



NIACC Receives Two Million Dollar Federal Grant

NIACC has been awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education in support of student success. The College will receive nearly \$2 million over five years through the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program.

"The Title III grant is highly competitive and sought after by colleges and universities across the country since it has the potential to make a significant impact," said Tammy Hove, NIACC's Associate Director of Institutional

Advancement, who wrote the grant. "It will affect our students in a positive way and have a lasting influence on the College."

The federal funding is allowing NIACC to implement a comprehensive student success model that includes the expansion of learning communities and supplemental instruction and the introduction of a mentoring program for freshmen, among other strategies. The multi-faceted plan is designed to improve student success within classes, academic progress,

retention from year to year, and graduation rates.

"We were thrilled to receive news of the award last fall," said Dr. Karen Pierson, NIACC's Vice President for Student Services, who is serving as Title III Coordinator. Since our plan was in place, we were able to hit the ground running."

The most visible changes since the grant took effect on October 1, 2006, include several

CONTINUED on page 2



One visible result of the federal grant is the expansion of NIACC's Student Learning Center (SLC), which is used heavily by students for testing and free academic assistance.

When One Door Closes, Another Opens

Rapid Response Team Helps Displaced Workers Find a New Direction

When a local company announces a mass layoff or closing, a team of professionals springs into action to help the displaced workers in their time of need. The Rapid Response Team, as it's called, is coordinated through the State Dislocated Worker Coordinator and the Workforce Development Partnership, a joint venture of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and North Iowa Area Community College. The goal is to get the affected employees "back on their feet" as quickly as possible and to let them know what help is available.

During meetings usually held at the place of business, members of the Rapid Response Team outline how the workers may take advantage of job search assistance through the Workforce Center and, perhaps most importantly, funds available to them through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

"When a business closes, workers may find it difficult to find similar employment, so retraining may be an important option for them," said NIACC's Janice Grandstaff, an Employment Training Specialist at the Workforce Development Center. "WIA can assist with career planning and assessment in order to help workers make an informed decision about retraining. If they decide to return to school, WIA can assist with tuition, books, tools, physicals, uniforms, travel, and

"The number one concern displaced workers have is financial; once that question is resolved, a lot of them look at this as an opportunity to better themselves."

child care – any costs required for them to participate in a training program that leads to employment."

Chris Frenz, NIACC enrollment specialist for adults, has joined NIACC Admissions Director Rachel McGuire on two Rapid Response Teams. "We held eight separate employee meetings over two days involving more than 170 employees who will lose their jobs when the IMI Cornelius plant in Mason City shuts down this fall," Frenz said. "IMI has been an excellent company for us to work with. They have been very thoughtful of their employees' needs and have made it extremely easy to work in a potentially difficult environment. I believe our efforts lessen some of the anxiety employees have when they learn of their pending dismissal."

As part of the Rapid Response process, employees are asked to complete a survey which is administered by NIACC's Nancy Bair, who serves as Regional Director of the Workforce Development Center. The results are used to apply for further grants and to develop a labor market piece that promotes the skills and abilities of the workers to local businesses and economic development prospects. "For IMI, I am applying for early intervention funds to pay for a job fair, computer skills classes, short term training, assistive technology, and the booklets "Surviving a Layoff," said Bair.

Nancy's husband, Ted, is also involved in the Rapid Response. As Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Director with NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, his role is to explain the services available to those may want to start a business. "Becoming a displaced worker through company shutdown or plant transfer

may provide that opportunity for someone to pursue a dream they may have harbored of owning their own business," said Mr. Bair. "Some have even been operating a small business out of their home on a part-time basis and may see this change in their life as a time to consider developing their business to a full-time entity."

Other Rapid Response Team members assisting IMI employees include representatives from North Iowa Community Action, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northeastern Iowa, and the Iowa Department of Human Services. The entire Rapid Response Team will be returning to IMI on a periodic basis to answer questions that employees may have over the course of this transition period.

IMI employees recently learned they will benefit from the Trade Adjustment Act (TAA), which provides even greater financial assistance to employees whose jobs are being eliminated due to the company moving operations out of the country.

"Several former IMI employees are already taking classes at NIACC this spring, and we're helping others get enrolled for fall semester," said Frenz, noting that the TAA benefit will likely entice some who had not originally considered returning to school. "The number one concern displaced workers have is financial; once that question is resolved, a lot of them look at this as an opportunity to better themselves."

"I believe our efforts lessen some of the anxiety employees have when they learn of their pending dismissal."



Earn High Income For Yourself and Give NIACC a Gift, Too

It's possible to provide yourself with guaranteed income for life and simultaneously provide a gift to the NIACC Foundation. Charitable Gift Annuities are an excellent vehicle to receive a high rate of return, especially in this low interest rate environment.

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is an agreement in which you donate cash or appreciated securities to the NIACC Foundation in exchange for a stream of regular payouts. Your gift acts as an investment, generating income for you for the rest of your life.

Benefits to you include: 1) a fixed payout rate based on your age for the rest of your life, 2) an attractive rate of return higher than the current CD rates at most financial institutions, 3) a charitable tax deduction in the year you make the gift, 4) tax-free income on a portion of the payout, and 5) an opportunity to make a significant gift to the NIACC Foundation.

What the NIACC Foundation promises: 1) guaranteed payouts to you or to you and your beneficiary for life, 2) a payout rate approved by the American Council on Gift Annuities for people of various ages, 3) to accept gifts of at least \$10,000, 4) to pay you monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually according to your wishes, 5) responsible use and stewardship of your gift, which is used in support of the College's mission, 6) easy, simple process to set up your gift annuity, 7) to secure your payout with all the assets of the Foundation, even if the

payout eventually exceeds the size of your gift, and 8) to comply fully with the regulations governing gift annuities in Iowa.

For more information about Charitable Gift Annuities, please visit our web site www.niacc.edu/foundation and look under Planned Giving (you may use the online system to prepare your own example or give us a call at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386 and we will produce an example for you!) We look forward to your support and helping you meet your financial objectives through a tax-deductible Charitable Gift Annuity.

How a Charitable Gift Annuity Works (an example)

Bob and Anita Anderson make a gift of \$25,000 to the NIACC Foundation for which they receive a tax deduction on a portion of their gift. Based on their ages at the time of the gift (Bob is 72 and Anita is 68), Bob collects \$1,475 a year from the NIACC Foundation based on the 5.9% payout rate. Upon his death, Anita continues to receive payments of \$1,525 for the balance of her life.

Recycled Computers Benefit Local Schools, Families

Nearly 200 computer systems were donated last year through the North Iowa Computers for Kids (NICK) Program run by North Iowa Area Community College. Tracy Purchase, NICK program leader and Information Systems Technology instructor at NIACC, recorded 77 donated systems to area high school computer labs, 35 systems to the Renu Organization for clients facing challenges, and over 75 systems to individual students and families throughout North Iowa.

The computer systems are donated to NIACC and then refurbished in preparation for their new homes.

"Providing these systems to those who need them is really rewarding," said Purchase. "The kids just light up when you present the computer to them, especially when they realize they get to keep it for their own."

Area high schools with computer labs that have benefited from the NICK Program include Mason City, Mason City Newman, Corwith-Wesley-LuVerne, and West Hancock.

"NICK is great! We received 18 computers to help 18 different students. These computers help provide students with the same opportunities other students have to be successful. The NICK program builds confidence in students and helps them understand that people do care," said Trent Grundmeyer, Hampton-Dumont High School Principal.

Hampton-Dumont has donated all the

computers out of an older school computer lab to the NICK program to continue to help North Iowa students.

A computer system loaded with donated Rosetta Stone software has also been installed at the Hampton Public Library to assist with English as a Second Language (ESL) education.

Individual student donations have been made throughout Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago, Worth, and Wright counties.

The idea for the NICK Program was conceived by Ben Sayles to fulfill requirements for a class project while attending Mason City High School. He went on to graduate from NIACC.

The NICK Program has evolved into a significant component of NIACC's IT program, providing real-life hands-on opportunities for students enrolled in Hardware Service & Support and Advanced Computer Support classes to refine their troubleshooting skills.

NICK facilitated approximately 125 personal computer donations to families in 2005 and 60 donations in 2004. Businesses or individuals that donate used computer systems to the NICK Program are eligible for tax incentives.

For more information, contact Tracy Purchase at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4415 or purchtra@niacc.edu.

Record-Setting Year

NIACC experienced record enrollment during both fall and spring semesters of the 2006-2007 school year. The official count last fall was 3,227 credit students, up 91 from the year before. Second semester (spring) enrollment reflected an increase of 177 students from the previous year.

"This demonstrates that more and more people are taking advantage of the low-cost, high-quality education and college experience that NIACC offers," said NIACC President Michael Morrison.

In addition to NIACC's credit classes, approximately 28,000 North Iowans enroll in continuing education offerings annually through the College.

Quick Facts About NIACC's Student Body

- 94% are Iowans
- 83% are North Iowans
- 55% are female
- 59% are enrolled in College Transfer programs
- 41% are enrolled in Career/Career Option programs
- 28% are age 23+ (23 is the average age)
- 8% are minorities
- 36% are enrolled in online classes (includes College Orientation required for freshmen)
- 53% are full-time students (12+ credit hours)
- 10% live on campus

\$2 MILLION GRANT
continued from page 1

office relocations and the remodeling of the Student Learning Center (SLC), located in the Beem Center, over the holiday break. The SLC has been reconfigured with 2,200 additional square feet for tutoring, testing, and learning resources.

Directing the NIACC project is Terri Ewers, who maintained her role as NIACC's Director of Counseling and has years of grant management experience through her leadership of the Student Support Services program at NIACC. Other staff working closely with Ewers include counselor Lisa Vance who is expanding disability services on campus; Senora Gilley, who is coordinating the Supplemental Instruction (SI) and Early Alert components; and Angie DeVries, who is providing administrative support for NIACC's Title III project.

"Title III allows NIACC to expand educational goals, strengthen learning opportunities, and enhance student achievement," said Ewers. "It's truly a program built to ensure success."



NIACC instructor Tracy Purchase looks on as Sophia Lasseko, a student from Tanzania in the College's PC Technician program, checks out a computer which will eventually be given to a family without one.



International Alumni Spotlight

An Interview with Brandon Pals, 30, of Xi'an, China

Question: Where are you living and what are you doing?

Answer: I've been living in China for about five years. I teach at Northwest University of Politics and Law in the city of Xi'an. Xi'an has a population of about 7,000,000. It is a center for education in China with over 60 higher education institutions and more than 400,000 higher education students. Pretty amazing.

Question: How did you come to be in China?

Answer: I transferred to the University of Northern Iowa after graduating from NIACC in 1997; I had an opportunity to teach English to middle school students in Guangzhou, China through Camp Adventure during the summer of 2000. After that experience, I developed more and more contacts in China and found work through them. (Brandon has a degree in elementary education and a coaching certificate from UNI.)

Question: What do you remember most about your time at NIACC?

Answer: I remember playing lots of basketball with friends and working with Dan Mason as a student manager for the basketball team. I also remember writing for the Logos student newspaper and hanging out with friends at the NIACC apartments.

Question: What's next for you?

Answer: I'm engaged to a Chinese woman from Shandong Province. We plan to be married at my hometown church this summer. I'm planning to enroll at Norwich University in Vermont to pursue an online MA degree in Diplomacy. My goal is to come back to Iowa to start a business that works with companies in the Midwest who are interested in doing business with China. We want to offer services such as business consulting, market research, matching up companies to do trade, and possibly financial as well as legal services to be a one-stop shop for international trade.



Brandon and his fiancée, Crystal (Wang Li Ming), will be married this summer in his hometown of Meservey, Iowa.

Revolving Loan Fund Helps Local Entrepreneur

Congratulations to Mary Duggan who is the first beneficiary of the College's JPEC Revolving Loan Fund. The \$10,000 loan helped her acquire the assets of another business in order to open Duggan Tax Service in Mason City. The JPEC Revolving Loan Fund is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. For more information, contact the JPEC at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4342.

We want to hear from YOU next!

You can join the NIACC Alumni Association for just \$20 annually or \$100 for the rest of your life! Just send payment with your contact information to the NIACC Alumni Association at 500 College Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401. Information is also available online at www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm



NIACC Grad Filling the Shoes of His Mentor

It's a rare opportunity when a student gets to fill the shoes of a former teacher. But Scott Dobel is attempting to do just that. Dobel was hired as the Industrial Technology instructor for the North Central Community School District in January of this year, replacing his former teacher and mentor, Dale Lindell, who recently retired.

Dobel graduated from North Central High School (NCHS) in 2002 and is glad to be back at his old school. He teaches small engines, woods, metals, drafting, etc. to 7th-12th graders and will concentrate on high school next year when North Central merges with Nora Springs-Rock Falls.

"The automotive field has always been a hobby of mine," he said. "From restoring cars to racing, I have always been interested in anything with a motor."

Dobel decided to build his career around his hobby. He enrolled in NIACC's Automotive Program as a high school junior through the Tech Prep (now Career Link) program. It didn't cost him anything except for the tools.

"I really got a good deal - my classes and textbooks were paid for by the Tech Prep program. I also got a great discount on a quality set of tools that I use all the time."

Dobel said NIACC's Automotive Program has a lot to offer students. "The program covers automotive basics, which builds a strong knowledge base, as well as advanced technology that exposes students to the ever-changing technology in the automotive industry," he said. "The program also includes a lot of hands-on activities that provide reinforcement of the concepts learned in the classroom and real world experience."

By high school graduation, he earned his diploma in Automotive Service and then continued on to obtain his A.A. degree from NIACC. He graduated both times with honors. After transferring to the University of Northern Iowa, he completed his bachelor's degree in Technology Education.

His timing was perfect. Mr. Lindell was retiring, and Dobel was offered the teaching job after completing his student teaching at North Central and Northwood-Kensett last fall.

"It's a little bit weird because I'm now teaching what he (Mr. Lindell) taught me six or eight years back. But, in a way, it's comforting at the same time," he said.

NCHS Principal Ken Estes said the situation is ideal. "Dale Lindell obviously had an impact on Scott's life, and I'm glad he had an opportunity to pass the baton onto him," Estes said. "Knowing the quality of the Industrial Technology program Scott went through here, along with our confidence in the excellent preparation he received from NIACC and UNI, we were really excited about bringing him back into the program. It's created a seamless transition for our school."



Mr. Scott Dobel (left) works with student Ben Knutson during a Cabinet Making class at North Central High School.



Track Relay

Longtime NIACC instructor Dr. Arlo Stoltenberg (right) holds one of the plaques earned during his successful tenure as NIACC's Track & Field Coach in the '70s. With the help of Vance Baird, Stoltenberg located and turned over the hardware to NIACC Athletic Director Dan Mason (left) and current men's and women's Track & Field head coach Curtis Vais, who took over the reinstated sport at NIACC two years ago.



North Iowa Concert Band Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The North Iowa Concert Band celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2007. Consisting of more than 75 members, the concert band practices weekly and performs two concerts a year on the NIACC campus. The band's spring concert, held April 3rd, featured four soloists and opened with a newly composed fanfare by the band's conductor, John Klemas, entitled "Intrada Grandioso." The piece was dedicated to all of the musicians who have contributed to the band's success over the past 25 years. Klemas, who serves as NIACC's Director of Bands, has conducted the North Iowa Concert Band since its establishment in 1982.

NIACC Celebrates 97% Placement Rate

NIACC's placement rate has exceeded 90 percent for more than a decade. This year is no exception. Ninety-seven percent of students completing career programs at NIACC in 2006 are employed. The results were reported by the NIACC Career Center and based on a follow-up study involving 80 percent of the 236 graduates from the College's Business, Health, Agriculture and Industrial Technology divisions. Thirty-two of 37 programs experienced 100 percent placement.

Small Businesses, Over Easy

On the farm, an incubator is a warm, protected place to put fertilized eggs so they can develop under the watchful eye of the farmer until they hatch. Likewise, the new business incubator being developed on the NIACC campus is a nurturing environment where new businesses can develop and grow during those challenging first few years of existence.

Nationwide averages for new job growth show that only one percent comes from companies moving into an area, 55 percent comes from existing businesses expanding, and 44 percent comes from new startup businesses. Unfortunately, 60 percent of new start ups fail within the first five years.

"Business incubators reduce the risk of small business failures," said Mark Olchefske, NIACC Regional Business Development Service Director. "There are no guarantees but, because incubated companies get intensive support from experienced businesspeople, a very high percentage of those companies successfully 'graduate.' More importantly, an overwhelming percentage of those companies stay in the communities they incubated in. That is why the second phase of establishing the

satellite incubators is so important to the rural communities and the economy of North Iowa."

NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) Business Incubator is situated on the west side of campus in the space that formerly held the Physical Plant Department and some former classrooms in the Buettner Careers Building. The space will be revamped and a new business information center added through a \$1.25 million earmark from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The College accepted a bid from Larry Elwood Construction to complete the project by summer's end in preparation for occupancy.

The **NIACC JPEC Business Incubator** is open for business and accepting applications from potential incubator tenants.

For more information, contact Mark Olchefske at olchemar@niacc.edu or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4191

Slice of Success Celebration

NIACC students and staff enjoyed slices of pie during the Student Support Services (SSS) Slice of Success event on February 15th. The celebration recognized students for earning scholarships based on participation in the SSS program, satisfactory academic progress, and financial need. About 50 students earned a total of \$24,350 in scholarships for the spring 2007 semester. Over 200 students participate annually in the SSS program, which is a federally-funded TRIO program designed to provide students who qualify with additional tools for success.



Among the honorees were (l to r): Matthew Ramthun, Tyler Dahl, Jacob Benda, Joseph Jacobsen, Deborah Fatland, LaRae Sears, Beth Hoppman, Jason Florence, Josh Weber and Brandon Pitz.

WRESTLING IS BACK continued from front page

instructor Kaye Young coached the team to a national title in 1973 and accumulated a record of 126-18-2 before the program was dropped in 1976.

"I am personally thrilled to see the revival of wrestling at NIACC," said Young, who praised current Athletic Director Dan Mason's passion and organization. "In the 30 years NIACC has been without wrestling, I never spoke to a person who wasn't positive about wrestling and interested in supporting it."

North Iowans confirmed their enthusiasm for wrestling's return to campus during three community listening posts hosted by NIACC across the region last fall. Wrestling experts and coaches from other major institutions in Iowa have also endorsed NIACC's move.

"Wrestling has a tremendous, longstanding tradition in the state of Iowa, and NIACC is to be congratulated for making this huge step forward and providing a wonderful educational opportunity for many young citizens of the state," said Mike Chapman, founder of the International Wrestling Institute and Museum in Cedar Falls.

Recruiting is going well, according to Chad Vance, who was named Assistant Wrestling Coach at NIACC in January.

"We've seen a tremendous response from student athletes. They seem to like what NIACC has to offer on the mat and academically. Whether they want to complete a technical program here and enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution to continue their participation as a student-athlete, NIACC gives them that opportunity," said Vance, who wrestled for Charles City High School, Iowa Central Community College, and the University of Iowa.

"This whole experience has been indescribable," he continued. "We are in the heartland for the sport of wrestling. So many people – from coaches and wrestlers to parents and fans – have been unbelievably helpful and supportive as we begin our exciting journey."

Fergola Named Head Coach

NIACC has named Richard Fergola head coach for the College's reinstated wrestling program. He comes to

North Iowa from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, which won a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) wrestling title last year and finished fourth this year. Fergola earned Coach of the Year honors in the Great Plains Athletic Conference after the Vikings recorded a 12-2 dual meet record and won their region.

Fergola has also coached in Kansas at Neosho County Community College and at the high school level. In his four-year college coaching career, he has helped produce 26 All-Americans, two national champions, and four top 10 team finishes.

"The selection of Rich Fergola is the culmination of great work by our search committee and administration," said NIACC Athletic Director Dan Mason. "Once we decided that the re-introduction of wrestling at NIACC was going to become a reality, it became apparent that the position would be considered a tremendous opportunity within the wrestling community. Because of that, we were able to attract an excellent pool of candidates."

A gold-level certified coach for USA Wrestling, Fergola has held various wrestling leadership roles for the state of Kansas, including president of the state wrestling coaches association, the cadet national team coach, the cadet national duals head coach for Team Kansas, and the state's head greco coach.

As a competitor, Fergola was a three-time state qualifier for Shawnee Heights High School in Kansas, placing second his senior year in 1990. He attended Garden City Community College on a wrestling scholarship, and his team won a NJCAA national title in 1992. He competed in the U.S. Nationals in 1992 and 1993 and also in the 1992 Olympic Trials.

Fergola earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and his master's degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation, both from Emporia State University.

Mason said Fergola has numerous qualities that made him a great choice to lead the program. "He has a passion for the sport, but more importantly, a passion for young people and what the discipline of wrestling can do for them," he said. "Coach Fergola is a living example of how a community college experience can propel a

person to great heights in both the academic and athletic arenas."

Dan Gable to Appear at NIACC

Wrestling icon Dan Gable will appear at North Iowa Area Community College on Sunday, April 29. His talk, which will begin at 4 p.m. in the NIACC gymnasium, is free and open to the public. The 1973 NIACC wrestling team is expected to be on hand to unveil a banner recognizing their national championship.

A private "meet and greet" with the NIACC coaches will immediately precede the presentation. Reservations for the social should be made by calling the NIACC Athletic Office at 641-422-4344 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4344.



Rich Fergola was introduced as NIACC's Head Wrestling Coach during a news conference on March 13. "It's no secret how huge wrestling is in the area, so we have an incredible talent pool to draw from," he said. "The national championship we had in the '70s will be back. I guarantee that." Fergola indicated that the Trojan wrestling team will compete in open tournaments in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska and he hopes to host a tournament on the NIACC campus in the near future.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GLOBE GAZETTE

Washing Cars and Changing Oil is Big Business for NIACC Alum



Steve Orman knows the business of washing cars and changing oil. After moving to Southern Missouri in the '80s with his family, the Mason City native picked up a job at a local car wash making \$3.50 an hour. Within 20 years, he owned that car wash and many more like it.

Orman, 41, is President and CEO of Orman LLC, Central Iowa Lubrication, Orman Properties, and Orman Supply. These corporations include three full-service car washes, nine Jiffy Lubes, one convenience store/gas station, a self-serve car wash, a land

management company, and an import wholesale company.

The NIACC graduate shared his story during a campus visit on February 28th as part of National Entrepreneurship Week. Besides business professionals and NIACC students, the audience included Steve's business partner and younger brother, Chris, as well as their father, Virgil, who owned and operated Orman Electric in Mason City for years. Also on hand was Leslie Orman, Steve's wife of six years who is a native of Springfield, Missouri, where the couple makes their home.

The audience listened intently as Orman recounted the path his life has taken, including the ups and downs and detours along the way. His sense of humor shone through as he spoke. He blamed marrying later in life, for example, on his need to find someone who could put up with his rough edges. "I have lots of them," he said with a laugh. "I was single for 35 years!"

Mrs. Orman also has to put up with her husband's long hours – he's accustomed to putting in at least 60 hours a week. Although he's no longer "trading hours for dollars," as he puts it, he credits hard work – along with determination and persistence – for his success.

Orman's job vacuuming cars at the Auto Magic car wash in Springfield quickly turned into a management position at a Jiffy Lube that franchise-owner Bill Barclay of Barclay

Enterprises opened next door. By the mid '90s, Orman was the General Manager for six Jiffy Lubes.

"By that time, I was thinking about owning my own Jiffy Lube," he said.

Orman eventually parted ways with Barclay Enterprises due to a difference in business philosophy and declared his desire to buy out the 250-employee operation in Springfield.

"I've learned from my mistakes as well as other people's mistakes," he said.

Orman said he dreamed with his father and shared the vision with his wife. But it wasn't until he came back to Iowa that his dream became a "clear, attainable vision."

He and his partners began building equity by purchasing several Iowa Jiffy Lube stores – in Ft. Dodge, Marshalltown and Mason City.

On October 29, 2004, he signed the legal documents that gave him ownership of the car wash he started working at in 1986.

"Being responsible for payroll and everything that goes into the bottom line is scary for a lot of folks," he said. "For me, it's exciting."

Orman owns property from Mason City, IA to Hollister, MO. Last year, he paid \$125,000 in property taxes.

"Most property tax goes to support schools, so I figure I'm helping put kids through school across the Midwest," he said. "That feels pretty good."

NIACC Receives Grant to Help English Language Learners Prepare for High Growth Careers

Individuals with limited English language skills are limited in their employment opportunities. With the help of a \$75,000 grant from Iowa Workforce Development, North Iowa Area Community College and the local Workforce Development Center will offer intensive English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for North Iowa residents interested in learning to read, write and speak English in a timely manner.

"The NIACC Hispanic Advisory Committee had identified the need for an intensive ESL program in the area, and the state department was looking for innovative literacy and workforce preparation services, so the grant provided an avenue for us to reach our goal," said Tammy Hove, NIACC's Associate Director of Institutional Advancement, who led the preparation of the grant proposal.

Jessica Putnam, NIACC's Director of Learning Support, said the ESL classes, which will meet several days a week for several hours each day, will be held in locations with the greatest need and at times convenient for each particular group. Communities that are likely candidates include Hampton, Charles City and Mason City.

"The ESL curriculum will be infused with computer literacy training and other skill development to prepare people for the workplace," stated Putnam.

For instance, ESL instructors will supplement their learning materials with "Crossroads Café" curriculum which is being piloted in Hampton through NIACC's ESL Program and the Hampton Public Library in collaboration with Iowa Public Television. The DVD series has a family literacy theme with many of the units aimed at job preparation.

Participants increasing their English literacy will have the option to enter pre-training programs for high demand career areas, including welding and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The grant will make it possible for the intensive ESL instruction, as well as the pre-training programs, to be offered free of charge to those involved.

According to Putnam, NIACC will be utilizing the pre-CNA curriculum developed by

Northwest Iowa Community College through a grant from the Iowa Department of Health. It has been approved by the Regional Health Education Center, a partnership of NIACC and Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa, which coordinates CNA training locally.

"The pre-CNA training allows participants to develop the basic skills and vocabulary needed to participate in the actual CNA course and to help them pass the CNA test," explained Putnam.

CNAs are desperately needed by North Iowa's long-term care facilities, and there is even greater demand for Home Health Aides – CNAs who care for individuals in their homes. Annual growth for CNAs and Home Health Aides is 2.5% and 4%, respectively, in North Iowa (2.5+ percent is considered rapid growth).

Through the grant, a pre-welding course will be developed for individuals interested in exploring this area before enrolling in NIACC's welding program. Annual growth for skilled welders is 5% in Iowa and 6% in North Iowa.

NIACC has plans to expand its welding lab in the upcoming year to accommodate an increase in the number of welders trained to meet the needs of local industries. The expansion will be funded by the Accelerated

Career Education (ACE) Program through the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

Intensive ESL program participants not interested in pursuing the CNA or welding tracks will be encouraged to continue to work with the Workforce Development Center to enhance their employability.

"The Workforce Center is truly a one-stop center with extensive resources for workplace preparation and placement," said Nancy Bair, Regional Director of the Center. "We offer career exploration, GED classes, job seeking skills classes, and much more."

According to Bair, the grant-funded project will be supported in the form of services and referrals through the cooperation and coordination of many regional partners, including North Iowa Community Action, Proteus, Language Opportunities, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Promise Jobs, Iowa Department for the Blind, North Iowa Vocational Center, Elderbridge, and Experience Works.

The search has begun for a coordinator/advocate to lead implementation of the grant. For more information, contact the NIACC Human Resources Office at 641-422-4285 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext 4285.

An Interpretation and Translation training program will be available on the NIACC campus beginning this summer. For details, visit the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs website at www.iowalatinofairs.org and click on Interpreters.



Entertainment Lineup

Peter Bergen
CNN Terrorism Analyst
September 13, 2007

Tango Buenos Aires
September 18, 2007

Clark Wilson
September 23, 2007

Evita
September 28, 2007

Cowboy Crush
October 13, 2007

Hairspray
October 24, 2007

Vienna Boys' Choir
November 2, 2007

Terry Jones
Travelocity CEO
November 6, 2007

Lorie Line
November 9-11, 2007

Babes in Toyland
December 2, 2007

The Blenders
December 14, 2007

Ring of Fire
January 10, 2008

St. Olaf Orchestra
January 26, 2008

Michael Cavanaugh
February 22, 2008

Arthur - Live!
March 13, 2008

The Producers
March 15, 2008

The Five Browns
March 27, 2008

John Moore
Starbucks Mastermind
April 8, 2008

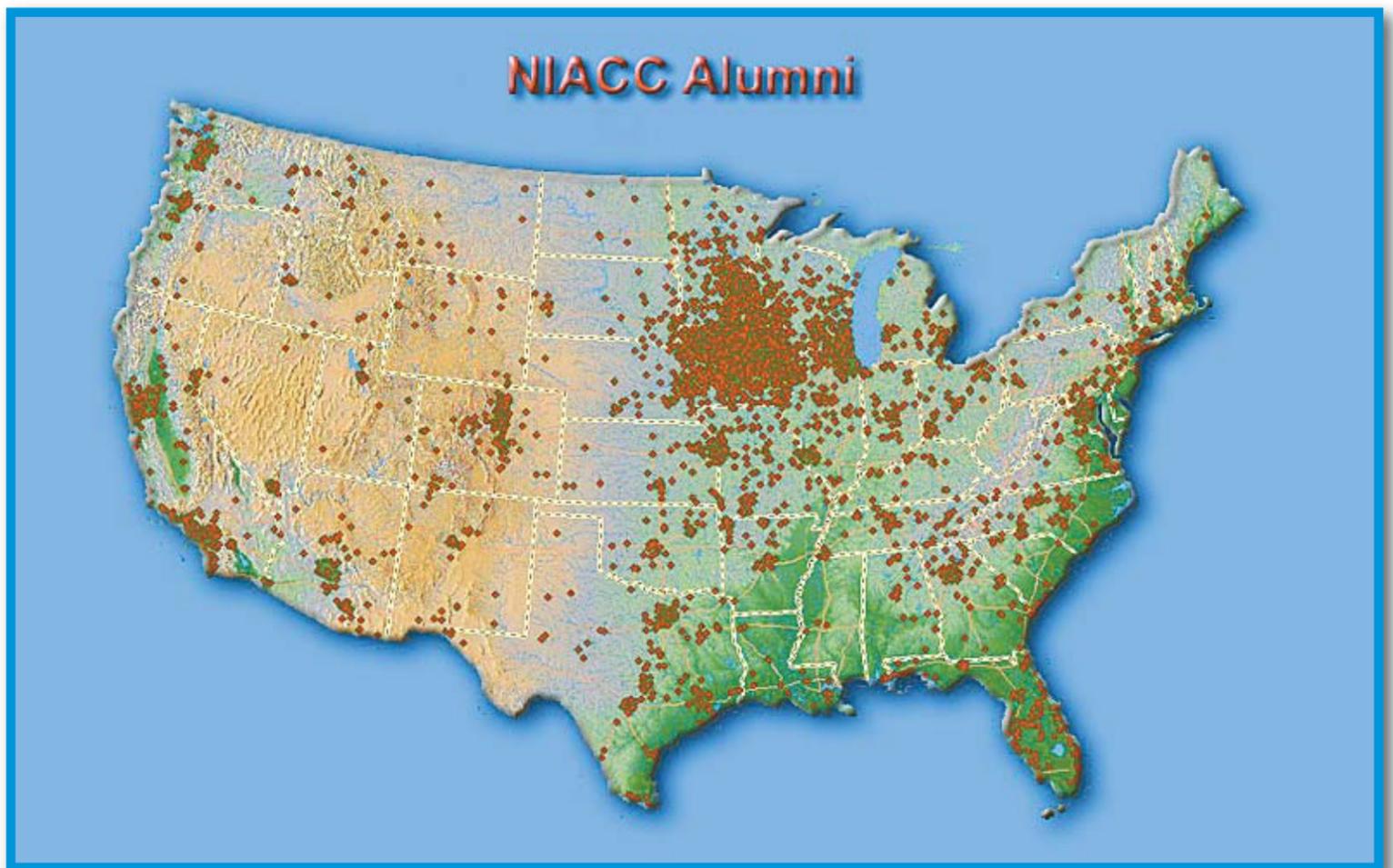
Gypsy
April 12, 2008

Ahn-Trio
April 26, 2008

NIACC Performing Arts & Leadership Series Announced

North Iowa Area Community College is pleased to announce the lineup for the 2007-2008 NIACC Performing Arts & Leadership Series. All events will be held in the beautiful North Iowa Community Auditorium on the NIACC campus. Season tickets go on sale this summer. Visit the NIACC website (www.niacc.edu) for details.

Sponsors making the series possible include the Globe Gazette, Muse Norris Charitable Fund, Globe Gazette, Alliant Energy, Community National Bank, Henkel Construction, Principal Financial Group, Drs. Beck and Lovick, First Citizens National Bank, First State Bank of Belmond, Kraft Foods, Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa, Raymond James, Sukup Manufacturing, UBS Wealth Management, Hanford Inn, KIMT, Pepsi, and NIACC.



71% of NIACC Alumni Live in Iowa

While NIACC alumni populate nearly every state in the nation, the vast majority live in Iowa. Seventy-one percent, or approximately 15,000 of the more than 21,000 NIACC graduates with known addresses, continue to make their home in Iowa. The NIACC Alumni Association reported this information the end of 2006 during a survey for the Iowa College Student Aid Commission.

According to the data, the next highest concentration of NIACC alumni is 7% in Minnesota. Other states claiming more than 200 NIACC graduates include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Texas, and Wisconsin.

**Where Are They Now?
NIACC Alumni's Top 10 States**

State	Residents
1. Iowa	15,069
2. Minnesota	1,477
3. Wisconsin	404
4. Texas	394
5. Illinois	383
6. California	357
7. Arizona	342
8. Colorado	339
9. Missouri	266
10. Florida	228

Loved Ones Live On Through New Memorial Scholarships

Additional NIACC students will benefit from scholarships, thanks to several individuals who have created memorial scholarships through the NIACC Foundation recently.

The **Dale E. Harmon Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established in memory of Dale Harmon by his wife, Shirley, and their children, Matthew and Shannon.



A popular writing and literature teacher for many years at Mason City High School (MCHS) and more recently at Newman Catholic High School, Mr. Harmon had a special way of connecting with his colleagues and, even more importantly, with his students. He passed away in May of 2006 at the age of 69.

This scholarship will be awarded on an alternating basis to a graduate of MCHS or Newman majoring in Language Arts or Education at NIACC.

Patrick "Pat" Scherber, who spent most of his career with the local area education agency, will be remembered through the **Patrick Scherber Automotive Scholarship**. His family – including wife, Connie, and twin daughters, Ann and Kim, of Clear Lake – chose to benefit a NIACC automotive student since Mr. Scherber's hobby was purchasing, refurbishing, and selling late model cars with his brother. He passed

away in April of 2006 at the age of 57.

Since Scherber grew up in Minnesota and worked part of his life there, candidates for the scholarship must be from either North Iowa or Southern Minnesota. Preference is given to adult (non-traditional) students.



The Currie family has long supported the mission of North Iowa Area Community College. **The R.L. and Helen Currie Memorial Scholarship** is another example of that commitment. Richard L. "Dick" Currie passed away in 1986 and Helen in 2005. The couple's endowed scholarship fund, established through Helen's estate, will benefit NIACC students indefinitely.

Daughter Nancy Barnes said her parents clearly understood the benefits NIACC provides to the entire North Iowa region and believed

very strongly in higher education for everyone.

"Broadening individual horizons not only helps the individual, but the community as a whole," said Barnes. "The more you are exposed to and experience, the better you will be at making a difference."

Barnes said she hopes that students receiving the scholarship will be able to pursue a path for their life they could not consider without financial help.

NIACC Assumes Administration of Beta Sigma Phi Council Scholarship

Countless young women have benefited from the Beta Sigma Phi Council Scholarship. Recently, the Council asked NIACC to administer their scholarship program.

During the Depression, Beta Sigma Phi was organized as a reading and culture club by a group of young women financially unable to attend college. Thus, over the years, the organization has placed primary emphasis on helping young women to obtain a post-high school education.

The Beta Sigma Phi Council Scholarship is intended for female students demonstrating financial need. The award will alternate between Mason City High School and Newman Catholic High School graduates.

ΒΣΦ

Latham Hi-Tech Hybrids Hits the Jackpot

Congratulations to John and Shannon Latham, founders of Latham Hi-Tech Hybrids, of Sheffield, IA. They were awarded \$100,000 in funding through the Wellmark Community Venture Fund and \$10,000 for third place in the Iowa Business Plan Competition. The Lathams have worked closely with the staff of NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to develop their business plans and strategies.

Logos Wins Awards

Logos, the student newspaper at NIACC, received four awards at the Iowa College Media Association Conference held in Des Moines February 1-2. **Ben Buck** received first place in the Best Explanatory/ Interpretive Story division for "Against All Odds" a story about a single mother raising her two sons. **Jonathon Braden** received first place in the Best Sports Story division for "All in the Family" a story about three sets of brothers on the NIACC baseball team and second place in the Best Sports Feature division for "Waterloo Boys Form Two of Kind" a story about two basketball players, Master Irvin and De'Lain Riley. The paper received honorable mention in the Best Editorial Leadership division for an editorial entitled "Ban Smoking on Campus" written by **Samantha Donisi**. The Logos adviser is NIACC Communication/ Journalism instructor **Paul Peterson**. Logos is available online at www.niacc.edu/logos.



Area Fifth Graders Are Entrepreneurs for a Day

Fifth graders from area schools are finding out what it means to run a business. The Entrepreneur for a Day program, sponsored by NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC), serves as an introduction to entrepreneurship and economic education for youth.

Following a pilot project with the Forest City Community School District, the program has grown and evolved over the past year through the leadership of Tammi Curry, NIACC School Partnership Entrepreneurial Coordinator.

"The two-day class introduces students to entrepreneurship and provides them with the idea that they can become job creators," said Curry. "Students leave with an understanding of the difficulties of running their own business and the rewards of being their own boss."

Curry has developed a handbook and kits for teachers and coordinates the training for facilitators who help with the instruction.

A preparatory day is held in the students'

regular classroom to cover the basics. The second day is more intense and includes a full day of activities on the NIACC campus. The children learn what important resources an entrepreneur needs as well as team work on selecting a product, taking a loan from a bank, buying resources and selling the product to determine whether their company made a profit.

The kids make tangible products using Play-Doh as their building material. They also keep journals of their experiences.

Fifth graders from CAL, Forest City, Mason City, Mason City Newman, Nora Springs/North Central, Northwood, and Rockwell have been through the program this year. It is Curry's goal to have all 23 area schools involved in the near future.

For more information, email currytam@niacc.edu or call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4234.

Five North Iowans Join NIACC Foundation Board of Directors

Several North Iowans have joined the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors: Kristy Arzberger of Plymouth, Brad Davis of Hampton, Dan Latham and Jon Lewerke of Mason City, and Bob Olson of Forest City. Their first meeting was March 20, 2007.

Kristy Arzberger of Plymouth is an attorney and the owner of Arzberger Law Office in Mason City. She earned her AA degree from North Iowa Area Community College and her BA and JD degrees from Drake University. She is also involved with the family farming operation and serves on the board for the North Iowa Girl Scout Council. She and her husband, Steve, have two children.



Brad Davis of Hampton is President and CEO of Hampton State Bank. He has been with the bank since 1980. A graduate of the University of Iowa, his education also includes the



Iowa School of Banking, the National School of Bank Investments at the University of Oklahoma, and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. He is a member of the Hampton Kiwanis Club and serves as treasurer for the Hampton-Dumont Achievement Foundation and the Salvation Army. He and his wife, Peggy, have four children.

Dan Latham of Mason City recently started a consulting company called 3 Degrees Holdings with partner Dan Valentino and is Chairman of the Board for LXI (a recovery and compliance software company). He is also an advisor to the board of Intelemedia (a software and hosting call center company) as well as to several other companies. A graduate of North Iowa Area Community College and the University of Northern Iowa, Latham is a recipient of the NIACC Outstanding Alumni Award. He and his wife, Debi, have two children.



Jon Lewerke of Mason City is the Vice President of Woodharbor Doors & Cabinetry, which he and his brothers, Curtis and Dennis, established in 1993. Lewerke attended North Iowa Area Community College and has been

active with Mason City Youth Baseball for over 15 years. A longstanding member of the Newman Foundation, he is also co-owner of Open Market, Ltd. with his wife, Jo-Ellen. The couple has four children.



Robert Olson of Forest City is Senior Vice President, Operations for Winnebago Industries, Inc. He has been with the Fortune 500 company since 1969. He is certified in inventory management by the American Production and Inventory Control Society and recently chaired the Iowa Manufacturers Extension Partnership (IMEP) Industry Governance Board. Olson also chaired the Bear Creek Golf Course Back Nine expansion committee and is a member of the Forest City Economic Development Committee, Winnebago Industries Foundation, and the North Iowa President's Club at NIACC. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two children and four grandchildren.



NIACC Instructor Introduces Iowa Independent Film Festival

The first annual Iowa Independent Film Festival will be held April 20-22 in Mason City. The event is being coordinated by Richard Schinnow, a long-time English instructor for NIACC. The College has supported the Film Festival in various ways and several staff members have served on the planning committee.

Films will run continuously throughout the three-day festival on three screens – two at Music Man Square and one at the Mason City Public Library. Organizers hope the festival will stimulate interest in making independent films in the area.

The main attraction of the festival will be the participation of veteran "indie" filmmaker Henry Jaglom, who will be bringing his newest movie, *Hollywood Dreams*, and its star - Tanna Frederick – whose mother (Nancy) is a NIACC nursing instructor and whose father, David, is a NIACC alumnus.

Jaglom is expected to bring another major player in the film - Karen Black (*Easy Rider* and *Five Easy Pieces*), and Grammy Award winner Harriet Schock, who scored the film.

While in Mason City, Jaglom will also participate in hands-on workshops with students at the Stebens Children's Theatre and at NIACC.

For more information, visit iowaindependentfilmfestival.com.

Coatless in the Cold

Members of the NIACC Student Senate braved bitterly cold temperatures for an important cause. "Coatless in the Cold" was hosted for the third consecutive year in order to collect clothing items – including coats, hats, and gloves – for people in need. Student Senators symbolized the need for winter clothing by standing outside Hy-Vee West (the collection point) without winter coats for six hours. According to Tyler Sisco, NIACC's Director of Student Activities, over 200 pieces of winter clothing were collected during the drive, with all donations going to the Salvation Army.

NIACC Singers Reunion

Former NIACC Singers from the early '90s are planning a reunion surrounding this year's Quodlibet performances on April 19, 20 and 22. The NIACC Alumni Association provides support to reunion planners. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4269.

Trends in Biotechnology

North Iowa Area Community College hosted a biotechnology seminar recently to better understand how biotechnology affects the North Iowa economy and what education may be needed to support biotechnology in the area.

Presenters included Doug Getter, Executive Director of the Iowa Biotechnology Association, and Dave Tierney, Manager of Government Affairs at Monsanto.

Agricultural services, pharmaceuticals, health services, bio-fuels and counter bio-terrorism fields are but a few of the rapidly growing avenues. After more than tripling in size over the past 10 years, the bio-economy is projected to add three million new jobs by 2012.

Girls Gone Tech

Area high school girls gathered on the NIACC campus March 10th for a "Girls Gone Tech" fashion design workshop. Participants learned to design clothing on the computer using Digital Fashion Design Pro, the same software used by fashion designers and design students. The girls also heard from Augusta Carrier, a Clear Lake native who is majoring in Apparel Merchandising, Design and Production at Iowa State University. Made possible through a state equity grant, the event was offered free of charge and included complimentary lunch and t-shirts for participants.



Give Online

Now you can make a tax-deductible gift to the NIACC Foundation easily from home! Online donations are accepted using your MasterCard or Visa, and you may stipulate how the gift should be used. The secure site is accessible from the NIACC Foundation homepage at www.niacc.edu/foundation



ALUMNI ALMANAC • 1950s • Donald Bartusek '50 is retired and lives in Columbia, MD, with his wife, Barbara. • **1960s • Phyllis Fenchel '68** is manager of the Wilderer Museum in Strawberry Point, IA, where she lives with her husband, George. • **Jay Jones '69** is a clinical social worker at St. Joseph Medical Center. He lives in University Place, WA, with his wife, Connie. • **1970s • Tamara (Jones) Trent '74** lives in Moore, TX, and is employed by Target. • **Kevin Bennett '75** is pastor of administration at Highland Park Evangelical Free Church. He lives in Columbus, NE, with his wife, Joan. • **Diana (Tapscott) Groe '75**, who lives in the Missouri Ozarks, is about to release her third book about folklore heroes and heroines set in Ireland and Scandinavia. • **Martin Leewright '76**, of Fort Worth, TX, is completing his PhD in higher education at the University of North Texas. • **Jan (Oldham) Kamphuis '77** is the director of nursing at MedCenter One Hospital in Bismarck, ND, where she lives with her husband, Mark. • **Lanett (Binley) Moser '77** is a RN at Longview Regional Medical Center. She lives in Ore City, TX, with her husband, Patrick, and family. • **Cyndi (Kline) Pederson '77** has been named department director for the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. She lives in Des Moines, IA, with her husband, John. • **1980s • John Deibler '83** lives in West Des Moines, IA. • **Kay Rathmann '83** is the community affairs/special promotions director with KIMT-TV in Mason City, IA. • **Shelly Folkerts '84** is a self-employed realtor and lives in Roseville, CA. • **Steven Bryant '85** is senior engineering technician at Team Services in Mason City, IA, where he lives with his wife, Joleen, and family. • **Patrick Palmer '85** is the owner of The Computer Guy and lives in Hampton, IA, with his wife, Becky. • **Joan (Foxen) Wildebeor '86** is an internal client server for McGladrey & Pullen. She lives in Cedar Falls, IA, with her husband, Dennis, and family. • **Brenda (Krukow) Gast '86** works for the U.S. Postal Service. She lives in Sheffield, IA, with her husband, Kevin, and family. • **Todd Bales '87** lives in Phoenix, AZ, with his wife, Raquel. • **Dana Lee '87** is a driver for Decker Truckline. He lives in Whittemore, IA, with his wife, Deborah, and family. • **Victoria (Thul) McNamara '87** is president/owner of Victoria Dance Productions in Edina, MN. She lives in St. Louis Park with her husband, Curt, and family. • **Stephanie (Gutzmer) Colon '89** is employed by Dr. Gregory Kline in West Des Moines, IA. She lives in Urbandale with her husband, Philip. • **1990s • Linda (Nonnweiler) Alexandres '90** of West Des Moines, IA, is an enrollment counselor at William Penn University. • **Brad Lill '90** has moved from Texas to Sussex, WI. He is the senior inventory manager for Kohl's Department Stores. • **Tim Merfeld '90** is director of pastoral care at Bridge of Faith Church. He lives in Oakland, CA, with his wife, Carrie. • **Leslie Rauk '90** is employed at ConAgra Foods as production support specialist. She lives in Clear Lake, IA, with her husband, Scott. • **David Reindl '90** is a police officer in Gardner, KS. • **Paul Jacobson '91** is a high school guidance counselor in Gilbert, IA, where he lives with his wife, Tammy, and family. • **Stephanie (Graff) Schroeder '91** is employed by Premier Gymnastics and lives in Omaha, NE, with her husband, Larry, and family. • **Paula Spilman '91** joined the Clear Lake Bank and Trust Co. as a new accounts representative and teller. • **Nicole (Acosta) Heintzelman '93** is a reference librarian at Winter Park Public Library in Orlando, FL, where she lives with her husband, Erich. • **Stacey (Welsh) VandenHul '93** of Forest City, IA, is employed at Choctaw Management Services. • **Christopher Deets '94** and **Julia (Oertel) Deets '94** live in Mason City, IA. Chris recently joined the Clear Lake Bank and Trust Company as assistant vice president/commercial banking, and Julia has been promoted to marketing and internal sales manager at Metalcraft. • **Tara (Hemann) Kruckenberg '94** is teller manager officer at First Citizens National Bank's west office in Mason City, IA, where she lives with her husband, Jim, and family. • **Susan (Boekelman) Stiehl '94** lives in Farmington, MN, with her husband, Daniel. • **Kendal Colvin '95** is plant manager at Van Gorp Corporation in Pella, IA, where he lives with his wife, Brenda. • **Jennifer Frein '95** is the human resources benefits/payroll manager officer for First Citizens National Bank's west office in Mason City, IA. She lives in Osage with her husband, Todd, and family. • **Randall Retleff '95** is a team leader with Lincolnway Energy. He lives in Nevada, IA, with his wife, Denise, and family. • **Emily (Meyer) Wegner '95** is a food safety specialist with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. She lives in Clive, IA, with her husband, Jason. • **Curtis Hallett '96** is assistant vice president at First Citizens National Bank in Charles City, IA, where he lives with his wife, Jessica, and family. • **Travis Statlander '96** is employed with Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, MO. He lives in Overland Park with his wife, Sarah. • **Sara (Buseman) Udelhofen '96** lives in Mason City, IA, with her husband, John. • **Jennifer (Norris) Cash '97** is marketing officer and Gold Club director at Manufacturers Bank and Trust in Mason City, IA, where she lives with her husband, Todd, and family. • **Lori (Schneider) Safraneck '97** is an administrative assistant with Terracon Consultants and lives in Papillion, NE, with her husband, Scott. • **Sarah (Hinrichs) Thein '97** is assistant cashier-information technology/operations at Clear Lake Bank and Trust Co. in Clear Lake, IA. She lives in Ventura with her husband, Doug. • **Sara (Gramstad) Zilge '97** and **Kristopher Zilge '03** reside in Mason City, IA. Sara is employed at the Rose Bowl, and Kris works at Zilge's Appliance. • **Alissa Gomez '98** lives in Mason City, IA, and teaches high school Spanish at Newman Catholic Schools. • **Tammy Hansen '98** is an IT program manager with ATC Logistics & Electronics in Fort Worth, TX. • **Francis Parrett '98** is in the U.S. Army and lives in Copperas Cove, TX, with his wife, Gail. • **Jennifer (Keel) Cole '99** is employed at GMAC Mortgage in Waterloo, IA. She lives in Jesup with her husband, Michael. • **Cheryl (Yegge) Harris '99** is employed by Medstaff, Inc. as a traveling registered nurse. She lives in Urbandale, IA, with her husband, Ken. • **Joseph Krambeer '99** is employed with Harrison Truck Center in Clear Lake, IA. He lives in Manly with his wife, Regina. • **Sara (Rye) Pals '99** is a realtor with Rye Realty Inc. in Mason City, IA, where she lives with her husband, Todd. • **Rua Pokladnik '99** is a marketing graphics designer at TeamQuest in Clear Lake, IA. • **Amanda (Hoffman) Van Auken '99** is employed with Sergeant's Pet Care in Omaha, NE, where she lives with her husband, Brigham.

Night to Shine

NIACC Foundation Event Set for October 6th

The date for the next NIACC's Night to Shine has been set for Saturday, October 6, 2007. Please mark your calendars! Hosted by the NIACC Foundation, this event typically includes dinner, entertainment, an auction, and the presentation of the NIACC Shining Star Awards.

The NIACC Shining Star Award recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that have invested significant time, talent, and/or treasure in the College. Past recipients include Jim Benjegerdes, the late Bob and Lois Bergland, Dr. and Mrs. John B. Dixon, the Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund, the late Betty Geer, Joyce Hanes, the late Dr. John Hitzhusen, the Keithahn Family, John Pappajohn, and Tom and Linda Schaefer.

• **2000s • Phil Bieber '00** owns a video game/PC service shop, World of Games, in Lakeville, MN. • **Jon Cottrell '00** is employed in engineering at Metalcraft, Inc. in Mason City, IA. He lives in Plymouth with his wife, Becky. • **Carrie Crum '00** of Nora Springs, IA, is a supervisor at I.C. System. • **Shayne Kraft '00** and **Amber (Johnsrud) Kraft '01** live in Mason City, IA. Amber is a sales representative with Anderson Merchandisers of Amarillo, TX, and Shayne is service manager with Cartridge Recyclers in Mason City. • **Renee (Bowman) Toombs '00** lives in Des Moines, IA, with her husband, Wade. She is employed at Concenta Medical Center. • **Molly (Lunning) Winter '00** lives in St. Ansgar, IA, with her husband, Brent, and works for the Austin Eye Clinic. • **Brian Budach '01** and **Jill (Nelson) Budach '02** reside in Lake Mills, IA. Brian is employed by Accelerated Rehab in Mason City, and Jill works for the Albert Lea Medical Center. • **Rachel (Sheriff) DeWalle '01** is employed at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, IA, where she lives with her husband, Shane. • **Kama (Leerar) Shultz '01** is employed by Osage Community Schools. She lives in Mason City, IA, with her husband, Andy. • **Rachel (Schuknecht) Smith '01** is employed by Clear Channel and lives in Urbandale, IA, with her husband, Lane. • **Randy Smith '01** is a computer/network administrator at First Citizens National Bank. He lives in Mason City, IA, with his wife, Tina, and family. • **Kathryn (Meyer) Thomson '01** and her husband, Chad, live in Bellevue, NE, where she is a special education elementary teacher. • **Casey and Sarah (Foth) Cajthaml '02** live in Charles City, IA. Casey is employed by Allied Redi-Mix, and Sarah is the director of social work for Chautauqua Guest Homes. • **Shelby (Gallagher) Dwyer '02** is employed by the Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA. She lives in Clear Lake with her husband, Mike. • **Tammy Eriksen '02** has opened the ACE Insurance Agency Inc. in Clear Lake, IA. • **Jacki (Kaysen) Knorr '02** is employed with Revenue Cycle Partners in North Liberty, IA, where she lives with her husband, Zach. • **Elizabeth (Bechtel) Moore '02** is employed with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. She lives in Coralville, IA, with her husband, Jason. • **Margaret (Buol) Smith '02** lives with her husband, James, in Mason City, IA. She is employed by Mills Fleet Farm. • **Tim Tosek '02** is a cashier/trainer at Wal-Mart and lives in Mason City, IA. • **Jennifer (Gossard) Walrod '02** lives in Belmont, IA, with her husband, Jason. She is employed by Belmont-Klemme Schools as a special education para-educator and AUXI Health as a home health aide. • **Brad Willman '02** is employed at Bennigan's in Clear Lake, IA, where he lives with his wife, Kourtney. • **Pamela (Larson) Fick '03** works part-time for NIACC and is a self-employed web designer. She lives in Lake Mills, IA, with her husband, Nathan. • **Michael Flugum '03** and his wife, Jill, live in Lake Mills, IA. • **Lindsay (Tiedeman) George '03** of Worth, IL, is an elementary PE teacher in the Chicago area. • **Kelly (Bartsch) Halverson '03** is employed by Citizens First National Bank in Storm Lake, IA. She lives in Cherokee with her husband, Ryan. • **Holly Lindsay '03** of Clear Lake, IA, is a human resource generalist for I.C. System. • **Deborah Thompson '03** is a Salvation Army captain assigned to St. Joseph, MO. • **Eric Engels '04** and **Laura (Dudding) Engels '04** live in Urbandale, IA. Eric is employed with SJM Construction, and Laura is a student at Drake University. • **Toni (Becker) Lazaro-Carrasco '04** resides in Madrid, Spain, with her husband, Sergio. • **Tiffany (Thies) Nonnweiler '04** is employed at NSB Bank in Mason City, IA, where she lives with her husband, Jeff. • **Kelly (Loften) Ross '04** lives in Osage, IA. • **Melissa (Juhl) Anderson '05** is employed at Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA. She lives in Forest City with her husband, Trent. • **Jay Larkin '05** works for Meints Construction in Clear Lake, IA. He lives in Garner with his wife, Ashley. • **Lisa (Wolfe) Trewet '05** is the front desk supervisor at the Mason City Family YMCA.

Send us YOUR update by visiting the NIACC website at www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm and choosing "I Wanna Talk About Me." We look forward to hearing from you!

IN MEMORY • Alumni (by class) • 1926 Louise M. (Moen) Hamilton, 99 • **1931** Marjorie (Weinschenk) Green, 95 • **1934** Dr. John F. Hitzhusen, 92 • **1937** Theodore "Ted" Knudson, 89 • **1938** Catherine M. (Neu) Hughes, 92 • **1939** Elmer W. Edel, 88 • **1941** John J. "Jack" Dorsey, 84 • **1941** Virginia (Sullivan) Rholl, 84 • **1947** Stella (Malaktaris) Rickoff, 78 • **1950** Gerald M. Duenow, 77 • **1955** Irene E. (Benjegerdes) Gorkowski, 95 • **1955** Jeannine A. (Henderson) Stork, 77 • **1955** Verla Mae (Dutcher) Turvold, 79 • **1956** Donald G. Vajgert, 70 • **1957** Charles A. Frelund, 70 • **1957** A. Dennis Loken, 68 • **1963** Curtiss A. Waters, 64 • **1965** Leona A. (Bublitz) Wernet, 85 • **1968** Larry G. Loken, 58 • **1969** Barbara J. (Taylor) Dellit, 57 • **1972** Richard J. Stadlander, 57 • **1972** Warren A. Tilton, 80 • **1976** Evelyn V. (Field) Probasco, 74 • **1977** Darlene R. (Gruis) Lambert, 78 • **1979** Ardis S. (Hegland) Paulson, 74 • **1980** Rex W. Zimmerman, 46 • **1982** Mickey L. Kreitlow, 51 • **1983** Kirk A. Kral, 43 • **1985** Cynthia S. Pospichal, 57 • **1986** Sharon C. (Hagen) Hrubetz, 64 • **Other NIACC Friends •** Barbara R. (Jones) Barg, 77 • B. C. Berge, 93 • Dr. Jerome F. Biebesheimer, 90 • William W. Blackmore, 87 • Phillip L. Bolz, 67 • William E. Brennan, 53 • Darlene J. (Cline) Buckland, 75 • Ross J. Caniglia, 75 • Cletus V. Carlson, 81 • Valoyce A. (Nalan) Cooper, 78 • Delmer D. Daniels, 59 • Judith E. (Olson) De Jong, 72 • Evelyn L. (Frenz) Donovan, 79 • Danny E. Fjetland, 69 • Doris A. (Narveson) Gallagher, 76 • Lowell Gallagher, 78 • Marlys A. (Lillibridge) Geer, 91 • Patrick H. Gribben, 65 • James W. Griebing, 93 • Arthur S. "Stan" Johnson, 81 • William D. Killpack, 82 • William "Bud" M. Kragenbrink III, 72 • Penny C. (Creese) Krogh, 86 • Georgia R. Ludeman, 80 • Max L. Miller, 70 • Mildred L. (Marshall) Moore, 94 • Berdean M. (Frandle) Nerdig, 83 • William M. Oleson, 88 • Domini V. (Haynes) Pauley, 87 • Dorothea A. (Hebel) Pritchard, 79 • Daniel J. Robinson, 74 • Ernest H. Schmidt, 82 • Carol K. (Klath) Schmiedeskamp, 76 • Eva A. (Laupitz) Taylor, 91 • Lyla P. (Donaldson) Van Horn, 64 • Clement G. Weiss, 90 • Clayton L. Wornson, 92

Students (and Businesses) Take Advantage of New Internship Program



Learn. Earn. Intern. There are three small words that make a big difference in the lives of students who participate in North Iowa Area Community College's Business Internship Program.

"NIACC's Business Internship program is a great opportunity for qualified NIACC students who would benefit from work experience as well as area businesses who are interested in additional assistance during peak seasons or with special projects," said Laura Merfeld, NIACC Business Instructor. "Many students are already working at jobs that they could be earning college credit for right now."

Students who participate in the NIACC Business Internship program increase their employment skills and learning power, earn college credit and make contacts that could lead to permanent employment.

"It's a great way to gain knowledge and experience before actually entering the workforce. You can get tips from different people that can help you along in your career," said Ashley Sullivan, a former NIACC Business Internship student who interned at the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission. Sullivan now works at American Cereal Company in St.

Ansgar in the field in which she did her internship.

Businesses participating in the NIACC Business Internship program gain valuable assistance from student interns, participate in a positive community service project and recruit potential well-trained employees.

Sullivan's efforts at the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission were appreciated by her supervisor, Brenda Dryer, Director of the Mitchell County Economic Development Commission.

"Internships create opportunities to expose students to a wide array of things going on in the community. (My interns have) an immense amount of responsibility. They are self starters, independent and problem solvers," Dryer said.

"Internships create opportunities to expose students to a wide array of things going on in the community. (My interns have) an immense amount of responsibility. They are self starters, independent and problem solvers."

Another business that participates in the NIACC Business Internship program is Kingland Systems Corporation in Clear Lake. Kingland is a software and services technology company that provides compliance solutions to large financial and accounting firms.

"Interns allow us to have a productive and economical resource that may later be interested in employment with our organization and that is able to better communicate to his or her peers what we as a company do. Having the intern program has also allowed our existing employees the opportunity to improve on their mentoring skills," said Todd Rognes, Kingland's Chief Financial Officer.

Working with area companies during a business internship provides students with extra work experience in their field of study.

"I am currently doing an accounting internship with Kingland Systems Corporation," said NIACC student Jennifer Ott. "I love my internship because it gives me the chance to work in a business environment in the career field that I am pursuing. I would definitely recommend that students participate in the NIACC Business Internship program. It gives them a chance to meet new people and to apply the concepts they have learned."

Another student in the NIACC Business Internship program, Ryan Venz, works in Charles City at Financial Services, an accounting firm. Venz works with monthly workbooks, payrolls and helps with income tax returns for corporations and individual clients.

"I am able to take the things I've learned in classes and apply it to real life situations. The internship gives me the chance to see if accounting is really the profession I want to be in the rest of my life," Venz said. "You will never get a better opportunity where you can earn credit hours and get paid for learning. It really is a win-win situation."

Lindzey DeWitt does her internship at her current job with Community National Bank. She also goes to school full-time online. "I like how it is very independent and it works well with my schedule," DeWitt said.

Dryer, who had a wonderful experience with her first intern and is enjoying the same reliability with her second intern from the NIACC Business Internship program, thinks internships are a great way to expose future employees to the good jobs available in North Iowa.

"I'd encourage businesses and students to participate in the NIACC Business Internship program. For businesses, it's a proactive way to create a positive work experience for students right in North Central Iowa," Dryer said.

For more information about the NIACC Business Internship program, call NIACC at 1-888-GO NIACC (press 9), email Merfeld at merfelau@niacc.edu, or visit www.niacc.edu/intern.

"You will never get a better opportunity where you can earn credit hours and get paid for learning. It really is a win-win situation."

NIACC FIRST Campaign Makes a Comeback

Accomplished alumni of North Iowa Area Community College will once again be featured in the NIACC FIRST advertising campaign, which was popular throughout the '90s and won the College several awards. Television and radio commercials began running this spring and incorporate the College's current "Where You Want To Go" jingle. Initial alumni to be featured include Larry Elwood and Jon Heinz of Mason City, Andie Olson of Osage, and Addie Rugland of Northwood.

"I received a great education at NIACC, and now I'm hiring graduates of the College's Building Trades program. As a member of the Contractors Advisory Committee, I enjoy helping to guide the program, which prepares young people to become craftsmen who will build our dream homes now and in the future."



Larry Elwood '70
Owner, Larry Elwood Construction

"Choosing NIACC first was a great decision for me. The affordability, small class size and caring instructors allowed me to discover my career goals and transfer smoothly to UNI. I always recommend NIACC to high school students because it's a great school located virtually in their own backyard."



Addie (Harmon) Rugland '98
Public Relations and Marketing Director
Mason City YMCA and Rehabilitation Center

"I LOVED my years at NIACC!!! I received a quality education, had the opportunity to excel in numerous sports, and met some of the best friends of my life. It doesn't get any better than that. NIACC is still a place I can go back to and feel like I am at home."



Andie (Griffith) Olson '93
Second Grade Teacher and
High School Coach
Osage Community Schools

"NIACC did an excellent job in helping me build a strong technical knowledge set that has been invaluable during my career. The instructors took the time to ensure that I was well prepared for the business world in IT."



Jon Heinz '03
IT Director, Metalcraft

If there's a will, there's a way.

Many alumni and friends of NIACC have supported the College through a bequest.

If you plan to include NIACC in your will, the preferred legal bequest language for the NIACC Foundation is: *"I bequeath to the North Iowa Area Community College Foundation, EIN 23-7023677, presently at 500 College Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401, (written amount or percentage or fraction of estate or description of property) for its unrestricted use."*

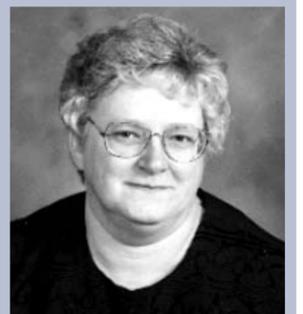
Directed bequests and other requests are always welcome. For more information, visit www.niacc.edu/foundation or call the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.



Congratulations and best wishes to our recent retirees!



Jeanette Armstrong
Adult Education
Records Specialist
1989-2007



Sandra Gobeli
Vice President for
Administrative Services
1979-2006

NIACC Faces

North Iowa Area Community College welcomes the following individuals who have recently joined the NIACC team of employees!

Kelley Crane is the Administrative Assistant for the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) Business Incubator. She attended NIACC and Iowa State University and earned her bachelor's degree in public relations from Northwest Missouri State University. She previously served as a substitute teacher for the Mason City School District and as Director of Development for the Education Foundation.



Laura Eekhoff is the Administrative Assistant for NIACC's Institutional Advancement Office. She previously worked for Krysilis in Forest City and has her AA and BA degrees from Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA.



Barbara Erickson is the Administrative Office Assistant for School Partnerships. A native of Charles City, she and her husband recently returned to North Iowa.



Linda Ferguson is the Adult Education Records Specialist in NIACC's Student Learning Center. A NIACC graduate, she previously worked part-time for the NIACC Administrative Services Division.



Senora Gilley is the Title III Supplemental Instruction/Early Alert Coordinator. She earned her AA and BA degrees from Hamilton College and her MA degree in Education/Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She has served in various capacities for Hamilton College of Waterloo, including adjunct instructor.



Rhonda Groshens is the Financial Aid Administrative Office Assistant. A NIACC graduate, she has worked for Leading Edge (Jim Hayden) Ford in Osage and for the North Kossuth Community School District.



Gary Herrig is a Student Support Services Counselor. He has worked in human services for 28 years, most recently for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services. He has a BS degree from the University of Iowa and a MS degree from Drake University.



Jennifer Rosauer is a Secretary/Bookkeeper in the NIACC Business Office. She earned an AA degree from NIACC and a BS degree from Iowa State University. Her recent employment includes the Belmond Health Care Center and Ag Processing, Inc.



Gary Sager is a Student Services Counselor and the Mentoring Coordinator. He has worked as a counselor, student development coordinator, and career planning director. He comes to NIACC from Waldorf College. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Lakeland College (WI), and he earned master's and doctorate degrees in counseling from Northern Arizona University.



James Stepleton is a 3rd Shift Custodian. He has associate's and bachelor's degrees in law enforcement from Iowa Central Community College and Mankato State University, respectively. He comes to NIACC from Minnesota Rubber Company.



Andrea Watters is the Administrative Office Assistant for Student Support Services. She earned AA, AS, and ASB degrees from NIACC and comes to the College from Lyons Toyota Dodge in Mason City.



NIACC also recognizes the following employees who have new or additional roles at the College.

Josh Byrnes is the Industrial Technology Division Chair. He joined NIACC in 2005 as a member of the School Partnerships team. He has a bachelor's degree from Luther College and a master's degree from Winona State University.



Angie DeVries has been named Administrative Assistant for the Title III project. A graduate of NIACC, she has worked at the College since 1998, most recently as the secretary for Student Support Services.



Mindy Eastman has been named Accountant/Business Office Manager. She has been with NIACC's Business Office since 1990 and has an AA degree from NIACC and a BA degree from Buena Vista University.



Terri Ewers is the Title III Activity Director in addition to her role as NIACC's Director of Counseling. She had led the Student Support Services (SSS) Program since its origination on campus 13 years ago. Ewers earned degrees from NIACC, the University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University. She is finishing her Ph.D. in Education Leadership and Administration.



Diane Greimann has moved from School Partnerships Secretary to Murphy Manufacturing Technology Secretary. She has been with NIACC since 2002.



Kathy Grove has been promoted to Vice President for Administrative Services. She previously served as Director of Business Services. An alumna of NIACC and Buena Vista University, she has worked at NIACC for 30 years.



Kathryn "Kay" Long, a Student Support Services (SSS) Counselor at NIACC since 2002, has assumed leadership of the SSS Program. She is a graduate of Clarke College and Loyola University.



Karen Pierson, NIACC's Vice President of Student Services since 1996, has also assumed coordination of Title III. Dr. Pierson received her educational training from Northwest Missouri State University, the University of Nebraska, and Iowa State University.



John Sjolinder is the Trade and Industry Coordinator for NIACC's Continuing Education Division, where he began in 2000. He has also worked with NIACC's Industrial Technology Division. Sjolinder is a NIACC and Iowa State alumnus.



David Swartwood has moved from a custodial position to a general maintenance position within the Facilities Management Department. He has his BA degree from MidAmerica Nazarene College and has worked for NIACC since 2005.



Heather Wright is the Workforce Program Supervisor at the Workforce Development Center. A UNI graduate and a NIACC employee since 2000, she previously carried the title of Workforce Advisor - Team Leader.



Lisa Vance has switched from Student Support Services Counselor to Special Populations Counselor for Title III. She has a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling.



Three accomplished alumni and 45 top students of North Iowa Area Community College were honored during the **17th Annual Pathways to Success Program** hosted by the NIACC Alumni Association on April 10.



The 2007 Pathways to Success NIACC Student Leaders are: Back row from left -

Alex Rehnstrom (Sioux Rapids), Joy East (Garnet), Andrew Cullen (Clear Lake), Brandon Westfahl (Sumner), Jordan Stiles (Rockwell), Tabitha Thies (Mason City), Debra Bock (Belmond), Tanner Hansen (St. Ansgar), Greg Pappas (Mason City), Jared Koch (Cherokee), Daniel Mousel (Sioux City), Alyssa Wendt (Mason City), Stephanie Haacke (Kensett), and Andrew Faust (Mason City); Middle row from left - Joseph Burke (Mason City), Nola Aigner (Mason City), Morgan Koerber (Mason City), Jennifer Ott (Marble Rock), Kimberly Fleming (Mason City), Wesley Brommel (Norwalk), John Schnackenberg (Creston), Matthew Meyer (Mason City), Amy Degen (Williamsburg), Cole Fister (Riceville), Justin Sprung (Nora Springs), Ryan Sones (Laurens), Timothy Palmer (Nora Springs), and Monica Kiley (Cedar Rapids). Front row from left - Torrie Chizek (Britt), Maradee Frideres (LuVerne), Charles Wagara (Dadoma, Tanzania), Keanna Wood (Atlantic), Amanda Dhondt (Sheffield), Jennifer Farquhar (Clear Lake), Whitney Weber (Clear Lake), Christine Harms (Mason City), Shanna Floy (Clear Lake), and Deanne Perkins (Sheffield). Not pictured - Megan Coborn (Mason City), Timothy DeBoer (Britt), Spenser Gruis (Rockford), Thomas Helthoff (Carroll), Kimberly Marovets (Mason City), Michelle Martin (Charles City), and Amber Riesenberg (Lake City).



Thanks to our 2007 Pathways to Success Sponsors!
 NIACC Student Senate
 Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors
 Printing Services Inc.
PSI of Belmond, Mason City, Webster City and Ft. Dodge

NIACC
 500 College Drive
 Mason City, IA 50401

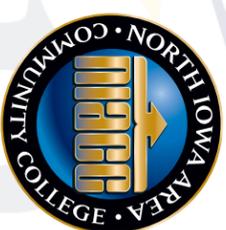


Mary E. Stibal '69 served as keynote speaker for this year's program and was named NIACC's 2007 Outstanding Alumna. Mary grew up near Osage and has worked in Boston for 25 years in partnership marketing. Ten of her siblings, plus her mother, also attended NIACC.



Phyllis Saunders and Dr. Meredith Saunders were named NIACC's 2007 Distinguished Alumni. Both are graduates of MCCC (Phyllis in '50; Meredith in '49) and lifetime members of the NIACC Alumni Association. Phyllis has taught piano in Mason City for 60 years. She and her late husband, David, made NIACC's Murphy Manufacturing Technology Center possible and support the community through a private foundation. Meredith spent his career as an ophthalmologist in the Des Moines area and has a long record of community service at the local, state and national levels. His mother, Edna Saunders, still lives in Mason City.

Non-profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Mason City, IA
 Permit No. 278



North Iowa Area Community College

inTouch

for alumni and friends of
 North Iowa Area Community College

www.niaccedu

volume 17 | issue 1 | Spring 2007

Recreation Center Construction Begins Soon

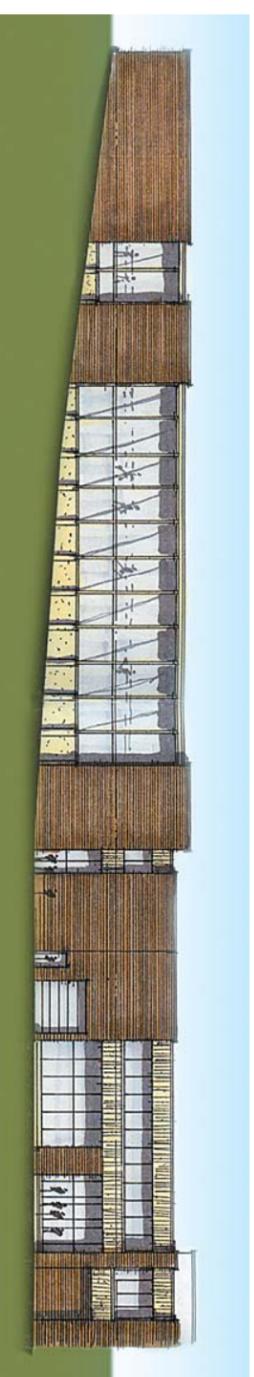
Ground breaking for a recreation center at NIACC is expected to occur this summer. A planning committee has worked with local architects to develop preliminary drawings for the new facility, which will adjoin NIACC's Muse Norris Conference Center to the east. The NIACC Board of Directors will approve plans and seek construction bids this spring.

The initial concept calls for a double level rec center with two multi-purpose courts that can be used for every sport NIACC offers, in addition to tennis. A wrestling room, men's and women's locker rooms, and three classrooms for health-related classes are also included in the design. Other features under discussion

include a suspended walking track, climbing wall, and pool. The existing fitness center, located on the lower level of the Muse Norris Conference Center, will be remodeled to expand the aerobic exercise equipment area. The space will open into the new rec center.

"We're excited about this wonderful addition to our campus and expect the new facility to be used by everyone at NIACC - all students, student-athletes, faculty and staff," said Dr. Karen Pierson, NIACC Vice President for Student Services.

If construction goes as planned, NIACC's new recreation center will be open for the start of school in the fall of 2008.



This preliminary architect's rendering of the new Recreation Center shows the facility as an extension of the existing Muse Norris Conference Center (facing south).

Wrestling is Back

Wrestling is officially back. The decision to revive the sport at NIACC was announced last November, and the NIACC Trojan "mat men" will begin competition this fall.

"NIACC enjoys a very proud wrestling history. I am more than pleased to be associated with its reemergence for a

region that is known for its wrestling heritage and excellence," said NIACC President Michael Morrison.

North Iowa Area Community College originally posted a wrestling team 40 years ago under the leadership of then Athletic Director Art Lundblad. NIACC

continued on page 4

