam, who is entering his fifth year as head coach of the Vikings.

The 2006 recruiting class features three all-state performers.

Matt Fields, a striker from Park Hill High School in Missouri, led his team in scoring all four years in high school.

Sean Aslett, a striker from Provo High School in Utah, is a three-time First Team All-State performer in Utah and was the 4-A leading scorer in 2005.

Ben Davis, a defender from Kansas City, Mo.; Chris Allen, a goal keeper from Kansas City, Mo.; Josh LaForest, a defender from Jackson, Mo.; and Kurtis Kraatz, a goal keeper from Midway, Utah, round out the talented and diverse class.

"We have several players who will push our returning players," Beam said. "This is a great group of young men who have the talent to help us now and in the future."

The women's soccer team's 2006 recruiting class is the largest in Coach Nik Barjaktarevic's three seasons. The Vikings are bringing in seven recruits who are looking to push several players for playing time.

"We are excited to bring this special group of young ladies to campus," Barjaktarevic said. "Each of them has the ability to make a significant impact on the soccer program."

Barjaktarevic pointed out two recruits who stand out in his class. Ashley Armstrong, a goalkeeper from Castle Rock, Colo., played for the Real National soccer club. Another touted recruit for the Vikings is Mandy Overall, a defender from Las Vegas, Nev. Overall brings a wealth of experience to the Vikings' back line. She played for the two-time Nevada State Cup champions.

## ■ Track

Dana's Track team continues to grow and see increased success. Several school records were broken this year. Nichelle Kimbrough (Highland, Kan.) set a new record in the 400m hurdles with a time of 69.78. The women's 4x800 relay team of Tina Castle (Farragut, Iowa), Emily Schaaf (Stuart, Neb.), Amy Jackman (Seward, Neb.), and Tabitha Kabala (Davenport, Iowa) turned in a record time of 10:38.53.

During the indoor season, Sarah Cooper (Papillion, Neb.) broke the school record in the indoor 55-meter hurdles, then bettered herself the following week with a time of 8.85. She also broke the Viking long jump record with a leap of 17-09.25. The previous long jump stood for 25 years. Her jump was good enough to automatically qualify her for Nationals.

Dana also sent two runners to compete in the NAIA Outdoor National Championships. Both Viking entrants ran in the marathon.

John Kaup (Grand Island, Neb.) placed 10th in the marathon with a time of 2:37.12. This was Kaup's second year qualifying for the marathon. He bested his previous time by more than eight minutes. The 10th place finish by Kaup was the highest finish by a Viking runner in the marathon since Mike Wagner's sixth place finish in 2003. Fellow Viking Eric Bane (Oakland, Iowa) placed 28th with a time of 2:50.13.

Kaup was also honored as an NAIA Scholar Athlete.

## ■ Wrestling

The Dana College wrestling team, coming off an NAIA National Championship season, looks to replace their head coach and two national champions. Newly appointed Head Coach Richard Fergola has put together a smaller but strong class of freshman that should help the Vikings push for another national championship.

The 2006 class is comprised of 13 new signees. This year's class brings a wealth of experience and accolades both on the mat and off. Highlighting the incoming class are two individuals who have burned up the wrestling prep scene, Donny Altman (Derby, Kan.) and Forrest Millsap (Birmingham, Ala.). Altman comes to Dana College from Derby High School where he was a two-time state finalist, winning the title in 2005 and placing second in his senior year. Altman is even more accomplished on the national scene in Freestyle and Greco-Roman.



**Nichelle Kimbrough**



**2006 Vikings Softball Team**

Millsap, currently ranked No. 14 by *Wrestling USA magazine*, will be the second four-time state champion to become part of the Dana College wrestling program.

"This class is one of my best," said Fergola. "It is stacked with quality and most importantly academics. These 13 young men compiled have over a 3.0 GPA and average just above a 22 on the ACT. Many of these young men are the future of Dana College wrestling and things look very bright."

## ■ Softball

To say the 2006 Dana softball team was a good-hitting team is an understatement. The Vikings smashed 62 home runs this season – nearly breaking a national NAIA record. The team's batting average was .349 – fourth highest in the NAIA. Dana also slugged out a school record 117 doubles.

The 2006 team was one of the most successful in the school's history, posting a record of 43-10 overall and 20-2 in the GPAC. Dana won both the regular season and GPAC tournament championships.

The GPAC named Dana's Josie Barrow the 2006 Player-of-the-Year.

Coach Marcy Roff was voted 2006 GPAC Coach-of-the-Year by her peers.

Six Vikings were named First Team All-GPAC: Maggie Downs (St. Charles, Iowa), Mindy Schoop (Johnston, Iowa), Janecz Anderson (Albion, Neb.), Marisa Bretschneider (Norfolk, Neb.), Morgan Shields (Britt, Iowa) and Barrow. First baseman Sarah Sempek (Omaha, Neb.) was selected to the Second Team and designated player Apryl Groteluschen

(Columbus, Neb.) received honorable mention.

Barrow was also named 2006 Region III Player-of-the-year. She finished the season with a batting average of .522. She hit 18 doubles, 19 home runs and drove in a team-high 65 RBIs – all new school records. (Barrow shares the record with Sempek who also hit 18 doubles this season.) With 157 total bases this season, her final slugging percentage was 1.000.

On the mound for the Vikings, Barrow threw 77 strikeouts in 17 wins and 5 losses.

Senior right fielder Bretschneider was also named to the All-Region III team. "Rissa" batted .345 this season. She hit 10 doubles, a triple and six home runs.

The Vikings were successful in the classroom, too. Dana led all NAIA softball teams with six Scholar Athletes: Anderson, Bretschneider, Krystal Cary (McClelland, Iowa), Sempek, Shields and Jamie Snyder (Alta, Iowa).

## ■ Volleyball

Rayna Cain has been hired as Head Coach of the Dana College Volleyball program. She was a four-time All-Northern Sun Conference First Team selection as a 6-2 middle hitter at Wayne State College from 1999-2002. She ranks second on the Wildcats' all-time list in blocks (388), third in kills (1,517) and seventh in attacks (3,471). She helped the Wildcats win the NSIC regular season title in the 2001 season, going 16-2 in conference play and 24-9 overall. She is a graduate of Homer High School, where she was a three-time All Lewis and Clark Conference selection

and a three-sport Academic All-State honoree.

Cain has three years of high school coaching experience at Neligh-Oakdale, Neb., guiding the Warriors to the Class C-2 State Tournament in 2004 and 2005. Her record at Neligh-Oakdale was 51-19, including marks of 21-3 and 21-4 in the past two seasons.

Cain has been serving as a graduate assistant in the exercise science department at Wayne State College the last two years while working on her masters' degree in wellness/exercise science. Upon graduating in May, she began her teaching and coaching duties at Dana College.

## ■ Women's Golf

Dana women's golf enjoyed a successful spring season. The team took third place at the Northwestern Spring Invite on April 19. Brooke McCabe (Plainview, Neb.), Emily Duncan (Norfolk, Neb.) and Karla Harshbarger (Bridgeport, Neb.) all placed among the top 15 individuals. McCabe led the Vikings with a score of 94 and tied for fourth place individually.

Later in April, Dana tied perennial power Midland Lutheran with a score of 361 for a share of third place at the Briar Cliff University Invite. Duncan was the Vikings' individual leader in that meet. She turned in a score of 86 to earn sixth place. McCabe and Harshbarger also finished among the top 11 individuals.

The GPAC has a split golf season. The regular season is played in the fall and culminates with GPAC tournament. The GPAC's top finishers advance to the regional meet which is played in the spring. Though the Vikings did not advance to the Regional meet, the ladies proved this spring that they are the program to watch.

## ■ Cross Country

Last summer Coach Derek Fey and assistant Shane Jackman were busy digging, mowing, and reconstructing portions of the college's cross country course. The changes and improvements were well received by visiting runners and coaches last fall. But Fey and Jackman are at it again this summer, working to widen the trail for the upcoming 2006 GPAC Cross Country meet which will be hosted by Dana College on Oct. 28.

Eight recruits have signed to run for Dana this fall.

## 2000s

**Lindsey Bliemeister '06** will be teaching high school special education this fall at Elkhorn (Neb.) Public Schools.

**Marisa Bretschneider '06** will begin working on her doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

**Sara Buck '06** is a kindergarten teacher for Omaha Public Schools and is pursuing a master's in education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Christine Burkey '06** is a bilingual customer service representative at Mutual of Omaha in Omaha.

**Natlie Bussing '06** is a parent educator with Owens & Associates in Omaha.

**Brandie Carlson '06** is a marketing associate for Opera Omaha in Omaha.

**Bernardo Cueto '06** will begin law school at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, N.D., this fall.

**Mark Esser '06** is a credit manager for Wells Fargo Financial in Sioux City, Iowa.

**Amy Fullenkamp '06** is an area manager for National Research Corporation in Lincoln, Neb.

**John "J.D." Hall '06** married **Heather Kahnk '08** on June 17. The couple lives in Blair. J.D. is a computer services technician at Dana College.

**Leslie Halligan '06** is a social service coordinator for Beverly Healthcare in Omaha.

**Hannah Heckart '06** is a medical student at UNMC in Omaha.

**Matthew Hodgson '06** is an English teacher at Westside High School in Omaha.

**Tabetha Holman '06** is a K-12 music teacher at West Point Public Schools in West Point, Neb.

**Christopher Humphries '06** is an English teacher at Omaha Public Schools and will also coach track at Dana College and serve as an area hall director.

**Kelli Inman '06** is a training manager for the MSR Group in Omaha.

**Jason Isaacson '06** is organizing a summer basketball draft league and will play professional basketball for the 24 Second Agency in Groningen, Netherlands, this fall.

**Barry Jurgensen '06** is a history aid for the National Park Service's Cultural Services Department and will pursue a master's in history at the University of Omaha.

**Nick Kroon '06** is a teacher for Girls & Boys Town in Omaha this summer and will teach math and coach basketball at West Point High School in West Point, Neb., this fall.

**Lorchi Lo '06** is a management trainee at the Cintas Co. in Omaha.

**Tyler Mohr '06** is a hall director and coordinator of business operations for the athletic department at Dana College.

**Julia Peterson '06** is a K-5 special ed and resource teacher at Valentine (Neb.) Elementary School.

**Jennifer Ruckman '06** is a rural outreach coordinator for the Fremont (Neb.) Crisis Center.

**Tracie Ruwe '06** will be teaching second grade at Blair Community Schools this fall.

**Jamie Snyder '06** is a graphic design assistant at Professional Forms, Inc. in Blair.

**Lindsay Stigge '06** will be teaching sixth grade at Indian Hill Elementary in Omaha this fall.

**Danielle Ternus '06** is a youth care supervisor at Girls & Boys Town in Omaha.

**Jesse Valdez '06** is pursuing his master's in research psychology at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, N.M.

**Katrina Woldseth '06** is pursuing her master's in new media at Syracuse (N.Y.) University and is a graduate teaching assistant.

**Theresa Garrison '05** of St. Paul, Minn., is working on her Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary. Her goal is to become a parish pastor in an ELCA church.

**Jennifer Knowles '05** of Blair is working as a graphic artist for Enterprise Publishing in Blair. She was named Enterprise Publishing's 2005 Newcomer of the Year.



**Jenny (Miller '04) Eggert** and her husband, **Matt**, of Brewster, Neb., are the parents of a son, **Ethan Joseph**, born Dec. 9, 2005.

**Jon Mauro '04** of Papillion, Neb., is teaching social studies and coaching soccer and basketball at Bellevue (Neb.) West High School.

**Megan Oakley '04** of Genoa married **Weston Engel** on May 27, 2006, in Genoa. She is a

Spanish teacher and coach at Blair High School.

**Stephanie (Collins '03) Harder** graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center on May 6 with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy. She now works as a physical therapist at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, Iowa. She continues to run, and completed the Country Music Half-marathon in Nashville, Tenn., on April 30 with over 22,000 runners. She and her husband, **Adam**, live in Avoca, Iowa.

**Christine (Reiners '02) Goche-nour** of Council Bluffs, Iowa, is the director of membership for the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband, **Craig**, are enjoying their new house and two spoiled dogs.

**Curtis Braden '01** and his wife, **Angela**, welcomed a daughter, **Madeline Michele**, on Nov. 24, 2005. Curtis is general manager of 24-Hour Fitness in Overland Park, Kan. The family lives in Lees Summit, Mo.

**Justin Dannelly '01** of Sioux City, Iowa, is a fourth grade teacher, head football coach and head girls and boys track coach at Homer (Neb.) High School.

**Christian "CT" and Erica (Blodgett '01) Holz '01** of Omaha welcomed their first child, **Emma Grace**, on Dec. 12, 2005.

**Heather Plowman '01** married **Ben Harold** on Oct. 29, 2005, in Fremont, Neb. Heather is an oncology social worker at Alegent Health Immanuel Hospital in Omaha, Neb. The couple lives in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Bill Potts '01** recently was promoted by Hormel Foods to Manager of Cost & Stock at the Osceola Foods plant in Osceola, Iowa.



**Danielle (Mozeika '01) and Kale Maguire '01** of Ault, Colo., are the parents of a son, Keoki Namakalokomaika'i, born on Aug. 31, 2005. Kale is a quality control fuel technician at Denver International Airport and Danielle has her own business as a respite care provider.



**Traci Ahrendt '00** and her fiancée, Andrew Norum, of South St. Paul, Minn., are the parents of a son, Archer McCain Norum, born Nov. 24, 2005. Traci is the lead administrative assistant at the St. Paul office of Robert Half International.



**Beth (McCabe '98) and Joel Krominga '99** recently moved to North Platte, Neb., where Beth is employed as practice manager for Internal Medicine Associates of North Platte and Joel is a commercial loan officer for NebraskaLand National Bank. The couple has two children, Mason, 4 1/2, and Ethan, 2 1/2.

**Theresa (Soby '01) Scholl** graduated with a master's degree in education leadership and is now a reading coach for two Hillsborough County elementary schools. She and her husband, **Karl III '00**, live in Wesley Chapel, Fla.

**Darold Foster '00** is teaching for Omaha Public Schools and coaching wrestling at Dana. He and his wife, Angie, have two children: Madison, 6, and Isaiah, 7 months.

## 1990s

**Darby Jones '99** completed his master's degree in administration at the University of Houston in 2005 and is teaching algebra and coaching varsity football at Sterling High School. He and his wife, Robin, have four children, Kadin, 6; Keylan, 4; Kiahna, 3; and Kye, 1. The family lives in Baytown, Texas.

"Golden Boy," a graphic novel by writer and artist **Max Riffner '99** will be released in July in comic book shops nationwide. The novel is about Cole "Golden Boy" Parker, a retired boxer who has lost his way in life.

**Matt and Jodi (Hook '97) Smith '98** of Council Bluffs, Iowa, welcomed a son, Cody William Smith, on March 28.



**Anne "Anno" Curran '00** married David Frey on Oct. 29, 2005, in Orlando, Fla., where they now live. Anne is director of a social services collaborative in East Orlando.



**Tiffany Menard '99** married Colin Baker in Nassau, Bahamas, on May 13. Tiffany works for the Michigan Surgeon General. The couple resides in Plymouth, Mich.

**Rachel Brotherton '97** married Shane Smith in Des Moines, Iowa, on March 11. They currently reside in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

**Nicole (Parrack '97) Minniss** is a middle school special education teacher. She and her husband, Charles, are the parents of eight children, four of whom are foster sons with special needs. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Erik Einertson '96** was married to Kerri Wood in December 2004. He is working for an institutional investment firm in Pasadena, Calif.

**Darren Tooley '96** and his wife, Michelle, welcomed a daughter, Kamryn Bree, on April 19. She joins her sister, Kaitlyn Marie, 7 1/2, and brother, Preston James, 4. The family lives in Walnut, Iowa.

**Karl Lettow '95** is currently serving as deputy public affairs officer for the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Karl earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Northern Iowa in 1996 and his master's in communication at the University of Oklahoma in 2003. He is currently pursuing a master's in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife, Heather, have two children, Logan, 3, and Chloe, 18 months. The family lives in Bowie, Md.

**Rochelle (Dufresne '94) Hennessey** and her husband, Dan, welcomed a son, Jacob Benjamin, on Feb. 18. The family lives in Scandia, Minn.

**Angel (Moore '94) Thomas** will be teaching art at Tekamah-Herman (Neb.) Public Schools this fall.

**Brad and Megan (Weeks '96) Hopp '94** operate their own printing business, producing promotional products and forms. Brad recently left Fareway Grocery stores, where he had worked for four years, to join

Megan in running the business. The move also gives him more time to homeschool their three children, Julius, 9; Faith, 8; and Harrison, 3, and to manage their acreage.

**Courtney Ross '94** of West Chester, Penn., is a network security administrator for Siemens Business Services, an IT consulting company for Siemens Medical Systems.



**Tammy (Hoyer '94) Williams** and her husband, Bruce, are the parents of a daughter, Noelle Joy, born on Jan. 4. She joins her brother Levi, 7, and sister, Mya, 4. Tammy is a retirement plan administrator with Milliman in Omaha.

**Greg McBride '91** is president and CEO of The Envision Group, a strategic creative agency based in Denver, Colo. He and his wife, Heidi, have two children: a son, Cooper, and a daughter, Tatum.

## 1980s

**Teresa (Blaas '89) Daum** has been promoted to inpatient therapy manager for rehabilitation services at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk, Neb. She has served as the speech/language pathology supervisor for 10 years in Norfolk. Teresa and her husband, **Bryan '88**, re-

side in Battle Creek, Neb., with their two daughters, Shelby, 12 and Kylee, 9.

**Dr. Paul Christensen '86** of San Luis Obispo, Calif., has accepted a position as medical director of the emergency department at French Hospital Medical Center in San Luis Obispo. The nine-bed center accommodates 15,000 patients a year. Dr. Christensen is president of the San Luis Obispo County Medical Society and vice chief of staff at French Hospital.

**Marty Stessman '86** of Topeka, Kan., received his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Wichita State University on May 13.

**Michael Dryver '85** of Omaha directed the Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts Choir in a performance this May at the Vatican. The choir, based in Detroit, Mich., originally had asked Dryver to present "Sanctus," from his original "Millennium Mass" composition, in St. Peter's Square. They later invited him to direct. Members of Spirit of Faith Church, where Dryver serves as minister of music, helped raise \$3,500 to pay for his travel. Dryver is a retired Omaha Public Schools music teacher who has directed, composed and taught for nearly 40 years. He is also the founder of the Omaha School of Music, a nonprofit fine arts training school.

**Russell Reiter '85** of Chariton, Iowa, is a high school principal in Chariton. He and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Ryan, 9, and Nick, 6. Russell will be completing his specialist degree through Drake University this spring.

**Judy Csejthey '81** married Bob Stuart in 2002. The couple lives in Omaha. Judy works for Platte

Valley Farrier Supply/Lucky D Tack Shop in Gretna.

**Ted Hanlon '81** is a sixth grade teacher at Rushton Elementary in Shawnee Mission, Kan. He lives in Westwood, Kan.

**Steve Albertsen '80** of Elkhorn, Neb., has been promoted to operations manager of the Broadcast House properties in Lincoln, which includes radio stations KFGE, KBBK, KLNC and KLIN.

## 1970s

**John Hibbing '76**, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was quoted in a May 2 *New York Times* story, "In Senate Race, Pork Is Portrayed as Bad Politics." He discussed his views on whether a U.S. Senate candidate's support for "pork" spending would hurt his or her chances of being re-elected to office.

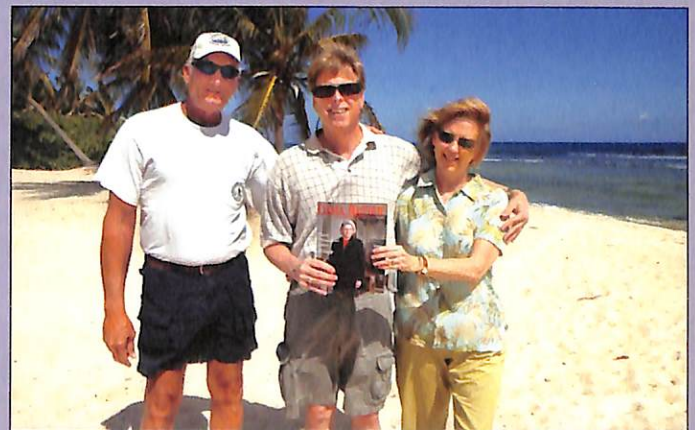
**Dr. Donald Baack '75** of Joplin, Mo., was presented with the Excellence in Teaching Award at the Pittsburg (Kan.) State University, Kelce College of Business honors banquet on April 25. He has been nominated for the award 12 times. He also previ-

ously received the Excellence in Research Award in 1991 and 1996. Baack also had the unique experience of attending tapings of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Late Show with David Letterman while traveling to complete work on his writing projects.

**Sharon Peterson '73** was the keynote speaker for the Tiny Tim Center 50th Jubilee Auction and Dinner held in Longmont, Colo., in February. The event raised \$110,000 for the Tiny Tim Center, a program for kids with developmental delays due to disabilities. Sharon was in the first class, which was held in 1956. She currently lives in Minneapolis, Minn., and is employed by Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

## 1960s

The *Midlands Business Journal* recently featured an article on **Paul Ahrendt '68** of Lincoln, Neb., and the growth of his company, The Tool House. Ahrendt founded the company, which provides tools and supplies for industrial and construction clients, in Lincoln in 1977. The company has since expanded to



**Ron** (center) and **Rikki (Forney '70) Hulsebus '70** of Phoenix, Ariz., visited **Niels Rasmussen '71** (left) and his family on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, in March. This picture was taken at a resort with the Caribbean Sea in the background.



**Doris (Siersbeck '61)** and **Luther Kloth '61** hosted a reunion for the Class of 1961 in Maine during the last week of July 2005. The group is pictured above on the steps of Luther's home church, Emmaus Lutheran Church, in Falmouth, Maine. The church is an original UELC Danish Lutheran congregation. Pictured in the back row, from left, are **Norma (Parde '61) Heeren**, **Doris Kloth** and **JoAnn (Larsen '61) Otto**. In the middle row, from left, are **Ken Glover '61**, **Luther Kloth**, **Arla Jean (Siems '61) Mayhew** and **Ellen (Andrews '61) Fisher**. Pictured in the front row, from left, are **Don Heeren**, **Bob Fisher**, **Tom Mayhew**, **Arlyce (Fuchs '61) Olsen**, **Rosie (Peterson '61) Glover** and **Wesley Otto**. The women have been organizing round-robin reunions since 1961.



The **Rev. Dr. Richard "Dick" Andersen (D '53, T '60)** recently was presented the prestigious Mayor's Arts Award by Sierra Vista, Ariz., Mayor Pro Tem Bob Strain at a ceremony in the Cochise College Library.

The Mayor's Arts Awards are presented annually to recognize the achievements of local arts organizations and individuals. Andersen was cited for his efforts to promote various arts groups, including the Sierra Vista Symphony, the Cochise College Chorus and the Huachuca Art Association. He also was cited for bringing John Venning and his two groups of Danish Royal Opera singers to Sierra Vista.

Andersen, a retired ELCA pastor, is director of operations for the Sierra Vista Symphony.

Steven and Martin; her father, a sister and three grandchildren.

**Leon Bragg '67** died April 22 in Kenosha, Wis., of complications of multiple sclerosis. He was 62. He taught for over 25 years in the Racine Unified Schools, most of which he taught sixth grade at Jerstad-Agerholm Elementary and Middle Schools. He last taught at Stephen Bull Fine Arts School in 1993. He served on many committees and task force groups at the schools where he worked, including serving as a University of Wisconsin-Parkside Science Fellow. He loved baseball and was a pitcher in youth leagues, Junior Legion, American Legion and at Dana College. Survivors include his wife, Donna, a daughter, a son and a granddaughter.

**Mary Linda Larsen '66** died April 26 in Sheboygan, Wis., at the age of 61. She taught English at several high schools in Wisconsin, including at the Menomonee Indian Reservation, and later taught English at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc County. She was forced to retire early when she became disabled due to injuries she sustained in an automobile accident in Novem-

ber 1977. Survivors include a brother, Clifford A. Larsen '71.

**Jennie (Fellows) Nelson '65** died May 9 at Blair at the age of 97. She worked as a supervisor in a hospital in Bristol, as a superintendent at the Dodge County Hospital, as a nurse stewardess on the Union Pacific, and for 29 years as a school nurse in Blair. She was a member of the Congregational Church, an honorary life member of the Nebraska PTA, and a seven-year member of the original Memorial Community Hospital Board. Survivors include two daughters, eight grandchildren and a sister.

**Warren B. "Bud" Kruse '56** died March 7 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, at the age of 71. He served in the U.S. Army from 1957-1959. He taught at Shelby-Tennant School District, Hamburg Schools, the Council Bluffs School District from 1958-1969, and the Iowa School for the Deaf from 1969 until his retirement in 1989. He also coached football at Abraham Lincoln High School and at the Iowa School for the Deaf. He was named National Association of the Deaf's Coach of the Year in 1988 and was inducted into the Council Bluffs Relays Hall of Fame in 2003. He was a

## In Memoriam

**Dana Christensen '74** died May 6 in Portland, Maine, at the age of 53. He worked for the C.N. Brown Co., the Portland Pump Co., and for the last 10 years as district manager for Gibbs Oil Co. Survivors include his wife, Angel; a son, a daughter; two brothers, Eric Christensen '70 and Peter Christensen '71 and wife, Charlotte (Thomsen '71).

**Kathleen (Plumhoff '68) Barsness**, died January 18 in Standstone, Minn. She was a full-time elementary teacher from 1968 until February 2005. She was active in her church, community and school. Survivors include her husband, David Barsness '67; sons, Craig '93, Michael '97,

Omaha and Des Moines, Iowa, and also promotes products through a full-line catalog which is available on CD-ROM and the Internet.

**Norma (Jordan) Lippincott '68** of Sierra Vista, Ariz., retired from teaching for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools with 25 years of service.

## 1950s

**Harry Landbo '58** is a retired legal investigator and is living in Fort Myers, Fla.

**Dudley Allen '52** recently was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. He lives in Omaha.

member of Saint John Lutheran Church. Survivors include his wife, Sandra (Lamb '57) Kruse; daughter, Kristy (Kruse '80) and husband, Tom Harm '80; sons, Brad '83 and wife, Hanne (Jensen '86), and Tom '88 and wife, Annette; a brother, three sisters and 11 grandchildren.

**Rev. Roland Hansen T'54** died January 13 in Eau Claire, Wis., at the age of 75. He was pastor at Brooklyn Lutheran Church in Booklyn, Wis.; Valley Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, Calif.; Bethel Lutheran Church in Green Bay, Wis.; and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Eau Claire. He retired from active ministry of the ELCA on Sept. 3, 1995, after 41 years of service, including the last 26 at Our Savior's in Eau Claire. Survivors include his wife, Alberta (Madsen '51); three children, five grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, one great grandson, one step-great granddaughter, a brother and two sisters.

**Janice Ruth (Nygaard '49) Jensen** died August 21, 2005, in Willmar, Minn., following a long illness. She was 76. She taught in the elementary school systems of Omaha; St. Paul, Minn.; Highstown, N.J.; Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Morgan, Minn.; Raymond, Minn., and Streator, Ill. She taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, was a Vacation Bible School superintendent and sang in the church choir. Survivors include her husband, Pastor Frederik V. Jensen '50; two children, including son, Frederik R. Jensen '77; seven grandsons, including Ross Jensen '04; a great-granddaughter; two brothers, Marvin Nygaard D'38 T'40 and Gerhard Nygaard D'50 T'53, and a sister.

**Irma (Madsen '45) Bray** died Feb. 24 in Omaha following a short battle with cancer. She was 81. She taught for five years



**Frank W. Hengeveld, Jr.**, a long-time Dana College faculty member, died May 7, 2006, in Eugene, Ore. He was 89.

Frank received his bachelor's degree from Dana College in 1941 and his master's from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1951.

He taught chemistry at Dana from 1946 to 1956 and then worked as a research chemist at Diamond Alkali in Painesville, Ohio, for several years. He

returned to Dana in 1965 to teach in the chemistry department and later in the mathematics department until his retirement in 1985. He was a master teacher throughout his career and also led workshops in creativity, problem-solving and science education at both Dana and UNL. In 1985, he received Dana's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

His passions were teaching, science, problem-solving, gardening, sailing, travel, conservation and his children. His devotion to trees was honored with the planting in 2004 of a life-celebration oak tree for him and his wife, Helen, at Black Elk-Niehardt Park in Blair.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Helen Catherine (Michelson) Hengeveld; daughters, **Lonna ('71) Meston**, Pamela Wetzell, and **Susanne ('65) Miller**; son, **Steven Hengeveld '73**; sister, Betty Gericke; one granddaughter, three grandsons, one great-grandson, four nieces and two nephews and their families, and many beloved friends.

Memorials are suggested to the Helen and Frank Hengeveld Science Scholarship Endowment at Dana College.

at two rural Washington County Schools before becoming a homemaker. Survivors include her husband, George, a daughter, three sons, two sisters, two brothers, 11 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**Roma (Sandvold '44) Phillips** died May 3 in Moorhead, Iowa, at the age of 83. During World War II, she served with the United States Navy and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant 2nd Class. She also taught English and typing at the high school level. After moving to Charlotte, N.C., in 1963, she worked for the Charlotte Park and Recreation Commis-

sion until her retirement on Jan. 1, 1985. Survivors include a son and a granddaughter.

**Anna (Kock '41) Paasch** died March 19 in Elk Horn, Iowa, at the age of 85. She worked at the Shelby County AAA Office in Harlan, Iowa, from 1938 to 1943, and then as a secretary at the Byron Reed Company in Omaha until 1950. She was employed by the Walnut State Bank from 1951 until her retirement in 1983. At that time, she was a cashier, trust officer and a member of the board of directors. Survivors include a sister.

**Katherine (Neldeberg '36) Pearson** died Feb. 28 in Onawa, Iowa, at the age of 91. She taught at schools in Omaha and Wilsonville, Neb. She was active in Trinity Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church in Onawa. She served several years as president of the Trinity Women's Group and helped establish a new library at Faith Lutheran Church. She was also active in Kiwanis, the Brownie and Girl Scout programs, Onawa Rainbow Assembly and church youth groups. Survivors include a daughter, two granddaughters, two great-granddaughters.

## Friends

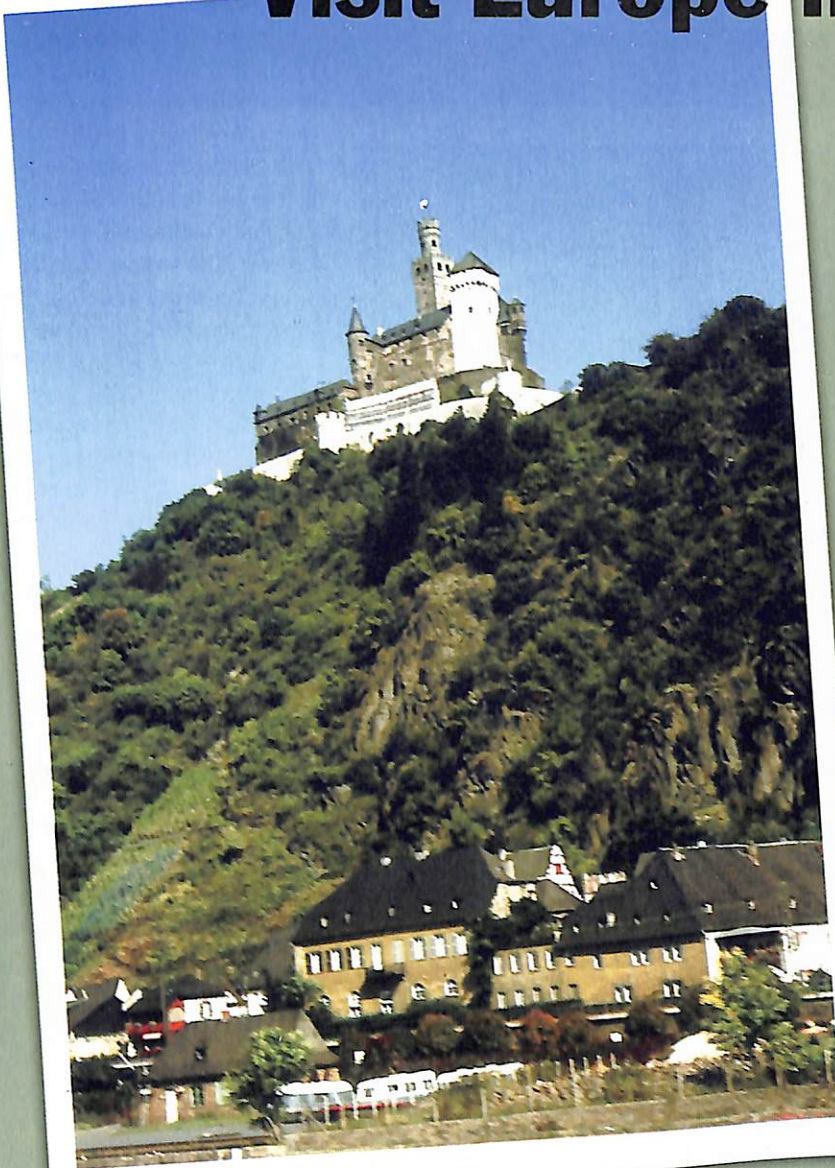
**Robert Blobaum, Sr.** died March 6 in Blair at the age of 77. He founded Great Plains Service in Ashland in 1955, and served as president and chief executive officer of the company until shortly before his death. He purchased Midwest Service and Supply Company in Tekamah in 1957, and served as that company's president until selling the business in 2005. He was a longtime supporter of Dana College and received the school's Community Service Award in May 2000.

**Pauline Matzen**, 78, died March 8 in Blair. She managed the McBride Nursing Home in Blair and Fremont for many years. After closing the Fremont nursing home in 1973, she worked at Dana College, where she thoroughly enjoyed the college students.

**Jody Rehberg** died Feb. 16 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. She coached volleyball at Dana during the 1999-00 school year.

**Ed Waggoner**, husband of Melba (Junker '60) Waggoner, died July 16, 2005, of liver cancer.

# Visit Europe in 2007



Make plans now to tour Europe with President Janet and Frank Philipp next spring.

Preliminary plans are underway for a 10-12 day European tour with Dana College alumni and friends. The group will depart on or about May 30, 2007. Travels will likely include the Swiss Alps, the Romantic Road, the Rhine River Cruise, Amsterdam and Denmark, among other sites.

While in Denmark, the group will meet up with the Dana College Chorale to hear their performance in the Odense Cathedral. Odense is the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen. The tour will also include time in Copenhagen.

Experienced tour guide Jim Olsen, associate professor of art at Dana, will lead the tour.

Cost is estimated at \$3,000-\$3,200 per person based on double occupancy, including round-trip airfare, all surface transportation, breakfast daily, and admission charges to museums and historic sites.

For more information or to express interest in the trip, please contact tour leader Olsen at **402-426-7206** or [jolsen@dana.edu](mailto:jolsen@dana.edu).



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