

WINTER 2008

# Dana *review*

VOL. 65 | NO. 1

FROM HOUSE PAINT  
TO BUTTERFLIES,  
DANA STUDENTS ARE  
SHARING THEIR GIFTS OF

## SERVICE LEARNING

*inside the review:*

NEW ONLINE  
COMMUNICATION TOOLS 09

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Organic Dairy Farming  
with Dana Alumni

HOMECOMING 2008 12

# A Greeting

from President Philipp



We began the academic year welcoming the class of 2012. These students are an enthusiastic group with high aspirations. They quickly joined the upperclassmen in making Dana College a vibrant place for learning. Market research shows that Dana is a warm and welcoming community — a college of ‘doers’ — with well-rounded academic and personal experiences that enable students to develop leadership abilities and prepares them for the fast moving workplace. We know that college is a period of discovery and clarification for students. We also know that they will be challenged to learn more about what it is they want to do and how to do it. Along the way at Dana College they will experience high levels of active participation, faculty attention, and personal involvement. Students can leave the ‘crowd’ behind and think for themselves. Dana is a place where *Futures are Defined*.

I am pleased that for the second year in a row Dana was ranked in the Top Tier of the “Best Baccalaureate Colleges—Midwest” in the U.S. News & World Report’s annual “America’s Best Colleges” rankings. One of our challenges is to make sure that Dana continues to attract great students regardless of their economic status.

While the number of first-year students this fall was less than hoped for, the current economic climate has impacted Dana as it has many private colleges. We are also aware of the challenges facing all of our families. We take seriously our commitment to the students and have no plans for mid-year tuition increases or reductions in financial aid packages.

Tell us what you think of Dana’s new website. We hope the ease of navigation and dynamic content will keep you coming back to the site frequently. We want it to be a place for you to reconnect with your classmates and to be in community together as Dana alumni. We encourage you to use it as a place for ongoing dialogue with your alma mater. There are so many ways to be involved in the life and mission of Dana regardless of how many years or how many miles separate you from your time on the hill. Our new tagline is *Futures Defined*, a bold declaration that you know intimately first hand and that current students are living each day. We want to hear from you how you would like to stay involved. We’re listening.

Dana’s 125th anniversary promises to deliver some very special events. After reading the articles in this issue of the *Dana Review*, we hope you participate by nominating your choice for most notable alum. Watch the website for anniversary events throughout the coming year.

Janet S. Philipp

Janet S. Philipp  
President

## Features



### 9 New Online Communication Tools

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### 10 A Greener Moo

Organic dairy farming has become a hot topic in this era of Global Footprints, Eating Local and Going Green. Learn how alumni Jon Bansen '85 and his wife Juli (Schwandt '84) have become "celebrity farmers" in this growing industry.



### 12 Homecoming 2008

Homecoming was a huge success this year. There were Venerable Vikings. There was football, food, dancing, and fun. People came in cars. They came on planes. They even came on bicycles.



### 16 Service Learning

What is Service Learning? For Dana College, with the help of Vista volunteer Angela Archer, it is more than a catchphrase. It is a new component of a Dana College education.

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The Butterfly Project, run by Dana Associate Professor of Biology Karen Murch-Shafer, has helped serve as a community building exercise, as well as a service learning project, for Dana students, faculty and staff.

View the Dana Review online at  
[www.dana.edu/alumni](http://www.dana.edu/alumni)

# Dana Review

## Editorial Staff and Contributors

**Senior Editor:** Carrie (Larkins '94) Reed  
**Graphic Designer:** Becky Urlaub

**Contributors:**

Carrie (Larkins '94) Reed  
Kalani Simpson '93  
Ann (Harms '54) George  
Shad Beam '94  
Nikki Kinsey '99

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**View the magazine online at**  
[www.dana.edu/alumni](http://www.dana.edu/alumni)

**Professors Richard and Jan Potter** and eighteen social work majors and members of the Social Awareness Organization attended the *Step Up for Kids* event at the State Capitol in Lincoln on Sept. 16. The event was focused on social policies related to the needs of children and youth.

**Dr. Peggy Holloway** attended the College Music Society's national conference in Atlanta, Ga., on Sept. 24 – 28 as part of the official duties as President of the Great Plains Regional Chapter. She was a panelist/presenter for a round table discussion entitled "The Relevance of the Current Curriculum to Today's Students."

**Richard and Jan Potter's** book, *Spiritual Development for Beginners*, has just been translated and published in the Czech Republic.

**Jo Peterson**, MSW, Associate Professor of Social Work, has taught at Dana College since 2002. She has also served as the Omaha Coordinator of Nebraskans for Peace. She has worked on the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and on environmental and nuclear waste issues.

Nuclear power generation was a 'hot' topic in the current presidential race. **Jo Peterson** was invited to address the topic with the Sarpy County League of Women Voters in Bellevue, Neb. On Aug. 19, she provided a presentation to the group about the basics of nuclear power, key concerns and the candidates' positions.

## Out and About with **MUSIC AND MORE!**

**MUSIC AND MORE!** provided vocal and instrumental music for worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Arlington, Neb., on Oct. 12. Students participating were Carly Beckman, Carla Clark, Brooke Fencil, Katie Foote, Kristi Hanson, Ashlee Kica, Chris Lunbeck, Jennifer Oerman and Bridget Tighe. St. Paul's is the home church of Jennifer Oerman. **MUSIC AND MORE!** also presented vocal and instrumental selections at Good Shepherd Home in Blair on Sept. 28. Kayleen Amos, Carla Clark, Chris Lunbeck, Ashlee Kica, Bridget Tighe, Kristi Hanson, Jessica Roit and Clare Cowing participated in the worship service.

**MUSIC AND MORE!** participated in worship at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Sept. 14. Students presenting music were Kayleen Amos, Brooke Fencil, Katie Foote, Kristi Hanson, Christopher Lunbeck, Jennifer Oerman and Bridget Tighe. Clare

The group also participated in worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neola, IA on November 9, 2008. Students performed instrumentally and with chimes. They also lead the Children's Sermon.

On Aug. 19 **Richard and Jan Potter** (social work) presented a seminar on "The Role of Spirituality in Recovery" for the Co-Occurring Task Force at Community Alliance in Omaha.

On Oct. 3-4 **Dr. Milt Heinrich** attended the 75th annual meeting of the American Lutheran College Faculties held at Concordia University, Chicago. The topic of the conference was "Me, Myself, and Identity."

### Art at Dana

Paintings by **Greg Walter**, assistant professor of art, were exhibited at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minn., during the month of October.

Art by **Gregg Pejsar**, adjunct instructor of English, has been selected for exhibition at the 61st Juried Show at the Sioux City Art Center. The show received 443 entries from 155 artists, and Pejsar was one of only 25 artists selected. The display will be on view from Dec. 13, 2008, through Feb. 15, 2009.

## Campus News

### DANA COLLEGE RANKS IN TOP TIER OF U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S ANNUAL AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES



For the second year in a row, Dana College earned a spot in the "Top Tier" of the "Best Baccalaureate Colleges

- Midwest" in the 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report.

Dana College President Janet Philipp says she is pleased that Dana has again earned a rank among the best in the Midwest. Dana's rank of 38th is 10 positions higher than last year's mark.

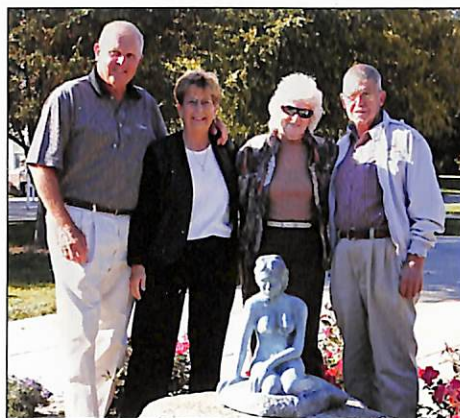
"This ranking is a significant indicator of the quality and value of the educational experience for students enrolled at Dana College," Philipp said.

The schools ranked in the "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" list focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs—in the liberal arts, which account for fewer than half of their bachelor's degrees, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. There are 319 baccalaureate colleges within four regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

The Midwest region includes Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

Using a proprietary methodology, the annual U.S. News & World Report rankings examine how schools stack up based on a set of indicators of excellence including peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

A complete summary of the methodology used to rank each school can be found online at [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges).



Don '60 and Joyce (Vasby '60) Jorgensen and Vera and Folmer Nyby

### STATUE DEDICATED DURING DONOR VISIT

Faculty, staff, students and community members gathered Tuesday, Sept. 30, to formally dedicate the statue of "The Little Mermaid" on the Dana College campus in Blair.

Folmer and Vera Nyby of Fountain City, Ariz., and Michigan City, Ind., generously gifted this replica of the Little Mermaid to Dana in 2005 in honor of the 200th birthday of Hans Christian Andersen. Their September visit was their first to Dana College. They were accompanied by their friends, Dana alumni and Regent Emeritus Don '60 and Joyce (Vasby '60) Jorgensen.

Folmer Nyby told those in attendance that a similar statue graces his home in Arizona, and that "Mermaid" statues have been given to the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, as well as the Danish Old Peoples Home in Chicago, Ill. Folmer Nyby estimated that he and his wife have purchased about 10 of the statues.

"We kind of got carried away," joked Folmer. "Now there is one at Dana, too."

## Kinsey '99 Named Director of Marketing and Communications



**Nikki Kinsey '99** has been named Director of Marketing and Communications at Dana. In her new position, Kinsey will oversee the integrated marketing, communications and public relations efforts of

the college. She began her duties on October 15th. Kinsey will also continue her position as an adjunct professor of graphic design, resuming in the spring semester.

Kinsey comes to Dana from Corporate 3 Design in Omaha where she spent the last three years as an Account Executive. At C3D, she led marketing, design and website projects for clients including Creighton University and the Mid-America Center.

Previously, Kinsey spent five years at Westcon Group North America as a Graphic Designer and Marketing Associate.

Kinsey returns to Dana where she graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Design and Fine Art with a minor in English.

## Blair Named Director of Admissions



Dana College's new director of admissions is not a stranger to the office. **Tina Blair** rejoined the admissions team as its leader in August. She had previously worked as the campus visit coordinator and an admissions

counselor at Dana before spending the past year as a manager at First Data in Omaha.

At the mid-point in the recruiting year, Blair is optimistic that her team will meet or exceed its goals for new students in 2009. "The counselors have been working exceptionally hard to reach their individual and team recruitment goals," Blair said. "We had a great turnout at our first scholarship day of the year in November and are now working to enroll those students for the fall semester."

Blair received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Grace University in Omaha. She has more than 20 years of experience working in marketing and college admissions and is currently working toward her master's degree in counseling.

### ANNUAL ARIZONA LUNCHEON

Alumni and friends of Dana are invited to join President Janet and Rev. Frank Philipp at the annual Arizona Luncheon on Saturday, February 21, 2009.

The luncheon will be held at the Arizona Golf Resort, 425 S. Power Road, Mesa, Ariz., and will begin at 11:45 a.m. A luncheon mailing will be sent early in January 2009.

If you are not receiving our mailing, have a different winter address or know of Arizona residents or visitors who might like to attend, please contact Chrystal LeGrand, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement, [clegrand@dana.edu](mailto:clegrand@dana.edu) or 402.426.7208.

**NEW FACULTY AND STAFF  
PART OF DANA RANKS**

Three new full-time faculty have joined the ranks at Dana College this fall.



**Dr. Christopher Gade**, assistant professor of psychology, is a graduate of University of California at Berkeley, receiving his Ph.D. in social and cognitive psychology in May. His master's is also

from the University of California at Berkeley and he received his bachelor's of science in psychology and mathematics from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. Gade is originally from Minnesota and is an avid Vikings and Twins fan.



**Dr. Erica Lyon**, assistant professor of chemistry, received her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Texas A&M University and did her post-doctoral work in bio-chemistry/microbiology at a Max

Planck Institute in Germany. She taught most recently at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky.



**Greg Walter**, assistant professor of art, received his master's in fine arts from the University of Nebraska and his bachelor's in fine arts from Mankato State University. He previously taught at

Lansing Community College in Lansing, Mich., and Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Mich. Walter is an active artist himself and is currently represented by the Period Gallery of Omaha, Neb., which maintains an internet virtual gallery space for him.



Also new to Dana this fall is **Wanda Hogue**, administrative assistant for academic affairs. The Logan, Iowa, native has worked for over 15 years in the legal field and obtained her business paralegal associate

degree in 1996. She also earned an associate degree in early childhood studies in 2007.



**Carey Ellison** and Heather Hall join the Dana recruitment team as admissions counselors. Ellison is a graduate of Texas Christian University where she majored in movement science.

She was an ambassador and worked in the Admissions Office at TCU where she also helped with the baseball and football recruiting events.



**Heather Hall**, a 2008 graduate of Dana College, began work in the Admissions Office prior to graduation. At Dana, she was active as a Dana Diplomat, on the dance team and in campus ministry.



**Annie Hutton** is another new addition to Dana's recruitment team. As the campus visit coordinator, Hutton is responsible for ensuring that all prospective student visits at Dana run smoothly.

She is a 2007 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she earned her degree in communications.



**Becky Urlaub**, a 2008 graduate of Wartburg College, is Dana's new graphic designer. Urlaub majored in art and graphic design and minored in business at Wartburg. She has recently become a

published photographer as well, with four of her images featured in the Fall 2008 issue of *Fifth Wednesday Journal*.



**Shane Larson** is the new head coach of the Viking women's basketball team and instructor of sport management. Larson has spent the last two years as the recruiting coordinator and

assistant coach at Fort Hays State University in Kansas. He has also had coaching stints at Piper High School, Washington High School, and his alma mater, Bethany College (Kansas).



**Jill Clark**, formerly administrative assistant to the president, has moved to the role of registrar. Clark also worked in the Dana College Registrar's Office in the 1990s. She is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University.



**Sarah Bouman** joins Dana as the online program recruiter. She is responsible for working with prospective students on Dana's new online programs. Bouman is originally from Middlesex,

England and is a graduate of Portland State University. Most recently, she worked for Pilot Group in Manhattan, NY.

**"BLACK ELK SPEAKS"  
PART OF 125TH  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Dana College alumnus Hal Berry '66, a professor of history and theatre at St. Charles Community College in a suburb of St. Louis, will produce John Neihardt's classic "Black Elk Speaks" on stage as part of Dana College's 125th anniversary celebration in July 2009.

"Black Elk Speaks," adapted for the stage by Christopher Sergel, is a two-act drama that begins with a trusted Lakota Holy Man, Black Elk, praying at the ceremonial ground on or near Harney Peak, S.D., in October 1931. Black Elk, with his relatives surrounding him, traces the events of life for American Indians in North America from the arrival of Columbus to the tragic massacre in the freezing Dakota plains at Wounded Knee in 1890.

"Black Elk Speaks" was a two-time selection of Dana's Liberal Arts Reading Program (LARP).

The play will be shown July 15-19, 2009, in the Lauritzen Theatre in the Madsen Fine Arts Center on the Dana College campus.

## Student Life Has New Faces, New Focus

The Student Life Office at Dana College is responsible for all of, well, things relating to student life. Residence life, student activities, career services, counseling services and health services are all functions of this critical department.



With the hire of **Dr. Susan Yowell** this summer as vice president of student engagement, the Student Life Office now has a new focus to its efforts. "The shift in language from Student Life to Student Engagement reflects a commitment to encouraging students to be actively engaged in the life of the college, in the classroom, the labs, on the playing fields and in residence halls," Yowell said. "We want students

to be engaged in leadership and service opportunities. Student Engagement is a new way of talking about student learning and development."

"Recently the trend across the country has been to focus on engaging students in their learning. This fall we will take part in the National Survey of Student Engagement and the Faculty Survey on Student Engagement to provide us with a baseline of how engaged in learning our students are today. This will assist us in creating new opportunities for engagement," she said.

Yowell brings more than 25 years of experience in student affairs. Yowell comes to Dana from Brevard College in Brevard, N.C., where she spent the last five years as the dean of student affairs. Her chief responsibilities included management of staff in the areas of housing

and residence life, student activities, counseling, health, career services and leadership and outdoor recreation. Her department was also responsible for the scheduling of all campus activities.



Also new to the team this fall are **Ashley Bandow**, coordinator of student activities and area hall director, and Antonio Jenkins, director of residence life and area hall director. Bandow brings her expertise in leadership development and assists the Campus Activities Board with creating a wide range of activities and events.

She recently received her master's in counseling and student personnel from Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minn. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.



**Antonio Jenkins** brings a strong background in residence life programming and will help us to create a strong on-campus community. He has experience in student life at Rhodes College, University of Alabama, University of Memphis and Alcorn State University. He earned his master's degree from Alcorn State, his bachelor's

from Delta State University and is currently pursuing a doctorate in leadership at the University of Memphis.

The new faces join Lorna Auch, recently promoted to director of career services, Pam Talbot, campus nurse; Diane Nickeson-Ray and David Hoppe, counselors, and Sandy Sonderup, student life assistant.

### LONGTIME ADJUNCT RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. John McClain, adjunct professor of social work at Dana for 15 years, received the National Association of Social Workers Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual conference of NASW Nebraska on Oct. 10.

Professors Richard and Jan Potter and student Keith Block of Sioux Falls, S.D., attended the conference. Jan, past president of the organization, presented the award to McClain.

Dr. McClain, currently a Senior Research Scientist at the Munroe-Meyer Center for Genetics and Rehabilitation in Omaha, is a member of the Dana College Social Work Advisory Board. Recently retired from the position of Associate Vice Chancellor/Chief Student Affairs Officer of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Dr. McClain has had a long and distinguished social work career working in the fields of developmental disability, cultural diversity and health, social justice, and geriatric social work.

His nomination read, in part, "Dr. John McClain is a gifted, caring, and committed

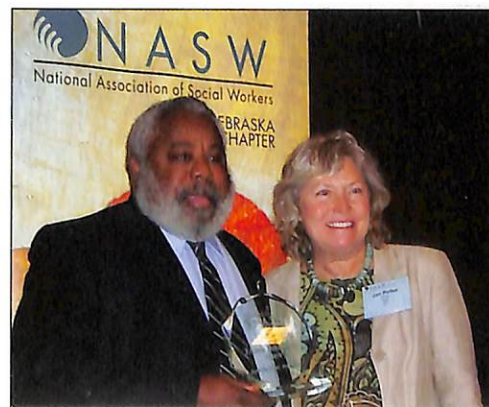
social worker who has been a nationally respected leader in our profession through a multitude of endeavors since the early 1970s. His innovative, courageous work serving people who have been marginalized by society has had a tremendous cumulative effect upon the welfare of the people of Nebraska and the entire country. Dr. McClain is truly gifted at the quintessential social work skill of bringing people together.

"I met Dr. McClain over twenty years ago, when he came to the Omaha area to take his first position at the Munroe-Meyer Center for Genetics and Rehabilitation," Jan said. "A colleague introduced us, telling me that, 'You absolutely have to meet this outstanding man!' I immediately invited John to speak to my classes, and soon he agreed to teach a number of Dana College courses as an adjunct.

"Over the course of 15 years, Dr. McClain taught a class each semester. The courses that he taught give some idea of the depth and breadth of his knowledge: Grant Writing, the African American Experience, Child Welfare, and Social Work Practice and Developmental Disabilities.

"Students loved Dr. McClain's classes, and he went far beyond expectations for an adjunct. He mentored students diligently, he challenged them to think in new ways, and he even invited them to his home for dinner at the end of the semester. (By the way, he's a great chef!)

In addition, he put in long hours as a volunteer consultant on a yearlong campus-wide multicultural initiative (1994-1995), a project that had a positive impact upon the college, and he has participated in critical program planning and evaluation efforts, valuable service that is not expected of adjunct professors."



**BE IN TOUCH WITH DANA  
ACTIVITIES THROUGH  
EVENTLINK™**

Alumni and friends of Dana College are invited to sign up for a free event reminder and update service called EventLink. EventLink provides users with event updates via email and text message. Dana College will use it as an event reminder system and as part of its emergency communication plan for closings, delays or other important events that require immediate communication with the entire school community.

Anyone with internet access and an email address can sign up for EventLink. From single sports schedules to student senate meetings, EventLink is an efficient, reliable and easy to use system that delivers messages to users instantly.

Visit [www.dana.edu/about/eventlink](http://www.dana.edu/about/eventlink) to sign up today.

**PERSON, JONES CROWNED  
HOMECOMING ROYALTY**

Jon Person of Olathe, Kan., and Jamie Jones of Gretna, Neb., were chosen as the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen at Dana College.

Other members of the court were Sara Andrews of Omaha; Erin Bazata of Randolph, Neb.; Amanda Bryant of Treynor, Iowa; Ernesto Bueno of Salt Lake City, Utah; Greg Elsberry of Omaha; and Wade Jordan of Coulee City, Wash.

Adam Woldt of Marcus, Iowa, and Lacie Greiner of Boone, Iowa, served as junior prince and princess.

Roger Cattle of Seward, Neb., and Laretta Starkey of Wessington Springs, S.D., were sophomore duke and duchess.

Cody Brousek of Wahoo, Neb., and Gabriella Doyle of Omaha, were chosen as freshman joker and lady of the court.

**SCAVENGER HUNT  
INTRODUCES FIRST-YEAR  
STUDENTS TO COMMUNITY**

The Dana College Class of 2012 had a unique opportunity to get to know the Blair community. The Blair Area Chamber of Commerce helped organize a scavenger hunt of Blair businesses during New Student Orientation.

The first-year students used clues to find Blair businesses. While there, students were treated to snacks or coupons relating to the

business before receiving their next clue. Some businesses even had applications available for part-time work.

**ONE-MAN SHOW GAINS  
ATTENTION OF PLAYWRIGHT**

The Lauritzen Theatre was host to yet another top production offered to the campus and community. "It is No Desert," a one-man performance featuring Dana senior Thomas Gjere, written by Dan Stroeh, and directed by Dr. Paul Schneider opened to the public on Friday, Nov. 23.

The two-act performance centered on the story of Daniel Stroeh (the author) and the transitions in his life after being diagnosed with neurofibromatosis, an incurable, debilitating disease.

Gjere, who has been active in Dana's theater and music departments throughout his college career, selected this play as his senior project.

Upon hearing of his play being shown, Stroeh made a surprise appearance at the Saturday evening performance. The playwright traveled from St. Louis to watch Gjere take on his role. This was the first time Stroeh had ever seen his play performed.

This show also became the first production offered between Dana College and Midland Lutheran College. By having performances on both campuses, students receive additional exposure to help develop both theater departments.



**It's Time.**

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[www.dana.edu/academics/online](http://www.dana.edu/academics/online)



**INSPIRED  
TO SERVE**

Was there a faculty or staff member from your days at Dana that was a true inspiration to you? Did you see in them a spirit of service that you wanted to emulate?

We are seeking nominations from Dana alumni for the first annual Dana College Alumni Inspiration Award. This award will be presented to the Dana College faculty or staff person who most inspired his/her students to serve others. The person nominated may be living or deceased, current or past.

To make your nomination, please submit a letter by email or postal mail to:

**Dana College**  
**Carrie Reed**  
**Director of Alumni Affairs**  
**and Special Events**  
**2848 College Drive**  
**Blair, NE 68008**

or [creed@dana.edu](mailto:creed@dana.edu). Letters must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2008, or emailed by Jan. 5, 2009. Your letter should include the nominee's name and a few paragraphs on how they inspired you and what you have done as a result of that influence. A committee will determine the award recipient.

The award will be presented on Jan. 19, 2009, at the Dana College Alumni Inspiration Breakfast that will be held as part of the college's Martin Luther King Day events. A limited number of free tickets will be available for this special breakfast. To make your reservation, please contact Carrie Reed at 402.426.7385 or [creed@dana.edu](mailto:creed@dana.edu).

# Dana Unveils New Website and Weekly E-newsletter



Dana's rejuvenated website officially launched to the public on November 1, 2008. The site features an updated look and feel that complements the new branding efforts and marketing campaigns currently underway. The website can be viewed at [www.dana.edu](http://www.dana.edu).



C3D Owner Jon Smith, Lane Roberts, and Chris Johnson '05 review the new site.

update and maintain their respective sections in-house. Advanced search engine optimization features and various online "extras" have made this site one of the most advanced in the state.

The site, designed and developed by Corporate 3 Design in Omaha, Neb., has a fresh, modern look that is not only eye-catching but is also easy to use. A CMS (Content Management System) was also put in place to allow administrators and departments access to

Dana is also pleased to introduce its first e-newsletter tool, aptly named *The Weekly D*. This newsletter includes a variety of separate campus emails and incorporates them into one central locale. Sections within *The Weekly D* include Campus Digest, Faculty and Scholarship, Athletics, Alumni Updates, and Community News. Each issue will display Faith & Spirituality and Health highlights as well.

*The Weekly D* will also serve as a resource for Dana alumni, students, faculty, staff and community partners to submit their upcoming events and announcements via the "Submit News" form.

Dana students and alums have taken part in the creation of these new online communication tools. Chris Johnson '05 and senior Lane Roberts have been an integral part of the development and design, as part of the C3D creative team. Sophomore Kendall Burke, a graphic design major at Dana, has also been involved in adding content and photos to the site through his internship in Dana's marketing department.

Visit *The Weekly D* online at [www.dana.edu/weeklyd](http://www.dana.edu/weeklyd).

## Degree Completion Now Just a Click Away

Dana has recently announced a new addition to its online programs. Joining the two certificate programs is the first degree completion program offered at the school. Dana's Bachelor of Science in Management program is geared toward those who have started their post-secondary education, but have not yet finished.

The BSM program has been developed for students who desire to advance their management talent and skills so they can pursue a career in a business environment.

"Dana College is continuing to develop online programs to reach out to students and make a Dana experience portable and possible for them," states Dr. Kate Joeckel, associate professor of communication and program director for Dana's online campus.

For those who have begun their collegiate career but were unable to complete their degree, this is a prime opportunity to reactivate their educational goals. Students will complete a business core of foundation and general education courses and will be given credit for certain life and work experiences as well.

All courses within the BSM program are taken online with the exception of one on-campus course. It is an opportunity to experience (or re-experience) Dana College first-hand and strengthen your connection to the Dana community.

Visit Dana's online campus at [www.dana.edu/academics](http://www.dana.edu/academics) to find out more information on the degree completion and certificate programs offered. Contact Sarah Bouman, online program director at 402.426.7963 or [bouman.sarah@dana.edu](mailto:bouman.sarah@dana.edu).

# a greener moo

By Kalani Simpson '93



Photos by Carrie Branovan for Organic Valley

Just look. Go ahead, Google him. Magazine articles. There are stories about him all over cyberspace. In this age of instant information, and with everyone agog over *Going Green*, one might classify Jon Bansen '85 as something that sounds impossible: Celebrity farmer.

"Ah, shucks," he says. "I've just fallen in the right spot at the right time," Bansen said, adding an easy laugh. "I was in it fairly early and I like to shoot my mouth off, so it all works."

It does. You can tell he finds joy in what he does. That much shines through. You couldn't find a better cover boy for the glamorous world of organic dairy farming. And, oh, yes, organic dairy farming is very big, now, in this era of Global Footprints and Eating Local and Thinking Green.

"My grandfather was an organic dairy farmer," Bansen said. "He just didn't know that's what it was called."

But these days there are lots of people out there happy to hear that when it comes to farming, the new way is the old way. No herbicides, no pesticides. No commercial fertilizer. All natural. People love that.

There's a strong niche market for it, these days. Going organic has been a great business move.

"People really want to connect with how their food's produced," Bansen said. "They want to see who's doing it. Consumers really put the farmers up on a pedestal."

They do. Thus, this: Check him out in this TV pilot at [www.theheadtable.net](http://www.theheadtable.net), an all-star roundtable reality talk show for the "foodie" set. Celebrity farmer, indeed.

When Jon's wife, Juli (Schwandt '84), transferred in to Dana after two years, she'd never imagined herself living life on a farm. Then she met Jon Bansen. And she still never imagined it. "He tricked me," she said. Another easy laugh.

He was majoring in biology. He was going to stay in the Midwest. He was on his way to becoming a vet. But then his dad called. Then the farm called. It turned out, his heart called. He realized being in the family business, being out with the cows on the farm, was what he'd wanted all along.

And Juli? Too late, she was already in love. "I was already locked in," Juli said.

"I was from Oregon and she was from Nebraska," Jon said. "I started chasing her from the beginning. I took a couple years to catch her."

They were off to Oregon, off to the farm. Jon loved it. Soon, Juli, who had gone to school to earn a degree in social work, loved it, too.

It's funny. Her father had grown up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. He was very excited when he heard his daughter was marrying a dairy man. But he found out Jon was raising Jerseys and not Holsteins, and then, well... Even the great love stories have one "Meet the Parents" moment.

## Family of Humans

The Bansens bought their farm 17 years ago. They went organic in 2000. They have more than 300 acres and more than 200 cows.

They have four kids. Ross, 19. Christine, 17. Allison, 14. Kaj (pronounced “Kai,” it’s a good Danish name), 12.

They have an untold number of relatives who went to Dana. Jon’s parents. His sister. A cousin. His uncle was Dr. Norman Bansen, a professor at Dana for decades. “He was a real institution,” Jon said. “In those golden-era days, him, John Nielsen, Richard Jorgensen – we called him King Richard. Larrie Stone, that whole bunch of old guard.”

Juli’s sister went to Dana, and she decided to join her there. Their dad was on the board of regents.

They met each other there. Jon chased her for two years, then brought her back home to Oregon, to the farm, where they both belonged.

When the cows walk into the parlor to get milked the Bansens say things like, “I remember when she was a baby.” They see the generations. They watch them grow up.

## Family of Cattle

Dairy farming is that rare area of agriculture in which you can actually afford to get attached to the animals.

At Double J Jerseys in Monmouth, Ore., Jon and Juli Bansen love their cows. In one of those internet articles, Jon said the day the cows go back out to pasture is better than Christmas.

“He has names for all his cows,” Juli said. “Did he tell you that?”

No, he didn’t.

“The milking herd all has names. He does it so if the mother’s name is ‘Maple’ her offspring will have an ‘M’ name, too. “He can look at a cow and tell the whole generation of a cow right there.”

In most operations, cows will have tags with numbers in their ears. At Double J Jerseys, the ear tags have names.

When the cows walk into the parlor to get milked the Bansens say things like, “I remember when she was a baby.” They see the generations. They watch them grow up.

Juli, she of the social work degree, is in charge of the calves. Seven days a week, that’s her job. She’s grown to love it. “Jerseys have great personalities,” she said. “I say it’s because they’re so well taken care of when they’re young.”

They’re using their Dana educations. Both of them.

“He’s the biologist and I’m the social worker,” Juli said.

They both love those cows, being on the farm. It’s better than Christmas, when the cows are back on the grass on the first day of spring.

Jon had always loved farming, but this was different, going organic. This was real

farming. This was the way it ought to be. Cows outside, instead of in. Eating grass instead of feed. There’s something about it that just feels right. Cows are meant to eat grass. It’s what they’re built for. It’s biology.

Double J Jerseys is in a co-op of farmers and farms called Organic Valley. It was looking for farmers looking to go organic. At the time, “We were already pretty darn close to doing it,” Jon said. It sounded just right to him. They took the plunge.

There’s something about it that just feels right. Cows are meant to eat grass. It’s what they’re built for. It’s biology.

Once again, he realized his heart was telling him this was what he’d always wanted to do. This was farming the way farming should be. He was being a farmer the way his grandfather was. Naturally. Scientifically.

How much so? Forget pesticides. The Bansens have birds — swallows — to take care of the bugs.

“I’m a big grazing proponent,” he said. Forget feed. “You get healthier cows to start with. If you’ve got healthy cows ...”

There’s a market for this kind of milk, a niche. People love it, love the idea of it, as well as the taste. He’s even a little bit famous, in this internet age.

But best of all is the farming. Best of all are the cows. Doing this the old way, the best way. There’s something great about it. They’re using their Dana educations. She’s the social worker, he, the scientist.

“It turns out,” Jon Bansen said, “farmers study a lot.”

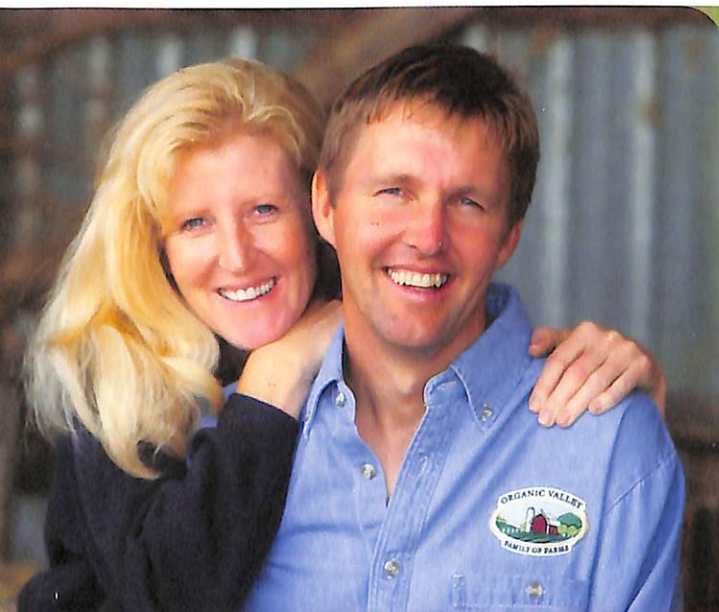
## Jon and Juli’s Connections:

### Jon’s relatives:

Norman Bansen (Jon’s uncle) ‘43 - Professor 40 years  
Lloyd Bansen (Jon’s father) ‘53  
Ann (Jessen) Bansen (Jon’s mother) ‘56  
Karen (Bansen) Maguire (Jon’s cousin) ‘71  
Lisa Bansen-Harp (Jon’s sister) ‘83  
Ted Bansen (Jon’s brother) ‘89 has worked at Dana the past 10 years  
Margie (Miller) Bansen (Jon’s sister in law) ‘87  
Erin Bansen (Jon’s niece) ‘05  
Katie Bansen (Jon’s niece) ‘04

### Juli’s relatives:

Roxanne Schwandt-Fauque (Juli’s sister) ‘78  
Alton Schwandt (Juli’s father) Board of Regents ‘76-’88



# HOMECOMING 2008

WAS A

# *Huge Success.*

There were distinguished alumni. There were Venerable Vikings. There was football, food, dancing, and fun. People came in cars. They came on planes. They even came on bicycles. Here are some of their stories.



# Dana

**Dick Coffey '68 and Jean (Coffey '58) Pristas**

rode their bicycles across the Nebraska to Homecoming this year.

# Coffeys Take Unconventional Transportation to Homecoming

## Ride Bikes 400 Miles to Raise Money for Dana.

**G**rant, Neb., was the origin of a recent 400-mile bike trip across the state. Brother and sister team Jean (Coffey '58) Pristas of Newcastle, Colo., and Dick Coffey '68 of Friday Harbor, Wash., left their niece's home early Thursday morning, Sept. 25, with the destination of Blair, home of Dana College, to attend the college's Homecoming and class reunion celebration Oct. 3-5.

Each had a special landmark reunion to return for: Jean celebrated her 50th, and her brother his 40th class reunion.

The two had grown up in a family of six children in Blair, and attended the local college along with most of their siblings in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

Upon making plans to attend Homecoming, Jean decided to turn her passion for biking into a fund raising opportunity for the college. She contacted classmates, who pledged money per mile or straight donations. The idea yielded nearly \$3,000 in scholarship money for the college.

The pair reported mostly beautiful weather, good roads and very considerate drivers on their trip. They traveled about 10 miles per hour and averaged 65 to 70 miles each of the six days they were on the road, making stops for the night at Curtis, Johnson Lake, Kearney, Loup City and Osceola, where they camped in tents.



No strangers to long trips, Dick had pedaled a 2,000 mile stretch from Lake Itasca, Minn., to Natches, Miss., roughly following the Mississippi River in 2003, with his sister and her husband Paul accompanying him by car and bike.

*This article originally appeared in the Grant Sentinel-News. It is reprinted here with permission.*



# Baack receives Distinguished Alumnus Award

Pittsburg State (Kan.) University Professor Donald Baack was honored as Dana College's Distinguished Alumnus during 2008 Homecoming festivities.

Baack, a 1975 graduate of Dana College, has been repeatedly recognized as an academic writer and expert. He is the author or co-author of three college textbooks, one high school textbook, three popular press books, and a small encyclopedia of advertising.

He is the winner of two "Best Paper" awards at academic conferences and a finalist two other times. He is currently preparing a set of ethics "modules" for Pearson Custom Publishing across all business disciplines.

Baack has been nominated for the Distinguished Educator through the Southwest Academy of Management and Distinguished Alumnus at Lincoln East High School. He has received the Excellence in Research Award twice from Pittsburg State, where he has taught since 1988, and also received Pitt State's Excellence in Teaching Award.

He taught in the business department at Dana from 1981-84 and has also taught at Missouri Southern State College and Southwest Missouri State University.

In Baack's acceptance speech, he spoke highly of the Dana education he received and the place that Dana continues to be today: "At the end of the day, what most organizations need, more than anything else, according to my friend Bob Trewatha, is a good VCR, when VCR stands for values, commitment, and relationships. Dana has a good VCR.

"Dana has a good VCR because it begins with values. The strong ties with the Christian faith and life in the church build a strong foundation, for students, for faculty, and for everyone else associated with this fine college.

"Dana has a good VCR because it keeps its commitments. The commitment to the liberal arts form of training best prepares

students for all sorts of vocations. In business, we constantly clamor for students who can think critically and communicate effectively. These two skills are enhanced by attending a place like Dana.

"Dana has a good VCR because relationships are built here. Not so long ago, I was asked to write some marketing materials for a textbook that would be used by professors for teaching seniors in college. I wrote that the most wonderful part of being a professor may be that each year you build strong relationships with a handful of students. Those students will remember you for the rest of their lives; a daunting thought. During my times at Dana as both a student and as a faculty member, those relationships grew and blossomed. Some of those people are here; the others are in my memories.

**"Dana continues to focus on tomorrow. Through quality programs and continual renewal, tomorrow is in good shape."**

"Dana is in great shape, because Dana has a great VCR. As we move forward, Dana will remain strong not only because of its VCR, but because of its TIVO — Tomorrow, Investment, Vantage point, and Opportunities.

"Dana continues to focus on tomorrow. Through quality programs and continual renewal, tomorrow is in good shape.

"Dana remains strong through investments, by donors, alumni, and by the time and energy the faculty continues to give to students."

"Dana has the right vantage point. As a struggling member of Dana's junior varsity basketball team, I made it a point to prepare for the season by jogging from

the bottom to the top of the hill, touch the cross when I arrived, and then collapsing, exhausted. The effort paid off. As I have often bragged to my students, I led the Dana junior varsity basketball team in two key statistics: personal fouls and technical fouls. In any case, from the cross on the top of the hill, the view remains magnificent. Dana's vantage point remains clear and consistent.

"Dana continues to provide quality opportunities to students and faculty. I am certain that will remain the case in the years to go.

"Yes, Dana also has a great TIVO. It makes me proud to be an alumnus of such a wonderful place with all of its great traditions."

A business administration major at Dana, Baack also participated in theater, junior varsity basketball, the *Hermes, Danian*, intramurals and had a radio show on KDCV.

He and his wife, Pamela, have three grown children, Jessica, Daniel and David.

# Schmidt named Outstanding Young Alumnus

After a brief stint teaching music in public schools, this year's Dana College Outstanding Young Alumnus found an even higher calling.

1998 Dana College graduate Søren Schmidt is program director at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He uses his musical talents to communicate his love of Christ to hundreds of youth each summer.

Dr. Richard Palmer, professor of music at Dana and director of the Dana College Chorale, presented Schmidt with the award.

While at Dana, Schmidt was both involved



Donald Baack, (center) accepting his award from Dana classmate Rev. Tim Waggoner '77 and President Philipp



Dr. Richard Palmer; Søren Schmidt and President Philipp

and honored. He was president of Dana's chapter of Music Educators National Conference, music director and DJ on KDCV and DVTV operator. He participated in 13 plays and musicals for the Dana College theater. He was a member of New Day singers, jazz band, concert band and the Dana College Chorale. He served on Student Senate, wrote for the *Damian* and was member of the Spring Fling and Winterfest Courts. He also was a member of the Dana College wrestling team. Schmidt was named to the National Dean's List, received the Dana Service Award and was listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

Schmidt found himself heavily involved in the performing arts after his wrestling career was cut short due to injury. In presenting the award, Palmer joked that Schmidt always referred to him as "Coach."

Since graduation, Schmidt has received the Vilas P. Wensel Music Award from West Iron County Schools, the Victims' Advocate Service Award, Manchester's Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals and Continental's Who's Who Among Business Professionals.

He is a published and recorded poet and musician. His Christian band "Kadesh" was a national semi-finalist in a Christian music competition. He has performed at local theaters to raise funds for charity. He also starred as "Tom" in "The Glass Menagerie" at the Crystal Theatre, a semi-professional theater in the Cleveland area, along with a great deal of community theater involvement. He has served as pulpit supply for the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America since 2002.

He and his wife, Rebekah, live in Crystal Falls, Mich.

## Dana College inducted three former Vikings into its 2008 Athletic Hall of Fame



### Shawn Fasbender

Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Shawn Fasbender '97 excelled in everything he did while a student at Dana - on the basketball court, on the baseball field and in the classroom.

As a junior, Shawn earned NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete honors. He followed that up with a second honor his senior year.

He received honorable mention all-conference basketball two years and was named first team all-NAIA as a senior.

He still ranks fifth on the career scoring list with 1,591 total points and third on the career rebounding list with 874. When he graduated from Dana, he led the career standings in blocked shots with 94 and still ranks second on that chart. He is also second in career steals with 175.

Fasbender was no slouch on the baseball field where he earned all-conference and academic honors from the pitcher's mound. He pitched a no-hitter in 1996 and had five hits in one game, also in 1996.

He earned top honors for an accounting student in 1997, served as a resident assistant for two years and vice president of Dana's chapter of FCA.

Fasbender was also well respected by his peers, being crowned Winterfest King and voted to represent his class as senior speaker at graduation. He earned his Certified Public Accountant certificate in 2000, but has moved on to serve as a private in the Indianapolis Fire Department.

Former Dana College Head Men's Basketball Coach Dave Jensen presented Fasbender the award.

He and his wife, Kristin, live in Indianapolis with their three children, Kaitlin, 5, Megan, 2, and baby Will.



### Kathy Foley

In Kathy Foley's 19 years at Dana (1981-1999), she wore a lot of hats—teacher, mentor, athletic director, coach. She filled in as coach for whichever women's sport was missing a leader, coaching women's basketball, softball and volleyball, or all three at once.

Under Foley's leadership, many of Dana's women's teams had their best seasons in history. Foley led Dana to its first Nebraska Intercollegiate

Athletic Conference championships in softball (1985) and volleyball (1987). She also coached two Dana women's basketball teams (1992 and 1993) that advanced to the NAIA District 11 championship game and within one win of national tournament berths. She was named NAIA District Women's Basketball Coach-of-the-Year in 1984-85 and NIAC Softball Coach of the Year in 1983.

In 1993, Foley was named the first female athletic director at Dana. In 1994 and 1995, she was named NIAC Administrator of the Year. In 1995, she also received NAIA Regional Female Athletics Administrator of the Year for the Great Plains region.

As a collegiate student athlete, the Blair, Neb. native earned All-Big Eight honors in softball at UNL, finishing as a runner-up for State Female Athlete of the Year. She also played basketball for the Huskers.

One of Foley's former athletes and previous Dana Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Ronda Fritz '87 presented Foley with the award.

### Stephenie (Wilson) Tupa



Stephenie (Wilson) '96 Tupa left her mark on the volleyball court, tennis court and softball field, earning seven varsity letters.

Tupa's mark was literal on the volleyball court. It was never a given that an opponent's kill would hit the floor if Tupa was in the game. Before the libero was a position in volleyball, Tupa excelled as a defensive player. She is atop the Viking charts in career digs with 1,000 more than the player in the number two spot.

Defense wasn't her only talent, however. She also still ranks among the best in career kills (3rd) and service aces (3rd). Her efforts earned her first team all-Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference honors as a senior and she was twice named honorable mention all-conference.

In 1995, Tupa received the Shelter Scholarship, presented to 10 or more academic juniors in the NAIA for their accomplishments in the classroom, in the community, and in their respective sports.

Tupa served as intramural director and worked with the Dana Soccer Club.

Now, Tupa continues to be involved in athletics as a volunteer club volleyball coach in Center Point, Iowa, where she lives with her husband, KC, a 1999 Dana graduate, and their four children, Kole, 7, Kanon, 5, Easton, 4, and Addyson, 2.

Friend and fellow Dana alumna Amy Brown '95 presented Tupa the award.





# FACES OF SERVICE

## WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING?

FOR DANA COLLEGE, WITH THE HELP OF VISTA VOLUNTEER ANGELA ARCHER, IT IS MORE THAN A CATCH PHRASE. IT IS A NEW COMPONENT OF A DANA COLLEGE EDUCATION.

BY CARRIE (LARKINS '94) REED

Service learning by Dana students have brought educational toys to families who home school, bees and butterflies to children interested in science, advertising campaigns and web sites to nonprofits, a place to practice English to Spanish-speaking residents, and more.

Angela Archer has made a big impact on the Dana College campus in a short amount of time. A former nonprofit director herself, she found herself displaced by Hurricane Katrina and looking for what to do next. "A friend suggested 'maybe you need to give back yourself and that rang true for me,'" Archer said. She looked into the AmeriCorps VISTA program, a national service program in which members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit organization.

Archer came across the need for a service learning coordinator at Dana College and Dr. Kate Joeckel, associate professor of communication and assistant dean for partnerships and new initiatives at Dana, and Dr. Susan Udey, professor of business, convinced Archer to spend a year in Blair, Nebraska. "They told me service was important to this campus and Dana just needed help getting there," Archer said.

Archer arrived on campus in December 2007 and hit the ground running. Volunteerism and the idea of service have been important to Dana College for a long time. All campus organizations, athletic teams, residents of the suite-style housing and many classes had service components, but efforts were not coordinated or tracked.

Her efforts have taken this foundation a step further. Service learning, according to Archer, is more than volunteerism, "more than putting peanut butter on the shelves."

The Midwest Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education, of which Dana is a member, defines both academic and co-curricular service learning:

"Service-Learning is a pedagogy, which integrates service in the community with academic study (theory/curriculum). Faculty, in partnership with representatives of non-profit, community organizations, design service-learning projects that meet identified community needs to advance the student's understanding of course content and which help to strengthen the community. Strong

reflective components are built into the course to help students consider relationships between their service, the curriculum of the class, and its impact on their personal values and professional goals.

"Co-Curricular Service-Learning is distinguished from Academic Service-Learning in that it is not anchored in a specific course, but rather is a part of the students' "life experiences" (for example, residential life, career development, and residential learning communities). The pedagogical framework of co-curricular service-learning cultivates student reflections upon the intersection of the needs and concerns of their communities with their personal values and professional goals."

"The ultimate learning happens when you have real-life experiences," Archer said. "It's vitally important that students understand why they are learning. It gives them experiences they can build upon."

Dana College students are pursuing both academic and co-curricular service learning through the enthusiasm of their faculty.

Professor Ann Adkin's education students have embarked on "Project WEST" (Washington County Educational Student Trunks). They are creating educational outreach trunks for the Washington County Historical Association Museum in Fort Calhoun. Working in pairs (or threes) they are exploring ideas for the trunks and selecting items that could be included in the trunk for teachers to use with their students—extensions of information at the museum.

"Since I wanted the students in the elementary social studies methods class to have the opportunity to participate in a service learning project (in the hopes they would be inspired to use this teaching methodology with their own students), working with the historical association seemed to be a close fit to the curriculum," Adkins said.

"It has given my students a little background in service learning and also given them the opportunity to explore the resources available to use in social studies classes," she said. "The trunks will give the schools and teachers in the community another resource to use with their students—items that are not available to them in the schools."



Students in Dr. Jim Smith's Management Information Systems class are building sites for Joseph's Coat in Blair, the Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault in Fremont, and the Blair Public Library Foundation. His Advertising students are working on promotional plans for the After School Academy (another service learning project), the Jeanette Hunt Animal Shelter in Blair, the Bachelor of Science in Management degree program at Dana College, and the Memorial Community Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop.

All of these nonprofits approached Dana College looking for assistance and everyone is seeing a benefit.

"Students are getting an eye-opener to the world of work," Smith said. "The community is receiving a service that they need for no charge."

Students in Dana's upper-level Spanish courses offer a Spanish-English Conversation Club one evening a week at the Blair Public Library. "We help Spanish speaking members of the community with their English," said Hollie Siebler, a Dana College junior who is a part of the program.

They have had one very regular visitor to the Conversation Club. "She speaks pretty good English, but we help her practice," Siebler said. "We have her read stories and articles aloud so that we can correct her pronunciation. We also go over grammar rules with her and make sure that she understands what she reads and what we say. Sometimes we even bring more complicated Spanish words and she tries to explain to us what they are in English. We do a little vocabulary as well."

Dana's Education and Psychology Departments partnered with the Blair Public Library to develop a Toy Library and Educational Resource Room at the library.

The Toy Library provides all library cardholders with quality educational toys and learning activities that focus on children

newborn through age five, while also providing families and caregivers information on child growth and developmental stages.

The Educational Resource Room provides materials and equipment to families who would like to provide additional learning opportunities to their children. Items include magnet sets, maps, flashcards, etc.

Bees and butterflies have been at the center of one of the most popular service projects this summer and into the fall semester (see accompanying story). Dr. Karen Murch-Shafer and her biology students have made presentations and involved the community in learning more about pollinators through 4-H, the Washington County Fair, Blair Public Library Summer Reading Program, classroom experiences and civic and church presentations.

**"Students are getting an eye-opener to the world of work," Smith said. "The community is receiving a service that they need for no charge."**

First-year students and seniors had service learning as part of their experience this year. As part of New Student Orientation, 82 new students and their leaders spent part of a day volunteering at such places as Camp Fontanelle, the Memorial Community Hospital Auxiliary, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Good Shepherd Home.

Students in Liberal Arts Senior Seminar had a choice of four projects: Rebuild Together, the Youth Emergency Shelter in Omaha, the Blair Senior Center at the YMCA, and the City of Blair. This involved a wide range of projects so that students could pick something related to their own interests. "We wanted students to be able to get some hands-on experience in helping people, so that as they

read and reflect on their life values they could apply some of that and bring their reflections on the service back to the class," said Dr. John Lyden, director of senior seminar. "As part of their final presentations to their groups, they discuss their service projects and how they connected to their life philosophies."

The projects don't stop there. The Social Awareness Organization and Introduction to Social Work classes are filling backpacks for Camp Fire USA. Corporate communication major Kate Stump led a general awareness campaign by interviewing community service agencies for broadcast on KDCV radio last spring. Students in Dr. Barb Zimmerman's Lifespan Development class worked with a local youth group and the Good Shepherd Nursing Home to provide music and movement to both groups while facilitating social interactions.

Archer has structured a Service Rewards Program to provide incentives and rewards to students who do service projects on their own. Their service work earns them points that can be redeemed for things college students want and need every day – food, laundry detergent, toiletries, etc.

There are plans for all of these efforts and others to continue, even though Archer's volunteer time at Dana College is over in February. She has created a framework to support the continuance of service learning at Dana. Another VISTA volunteer will be brought in to help continue the program's momentum.

So, what is service learning? It's making a difference – a difference in your community and a difference in yourself based on the experience. American founding father Benjamin Franklin perhaps said it best: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I will learn."

*For more information about Dana's Service learning program, visit [www.dana.edu/campuslife/service](http://www.dana.edu/campuslife/service)*

# full flight

By Carrie (Larkins '94) Reed

Their first presentation in July was entitled, "Bees, Butterflies and More." The result of that simple science presentation has been more and more and more.

In the summer of 2007, Dana's biology department invested in an observation bee hive that could be taken out to schools and for other presentations away from the college. This summer, Dana College Associate Professor of Biology Karen Murch-Shafer and sophomore biology education and Spanish education major Roger Cattle ventured into the world of butterflies. The "Bee and Butterfly Ambassadors" have been busy, well as bees, ever since.

The miracle of nature is no more evident than in the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly. From a tiny egg to a majestic orange and black delicate winged creature, it is a process everyone should get the chance to view.

Murch-Shafer shares that awe of the Monarchs. "Several years ago, I attended a seminar on Monarch butterflies and was particularly amazed at the huge distance these



Local students take part in the "Butterfly Project"

delicate little butterflies travel," she said. Just before the beginning of the summer, Murch-Shafer and Cattle delved into that interest and began researching and observing butterfly metamorphosis in preparation for the project.

Their first presentation was at the Blair Public Library as part of their summer reading program, "Catch the Reading Bug." They brought the bees and they brought some Monarch butterflies. A few weeks later, they took the show on the road again, this time to the Washington County Fair. There children could sign up to raise and release their own Monarch butterflies.

This fall, through Dana College and the "Dana Butterfly Project" and with the assistance of Pam Ashley and the Washington County Extension Office, about 35 area families and four classrooms at three different elementary schools witnessed and helped along a miracle. Participants ranged from age two to grandparents.

With the Dana project, individuals raised caterpillars and watched the metamorphosis process, tagged and released their reared butterflies. They could also catch wild Monarchs and tag them too. More than 85 Monarchs were tagged and released.

The tags are part of "Monarch Watch," an educational outreach program based at the University of Kansas that engages citizen scientists in large-scale research projects. The Monarchs that the resident scientists cared for will migrate to Texas and Mexico. The tags allow their migration patterns to be tracked.

Two hundred Monarch Watch tags were distributed by Dana College, and more were requested. Approximately 140 caterpillars were distributed.

Participants in the project each received four Monarch larvae, each only a few days old. Caretakers had to provide fresh milkweed for the caterpillars to eat each day and clean out their cage as they grew and awaited metamorphosis. Once emerged, butterflies were tagged, recorded and set free.

"I can't believe how big they get and how much they eat," said Dana Butterfly Project participant Jonah Reed, age 6, as he anxiously awaited his caterpillars' transformation.

Jonah and the other participants not only provided valuable research data, but also helped

increase the number of Monarchs in nature. In the wild, 98 out of 100 eggs laid never become adult butterflies.

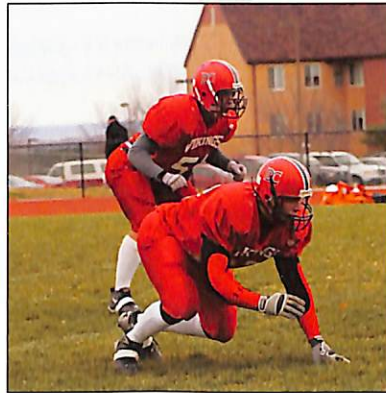
Murch-Shafer says this is a great outreach project for her biology students. It is not linked to a single course, but is open to all biology majors. Biology alumni have also been involved. "Students can get involved in their community by getting people excited about observing nature, being involved in an international research project and spreading the word of conservation and the importance of pollinators."

The Butterfly Project was only one component of Dana's service learning experience regarding pollinators. Murch-Shafer and her students have been invited to present to DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge, civic groups, church groups and elementary classes. Twelve biology students visited a second grade class at Deerfield Elementary in Blair this fall. There the Dana "head researchers" were paired with two second grade "student researchers" where they determined the sex of a live Monarch butterfly and recorded appropriate tagging information on a data sheet. At the end of the visit, each second grader got to release a tagged Monarch.

The butterflies have a presence at Crowell Home, a nursing home in Blair, as well. The biology students have set up a rotating display that includes pictures of butterflies as well as preserved butterfly specimens. Students also visit the home and take live butterflies around for the residents to view and even feed.

"It's really taken off," said Angela Archer, service learning coordinator at Dana, of the butterfly project. "It really speaks to finding what fits your community."





The 2008 Viking season was one of much excitement. The men's soccer team was invited to the NAIA National Tournament for the first time in school history. The women's volleyball team finished with one of their best overall records. The cross country team continued to place highly in the GPAC conference.

And that is just the beginning...



# ATHLETICS

## FALL RECAP

### FOOTBALL

The Dana College football team finished the 2008 season with a 3-8 record. The Vikings picked up wins over Briar Cliff University, Waldorf College, and Concordia University. Seven games this season were against teams either in the NAIA Top 25 or receiving national ranking votes.

Marcus Sladek (SR, Omaha, Neb.) finished his career at Dana College at the top of most major passing categories. This season Sladek was the Vikings' top runner with 391 yards and six touchdowns on 107 attempts. Sladek completed 242 of 416 pass attempts. He also threw for 2,149 yards, 13 interceptions, and ten touchdowns. Jake Harral (SO, Omaha, Neb.) was 33 of 57 for 287 yards and two touchdowns.

Taylor Wade (FR, Council Bluffs, Iowa) carried the ball 59 times for 182 yards and a touchdown.

Mark Schlueter (SO, Omaha, Neb.) was the top target for the quarterbacks. Schlueter led the conference in catches with 112 and yardage with 1,075. He also caught eight touchdown passes. Chris Phalen (SR, Omaha, Neb.) caught 59 balls for 503 yards and one score.

### CROSS COUNTRY

The men's cross country team placed fourth in the GPAC conference meet in Hastings, Neb., this season. The Vikings were led by junior Cory Logsdon (Fort Calhoun, Neb.) and freshman Nathan Gaunt (Griswold, Iowa). The pair finished in the top 25 at the conference meet. The roster did not feature a senior this season.

The women's cross country team placed eleventh at the GPAC meet this year. Christina Hanson (FR, Spirit Lake Park, Iowa) was the top finisher at the conference meet with a 45th place finish. Rachel Ness (JR, Seward, Neb.) was the top Viking runner most meets. She finished in 70th at the conference meet.

The women's team graduates two runners and looks to be even stronger next year. This season the Vikings ran in some of the toughest meets in the Midwest. Dana travelled to the Sean White Lakefront Invite in Chicago, Ill.; the Woody Greeno Invite in Lincoln, Neb.; and the Yellow Jacket Invite in Lamoni, Iowa.

### MEN'S SOCCER

The men's soccer season was the best in the program's eight-year history. The Vikings finished the season 15-5-3 overall and qualified for the NAIA National Tournament for the first time. Leading the way for the Vikings were ten seniors including Corbin Lukasiewicz (Omaha, Neb.), Dominic Marasco (Omaha, Neb.), Ryan Farr (Converse, Tex.) and Taylor Walker (Omaha, Neb.). Other seniors include Kiel Montgomery (Indianola, Iowa), Ernesto Bueno (Salt Lake City, Utah), TJ Bartels (Omaha, Neb.), Brian Logan (Lincoln, Neb.), Cody Dalbec (Rockford, Minn.), and Dan Adler (Omaha, Neb.).

Thor Brown (JR, Midway, Utah) and Lukasiewicz lead the Vikings with eight and seven goals respectively. Matt Cross (SO, Roseville, Minn.) added six additional goals, including five game-winning goals. Kurtis Kraatz (JR, Heber City, Utah) and Chris Allen (JR, Kansas City, Missouri) have combined for 15 wins, 11 shut-outs, 91 saves, and 1.30 goals against average.

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer program advanced to the GPAC tournament semifinals before being eliminated. Dana finished the year with a 9-9-1 record and played four top 25 teams. The Vikings finished in a tie for fifth place in the conference standings. In the GPAC tournament, Dana defeated third-seeded Midland Lutheran in Fremont, 3-1.

Michelle Mullen (SO, Omaha, Neb.) led the Vikings with 13 goals and eight assists. Seniors Kara Fox (Omaha, Neb.) and Jenna Talero (Lincoln, Neb.) combined for nine goals and six assists.

Dana's starting line-up featured nine freshmen or sophomores. Samantha Flowers (JR, Council Bluffs, Iowa) played the last eight games of the season in goal for Dana. Flowers, who had no previous keeping experience, won four games and made 39 saves.

### VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team finished with one of their best overall records in recent memory. Dana completed their season with a 16-20 record and finished in eighth place in the GPAC. The Vikings also won their first ever GPAC tournament game by sweeping Mount Marty at home, 3-0, before bowing out to conference champion Northwestern.

Dana hosted the Viking Tournament this year and finished with three wins. They swept the season series with Midland Lutheran, Mount Marty, and Sioux Falls. The Vikings won nine of eleven matches' midway through the season.

Dana graduates only one player from the varsity roster this season. Nichole Elwood (SR, Fremont, Neb.) was instrumental in Dana's offense this year. The setter dished out 516 assists and served 19 aces. Kali Brayfield (JR, Elkhorn, Neb.) moved into the top five in career kills with 325 this season and 846 for the career. Megan Higgins (SO, Council Bluffs, Iowa) had a breakout season with 280 kills and 27 solo blocks.

### GOLF

The college golf season is split into two parts this year, fall and spring. The golf team has finished the first half of their season in good fashion. Dana currently sits in sixth place after two of the four GPAC Qualifier meets with a team total of 729. Emily Duncan (SR, Norfolk, Neb.) is in a two-way tie for seventh place with a score of 171. Sarah Penke (JR, Blair, Neb.) and Lisa Nollette (SR, O'Neill, Neb.) are in the top 25 following 36 holes of play.

Kiley Foxhoven (SR, Fremont, Neb.) won the Dana Invitational at River Wilds Country Club this fall. Foxhoven finished the meet with a round of 79. As a team, the Vikings won the team title by 14 strokes over Sioux Falls and Hastings.

2008-2009

## WINTER UPDATE

**EIGHT VIKINGS MAKE GPAC ALL-CONFERENCE**

The Dana College football team placed eight players on the 2008 Great Plains Athletic Conference All-Conference football teams.

Leading the way for the Vikings was wide receiver Mark Schlueter (SO, Omaha, Neb.). Schlueter was the conference leader in receptions with 112 catches and yardage with 1075 yards. Schlueter earned second team all-conference honors. For his efforts, Schlueter was also named one of the Victory Sports Network-GPAC Top 25 players.

Offensive lineman Clayton Timm (SR, Treynor, Iowa) and defensive back Davis Pattee (SR, Avoca, Iowa) also earned second team honors. Pattee ranked third in the conference with 73.5 tackles and averaged 6.7 tackles per game.

Five Vikings were named to the Honorable Mention team. The Viking offense was represented by quarterback Marcus Sladek (SR, Omaha, Neb.), wide receiver Chris Phalen (SR, Omaha, Neb.), and lineman Tyler Lauifi (FR, Pearl City, Hawaii). Nate Weathers (JR, Omaha, Neb.) and George Drinnin (SO, Omaha, Neb.) represented the defense.

Dana finished the season with a 3-8 overall record and was 2-8 in conference play. The Vikings are coached by Bill Danenhauer. Danenhauer finished his sixth season at the helm of the Viking football program.

**TWO VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS EARN ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS**

The Dana College volleyball team announced two players were named to the All-Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball teams.

Kali Brayfield (JR, Elkhorn, Neb.) was named to the All-Conference second team. Brayfield led the Vikings with 325 kills and served 28 aces.

Megan Higgins (SO, Council Bluffs, Iowa) was named Honorable Mention All-Conference. Higgins was third on the team

with 280 kills and 74 total blocks.

The Vikings finished their season with a 16-20 mark and was 5-11 in the GPAC. Dana advanced to the second round of the GPAC tournament for the first time in the program's history. Dana volleyball is coached by Rayna Cain. Coach Cain is in her third season as the coach of the volleyball program.

**FIVE PLAYERS NAMED ALL-CONFERENCE**

The 2008 Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Men's Soccer All-Conference team has been selected. The Dana College Men's Soccer team placed one player on the first team and two players on the second team.

Leading the way for the Vikings with first team All-GPAC honors was midfielder Corbin Lukasiewicz (SR, Omaha, Neb.). Lukasiewicz earned second team All-GPAC honors last season as a junior. This year, he was tied for a team high seven goals and led the team with 17 points.

Dana placed two players on the GPAC All-Conference second team. Forward Thor Brown (JR, Heber City, Utah) and defender Ryan Farr (SR, Converse, Tex.) represented the Vikings on the second team. Brown was tied with Lukasiewicz with a team high seven goals. He also dished out three assists. Farr was a 2006 and 2007 All-Conference selection and receive Honorable Mention All-American honors in 2006.

Lance Barton (JR, Salt Lake City, Utah) and Travis Barton (FR, Salt Lake City, Utah) earned Honorable Mention honors for Dana. Lance was an all-conference selection in 2005 and was Honorable Mention All-American in 2005. He spent the past two seasons on a mission trip to Mexico. Travis Barton had two goals and eight assists in his freshman campaign. The eight assists led the GPAC.

**WOMEN'S SOCCER PLACES FIVE ON ALL-GPAC TEAM**

The 2008 Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Women's Soccer All-Conference team has been selected. The Dana College Women's Soccer team placed one player on the first team and another player on the second team.

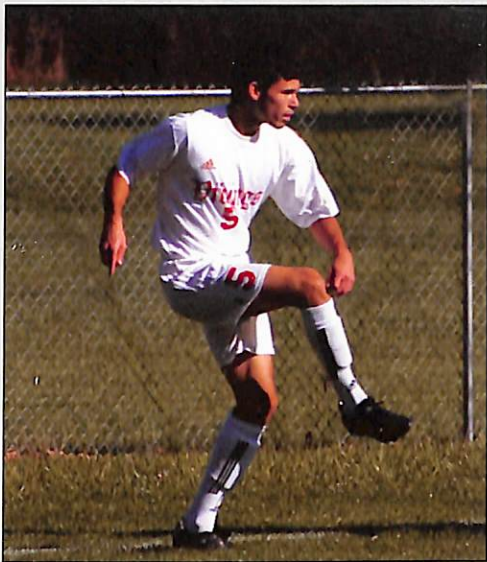
Leading the way for the Vikings with first team All-GPAC honors was midfielder Michelle Mullen (SO, Omaha, Neb.). Mullen was the team leader in goals, assists, and points. She tallied 13 goals and eight assists for a total of 34 points during the 2008 season. Mullen ranked third overall in the GPAC standings in total points and goals. She was tied for the conference lead with eight assists.

Jenna Talero (SR, Lincoln, Neb.) earned second team All-GPAC honors at forward. Talero ranked second on the Viking squad with five goals, four assists, and 14 points. She also had game winning goals against Briar Cliff and Dakota Wesleyan.

Dana had three players named to the Honorable Mention GPAC squad. Earning honors were defender Mandy Overall (JR, Las Vegas, Nev.), goalkeeper Samantha Flowers (JR, Council Bluffs, Iowa), and midfielder Sheila Mullen (SO, Omaha, Neb.).

"This is another good year for the women's soccer program here at Dana College," said Head Coach Shad Beam. "We have a great future ahead of us with most of our team returning next season. Our senior leadership will be lost, but I feel we have a great foundation to take us to the next level in 2009."

The Vikings finished the season with a 9-9-1 overall record and were 6-5-1 in the GPAC. Dana advanced to the semi-finals of the GPAC Tournament. Head Coach Shad Beam is in his second season at the helm of the Dana College women's soccer program.



## LIVING AND TEACHING THE DREAM

For 12 years, Dana College senior Ernesto Bueno has been pursuing his passions on and off the soccer pitch. As a member of the Dana College men's soccer team, Bueno has been a part of a national tournament qualifier. Back home in Salt Lake City, Utah, Bueno is helping to spread his passion to the next generation of soccer players.

"I started coaching by helping my younger siblings and cousins," Bueno said. "I wanted to make sure they knew how to play smart, aggressive and with a passion."

Bueno had played for Coach Bill Barton in Salt Lake City for eight seasons. Three years ago, he became too old to play for the team. Barton asked Bueno to become a volunteer assistant coach for the team in which he used to play. It was an opportunity that Bueno jumped on and it proved to be a great experience.

"Coach Barton taught me how to have fun and put us in a pressure-free environment," said Bueno. "It was in this type of environment we all learned to advance our skills."

Bueno believes his experience at Dana College has also helped to develop his coaching skills. Establishing a good rapport and communication with the players is a must.

"You have to separate coaching and friendship on the soccer field," said Bueno. "This is hard for some coaches to do, but in order to be successful you need to do it."

This summer he travelled with his Gamecocks team to Honolulu, Hawaii, for the club national tournament where the Gamecocks won National Club Championship.

## SLADEK, SCHLUETER DOMINATE FOOTBALL RECORD BOOKS

The 2008 football season saw the end of one of the most prolific quarterback-receiver combinations in the 80-year history of Dana College football. Marcus Sladek (SR, Omaha, Neb.) and Mark Schlueter (SO, Omaha, Neb.) have rewritten most of the Dana College passing and receiving records.

During this season, Sladek broke several records held by Alan Pogue '91, who is in the Nebraska Football Hall-of-Fame. Sladek now holds almost every passing record at Dana College. Late in the season his 7,619 passing yards topped Pogue's record of 7,505. Sladek completed 805 of his 1,448 passing attempts. The previous record was 538 of 1,091.

Schlueter has two years left in his Viking career, but he sits near or atop of most career statistics. He already is the career receptions leader with 191 catches. Schlueter is 527 yards behind Brent Leefer's '93 career yardage mark of 2,558. This season Schlueter set the single-season reception record with 112. He also averaged 10.1 catches per game, which is a Viking single-season record.

Dana finished the 2008 season with a 3-8 overall mark and was 2-8 in Great Plains Athletic Conference play. Coach Bill Danenhauer has finished up his sixth season as the head football coach. His career mark of 22-44 is fourth all-time.



Marcus Sladek



## BRYANT BREAKS 1,000 POINT BARRIER

Amanda Bryant (SR, Treynor, Iowa) became the 12th player in Dana College women's basketball history to top the 1,000-point mark for a career.

The 6-2 post player put up 17 points against Waldorf College to break the barrier. Currently, Bryant sits in tenth place all time with 1,048 points as of Nov. 20. She has a chance to slip into the top five all-time if she continues her current pace. Bryant currently sits in fourth place all-time in blocked shots with 54.

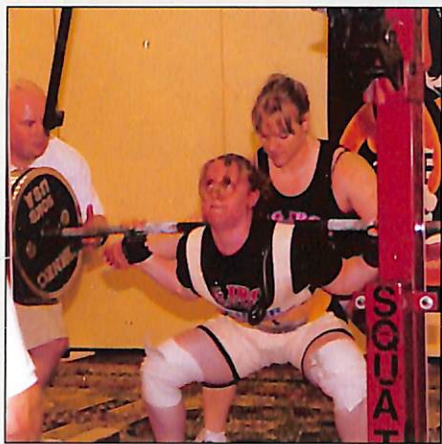
Dana is currently 6-5 overall in the young 2008-09 season. Coach Shane Larson is in his first season at the helm of the women's basketball program.



# ONCE A VIKING,

THESE VIKING WOMEN MAY BE GRADUATED, BUT THEY ARE IN AS GOOD OF SHAPE AS

## KRYSTAL CARY '07



Cary displays her power lifting ability

Never let it be said that Dana doesn't produce strong women.

Krystal Cary '07 may be just one example of this, but she is also the one with the world records to prove it. Cary, who played two sports at Dana (she was on Dana's 2006 Great Plains Athletic Conference-champion softball team and ran cross country) has since become one of the best in the world in the relatively new sport of women's powerlifting. Exactly how good is she?

"They send me a certificate every time I get a world record," she said. "Hold on, I'm going to try to count them here." A shuffling of paper reveals she is the holder of junior (age 23 and under) world records for bench press of 308.5 pounds, squat lift of 501.5 pounds, and a total of 1,195.5 pounds. (Powerlifting consists of three lifts, and also includes the dead lift.) Naturally, she also holds the junior national records in these events, and likewise went up a weight class to capture the junior national records in squat, bench press, and bench press only.

Just another Dana strong woman.

Of course, it will get tougher. Cary just turned 24, and has outgrown the junior ranks. Also, she allows that powerlifting for women is a new sport — what we see in the Olympics is known as weightlifting — and there aren't many women in it. It's there for

the taking. "The records are not out of reach," she said.

But if she were in it for the records, she'd know them off the top of her head.

She's in this because she loves it. It reminds her of those times spent together working with her Dana softball teammates on that championship squad.

"The work ethic," Cary said. "When you're playing college sports you've got to give everything you have to it. And that's the way it is with this, too." Cary said, "Weightlifting has always been a big part of my life. I love the competition and the challenge."

It was part of playing sports. But then she graduated and looked for something else.

"I ran two marathons when I got out of college," she said. And that was great — but seriously, that was enough.

“ Some of the best memories I have from college are our softball team...and it really reminds me of what we're doing now. ”

"After I ran the marathons," Cary said, "I knew this" [powerlifting] "was what I wanted to do."

She ended up at a place called Big Iron Gym. It's a powerlifting hot spot. "There's a team, and a coach over there," Cary said. It felt like home.

"I'm part of a team," she said. Just like at Dana. They'll train for up to five hours at a time. It doesn't seem like it. "It's something you have to want to be there for," Cary said. "And you have to enjoy it, or you're not going to last."

She'd always liked lifting. But this is the

ultimate, in every way. She trains with world champions. (Wait a minute — so do they.)

Aside from a high school student who joins occasionally, Krystal Cary is the group's only woman. She doesn't mind. None of them do.

"I grew up with two older brothers. It's not a big change for me," she said. "They've taken me under their wing. They treat me like their little sister or something." They look out for her. They root for her.

Her teammates are not the only ones.

Krystal is activities director at a retirement home, which she loves. And yes, she even teaches an exercise class.

And they've also found out her secret identity as a powerlifting superhero. "They are my biggest fans," she said. "They ask me about it every day. We have a little bus at work. They wanted to take it down to Florida." (The World Powerlifting Congress Powerlifting and Bench Press World Championships were Nov. 20-23 in Palm Beach, Fla. As this issue of the *Dana Review* goes to press, we don't yet know how Krystal did.)

Even before worlds, it had been a whirlwind ride. Her first meet was in March, and she won that. In it, she'd qualified for the national meet, in May, which was in Omaha. "It was kind of nice," Cary said. "Our gym actually hosted it. It was a lot of work."

And then came the world records. It was a rush.

The only downside now to all of these feats of strength is that she is built differently than the woman who played softball, and ran those marathons. She is lifting world-record totals, and training five hours a day. "Unfortunately, I put on a lot of weight," she said. And, "You have to train about 10 pounds over your weight class. So that's been one of the drawbacks."

But again, that's fine for now. She's in this because she loves it, and she knows she won't be able to have a hobby like this forever. "It's the time of my life when I can do something like that," she said. She's not married, doesn't have any kids. She can just do this, and love it, and be strong, and be on a team.

There's always something great about being on a team, and being strong.

"Some of the best memories I have from college are our softball team," she said. "And it really reminds me of what we're doing now."

# ALWAYS A VIKING

WHEN THEY WERE ATHLETES AT DANA. HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE UP TO. BY KALANI SIMPSON '93



Respeliers and Amy (Fullenkamp '06) Isaacson—soccer teammate

Melissa Respeliers '05 has been an educator and a personal trainer. She was the Council Bluffs (Iowa) St. Albert Catholic High School Female Athlete of the Year as a high school senior, and as a senior in college, she won the inaugural Spirit of Dana award. She'd started for four years in collegiate soccer. She was a highly decorated goalkeeper for the Vikings' soccer team, and at Dana she ran track, too: "I did have a (school) record in the 400," she said. "I don't know if I still do or not." (She does.)

At Dana, she was named one of the school's Champions of Character in 2005. And she still plays competitive softball.

She wanted to find a way to stay in the world of strength and fitness.

She just had no idea she'd be doing it in high heels.

"You have to wear these 5-inch high heels," Respeliers said. "Which was hard for me, because I'm an athlete."

No problem. It was only the latest hurdle, so to speak. Respeliers overcame that obstacle, and is achieving again, this time in the world of competitive bodybuilding. She just had her first competition at the end of September, and, of course, being Melissa Respeliers, all-conference goalkeeper, Dana Class of 2005, she won.

Yes, Respeliers was champion of the (76 total competitors from 15 states) 2008

## MELISSA RESPELIERS '05

Bluffs Classic, Beginner Figure, Tall. Yes, she was up there, on a stage, under bright lights, in a two-piece bathing suit and 5-inch heels. And she had a heck of a great time.

"I was kind of nervous," she said, "because I didn't have a coach to tell me what to do." But she apparently did very well. Her parents and her brother were there, and a former Dana soccer teammate, too. The music was pumping, and so was her adrenaline. The judges had done much of their judging at the walk through earlier in the day. The pressure was off by the time the crowd showed up. The main event was just for fun.

And then, when it was over, Melissa Respeliers had another award.

It had been a tough road. She'd been head coach of St. Albert's softball team and a preschool educator at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Council Bluffs. But it was her role as a personal trainer at Fit4Life in Council Bluffs which gave her the bodybuilding bug.

At Dana, she'd taken a weightlifting class as a freshman. Then athletic director Jim Krueger '85 encouraged her, she said. It was then that it first crossed her mind she might be a personal trainer someday. In 2006, she returned to Dana as an assistant soccer coach, specifically helping the Vikings with their lifting.

It was later, in the role of a personal trainer, that she helped with the organization and administration of a bodybuilding event. "I just saw the people onstage and thought I could compete with them," Respeliers said.

So she dove into it.

"Figure" is its own category, an offshoot of traditional bodybuilding. "It's more of a feminine look," Respeliers said. Apparently, thus, the high heels.

But by no means is it any less work.

Her training regimen was intense. She was lifting weights all the time, and doing cardio workouts every single day. "The biggest thing was the diet," Respeliers said. It was brutal.

But she kept training. The toughest part may have been a week before the

competition. Her softball team — featuring former Creighton and UNO All-Americans, and former Dana player Meaghan Shea-Evans '01 — was flying down to the USSSA World Softball Tournament in Florida. She had to remain in optimum physical condition. How could she keep up her diet of all diets while on a rollicking road trip to Florida? Somehow, she did it. (The squad finished second in the 41-team field, and former Viking Shea-Evans made the all-tournament team.)

“ I just saw the people onstage and thought I could compete with them. ”

In the end, all the hard work paid off. All the training, the workouts, the diet. She hit that stage and had more fun than she'd ever imagined. It was quite a feeling. And she was the winner in her very first bodybuilding competition.

So, has she found her new pastime, her new passion? Nope. She did enjoy it, that's true. And she'd proven she was good at it. She'd achieved again, she'd showcased her determination and strength. Once again, she'd risen to the competition.

But she's also smart enough to know when that's a good thing. And she's decided that competitive bodybuilding should be a one-time thing.

"It's not extremely healthy for my body," Respeliers said. "My body fat was below 10 (percent). And for women ..."

It's not the best place to be. And so she's bowing out. She is one and done. She was 1-0. Bodybuilding was just one more entry in her long list of accomplishments. For Melissa Respeliers, the next challenge awaits.

# The Copenhagen Gas Lamps

By Ann (Harms '54) George

Next year, in 2009, Dana will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding, in 1884 by Danish immigrants, of Trinity Seminary, the college's predecessor. Almost fifty years ago, in 1959, Dana and Trinity (which shared the campus until 1960) were preparing for a 75th anniversary, a Diamond Jubilee.

That same year, 1959, Copenhagen was replacing the gas lamps that had lined its streets for 102 years with electric lights. When Dana professor Norman C. Bansen '47 learned of these plans, he wrote to the Copenhagen street department about obtaining several of the lamps for the campus as a reminder of its Danish heritage.

It was Ingvar Dahl, director of Copenhagen's Department of the Environment,\* who replied. "The municipality will be glad to present the college with four of the old lamps," he wrote, "and begs to consider this a greeting from Copenhagen to Dana College on its 75th anniversary."

The Swedish American Line subsequently agreed to ship the lamps, free of charge, on the MS Carlsholm across the Atlantic to Chicago via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In announcing the gift, Bansen recalled that Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen had marveled at the new gas lamps, which replaced oil lamps dating to 1680, as he strolled along the streets of Copenhagen on December 4, 1857, the evening they were first lighted.

That stroll led Andersen to write "Godfather's Picture Book," in which he describes "that memorable year when gas replaced the old oil lamps in Copenhagen..."

On the campus, a 75th anniversary celebration was planned for Oct. 10, Homecoming weekend. Guests would include Count Kield Knuth-Winterfeldt, Denmark's ambassador to the U.S., and Nebraska native Val Peterson, this country's ambassador to Denmark.

Plans also included lighting the lamps—which would stand along the sidewalk between Old Main (built in the gaslight era)

and Pioneer Memorial—for the first time as part of the festivities.

The Carlsholm picked up the lamps in Copenhagen on August 8 and delivered them in Chicago 32 days later. Then a trucking firm lost them, and it was only after many phone calls by Phil Pagel '56, director of public relations, that they were found in an Omaha warehouse. The lamps arrived at Dana on November 16, much too late for the October 10 lighting ceremony.

Then in unpacking the four lamps it was discovered that one had been damaged in shipping, and it was put aside for replacement parts.

There was one more delay: The local gas company, which had offered to install the lamps at no charge, was hindered by bad weather, but it was able to place the three

Hans Christian Andersen  
had marveled at the  
new gas lamps as he  
walked along the streets  
of Copenhagen...

along the sidewalk between Old Main and Pioneer Memorial in time for Christmas.

They stood there for many years, their gas flames casting a mellow glow.

Over the past 50 years they've had only two mishaps, with the second one bringing about their relocation to the Korshøj Terrace.

The first mishap was minor: "Somewhere along the line," Phil Pagel says, "someone took a shot at one of the lamps and smashed the globe. I wrote to the Copenhagen street department as Bansen had originally done. Almost immediately they sent a replacement globe, and I recall when we opened the wooden case a bottle of Tuborg beer was enclosed wrapped in a note that simply said 'skaal.'"

The second mishap was more serious. A riding lawnmower hit one of the lamps and it couldn't be repaired or replaced, Pagel recalls. It was then that the remaining two were moved to each end of the terrace in front of Old Main (the Korshøj Terrace) and, at that time, because of problems in keeping the gas flames burning, they were converted to electricity.

The lamps weren't damaged when Old Main burned on August 25, 1988 – a photo taken that day shows them just to the left of a fire hose that's shooting a stream of water into the flames.

And so it's there on the terrace that the 152-year-old lamps stand today. To paraphrase from another of Andersen's stories, "The Old Street Lamp," "On what a number of events they have shone – how much they have seen."

*\*The Director of Copenhagen's Department of the Environment (Miljøborgmester) is responsible for public works, including utilities (power, water, sewers), air quality and public parks.*

*(Sources for this article include e-mail replies from Phil Pagel and John Mark Nielsen '73; Norman C. Bansen, "Old Copenhagen Gas Lamps to Light Dana Campus," Ansgar Lutheran, Oct. 12, 1959; "Copenhagen Lamps Glow," Alumnus (the alumni newsletter), December 1959; "The Old Street Lamp," Stories and Tales by Hans Christian Andersen (Hurd and Houghton, Cambridge Riverside Press, 1871); Peter L. Petersen, A Place Called Dana: The Centennial History of Trinity Seminary and Dana College, 1984; William E. Christensen, Saga of the Tower: A History of Dana College and Trinity Seminary, 1959; "Godfather's Picture Book," [www.andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/GodfathersPictureBook\\_e.html](http://www.andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/GodfathersPictureBook_e.html); "Borgmestret (fra 1847), Magistratens 5. Afdeling," [www.bibliotek.kk.dk/bibliotekerne/findbibliotek/rhb/digitale\\_boeger/borgerrepraesentationen/borgmestre](http://www.bibliotek.kk.dk/bibliotekerne/findbibliotek/rhb/digitale_boeger/borgerrepraesentationen/borgmestre).)*



# Why I Teach

This article written by Dr. Danielle Ladwig, assistant professor of secondary education, is the third in a resurrected *Review* series “Why I Teach.” Ladwig began teaching at Dana in the fall of 2007 following a career as a high school teacher. She earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate, all from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



When I was given the opportunity to write about why I teach, I couldn't imagine a more exciting topic. Teaching is what I have always done and all that I have known. I am a teacher.

From a very young age, I knew I wanted to teach. I come from a family of educators. My dad (Dennis Eitmann '65) began his career as an English teacher, my mom taught marketing, and my sister, a lawyer, is even teaching; perhaps it is in my blood. This is why I teach.

My career started in Madison, Neb., which has a high Hispanic population. Because I wasn't prepared to meet their language needs, I started graduate school and received an endorsement in English as a Second Language. As an English teacher, I also noticed that some students struggled with reading. I took more courses in the hopes of reaching those learners. I enjoy that aspect of teaching; being a learner along with my students. I also appreciate the challenge of continually searching for new and better instructional methods. This is why I teach.

After two years in Madison, I moved to Omaha and taught

English for eight years at Elkhorn (Neb.) High School. It was during these years that I continued beyond my master's, taking courses to improve my teaching. Before long I was close to having my doctorate. However, I was just starting a family, so the decision to complete the degree was difficult. With the support of my husband, I made the choice to finish.

In one of those moments in life where I felt as if there were higher powers at work, the completion of the degree coincided with the opportunity to be the director of secondary education at Dana; a gift and blessing.

My greatest joy as a teacher today is that I have the opportunity to prepare pre-service teachers and to instill in them the skills and knowledge it takes to be a good teacher, along with the passion and heart to be one of the best. I have always been proud to be a teacher. I try to pass along that sense of pride to my students, and I am confident that when they leave Dana College they will share their wisdom and passion with their students for many years to come. This is why I teach.

# The C3D Connection

## Dana Students, Alums and Clients Drawn to Corporate 3 Design

There's a lot of truth in the phrase "it's who you know," especially when referencing internships and employment in today's world. With economic instability and uncertainty looming around us, there is much to be said about the connections Dana has established within the community, alumni and area businesses. This new section has been established to share these stories with our readers.

Jon Smith, owner of Corporate 3 Design, a web and print design studio in mid-town Omaha, has become well acquainted with the Dana difference over the years. Throughout his time as

“There's something unique in the students coming out of Dana that sets them apart from the others.”

*Jon Smith – Owner of C3D*

president of the firm he's seen many Dana alumni and future graduates walk through the doors of his shop. From art directors and account executives to print designers and web developers, Corporate 3 has built a long-standing relationship with the college and its students. “There's something unique in the students coming out of Dana that sets them apart from others who apply for positions at our studio,” Smith says. “These individuals have an intangible quality that goes far beyond a degree. It's a mindset that many kids I see just don't have.”

Chris Johnson '05 began working as a web designer and flash developer for

Corporate 3 in the summer of 2008. His strong background in graphic and web design, as well as his positive attitude and work ethic, played equal roles in helping him land the job. In his current role, Johnson does work for companies including Methodist Health System and The Optimas Group.

Lane Roberts, a senior graphic design major from Hay Springs, Neb., was offered an internship at C3D over Discovery Term (January) in 2007. He has been working part-time as a web designer and developer ever since.

“It's been great to work in the “real world” with amazing designers,” says Roberts, “Just being in an environment with people who know what they are doing has taught me so much.

Dana senior Casey Newsom was also granted an internship at Corporate 3 this past summer. A graphic design major from Council Bluffs, Iowa, Newsom has a keen interest in logo design and magazine layout. He was able to work side-by-side with designers in the field, giving him a greater understanding of how a design studio works.

Nikki Kinsey '99 has had a connection with Corporate 3 Design since 2000. She was originally introduced to the studio when she began working for Voda One, a technology company located in Omaha. Her then boss, Jennifer Jensen '82, Voda's director of marketing, has hired the studio for a number of print and design campaigns throughout the years. Smith was their account executive.

In 2005, Kinsey switched things up when she herself became an account executive at Corporate 3 Design. After a three-year stint at the design studio, she accepted the director of marketing and communications at Dana. “Corporate 3 Design has given me the tools and resources needed to be successful in



Nikki Kinsey '99, Casey Newsom '08, Lane Roberts '09, Jon Smith and Chris Johnson '05 at the C3D studio.

this industry,” states Kinsey. “Jon sees the potential in young talent and helps cultivate creative, innovative individuals.”

Kinsey and fellow alum Max Riffner '99, team-taught a graphic design course at Dana last spring. Throughout the semester, their students were invited to visit Corporate 3's studio on a regular basis. Saturday sessions were offered so the class could experience first-hand what it is like to work in a graphic design environment. C3D senior designer Marcus White even came to campus as a guest speaker for the class.

“It goes far beyond a job,” Kinsey says, “this company wants to help young designers flourish and they are there to help those who are ready to learn.”

Read more about the Corporate 3 Design and Dana connection on page 9. The design studio designed the new Dana College website which launched to the public on Nov. 1.

*If you have stories that you'd like to share with us about an internship experience or if you know a company that would benefit from Dana interns, please contact Nikki Kinsey at 402.426.7216 or nkinsey@dana.edu.*

To read more about C3D, visit their website at [www.corporate3design.com](http://www.corporate3design.com)



## A Note

from the Advancement Office

### Dana Changed My Life

As a native New Yorker and lifelong Yankees fan, I shed a few tears over the closing of Yankee Stadium earlier this year. My wife, Sarah, has grown tired of listening to me wax nostalgic about the countless summer days I spent at the ballpark watching Guidry, Mattingly and Jeter from a \$5 bleacher seat. Like many people, I've groaned about the rising ticket costs and struggle to justify paying more for a hot dog than I used to pay to see a ballgame. It's hard to watch my favorite team leave their tradition and history behind only to build a new stadium full of luxury boxes. To me, the new stadium is a microcosm of the moral, civil and ethical issues that we face today.

Enter the recession, government bailouts, the bouncing stock market and a housing crisis. We are all concerned about the impact this will have on our lives and our personal finances. I'm sure most of you are having serious discussions and personal contemplations about your own philanthropic giving in the midst of such great uncertainty.

In my estimation, the importance of providing a faith and values-based liberal arts education to the leaders of tomorrow has never been more critical to our society. Places like Dana College provide a beacon of light in the midst of so much darkness. As Dana alumni, you carry this light out into the world and your generosity makes it possible for today's students and future students to launch their own little barks on destiny's deep sea.

"Dana changed my life." The Dana College Advancement team has the privilege of hearing this common refrain from Dana alumni as we travel around the country visiting with you and hearing your stories. The experiences are unique but the themes are constantly recurring. There are the favorite professors and the profound impact that they made. The friendships that span lifetimes through round robin letters, campus reunions, family vacations and the times spent together both in mourning and in celebration. The importance of Dana being a Christian college rooted in the Lutheran tradition.

These are challenging days for Dana, as they are for many small private colleges, but our mission has never been more relevant or important. As you evaluate your own situations and what you will give to charity this year, we hope you will continue to make an investment in Dana College and our students.

Thank you for the difference you continue to make in the lives of Dana's students.

God's peace to you and your family this Christmas season.

Jeremy Bouman  
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

## IRA Charitable Rollover is renewed!

The IRA Rollover enjoyed by many charitable donors in 2006 and 2007 has been extended for 2008 and 2009. This means that you can give directly from your IRA to Dana College without having to first recognize the distribution as income on your tax return.

"This is a great opportunity for our alumni. It allows them to enjoy the tax benefit of reducing their income, even if they don't itemize on their federal tax return," said Jeremy Bouman, vice president for institutional advancement at Dana. "It's a great opportunity to support Dana as well."

### What are the requirements?

- An IRA rollover donor needs to have reached age 70 1/2.
- Up to \$100,000 may be transferred from an IRA by Dec. 31 in each year.
- Married couples who each have an IRA can give up to \$100,000 from each IRA by Dec. 31 in each year, thereby giving as much as \$200,000 in each year.
- A recipient charity needs to be a qualified public charity (such as Dana College).
- An IRA rollover gift needs to be an outright gift – no benefits coming back to the donor (such as with a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust, or a seat at a fundraising dinner) AND no retaining future distribution decisions (such as with a Donor Advised Fund).
- An IRA rollover can be made from a regular IRA or a Roth IRA. An IRA rollover may be made from a SEP-IRA or a SIMPLE IRA only if the IRA owner has retired and is no longer making contributions.
- An IRA rollover can be used to fulfill a pledge.
- An IRA rollover qualifies for the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) of an IRA owner.

### How do I proceed?

Check with your tax advisor about whether giving from your IRA is appropriate for your situation.

Contact your IRA custodian to obtain any forms they may require and follow their instructions. If your IRA custodian does not have a specific form, please feel free to use the sample letter below. Without going into details about your intentions of how your gift should be used, let your IRA custodian know that you are giving to Dana College, 2848 College Drive, Blair, NE 68008. Should your IRA custodian require it, the Dana College Federal Tax ID number is 47-0376526.

Let Dana College know that you are intending to make a rollover distribution from your IRA. Please provide information about your IRA custodian and the amount to be received, so we can match paperwork and the check from your custodian. You can reach the Dana College Advancement Office at 402.426.7230.

**08** *Brittany Brogren* is teaching physical education (grades 7-12) and serving as assistant girls' basketball coach and junior high girls' basketball coach at West Point-Beemer (Neb.) High School. *Sarah Carroll* is employed at Blair (Neb.) Community Schools. *Felicia Ellis* is a management trainee with Hertz. She lives in Omaha. *Theodore "Teddy" Gillespie Jr.* is working as a certified nurses' aide at Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Blair. He is also pursuing his nursing degree at Iowa Western Community College. *John Justice* is a family specialist for EMQ Family and Child Services. He lives in Moreno Valley, Calif. *Ryan Ridder* is working as an account executive at Jones PR in Omaha. *Kirk Schjodt* is a music teacher at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Elkhorn, Neb.

**07** *Sarah Hutsell* is a resource teacher at Central City (Neb.) Public Schools.

**06** Heather and *Bernardo Cueto* are the parents of a son, Thor Christian, who was born June 10, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 5.6 ounces "with a full set of hair and blue eyes." The family lives in Grand Forks, N.D.



*Tyler Hodges* and Rebecca Massie were married Oct. 25, 2008, in Wahoo, Neb. Tyler is a secondary resource teacher in Oakland, Neb.



was born Aug. 8, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. The family lives in Omaha, Neb.

*Krista (Hein '06)* and *Kyle Walter '04* are the parents of a son, Thomas Zane, who



in Tekamah, Neb. Trent and his wife, Katie, live outside Tekamah, with their son, Jager Joseph, age 1.

*Trent Leichleiter* is managing Pheasant Bonaza Hunt Club and Kennel

**05** *Theresa Garrison* and Rev. Thomas Jacobson were married Oct. 19, 2008. Theresa is attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., working toward her master of divinity degree. She plans to graduate in May 2009.



*Jennifer (Muell) and Chad Harder '04* are the parents of a son, Andrew Jeffrey "A.J."

who was born July 15, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 inches long. The family lives in Minden, Iowa.

**04** *Carrie Whitehead* and Seth Hellbusch were married Sept. 20, 2008, in Papillion. The wedding party included Dana alumni *Pam (Evans '04) Moyer, Kathy (Wells '06) Hagen, Dan Hagen '06 and Becky Bryant '05. Alumni in attendance included Becky Hultgren '06, Karie Lenzen '05, Jana (Salmon '06) and Bobby Andrews '05, Zach Braun '05, John '05 and Julie (Miller '05) Roan, and L'ara (Holliday '04) Arcisbewsky.*

Carrie is a corporate support associate of payroll and human resources at TEKsystems. The couple has purchased a new home in Omaha.

**03** *David Abbott* and *Teri Abrendt '02* were married April 26, 2008, in Lincoln, Neb. The couple currently lives and works in Omaha. *Amanda Dvorak* received her master's of social work in May. She currently works full-time in utilization review with Uta Halee/Cooper Village in Omaha. *Derek Fey* placed 44th overall, tops among more than 50 Nebraskans who competed in the Bix7 road race in Davenport, Iowa, in July. The field of more than 10,000 was dominated

by runners from Kenya and Ethiopia. Fey ran the hilly seven-mile course in 37 minutes, 33 seconds. He lives in Omaha. *Craig Martin* and Michelle Brodersen were married Oct. 4, 2008, in Estes Park, Colo. Craig is an account associate/team leader at Credit Management in Grand Island, Neb. *Kali Peterson* and Peter Landmark were married Sept. 20, 2008, in Omaha. Kali is employed at Union Pacific in Omaha. *Jason Schwabauer* and Denise Schafer were married Aug. 30, 2008. Jason was recently promoted to a team lead at Qwest and transferred to Sioux Falls, S.D. He is in charge of a call center of over 100 front line consultants and six managers. *Sarah (Zehnder) Toll* and her husband, Matt, are the parents of a daughter, Ava Katheryn, who was born Sept. 25, 2008. The family lives in Lindsborg, Kan.

**02** *Christine (Reiners) Gochenour* is the new operations director for volunteers at Alegent Health Mercy Hospital. She is on the Trees Forever Board, Mercy Guild Board, and will be serving on the Lutheran Family Services, Wicker and Wine event board. She and her husband, Craig, live in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with their two dogs. *Lisa Grasso* and Ryan Siebenbrodt were married Sept. 26, 2008. Members of the wedding party included *Laurie (Grasso '99) and Cory Peatrowsky '96, Tony Grasso '07, Heather Legler '03 and Renee (Hesseltine '02) Kowlessar.* The couple lives in Des Moines, Iowa. *Hilary Ormseth* and Nick Rockwell were married Oct. 25, 2008, in Ralston, Neb. Hilary is an emergency medicine resident with the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

*Theresa (Soby) and Karl "Trey" Scholl III '00* are proud parents of Karl "Kai" Scholl



IV who was born on Aug. 22, 2008. He weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and was 21 1/2

inches long. Trey is a deputy diver for Hillsborough County and Theresa is a reading coach. The family lives in Wesley Chapel, Fla.

**01** *Megan (Olsen) Andersen* is teaching junior high English and social studies, study skills and coaching junior high sports at Mullen (Neb.) High School. She is a 1997 graduate of Mullen High School. *Nicholas Hollinger* recently accepted a position with American Eagle Airlines (regional carrier for American Airlines) as the general manager in Portland, Ore. *Michelle (Strohbehn) Hutchison* of Blair has published her first book, "Destiny of Darkness." She held a book signing at Blair Book and Supply in September.

**00** *Cedric Satterfield* received his bachelor of science degree from Doane College in information systems management (systems analysis and programming) in May. He works for TerraScan, Inc., testing software applications in Lincoln, Neb. *Tony Ward* of Omaha released his first album, "Spirit and Life," on Nov. 3. This collection features 10 original songs for worshiping communities. The album is available on iTunes, Amazon mp3, Rhapsody and in Omaha-area stores. For more information, visit [tonywardmusic.com](http://tonywardmusic.com).

**99** *Melissa (Blum) and Ryan '98 Jacobsen* of Iowa City, Iowa, are the parents of a son, Logan Michael, who was born on July 9, 2008. He weighed 10 pounds, 9 ounces and was 23 inches long. Logan joins 2 1/2 year old twins Jocelyn and Aidan. Ryan is a pharmacist working as a clinical pharmacy specialist at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics



and assistant professor at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Melissa works part-time as a physician assistant at the VA Medical Center.

**98** *Valerie Bensen* and Randy Kinas were married Oct. 29, 2006. Their family consists of four boys, Jace, Josiah, Dayton and Danyael, ages



7-11. Valerie teaches piano in Mantorville, Minn., where the family lives. *Keri Hall* and Ricardo Torres were married Aug. 30, 2008. The couple lives in Omaha where Keri is a protection and safety worker for the state of Nebraska. *Anna Hovde* is a registered nurse working in the obstetrics department at Campbell County Memorial Hospital in Gillette, Wyo. She is the mom of a son, Braik, age 4. *Kathy Montira* is a pastoral intern at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**96** *Elmer Ellefson* performed in the critically acclaimed world premier of "The Blizzard Voices" with



Opera Omaha. Libretto by Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, tells the

story of the tragic Blizzard of 1888, the Children's Blizzard. "The Blizzard Voices" is a dramatic oratorio for orchestra, chorus and six vocal soloists. Elmer resides in Omaha with his wife and four children.

*Tiah (Wilbur) Frankish* has a new job as the librarian at Prairie View Middle School in Henderson, Colo. She and her husband, Kevin, have two children, Tyler, 9, and Amanda, 7. *Dr. Kaci Solt* moved to Boise, Idaho, in 2007 where she is working at a group dental practice. This summer she joined a group of 14 (including one doctor) that went on a mission trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for two weeks. They did medical/dental treatment as well as shared in local worship services and children's Sunday School activities. The trip was coordinated by STEM (Short Term Evangelical Missions).

**95** *Jill Beckman* and Curt Curtis were married on May 24, 2008. The couple lives in Waterloo, Neb.

**94** *Roxane Fenton* graduated from the University of California-Riverside in September with a Ph.D. in dance history and theory. Her dissertation was entitled, "Circuits of Representation: Figure Skating and Cultural Meaning in U.S. Popular Culture." For the 2007-

08 academic year, she taught in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin. She currently lives in southern California where she teaches at several area colleges.

**91** *Tina (Reimer) Eller* took a new Spanish teaching position at Bureau Valley High School in Manlius, Ill. She currently teaches levels two, three and four and is the Spanish Club advisor.

**90** *Jim Cooney* was the head coach for the 2008 Nebraska Class A State Champion Millard South Soccer Team. He also teaches math at Millard South.

**88** In August, four Dana alumni — *Duey and Tracy (Erickson '87) Heffelfinger, Derrick Heffelfinger '87 and Delana (Heffelfinger '86) Heidrich* —



and their families met in Indiana for a family reunion. Delana writes:

"Some of the many versions of this photo look more like they were being taken for Mad Magazine as Duey set the timer on his camera and sprinted to join the rest of us in the photo — often not making it before the blinking light warning and the clicking of the camera. But one photo did turn out fairly well — and it has Duey in it — so I send it to you. Go Dana!" *Julie (Marr) Eager* of Lincoln, Neb., writes: "I have worked for 10 years in the field of advocacy for the victims of violence. I previously worked in rural mental health for seven years. All four of my children live nearby and I have five grandchildren. I greatly enjoy gardening, reading and being with my husband and two dogs and a cat. I fondly remember Dana College and all I have learned there has held me in good stead in my work."

**86** *Julie Grauerholz* displayed her "European Photographs of Castles and Nature in Europe" on the



Gallery Walk, sponsored by the Hays Art Council in August. Her third

European photographic exhibition in Hays was also scheduled to be held at St. John's Nursing Home in Hays, Kan., where Julie is an activity director assistant. *Joel Barratt* is working as an art director at Swanson Russell in Omaha.

**85** *Loyla (Miller) Renfeld* of Sioux City, Iowa, and her husband, Dean, have two children, Derek, 20, and Kristen, 17.

**84** *Michael Bloemer* and his wife, Vonda Kay, have two children, Caitlin Rayna, age 5, and Ryan William, age 1. The family lives in Warner Robins, Ga. *Cindy (Lorenzen) Hansen* began teaching business and computer courses this fall at Arlington (S.D.) High School. She is also serving as the National Honor Society advisor and coordinating the Destination Imagination program. She is also pursuing her master's at Dakota State University.

**82** *Davin Dickerson* of Neola, Iowa, was honored as the Iowa State Fair's Iowan of the Day on August 10. He was nominated for the award by his wife, *Denise (Steenbock)*. Davin was selected from more than 250 nominees statewide. Iowan of the Day honors the state's residents "who truly made a difference for those around them," choosing citizens who exhibit integrity, decency, hard work and dedication to community improvement. Davin is a full-time psychiatric nurse practitioner with Creighton University's outpatient clinic and holds the same position part time with Horizon Therapy in Council Bluffs. Davin and Denise also have seven children.

**80** *Janelle Siffring* was ordained on Sept. 21, 2008, at Kanawha Lutheran Church in Kanawha, Iowa. She will serve at Augustana Lutheran Church in Manson, Iowa. She has served the parish of Kanawha Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church in Britt, Iowa, as an associate in ministry since June 2002.

**75** *Michael Williams* is a jail chaplain at the Douglas County Detention Center in Castle Rock, Colo.

**72** *Lyle Schjodt* of Blair (Neb.) was honored at the Blair (Neb.) High School Alumni Brunch this summer. He was recognized for his efforts with various activities for the Blair School District. He is currently in his 16th year on the Blair School Board, with 10 of those years as president.

**68** In February 2008, *Paul and Kathy (Hulsebus '71) Ahrendt* and *Ron '70 and Rikki (Forney '70) Hulsebus*



spent a week travelling together. One of their big stops was Arizona's Grand

Canyon...a perfect backdrop for a picture with the *Dana Review*. *Diane (Josephson '68) Laine* and her husband, Larry, celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary in August and celebrated the birth of their fourth grandchild, Soren Laine, on Oct. 6, 2008. The couple lives in Portsmouth, Va.

**61** The round robin reunion from the class of 1961 was held in Elk River, Minn., at the end of August.



The group is pictured here enjoying the beautiful Munsinger-Clemens Gardens in St. Cloud, Minn. Attending were, from left, Don Heeren, *Norma (Parde) Heeren*, *Lois (Lorenzen) Olson*, *Ellen (Andrews) Fisher*, *Rosie (Peterson) Glover*, *Paul Olson*, *Luther Kloth*, *Ken Glover*,

*Doris (Siersbeck) Kloth*, Bob Fisher, *JoAnn (Larsen) Otto*, Wesley Otto, *Arlyce (Fuchs) Olsen*, Charles Olsen, *Arla (Siems) Mayhew* and Tom Mayhew. Earlier in the day, the group toured St. John's Abby at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and saw the exhibit of the handwritten Bible the University commissioned.

*Dr. Myrvin Christopherson* has been appointed acting president of the Foundation for Independent Higher Education in Washington, D.C.

**60** *Errol and Margaret (Schultz '59) Wiges* celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 17, 2008. The couple lives in rural Mitchell, Neb.

**58** Former Danians gathered for the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of *Bob and Jeanette Larson* on Aug. 10, 2008, at Pipestone, Minn. Pictured left to right are *Charlotte (Sorensen '73) Jensen*; *Marlene Paulsen*; *Jeanette (Paulsen '61) Larson*; *Dale Jensen*; *Bob Larson*; *Mary (Jacobsen '56) Klopp*; Roger Klopp; *Winifred (Nikolaisen '34) Paulsen Nelson*; *Marilyn (Nielsen) Alexander*; and *Frank Alexander '57*.

**56** *Charlie Gottsch* was featured in an article in the *Loveland, Colo., Reporter-Herald* about Americans working past the age of 65. Charlie, now 74, has worked as a hardware specialist at Orchards Ace Hardware for the past 12 years. The military service of *Dick Larson* of Decatur, Neb., was featured recently in an article in the *Lions (Neb.) Mirror-Sun*.

Four Dana alumni of the early 1950s, together with spouses, gathered on July 10 in Bowie, Md. *Art '52*



and Shirley Simon hosted *Juri '52* and Carmen Taht and *Paul '53*

and *Marilyn (Steffensen '53) Jersild* for an afternoon and evening of reminiscing about good times at Dana. Both the Simons and Tahts are residents of Bowie, while the Jersilds reside in Norfolk, Va. Art, who served as student body president in 1950-

51, is the retired founder of the national advocacy organization, Bread for the World, based in Washington, D.C. Juri, for many years a cellist with the Don Shirley Trio, also worked with Voice of America prior to retirement. While at Dana, Juri, Paul and Marilyn formed a string trio that performed on campus and as a deputation team at many congregations. Paul is a retired dean and professor emeritus at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C.

## Deaths

**Sarah (Schwartz '85) Lehr** of Kimball, S.D., died July 19, 2008, of liver cancer. Survivors include her husband, Dave, and two children.

**Don Beckman '74** of Siloam Springs, Ark., died September 1, 2008, of a heart attack at the age of 55. Survivors include his wife, Linda.

**Charles A. Brehm '67** of Blair died August 14, 2008, after a battle with cancer at the age of 63. He owned C & J Tire Sales in Blair from 1972-1980 and was a salesman for Federal-Mogul until retiring in 2007. Survivors include his wife, Judy (Rueter '67), two children, four grandchildren, three brothers, including Lyle '68 and Jim '70, and two sisters, Ann (Brehm '64) Hill-Winner and Jean (Brehm '71) Shelstad.

**Wayne Anthony '62** of Nebraska City, Neb., died April 16, 2008, at the age of 67. He worked as an accountant in Nebraska City before he became disabled. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane (Folkerts '63) and two sons.

**Alan D. Storzer '61** of Chandler, Ariz., died Oct. 11, 2008, at the age of 69. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1962-66. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to Wisconsin, where he held key management positions for 25 years at various H.C. Prange Company stores throughout the state. He then became an independent business owner. Survivors include his wife, Janet (Middendorf '63) and four children.

**Rev. Russell Jensen D'54 T'58** of Santa Maria, Calif., died Sept. 27, 2008, at the age of 78. He served parishes in Iowa and Nebraska before going into specialized ministry. Following completion of training, he served as chaplain in hospitals, prisons, care centers and treatment centers. He retired to Santa Maria from Minneapolis, Minn., in 1995. Survivors include his wife, Esther.

**Leonard Sorenson '52** of Littleton, Colo., died Jan. 18, 2008, at the age of 82. Survivors include his wife, Myrna, and two children.

**Virgil Hansen '51** of Audubon, Iowa, died May 26, 2008, at the age of 79. He lived and worked the family farm along with working for the telephone company and the A.S.C. office. Survivors include his wife, Gladys, and three children.

**Willis J. Olson '51** of Hastings, Minn., died Aug. 6, 2008, at the age of 81. He served a short period in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He worked for many years at 3M Corporation, initially as a chemist at the Chemolite plant and then as a purchasing agent at the main St. Paul facility. He also owned and operated Hastings Mobile Home Terrace for many years. Survivors include his wife, Rita, four children and two step-children.

**Harry Andreassen '50** of Danbury, Conn., died Aug. 28, 2007, at the age of 82. Survivors include his wife, Ruth, and a brother, George '50.

**Dr. Hughie Hughes '48** of Carriere, Miss., died Aug. 12, 2008, at the age of 85. He was a veteran of World War II, serving his country in the Armored Infantry in Europe. He worked as superintendent of schools in Irwin, Iowa, and taught at Baylor University and the University of New Orleans. Survivors include his wife, Gladys (Lyng '45), two children, and a brother, Shirley '49.



**Robert A. Christensen '44** of Racine, Wis., died Aug. 26, 2008, at the age of 87. During World War II, he served in the Army Air Force as a B-17 Bombardier/Navigator Instructor. He was director of purchasing at Rainfair Incorporated for 39 years. Survivors include four children.

**Rev. Oscar Johnson D'44 T'47** of Iowa City, Iowa, died Aug. 17, 2008, at the age of 87. He served congregations in Brooklyn, N.Y., Avoca, Iowa, Detroit, Mich., Harlan, Iowa, Carnegie, Penn., and at Cedar Falls (Iowa) Lutheran Home. He retired in 1987, but served as a visitation pastor and chaplain for 10 more years. Survivors include his wife, Dolores "Dody" (Jensen '48), four children, including Paul '76 and Andrew '83, and a brother, Harold Johnson '50.

**Norman Lewis Nielsen '44** of Minneapolis, Minn., died Aug. 30, 2008, at the age of 85. He began his pastoral ministry at Westwood Lutheran Church. He served as vice president at Augsburg College and later vice president at Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Company. In 1962 he started his own company, Norm Nielsen Homes, as a land developer and contractor. Survivors include his wife, Ann, and two children.

**Clifford K. Hansen '41** of Blair died August 29, 2008, at the age of 91. He lived on the family farm from the age of two, until retiring from farming on Jan. 1, 1981. He proudly served in World War II in the United States Army Air Force from June 13, 1942, to Oct. 13, 1945. He was an airplane mechanic with the 9th Airborne Squadron, and served in England, France, Luxemburg and Germany. Survivors include his wife, Veola, three daughters, including Annette (Hansen '69) Brown and Joanne Hansen '81, and a sister, Ruth (Hansen '44) Peterson.

**Arlene (Christensen '38) Blair** of Napa, Calif., died Aug. 23, 2008, at the age of 90. She received a two-year teaching certificate from Dana College in 1938 and later returned to Dana to receive

a bachelor of science in nursing in 1971. She worked as a nursing supervisor at the Orthopedic Hospital in Lincoln, and as a nursing instructor at University Hospital in Omaha. Later she was the assistant director of nursing at the Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island. Survivors include three children, including Robert '67.

**Helen M. (Pedersen '37) Lincoln** died July 12, 2008, in Santa Rosa, Calif., at the age of 93. She was a long-time member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Calif., and volunteered for 30 years at the Mount Diablo Hospital. Survivors include four children, including sons Jerry '61 and Michael '67.

## Friends

**Rev. Dr. Reuben Swanson** died Oct. 3, 2008, in Fort Collins, Colo. He served at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in West Hempstead, N.Y., and then Augustana Lutheran Church in Omaha. He served as president of the Nebraska Synod Lutheran Church in America and Secretary of the Lutheran Church in America. He retired in 1989. Survivors include a son and a daughter.

## A Lifetime Experience, But No Letterman's Jacket!

My first roommate at Dana was Larry Johnson '67, a city boy who had been a distance runner in high school. He went out for cross country as a freshman; the team needed runners, so I did too.

At the end of the season, Coach Pete [Peterson] gave me a letter. My family was so proud of that letter that I bought a letterman's sweater and my mother sewed the letter on. No one in my farm family had ever competed in athletics. I wore that sweater whenever I came home.

I went out for cross country again my sophomore year. I was looking forward to earning the letterman's jacket that comes with the second letter. The conference meet that year was a killer. It was close, but I came in last. (Give me a break. Before my freshman year, the farthest and fastest I had ever run was from our neighbor's mean bull in the pasture to the nearest fence. At the time, it seemed far and fast!) Coach Pete was not impressed. I never got that jacket and my college running career ended.

My next roommate was Don Perekovich '67 (Perk). He was a baseball player and pretty good. No, I didn't go out for baseball, but Perk earned a letterman's jacket his second year. I always admired it.

After college, while in the Air Force, I started running again. I remembered fondly my running at Dana. Well, I won three awards from the base gym for distance and perseverance. I've never stopped running and have logged thousands of miles. As my wife and I travel, my running shoes go with us. I've run in Cuba, Mexico, Central American, New York and L.A. Last summer I ran while we were in China. I run in competitive road races less frequently, but still run regularly.

I give Dana and Coach Pete credit for giving me the opportunity to compete. Running has been an important part of my life. It all started at Dana. No, I didn't get that letterman's jacket, but I got a lot more. I got a lifetime of healthy pleasure. (By the way, if anyone's interested, my jacket size is 38.)

**Myron Hansen '67, Redington Beach, FL**

## Retired Alumni Found Organization in Africa

When Dick Coffey '68 and his wife, Joanruth Baumann of Friday Harbor, Wash., retired a couple of years ago, they did not quit working, only changed their direction. "We wanted to do something helpful for someone," Dick said.

The couple went to Africa, planning to use their career skills in microfinance and engineering to help the people there. When they arrived, the Coffeys realized the need for clean water was of much more value to the people than anything else they could provide.

Thus, the Friends of Kunya was born. Friends of Kunya plans to save hundreds of lives each year by building a water purification system for Kunya, a Kenyan village of 5,000. Ultimately, this improved water system and related follow-on projects will help reduce the AIDS contraction and survival rates and improve the quality of village life.

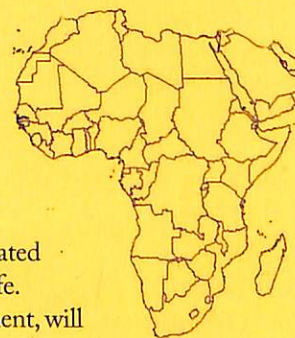
A water-treatment system, designed by Kenyan engineers who understand what works best in their environment, will pump water from Lake Victoria, filter and treat it to remove pollutants, store it in a large tank, and distribute it to six taps at kiosks in the community, including at the school, the clinic, and the day-care center.

Water users will pay a small charge for the water to meet the costs of operating and maintaining the system. The villagers have built a pump house on donated land at the lake shore, and they have a pump.

Since October, 2007, Friends of Kunya, led by the efforts of the Coffeys, has raised more than \$22,000 toward completing the water system, but need about \$23,000 more.

The couple plans to go back to Africa in early 2009, hoping to help supervise the construction of the project. "The longer we wait, the more people die," Joanruth said.

For more information or to donate to the project, visit [www.friendsokunya.org](http://www.friendsokunya.org)



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## Dana Around the Globe

**Jenny Smedra '08** of Omaha did not have the typical summer following her graduation from Dana College. She spent the month of July working around San Ignacio, Belize, excavating classic Mayan dwellings. "We worked with house mounds and found all types of artifacts including pottery, tools, obsidian blades, grind stones, a few pieces of jade and six burials."

The History and History for Secondary Teachers major was

led to this trip by Dr. Stewart Brewer. "He was my advisor and my instructor for nine different courses during my time at Dana," Smedra said. "As you know, Dr. Brewer specializes in Latin American history and was the one to first spark my interest in pursuing Mayan history specifically. I'm hoping to go back again this summer for a two-month dig, but that's mostly dependent on my finances."



**Left:** A view of the Jaguar temple in Tikal Guatemala. Tikal was the cultural and political center of the Mayan world in the late classic period.

**Above:** The excavation group worked with a burial under a house mound near San Ignacio Belize. There were a total of 6 burials beneath the limestone floors of the remains.

