



for alumni and friends of  
North Iowa Area Community College



# inTouch

www.niacc.edu

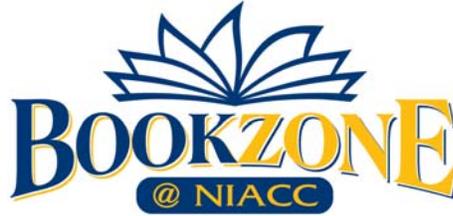
| volume 19 | issue 1 | Spring 2009

## NIACC Opens New NIACC BookZone on Campus

Check out NIACC BookZone, the new hot spot on the NIACC campus! Get in on the great deals at the new College-owned and operated bookstore in the Activity Center. BookZone will not miss a beat in providing students and faculty with responsive and friendly service.

"As we open NIACC BookZone, we celebrate yet another opportunity for NIACC to meet the ever changing needs of our students. Students will get their books, supplies and authentic NIACC apparel directly from the College. Service and convenience are a top priority as BookZone opens its doors," Dr. Debra Derr, NIACC president, said.

The now open NIACC BookZone temporarily operates in the Activity Center Room 101 on the NIACC campus and will move to a permanent location right next to NIACC Admissions in the Activity Center later this year.



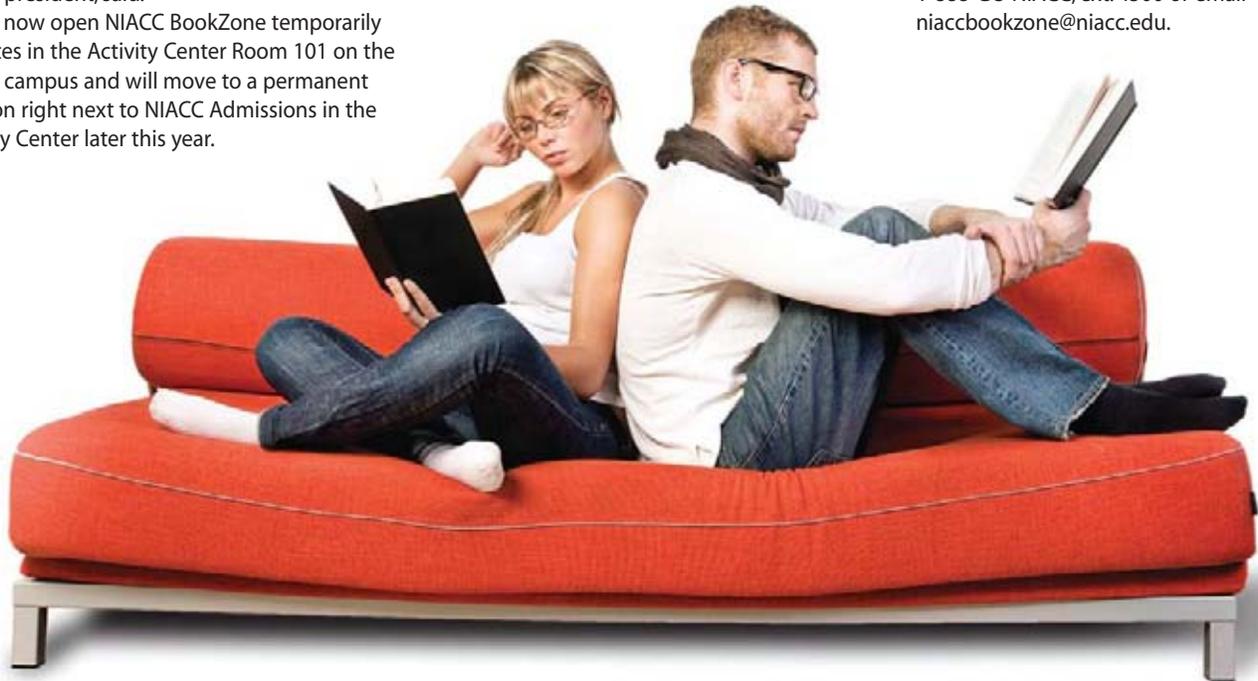
BOOKS • APPAREL • SUPPLIES

NIACC BookZone offers everything from textbooks and school supplies to the latest fashions in NIACC apparel and great gift and novelty items! Plus, NIACC BookZone staff is committed to providing excellent customer service; if customers can't find what they're

looking for, the staff will do everything possible to try to get it in stock.

"We are very excited to provide students and the public with their college merchandise needs from our convenient, on campus location. We are fortunate to have such an excellent customer base, and we look forward to serving our customers in any way possible," Rhonda Nesheim-Kauffman, NIACC BookZone manager, said.

Visit NIACC BookZone on the web at [www.niaccbookzone.com](http://www.niaccbookzone.com). For more information, call 641-422-4500 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4500 or email [niaccbookzone@niacc.edu](mailto:niaccbookzone@niacc.edu).



Page 1 | Energy Efficiency Efforts

Pages 6-7 | Building Trades Project

Page 9 | Alumni Almanac

Page 4 | Ultimate Sales Academy

Page 8 | Recreation Center

Page 11 | NIACC Faces



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## NIACC Goes Greener

As efforts to go green sweep the globe, NIACC continues to look for ways to implement green into the fabric of the College. NIACC's work to go green dates back to at least the early 1980s. Since the introduction of the utility rebate in the early 1990s, the College has captured nearly \$200,000 to date for its efforts in energy efficient measures. NIACC plans to become even more aggressive in exploring additional opportunities related to energy conservation.

"Throughout the College's history, NIACC has always been committed to implementing energy saving strategies. Energy efficiency is one of the best investments we can make," Tony Pappas, NIACC Facilities Management director, said.

The new recreation center serves as a large symbol of NIACC's commitment to energy efficiency. Included in the construction of the new two-level recreation center with state-of-the-art exercise equipment was state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems and a lighting system optimizing energy efficiency. The NIACC recreation center will save more than 685,379 kWh of electricity each year which will result in an estimated \$23,925 savings on the annual energy bill. To recognize NIACC for its commitment to energy conservation, Alliant Energy presented the College with a \$56,962 rebate check this winter. In addition to lowering its energy bill and receiving a rebate, NIACC will reduce the building's environmental impact by making the building more efficient than required by the State of Iowa building code and avoiding more than 488 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each

year. That is the equivalent of removing about 90 passenger vehicles from Iowa roadways or planting approximately 111 acres of trees

"The recreation center is a prime example of how NIACC is environmentally responsive – from the incorporation of closed loop ground source heat pump system to sensor controls. We are grateful to Alliant Energy for its shared mission and commitment and financial support," Pappas said.

In addition to the energy efficient recreation center, NIACC also has a number of other energy efficiency initiatives under way. Such efforts include replacing older inefficient corridor lighting with new energy efficient lighting, installing motion sensors for lighting control to eliminate constant "lights on," replacing an old roofing system in the Buettner Careers Building with an increase of more than 10 times the original insulation value, conserving energy by consolidating room and building usage, purchasing "Energy Star" qualified products, implementing more green cleaning products and more.

"As we continue to work to support our mission and enhance the lives of our constituents, we must become even greener in our efforts. The savings realized in energy efficiency will assist in offsetting other expenses," Dr. Debra Derr, NIACC president, said. "Our new recreation center is only the latest effort in a long history of energy efficiency strategies at the College, and we look forward to the green road ahead."

### NIACC's Energy Conservation History

#### 1980s

- Initial Installation of the Energy Management System
- Upgrade of Fine Arts Equipment
- Addition of IBM PS2 Model 30 for Automatic Software Loading with Loss of Power

#### 1990s

- Expansion and Upgrade of Activity Center with Direct Digital Controls (DDC)
- Upgrade Host Computer Systems
- Addition of Humidity Sensors and Controllers to Auditorium
- Upgrade Buettner Careers Building System with Digital Controls and Tec Controllers
- Installation of Campus-Wide High Efficient Chiller (\$72,000 Alliant Energy Rebate)

#### 2000s

- Implement Complete Energy Management System Upgrade (Including Y2K Compliance)
- Upgrade Controller Cabinet to Apogee Platform
- Implement DDC Automation for Activity Center and Auditorium Additions
- Upgrade and Automate Climate Control for Beem Center
- Implement DDC Automation for Business Incubator and Welding Additions
- Upgrade Modular Building Control Cabinets for McAllister Hall
- Implement DDC Automation for New Recreation Center (\$56,962 Alliant Energy Rebate)

## NIACC Honors Longstanding Friends with Shining Star Awards

As North Iowa Area Community College celebrated its 90th anniversary with the NIACC's Night To Shine dinner in conjunction with the Candlelight Christmas Festival on Thursday, December 4, 2008, the College also honored a couple of longtime friends with the prestigious NIACC Shining Star Award.

Dr. Debra Derr, NIACC president, presented the 2008 Shining Star Awards to the Currie Family and Charles H. MacNider.

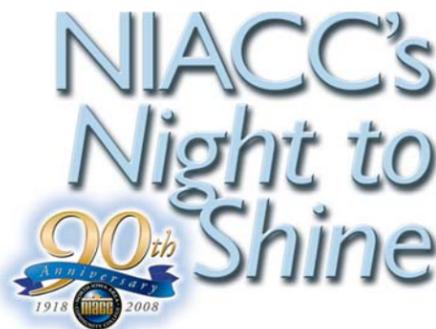
"We are extremely fortunate to have friends who have made so many things possible for the College and continue to make things happen at NIACC!" Derr said. "These NIACC Shining Stars have lit a bright path for the future of NIACC. We are honored to be able to shine a bit of that light back on them."

The Currie Family has been extremely supportive of North Iowa Area Community College over the years. This family has been an entrepreneurial fixture in our community since 1892. The company and the family have been supportive of the NIACC Foundation through scholarships since 1977.

Richard and Helen Currie believed in higher education and wanted to help NIACC students achieve their educational dreams. One of the ways they supported this belief was by establishing the R.L. and Helen Currie endowed scholarship with a bequest in 2006.

Dick and Helen's children have also been supportive of NIACC. Their daughter Nancy (Currie) Barnes, an educator, has taught several business classes through the Continuing Education department. She and her husband, Blake have been active members of the Mason City community.

Dick and Helen's son, Jerry, joined the family business in 1967. Under his leadership he has continued the positive partnership with NIACC that the College has enjoyed for many years. He is a Mason City Junior College graduate who was named NIACC's Outstanding Alumnus in 1993. Jerry and his wife, Susan a 1964 graduate, served as campaign co-chairs for the Keeping NIACC First capital campaign which raised over 5.4 million dollars. Nearly \$1.5 million of the total raised went to support scholarships and continues to impact NIACC students today.



Accepting the award on behalf of the Currie Family were Jerry and Susan Currie and Blake and Nancy (Currie) Barnes.

Charles H. MacNider has had a tremendous impact on the College in a variety of ways. Charlie has served on the NIACC Foundation Board from 1993-2000 and 2002-2008. During his tenure as president, he led the Board in the Friends of Fitness campaign raising money to enhance NIACC's new Recreation Center. Charlie and his wife, Kathy, a 1975 graduate, were also campaign co-chairs for the Keeping NIACC First capital campaign which raised over 5.4 million dollars. Along with his family, Charlie has been an exemplary role model of philanthropy by supporting a term scholarship since 1954 in the name of Angus MacNider. Today, this scholarship provides two students with full

tuition every year.

In addition to his service to NIACC, several community organizations have also benefitted from Charlie's involvement including the Mason City Chamber of Commerce, Mason City Development Association, MacNider Art Museum and MacNider Art Museum Foundation, Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake, Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, North Iowa Humane Society building campaign and Salvation Army building campaign.

The NIACC Shining Star Award was established in 2003 to recognize individuals, businesses and organizations that have invested significant time, energy and/or financial resources in NIACC. The award is intended for those who work to advance the institution and the region through their voluntary support.

Nearly 100 guests attended NIACC's Night to Shine, and proceeds from the event are designated for student scholarships and new program development at the College. Among the guests were two previous NIACC Shining Star award recipients, Jim Benjegerdes and Joyce Hanes. Other NIACC Shining Stars include Bob and Lois Bergland, Dr. and Mrs. John B. Dixon, the Globe Gazette Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund, Betty Geer, John Hitzhusen, the Keithahn Family, Phyllis Murphy, John Pappajohn and Tom and Linda Schaefer.



NIACC President Dr. Debra Derr congratulates Blake Barnes, Nancy (Currie) Barnes, Jerry Currie and Charlie MacNider.

## Budget Situation Letter from President Derr

### *It is the best of times, It is the worst of times....*

I have had the opportunity to serve as the president of North Iowa Area Community College for nine months. I remember my first day of work on July 7, when the tornado sirens began to sound late in the afternoon. I met a number of NIACC staff that afternoon in the designated tornado shelter. Thinking back I wonder, was this first day a sign of things to come?

### *It is the best of times...*

As you read this edition of InTouch I hope you are as proud of NIACC as I know I am. We are touching the lives of our students, their families and our community. NIACC is making a difference in the lives of North Iowans. Our enrollments continue to grow in our credit courses. Nationally, we were recognized for our work with dislocated workers on the front page of USA Today on Wednesday, April 8. Our faculty and staff are recognized nationally for their commitment to students through participation on national boards and presentations at national conferences. We continue to enhance the lives of North Iowans.

### *It is the worst of times...*

We all know that our nation has been experiencing one of the most dramatic economic downturn in our history. In North Iowa alone, it is estimated that 865 individuals have lost their jobs in the past 12 months. A number of our businesses are furloughing employees, cutting wages and taking other dramatic steps to save businesses and jobs. The State of Iowa has experienced a 4.5 percent decline in projected revenues for 2010 impacting our State's infrastructure, human services, workforce and economic development programming and, of course, funding for education.

NIACC has not been immune to these challenging economic times. At the time of InTouch printing, it is anticipated that our College will experience close to a 13% reduction in State funding for next year. In preparation for this challenge, we have had to make some very difficult decisions related to the future and ask ourselves the following questions. How will NIACC move forward and support our communities while addressing close to a \$1 million decrease in our state funding? How will we utilize federal stimulus resources in an effective and strategic manner, realizing that these funds are one time resources? How long will it take the State of Iowa to recover from this economic crisis?

First, NIACC is committed to a strong future. Necessary decisions were made in the best interest of the College and its service area. We utilized a number of guiding principles to make these difficult decisions. These guiding principles included:

- Stay true to the NIACC mission
- All decisions must be strategic and move us into the future
- Hold true our commitment to access
- Continue to guarantee quality, excellence, relevance and responsiveness in our training and educational offerings

In order to move NIACC forward to support the vitality of North Iowa, we must always ask the question, "Where do we want NIACC to be on its 100th birthday (2018)?" The strategic priorities of the College will move us forward. These priorities include:

- A commitment to institutional effectiveness, continuous improvement and accountability
- A commitment to meeting regional employment training needs through short-term flexible training
- A commitment to an enhanced information technology infrastructure supporting web-based education and student support
- A commitment to responsive new program development particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics
- A commitment to strategic enrollment planning and management
- A commitment to prioritizing relevance of our instructional programming.

NIACC has been and will continue to be an outstanding steward of the public trust. I am proud to say that this spring our faculty and staff have provided the College with a commitment for the future through ideas and strategies on how to address this projected budget shortfall. Even with the implementation of a number of cost saving measures, NIACC has had to make extremely difficult decisions. First, the College has eliminated its long-standing football program. Second, we have had to lay off seven full-time employees and seven part-time employees. Finally, the College has made numerous reductions in its operating budget. Currently, we have actualized approximately \$785,000 in savings for 2010. We have yet to set tuition for next year and we continue to look for savings in other areas of our operations. Additionally, these challenging economic times have negatively impacted the NIACC Foundation and the resources available for student scholarships. It is our charge to mitigate any tuition increase realizing that our scholarship funds may not be where they have been in the past – a direct impact to our students' ability to afford college.

These difficult decisions have left NIACC shaken and saddened. Whenever a workforce reduction is necessary, not only the College but also its employees and their families are negatively impacted. I want to recognize each person that has lost his/her job due to this challenging time. We have wonderful people that work for NIACC, and our need to reduce our workforce was not in any way a reflection on those people. Our hearts go out to them.

This year has been stormy at times; yet I am confident, that after this storm – just as with my first tornado warning – NIACC will be stronger. As friends and alumni of the College, you may ask how you can help? Encourage individuals to continue their education using local community colleges as a strategy for the future. Think of NIACC and the impact it has had on your life, your business and your future. Do not forget to participate in the NIACC Foundation's annual fund drive. Each dollar given by you directly and positively impacts the future of North Iowa.

*Thank you for your ongoing support of NIACC.*

**Dr. Debra A. Derr, President**

## NIACC Approves Partnership with Center for Industrial Research and Service

The North Iowa Area Community College Board of Trustees recently approved a partnership with the Iowa State University Extension Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS). The partnership between NIACC and CIRAS works to improve the economy of the State of Iowa through educational programs, technical assistance and/or business assistance.

"The partnership provides opportunities for industries in North Iowa to receive a comprehensive package of both technical assistance and high quality training on topics that are critical to their financial success," John Schladweiler, NIACC continuing education dean, said.

CIRAS and NIACC work together to provide services to help grow existing Iowa manufacturing businesses located in the counties represented by NIACC. Both groups share ready access to new programming, consistent pricing of services, trainer certifications and referrals.

"With the recent downturn in the economy, it is more important than ever that we all work together to help Iowa businesses remain competitive. This expanded partnership allows us to focus new resources toward north central Iowa manufacturers," Ron Cox, CIRAS director, said.

This new partnership only builds upon the strong relationship between Iowa State University and NIACC.

"Building the vitality of North Iowa will happen through collaborative efforts. NIACC embraces the opportunity to work with Iowa State University as well as our business and industry partners to support their growth and success," Dr. Debra Derr, NIACC president, said.

For more information, contact Jody East at 641-422-4218 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4218 or email eastjody@niacc.edu.

## NIACC Student Newspaper Receives Journalism Awards

Members of North Iowa Area Community College's Logos student newspaper staff were honored with numerous awards at the 2009 Iowa College Media Association



(ICMA)/Iowa Newspaper Association (INA) Convention in Des Moines.

**Carrin Landau**, of Mason City, won first place for the Best Feature Story.

**Bethany Pint**, of Fairbank, earned third place of Editorial Leadership.

**Derek Grote**, of Hampton, was awarded third place for Best Feature Photo.

**A.J. Groebner**, of St. Charles, Minn., won third place for Best Sports Feature.

**Jarrod Tell**, of Mason City, won honorable mention for Best Sports Feature.

**Misty Fandel**, of Garner, was awarded honorable mention for Best Sports Feature.

Logos is published every other week at NIACC. Grote serves as the current editor. **Paul Peterson** is the adviser.



## Where are you now?

We want to know what you've been doing since your days at North Iowa Area Community College or Mason City Junior College!



Check out our website at [www.niacc.edu/alumni](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni) for more information on the Alumni Association and click on "You're Still the One" to update your information.

## NIACC and BVU Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Partnership and Renew Agreements

North Iowa Area Community College and Buena Vista University kicked off the 25th anniversary of the institutions' partnership with a celebration and signing of multiple agreement renewals in January.

"NIACC is proud of its longstanding relationship with Buena Vista University. This relationship has always centered on providing a quality educational experience for our students and providing them with a convenient pathway to a bachelor degree. It is exciting to renew our collaboration with BVU, moving into the next 25 years of educational service to our communities," Dr. Debra Derr, NIACC president, said.

The agreements renewed by both institution presidents included an operational handbook (inclusive of a facilities/costs agreement), degree transfer agreement, BAS agreement, reverse class agreement, online class agreement and a computer cart agreement.

"We partner with many of Iowa's community colleges in providing our Professional & Online Studies program," Dr. Fred Moore, Buena Vista University president, said.

One graduate shared her story of success as a Buena Vista University and NIACC graduate. Maureen Brantner, who earned her Associate of Arts degree from NIACC in May 2006 and her Bachelor of Arts degree in business management from Buena Vista University in December 2007, explained what a difference the institutions made in her life.

"It's really quite amazing, and I enjoyed all of it. It (transferring from NIACC to BVU) went very well. People can't believe I did it, and, honestly, sometimes I don't

know how I did either. Having a Bachelor of Arts degree was always something I wanted to do. NIACC and BVU provide a wonderful venue to be able to do that locally and not have to travel," Brantner said. Brantner works as a regional director with Mercy Clinics in Mason City.

Graduates, faculty and staff were on hand from NIACC

and Buena Vista University to help kick off the 25th anniversary celebration.

For more information on NIACC, call 1-888-GO NIACC or visit [www.niacc.edu](http://www.niacc.edu). For more information on BVU, call 641-424-8764 or visit [www.bvu.edu](http://www.bvu.edu).



## NIACC Recognizes 2008-09 Scholarship Recipients and Donors

A number of thank you's and details of future plans were exchanged as North Iowa Area Community College honored 2008-09 scholarship donors and student recipients at a recognition luncheon this fall.

"Watching our student scholarship recipients greet and thank the scholarship donors that have made much of their college success possible is such a treat!" Dr. Debra A. Derr, NIACC president, said. "The pure generosity of scholarship donors is reflected in students at NIACC every day. As such great friends of the College, donors do more than just help students pay for school; they help students shape their lives."

The recognition program featured comments from Pat Galasso, co-owner and co-manager of Ge-Jo's by the Lake Italian Restaurant & Lounge with her husband, Gene.

"One thing I've always admired about NIACC is that the College creates leaders. I can't think of a better place to invest than in students as future leaders," Pat Galasso said. "It is so easy to become a scholarship donor! Every dollar is spent wisely to make a major difference in students' lives, whether furthering their education for the first time or returning to school for retraining."

The couple established the Gene and Pat Galasso Scholarship, a \$500 term award, in 2005 to benefit students in the Hospitality/Food Service Management program. Pat rejoined the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors in January of 2009; she's served on that Board in the past and is a current member of the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Advisory Board.

Several student scholarship recipients also spoke at NIACC's scholarship recognition luncheon.

Eva Gutierrez, a Criminal Justice NIACC graduate from Mason City, was very grateful for her scholarship and the opportunities it provided her. Gutierrez received the Extreme Makeover: College Edition scholarship.

"With the assistance of scholarships, I did not have to work full-time and I could focus on school," Gutierrez said. "I would've given up. I thought I'd just squeak by, but once I got going I knew I wanted more. When I made the Dean's List, I wanted to do it again, and I did! I know I couldn't have done it without scholarships."

Gutierrez currently attends Buena Vista University and plans to earn her bachelor degree in Criminology and Human Services.

Lisa Hulshizer, a nursing major from Grafton, explained that attending NIACC has enabled her to experience the kindness of scholarship donors and make her college experience complete. Hulshizer received the Ira Stinson Memorial Scholarship.

"Receiving scholarships helps me keep my focus on studying for my classes instead of how much I'm going to have to work to keep up with bills this month. I cannot

thank scholarship donors enough for creating an opportunity for college students like myself to have help in achieving our career goals," Hulshizer said.

Hulshizer plans to graduate from NIACC in May 2010 with her Nursing ADN/RN degree. She'll then take classes through the University of Iowa to get her BSN degree.

Jared Johanns, a biology and exercise science double major from Grafton, noted that the kindness of scholarship donors has allowed him to get an education and experience college life as well. Johanns received the Principal Financial Group Foundation Scholarship and the Will F. Muse Scholarship.

"With the cost of pursuing a degree increasing yearly, it is important for me to receive all of the financial aid available. I am currently enrolled in 19 semester hours at NIACC. I am also involved in track and field and student senate, I tutor and I have an internship as a student athletic trainer," Johanns said. "Without the assistance of the scholarship I wouldn't be able to handle all of this, because I would have to work a part-time job. The scholarship assistance I receive helps me concentrate on school, and I know it works because I currently maintain a 4.0 grade point average."

Johanns plans to pursue a bachelor degree in integrative physiology at the University of Iowa and then attend graduate school for physical therapy at the University of Iowa. Eventually, Johanns plans to return to work in North Iowa.

James Paulsen, a business/accounting and business/supervision & management major from Mason City, felt that scholarships allowed him to avoid college debt and still provide for his family. Paulsen received the Charles S. & Mildred M. Whitney Scholarship.

"Someday I hope to be able to contribute to future students' success in the same way that I have been helped on my road to success," Paulsen said. "A lot of deserving prospective students are out there and

sometimes getting a scholarship is the only way that they would be able to start living up to their potential."

After graduation, Paulsen plans to continue in the accounting field and work toward earning his CPA.

As the cost of higher education continues to increase, so does the need for student financial assistance in the forms of loans, grants and scholarships. Scholarship donations help students keep their borrowing to a minimum. While the College experiences great support from groups and individuals each year, the need remains for private support of the NIACC Foundation.

"Our donors have provided a great start in our effort to increase the Foundation endowment to provide financial assistance resulting in access and affordability for our students," Jamie T. Zanos, NIACC Foundation director, said. "We continue to watch the cost of education rise, and the need for financial help to students is more critical than ever. Our scholarship donors set an example to others on how they might support our youth in pursuing their dreams."

For more information on how to help the College acknowledge deserving students, please contact the NIACC Foundation at 641-422-4386.



Speaking at the NIACC Scholarship Recognition Luncheon were (left to right) Lisa Hulshizer, James Paulsen, Jared Johanns, Eva Gutierrez, and Pat Galasso.



### Click and give today!

Now you can make a tax-deductible gift to the NIACC Foundation easily from home! Online donations are accepted using your Discover, 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](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation)

## NIACC Creates *Ultimate Sales Academy™*

The most challenging part of business is meeting sales objectives. Many companies did not meet their sales goals last year and may not this year, but every business depends upon the skill of its sales representatives for its survival. For that reason, the greatest human resource shortage nationally and internationally is for professional business-to-business (B2B) salespeople. The Ultimate Sales Academy™ (USA) has been created to meet that need.

"Everyone lives by selling something," Robert Louis Stevenson

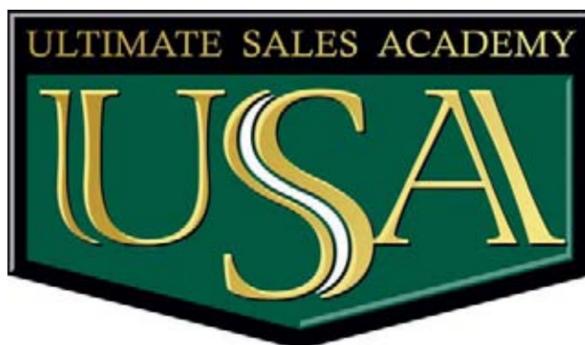
The Ultimate Sales Academy teaches selling as a profession; equipping both new and experienced salespeople with the skills and disciplines necessary to be the top B2B salesperson at any company, regardless of industry sector. Being the best is hard work; but the Ultimate Sales Academy™ makes that hard work more productive. What do some current students say?

Going through USA gave me "more confidence and I was more prepared." DH

USA "taught me the structure and process of a sales call." TC

"From day one you are out of your comfort zone...learning how to structure a call, from engaging a customer to learning their needs, wants and desires...through negotiation and closing." RM

The Ultimate Sales Academy is highly interactive with an emphasis on video role playing and performance feedback. After course completion, the instructors follow up with the graduate and their employer to validate



improvement. The program draws upon the last 100 years of research and best practices to help the professional salesperson achieve their goals and the goals of their customers and employer.

The Ultimate Sales Academy meets for 8 hours once a week for 5 weeks and, after a 6 week gap, meets for one more 8 hour session (48 hours). During that time, participants self-assess their commitment to being a sales professional, learn disciplines that prepare them for sales success and demonstrate their sales performance skills.

Do you know a company with sales professionals looking to take their skills to the next level? Do you know a company seeking top quality professional salespeople? Check into NIACC's Ultimate Sales Academy. For more information about course content, contact Mark Olchefske at the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at (641) 422-4191 or Bill Burdick at NIACC Continuing Education at (641) 422-4183.

## Increase Your Monthly Income and Give a Gift Too!

Jamie T. Zanios, Director NIACC Foundation

Low interest rates on your CD's got you down? There is a way for you to increase that monthly income while providing a valuable long term gift to NIACC through the NIACC Foundation and its Charitable Gift Annuity program. This program is guaranteed by the assets of the Foundation and provides both taxable and tax free cash flow to the annuitant as well as a tax deduction. Think about it, as a retired person or others living off the income from investments, whose interest rates have nearly disappeared, a Charitable Gift Annuity may be just the ticket. It will provide a good cash flow and also meet your desire to give back to an institution, like NIACC, that does so much good for our region and the citizens and businesses it serves.

*At 65 years of age are your investments providing you with a 5.3% return? At 75 can you get a guaranteed 6.3% rate of return? Through the NIACC Foundation's Charitable Gift Annuity program these and other rates are available to you. The rate of return is based upon the age of the annuitant. Let me provide you an example:*

*Judy is age 75 and needs higher income than what her maturing CD will provide. She decides to use the cash for a Charitable Gift Annuity Contract with the NIACC Foundation, which will provide her with increased income at a rate of 6.3%, a gift to the College and a tax deduction. Payments will be made quarterly. At the time of the purchase of this contract, the charitable midterm federal rate (a figure used in calculating the charitable deduction) is 2.4%.*

In this example, even though Judy's annuity rate is 6.3%, her actual earnings will be higher. Because Judy itemizes income tax deductions, she earns a federal tax deduction of \$11,358.25. With a tax rate of 28%, the tax savings of \$3,180 will reduce the net cost of the gift to \$21,820. Judy's annual payments based off of the original \$25,000 will be \$1,575 and will mean an effective total return of 7.2%! Additionally, for the next 12.4 years 70% of every dollar that Judy receives will be considered a return of her contribution in the contract and will not be subject to income tax! Even more good news, Judy will receive the same payments every quarter of every year until her death, regardless of how long she lives. She cannot outlive the annuity payments and the rate of return stays the same for life.

A Charitable Gift Annuity may not be for everyone but it has become a favorite gifting vehicle in the United States to increase income and provide for a valued institution like NIACC. If you would like to calculate your own gift based on your age and see the rate of return and tax implications, go to [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation), under "Planned Giving" on the left-hand side, click on "Gift Calculator." This will take you to a free, no obligation calculator where you can enter your information anonymously if you like, and see for yourself the benefits of this giving vehicle. If you prefer, you may call us at the NIACC Foundation at (641) 422-4386 or email us at [foundation@niacc.edu](mailto:foundation@niacc.edu). We hope to hear from you and will look forward to discussing this and other options. As with most contract agreements, before establishing a charitable gift annuity it is best to consult your professional advisors, too.



## 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](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation) or call the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

## NIACC Athletics Calling for Nominations for Hall of Fame

North Iowa Area Community College Athletics is now accepting nominations for the Trojan Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2009. Any person may nominate someone he/she believes is worthy of the honor of induction. While nominations are always accepted, only those submitted before April 30, 2009, will be considered for the Class of 2009.

"We are very proud of our rich heritage in the athletic area. It is a privilege for the committee members to consider each and every nominee and we look forward to selecting the class of 2009," Dan Mason, NIACC athletic director, said.

The Trojans Athletic Hall of Fame honors significant contributions of former Trojan athletes, coaches, administrators and supporters to the success of Mason City Junior College and NIACC Athletics. Current Trojan Athletics Hall of Fame members are Ron Angell, Joe Corso, Jerry Dunbar, Herb Konigsmark, Art Lundblad, Terry McKissick, Dennis Shafer, Marla (Shuey) Behrens and Kaye Young.

"These are the men and women who worked tirelessly to build NIACC's outstanding reputation in athletics. We look forward to honoring other deserving individuals," Dr. Karen Pierson, NIACC vice president for student services, said.

To nominate someone or for more information, go to <http://www.niacc.edu/athletics/alumni/hof.html> or call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4281.

## NIACC Alumni Association

How long has it been since you graduated from NIACC or MCJC? Whether it's been 5, 10, 20, or 50 years, you're still a member of the NIACC family. For 90 years, NIACC has been the college of choice in North Iowa. The College has seen record setting enrollment for six consecutive years! It should come as no surprise, then, that you're joined by over 26,000 individuals who have graduated from Mason City Junior College or North Iowa Area Community College and countless others who have benefited from the College since 1918!

The NIACC Alumni Association offers a great way to stay connected with the College and to demonstrate your commitment to its future. Membership dues are just \$20 per year or \$100 for your lifetime (family memberships are also available) and is open to graduates, former students, and friends of the College. Membership dues directly support student scholarships, the Intouch newsletter, annual Pathways to Success student leadership program, graduation reception and other alumni activities.

We hope you will remember your roots by learning more about the Alumni Association. Update your information or check out what's going on at the College at [www.niacc.edu/alumni](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni). You can also find us on facebook! Join the NIACC Alumni group on facebook and reconnect with old friends.

The NIACC Alumni Association has a goal of ensuring the continued value of a NIACC education. We hope you will join us in this charge!



## Unwin Named to 2008 NJCAA Division I Men's Soccer All-American - First Team

Mike Unwin was named to the 2008 NJCAA Division I Men's Soccer All-American First Team. He was a Second Team All-American during his freshman Men's Soccer season at NIACC. During his sophomore season, he was named First Team All-American. He scored 59 goals in two seasons, smashing both the NIACC and the Conference records.



## North Iowans Join NIACC Foundation Board of Directors

The NIACC Foundation recently elected six North Iowans to its Board of Directors. New members officially joined the NIACC Foundation Board in 2009.

**Pat Galasso** of Clear Lake has been in the restaurant business for 25 years and is currently co-owner and operator of Ge-Jo's by the Lake in Clear Lake. She is a certified business planning trainer and is self-employed as a project manager/facilitator/trainer and keynote speaker. Pat develops and implements training programs for corporate and non-profit organizations as well as facilitates business start-ups and operations management. Galasso was awarded the 2000 Iowa's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award, Iowa Small Business Development Center's *Deb Dalziel Women Entrepreneur Achievement Award*, and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Youth Entrepreneurship Academy Internship Recognition award. She currently serves on the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Advisory Board and the Cerro Gordo County Board of Health. She and her husband, Gene, provide an annual NIACC scholarship. They have one daughter, who is a graduate of NIACC.



**Bill Johnson** of Belmond is chairman of Communications 1 Network, Inc., for the Kanawha, Corwith, Klemme areas. The Waldorf graduate served as Lutheran Brotherhood District Representative for 42 years and was a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisers. Formerly, he served on the Belmond Hospital Foundation Board, Waldorf College Board of Regents and was president of the Waldorf Association. Currently, he is a life member of the Million Dollar Round Table. He and his wife, Mary, have three daughters.



**Karen Knudtson** of Mason City is a realtor and co-owner of Knudtson Real Estate. She is a graduate of Hamilton School of Commerce, Realtors Institution of Iowa, and is a certified tax professional and realtors specialist. She is a 20-year member of the NIACC Board, serves as vice president of Mason City Women's Club and is a member of the Enterprize Zone Board. Community involvements include serving on the United Way Board, the Realtors Association, Accountants of Iowa and serving as Gold Wing Road Riders Association regional director. Knudtson has received many President awards from GWRRA for her outstanding service. She and her husband, Ron, have two children, who both attended NIACC.



**David Moore** of Mason City is a licensed funeral director and owner of Memorial Park Cemetery & Crematory and the Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapels with locations in the Mason City, Clear Lake, Nora Springs, Northwood and Manly areas. He earned an associates degree from NIACC and a bachelors degree from the University of Minnesota. He serves on the Hospice of North Iowa Board, Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation, Newman Catholic Schools Foundation, National Funeral Directors Association and International Cremation and Funeral Association. Previously, he was a member of the Mason City Public Library Board of Trustees, Francis Lauer Youth Services Board of Directors and Lt. Governor of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association. He and his wife, Jamey, have two children.



**Jim Niemants** of Clear Lake is an independent investment advisor with SWS Financial Services and the former president of Hawkeye Bank & Trust. He earned a bachelors degree from Drake University in business administration. He is a member of the Mason City Noon Rotary and serves on the NIACC, Kingland Systems and Community National Bank Advisory Boards. Formerly, he participated on boards for the Mason City Area Chamber of Commerce, Hospice of North Iowa, Good Shepherd Health Center, Mason City Economic Development Corporation, Mason City YMCA and Hawkeye Bank & Trust. He and his wife, Cynthia, have three children, who all attended NIACC during high school.



**Ken Peterson** of Lake Mills is now retired but was previously a mathematician for Motorola and Rockwell Collins, Inc. His education includes a bachelors degree from Iowa State University and a masters degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Peterson continued his graduate work in mathematics at Arizona State University where he also taught for a period of four years. He has published several papers in refereed journals and has a total of 20 issued patents, including the Iridium System – the world's first satellite based cellular telephone system. Peterson is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. and serves as a volunteer academic coach for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. He and his wife, Helen, reside near Lake Mills.



Other members of the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors are Kristy Arzberger, Bill Cooney, Brad Davis, Barb Heilskov, Rosie Hussey, Kevin Kolbet, Dan Latham, Jon Lewerke, Joyce Nielsen, Bob Olson, Bradley Robson, Cathy Rottinghaus and Linda Upmeyer.

## NIACC Annual Fund...

### Changing Lives and Growing Communities

When you give to the NIACC Annual Fund, you help create a remarkable experience for NIACC students. Every year the Annual Fund supports real and immediate needs in order for students to experience instant benefits. The College prospers due to countless contributions from alumni, friends, staff and faculty of NIACC.

Year after year the Annual Fund supports students in many ways. NIACC resources cover only a portion of the annual expenditures associated with operating the College. The shortfall is made up, in part, by generous gifts to the Annual Fund. Such gifts afford the necessary resources and flexibility to provide NIACC students with the richest experience possible and support core priorities such as:

- Scholarships
- Academic programs
- Strategic initiatives

The Annual Fund allows the College to provide excellent programming in contemporary facilities. Please join us in changing student lives and growing our communities.

You can still make a donation to the Annual Fund this year! Simply complete and return the enclosed donation envelope to the NIACC Foundation, or go online at [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation) and click on "Give Online Now." Choose the NIACC Annual Fund as your type of donation. Unrestricted gifts provide the most flexibility to support the most current and greatest needs, however, you have the option of restricting your donation to the project or activity of your choice. Thank you for supporting the NIACC Annual Fund!

## JPEC Provides Guidance in Entrepreneurship Efforts in Arkansas

NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center provided guidance to the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (AATYC) this winter by presenting at the AATYC Entrepreneurship Consortium. There were 18 of the 22 community colleges in the organization represented.

Tim Putnam, NIACC JPEC associate director, helped them plan the symposium and presented four sessions: Comprehensive Entrepreneurship Center Model: Overview of the NIACC JPEC, Comprehensive Entrepreneurship Center Model: Entrepreneurial Community = Economic Development and Assessing Community/Area Entrepreneurship Needs, Comprehensive Entrepreneurship Center Model: Beyond the Classroom and Entrepreneurship Programs/Methods/Lessons Learned.

Steve Lease, WorkForce Training director and AATYC Entrepreneurship Training coordinator said Putnam "delivered enthusiastic presentations and relevant/fun team planning exercises that were rich in Entrepreneurship Best Practices content...I hope to come visit the NIACC JPEC at some point in our statewide program evolution as it is certainly a national model."

For more information on the NIACC JPEC, visit [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn).



# NIACC Building Trades Students Participate in Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Project

"Thanks to an e-mail from Kevin Losee, NIACC Tool & Die instructor, the NIACC Building Trades students were able to participate in an amazing volunteer experience," stated Gregg Helmich, Building Trades instructor at NIACC. The amazing student volunteer experience was provided by the television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" (EM:HE) which airs Sundays 8/7c on ABC, when they chose a family living in rural Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Eighteen students from the NIACC Building Trades course contributed their time, skills and talents to the EM:HE project, which built a new home for the Dirk and Susan DeVries family. Students volunteered anywhere from 10 hours to over 40 hours of time for the project.

On September 30, 2008, Ty Pennington and the EM:HE crew descended upon the DeVries' home to let them know they had been chosen as recipient of a new home. After sending the DeVries' family on a vacation to Niagara Falls,

Pennington and his crew, with assistance from Larson Contracting of Lake Mills, demolished the old home. Immediately work began on the brand-new, personalized home for the DeVries' family. In addition to the selection of a deserving family for the free home, one of the captivating goals for the EM:HE show is the expeditious construction of the home (only one week to build a house). Along with unique interior designs provided by Pennington and crew to incorporate the family's personality into the home, ABC

**"It was an excellent learning experience for the students! They were able to work with some amazing local carpenters and be part of a once-in-a-lifetime event."**

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" captures the interest of a large audience.

Larson Contracting coordinated the multitude of volunteers needed to complete the ambitious work schedule required for building a house in one week. Over 200 volunteers for the EM:HE project donated and served food, installed walls, and put down flooring. Based on expertise, volunteers were assigned to either a skilled or non-skilled labor pool. NIACC Building Trades students were placed with the skilled labor volunteer group and helped with everything from sheathing for the house, landscaping the outdoor fireplace, tying floor joists, tying rebar for the side of the house, and frames for the doorways. Some of the NIACC building trades students spent several 12-hour nights working on the house and one even camped out at the site.

Myles Krueger, a first year student in the Building Trades program, slept in the back of

his pickup truck and worked three 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shifts on the project. "It was nice to work the night shift because there were more skilled workers on the site. I was able to tie rebar and help with the sheathing for the side of the house." Krueger also felt that with fewer spectators around during the night hours, the atmosphere at the building site was less hectic.

When Daniel Castellanos, a second year NIACC Building Trades student, was asked to describe the experience in one word, he said it was "amazing" because the project moved so fast. Within an hour of pouring the foundation, workers were setting walls up. "It was crazy to watch, but when they installed the drywall, it only took 6 hours to put drywall in the whole house," exclaimed Castellanos.

By noon on Monday, October 6, the new house was turned over to the designers. The designers had until Tuesday morning to add the unique final touches before it was turned over to the DeVries family on Wednesday, October 8. The episode of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" featuring the DeVries family home was aired on Sunday, December 7.

"Because our students volunteered, our building trades program also established good bridges with vendors and outside organizations," Helmich stated. Acme tools and Stiletto hammers provided caps, shirts, stickers and tools for the NIACC Building Trades students which they were able to keep after the EM:HE project was completed. "I even

made a connection with the lead-install engineer at Pella, who is checking about donating a variety of windows and providing a training seminar for the NIACC Building Trades students," informed Helmich.

"It was an excellent learning experience for the students! They were able to work with some amazing local carpenters and be part of a once-in-a-lifetime event," said Helmich. The students would also agree and emphatically stated they would do the project again.



NIACC Building Trade EM:HE Volunteers: Front- Justin Graser, Adam Popp, Nick Mueller, Tyler Fisher; Middle- Nathen Berg, Adam Romine, Jake Lipp, Myles Krueger, Garrett Leewright, Josh Willert; Back- Gregg Helmich, Scott Schaw, Taylor DePeuw, Josh Brockshus, Matt Haugen, Dan Catellanos, Kevin Nitcher. Missing from photo: Jovian Bauer and Robert Walker



## NIACC Celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week with Student and Faculty Marketplace

North Iowa Area Community College and its John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center celebrated thinking globally and acting locally during Global Entrepreneurship Week this fall with a student and faculty marketplace.

**"At our NIACC Market Place event, students and faculty, possibly for the first time ever, sold their art, jewelry and other creations," Tim Putnam, NIACC JPEC associate director, said.**

The event worked as a way to inspire and inform people through community-based activities to unleash their ideas. The next generation of entrepreneurs will emerge acquiring the knowledge, skills, networks and values needed to grow innovative, sustainable enterprises with a positive impact on their lives and the lives of those around them.

For more information on the NIACC JPEC and its services, visit [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn).



## NIACC Celebrates New Recreation Center with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

North Iowa Area Community College celebrated the grand opening of its new Recreation Center on Sunday, November 23, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and facility tours.

The new facility serves as a location for student recreational activities; indoor practice for baseball, softball, wrestling, golf, track and field and other sports; intramurals; summer camps; coaching clinics; faculty and staff fitness and wellness programming; and community group rental options. Many of the amenities in the Recreation Center were made possible through the Friends of Fitness @ NIACC campaign.

The NIACC Recreation Center also features an energy efficient green design as well as a suspended walking track, an activity area with courts, athletic offices, classrooms, locker rooms and much more.



Soon after the NIACC Board of Trustees decided to embark on the journey of building a new recreation facility on campus, the NIACC Foundation accepted the challenge to raise money for the project with enthusiasm. Fundraising efforts have been in full swing since June 2008. Foundation Board members and staff have been working to raise funds to make the new Recreation Center a state-of-the-art facility.

Despite recent challenges with fundraising including the flooding that occurred in the state of Iowa this past summer and current economic uncertainty, the North Iowa community and friends of NIACC have responded with great support.

Due to their generosity, additional equipment has been purchased such as:

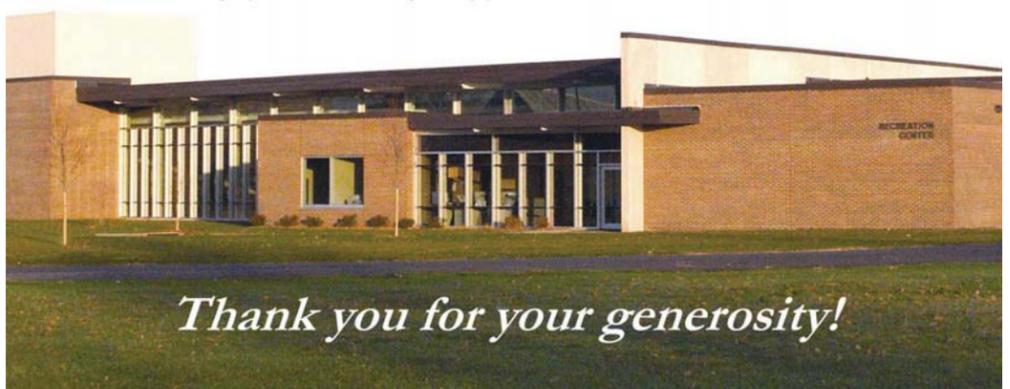
- Cardio equipment
- Therapeutic tubs
- Athletic training tables and benches

"The NIACC Foundation would like to thank all who have made generous gifts to the Friends of Fitness Campaign." Through the kindness of many donors, additional equipment purchases and facility upgrades are being made possible, which will increase and enhance the usage of this facility by all students. We are pleased to partner with the College in support of their efforts," said Charlie MacNider, past president of the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors.

The Foundation continues to fundraise as current needs still exist. You can still make a donation to help us reach our goal. At this time we are within reach of the goal with only \$75,000 left to raise. If you would like to support the "Friends of Fitness @ NIACC" campaign or athletic scholarships, please visit: [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation) or call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

### NIACC students, staff, and faculty would like to thank the following donors for supporting the Recreation Center:

Byron and Ann Beasley	First National Bank of Hampton	NSB Bank
Bergland + Cram Architects	First State Bank of Belmond	Joe and Linda Nydegger
Jon Best	Jim and Ellen FitzPatrick	Bob and Kathy Olson
Maynard and Barbara Beyer	Karl and Lynn Griffith	Charlie and Joan Perrin
Gilbert and Eugenia Bovard	Hampton State Bank	David and Maureen Pierce
Dr. Randy Brenton	Joyce Hanes	Dwight and Karen Pierson
Steve and Kathryn Brodersen	John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation	Tim and Kelly Putnam
Paul and Jamie Bruns	Heartland Asphalt, Inc.	Ron and Sandy Raney
Tony Buhr	Paul Henderson	Jay and Bucky Rehnstrom
Anne Cameron	Henkel Construction Company	William Rich
John Campbell	Dave and Carolyn Heuberger	Brad and Jane Robson
Dean and Bev Cataldo	Donna Hitzhusen	Tom and Linda Schaefer
David and Connie Cicetti	Hy-Vee, Inc.	John and Kathy Schladweiler
Frank Clark	Darron and Julie Jones	Norman and Linda Schmidt
Clear Lake Bank & Trust Company	Kingland Systems Corporation	Keith and Crystal Schriber
Kevin and Mary Cole	Holiday Inn of Mason City	Jim and Linda See
Bill and Julie Cooney	Ron and Karen Knudtson	Jeff and Tracy Skogen
Fouad and Angie Daoud	Kevin and Janean Kolbet	Jerry and CJ Stambaugh
Brad and Peggy Davis	Krause Gentle Foundation	Robert Strom
Rich and Shirley Dean	Del and Mary Laudner	Steve and Vicki Sukup
Decker Sporting Goods, Inc.	Kay Long	Jerry and Jean Torgerson
Diamond Jo Casino	Steve Long	Mark and Jean Torgerson
Karen Dole	Terry MacGregor	Doug and Linda Upmeyer
Jerry and Margaret Dunbar	Charlie and Kathy MacNider	Roger Watson
Steve and Jody East	Adel Makar	Dick and Rita Wempen
Denny and Connie Edwards	Mason City Clinic P.C.	WHKS Engineers and Surveyors
Laura Eekhoff	McCoy & Company P.C.	Scott and Lori Willert
Larry Elwood Construction, Inc.	Dan and Rachel McGuire	Winnabago Industries Foundation
Bob and Toni Erickson	Mildred Milligan	Woodharbor Doors & Cabinetry, Inc.
First Citizens National Bank	Mrs. David Murphy	Mrs. Arnold Woodiwiss
Charitable Foundation, Inc.	LeAllen and Janelle Nevermann	Jamie and Nancy Zanos
First Insurance Agency, Inc.	Jack and Joyce Nielsen	Tula Zanos



*Thank you for your generosity!*

**ALUMNI ALMANAC** • **1940s** • **George Van Essen '49** retired from the County of Ventura Public Works, ending his career as an administrative officer. He and his wife, Marcelle, moved to California in 1960 and live in Ventura, CA. • **1960s** • **Robert D. Peterson '67**, a Mason City native, presented copies of his book "European and American Painting: A Reference Guide" to the Mason City public library and the NIACC college library. The book can serve as a quick reference guide when visiting art museums and is available on book retailer Web sites such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble. • **Donald Whalen '68** is coordinator of research and assessments at Iowa State University Department of Residence in Ames. He and his wife, Karen, live in Ames. • **Senator William (Bill) Dotzler, Jr. '69** recently served on a panel at the Student Legislative Summit in Des Moines, IA, on January 28, 2009. He is of Senate District 11 (Waterloo) and Iowa Senate Assistant Majority Leader. • **1970s** • **Michael Romig '72** was presented the Omega Tau Rho Medal of Service Award from the National Association of Realtors for his year's service as 2008 president of the Iowa Association of Realtors and inducted into the Omega Tau Rho Fraternity, an honorary fraternity which represents the highest honor a realtor can receive. He is a broker associate with RE/MAX Results Realty in Mason City, IA. • **Larry Stoltenberg '72** is working in Ames, IA, at Ames Laboratory/ISU as a Program Assistant I. He lives in Ames. • **Lt. General Dennis J. Hejlik '73**, commander of the Second Marine Expeditionary Force, which is made up of 48,000 Marines and sailors, became one of only eight three-star generals during a ceremony at North Carolina's Camp Lejeune in July 2008. Hejlik has worked in and visited 58 countries around the world and his deployments included Fallujah, Iraq, during the 2004 offensive. • **Larry and Kathy Zilge '75/'76** are owners of Zilge's Appliance Center which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2008. They joined the business in the 1970s and fully took over the business in 1990 when Larry's parents retired. • **Nicholas Vlantés '78** is employed at Kraft Foods in Mason City, IA, and brings 30 years of experience as a project engineer to the company. He will focus on energy, mass balance and packaging initiatives as continuous improvement engineer. • **Scot Kruckenberg '79**, American Family Insurance agent, was recognized for customer satisfaction excellence under the J.D. Power and Associates Distinguished Insurance Agency Program. He has been an agent with American Family since January 1991 and lives in Mason City, IA. • **Dawn (LeWarne) Quimby '79** is a wife and homemaker, and also works part time at Glengarry Limited. She lives in Edina, MN, with her husband, James, and their two sons. • **Edward Wineinger '79**, architect in Mason City, IA, was awarded a \$12,000 challenge grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The funding was available and distributed to participating Main Street communities for a downtown project and could be used for building rehabilitations, facade improvements, new construction or reuse projects. Ed resides in Mason City. • **1980s** • **Janet (Borchardt) Penfold '80** is a medical coder at the Mitchell County Regional Health Center in Osage, IA, where she has worked for the past 28 years. She lives in Osage and has three children. • **Kelli Finnegan '80** married Randy Smith on June 21, 2008, in Mason City, IA. The couple resides in Mason City. • **Julie (Koenigsfeld) Reese '82** is a teller for the Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co. drive-up facility. She has more than 20 years of banking experience and lives in Clear Lake with her husband, Steve, and their children. • **Jane (Heffern) Goodwin '84** is office coordinator for Pro Build North. She is the mother of three children and lives in New Hampton, IA. • **Bruce Kittleson '84** is manager and co-owner of Hardee's Restaurant in Mason City, IA. He lives in Osage, IA. • **Sandra Losee '85** has retired from the nursing profession having worked at High Plains Baptist Hospital in Amarillo, TX, and North Iowa Medical Center and Mercy Hospital in Mason City, IA. She will spend her retirement years living in Scottsdale, AZ, and Parkersburg, IA, enjoying her family and friends. • **Darrell Sterling '85** is a transport officer for the Beaufort County Detention Center in Beaufort, SC, and has been employed there for the past 18 years. He also coaches high school football. He and his wife, Norma, live in St. Helena, SC, and have three children and two granddaughters. • **Timothy S. Wakefield '85** has published his first book, *Mental Toughness—Understanding the Game of Life*, based on the idea that life is a mental game. The book can be purchased at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). Dr. Wakefield is married and a father of three; he lives in Wisconsin. • **Kristin (Menke) Peterson '86** is the onsite director of East Town Charlie Brown Preschool and Child Care Center in Mason City, IA. She has been employed at Charlie Brown for 20 years. She and her husband, Todd, live in rural Rockford with their two daughters. • **Lisa Pleggenkuhle '86** married Scott Grummer on August 9, 2008, in Sumner, IA. Lisa is a graduate of the University of Iowa with a BA degree in art education. The couple will reside in Forest City, IA. • **Amy (Pascoe) Simpson '86** completed a five-week training course with the National Fair Housing Training Academy in Washington, D.C., which trained participants in all aspects of fair housing. Amy is administrative assistant for the Mason City Human Rights Commission. She lives in Mason City, IA, with her husband, Robert. • **Tim Klang '87** accepted the position of accounting supervisor for AEM in Mason City. He and his wife, Jeanine, live in Clear Lake, IA. • **Michelle 'Chelle' (Friedrich) Schlader '88** was promoted to real estate lender at First Citizens National Bank in Charles City, IA. Chelle has been with First Citizens for 11 years. She lives in Charles City with her husband, Tim, and family. • **State Rep. Linda Upmeyer '88** was a participant in the 2008 Ag-Urban Leadership class, an initiative of the Iowa Soybean Association. The class brings together community leaders from agricultural and urban professions to encourage them to develop their skills as "professional Iowans." Linda was part of a group which has focused on providing education about energy independence. She lives in Garner, IA. • **1990s** • **Shannon Anderson '90** joined Heartland Realtors in Mason City, IA, as a realtor associate. She has 17 years of experience and lives in Mason City. • **Derek Fredricks '90** is a loan officer at NSB Bank in Mason City, IA, and has passed the Iowa Credit Life and Disability Insurance test. He is now licensed to assist customers in the purchasing of credit life and disability insurance on loans. He lives with his family in Mason City. • **Janet (Heineman) Berger '91** is a reading specialist for the Appleton Area School District in Wisconsin. She lives in Menasha, WI, with her husband, Kent, and their three children. • **Matt Dodge '91**, American Family Insurance agent, was recognized for customer satisfaction excellence under the J.D. Power and Associates Distinguished Insurance Agency Program. He has been an agent with American Family since March 1994 and lives in Mason City, IA. • **Michael Tonn '93** has a carpentry diploma from Riverland Community College in Austin, a commercial residential electrician associate degree from Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar, and owns Michael's Custom Cabinets in Stewartville, MN. Tonn married Michele Fort on September 6, 2008; they reside in Stewartville. • **Matt Bailey '94** is a licensed tattoo artist and works out of a studio based at his Mason City home. He has been tattooing for a little more than two years. • **Tara (Sheldon) Hensley '94** is a physician assistant for Mason City Clinic in Mason City, IA. She lives in Rockwell with her husband, Tom, and their three children. • **Ryan Kelley '94**, a Mason City FedEx freight driver for the past eleven years, placed first at the National Truck Driving Championships in Houston in the four-axle class. This is the first year Kelley won at nationals, but he placed first at the state level the past five years. He lives in Nora Springs, IA. • **Stacey (Janssen) Moore '94** is a social worker for Hospice of North Iowa. She and her husband, Quintin, live in Geneva, IA, with their two children. • **Brian Quirk '94** is representative for House District 15 and serves as chair of the Administration and Rules Committee and on the Commerce, State Government, Ways and Means and Transportation committees, as well as the Infrastructure and Capitals Budget Subcommittee. He works for his family's business, New Hampton Electric; he and his wife, Anna, have two daughters. • **Sarah Stanton '94** married Ronald Cray on October 11, 2008, in St. Petersburg, FL. She is assistant vice president, director of practice planning with Raymond James Financial Services. The couple resides in Clearwater, FL. • **Lori (Fjelstad/Brones) Westcott '94** has joined Exceptional Persons, Inc. (EPI) in the Children and Family Services program which is responsible for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) as an early childhood community liaison out of the Mason City office which serves Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth and Winnebago counties. She resides in Lake Mills, IA. • **Tina (Harding) Carter '96** is head volleyball coach at Grand View University in Des Moines, IA. She and her husband, Scott, live in Altoona, IA, with their daughter, Lauren. • **Michael Ross '96** is employed with the Iowa DOT as a design specialist and designs roads for the state. He and his wife, Ninette, have two children and live in Des Moines, IA. • **Scott Yeoman '96** is employed by Pella Corporation in Pella, IA. He and his wife, Rochelle, have two children and live in Pella. • **Travis Carlson '97** married Jill Decker on September 22, 2007, in Dubuque, IA. Travis is a 2000 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in biomedicine, and a 2006 graduate from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, School of Prosthetics and Orthotics. He is employed with Clark and Associates in Dubuque. The couple resides in Cedar Rapids, IA. • **Jamie (Smith) Hejlik '97** has been named branch manager of the West Office of Community National Bank in Mason City, IA. Jamie lives in Garner, IA, with her family. • **Daniel Hendrikson '97** has been elected to the NSB Bank's board of directors. Dan is the owner of Viking Auto Supply Inc, doing business as Carquest, in Northwood, IA. He lives in Northwood. • **Mitch Kressin '97** was promoted to trust operations officer at First Citizens Trust and Investment Services in Mason City, IA. He has been with First Citizens for more than 10 years. He lives in Mason City where he also is employed as a direct staff worker at North Iowa Transition Center. • **Kevin Nolte '97** married Ann Marie Banken on September 19, 2008. Kevin is employed by Alliant Energy in Mason City, IA. The couple is at home in Mason City. • **Vickie (Engelman) Thompson '97** married Matthew VanHeel on July 11, 2008, aboard the Lady of the Lake riverboat in Clear Lake, IA. She is employed with Mason City Lumber Company in Mason City, IA. The couple resides in Mason City. • **Kristi Williams '97** is a reading teacher/coordinator at Blue Springs South High School in Blue Springs, MO, and is also the assistant varsity softball coach. She lives in Independence, MO, with her husband, Jason, and their two children. • **Stephen 'Steve' Younker '97** finished in the upper half in a field of 2,200 runners from around the world at the Madison Ironman Triathlon September 7, 2008, in Madison, WI. A track and cross country runner in high school and college, he graduated from ISU with a degree in exercise physiology and later earned a physical therapy assistant degree from NIACC. He and his wife, Wendi, live in Mason City, IA. • **Kevin Alexandres '98** married Amanda Van Winkle on October 4, 2008, in Mason City, IA. Kevin is a leasing agent with Simpson Properties in Westminster, CO. The couple resides in Superior, CO. • **Nathan Becker '98** is art director, BHG.com/Better Homes and Gardens for the

Meredith Corporation in West Des Moines, IA. He resides in West Des Moines. • **Keith Kroneman '98** was re-elected to his second term on the Mitchell County Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee, Osage, IA. He will serve a three-year term beginning January 2009. He lives in Osage. • **Jamie Matson '98** married Jeffrey Granowski on December 20, 2008, in Las Vegas, NV. Jamie is employed with Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, MN. The couple resides in Burnsville, MN. • **Christopher Newgaard '98** is IT manager at United Community Health Center in Sahuarita, AZ. He resides in Sahuarita. • **Kirstin Schroeder '99** married Casey Bourke on August 31, 2008, in Altoona, IA. She is employed with River Valley Credit Union in Ames. The couple will reside in West Des Moines. • **Jennifer Tweite '99** is civil deputy at the Howard County Sheriff's Department. She lives in Riceville, IA, with her family. • **2000s** • **Shelby (Allen) Benitz '00** achieved the designation of certified mental health recovery educator for the North Iowa Transition Center Wellness Recover Action Plan (WRAP). Shelby resides in Clear Lake, IA. • **Lucas Frank '00** married Amanda Kandybski on December 6, 2008, at the Venetian in Las Vegas. The couple resides in Ocala, FL. • **Diana Symonds '00** joined the McQuaid Agency in Clear Lake, IA. She has been a licensed realtor since 2001, and lives in Clear Lake. • **Kristen Tyrrell '00** married Michael D. Bambrick Jr. on July 19, 2008, in Northwood, IA. She is employed with the Austin Catholic Schools in Austin, MN. The couple resides in Austin. • **Jill Alman '01** married Nathan Juhl on September 6, 2008, in Mason City, IA. Jill is employed at Mercy Family Residency. The couple will reside in Mason City with Nate's son, Gage. • **Justin VanLaere '01** is corporate IT specialist at Nuss Truck Group in Rochester, MN. He and his wife, Cayen (Neibauer), who attended NIACC in 1999, reside in Byron, MN. They have one son, Paxson. • **Kristin Wentworth '01** is executive director at the Northeast Iowa Area Health Education Center for Allen Health System in Waterloo, IA. She lives in Waterloo. • **Patience (Niemoth) Coleman '02** graduated from UNI in 2005 with a BA in psychology and minor in criminology. She is finishing her MA in mental health counseling and also working towards her school counseling endorsement. She is an addiction counselor for Addiction Management Systems, Inc. She and her husband, Les, live in Cedar Falls, IA. • **Abby Brown '03**, funeral director with Reid's Funeral Chapel in Greene-Marble Rock and Retz-Grarup Funeral Home in Sheffield-Thornton-Meservey, was installed as District 8 governor of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association. She was elected to a three-year term and will be officially installed into office at the 2009 IFDA Convention in Ames. • **Holly Brink '02** has become an independent consultant with Tastefully Simple Inc., a national direct-sales company featuring easy-to-prepare gourmet products. Holly lives in Clear Lake, IA. • **Ashley Jurgens '02** married Christopher Lorenz on August 2, 2008, in Clear Lake, IA. The couple resides in Overland Park, KS. • **Kelly (Bartsch) Halverson '03** is a self-employed daycare provider. She and her husband, Ryan, have two sons and live in Cherokee, IA. • **Michele Ann Hammarstedt '03** married Daniel Shudak Werts on June 13, 2008, in a beach ceremony at Beaches Boscobel Resort at Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Michele is employed at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, WI. The couple is residing in Eau Claire. • **Adam Millang '03** married Ashlyn Hewlett on June 14, 2008, in Ames, IA. Adam is a field sales agronomist for Farmer's Cooperative in Paton, IA. The couple resides in Perry. • **Jesuita 'Susie' (Salinas) Smith '03** was among the cast on "Survivor: Gabon" the fall of 2008, the latest season of the CBS hit reality TV series, which took place in the African country of Gabon. She is a hairdresser who also teaches English to non-English speaking children from kindergarten through eighth grade and is married to Charles City police officer, Todd. They live in Charles City, IA. • **Tammy McDonald '04** graduated from LaJames College of Massage Therapy, Mason City, IA, in 2007, and is a massage therapist with Hospice of North Iowa in Charles City, IA. She lives in Nashua. • **Sara (Griffin) Russell '04** married Gordon Russell, III, on May 5, 2007, and they live in Tiffin, IA. Sara works in production at Cole's Quality Foods. • **Traci Koppen '04** married Ryan Hansen on June 7, 2008, in Rockwell, IA. She is employed with Consolidated Energy Company in Mason City, IA. The couple resides at home in Rockwell. • **James MacLeod '04** married Dory Robertson on September 20, 2008, at Spring Park in Osage, IA. James is employed with POET Ethanol in Hanlontown. The couple resides in Manly, IA. • **Kimberly (Fatka) Boyd '05**, home mortgage consultant for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, has completed training for the Community Development Mortgage Program and received her certification. She lives in Nora Springs with her husband, Jasper, and their children. • **Joel Gould '05** achieved the designation of certified mental health recovery educator for the North Iowa Transition Center Wellness Recover Action Plan (WRAP). Joel resides in Clear Lake, IA. • **Erin Haxton '05** married David Grimm on August 30, 2008, in Mason City, IA. The couple is at home in Wesley, IA. • **Tyler Halfpop '05** married Jennifer Berding on December 22, 2007, in Mason City, IA. The couple resides in Peoria, AZ. • **Erin Haxton '05** married David Grimm on August 30, 2008, in Mason City, IA. Erin is an At-Home America consultant and David is owner of Grimm Construction. The couple resides in Wesley, IA. • **Kimberly Maas (Fatka) '05** married Jasper Boyd on January 3, 2009, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, IA. Kimberly is employed with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in Mason City. The couple resides in Nora Springs, IA. • **Kizzy Wyborny '05** married Anthony Jansen on September 6, 2008, at PM Park in Clear Lake, IA. Kizzy is employed with CG Design in West Des Moines and Anthony works for Woodruff Construction in Ames. The couple resides in Boone, IA. • **Katie Benson '06** is the owner of Pit Stop Printing in Lake Mills, IA. At first her products were limited to printed items and vinyl graphics, but her business has expanded to include custom apparel using vinyl film. She also makes logos, decals, signs, T-shirts and other printed products. Katie lives in Lake Mills. • **Darci Hillman '06** married Jacob (Jake) Mallo on June 21, 2008, in Rockford, IA. She is employed by MBM in Mason City. The couple is at home in Rockford, IA. • **Jessica Platts '06** married Micah Stockberger on July 10, 2008, at the Flamingo Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, NV. She is employed by Plagge Truckline in Mason City, IA. The couple resides in Mason City. • **Nicholas Ries '06** married Megan Kezar on August 23, 2008, in Thornton, IA. He is employed with Martin Marietta in Mason City, IA. The couple resides in Sheffield. • **Michael Schlader '06** married Mindy Leaman on May 31, 2008, in Waverly, IA. Michael is an electronic controls technician for Nestle in Waverly. The couple is at home in Waverly. • **Joshua Showalter '06** married Lindsey Jaacks on November 1, 2008, in Hampton, IA. Joshua is engaged in farming in rural Sheffield, IA. The couple resides in Sheffield. • **Katie Waid '06** married Nathan Brown on September 20, 2008, in Charles City, IA. Katie is employed as a certified medical assistant at the Charles City Family Health Center in Charles City. The couple makes their home in Nashua, IA.

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

**IN MEMORY** • **Alumni (by class)** • 1934 Max Clausen, 93 • 1938 Sarah J. Senior, 89 • 1941 Leslie L. Boomhower, 88 • William A. Taylor, 88 • 1943 Barbara O. Reed, 88 • 1944 Marian L. (Weber) Wass, 84 • 1950 Roger G. Janssen, 78 • 1951 Beverly A. (Trich) Dunning, 76 • 1953 Beverly L. (Waller) Rasmussen, 75 • 1954 Glen E. Haydon, 74 (1994 Outstanding Alumnus) • 1955 Richard 'Dick' L. Donnelly, 77 • 1957 Sharon L. (Zerble) Wallace, 71 • 1958 Gwendolyn 'Gwen' (Johnson) Martin, 71 • 1959 Ronald E. Russell, 69 • 1962 Joseph H. Alcorn, 70 • 1965 Craig A. Schuver, 63 • Shirley R. (Volkman) Squier, 80 • 1967 Gary A. Mestad, 62 • 1969 Robert 'Bob' G. McKee, 69 • Robert K. Weber, 59 • 1970 Beverly M. (Burt) Hinkel, 71 • Sheryle L. (Miller) Jacoby, 62 • 1971 John C. Arends, 60 • Dr. Darrel L. Beenken, 57 • Dennis G. Knoll, 57 • 1973 Steven E. Lines, 55 • 1976 Larry J. Bergan, 66 • 1978 Marjorie (Leuenberger-Shindelar) Walker, 84 • William 'Kip' C. Wilson, 49 • 1979 Mary E. (Kellogg) Grant, 55 • Dorothy V. (Olson) Wismer, 78 • 1980 Mary 'Diane' (Duffy) Ham, 73 • Ronald D. Payton, 48 • 1984 David A. Montag, 44 • Mary Ellen Welcher, 50 • 1988 Monica M. (Hagen) Nitcher, 57 • 1991 Shirley A. (Vagt) Buske, 69 • 1998 Marie T. (George) Henley, 41 • **Other NIACC Friends** • Robert W. Abernathy, 85 • Robert W. Anderson, 74 • Enid E. (Nelson) Andrews, 93 • Charles F. Asche, 56 • Raymond A. Blank, 85 • Wilbert 'Webb' G. Brandau, 87 • G. A. 'Art' Cady II, 82 • Kevin J. Carney, 46 • Wilhelmine 'Billie' M. Carroll, 96 • Robert E. Church, 83 • Patricia A. Cline, 79 • Frances 'Fran' J. (Arthur) Clough, 84 • Dick Coe, 80 • Helen M. (Eppler) Davis, 93 • Thomas A. Dudding, 57 • Dennis A. Eckert, 56 • Darlyne G. (Johnson) Engebretson, 82 • Dr. Paul H. Fynskov, 76 • June B. Gist, 89 • Kenneth D. Glandon, 79 • Yvonne Haltom, 84 • Ashley M. Hanson, 23 • Maude E. (Verbeckmoes) Hayes, 94 • Juanita E. (Huffman) Hinrichs, 93 • John M. Hinshaw, 85 • Mildred M. (Brones) Hoef, 92 • Leo N. Holding, 86 • Tommy J. Jensen, 72 • Carolyn S. Johnson, 56 • Ralph L. Johnson, 82 • Robert L. Kessler, 81 • Colleen D. (Blandin) Klobberdanz, 81 • Winona M. (Brooks) Kowny, 92 • Carroll L. Lashbrook, 80 • Steven P. Leaman, 59 • Clayton E. Lincicum, 72 • Gary T. Lloyd, 57 • Florence E. (Orke) Luecht, 93 • Bonnie L. (Hansen) Marshall, 78 • Lester, R. Marth, 84 • Carrie D. (Gruis) Meggers, 32 • Phyllis E. (Anderson) Melcher, 86 • Elaine R. (Koenigsfeld) Menges, 72 • Marian E. Midtgaard, 70 • Andrew L. Miller, 91 • Esther (Weitzel) Mulhern, 93 • Mary A. Myers, 75 • Erling B. Nelson, 79 • Arthur 'Art' C. Nixa, 91 • Alice J. (Pike) Olson, 97 • Merlyn R. Parks, 93 • Marlus I. (Lambert) Perkins, 97 • Sam C. Poulos, 85 • Gladys A. (Balk) Rogeness, 98 • Edward G. Rush, 78 • Esther G. (Schaal) Schaefer, 90 • Reuben E. Schaefer, 72 • Alice M. (England) Schamber, 64 • Margaret L. (Plonsky) Schmolke-Fangman, 85 • Vernal E. Scholes, 67 • Ruth 'Phyllis' H. (Heiens) Seymour, 98 • Charlotte I. (Clay) Sinnott, 86 • Charleen B. Sivwright, 89 • Ronald D. Smith, 70 • Ellen P. (Sill) Sorenson, 85 • Alan 'Al' R. Sprung, 52 • Roger J. Squier, 93 • Wallace E. Stittsworth, 79 • Wilbur F. Stone, 94 • Dale M. Studt, 80 • William S. Swanson, 69 • Frances M. (Beringer) Templeton, 76 • Darwin H. Tripp, 69 • John C. Vaughn, 84 • Dellis A. Walk, 84 • Richard A. Wearda, 89 • Louise K. (Morphew) Wendt, 94 • Rozella 'Rose' M. (Pannhoff) Wilder, 61 • Margery P. (Wolf) Willett, 88 • Dr. Charles B. Wilmarth, 70 • Sheila A. (Lee) Witte, 63 • Luverne 'Vern' O. Zilge, 85 • Mary A. Zrostlik, 84

## Students, Alumna Honored at 19th Annual Pathways to Success

The NIACC Alumni Association's 19th Annual Pathways to Success luncheon on Thursday, April 16, celebrated 41 student success stories.

Sponsors for the event included NIACC Student Senate and the Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors.

During the program a number of current students were recognized for their scholarship, leadership and character, and Dr. Norma Cook Everist was honored for her accomplishments with the Outstanding Alumna award. Norma is a 1958 graduate and served as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Norma Cook Everist, is Professor of Church Administration and Educational Ministry at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. She was the first woman theological seminary professor to be tenured in the American Lutheran Church. She is a deaconess and an ordained Lutheran pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Everist is a widely known lecturer across the country. She has published over a dozen books and contributed chapters to a dozen more. She has published over 50 articles, and was a regular columnist with her husband, the Rev. Burton Everist, for "The Lutheran" magazine.

She is a 1956 graduate of Mason City High School and continued her education at Mason City Junior College (NIACC). After receiving her Associate of Arts in 1958 she went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University. She went on earn both a Master of Arts in Religion degree from Concordia Seminary (Saint Louis) and a Master of Divinity degree from the Yale University Divinity School. Her Doctor of Philosophy Degree is from the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology.



Dr. Norma Cook Everist



Norma began her teaching career at Yale Divinity School. She has been teaching at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, since 1979. She helps foster a seminary community atmosphere of shared power and partnership that builds on the gifts and insights of the students, which in turn enhances learning for leadership in the church and in the world. She has served nationally and internationally on many task forces and committees in the areas of ministry, leadership, theological education, gender studies, and ministry in daily life.

Norma and her husband Burton have three sons, Mark, Joel and Kirk, and three grandchildren.



## Join NIACC's Lifelong Learning Institute for the Love of Learning!

Hunger for intellectual stimulation? Want to study something you never had time to learn? Looking for a unique way to socialize with old friends and connect with new ones? Renew, revitalize and reinvent with North Iowa Area Community College's Lifelong Learning Institute!

Adults of all ages, from their 30's to their 90's, are joining and registering for courses and events. Moms attend classes while their children are in school and retired members fit classes in between all of their other activities. Working members take advantage of the lunchtime courses and evening courses. All members have a common bond—a love of learning.

This community of adult "college students" learn without grades, tests, papers, long-term classes or credits. Short, college level courses on specific topics are offered on NIACC campus and in other various areas throughout the communities.

NIACC's Lifelong Learning Institute focuses on fun, friendship and college level learning! A \$99 annual membership fee will provide members with two semesters of membership benefits, including all the privileges of a student ID, such as use of NIACC facilities, library use, passes to athletic events; tuition-free registration to any or all Lifelong Learning Institute courses, Leadership Series event tickets and speaker receptions; artist chats prior to Performing Arts Series events; Career/Retirement coaching sessions; college credit course audits at ½ tuition plus fees; and a 10% discount of NIACC NOW courses.

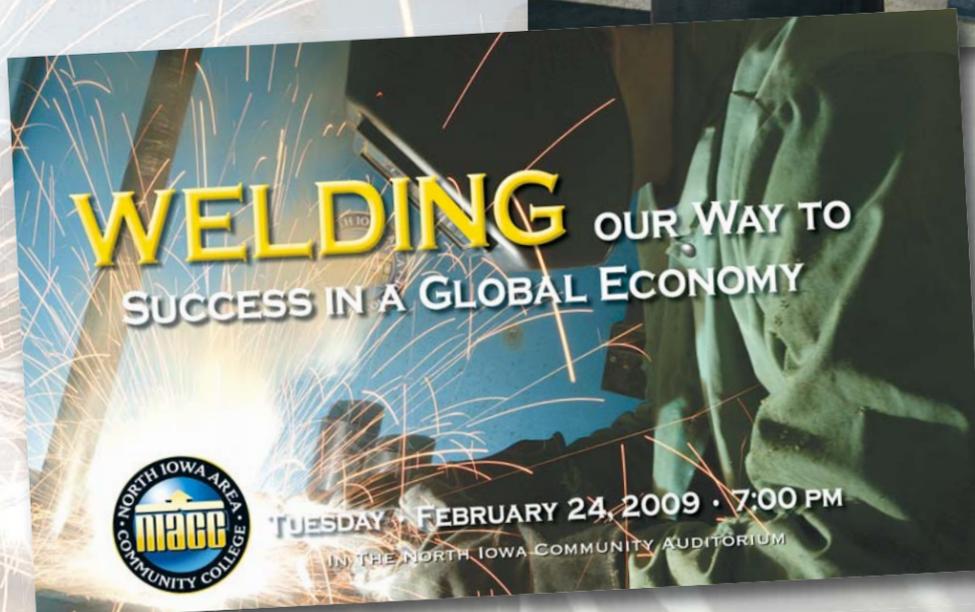
For a schedule of classes or to join NIACC's Lifelong Learning Institute, visit [www.niacc.edu/LLI](http://www.niacc.edu/LLI), email [lli@niacc.edu](mailto:lli@niacc.edu) or call Susan Nagle at 641-422-4358 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4358.

## NIACC Hosted John Stropki on Welding Our Way to Success in a Global Economy

North Iowa Area Community College was honored to bring nationally known chairman, president and CEO of Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc., John Stropki, to North Iowa in February. Stropki spoke about Welding Our Way to Success in a Global Economy.

"We wanted to place a focus on the welding profession due to the needs of our region. Mr. Stropki provided an economic insight on industry and manufacturing based on his global perspective," Josh Byrnes, NIACC industrial division chairperson, said.

Stropki shared insight and ideas on the future of welding in industry and manufacturing for both the North Iowa region as well as the global economy.



## NIACC Volleyball Digs Pink to Raise Money for The Side Out Foundation to Help with Breast Cancer Education and Research

North Iowa Area Community College's volleyball team honored October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month during a recent home match. The "Dig Pink" themed match raised over \$2,000, with all proceeds going to The Side Out Foundation, a breast cancer education and research group. Cancer survivors were admitted to the match for free.

"Dig Pink" T-shirts were sold with all proceeds going to The Side Out Foundation as well. Plus, a "Kiss a Pig" contest resulted in two "lucky" winners as both Josh Byrnes, NIACC industrial division chair, and Mary Jo Vrba, NIACC head volleyball coach, puckered up to the pig.

The NIACC volleyball team beat Wartburg JV 3-0 (25-14, 25-21, 25-17) at the "Dig Pink" match.



## NIACC Faces

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

### Steve Hall-

*Associate Director of Admissions*  
Steve is NIACC's new Associate Director of Admissions. Prior to joining NIACC, he held a similar position with Waldorf College in Forest City. Steve holds a B.A. in Psychology and Business from Concordia College.



### Shannon Love-

*Cashier*  
Shannon moved from Principal Financial to the Cashier position here at NIACC. She is a graduate of Hamilton Business College.



### Roger Marsh-3rd

*Shift Custodian*  
Roger is the newest face on the 3rd shift Custodial team. He has most recently been employed with Sukup Manufacturing and Mason City Schools.



### David Trunkhill-

*Custodial Supervisor*  
David is our new Custodial Supervisor, moving to NIACC from the



Titonka Consolidated School System where he served as their Head Custodian/Building-Grounds Maintenance and Transportation Director. David received his training from NIACC, Iowa Central, Iowa Lakes and the U.S. Army.

## Job Changes

### Colleen Sisco-

*Associate Director of Financial Aid*  
Colleen moved from Associate Director of Admissions to Associate Director of Financial Aid. She began her career with NIACC in 2004 and took over her new position in 2008. Colleen holds a Master's Degree in HPER with Athletic emphasis.



### Rhonda Nesheim-

*Kauffman-Book Store Manager*  
Rhonda has become the first manager of NIACC's newly instituted book store, The Book Zone. She started at NIACC in 1996 as the Accounts Payable Clerk, moved to Secretary to the V.P. of Administrative Services, moved to Associate Director of Financial Aid in 2006 and became the Book Zone manager in 2008. Rhonda holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Banking.



## NIACC Sets Record for Spring Enrollment

North Iowa Area Community College's five percent enrollment increase translates to a record 3,360 students attending the College this spring.

## Students Named to All-Iowa Academic Team

NIACC students Jared Johanns and Elias Wunderlich were named to the All-Iowa Academic Team. The students were honored at the 2009 All-Iowa Academic Team recognition ceremony in Des Moines this spring.

Johanns, an exercise science major, who was named to the NJCAA Region XI Academic All-Region First Team for football and was a homecoming king candidate, will transfer to the University of Iowa.

Wunderlich, a criminal justice/music business major, who was named to the Dean's list and belongs to Phi Theta Kappa, will transfer to the University of Northern Iowa.



## Give to the Annual Fund!

Gifts to the Annual Fund provide ongoing support for NIACC priorities:

Scholarships  
Program Development  
Special Projects

**Be a part of the  
2008-2009 Annual Fund!**



## NIACC (and Iowa Employers) Celebrate 95% Placement Rate

North Iowa Area Community College celebrates a 95 percent placement rate as reported in the 2008 Career Placement Report.

The 2008 Career Placement Report study, conducted by the NIACC Career & Internship Center, involved 167 graduates of the one- and two-year training programs in the College's Business, Health, Agriculture and Industrial Technology divisions. The survey response rate was 85 percent.

"The College serves area residents by providing training opportunities for high demand careers with attractive wages, and serves our business community by developing a well-trained workforce," said Terry Schumaker, NIACC Career and Internship Center director, noting that NIACC's placement rate has exceeded 90 percent for more than a decade. "At a time when Iowa faces population declines and an uncertain employment outlook, it is important that our skilled graduates are finding employment and staying in Iowa."

Of 34 career programs with graduates in 2008 at NIACC, 26 experienced 100 percent placement. It is not uncommon for NIACC graduates' starting salaries to compete with experienced level wages across the state and nation. Some of the top starting salaries went to NIACC students completing studies in the areas of associate degree nursing (ADN); licensed practical nursing (LPN); physical therapist assistant (PTA); agricultural sales and service; climate control technology; tool and die technology; and automotive service technology.

The Career & Internship Center provides services for businesses, NIACC students and NIACC alumni. The Center organizes job fairs and career/college days, works with students on choosing a major, conducting an internship, developing job search tools, conducting a job search, and partners with Iowa Workforce Development to match up businesses with qualified job seekers.

For more information, contact the Career & Internship Center at 641-422-4170 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4170 or visit their website at [www.niacc.edu/careercenter](http://www.niacc.edu/careercenter).

## New Scholarships through the NIACC Foundation...

### Del and Mary Laudner Agriculture Scholarship

A \$50,000 gift from Del and Mary Laudner will be used to establish the Del and Mary Laudner Agriculture Scholarship, an endowed scholarship fund. The Laudners want to encourage and assist young potential farmers or those interested in some other aspect of the farming business to get the education needed to help them succeed. They believe NIACC is the best place to achieve these goals and hope the scholarship will be useful in furthering the College's Ag programs by assisting promising students to reach their goals. The Laudners are native Iowans who moved to the San Diego, California area and have lived there for many years. Both Del and Mary spent their early years on farms in Floyd County. Del and Mary retained their deep connection to Iowa and their interest in all things agricultural. Del and Mary Laudner have already created two scholarships for NIACC students, the Maude Wilson Theatre Arts Scholarship and the Melvin "Bud" Wilson Scholarship.

### Ron and Margaret Hoel Scholarship

The Hoel family feels like NIACC gave them the base they needed for successful careers in education and industry (mining). Ron, a 1968 graduate of the College, and his wife, Margaret Hoel established this endowed scholarship. Their children are also NIACC graduates; Ryan in 1995 and Kelly in 1997. The Hoel's are thrilled to provide this opportunity for students dedicated to advancing their lives and the lives of others. This scholarship was created to benefit a full-time sophomore from Nora Springs or Rock Falls. Recipients must have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. Awards alternate between education and industrial technology majors.

### Communications 1 Network, Inc. Scholarship

Communications 1 Network, Inc. a business that offers telephone, internet, cable television and wireless services to customers in Kanawha, Iowa and surrounding areas, has set up the *Communications 1 Network, Inc. Scholarship*, an annual scholarship fund to benefit local students. Recipients of the scholarship must be from Kanawha, Klemme, Corwith or Britt. Preference is given to students enrolled in an Information Technology program. Communications 1 Network is excited to provide this opportunity to deserving local students who want to further their education at NIACC.

## NIACC Retirees

*Congratulations to our recent retirees!*

**Don Smith**  
*Custodial Supervisor*  
16 years



**Al Reiter**  
*Dormitory Custodian*  
32 years

