



for alumni and friends of  
North Iowa Area Community College



# inTouch

www.niacc.edu

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## Students Celebrate at NIACC Pondfest 2009

NIACC Pondfest 2009 provided a chance for students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the start of another school year. There were friendly competitions in events such as canoe racing, hot shot basketball, and the world famous 3-person Winger contest. There was also a rock climbing wall and much more. The entire event wrapped up with a fantastic barbecue. Our wonderful NIACC students made Pondfest 2009 simply fantastic!



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## NIACC and ABC Announce Climate Control Articulation Agreement

North Iowa Area Community College and the Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa celebrated the announcement of a new Climate Control articulation agreement this fall.

"We are pleased to partner with the Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa on this agreement in an effort to provide strong preparation to students looking to enter the field," Dr. Deb Derr, NIACC president, said. "This agreement marks yet another step in our efforts to connect NIACC students with key industry players and train the skilled workforce of the future."

The agreement allows NIACC Climate Control students to count their two-year degree as all four years of their apprenticeship training, which is required for licensure as an HVAC technician in the State of Iowa. Students who complete the program now have a credential from the U.S. Department of Labor which is recognized across the country.

"This partnership with the Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa reflects their confidence in the NIACC curriculum for Climate Control students. It's an honor to earn such a vote of confidence in the training we're providing," Josh Byrnes, NIACC industrial



NIACC Climate Control instructor Tom Crowley, NIACC Industrial Technology division chair Josh Byrnes, NIACC president Dr. Deb Derr, ABC education director Tom Fulcher, and NIACC Climate Control instructor Jason Ott at the articulation signing.

technology division chairperson, said.

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa, a chapter of a national organization, serves as one of the few organizations that can grant apprenticeship credits as needed to earn HVAC technician licensure in Iowa.

"We are thrilled to have this partnership. With this agreement, we are putting the industry seal of approval on the program here

at NIACC with one of the most state-of-the-art facilities in the HVAC industry as far as community colleges go," Tom Fulcher, Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa education director, said.

For more information on NIACC's Climate Control program, call 1-888-GO NIACC or visit [www.niacc.edu/industrial/climate/climate.html](http://www.niacc.edu/industrial/climate/climate.html).

## NIACC and UNI Announce Information Technology Articulation Agreement

North Iowa Area Community College and the University of Northern Iowa celebrated the announcement of a new Information Technology articulation agreement this fall.

"NIACC is proud of its longstanding relationship with the University of Northern Iowa. This relationship has always centered on providing a quality educational experience for our students and providing them with a convenient pathway to a bachelor's degree. It is an exciting day to solidify yet another seamless path for our students to follow," Dr. Mark Johnson, NIACC vice president for academic affairs, said.

The agreement, signed by both institutions' vice presidents for academic affairs, makes it possible for students to earn an Associate of Arts degree with coursework in computer science at NIACC in two years and transfer seamlessly to earn their Bachelor of Arts in computer science at UNI in two years.

"UNI Computer Science has a great relationship with NIACC and its graduates. This articulation agreement creates another avenue for us to serve the students of Iowa and prepare them for high-tech careers in the state," Eugene Wallingford, UNI associate professor and head of the department of computer science, said.

Faculty from both institutions worked together to create the articulation agreement for students.

"We are very pleased and honored to have UNI select NIACC as the first community college in Iowa to work with on this project. The high quality of our Information Technology students transferring to UNI was the reason they approached us for this articulation agreement with their Computer Science department. That is a great compliment to our IT faculty and programs and we are very excited for this opportunity to help our graduates make a smoother transition to UNI," Mary Mosimar, NIACC information technology program leader and instructor, said.

Misty Frank, who earned her Associate of Arts degree from NIACC in 2002 and her Bachelor of

Arts degree in computer science from UNI in 2005, said both institutions made a difference in her life.

"The educational background I've received from NIACC and UNI has provided me with a foundation that has helped me to attain success and opened opportunities that I otherwise may have not thought possible," Frank said. "I highly value my experiences that took place on the NIACC and UNI campuses."

After earning degrees from both NIACC and UNI, Frank will earn her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Iowa in December 2009 and is working toward her Master of Science degree in systems engineering from Iowa State University. She currently works as a software quality engineer at Rockwell Collins where she applies a systematic, disciplined, and quantifiable approach to the construction, analysis, and management of software and system processes and procedures.

For more information on NIACC and UNI's new Information Technology articulation agreement, call Mosimar at 641-422-4149 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4149 or email [mosimmar@niacc.edu](mailto:mosimmar@niacc.edu).



Dr. Mark Johnson, NIACC vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Gloria Gibson, UNI executive vice president and provost, sign the agreement.

## NIACC JPEC and Alum John Pappajohn Receive NACCE Awards

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) conference held in Chicago, Ill. on October 12-13 recognized the North Iowa Area Community College John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and NIACC alumnus John G. Pappajohn on the national stage for their efforts.

NACCE and Accelper Consulting awarded the NIACC JPEC the Innovation Award, its highest national honor. Pappajohn was awarded NACCE's Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship Award.

The NIACC JPEC nominated Pappajohn for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship Award. Pappajohn has said his dream is to help Iowa become the most entrepreneurial state in the country. With his leadership, vision and financial support, Iowa is on its way.

"John is a game changer," Jamie T. Zanos, vice president of NIACC JPEC and Institutional Advancement, said. "He has changed forever the landscape of Iowa through his generosity and foresight. Over 80,000 students and business persons have been educated as a result of his gifts in Iowa and thousands of new jobs have already resulted from the many new business starts it helped support."

Pappajohn has laid the foundation for Iowa to become more entrepreneurial by planting seeds all across the state and has touched many, many lives with his generosity, inspiring personality and his positive outlook on life. He provided for the base start-up funding of the five Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers located at NIACC, University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa and Drake University. To date he has provided over \$15 million to support these centers, first established in 1997.

"John's Lifetime Achievement Award marks yet another acknowledgement of the incredible work and generosity that John has shared through his entrepreneurial endeavors. As a NIACC graduate, John has served as the

*continued on page 11*

## Youth Entrepreneurial Academy Grad Realizes Dream of Owning His Own Business

Kaleb Ross graduated from the North Iowa Area Community College John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center's Youth Entrepreneurial Academy (YEA) in 2006 and immediately knew that business ownership was for him. His knack for landscaping and the fact that he has always wanted to be his own boss have resulted in the realization of his dream as owner of Ross Landscaping, LLC in Osage.

He first got started working with Mary and Jerry Fisk and helping with projects at Happy Acres nursery in Osage. "They were great to work for...they explained why things had to be done so I could get a better understanding of what I was doing. I wouldn't be where I am today without their great training and my work experience there," Ross said.

Ross Landscaping, LLC provides services such as fall and summer trimming, retaining walls, concrete edging, and patios. For more information, contact Ross Landscaping, LLC at 641-330-6836.

The Youth Entrepreneurial Academy works to expose students to entrepreneurship, provide students with an opportunity to apply their skills and creativity, help students understand critical



thinking skills, and give students another career option of being a "job creator" instead of a "job taker." The YEA is put on by NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and funded in part by the John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation.

The John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center is located on the North Iowa Area Community College campus in Mason City, Iowa and provides college level courses and degree programs in entrepreneurship, as well as consulting services for business start-ups and existing industries in the North Iowa region. The Center also provides FastTrac® training programs both for beginning companies and existing companies. Space is now available in the new North Iowa Business Incubator for start-up businesses. Call 641-422-4111 for more information.

## Workforce Development Partnership Offers Veteran Services

The Workforce Development Partnership (WDP) between Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and North Iowa Area Community College offers veteran services to help put Iowa veterans to work.

With all of the skills veterans acquire in the military, one of the biggest challenges can be deciding how and where their military skills will transfer into this new job market. The WDP can help veterans make the leap as well as tackle other issues by using the resources of the IWD Center.

"Our effort to help veterans in search of jobs is one of the most important things we do," Nancy Bair, IWD Center director, said. "Through our veteran priority of service, veterans have first choice when accessing individual classes or programs at the IWD Center. Our veteran services work to match veterans' skills with jobs and help veterans succeed."

The veteran priority of services allows veterans to go to the front of any waiting list for any class and holds reserved slots for veterans in specific program offerings such as IWD Center computer classes. Other veteran services offered by the WDP include assessment tools to evaluate veterans' skills and interests; one-on-one confidential counseling

for job assistance, personal, and family needs (food, clothing, and shelter); an automated system to contact veterans about potential job openings; information on the availability of jobs in a specific field and assistance in contacting employers regarding job openings; access to programs, classes, and videos to assist in work search; special assistance available on a case-by-case basis for veterans with disabilities or those facing serious barriers to finding employment (assistance is also available to other veterans on a case-by-case basis); and information and referral services to outside support agencies for veterans and veterans' families.

The WDP has earned the Veteran Incentive Award for outstanding service to Iowa's veteran community for the past two years and was the top scoring One Stop in the state this year.

The IWD Center also offers clients internet access, computer software, placement assistance, office equipment availability, unemployment insurance and printed resources.

For more information about veteran services offered through the WDP, contact Bair at 641-422-1521.

## New/Updated Programs @ NIACC

**Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program** – NIACC has created a new certificate program for students interested in becoming pharmacy technicians. Effective July 2010, pharmacy technicians in Iowa will need to be certified. The new program will assist students in preparing to take the certification exam.

**Network Administration and Security** – The Information Technology faculty have updated and combined NIACC's Network Administration and Cyber Security programs to better meet industry and employment needs. Graduates of the combined program will have a strong skill set and multiple employment options.

**Microsoft IT Academy** – NIACC's Information Systems Technology program has achieved accreditation as a Microsoft IT Academy, which will enhance student access to Microsoft certification and employment. Program enhancements from this new status include e-learning opportunities, software downloads for curriculum and virtual systems for training.

**Wellness, Exercise Science and Leisure Services** – NIACC has updated its Health and Wellness program and re-titled the program to Wellness, Exercise Science and Leisure Services to better reflect areas of specialization in this field. Graduates of this program can transfer to a four-year program or enter the job market directly after graduation from NIACC in such areas as fitness, corporate wellness and recreation.

**Climate Control Technology** – NIACC's Industrial Technology Division has enhanced training and employment opportunities for its Climate Control students by developing an articulation agreement with Associated Builders and Contractors of Iowa. (See page 1 for more details.)

**Welding Certificate Program** – NIACC has reactivated its Welding Certificate program in response to a growing demand for short-term training, particularly among dislocated workers in Iowa.

**Developmental Education** – During the past year, NIACC faculty have made several changes to the College's Developmental Education program, which is designed to assist underprepared students in preparing for college-level work. The College has added new course options for students needing additional preparation in reading, writing and math.

### New Continuing Education Initiatives

- The "Administrative Professional Certificate" is a new series of classes designed to increase employee effectiveness in improving productivity and communications within the office environment.
- The Lifelong Learning Institute, a membership-based program, provides opportunities for members to engage in educational activities that provide opportunities for fun, friendship and college-level learning.
- A "Master Chef Certificate" program has been developed to help participants improve their home cooking skills and to learn about the rigors and challenges of employment as a professional chef.
- The "Certificate in Supervision" program is a series of classes that will provide the participant with the skills needed to become an effective leader in today's business environment.
- The Certified Nurse Aide program, which is traditionally delivered in a classroom environment, has been converted to a hybrid model of delivery, effectively combining online course instruction with onsite skills training and testing.
- The Lean Enterprise movement continues to expand with the creation of the Lean Breakfast Club. The club was formed as a partnership between NIACC and Mercy Medical Center–North Iowa in order to increase participants' knowledge of the Lean culture by having members review the latest books written about the Lean Enterprise.
- The Ultimate Sales Academy, originally offered as a six day course to develop and practice professional business to business selling skills, continues to expand with the development of customized courses delivered onsite to business and industry.



**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 Extreme Makeover: College Edition Winners Announced

**Amy Graven**, of Mason City, and **Justin Scott**, of Mason City, have been announced as the winners of North Iowa Area Community College's Extreme Makeover: College Edition.

Graven and Scott will receive free NIACC tuition plus textbooks and more for the 2009-2010 school year. Graven hopes to work in nursing. Scott plans to pursue an education in accounting.

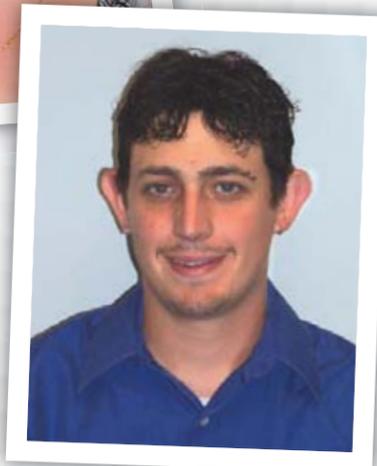
The three runners-up, Marcy Bitner, of Clear Lake; Leslie Lensing, of Charles City; and Krista O'Geary, of Mason City, will each receive a \$1,000 NIACC scholarship this year.

Over 1,000 votes were cast online for NIACC's Extreme Makeover: College Edition.

Other opportunities are available for adults looking to return to school at NIACC. For more information, contact NIACC Admissions at 641-422-4245 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4245.



◀ Amy Graven



Justin Scott ▶

## Service in Action – NIACC Students Journey to Mississippi

During the NIACC Spring Break 2009, 16 students joined the growing trend of more college students choosing to spend spring break working for volunteer service missions rather than flying to sunny vacation spots. Brent Hamilton, NIACC math instructor and campus ministry advisor, coordinated the week-long service trip to Waveland, Mississippi, where students worked for Katrina Relief projects.

"Waveland was one of the many towns that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Even though it has been nearly four years, there are still a large number of restoration projects remaining in the region," said Hamilton. This marked the second year Hamilton has taken a group of NIACC student volunteers on a mission trip to the Gulf of Mexico region but the first time working through the Katrina Relief organization. Katrina Relief is one organization that coordinates volunteer workers for home and city restoration projects in Waveland.

Mark Messer, NIACC communication skills instructor; Dr. John Nolan, Mason City; Hamilton; and the NIACC students left early on Saturday, March 7, for their volunteer service experience. In order to keep costs for the students at a minimum, the first night's accommodations were spent sleeping on the floor of First United Methodist Church in Blytheville, Arkansas. By Sunday evening the group reached their destination at the camp in Pass Christian, Mississippi, which would be their home for the week of service. To stretch their budgets even further, students pooled money to buy groceries and cooked their own meals while they were at the camp. The camp, operated by Katrina Relief, charged a minimal fee of \$5 per day per student and provided a hot water shower for everyone. While at the camp, NIACC students were joined by other student service groups from Illinois, New York and North Carolina.

Katrina Relief had numerous projects which kept the students busy during the four days they were scheduled as volunteers in Waveland. NIACC students and the adult leaders were divided up into three work groups. They worked at putting in windows and doors, hanging drywall, digging ditches for water lines, stripping decks, building fences, and planting 40 bushes in the city park. The completion of these projects made a difference in the lives of the residents at Waveland and their goal of returning to pre-Katrina conditions.

The journey did include some rest, relaxation, and fun for the students. Relief volunteers enjoyed a Louisiana Cajun Encounters swamp tour (complete with a sighting of Cindy the Alligator). When they were not volunteering, the group went to the beach on the Gulf of Mexico for swimming, volleyball and relaxation by the ocean. A detour to New Orleans and a visit to the French Quarter were included on the return trip home.

All told, each student spent approximately \$100 for their week-long service trip, a small price to pay for a tremendous life experience. "Our trip was funded through the NIACC student Campus Ministry Association (CMA)," said Hamilton. The CMA, a NIACC student organization, budgeted about \$1,900 to cover the hotel stay, T-shirts for the students and gasoline.

"We had a good mixture of students and adult leaders along for the service trip," said Hamilton. Students, who had not normally interacted on campus during the semester, spent their week of spring break meeting new friends and helping others less fortunate. As one student commented, "We went down to Mississippi as strangers and came back as friends."



## Class of 2009

Around 625 students graduated from North Iowa Area Community College during the commencement ceremony on May 1, 2009. The College awarded 717 degrees, diplomas, and certificates along with several honors and recognitions. NIACC's Class of 2009 represents 9 countries, 12 states, and 102 communities across Iowa.



## Schutte Takes Part in Global Change Workshop

North Iowa Area Community College biology instructor, Carol Schutte, is one of 26 scientists recently chosen to attend a global change workshop in Costa Rica sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Schutte considers herself very fortunate to have been selected to participate in the workshop.

"This was a remarkable opportunity to immerse myself in tropical studies. I've been on several trips to the tropics, including taking students to Belize and Costa Rica, but this time I wasn't the one counting noses on the bus! I was the engrossed student," Schutte said.

During a three-week global change and tropical ecosystems workshop, organized by the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), professionals from a dozen countries in Latin America and the United States addressed current issues facing tropical ecosystems. Workshop participants discussed how changes in average annual temperature and precipitation patterns can have profound effects on the biodiversity of tropical ecosystems. The conference was held from April 22 to May 14, at three OTS biological research stations in Costa Rica, primarily at La Selva Biological Station in Sarapiquí, Heredia.

"This workshop aimed to analyze the challenges currently being faced for research and conservation in tropical ecosystems in the face of global change. Along with this, the long-term research results from La Selva Biological Station were compared with the results obtained at other stations such as Monteverde, Palo Verde and Las Cruces that were also visited as part of the course," explained Delphine K. Farmer, University of Colorado, and assistant coordinator for the workshop.

As part of this international workshop, OTS hosted a symposium on April 26 and 27 at La Selva. Invited guests presented talks on the importance of climate change and the challenges of presenting complex information to students at all levels, educators, policymakers, people from different cultures, and the general public. The symposium was sponsored by the National Science



Carol Schutte on a canopy research catwalk, La Selva Biological Field Station.

Foundation - Research Coordination Network (RCN NSF). Speakers shared their position and the initiatives they are developing to improve environmental conditions and responses to global climate change.

"The lectures were stimulating and sometimes overwhelming and depressing. Yet at the same time it was encouraging to be among such committed and energetic people," said Schutte in retrospect. "I believe I have made some new lifelong friends who share my same passion for improving science literacy and environmental protection."

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) is a non-profit consortium that has grown to include over 60 universities and research institutions from around the world. OTS was founded in 1963 to provide leadership in education, research and the responsible use of natural resources in the tropics. To address this mission, OTS conducts graduate and undergraduate education, facilitates research, participates in tropical forest conservation, maintains three biological stations in Costa Rica, and conducts environmental education programs.

## NIACC Sets Record for Fall Enrollment

North Iowa Area Community College's 7% enrollment increase translates to a record 3,729 students attending the College this fall.

## New on the NIACC Green Scene...



**NIACC president Dr. Deb Derr signs American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and Energy Star participation certificate.**

Dr. Deb Derr, NIACC president, signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and the Energy Star participation certificate on behalf of NIACC this fall.

"We are excited to make this historical step as NIACC officially commits to pursuing climate neutrality and improving building energy efficiency," Derr said. "Through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment and participation in the Energy Star program, we continue our work to reduce our environmental impact and educate our students on the importance of doing so."

As the fight against global warming shapes the 21st century, colleges and universities must exercise leadership by modeling ways to eliminate global warming emissions and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Through the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, NIACC will initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible; initiate tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed; make the action plan, inventory and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

As a partner with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program, NIACC commits to protecting the environment through energy efficiency and improving building energy efficiency by ten percent or more. This partnership strives to implement and promote energy efficiency improvements that lower energy costs and reduce the risks of global warming.

"As part of our work to move these new initiatives forward, we're forming a committee made up of faculty, staff, students, and potentially community members to focus on our sustainability efforts," Tony Pappas, NIACC director of facilities management, said. "We are fully committed to minimizing our carbon footprint and continuing to do our part through energy efficiency."

Also new for students returning to campus this fall, NIACC has implemented the use of environmentally friendly food service disposables such as plates, bowls, cups, and silverware.

"It's exciting news as NIACC begins to go green. I've researched suppliers for compostable products that also

maintain a standard in presentation and hold food products properly," Ken Webber, NIACC director of food service, said. "Most of our new items will come from Eco Products where they're produced as certified products in an environmentally friendly building. Having worked in Food Service for over 30 years, I'm pleased to help NIACC step forward and set an example of giving back to the planet."

The new products will include 100 percent recycled materials napkins by Tork; 12" and 16" cups that hold heat but are not hot to touch from Solo with Duo Shield; and 9" plates, 6" plates, 10" three-compartment plates, 16 ounce cold cups with lids, 10 ounce bowls, and silverware from Eco Products. The Eco Products items are compostable, which means that 90 percent or greater degradation of the materials occurs within 45-120 days and no toxic residue remains in the final compost. And, although the products will still go to the landfill, the front-end benefits make them extremely beneficial to the environment. The items are made from rapidly renewable resources and reduce dependence on oil, take less energy to produce relative to petroleum counterparts and use an already used resource through sugarcane.

NIACC will use the new environmentally friendly food service disposables on campus and for catering. The NIACC dorms are already environmentally friendly through the use of dishes that are washed and the elimination of trays last year.

All these new initiatives mark the latest efforts by NIACC to reduce environmental impacts. The College currently realizes energy savings through the new Recreation Center design as well as a multitude of other energy efficiency savings across campus.

## Robot Donated to NIACC Industrial Division

The North Iowa Area Community College Industrial Division has received a generous donation of a restored Yamaha YK740 (a 20 kilogram 4 axis SCARA robot) from Robert Franken, electromechanical instructor at NIACC, for use in the Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) and advanced automation labs at the College. The donation was made through the NIACC Foundation.



"The Yamaha YK740 will be an excellent hands-on tool for students taking Advanced PLC and System Integration," said Franken.

Prior to accepting a position in the Industrial Division at NIACC, Franken gained real-world experience with robots used in the manufacturing process. From 1981 to 2006, Franken worked as a senior electrical engineer at Eaton in Belmond. After Eaton, Franken took a job as the engineering/ maintenance manager for AGC Flat Glass in Hampton, Iowa, from 2006 to 2008. Programming robots and integrating control systems into the manufacturing environment was a primary function of Franken's job at Eaton. "Part of my job at Eaton was to check the quality analysis of production parts using a robot similar to the Yamaha YK740," said Franken. The YK740 will now bring real-life experience for students into the PLC lab at NIACC.

Robotics and their operational principles are used in a diverse mixture of industry applications, from manufacturing processes to wind turbines. The ability to set-up, operate and repair PLCs are skills that will be in demand for manufacturing positions that utilize advanced technologies. "My plans are to have the students integrate the robot (YK740) to a PLC with a color vision system. It will be checking the quality analysis of production parts in an application like I used to do as the senior electrical engineer at Eaton," said Franken.

Since the introduction of the YK740, two more robots have joined the NIACC PLC lab - a six-axis Kawasaki articulated arm robot and a four-axis Yamaha Cartesian robot. These three units make up the robotic cell for the advanced PLC labs and the computer automated manufacturing labs. "These robots have added three components to the Advanced PLC and System Integration curriculum: Cartesian robotics, articulated arm and SCARA robot," said Franken. When combined into a robotic cell, the three robots will provide the opportunity for students to learn the operations performed by all three robot types. Operations performed will include how robotics impact the system process of computer automated manufacturing labs.

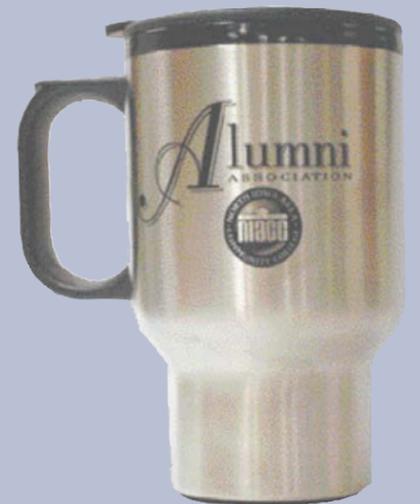
One of the future goals for the PLC labs is to incorporate a vision and wireless control system into the robotics cell. This system will take the PLC lab curriculum to the next level. "Our goal is to present real world applications for our students and the vision and wireless control system will bring that experience into the classroom," said Franken.

Thanks to Franken's generosity, NIACC students will now gain hands-on experience in the world of robotics and how the robotic cell system is utilized in the manufacturing process. For more information about the Electromechanical Systems training offered at NIACC, please call 1-888 GO NIACC, Ext. 4202 or visit the web-site at [www.niacc.edu/industrial/eltron.html](http://www.niacc.edu/industrial/eltron.html)

## This Mug's For You!

### Become a Lifetime Alumni Association Member

As our way of saying thank you, we'd like to send you a complimentary NIACC Alumni Association mug when you become a lifetime member of the NIACC Alumni Association! A single lifetime membership is just \$100 or \$150 for the entire family (one mug per membership please). Membership in the NIACC Alumni Association supports the annual Pathways to Success student leadership program, student scholarships, the Intouch newsletter, and other alumni activities. To join, send your check (payable to the NIACC Alumni Association) along with your name and information to the NIACC Foundation, 500 College Drive, Mason City, Iowa 50401. You will receive your personalized membership card (and your mug) right away!



## Schutte Joins Iowa Academy of Science Board of Directors

During the annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science (IAS) at Des Moines University this spring, Carol Schutte, North Iowa Area Community College Biological Science instructor, was elected to a three year term for the IAS Board of Directors.

"I've enjoyed membership in the Iowa Academy of Science for over 20 years. This organization is a vital network for Iowa scientists and a great resource for Iowa's citizens. We are eager to gain more visibility and to help the public better understand the dynamic, exciting world of science. So many of the changes we are facing in our world require a basic understanding of science; everything from conservation issues to nanotechnology to cancer research - issues that touch everyone's lives. The Academy wants to help Iowa's citizenry cope with these challenges by providing dependable science information. I am excited and honored to serve on the Board of Directors," Schutte said.

IAS membership is made up of 750 researchers and educators from all areas of science and all academic levels, from secondary education students to doctors.



## NIACC Nursing Students Team Up for *Trinity House of Hope*

North Iowa Area Community College's Nursing III and IV students teamed up last spring to refurbish two rooms at the Trinity House of Hope women's shelter in Mason City. In response to a public request for assistance and a tour of the facility, nursing students felt compelled to adopt two rooms. Two groups of nursing students combined sweat equity, supplies from local businesses, and donations from family and friends to create new looks for the adopted rooms at Trinity House of Hope.

A tour of Trinity House of Hope is included in the curriculum for the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) nursing students at NIACC. During the tour students had, they became aware of the need for volunteers to step forward and help refurbish rooms. Two teams of student volunteers each picked a room as a project and took ownership of their projects. Students worked on these projects between their time at school and work. The groups painted, searched for donated materials, cleaned windows, and put together the refurbished rooms.

"We just decided that day (of the class tour) that we would sponsor a room," Molly Nedoba, a student in the Nursing III class, said. The project came together quickly. Students working on this room included: Alta Vista – Lori Johnson; Cedar Falls – Molly Nedoba; Clear Lake – Christine Sokol; Forest City – Sarah Knapper; Ionia – Candy Lee-Schoba; Kanawha – Melissa DeVries; Lake Mills – Katie Bergan; Lester – Maggie Metzger; Manly – Kristin Arnold; Mason City – Samantha Nitchals, Annie O'Leary, Ericka

Siemons, Mary Witt; and Osage – Katie Jensen, Sherry King.

The group agreed on an Americana theme, picked a color scheme of burgundy and beige and set a work date to paint and clean the room. In addition to their volunteer time to paint and clean, students also donated lamps, wall hangings, bedding, TV, curtains, and money for their project. Diamond Vogel donated the paint for the Americana themed room.

A second room at Trinity House of Hope was adopted by Annie Meyer, of Clear Lake, and Lindsay Harms, of Tintonka, students who were in the Nursing IV program. Annie and Lindsay joined forces with their mothers, Carol Meyer and Janet Perkins, to refurbish the room at Trinity House of Hope. Annie and Lindsay also moved quickly on their project – after a minor setback on their color scheme. Even though Annie and Lindsay have contributed the majority of labor, their mothers have contributed help with the decorations, furnishings and donations of money.

"Knowing how busy these students are with school, work and even families, I am amazed at how readily they volunteered for this project," Nancy Frederick, NIACC ADN nursing instructor, said. The soreness from painter's arm did not dull the enthusiasm or satisfaction the students gained from their refurbishing projects at Trinity House of Hope.

For more information on NIACC Health programs, visit [www.niacc.edu/health](http://www.niacc.edu/health).



Kristin Arnold, Manly; Katie Bergan, Lake Mills; Melissa DeVries, Kanawha/Britt; Katie Jensen, Osage; Lori Johnson, Alta Vista; Sherry King, Osage; Sarah Knapper, Forest City; Candy Lee-Schoba, Ionia; Maggie Metzger, Lester, Iowa; Molly Nedoba, Cedar Falls; Samantha Nitchals, Mason City; Annie O'Leary, Mason City; Ericka Siemons, Mason City; Christine Sokol, Clear Lake; Mary Witt, Mason City



Kristin Arnold; Molly Nedoba; and Katie Jensen

## NIACC Graphic Communication Students Capstone Projects Benefit *Habitat for Humanity and North Iowa Fair*

Students in the Graphic Communication and the Web Design capstone classes at North Iowa Area Community College were involved with two major projects last spring – creating marketing materials for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore and the North Iowa Fair. It marked the sixth year that Norb Thomes, NIACC instructor for both capstone groups, has solicited volunteer projects from the community for capstone classes.

"We try to help charities and non-profits in these classes (capstone graphic communication and web design). It's a great experience for the students to work with real clients and a chance for folks that are trying to do good to get new stuff for small investments," said Thomes. The scope for these projects covered everything from development of tri-fold brochures, truck decals, posters, and even a display booth for use at exhibitions. Upon completion of these projects, these capstone students will have invested a total group average of between 600 to 700 hours of volunteer time to Habitat for Humanity ReStore and North Iowa Fair projects.

The students that comprised the team that recently completed construction of a new display booth for use by the Habitat for Humanity ReStore included: Britt – Sarah Everett; Mason City – Ryan Adams and Christine Funk; Northwood – Cameo Fjelstad; Riceville – Jacqie Klein; and Camp Verde, AZ – Aaron Hancock. ReStore, a retail business under the umbrella of Habitat for Humanity, collects new and "gently used" building materials and re-sells them at a large discount. This keeps usable materials out of the landfill, supplies low-cost materials for building and remodeling, and raises money to help build new homes through Habitat for Humanity.



Front row (l to r): Zeke Zirbel, Angie Merriam Back row (l to r): Cassie Hutzel, Renee Timmerman, Kory Adams Not pictured: Melissa Christopherson

The new display was completed just in time for use by Habitat for Humanity ReStore during last year's Home Show held at the North Iowa Fairgrounds. The ReStore booth would normally cost over \$1,000 if purchased from a promotional supplier, even if it had been a used booth. Thomes students were able to construct the booth, complete with discount graphics from Sign Pro and recycled materials from the ReStore, for a price of \$100.

In addition to the display booth, capstone students also created a marketing plan, store decorations, and signage and a video for the ReStore along with logos for the outside of the Habitat for Humanity cube van and trailer.

Marketing materials for the North Iowa Fair served as the project focus for the second team of Thomes' capstone students. Members of the student capstone team working on the North Iowa Fair project included: Bristow – Cassie Hutzel; Mason City – Melissa Christopherson, Angie Merriam and Zeke Zirbel; New Hampton – Renee Timmerman; and Stacyville – Kory Adams. This group developed materials that included posters, flyers, brochures, T-shirts, ads, commercials, and other materials for the North Iowa Fair.

"Volunteer projects like ReStore and North Iowa Fair are a win-win for the students and the organizations. Students work as a team to create the marketing materials and the organization gains a new marketing look without breaking their budget," said Thomes.

For more information on NIACC Graphic Communication programs, visit [www.niacc.edu](http://www.niacc.edu) under Academic Programs and Majors.

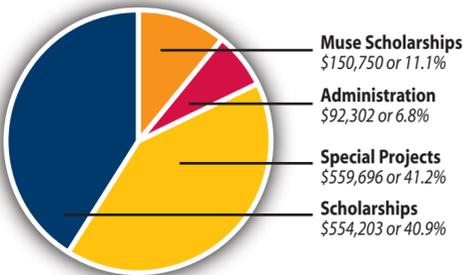


Kory Adams, Cameo Fjelstad, Norb Thomes, Sarah Everett, Jacqie Klein, Melissa Christopherson, Ryan Adams, and Chris Funk

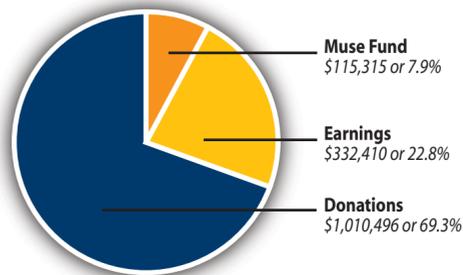


The NIACC Foundation strives to enable students to attend North Iowa Area Community College and to enhance programs and activities of the College. The Foundation will accomplish its mission through the following activities: The Foundation solicits, manages and administers contributions, both real and personal, whether as absolute owner or as trustee; The Foundation awards scholarships and/or grants to students, faculty and staff at the College; The Foundation supports improvements in the facilities and services that will broaden the opportunities for NIACC students, staff, faculty and alumni; The Foundation makes contributions, both real and personal, either outright or in trust, to or for the benefit of NIACC or to or for the benefit of other organizations identified and associated with the College.

**EXPENDITURES AND ALLOCATIONS: \$1,356,951**



**RECEIPTS: \$1,458,221**



The NIACC Foundation received \$1,458,221 between July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009. Total assets of the Foundation exceed \$14 million. Approximately 10 percent is invested in North Iowa financial institutions. The rest is in The Commonfund, a non-profit membership corporation organized and operated by and for its member colleges, universities, and independent schools. The Commonfund provides investment management services exclusively for educational institutions. A member for over 20 years, NIACC was the first community college in Iowa and one of the few community colleges in the country to belong to The Commonfund.

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A special thank you to the companies and individuals who have provided over \$120,000 through in-kind support for the College's programs.

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Shelly Schmit
- In Memory of Carol (Klath) Schmiedeskamp**  
PEO Chapter IV
- In Memory of Luella Thompson**  
Dean and Beverly Cataldo



**Congratulations** to the 41 students of North Iowa Area Community College who received the NIACC Student Leadership Award during the NIACC Alumni Association's 19th Annual Pathways to Success Program on April 16. Honorees are nominated by NIACC staff and faculty for their academic achievement, positive attitude, character, teamwork, and the ability to inspire others. Most of them graduated on Friday, May 1.



**Pictured back row from left** – Torey Stallsmith (Charles City), Logan Smith (Mason City), Jason Schweer (Waverly), Bradley Kemnitz (Thompson), Daniel Ihrke (Garner), Theodore Pappas (Nora Springs), Taylor DePeuw (Belmond), Christopher Clausen (Adelaide, Australia), Scott Birkedal (Nora Springs), Kyle Lutz (Osage), Calvin Rea (Cascade), Trella Warburton (Britt), Jared Johanns (Grafton), Drew Hagen (Newhall), Andrew Beck (New Albin), Aaron Hancock (Camp Verde, Arizona), Ryan Adams (Mason City) **Front row from left** – Kelly Weigel (Garner), Amanda Andrews (Charles City), Kristy Byrd (Mason City), Heather Snell (Mason City), Angela Merriam (Mason City), Marissa Vierkant (Alexander), Emily Christian (Northwood), Alysha Olson (Clear Lake), Misty Fandel (Garner), Courtney Hanson (Graettinger), Tiffany Braun (Grafton), Teresa Shaw (Osage), Sarah Everett (Britt), Christine Funk (Mason City) **Not pictured** – Robert Arnold, Jr. (Manly), Cory Champney (Forest City), Krystal Durr (Chicago, Illinois), Chance Frerichs (Alexander), Laura Holtz (Mason City), Alan Kading (Mason City), Justin Nerlien (Northwood), Kimberly Vest (Clarksville), Joan White (Belmond), Steven Wyborny (Rudd)

## New Scholarships and Other Notable Gifts to the Foundation

### New Scholarships Through the NIACC Foundation

#### Wilbert and Luella Brandau Scholarship

Wilbert 'Web' Brandau and his wife, Luella, were longtime supporters of education and especially NIACC. Web generously donated his time to the College by volunteering for 34 years, serving as a College Trustee from 1966 to 1986 and a Foundation Director from 1986 to 2000. As a way to honor their parent's dedication to the College, Web and Luella's children established this endowed scholarship to benefit students from the area in which Web served. Students with a 3.0 GPA or higher from Osage, Rudd, Rockford, Marble Rock, Nora Springs and Rock Falls are eligible for this annual award. Web strongly believed that education allows communities to grow and prosper. This scholarship is a testament to the Brandau's belief in local, affordable education.

#### C.L.A.S.S. Car Club Automotive Scholarship

The Clear Lake Auto Social Society (CLASS) established an annual scholarship to promote careers in the automotive service industry. This award is intended for second-year students enrolled in the Automotive Service Technology program from Clear Lake.

#### Road Dog Automotive Scholarship

This annual scholarship has been established by Jack Rohde, a current NIACC Automotive Service Technology instructor. This scholarship is restricted for students enrolled in the Automotive Service Technology program.

#### Geneva Rusley Secretarial Scholarship & Anna Rusley Brown Nursing Scholarship

Marvin Rusley was always grateful for the support of two special women in his life. He credited his successes to his wife Geneva and his aunt Anna. To honor his relationship with these two, he established the Geneva Rusley Secretarial Scholarship and the Anna Rusley Brown Nursing Scholarship through his estate. These are both endowed scholarships designed to support scholarships for students from Worth County.

#### PDK Harold Webb Scholarship

A local chapter of Phi Delta Kappa established this scholarship in memory of Harold Webb, a former AEA Administrator. To honor Harold's service to education these scholarships are restricted to students from Area 2 who are pursuing a degree in education.

Each year the College and NIACC Foundation work in partnership to prepare and submit grant applications. NIACC is fortunate to have many generous funding sources in the North Iowa area that continually support new initiatives of the College. Below is a list of grants the Foundation has received on behalf of NIACC between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009:

**3M Foundation** (\$2,000): interactive light equipment and two hot water baths for the Natural Science Division

**Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation** (\$2,500): theatre and art scholarships

**Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund** (\$10,000): welding and automotive equipment for the Industrial Division

**Farrer Endowment Foundation** (\$5,000): scholarship enhancement; (\$6,000): equipment upgrades in the Information Technology Division

**First Citizens National Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.** (\$10,000): Recreation Center

**John K. & Luise V. Hanson Foundation** (\$125,000): Recreation Center; (\$20,000): Youth Entrepreneurial Academy

**Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, Inc.** (\$10,000): lakeshore restoration project

**Kraus Gentle Corporation** (\$5,000): Recreation Center

**Mason City Clinic, P.C.** (\$10,000): Recreation Center

**Principal Financial Group Foundation, Inc.** (\$7,500): five scholarships

**Winnebago Industries Foundation** (\$10,000): Recreation Center

**Thank you...to these foundations and organizations for supporting NIACC.**

## Global Entrepreneurship Week November 16-22, 2009

This week will inspire and inform young 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.

### NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Activities:

#### Monday:

"Garbage Goes Green" G<sup>3</sup> contest kickoff; Entrepreneur for a Day at Westfork

#### Tuesday:

Kickoff for Pappajohn New Venture Business Plan Competition; "Ask the Experts" - Free open house at NIACC. Public welcome but registration recommended; Free Entrepreneurs' Exchange on Search Engine Optimization

#### Wednesday:

NIACC Student/Faculty/Staff Marketplace; Entrepreneur for a Day at NIACC

#### Thursday:

"Garbage Goes Green" G<sup>3</sup> Judging; Kickoff for Pappajohn New Venture Business Plan Competition; FastTrac® class at NIACC

**ALUMNI ALMANAC • 1940s • John Pappajohn '48** has been honored with a plaque bearing his name that has been placed on the Iowa Walk of Fame in downtown Shenandoah. The "Walk of Fame" honors Iowans who have distinguished themselves in America. John's real interest is in venture capitalism, investing some of his fortune into fledgling young businesses to help them succeed. However, he is also a major benefactor to Iowa colleges and universities. His love for education and business, coupled with his generosity, led to the creation of the Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at NIACC, a learning center serving business people in North Iowa. • **1950s • Roger Crane '54** has retired. He lives with his wife, Darlene, in Papillion, NE. • Ralph Decker '54 received the Jan Hackbart award at the Mason City Family YMCA 116th annual meeting for his exemplary character and devotion to the YMCA in 2008. He was recognized for the numerous ways he has volunteered and his overall generous and caring attitude toward all members, volunteers and staff at the YMCA. • **1960s • Larry Phillips '65** currently lives in Ochlocknee, GA. • **Daniel Rinden '66** is a self-employed mortician and lives in Pine City, MN. He and his wife, Mary, have three children and two grandchildren. Dan is looking forward to retirement. • **Steve Alexandres '69**, an independent financial adviser and branch manager with Keystone Financial Services, has earned Gold Eagle membership status with American Equity Investment Life Insurance Co. headquartered in Des Moines, IA. This status was earned by agents who attained \$1 million or more in premium sales for 2008. Steve lives in Mason City. • **1970s • Rhonda (Solem) Couch '73** is vice president for Citicorp, Inc., in Long Island City, NY. She is married to Clark DesSoye and they live in Hartsdale, NY. • **Dale Faulken '73** retired in 2004, having spent the last 31 years living in England. Currently, he divides his retirement time in England and his olive farm in southern Spain. • **Theresa (Griffiths) Holladay '74** is human resource director at Habilitative Services, Inc., in Lakefield, MN. She lives in Spirit Lake, IA, with her husband, Donald. • **James Mazziotti '74**, Principal Broker/Franchise Owner of EXIT Realty Bend, created a LIVE 56-hour continuous open house on the internet that was seen by more than 2000 viewers from all over the world. Information included short sales, bank-owned properties, home inspections, mortgage products and more. He lives in Bend, OR, with his wife, Leann. • **Bill McDowell '74** does Research Assistance-Psychiatry at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. He & his wife Lori have one child and have been living in the Iowa City area for 33 years. • **Steve Richard '74** is retired from the United States Air Force. He is currently employed with the United States Postal Service in Dallas. He and his wife, Karen, live in Wylie, TX. • **Kevin Pederson '75**, Activities Director at Oskaloosa High School, has been promoted to president of the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Association effective the 2009-10 school year. For the past two years, he has served as second vice president and first vice president. He lives in Oskaloosa with his wife, Carolyn. • **Dave A. Johnson '76** and his brother Gary of Buffalo Center, IA, created and produced the TV hit show "Sue Thomas, F.B. Eye" that aired on the PAX network from 2002-05 and beginning April 6, 2009, this series is scheduled to run on the Animal Planet TV network. The Johnsons also created and produced the TV series "Doc" which starred Billy Ray Cyrus. Their current projects include possible 2-hour movies of both TV series. The Johnsons live in Moorpark, CA. • **Daniel Wood '77** started a grain farm business (Dandyland Farms) with his wife, Wendy, after graduation, and in 2009 started a sign shop to accommodate advertising needs of the farm. The couple have two children and live in Garner, IA. • **Tod Hockenson '79** has been promoted to Vice President, Distribution at Hy-Vee, Inc. He & his family will be moving to Chariton, IA where he will take over the entire delivery efforts at the company's main distribution facility. • **1980s • Wendy (French) Wood '81** is secretary for Dandyland Farms, a grain farm business started with her husband, Daniel, after graduation; in 2009 they opened a sign shop to accommodate advertising needs of the farm. The couple have two children and live in Garner, IA. • **Joe Battleson '83** is an Infrastructure Manager at Remington Arms Co. Inc. in NC. He and his wife Kendall have 5 children and live in Summerfield. • **Tammy (Gray) Hansen '83** is a RN Manager at Covenant Medical Center. She & her husband Russ have two children and reside in Cedar Falls, IA. • **Ann (Kleckner) Lukensmeyer '83** married Randy Bobst on December 31, 2008, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, IA. Ann is the school nurse in the Hampton-Dumont School District. The couple resides in Hampton. • **Doug Frenz '84** is superintendent and manager at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course in Fort Madison, one of the top courses in southeast Iowa, and has been enjoying the position for the past 20 years. He and his wife and children live near the course. • **Alice (Wilkins) Kaasa '85** is a Nurse Practitioner at the LeRoy Clinic-Austin Medical Center in LeRoy, MN. She & her husband Tim have two grown children and live in Nora Springs, IA. • **Damon Dornbier '86** has completed a 300-hour, three-year diploma program in nutritional services from Northwestern Health Science University. The program focuses on functional nutritional medicine and the newest data on lifestyle and disease. Damon owns Dornbier Chiropractic in Mason City, IA. • **Carole (Moffett) Lemon '87** joined the Experience Works staff as an employment and training coordinator, serving Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Chickasaw, Fayette and Clayton counties. She lives in Garner with her husband, Steve, and four children. • **Chelle (Friedrich) Schlader '88** completed the Iowa Bankers Association Consumer Credit School held in March in Ames and has been promoted to loan officer at First Citizens National Bank's Charles City location. She and her husband, Tim, live in Charles City with their three children. • **Brenda (Ruden) Schoentag '88** is catastrophe claim representative for State Farm Insurance. She lives in Waterloo, IA, with her husband, Chris, and their two children. • **Robin (Nutting) Edgar '89** was presented with the award for Eagle One Investments top mutual fund producer for 2008 at the company's national conference in Tucson, Arizona. She lives in Mason City. • **Jennifer (Tretter) Kokoszka '89** received her BA at Leslie University (Med) and is residing in Henderson, NV. • **1990s • Linda (Nonnweiler) Alexandres '90** is volunteer coordinator for Hospice of Central Iowa. She lives in the West Des Moines, IA, area with her family. • **Cathy Swager '91** has started her own business, Cathy Swager Consulting LLC. She provides public relations, advertising, marketing, strategic and business planning, and market research. She lives in Clear Lake, IA. • **Kristie (Ouverson) Oliver '93** was appointed executive director of the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa. The coalition represents more than 30 organizations which provide services to children and families across Iowa. She lives in Des Moines, IA. • **Jarod Pedersen '93** is an agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services. He and his wife, Heather, live in Nevada, IA. • **KarrieJo (Klang) Vanderploeg '93** is office manager at Knorr Electric/North Iowa Water Co. in Clear Lake, IA. She and her husband, Mark, have five children and live in Clear Lake. • **Jennifer Frein '95** has been promoted to assistant vice president at First Citizens National Bank's West Office in Mason City, IA. She lives with her husband, Todd, and their three children in Osage. • **Matt Haas '96** is a project estimator for Liberty Doors, Inc. in North Liberty, IA. From 1999-2006 he was events director of FutureStars Basketball and currently is head boy's basketball coach at Highland HS in Riverside, IA. He lives in Iowa City with his wife, Heather. • **Darren Hall '96** married Mary DeNora on May 30, 2009, in San Deigo, CA. The couple plan to reside in Los Angeles, CA. •

**Travis Hurd '96** married **Jessica Christians '07** on November 22, 2008, in Sheffield, IA. Travis is employed as a technician for Media-Com in Mason City, and Jessica is an RN with Charlie Brown Daycare in Clear Lake. The couple resides in Mason City. • **Julie (Reindl) Nichols '96** is a realtor with EBA/Iowa Realty. She lives in Clear Lake, IA. • **Wendy (Daniels) Rish '96** was promoted to private banking officer at the West Mason City office of First Citizens National Bank. She also is the Power Saver coordinator. Wendy lives in Mason City with her husband, Chris, and their daughter. • **Douglas Slings '97** is an account executive at KCI. He lives in Palo, IA, with his wife, Melinda, and their two children. • **Erin (McElwee) Bentley '98** is an office assistant at Josiah's Playground in Cedar Rapids, IA. She lives in Atkins with her husband, Bart, and their two daughters. • **Jeff Lewis '98** is communications division manager for Bay County Board of County Commissioners in Panama City, FL. He and his wife, Stacy, have one son, Deacon, and live in Lynn Haven, FL. • **Sara (Rye) Pals '99** has joined Wells Fargo in Mason City as a personal banker and will work at the Washington Avenue location. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Todd, and two children. • **2000s • Kimberly Jacobs '01** married Bryan Odegaard on December 6, 2008, in Northwood, IA. She is employed with Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock Community Schools in Rockford. The couple resides in Northwood. • **Benjamin 'Ben' McCollum '01** was appointed the head basketball coach at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, MO on March 30, 2009. He previously coached at Emporia State in Kansas. • **Teresa Movick '01** married Matthew Anderson on August 9, 2008, in Central Gardens, Clear Lake, IA. She is employed with Northwest Residence in Minnesota. The couple resides in Blaine, MN. • **Anne Nielsen '01** is the Systems Operator at Northwoods State Bank and resides in Mason City, IA. • **Renee Ann (Tieskotter) Perry '01** graduated from the University of Iowa, earning a bachelor's degree in nursing. She is a registered nurse at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City, IA. She and her husband, Eric, and son, Carter, live in Clear Lake. • **Travis Tegland '01** married Rebecca Bartleson on May 2, 2009, at Pilot Knob State Park. He is employed by FPL - Next Era Energy in Crystal Lake, IA. The couple resides in Forest City. • **Aaron Flaugh '02** is currently the Director of Information Technology at Diamond Jo Casino. He & his wife Dannielle reside in Northwood, IA. • **Jennifer (Keller) Jenkins '02** is employed with Manufacturers Bank & Trust in Forest City as consumer loan officer and personal banker and in March 2009 completed the Iowa Bankers Association Consumer Credit School in Ames. She lives in Forest City, IA. • **Craig Karli '02** is an accounts manager at Info Image. Past endeavors include a 4-1/2 month business venture spent in Costa Rica. He currently lives in Cupertino, CA. • **Abby Brown '03** was installed as District 8 governor of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association during the 129th Annual IFDA Convention held April 14-16 in Ames, IA. She was elected for a 3-year term. Abby has been a licensed funeral director since 2005 and lives in Mason City, IA. • **Carissa (Silver) Otto '03** graduated from UNI with a Masters in Arts of Education in Field Specialization and accepted a position with Green Valley AEA 14 as an Early Childhood Special Education Consultant. She and her husband Dustin live in Corydon, IA. • **Beth Ann (Holtan) Dahle '05** is a RN at the Albert Lea Medical Center in Albert Lea, MN. She and her husband, Joel, live in Lake Mills, IA, with their three children. • **Katie Meyer '05** married Joe Tautges on April 18, 2009, in Belmond, IA. She is a wellness coordinator for the Hallett Community Center in Crosby, MN. The couple resides in Crosby. • **Sarah Rich '05** was promoted to director of nursing at Oakwood Care Center in Clear Lake, IA. She lives in Clear Lake with her family. • **Megan VerHelst '05** has returned to the area to serve as editor of the Britt News-Tribune in Britt, IA. Previously, she was a reporter for the Jackson County Chronicle in Black River Falls, WI, interned at The Gazette in Iowa City, and free-lanced for the Globe Gazette, WOW and North Iowa Woman magazines. • **Nicole Brandau '06** married Adam Clark on November 29, 2008, in Osage, IA. She is employed at the Floyd County Medical Center in Charles City. The couple resides in Osage. • **Danielle Hennigar '06** married Daniel Dirksen on September 6, 2008, in Plymouth, IA. She is employed with the Principal Financial Group in Mason City. The couple is at home in rural Plymouth. • **Ryen Kothenbeutel (Hirsch) '06** married Daniel Preteroti on May 23, 2009, in Leland, IA. The couple resides in Leland with their daughter, Brianna. • **Jessica Christians '07** married **Travis Hurd '96** on November 22, 2008, in Sheffield, IA. Jessica is employed as an RN with Charlie Brown Daycare in Clear Lake and Travis is a technician for Media-Com in Mason City. The couple resides in Mason City. • **Alexander Stille '07** married Jennifer Hathaway on May 26, 2009, in Iowa City, IA. The couple resides in Dubuque, IA. • **Kelsey Frank '08** and **Russell Jensen '08** were married on May 16, 2009, in Nora Springs, IA. Kelsey is employed with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa and Russell is employed with Hy-Vee East, Mason City, IA. The couple is at home in Mason City. • **Lisa Kuck '08** married Christian Bohach on March 21, 2009, in Mason City, IA. She is employed with Brookview Animal Health Center. The couple resides in Mason City.

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) •** 1941 Virginia C. (Glander) Simons, 87 • 1942 Reed S. Harr, 87 • 1949 Wallace T. Edgar, 82 • 1954 John F. Plonsky, 80 • 1957 Mary E. (Shoemaker) Grosland, 91 • 1959 Mildred B. (Schoenwetter) Lenihan, 94 • 1964 David T. Murphy, 65 • 1965 Roger C. Rademacher, 66 • 1967 Priscilla L. (Bain) Smith, 61 • 1969 Ruby A. (Kristiansen-Sprung) Nolte, 92 • 1971 Carlyle J. Kopp, 58 • 1974 Shirley L. (Klang) Brattrud, 74 • 1974 Virginia 'Ginger' (Wolf) Braun, 76 • 1977 Pamela K. (Mostrom) Smith, 53 • 1987 Liza M. (Meleney) Despenas, 41 • Kenneth D. Rasmus, 61 • 1988 Robert L. Grimm, 54 • 1991 Diane M. (Altick) Muller, 58 • 1993 Amber M. Hartwig, 36 • 1997 Michelle D. (Conlee) McKibban, 35 • 2003 Amanda L. (Morse) Mullenbach, 29 • 2006 Amy Lynn (Peck) Hefty, 27 • 2008 Andrew G. Lowrance, 57

**Other NIACC Friends •** Dr. Vincent J. Adams, 83 • Gladys Alma 'Gladie' (Pittmann) Ahlman, 85 • Tyler J. Brighton, 19 • Edward M. Chuck, 89 • David N. Colglazier, 44 • Loretta M. (Fisher) Diehl, 98 • Richard L. Ebeling, 58 • Mary Ann (Ackermann) Erb, 69 • Alyce B. (Boyce) Goplerud, 85 • Annette M. Grove, 38 • Earle N. Gueskin, 79 • Susan F. Heffron, 55 • David A. Hartema, 52 • Everett J. 'Hermie' Hermanson, 93 • Daniel L. Hoff, 50 • George L. Huber, 92 • Signe M. (Ramseth) Johnson, 97 • Jonathan J. Lewerke, 51 • Shirley M. (Kennedy) Mays, 86 • Nancy C. (Cook) Meyer, 68 • Patricia J. (Tresemer) Miller, 62 • Richard 'Dick' L. Moretz, 63 • Leo C. Ochoa, 47 • Stanley D. Olander, 90 • Stanley L. Reynolds, 83 • Carol A. (Kilfoil) Schmitz, 54 • Marvin L. Seidel, 59 • Carol R. (Bogenshutz) Skellenger, 69 • Daniel D. Smith, 46 • John J. 'Jack' Steinberg, 79 • Marian E. (Marley) Stibal, 90 • June A.W. Stinehart, 86 • Lois M. (Donaldson) Tracy, 94 • Calvin E. Wendel, 77 • Thomas 'Tom' A. Wolf, 64

## NIACC Recognizes 2009-2010 Scholarship Recipients and Donors at Annual Event

A number of thank you's and details of future plans were exchanged as North Iowa Area Community College honored 2009-2010 scholarship donors and student recipients at a recognition luncheon on Friday, October 2.

"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 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 Doug Opheim, RSM McGladrey chief U.S. operations officer, who founded the Opheim Family Scholarship.

"NIACC was a great experience for me...it was a great first couple of years of college, one that I look back at very fondly," Opheim said. "I set a goal many years ago to give back to the school and provide opportunities for Mason City High School students to also attend NIACC. It is difficult and expensive for students to attend college. NIACC is a great school and it is important to provide opportunities. I believe it is important to remember your roots and to give back to the organizations who helped you succeed. That is a very rewarding feeling individually and I would encourage anyone contemplating being a scholarship donor to consider that."

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

Ashley Alonzo, a secondary education major from Osage, explained that attending NIACC has enabled her to experience the kindness of scholarship donors and continue to provide for her family. Alonzo received the Delta Kappa Gamma XI Chapter Scholarship.

"One of my greatest fears when I started back to school was how am I going to pay for this while still helping to support a family? Scholarships were my answer and are the answer for many students just like me," Alonzo said. "Without the generosity of scholarship donors, many students would find themselves deep in student loan debt. Every scholarship that is made available goes to a student that is not only deserving but also deeply appreciative of the donor's kindness."

When Alonzo graduates from NIACC, she plans to enroll in the secondary education program at Buena Vista University and pursue a career as a high school teacher in North Iowa.

Alex Aussenhus, a liberal arts major from Nora Springs, was very grateful for his scholarship and the opportunities it provided him. Aussenhus received an Athletic Scholarship and the Betty Geer Scholarship.

"These scholarships have opened many doors for me at NIACC. I have been able to continue my education



Speaking at the NIACC Scholarship Recognition Luncheon were (left to right) Scott Byers, Ashley Alonzo, Dr. Debra Derr, Doug Opheim, Nora Benjamin and Alex Aussenhus.

beyond high school. It has also allowed me to live on campus and play baseball," Aussenhus said. "In these tough economic times, scholarship donors allow students the opportunity to fulfill their dreams without burying themselves in debt. Education is a necessity, and without these scholarships, some students may not have the opportunity to achieve their goals."

After graduating from NIACC, Aussenhus plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Architecture.

Nora Benjamin, a social work major from Oakdale, Minn., noted that the kindness of scholarship donors has allowed her to get an education and experience college life as well. Benjamin received the 75th Anniversary Scholarship.

"Having received a scholarship for music has helped because that amount of money that is going toward my education is just a little less that I have to stress about," Benjamin said. "In the past many kids have had help from their parents in paying for college and had jobs that might make a dent in paying for college; however, now a huge number of my friends have parents that are out of work, and when it comes to them getting a job to help pay for their college even that can be challenging. When people give money for one of these students to go to college, it means all the less debt that the student will need to go into."

After graduating from NIACC, Benjamin plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa for a Bachelor's degree in social work and then earn her Master's degree from Mankato State University in rehabilitation counseling.

Scott Byers, a secondary education major from Forest City, felt that scholarships allowed him to avoid college debt and focus on his studies. Byers received an Area 2 High School Scholarship, a Robert and Lois Bergland Scholarship, a John and Mary Pappajohn Scholarship

and a NIACC LINK Scholarship.

"The scholarships I've received have had a huge impact on my success at NIACC. I have been able to cut back on my hours at work without the added financial pressure. This has allowed me to concentrate fully on my classes and focus on completing my coursework," Byers said. "For many, scholarships are a huge determining factor of attending college at all. Scholarships give people the opportunity to better themselves and reach their fullest potential through continuing their education."

After Byers graduates from NIACC, he plans to transfer to the University of Northern Iowa to earn his Bachelor's degree followed by a Master's degree in education administration. Byers plans to teach high school social studies and then pursue a career in high school administration.

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, vice president of institutional advancement and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, 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.

### Gary Christiansen Receives Statewide 2009 Iowa Outstanding Faculty Member Award

Gary Christiansen, business division chairperson and faculty member at North Iowa Area Community College, received the 2009 Iowa Outstanding Faculty Member Award from the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT). Christiansen was honored with the award during the 2009 IACCT Annual Conference in Fort Dodge.

"I am indeed honored and humbled for this recognition because classroom teaching has always been my first love in education. Even though my name is on this award, it truly honors the quality faculty who teach at NIACC," Christiansen said. "The very last thing I tell my students when the last exam is given and the semester is over is a simple statement that I heard years ago, and it is very true, 'Find a job you love, and you will never have to work another day in your life.' I have not had to work a day in my life for 39 years."

Christiansen's believes in the philosophy that students define the level of excellence in teaching. He thinks that knowledge and content are important, but how it is delivered and how students can apply the information is key and has proven very effective.

Christiansen has taught business management and marketing at NIACC for the past 30 years. Prior to that, he taught at Mason City High School for nine years. Not only a leader in the classroom, he also leads fellow faculty through his role as division chairperson. He oversees 25+ programs as well as 15 full-time faculty and 30 adjunct members in his division. As chairperson, Christiansen has played an integral part in the creation of many academic programs.

His connection with the community and interpretation of its needs have been critical as the College moves forward. He is actively involved in the Iowa Business Education Program Management Committee, the Community College Business Deans and Directors Committee, the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Advisory Board, Phi Delta Kappa, National Education Association, and the Iowa Business Education Association. Christiansen also serves on the Mason City Planning and Zoning Board and the Worth County Development Association Board.

Christiansen received NIACC's Outstanding Faculty Member award in 2004 (based primarily on student evaluations). He is also recognized in the 2008-2009 Cambridge Who's Who. He also has been officiating at football, basketball and baseball games for the past 41 years and has been inducted into the Officials Hall of Fame for the Iowa High School Athletic Association, Iowa Baseball Coaches Association, Iowa Girls Basketball Union and the National Federation of Sports Officials. He obtained his master's degree in business education from the University of Northern Iowa.



### North Iowan Joins NIACC Alumni Advisory Board

**Lisa Smidt**, of Kanawha, has joined the North Iowa Area Community College Alumni Advisory Board. Lisa graduated from NIACC in 1988 and from Buena Vista University in 1990. She is employed as the controller at Communications 1 Network, Inc. in Kanawha and previously worked at Sedars Auto Park. Lisa lives in Kanawha with her husband, Paul. She has three children and three grandchildren.



Other members of the NIACC Alumni Advisory Board are Matt Ritter (*president*), Dawn Southwick (*president-elect*), Barbara Kellogg (*past president*), Debbie Cahalan, Tony Coloff, Damon Dornbier, Mike Grandon, Cheryl Jahnel, Duane Meyer, Gail Meyer, Reid Peterson, Debbie Sedars, Jay Urdahl and Bambi Urlich.

Part of the NIACC Foundation, the NIACC Alumni Advisory Board has been in existence since the formation of the NIACC Alumni Association in 1991. The Alumni Association supports the annual Pathways to Success program and graduation reception along with student scholarships and other alumni activities.

Membership in the NIACC Alumni Association is open to graduates and others who have benefited from the programs and services of the College. For more information, call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386 or visit [www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm).

## NIACC Faces

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

**Tommie Jo Adams-**  
*Administrative Office  
Assistant-Institutional  
Advancement*



Tommie Jo came to NIACC from Alliant Energy. She has earned an Optometric Assistant diploma from NIACC and is currently working on an AA degree as well.

**Debra Friest-** *3rd Shift Custodian*  
Deb was most recently employed by IMI Cornelius, and holds a current Iowa Real Estate license. Deb earned an AA, a Medical Office Associate diploma, a Medical Transcription diploma and an ASB from NIACC.



**Diane Goskeson-**  
*2nd Shift Custodian*  
Diane comes to us from the Clear Lake School District.

**Steve Kelly-**  
*Enrollment  
Specialist/Head  
Wrestling Coach*



Steve held a similar position at Waldorf before joining NIACC. Steve earned his BS from Iowa State University.

**Susan Nagle-** *RSVP  
Director*



Susan has been and will continue as NIACC's Life Long Learning Institute Coordinator. Susan has earned a BS in Medical Technology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a BS in Biology/Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and an MS in Administration from the University of Notre Dame.

**Mary Schultz-** *Work-  
based Learning  
Coordinator*



Mary has held part-time positions at NIACC before becoming the full-time Work-based Learning Coordinator working with the Career Link team. She has attended NIACC and Buena Vista and earned her BA from Iowa State University.

**Sarah Skemp-**  
*Employment/  
Training Youth  
Specialist*



Previously, Sarah worked as a high school guidance counselor for Lake Havasu United School District in Lake Havasu City,

Arizona. Sarah earned her BS from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and her MA in School Counseling from Sonoma State University in California.

### Job Changes

**Sethanne DeGabriele-** *Director of Marketing, Community Relations and Governmental Affairs*



Sethanne added another level to her position as Director of Marketing and Community Relations with the assumption of the Governmental Affairs role.

**Dena Ketelsen-**  
*Administrative  
Assistant-RSVP*



Dena has moved to her new position from the Continuing Education Office Assistant position. She joined NIACC in November 2007, coming to us from Osage Community School District. Dena has earned a Para-educator certificate from Hawkeye Community College.

**Karen Pierson-** *Vice  
President of Student  
Development and  
Success*



Karen began her career at NIACC as Vice President of Student Services. With the acquisition of responsibility for the Career Link program, her title changed to Vice President of Student Development and Success.

**Shelly Schmit-** *Vice  
President of  
Institutional  
Effectiveness and  
Organizational  
Development*



Shelly took on the duties of Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Organizational Development. Until that time, she had served as NIACC's Human Resource Director.

**Jamie Zanios-** *Vice  
President of  
Institutional  
Advancement and the  
John Pappajohn  
Entrepreneurial  
Center*



Jamie had served as the Director of Institutional Advancement and the Pappajohn Center and now has had both positions incorporated under his new title of Vice President.

## NIACC Annual Fund

### Changing Lives and Growing Communities

Annual gifts to the NIACC Foundation strengthen the College and enhance the NIACC experience for all students. Every year the Annual Fund supports real and immediate needs in order for students to attain 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** – hundreds of students benefit each year from the NIACC Foundation Scholarship program. Over half of what the Foundation raises each year is given out in the form of scholarships.
- **Technology & Facilities** – in order to be progressive and prepare students for the future, NIACC works hard to be on the cutting edge of academic program development, current technology, and modern facilities. Today's students learn how to use the technology needed in the working world.
- **Strategic Initiatives** – unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund provide a pool of resources for the College to access for opportunities and challenges that arise.

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

Please consider starting, continuing, or increasing a gift to NIACC's Annual Fund. 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 your interest in supporting NIACC!

### 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 JPEC and Alum Awards continued from page 1

inspiration for so many of our students to follow their dreams," Dr. Deb Derr, NIACC president, said. "And, NIACC's efforts through the JPEC have made a significant impact on our region, and we are proud that those efforts are being recognized with Innovation Award."

The NACCE Innovation Award recognizes entrepreneurship centers and their positive impact on the communities they serve. The NIACC JPEC received a plaque recognizing successful deployment of innovation and entrepreneurship practices and creation of new jobs. In addition, the JPEC will receive complimentary Master Business Innovator Certification Train-the-trainer sessions in order to teach Business Innovation to their students and business clients and accelerate innovation in the communities the JPEC serves.

"This national recognition by NACCE is a tremendous validation of the hard work, innovation and leadership that the NIACC JPEC has performed in North Iowa. I couldn't be more pleased with the work that NIACC and the JPEC have done to help drive entrepreneurship and job growth through business starts," Pappajohn said.

## NIACC Faculty Receive Excellence in Teaching Award

North Iowa Area Community College faculty members Susan Callanan and Carol Schutte and adjunct faculty member Andy Alexander received NIACC's "Excellence in Teaching" Award for 2009.

"There's no greater honor among faculty than to receive a 'teaching recognition' that has its origins in students' opinions about instruction. Susan, Carol and Andy exemplify the very best in instructional quality at NIACC and we're all proud of their achievements and this recognition," Dr. Debra Derr, NIACC president, said.

Instructors are nominated by graduating NIACC students, and the award recipients are announced at the beginning of each year.

Callanan, representing Career and Technical faculty, teaches in NIACC's Physical Therapist Assistant program. Student nominations for Callanan included comments such as, "She is extremely caring, supportive and helpful.

She is always willing to offer help," and "I couldn't have succeeded without her."

Schutte, representing Arts and Science faculty, teaches science. Schutte's student nominations included comments such as, "She devotes her life to help her students succeed," and "She exhibits a great love for her job of teaching and finds all life, even amebas, beautiful little creatures."

Alexander represents adjunct faculty. Alexander's student nominations included comments such as, "He not only has a great sense of humor, but is able to relate that humor to every single student in his classroom," and "He challenges me to be the best I can be. I will never forget his role in the aspect of my education and philosophy of life."



# NIACC

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