

for alumni  
and friends  
of North  
Iowa Area  
Community  
College



To learn how to support deserving students through scholarships, contact the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4404.

## Alumni Robert and Lois Bergland Give Generous Bequest to NIACC

NIACC students will benefit from additional scholarships thanks to a married couple who remembered North Iowa Area Community College in their will. Robert and Lois Bergland, who both graduated from Mason City Junior College (NIACC's predecessor) in the 1930s, contributed \$232,000 to the NIACC Foundation through their estate.

"This bequest is more than money," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC President, said. "It is a vote of confidence from the Berglands. Their kindness will significantly impact the lives of students in North Iowa. We are very fortunate to have such great friends of the College."

Robert's cousin, Mary Nell Fullerton, said, "Bob truly valued his education at NIACC and was always proud to say that he graduated from the College. He wanted his prosperity to be shared with students across North Iowa."

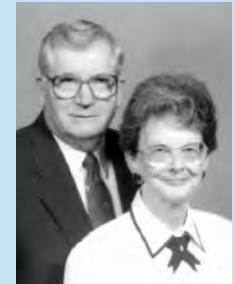
Bob was employed by Hanson and Waggoner, and he later co-founded the architectural firm of Bergland and Bianco, which eventually became Bergland and Cram. As a local architect, he designed many public and private buildings in North Iowa, including portions of NIACC.

"This gift from the Berglands is a great start in our effort to increase the Foundation endowment to provide financial aid to deserving students," said Jamie Zanios, NIACC Foundation Director. "As the cost of education has increased, the need for financial help to deserving students is even more critical. The Berglands' gift sets an example to others on how they might provide a lasting memorial and support our youth."



## New Swanson Family Scholarship

Louise Swanson of Mason City has established an endowed scholarship fund through the NIACC Foundation. The Dale and Louise



Swanson Family Scholarship will provide a \$500 annual scholarship to a full-time NIACC student from the 11-county NIACC service area.

"I believe that NIACC is an excellent organization providing education and cultural opportunities to the citizens of North Iowa," said Louise, who dedicated 30 years of service to the Mason City Public School system.

She and her husband Dale, who passed away in 2000, had two daughters, Janet and Eileen, who both graduated from NIACC.

"It is my hope that this annual scholarship award will make a difference in the life of a deserving student," said Louise.

## NIACC Foundation Hosts First Annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon

A number of thank yous and details of future plans were exchanged as North Iowa Area Community College honored 2004-05 scholarship donors and student recipients at the first annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon. Nearly 240 guests attended the NIACC Foundation event held in the Muse Norris Conference Center last fall.

"We want to celebrate the success of our student scholarship recipients and deeply thank our scholarship donors. Their kindness will significantly impact the lives of students in North Iowa. We are very fortunate to have such great friends of the College," said Jamie Zanios, NIACC Foundation Director.

The recognition program featured comments from Tom Schaefer, Schaefer Building Trades scholarship donor and Henkel Construction President, and Bill Feller, First Citizens National Bank scholarship donor representative and First Citizens Charitable Foundation Trust Officer.

"It's great to encourage and make opportunities available to students who may not otherwise be able to afford a college education," Schaefer said. "We've always had such a fondness for NIACC. We enjoy receiving the students' thank you notes and watching them grow at NIACC while they learn and develop into successful citizens."

Schaefer and his wife, Linda, created the Schaefer Building Trades Scholarship to

educate students for success in an area with a growing demand for workers. Both Tom and Linda have a vested interest in

North Iowa. Tom is from Mason City and Linda grew up in Rudd. Tom's father worked for Henkel, and Tom joined the company after graduating from the University of Iowa. Linda, a 1970 graduate of NIACC, was a teacher at the Mason

City Alternative High School for 24 years.

"With an excellent facility like NIACC in North Iowa, we need to establish

scholarships to assist NIACC students in achieving their goals," Linda said. "Their education impacts both their own futures and the future of North Iowa."

Feller agreed with the need to invest in the future of the North Iowa region and the pursuit of higher education. "First Citizens National Bank has always been very involved with

NIACC. A number of our employees and our employees' children have attended the

*continued on next page*



**Speaking at the NIACC Scholarship Luncheon were (left to right) Caroline P.A. Jones, Linda Schaefer, Tom Schaefer, Joanna Aves, Bill Feller, Mark Jensen and Ryan Volk.**

## 98% Placement

98% of students completing NIACC Career Programs in 2004 are employed...and 91% of them are living and working in Iowa! These and other statistics were recently reported by NIACC's North Iowa Career Center. The study involved 261 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 90 percent. Of NIACC's 35 Career Programs, 30 experienced 100% placement. For more information, call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4353 or visit [www.niacc.edu/career\\_center](http://www.niacc.edu/career_center).

### SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION EVENT *continued from page 1*

College," he said. "I'd encourage everyone to get involved in NIACC's scholarship program. It's great to see the direct benefit when the students graduate and it's an investment in the future. We're committed to our local communities and it's important to make sure scholarships are available for people in those communities."

The First Citizens National Bank Scholarship was established as a way for the bank to give back to its banking communities. "These are students who will come back and live in our towns, and we want to help provide a quality education," said O. Jay Tomson, First Citizens National Bank President.

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

Joanna Aves, a music major from Manly, was very grateful for her scholarship and the opportunities it provided her. "Had I not had a scholarship, all of my free time would have been spent trying to earn tuition for college," she said. "The scholarships that I have been given have allowed me to participate in extra-curricular activities, meet new people and be able to grow as a musician without financial worry. Personal contact with my instructors, mentorship by my music directors, the smaller campus and the cost

along with my scholarships have made NIACC an ideal selection for my education."

Mark Jensen, a business major from Osage, explained that attending NIACC has enabled him to experience cultural diversity at its best from a people and educational standpoint. "There's such a huge opportunity to learn from one another at NIACC," he said. "Contributions from people that give to scholarships have a broader impact than just meeting financial needs. It starts a cycle of encouragement, validation and support."

Caroline P.A. Jones, a nursing major who lives in Britt and is originally from Brazil, noted that the kindness of scholarship donors has allowed her to get an education without accumulating a large debt at the

same time. "The financial help I received through scholarships helped me succeed as a full time student and complete my degree in two years," she said. "Since I don't have to worry about working my way through college, I'm able to spend that time studying and raising my three-year-old daughter."

Ryan Volk, an education major from New Hampton, felt that scholarships allowed him to participate in a number of campus activities and return for a third year to

**"Contributions from people that give to scholarships have a broader impact than just meeting financial needs. It starts a cycle of encouragement, validation and support."**

complete his coursework before transferring to Iowa State University for a degree in elementary education. "I'm thankful for the donors' giving hearts and generosity. It definitely helped me and provided me with options," he said. "It's a blessing to know that there are people who care enough to help others make life changes through scholarships."

Last year, over 700 people applied for NIACC Foundation scholarships, and only 322 were awarded.

Scholarship donations help the College bridge the gap toward awarding deserving students. While the College experiences great support from groups such as the Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Foundation and other donors each year, the gap still remains and the need for private support is increasing.

"Our donors have provided a great start in our effort to increase the Foundation endowment to provide financial aid to deserving students," Zanios said. "As the cost of education has increased, the need for financial help to deserving students is even more critical. These donors set an example to others on how they might support our youth."

For more information on how to help the College acknowledge deserving students, please contact the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4404.

## Upmeyer Earns National Recognition

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) honored Linda Upmeyer, former member of the NIACC Board of Directors and current state legislator, with Lifetime Member Recognition at its annual national congress last fall.

"It's such an honor, and the nicest thing was that fellow trustees presented this award to me," Upmeyer said. "This was from my peers and recognized the time we spent working together on community college issues."

ACCT is a nonprofit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical and junior colleges in the United States, Canada and England.



**NIACC students occasionally have travel opportunities which expand their learning experiences. These NIACC students traveled to Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, last fall for the Nobel Conference "The Science of Aging." The trip was coordinated by NIACC instructors Patrick Galliart, Carol Schutte and Craig Zoellner.**

## New Series Allows Local Business Owners to Exchange Ideas, Business Cards and More

Eager entrepreneurs are excited about the new Entrepreneurs' Exchange introduced by NIACC's Pappajohn Center and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) last fall. A second exchange was held in January.

The Entrepreneurs' Exchange allows small business owners an opportunity to network, to renew old friendships, to make new acquaintances, even to conduct business with one another. In addition to the exchange of ideas and business cards, participants hear from speakers on various pertinent topics.

Larry Hibbs, Marketing/Management Program Leader and Instructor at NIACC, has shared the best ways to maximize marketing potential during slower seasons.

Robin Habeger, Director of Business and Partnership Development at Iowa State University, has spoken about the technical resources available through ISU's College of Business. She said no entrepreneur should feel alone in the business world; resources for assistance are abundant in North Iowa and around the State.

Exchange participants have also heard from Nancy Moeller, owner of CustomCraft Trailer Outfitters in Kanawha. Moeller, named the 2004 Womens' Entrepreneurial Achievement Award winner by the SBDC, shared how small businesses can light a fire of enthusiasm in rural Iowa communities by bringing back forgotten dreams and giving people a renewed reason for caring.

Future Entrepreneurs' Exchanges are tentatively scheduled for April 19 and July 19. For more information, contact the Pappajohn Center at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4342.

## New Twists to Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Iowa Conference are Well Received

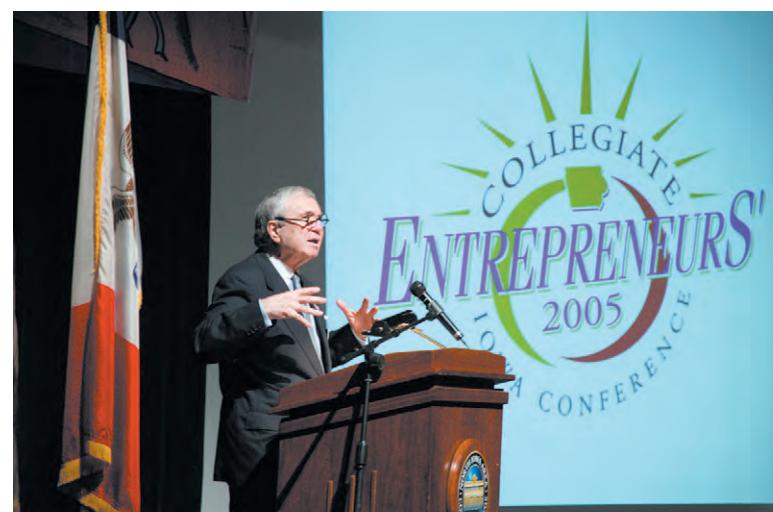
Students from Iowa colleges, universities and high schools gathered for the fourth annual Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Iowa Conference (CEIC) at NIACC on February 25. This was the first time it had been held on a Community College campus.

Several other firsts were recorded at this year's conference. For the first time in the event's history, conference participation was extended to faculty and to high school students, with separate tracks for each. The afternoon speaker showcase was open to the public, another first. As a result, over 500 people, including 350 students representing 35 schools, took advantage of the opportunity.

"We decided to take an entrepreneurial approach to the conference and take some risks to expand upon the great work the other Pappajohn Centers in Iowa had done with the conference on their campuses," said Jamie Zanios, NIACC Pappajohn Center Director, who credited Tim Putnam and Dana Heimbuch for the conference's coordination and success.

The conference featured an impressive line up of speakers, including Mike Marolt, president of eq-life, a Best Buy entity; Curtis, Dennis and Jon Lewerke, co-founders of Woodharbor Doors & Cabinetry, Inc.; Robert Chernow, nationally-known speaker, entrepreneur and educator; Melinda Nelson Masson, president and CEO of The Merit Companies; and John Pappajohn, president of Equity Dynamics Inc. and founder of the five Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers across Iowa. Masson and Pappajohn are NIACC alumni.

Zanios said activities such as this play a role in the effort to change the culture of North Iowa towards entrepreneurial development. "The need to recognize opportunity, assess and take risks, and reward those taking risks is critical to the growth of new businesses in North Iowa," he said. "I think we have begun the work needed to transform the culture in North Iowa and we were fortunate to have this conference as a spring board."



**John Pappajohn, NIACC Alumnus and President of Equity Dynamics of Des Moines, was among the distinguished speakers at the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Iowa Conference hosted by NIACC.**



**High school students joined college students for the first time at the conference, which attracted over 500 participants during the day.**

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### Logos Receives National Award

Logos, the student newspaper at NIACC, received third place in the Best of Show competition at the 2004 National College Media Convention in Nashville, TN. The award was presented in the category for two-year colleges that publish in a tabloid format. Approximately 3,000 student journalists and advisers from across the country attended the conference that offered 400 sessions. It is sponsored by the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Advisers. Valerie Brayton of Sheffield serves as the editor of Logos, and Paul Peterson is the faculty adviser.

## NIACC Selected as a Business Accelerator

North Iowa Area Community College is among the first organizations in Iowa to be honored and selected by the Iowa Department of Economic Development as a Business Accelerator, which is designed to foster the accelerated growth of new and existing businesses. Mike Blouin, Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) joined NIACC's Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center officials on campus in January for the announcement.

"Entrepreneurship is essential to growing Iowa's economy. These accelerators we are putting in place will give early stage businesses the kind of mentoring and hands-on expertise they need to grow a successful business in Iowa," said Blouin. "We are pleased to add the North Iowa Accelerator to the list of accelerators."

The North Iowa Accelerator will receive a \$175,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to provide services that meet the broad-based needs of entrepreneurs.

"NIACC is extremely proud of the role it has played in supporting economic development in North Iowa through partnerships with Iowa Workforce Development, John Pappajohn and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers (JPECs), Small Business Development Centers, area Economic Development

Corporations, local area governments and through NIACC's Continuing Education program and Lean Manufacturing programs being delivered directly to existing businesses," said Dr. Michael Morrison, President of NIACC. "The opportunity to now further leverage those resources by being awarded a State Accelerator program is a testament to the business development model that the JPEC represents."

Jamie T. Zanios, Director of NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, also commented, "We are delighted to have been chosen by IDED to be a Business Accelerator for North Iowa. It is gratifying to see government build upon the successes that exist and expand opportunity through effective partnerships. I am confident that the JPEC here at NIACC will provide the leadership, skills and hard work necessary to further accelerate businesses in North Iowa. Expanding our scope to work with existing businesses helping them become eagles is a natural extension of our work."

The North Iowa Accelerator joins three other facilities previously awarded assistance – The Cedar Valley TechWorks Accelerator in Waterloo, the Entrepreneurial Development Center in Cedar Rapids and NewVentures Center in Davenport.

## Youth Have a Grasp of the Past

Young historians from several local school districts participated in the Seventh Annual History Day in North Iowa hosted by NIACC on February 26. Nearly 70 students in grades 6 -12 from CAL-Dows, Clear Lake, Hampton-Dumont, North Central, Northwood-Kensett, Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock and St. Ansgar were among the first in Iowa to participate in National History Day district competitions, with trips to the state and national contests on the line.

Middle school students compete in the junior division and high school students compete in the senior division. Projects are entered into one of four categories – papers, exhibits, performances, or documentaries – with entries judged by teams consisting of local teachers, community members and NIACC students and staff. First and second place finishers have been invited to compete at the state contest in May. State winners advance to the national contest in Bethesda Park, Maryland in June.

Dr. Jeffrey Pilz, NIACC history instructor and district history day organizer, said the event has grown by leaps and bounds each year in North Iowa. "The History Day program encourages students to become historians in their own right," he said. "They find out about national and international historic events and often connect them to North Iowa. I'm supposed to be an expert, and I learn more from these students than I can teach them. They are real experts in their fields."



## Record Enrollment at NIACC

A record number of students are attending NIACC this year. Fall enrollment climbed 6% to exceed 3,000 credit students, a first in the history of the College. Likewise, enrollment is up 4% this spring compared to a year ago.

"That's incredible," President Morrison said. "It shows that more and more people are taking advantage of the low-cost, high-quality education and college experience that NIACC offers."

The visible increase in the College's student population along with the steadily decreasing number of area high school graduates means that more area students are choosing NIACC first.

## North Iowans Join NIACC Boards

### New College Board Members

**Gordon Anderson** is the retired president of First Citizens National Bank in Osage, where he worked for 32 years. He replaces Kevin Kolbet from Osage, who served on the College Board since 1986. Gordon is a 1962 graduate of Mason City Junior College (NIACC's predecessor) and a graduate of Iowa State University. He also serves on the NIACC Foundation Board of Directors and is a member of the Osage Adult Education Advisory Committee. His other community involvements include the Osage Rotary Club, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Mitchell County Civil Service Board, Osage Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees, First Citizens National Bank Charitable Foundation Board, Mitchell County Home Health Care Advisory Board, and Mitchell County 4-H Foundation. He and his wife, Johanna, have two grown daughters and several grandchildren.



Gordon Anderson

**Doug Morse** of Mason City is senior vice president for Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa. He replaces Rosie Hussey of Mason City, who served on the College Board since 1992. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Luther College and MA and MBA degrees from the University of Iowa. He has devoted most of his career to health care administration except from 1999 to 2002 when he directed NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. His professional experience includes serving as CEO of medical facilities in Forest City and Belmond as well as directing the Mercy Family Care Network. He and his wife, Ann, have three children.



Doug Morse

### New NIACC Foundation Board Members

**Barbara Heilskov** of Hampton has been a practicing registered nurse since receiving her BSN from the University of Iowa in 1976. She is currently a clinical leader on 6W cardiac step-down unit at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City. She is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, St. Patrick's Church Council, and the Franklin General Hospital Auxiliary. Barb was a national championship swimming official and co-founded the Central Iowa Aquatics swim team in Des Moines. She and her husband, John, who serves on the College Board of Directors, have two grown children.



Barbara Heilskov

**Rosie Hussey** of Mason City graduated from Central Missouri State College and the University of Missouri, and she is a graduate of Leadership Iowa. A NIACC trustee from 1992 to 2004, she is CEO of the Girl Scout Council of North Iowa and previously worked for the Mason City Chamber of Commerce. Last year, she was appointed by Governor Vilsack to the State Board of Education and she received the Mason City Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Her honors also include the Dan Klempnauer Service Award. Rosie has been actively involved with Rotary for many years and has served as a district governor of the service organization. She formerly chaired the Workforce Development Board and currently chairs the Mason City Band Festival Parade. She and her husband, Dan, have three grown daughters and several grandchildren.



Rosie Hussey

**Kevin Kolbet** of Osage graduated from St. Mary's University in Winona, MN, and from the Real Estate School of Iowa in 1976. His family business, Kolbet Realty, has been a mainstay in Osage since 1978. He is a member of the local, state, and national associations of realtors and past president of the Cedar Valley Board of Realtors. Kevin was a NIACC trustee from 1986 to 2004, serving as board president for the last five years. His other community involvements include the Osage Chamber of Commerce, Osage Development Corporation, Kiwanis Club of Osage, Mitchell County Enterprise Zone, Boy Scouts of America, Habitat for Humanity of Mitchell County, Meals on Wheels of Osage, and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He currently serves as board president for both the EDC and Enterprise Zone. He and his wife, Janean, have a son and daughter.



Kevin Kolbet

**Darren Lovick, M.D.** of Clear Lake is a physician with the office of Drs. Beck and Lovick, Neurological Surgery, in Mason City. A Forest City native, he graduated from North Iowa Area Community College in 1987, from Iowa State University in 1989, and from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1995. He completed his medical residency at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Lovick serves on several committees associated with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa and has numerous publications and presentations to his credit. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Iowa Midwest Neurological Association, Iowa Medical Society, and Cerro Gordo Medical Alliance. He and his wife, Janet, live in Clear Lake with their three young children.



Darren Lovick

### New NIACC Alumni Board Members

**Damon C. Dornbier** of Mason City graduated from NIACC in 1986 and from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport in 1989. Following his associate experience with Meylor Chiropractic in Carroll, he started his own practice in Mason City. Dornbier Chiropractic has been in business since 1989. He is a member of the Iowa Chiropractic Association, past president of the North Central Iowa Chiropractic Association, and is currently a Director for the Iowa Chiropractic Society representing the North Central District. He has served on the Mason City Youth Baseball Organization Board of Directors, is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church of Mason City, and coaches the Newman 7th grade girls traveling basketball team. Dornbier lives in Mason City with his wife, Leslie, also a NIACC graduate, and their 13-year-old twin daughters.



Damon Dornbier

**Matthew J. Ritter** received his AA degree from NIACC in 1992, BA degree from Buena Vista University in 1994, and MBA from Drake University in 1996. He is currently attending the Bank Administration Institute's graduate school of bank operations and technology. Besides serving as Vice President/Cashier at Clear Lake Bank & Trust Company, his employer since 1993, he is an adjunct faculty member for Buena Vista University's Mason City Center, teaching courses in finance/banking, MIS, and statistics. His community involvements include the Clear Lake Public Library Board of Directors, the Clear Lake Public Library Foundation, and Zion Lutheran Church. He lives in Clear Lake with his wife, Renee, also a NIACC graduate.



Matthew Ritter

## NIACC's Night to Shine is April 30th

The NIACC Foundation is proud to present the second NIACC's Night to Shine event on Saturday, April 30, 2005. It is designed to bring together friends of North Iowa Area Community College for fun, food and festivities.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Activity Center, the evening will include a social hour with games and a chance to win \$10,000, entertainment, and an elegant dinner followed by dancing. Entertainment will be provided by the Mason City Big Band, Feldspar, and the NIACC Singers.

The prestigious NIACC Shining Star Awards will also be presented during the night.

The event is black tie (optional) and tickets are \$50 per person. Guests may reserve tables of eight with their friends or reserve seats and be assigned to tables.

For more information, call the NIACC Foundation at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386.

## Generous Gift Provides Additional Support for Entrepreneurial Center

NIACC's Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center has received part of a \$4 million donation toward entrepreneurial endeavors throughout Iowa from John and Mary Pappajohn.

"This gift will help further NIACC's efforts to develop North Iowa's entrepreneurial climate, stabilize population trends, and improve our quality of life," said Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC President. "We strive to provide quality education in areas such as financial planning, marketing, and risk analysis as well as assist in growing new businesses during their first critical few years."

The Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at NIACC provides college-level courses and degree programs in entrepreneurship, as well as consulting services for business start-ups and existing industries throughout North Iowa.

"We'd like to create an incubator for new businesses and professional services. This would provide for consulting services, rental space and telephone and Internet services at reasonable costs to help new businesses reach a point where they can go out into the world and succeed," Morrison said.

For more information about entrepreneurial programs and services, contact the Pappajohn Center at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4111 or [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn).

## NIACC Staff, Students Help Tsunami Victims...

North Iowans donated more than 3,000 books to the Tsunami Relief Book Sale, raising nearly \$8,500. In partnership with Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa and the Trinity Health Care System, over \$20,000 was raised to support the Mercy Home and Grace Center orphanage in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. NIACC instructor Ann Kuhlman, who coordinated the sale, said the money will be spent on books and study materials needed by the 102 orphans, as well as clothing and bedding. "It started with a simple idea, a book sale for tsunami relief," Kuhlman said. "It grew into an extraordinary event with demonstrations of generosity, integrity and kindness repeated over and over."

## ...While not Overlooking Needs Close to Home

The NIACC Student Senate collected \$600 in cash donations, 160 winter coats, and countless hats, gloves and scarves during the first "Coatless in the Cold" event held in partnership with Hy-Vee West and KIA Radio this winter. The outerwear was donated to the Salvation Army and the money was donated to a local Head Start Program to purchase winter coats for local children. Donors received Hy-Vee gas buster coupons for their generosity. Tyler Sisco, NIACC Student Senate Advisor, says they intend to make this an annual event.

## NIACC Polar Bear Club Helps Raise Money for Charity



Photo courtesy of Logos

**Members of the newly-formed NIACC Polar Bear Club, led by Tyler Ginther (foreground), exit the water at Clear Lake City Beach after participating in the annual icy dip for charity. NIACC students represented 10 percent of the 250 brave participants who raised more than \$8,000 for Toys For Tots and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.**

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### Attention Parents!

Why do textbooks cost so much? What are other parents saying about NIACC? Answers to these and other questions may be found on the NEW section of the NIACC website JUST FOR PARENTS! If you have college-age children or will soon enough, check out [www.niacc.edu/parents](http://www.niacc.edu/parents).

## NIACC Education Students Head Up Harding Book Club

Students in NIACC's Children's Literature class have paired with Harding Elementary School in Mason City to facilitate the Harding Book Club.

"It's a great opportunity to celebrate the love of reading and introduce kids to good literature," said Tom Stevens, Harding Elementary Principal. "We're pleased to partner with NIACC to add a new aspect to the Harding Book Club. It's a great experience for the NIACC students and our kids."

The Harding Book Club began five years ago as a donation honoring a student who had passed away. Since then, the group has met for kindergarten and grades one through five after school throughout the years.

Partnering with NIACC on the club sparked interest with both Harding and NIACC due to the benefits for both the elementary students and the NIACC students.

"Students in the Children's Literature class take away real world experiences and meet a number of the course objectives through their participation in the Harding Book Club," said Karen Regal, NIACC Communication/Children's Literature Instructor. "Plus, by working with the students in the Harding Book Club, NIACC students are making an important investment in our community."

During Harding Book Club, NIACC students read aloud to volunteer groups of K-5th graders who wish to participate. The college students also lead discussions of the readings and administer activities associated with the books to extend students' learning.

"Leading the Harding Book Club is so much fun," said Stephanie Schulz, a NIACC

student from St. Ansgar who leads the fourth grade group. "The energy level is amazing, and the kids even volunteered to read. I wish we could go more often."

Her fourth grade partner, Taya Walk, also from St. Ansgar, agrees that the group presents a terrific opportunity to practice using lesson plans and working with actual students. "We are learning from the kids and they are learning

from us," she said. "We tailored the book to what they're learning right now in school."

Before the first Harding Book Club meeting, the NIACC students met with their Harding host teachers to share ideas, book choices, discussion questions, lesson plans and activity ideas.

"The supervising teachers sit in on the club sessions in order to assist the college students if needed, but so far the NIACC students seem to have everything under control – they're so prepared!" Carol Ann Eppens, Harding third grade teacher, said.

After the successful pilot last fall, the NIACC students plan to return this spring to lead another four-week Harding Book Club session. This would also allow the partnership opportunity to

become a permanent part of the NIACC's children's literature course.

**"It's exciting to see how the elementary students look up to the NIACC students and how the NIACC students bring new ideas and activities to the club."**

"It's exciting to see how the elementary students look up to the NIACC students and how the NIACC students bring new ideas and activities to the club," Lynette Heimbuch, Harding second grade teacher, said. "We were really impressed by how prepared the NIACC students were."

NIACC students participating in the Harding Book Club partnership include Kaye Wilson of Clear Lake; Megan Dodd of Garner; Jessica Wilson of Lake View; Sara Blakewell, Milica Kovacevic, Cory Palmer, Jessica Platts and Brandy Snater, all of Mason City; Brandi Hansen of Osage; Annie Eilderts of Parkersburg; and Stephanie Schulz and Taya Walk of St. Ansgar.

For more information, contact Karen Regal at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4158 or [regalkar@niacc.edu](mailto:regalkar@niacc.edu).



**NIACC student Megan Dodd of Garner works with some youngsters involved in the Harding Book Club.**

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## NIACC Faces

Welcome to our newest employees!

**Matt Anderson**  
Custodian

**Ted Bieth**  
Volleyball Coach

**Josiah Bushlack**  
Warehouse Maintenance

**Joshua Byrnes**  
School Partnerships Coordinator

**Angela Jilek**  
Athletic Secretary

**Allan Meyer**  
Custodial Maintenance

**Sandra Troge**  
Institutional Advancement Secretary

**Curtis Vais**  
Track and Field Coach

Congratulations to our employees with new roles!

**Jody Fink**  
Mathematics/Natural Science Secretarial Associate

**Dan Hicok**  
Building Maintenance

**Lisa Steiff**  
Help Desk/Media Support Technician

## Charles City Area Banks Provide Incentive for Entrepreneurial Training

A number of people currently taking entrepreneurial education classes in Charles City will receive their training for free. Several local banks provided an incentive for individuals to participate in the FastTrac Planning classes by reimbursing their tuition upon successful completion of the course.

Participating banks include First Citizens National Bank of Charles City, First State Bank of Nora Springs, First Security Bank & Trust Co. of Charles City, and Peoples Savings Bank of Charles City.

The FastTrac Planning classes, offered through NIACC's Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, are designed to help current business owners and managers take their businesses to the next level.

"This is a unique opportunity for existing Charles City and Floyd County businesses to more fully realize their potential," said Tim Fox, Executive Director of the Charles City Area Development Corporation. "FastTrac employs proven methods, instructors and materials, offering businesspeople means to improve profitability."

FastTrac entrepreneurial training began in North Iowa over six years ago. Local FastTrac graduates now number over 350 from some 40 communities.

For more information, call the NIACC Pappajohn Center at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4111 or visit [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn).

## Wired Differently



Dr. Moira Gunn, labeled the "Grand Dame of Tech Talk" by Wired Magazine, was at NIACC on March 4 for the Third Annual Wired Differently Information Technology Day. A former NASA scientist and engineer, Dr. Gunn hosts Public Radio's Tech Nation, the sole nationally-syndicated technology program on public radio and NPR's new Satellite Radio service.

The Wired Differently Day, sponsored by Cisco Systems, Kingland Systems Corporation, and Vita Support Systems, is geared to high school and NIACC students and teachers. Activities included contests such as a Knowledge Bowl, Solving a Problem, and CD Golf; mini-sessions on Web Page Development, Building a Network, and Building a Personal Computer; as well as a "Technology in the World Fair" featuring a robotics demonstration and businesses highlighting technology in their industries.

## The Winds of Change

North Iowa Area Community College, along with the Iowa Conservation Education Council, will host "The Winds of Change" conference for Midwest environmental educators this summer on the NIACC campus. The general public is also welcome to register for the event, which is scheduled July 20-23.

NIACC Natural Science Instructor Carol Schutte said the Midwest Environmental Education Conference has not been held in Iowa for nine years. "We anticipate an enthusiastic turnout of naturalists, camp directors, classroom teachers, natural resource managers and other persons dedicated to environmental improvement," she said. "We hope this will be a grand reunion for some and a great 'first' for others as we join in dedication to our common goal of environmental improvement."

The conference will focus on: Hot Topics in Environmental Education, Trends in Energy, Environmental Stewardship &

Service, Environmental Approaches to Facility and Site Management, History and Culture of the Midwest, and Natural History.

The conference kicks off Wednesday evening with food, displays, entertainment and fun. Opening keynote on Thursday morning is Dr. John Petersen Myers of "Our Stolen Future" organization, who will speak about the effects of environmental chemicals on future generations. A symposium on the future of environmental education and other concurrent sessions will fill the rest of Thursday. Participants will get outside on field trips Friday, and be enlightened and inspired by more sessions and a motivational speaker Saturday morning.

For more information, contact Carol Schutte at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4319 or [schutcar@niacc.edu](mailto:schutcar@niacc.edu). Conference information is also available at [www.niacc.edu/meec](http://www.niacc.edu/meec).



## Congratulations and Best Wishes to Our Recent Retirees!



**Janice Christensen**

Student Services Office Manager  
36 Years of Service



**Tucki Folkers**

Vice President for Academic Affairs (previous Director of Developmental Education)  
28 Years of Service



**Marilyn Smith**

Student Support Services  
11 Years of Service



NIACC students and others present got a lesson in history when WWII veteran Jack Easton came to campus to share his memories as a 19-year-old soldier marching across Germany to help liberate the prisoners of the Dachau Concentration Camp. Easton, who lives in Clear Lake, taught Communications at NIACC from 1959 to 1993.

## NIACC Performing Arts Series Finishes Strong

The 2004-2005 NIACC Performing Arts Series wraps up this spring with incredibly talented performers.

Country music star Kathy Mattea will perform on the NIACC campus on Saturday, April 9. With 13 albums, 6 number one singles, 20 top ten singles, and 17 CMT videos, Mattea has sold over 7 million records garnering numerous awards.



Cookin', the explosive percussion show from Korea that has sliced, diced, and banged its way across the globe to unanimous acclaim, will be presented on Friday, April 22, at NIACC.



Guster, the Boston-based trio whose latest Palm Pictures/Reprise Records release, "Keep It Together," consolidates its reputation as one of the most enduring and original bands in modern music, will perform on Tuesday, April 26.



All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the North Iowa Community Auditorium on the NIACC campus. For ticket information, call the NIACC Box Office at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188.

The NIACC Performing Arts Series is sponsored by First State Bank of Belmond; the Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund; the Globe Gazette; Henkel Construction; Kraft; Crescent Park Corporation; Principal Financial Group; Drs. Beck & Lovick, Neurological Surgery; Clear Lake Bank & Trust; First Citizens National Bank; Hanford Inn; Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa; Pepsi; Sukup; Applebee's; Godfather's Pizza and NIACC.

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### 100% Nursing Grads Pass Exam

All 26 NIACC Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students from the recent graduating class passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), required to become a registered nurse. NIACC's program is the only program of 29 programs in the State to achieve a 100% pass rate, including the 4-year nursing programs.

Donna Orton, NIACC's Health Division Chair, said several factors contribute to these successful outcomes, including "qualified and committed faculty, motivated students and access to excellent clinical facilities that provide exposure to quality clinicians, challenging clinical opportunities, and state of the art technology."

NIACC's ADN program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission and approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing.

## Fighter Pilots to Crash Business Bash

Former fighter pilots will headline the second annual Business Bash, scheduled April 7th at NIACC, as they present Afterburner, an interactive, high-energy experience tailored to inspire leadership, integrated teamwork and the quick, flexible thinking essential to fighter pilots and business managers alike. Their morning talk in the Auditorium will be immediately followed by a showcase of North Iowa businesses exhibiting their products and services to the community in the NIACC gymnasium. The event is sponsored by the NIACC Career Center and Mason City Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188 for tickets or 641-423-5724 for the showcase.



## Candlelight Christmas

The initial "Candlelight Christmas" event held as part of the NIACC Performing Arts Series just before the holidays, was such a success, the next one is already being planned and will include a second performance. The sellout show brought together for the first time the beautiful voices of North Iowa's premiere vocal ensembles, including the NIACC Concert Choir, NIACC Singers, River City Barbershop Chorus and North Iowa Choral Society. "The most fun for me were the joint numbers involving over 150 singers with two pianos and instruments," said Jayson Ryner, who conceived the Candlelight Christmas event and directs all the ensembles. "The show was very well received, and we're looking forward to making it a holiday tradition."



## NICK Program Helps Another Local Family

Carrie Meggers and her family from Rockford are the latest beneficiaries of NIACC's North Iowa Computers for Kids (NICK) Program, which provides refurbished computers free of charge to local families without them.

"We're very happy and grateful for this wonderful program," Meggers said. "My daughter will be able to use it for different educational purposes, and it will provide great learning experiences for everyone in the family."

Conceived by a former NIACC student for a class project, the NICK Program relies on donations of computer systems as well as the efforts of students and the NIACC Information Technology (IT) Department to get them in working order.

"NICK benefits our area while providing our students with great experience using their skills for a real life project," said Tracy Purchase, NIACC IT instructor and NICK coordinator.

For more information about the NICK Program, please contact Tracy at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4415 or purchtra@niacc.edu.



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## OK House Celebrates 35th Anniversary

The Oikoumene Religious Center (OK House) recently celebrated its 35th year on the NIACC campus. Located adjacent to NIACC student housing, the OK House is open daily for students to drop in for social events, listening and referral services, recreation, counseling, study, support groups, contemporary workshop experiences, and a serene environment. It is supported by area churches. For more information, contact Caroline Arter at 641-424-1708 or oikoumenehouse@msn.com.

## Auditorium Renovation Underway

*Improvements will be evident to Performers and Patrons Alike*

Following a successful \$1.2 million fundraising campaign by the NIACC Foundation, the North Iowa Community Auditorium on the NIACC campus will undergo some needed renovations. Construction begins this spring, with completion of the project scheduled prior to the start of the 2005-2006 NIACC Performing Arts & Leadership Series early fall.

The improvements to the Auditorium will include increased fly space to allow for more elaborate sets and scenery changes, a high performance full-stage sound shell and other acoustical improvements, expanded dressing rooms and a "green room" or holding space for performers.

"We would like to thank all of the people of North Iowa for supporting the commitment we've made to our strong tradition of offering excellent entertainment and cultural events for the area," said Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC President. "Successful completion of this project honors its proud past and serves as a testament to its vital future."

The North Iowa Community Auditorium, which celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2004, serves as the region's primary venue for concerts, performances, presentations and productions, and host to a variety of other activities including lectures, graduations, and conferences. The 1200-seat facility, which is the only one of its kind within a 90-mile radius, is home to the popular NIACC Performing Arts & Leadership Series and continues to be heavily utilized throughout the year by area organizations, schools, and businesses. More than 60,000 patrons visit the North Iowa Community Auditorium annually.

Contributors to the Auditorium Renovation and Improvement Project represented individuals, banks, businesses and local foundations. Individuals contributing at least \$1,000 were invited to "name a seat" in the facility.

"This entire campaign was met with much success and enthusiasm," Jamie Zanios, NIACC Director of Institutional Advancement, said. "It's wonderful to feel this level of support due to people's faith in the North Iowa Community Auditorium and NIACC. The number of donations received during the campaign reflects upon the importance of the project and the facility. We are humbled by the continued generosity of North Iowa citizens and businesses."



## Alumni Basketball Game

It was just like old times for the former NIACC men's basketball players who took to the court for the NIACC Alumni Game held March 5 at the NIACC gymnasium. The game preceded the Trojans' final regular season game against DMACC and a social gathering at The Other Place in Clear Lake. Returning NIACC players included: (front row) Randy

Pals, Brian Kelchen, Jason Steenblock, Justin Kramer, Kelly Eckenrod, Travis Spear, Romee Johnson; (back row) Lester Simpson, Coach Kevin Nelson, Nick Hach, Greg Keen, Kevin Jarm, Steve Banks, Kyle Hach, Ben Evans, Jeremiah White, Nate Robson, Coach Steve Krafcis, Coach Jeremy Ainley, and Cory Bargfrede.

## Black History Month

Brandon Watson, a NIACC freshman from Milwaukee, speaks about people who played an important role in black history and other African-Americans who have contributed to society in positive ways. His talk was held in celebration of Black History Month. Other activities of the NIACC Global Diversity Committee during February included the showing of several pertinent videos and displays of featured reading materials in the NIACC Library.



## Britt's Health Careers Academy Expands

West Hancock High School and North Iowa Area Community College recently expanded the College Tech Prep Health Careers Academy in Britt. Other partners include the Hancock County Memorial Hospital and Health Services and the Regional Health Education Center.

"This expansion directly benefits many students," said Harold Overmann, Interim Superintendent for the West Hancock Community School District. "Our partnership with NIACC on the Health Careers Academy provides an efficient way to expand the curriculum."

Students from Forest City High School, Garner-Hayfield High School, West Hancock High School and Woden-Crystal Lake-Titonka

High School take advantage of opportunities in the Health Careers Academy, and additional school partners are always welcome.

The Academy offers various college-level courses, including Medical Terminology I, Nurse Aide Theory & Lab, Clinical Procedures I, General Psychology, Human Growth & Development and Communication Skills I & II.

NIACC's College Tech Prep partnerships with area high schools give students the opportunity to complete up to a year of college while still in high school.

For more information, contact the Director of School Partnerships at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4177 or ostraje@niacc.edu.



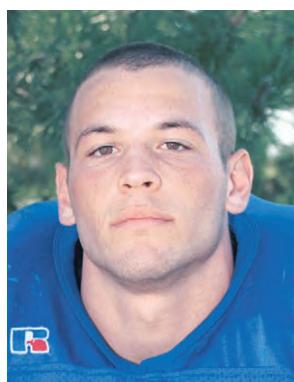
## Yanda Will Become an Iowa Hawkeye

Several NIACC Athletes to Continue Play at Other Division I Schools

**Marshal Yanda**, an offensive lineman for the NIACC Trojans football team, has signed with the University of Iowa. A 6'6", 310-pound sophomore from Anamosa, Yanda was named first-team All-Region and honorable mention NJCAA All-American after anchoring NIACC's offensive line in the fall. He was a first-team All-Region selection his freshman year as well. Yanda joins a Hawkeye squad which is coming off its second Big Ten Championship in three years and back-to-back championships in post-season bowl games.



**Clint Sellers**, a linebacker for the NIACC Trojans football team, has signed with Eastern Illinois University. A 6'0", 215-pound sophomore from Chariton, Sellers led the conference in tackles with 129, and also had 16.5 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks, 2



interceptions, 3 forced fumbles, and 3 fumble recoveries. He was named a second-team NJCAA All-American, first-team All-Region, and the region's Defensive Player of the Year. In 2003 he was named first-team All-Region, region Defensive Player of the Year, and honorable mention All-American. Sellers will join the Division I-AA Panther program, which finished 5-6 this past season and 4th in the Ohio Valley Conference. They have appeared in the I-AA playoffs 5 times in the past 9 years.

**Jesse Seykora**, third baseman for the NIACC Trojans baseball team, has signed with Northern Illinois University. An Owatonna, MN native, Seykora batted .365 last season



with 8 doubles, 6 home runs and 37 RBIs. He was named an honorable mention All-Region infielder and garnered Academic All-Region honors last season. He has been named a team captain for the 2005 NIACC baseball season. Northern Illinois ended the 2004 season 31-28 overall, finishing tied for 2nd in the Mid American Conference (MAC) West Division with a 14-10 record.

## Cross Country Off to Strong Start

The launch of a new program is never easy, but the NIACC men's and women's cross country teams made it look that way in 2004. In their first season of existence, NIACC Cross Country exceeded expectations and raised eyebrows around Region XI. Under the direction of Head Coach Curtis Vais, the Trojan teams finished in 2nd place on both the men's and women's side at the four-team Region XI Championships. NIACC also sent 8 runners to the NJCAA National Championships in El Paso, TX, which marked a magical conclusion for the program's first season of competition.

On the women's side, Stacy Allen (Mason

City) and Amy Furlong (Burtrand, NE) finished 7th and 8th, respectively, at the conference championships. Representing the men, NIACC had four top ten finishers at the Conference Championships: Andy Kaspar (Rockford), 4th; Andrew Flugum (Forest City), 6th; Matt Crooks (Lucas), 8th; and Brian Haeflinger (Alta Vista), 9th.

Recruiting has begun in earnest for next season and was given a boost by the announcement that NIACC will be starting a Track and Field program in 2005-06. This will give the dedicated cross country runners from NIACC the opportunity to compete year-round, including the indoor and outdoor seasons.

## NIACC Adds Track and Field

North Iowa Area Community College has announced the creation of a Track and Field program. The addition comes on the heels of the fall 2004 startup of a highly successful Cross Country program. The program will start competition with the 2005-06 indoor season and will continue with the inaugural outdoor season in 2006. Current Cross Country Head Coach Curtis Vais will take over the reins of the new program.

"Once again we have an opportunity to expand our athletic department and serve the needs of North Iowa at the same time," stated Athletic Director Ryan McGuire. "This is a natural for us, considering the quality of

track and field programs at the high school level in North Iowa."

NIACC will join Iowa Central as one of only two community colleges in the state of Iowa to sponsor a track and field program. They will plan to compete at meets throughout the Midwest, mainly focusing on four-year meets within the state of Iowa. Illinois and Kansas are the closest states that have track and field programs at the community college level. "Just as we did with soccer and cross country, this is an opportunity for us to be ahead of the curve with regards to sport expansion in the state of Iowa," McGuire said.



## Athletic Honors

### Football

Five NIACC student-athletes received first team honors on the All-Region football team. They are Marshal Yanda, offensive lineman from Anamosa; Eric Young, defensive end from Shiocton, WI; Juan Martin and Jovan Alexander, defensive backs from St. Louis, MO; and Clint Sellers, linebacker from Chariton, who was also named the region's defensive player of the year. Honorable mention selections included Brady Foster, quarterback from Mason City; Brad Bohl, linebacker from Mason City; Kevin Hart, running back from Clinton; Brad Wolf, defensive lineman from Brunswick, OH; and Kyle Dunn, offensive lineman from St. Louis, MO.

### Cross Country

Several NIACC cross country runners finished in the Top Ten for Region XI. For the women, Top Ten finishers were Stacy Allen of Mason City and Amy Furlong of Burtrand, NE. Top Ten finishers for the men included Matt Crooks of Lucas, Andrew Flugum of Forest City, Brian Haeflinger of Alta Vista, and Andy Kaspar of Rockford.

### Soccer

Several NIACC soccer players were named to All-Region teams by the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference. For the NIACC women, Jamie Schleich of Caledonia, MN and Crystal Masters of Clear Lake were named to the second team. For the NIACC men, Ido Barzilay and Eric Stanley were named to the first team. Barzilay, a freshman from Ramat-Gan, Israel, led the Trojans with 12 goals and added 5 assists. Stanley, a sophomore from Detroit Lakes, MN had 6 goals and 2 assists. Alex Bogdanovic of Rijeka, Croatia, Ben Sayles of Mason City, and Joel Gould of Clear Lake were named to the second team.

### Volleyball

Two NIACC volleyball players have received All-Region honors. Emily Vold, a freshman from Mason City, was named to the second team, while Annie Bieth, a sophomore from Mason City was named honorable mention. Vold led the team with 283 kills and a hitting percentage of .251. She was also second on the team with 64 digs. Bieth led the team with 532 assists, an average of over 8 per game.

### Basketball

Several NIACC basketball players were named to All-Region teams by the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference. For the women, Brittney Dickey, a sophomore from Monona Grove, WI was named to the second team after finishing the season averaging 8.6 points per game and leading the team with 43 3-point field goals. Katie Meyer of Belmond and Milica Kovacevic of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, received honorable mention. For the men, Michael Stensrud, a sophomore from Lake Mills, was named to the second team. He averaged 10 points and 6 rebounds per game and also set the NIACC single-season record for blocked shots with 57. Justin Redman-Trotter, a freshman from Milwaukee, WI, was named honorable mention after averaging 10 points, 6 rebounds, and 6 assists per game.

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## First Students Earn National Restaurant Assoc. Certificates

Several students in NIACC's new Hospitality/Food Service Management Program have received their first certificate from the National Restaurant Association. They earned the Pro Management certificate during their Hospitality Supervision class. There are a total of seven certificates for which students may test.

"These certifications are well recognized and will help open doors for these students," said Ken Webber, Food Services Instructor and Director.

The first students to earn certificates are Rueben Avelar, Ryan Kershner, Alysha Sanchez, Cody Baxter, Josh Treaudio, Chris Heiseman, Jon Beattie, and Jon Holt.

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**Does NIACC have  
your e-mail address  
yet?**

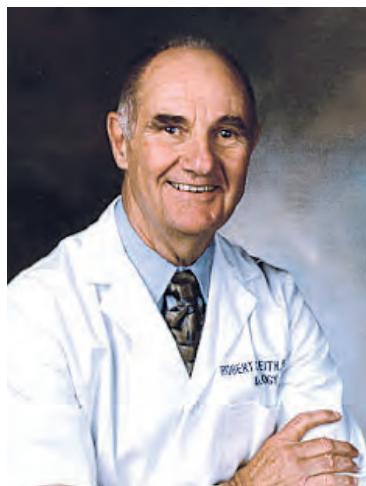
The College is interested in sending you periodic updates electronically, but we need your e-mail address. Simply contact Sandy at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386 or trogesan@niacc.edu to provide your e-mail address and name. Thanks!

## Students and Alumni to be Honored at 15th Annual Pathways to Success

The public is invited to attend the NIACC Alumni Association's 15th Annual Pathways to Success luncheon on April 22, 2005. The event is scheduled over the noon hour in the Muse Norris Conference Center on campus.

Tickets are available for \$7.50 through the NIACC Business Office (1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188). Sponsors include the NIACC Student Senate, Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors, and Hearing Associates, PC.

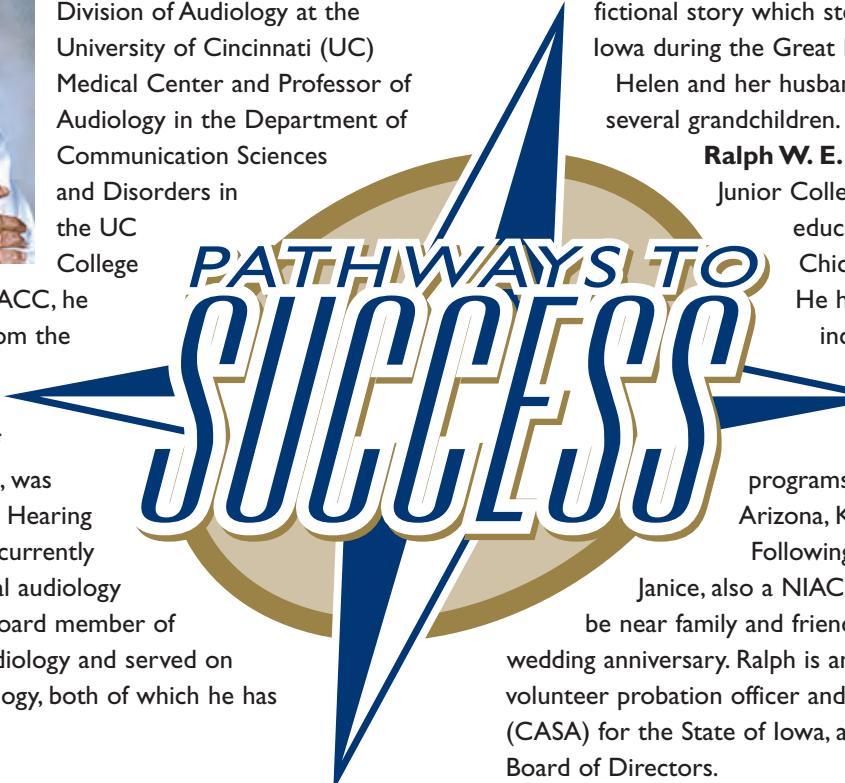
During the program, more than 30 current students will be recognized for their scholarship, leadership and character, and three alumni will be honored for their accomplishments.



of Allied Health. Following NIACC, he received advanced degrees from the University of Iowa.

He is a regular author and speaker on the subject of auditory processing disorders, was Editor-in-Chief of the Ear and Hearing journal for several years, and currently serves as consultant to several audiology journals. He was an original board member of the American Academy of Audiology and served on the American Board of Audiology, both of which he has chaired.

**Dr. Robert W. Keith**, Class of 1960, is the keynote speaker and NIACC's Outstanding Alumnus for 2005. A Garner native, Dr. Keith lives in Cincinnati, OH, where he is Professor and Director of the Division of Audiology at the University of Cincinnati (UC) Medical Center and Professor of Audiology in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the UC College



Ralph Decker and Helen Ristau, both of Mason City, will be named 2005 NIACC Distinguished Alumni.

**Helen (Ferrier) Ristau** graduated from Mason City Junior College in 1940 and eventually earned advanced degrees from the State College of Iowa (UNI). She taught third grade for 44 years at McKinley and Roosevelt elementary schools in Mason City. During her teaching career, she was President of the Mason City Education Association, a delegate to the National Education Association, and a member of Phi Delta Kappa professional education fraternity.

She also instructed student teachers, including those from Mason City Junior College, and wrote much of the curriculum for school programs in Mason City, including stories for reading comprehension tests, plus scores of poems and short stories.

Since retiring in 1987, she really got serious about writing! Her publications include "Meredith Willson, the River City's Music Man," numerous articles on education for professional journals, and several

children's books, including "Winter at River Bend Farm," a fictional story which stems from her experience growing up in Iowa during the Great Depression.

Helen and her husband, Walter, have two daughters and several grandchildren.

**Ralph W. E. Decker** graduated from Mason City Junior College in 1954 and finished his college education at the University of California, Chico, serving in the U.S. Army in between. He has had vast professional experiences, including over 20 years as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He has also worked to start and advance Lottery programs across the country in New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, Colorado and Missouri.

Following his retirement, Ralph and his wife, Janice, also a NIACC graduate, returned to North Iowa to be near family and friends. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Ralph is an avid supporter of NIACC athletics, a volunteer probation officer and a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the State of Iowa, and President of the Mason City YMCA Board of Directors.

## IN MEMORY

### Alumni (by class)

- 1932-Gladdys B. Jones, 91 of Indianapolis, IN, September 28, 2004
- 1935-Milton B. Raizes, 88 of Naples, FL, January 2, 2005
- 1939-Earl Fladness, 84 of Tucson, AZ, August 7, 2003
- 1941-Clifton E. Wiseman, 82 of Sheffield, September 27, 2004
- 1943-Patricia A. McGowan, 80 of Clear Lake, January 3, 2005
- 1947-Frances Krabill, 77 of San Bernardino, CA, August 8, 2004
- 1950-James W. McNitt, 75 of Sun City, July 20, 2004
- 1954-Leonidas N. Chimbidis, 73 of Mason City, October 11, 2004
- 1955-Robert M. Frank, 69 of Nampa, ID, January 4, 2005
- 1955-Gordon E. Loucks, 70 of Rye, CO, January 6, 2005
- 1956-Paul E. Spangler, 73 of Britt, August 7, 2004
- 1958-Margaret J. Nydegger, 86 of Mason City, January 16, 2005
- 1965-James H. Essman, 62 of Trophy Club, TX, November 19, 2004
- 1966-Gary P. Gildner, 58 of Irvine, CA, July 26, 2004
- 1967-David C. Morris, 59 of Seattle, WA, October 23, 2004
- 1969-Alan F. Hagen, 55 of Mason City, September 5, 2004
- 1969-Pearl L. Miles, 86 of Osage, September 24, 2004
- 1970-Doris E. Musselman, 86 of Belmond, August 5, 2004

### Former Staff / Board Members & Other NIACC Friends

- Donald R. Anderson, 82 of Forest City, July 30, 2004
- Marcus Arneson, 99 of Clear Lake, January 27, 2005
- Arlene V. Baia, 82 of Mason City, March 1, 2005
- Allen Barz, 80 of Garner, February 2, 2005
- Helen M. Bluhm, 91 of Mason City, January 18, 2005
- Glenn E. Burgraff, 83 of Mason City, October 24, 2004
- Wayne H. Dietrich, 81 of Kensett, January 27, 2005
- Marlo A. Durby, 68 of Lake Mills, January 29, 2005
- Elizabeth M. Foldesi, 94 of Mason City, January 2, 2005
- William F. Gildner, 89 of Mason City, February 13, 2005
- Billie R. Hanes, 71 of Clear Lake, February 5, 2005
- Charles J. Hogan, 68 of Fountain Hills, AZ, October 10, 2004
- Duane E. Huff, 71 of Mason City, October 12, 2004
- Franklin C. Hutchens, 72 of Mason City, November 21, 2004
- W. Hart Johnson, 77 of Mason City, December 22, 2004
- Jack R. Kabrick, 85 of Mason City, January 31, 2005
- Robert W. Krieger, 95 of Mason City, August 1, 2004
- Harold L. Marlow, 83 of Rockwell, October 15, 2004
- Ronald O. Masters, 91 of Mason City, August 1, 2004
- Marian I. Morisky, 88 of Clear Lake, January 6, 2005
- Cecil Mott, 83 of Mason City, January 11, 2005
- Richard E. Munns, 87 of Mason City, February 20, 2005
- Alma Partridge, 96 of Mason City, November 8, 2004
- Myrtle E. Prestin, 90 of Mason City, October 18, 2004
- Kathy L. Toye Prins, 50 of Rock Falls, January 27, 2005
- Audree Raizes, 86 of Naples, FL, January 7, 2005
- Elsie Rogholt, 95 of Charles City, August 1, 2004
- Tilman Sears, 92 of Clear Lake, January 15, 2005
- Jack L. Statser, 71 of Bettendorf, September 11, 2004
- Wayne A. Stille, 69 of Goodell, February 19, 2005
- Gertrude B. Thaden, 84 of Des Moines, October 3, 2004
- J. Stephen Westly, 82 of Mason City, August 14, 2004
- Robert J. Zimmer, 95 of Sonoma, CA, December 7, 2004

## ALUMNI ALMANAC

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**Donald Ambrosen** '51 and his wife, Gloria, of Ankeny, IA, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 28, 2004.

**H. Jerry Borger** '59 retired last year from his work as a family therapist for the Gateway Foundation in Springfield, IL, after spending 30 years as a school principal and superintendent. He and his wife now live in Frederick, CO.

**William L. Bowers** '50 of Hanna City, IL, is in his fifth year of retirement from Bradley University where he taught history for 38 years.

**Steven Cover** '67 of Urbandale, IA, has retired after 25 years as a pharmacist with Hy-Vee.

**Kendall Lundberg** '68 of Clear Lake, IA, has accepted the position of employee benefits sales executive with First Insurance Agency, specializing in health benefits.

**Joseph Cordray** '69 of Nevada, IA, is professor of Iowa State University's Meat Science program named #1 in the United States by Meat & Poultry magazine.

**Cynthia (Pritchard) Frank** '69 of Apple Valley, MN, teaches second grade for the Rosemount Apple Valley School District.

**Douglas Olmsted** '69 of Las Vegas, NV, retired after more than 30 years teaching social sciences, economics, sociology, American government and American history. He is currently a part-time adjunct instructor at the local community college.

**Linda (Cary) Schulz** '69 of Fort Madison, IA, taught grades 7-12 for 26 years in the science and math fields.

**Christina (TeKippe) Trebil** '69 of Mason City, IA, is a nurse working in the Heart Center at the Mason City Clinic.

**Joseph Kienast** '70 of Southlake, TX, has spent the last 31 years working in finance. He is currently employed by Citigroup as senior vice president, product distribution.

**Donald Moen** '70 of Hannibal, MO, works as a pharmacist. He and his wife, Phyllis, enjoy golfing in their free time.

**Mark Morisky** '72 of LaVista, NE, is the president of his own company, Professional Loss Control Consultants, Inc.

**Mitzi (Baker Goetsch)** Pennington '74 of Clear Lake, IA, was married to Randy Pennington in October 2004.

**Judith Herman** '75 is employed by Kraft Foods of Mason City, IA.

**Steve Sellers** '75 of Marion, IA, is an agent with the United Insurance Agencies. In January, he released his first novel, *The Unopened Box*, which is inspirational to people impacted by alcoholism.

**Debora (Houg) McKee** '76 of Anchorage, AK, is now coaching high school boys' basketball. She and husband Mitchell have six children.

**Laurie (Greenfield) Ahrens** '77 is the city manager for the City of Plymouth, MN.

**Vicky (Borchardt) Semelhack** '77 of Mora, MN, is an RN with the Allina Medical Clinic. She is married to **Donald Semelhack** '89.

**Beverly (Bugbee) McMurray** '78 and her husband, Charles, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on July 20, 2004.

**Allen Awe** '79 returned to Mason City, IA, last fall after serving 12 months in Iraq.

**Bruce Gettman** '79 and **Suzanne (Brady) Gettman** '82 live in Cedar Falls, IA. Bruce is a partner in the Redfern Law Firm, and Sue is a nurse at Cedar Falls High School. They have four daughters.

**Jill (Dielschneider) Marshall** '79 works in the Product Engineering Center at John Deere in Waterloo, IA. She has served on NIACC's Mechanical Design Technology Advisory Board for many years. She lives in LaPorte City with her husband, Tim, and their two children.

**Curt Nelson** '79 of Jamaica, IA, is an art teacher at the Panorama Community School.

**Scott Wells** '79 and **Carolyn (Schwesow) Wells** '90 of Dakota Dunes, SD, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on September 4, 2004.

**Todd Farland** '81 of Forest City, IA, was named buyer in the purchasing department of Winnebago Industries.

**Kurt Walderbach** '81 is a sports certified specialist and athletic trainer with Accelerated Rehabilitation Center of Mason City, IA.

**Todd Jass** '82 of Garner, IA, has been named production manager at Winnebago Industries of Forest City.

**Suzan Brunes** '83 of Klemme, IA, earned her master of health administration degree from Des Moines University and is the administrator/CEO at Belmond Medical Center. She and her husband, Kevin, have two children.

**Penny Schmitz** '84 of Mason City, IA, has been chief operating & financial officer at WHKS & Company since 1992.

**Steven Orman** '85 and wife Leslie live in Springfield, MO. He is CEO of Orman, LLC and owns Auto-Magic car washes as well as Jiffy Lubes in Mason City, Fort Dodge and Springfield.

**Kristi (Toresdahl) Walderbach** '85 is a physical therapist assistant with Accelerated Rehabilitation Center in Mason City, IA.

**Amy (Pascoe) Simpson** '86 and husband Robert live in Mason City, IA. She is the administrative assistant for the City of Mason City.

**Troy Vokes** '86 is a Commander 512 MOF at Felton, DE. He is currently working on a doctorate in education from Wilmington College. He and his wife, Deanna, have a son.

**Susan Oudekerk Carzoli** '87 of Ankeny, IA, is employed at the Skiff Medical Center in Newton as an emergency department and critical care unit director. She was named the 2004 Emergency Nurse of the Year.

**Peggy (Asche) Matous** '87 and her husband, Stephen, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on December 1, 2004.

**Kelly Ott** '87 and **Ann (Eckenrod) Ott** '88 live in Osage, IA. Kelly is service manager at Norby Green Country, and Ann teaches social studies at Osage High School. They have three children.

**Kent Paca** '88 of Dubuque, IA, teaches junior high and coaches football and wrestling. He and his wife, Julie, have three children.

**David Hass** '97 was awarded the 2003-2004 Legislative Advocacy Award by the American Chiropractic Association. He received his doctor of chiropractic degree from Northwestern College last fall and

**Paul Arickx** '89 of Nora Springs, IA, is employed at Kraft Foods of Mason City. He and his wife, Kelly, have three children.

**Elizabeth (Koch) Miller** '89 of Waterloo, IA, is an operating room nurse. She and husband Geoff have completed several medical missions to Central and South America.

**Joseph Palmieri** '89 of Mason City, IA, has been hired as a design draftsman at Iowa Mold Tooling in Garner.

**Jennifer Klooster** '90 of Manly, IA, is a senior client service associate with the Principal Financial Group in Mason City.

**Lyle "Bill" Snitker** '90 of Mason City, IA, is a sales associate with Hockenberg Nebwurgh of Des Moines. He and his wife, Kim, have two children.

**Douglas Underwood** '90 of Lake Elmo, MN, was promoted to managing director of technology risk management services at RSM McGladrey in Minneapolis, MN.

**James Westfall** '90 and wife **Lynne (Madden) Westfall** '85 live in North Platte, NE, with their two children. Jim is district director for the Boy Scouts of America.

**Krista Moritz** '91 of Mason City, IA, is a senior client service associate with the Principal Financial Group.

**Jody Bartleson** '92 of Forest City, IA, is employed by the Mason City Clinic as the front office coordinator.

**Tim Buhr** '93 of Garner, IA, married Alicia Sargent on July 31, 2004.

**Ryan Pals** '93 of Meservey, IA, married Wendy Freesemann on September 25, 2004.

**Jodie Boland** '94 is a relationship banker at Bankers Trust in Des Moines, IA.

**Dustin Davis** '94 of Nora Springs, IA, joined the structural engineering department in the Mason City office of WHKS Engineers, Planners and Surveyors. He has four years previous experience with Modjeski and Masters in Harrisburg, PA.

**Jennifer (Ruley) Rosauer** '94 of Clear Lake, IA, married Jason Rosauer on September 18, 2004.

**Shelley (Myers) Sheppard** '94 of Sheffield, IA, married Steve Sheppard on July 3, 2004.

**John Wacker** '94 of Garner, IA, was hired by Iowa Mold Tooling as a manufacturing engineer.

**Kendal Colvin** '95 of Pella, IA, earned his MBA from Drake University in December 2004 and is a manufacturing engineer for Van Gorp Corporation.

**Chris Golien** '95 of Clear Lake, IA, and **Jennifer Olson** '03 of Garner, IA, were married September 4, 2004.

**Jill Van Wettering** '96 of Brandywine, MD, has accepted a position with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Ames, IA.

**Cory Abels** '97 of Clarion, IA, is now a vice president at Security Savings Bank. He and wife **Jamie (Nesje) Abels** '97 have a daughter.

**David Hass** '97 was awarded the 2003-2004 Legislative Advocacy Award by the American Chiropractic Association. He received his doctor of chiropractic degree from Northwestern College last fall and

has joined his father, Dr. Richard Haas, at Hass Chiropractic Clinic in Mason City, IA.

**Paris Johnson** '97 is a police officer with the City of Middletown, OH. He and his wife, Monica, have a son.

**Dee Dee (Thada) Kantaris** '97 of Mason City, IA, is the restorative director at Good Shepherd Inc.

**Teesha (Josten) Kirschbaum** '97 of Clear Lake, IA, is a community connections coordinator with NIVC Services. She is married to **Karl Kirschbaum** '96.

**Jason Pederson** '97 of Lake Mills, IA, married Torree Gunter on June 26, 2004.

**Kimberly Phillips** '97 of North Liberty, IA, married Jake Frank on May 22, 2004.

**Thad Sheldon** '97 is a teacher and coach at City High School in Iowa City, IA.

**Doug Slings** '97 of Oviedo, FL, is an account manger for Sizewise.

**Nolan Swanson** '97 married Terri Cooper on July 10, 2004. They live in Kansas City, MO.

**Jeremy Witt** '97 of Mason City, IA, is a client service associate with the Principal Financial Group.

**Brent Hinz** '98 and **Lisa Krumwiede** '01 of Charles City, IA, were married on January 31, 2004. Brent farms on the family farm, and Lisa is employed with Farmers Feed and Grain Co.

**Elisabeth Koop** '98 of Clear Lake, IA, is a client service associate with the Principal Financial Group of Mason City.

**Matt McBride** '98 began employment at the Mason City Clinic Orthopedic Department in August 2004. He and his wife, Erica, have two children.

**Paul Ouvernon** '98 of Mason City, IA, is employed at Accelerated Rehabilitation Center.

**Conrad Schmidt** '98 of Des Moines, IA, married Bethany Vogt on October 23, 2004. He is a photographer for the Des Moines Register.

**Kim Smit** '98 of Sheffield, IA, married Lance Corporal Eric Reicherts on December 31, 2004, who is serving his second tour in Iraq.

**Danny W. Wilson, Jr.** '98 of Charles City, IA, married Amy Jo Goldtrap on September 18, 2004. He is a computer technician at the Floyd County Memorial Hospital.

**Heidi (Leaman) Blaylock** '99 of Shiloh, IL, earned her M.A. in Psychology, Behavior Analysis from the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Laura (Goepel) Miller** '99 married Andrew Brayton in August 2003 and is a foreclosure representative for Principal Residential Mortgage in Des Moines, IA.

**Kale DiMarco** '99 of Mason City, IA, and wife, Katie, are parents of twins born October 17, 2004.

**Andrea Engles** '99 of Rockford, IA, was married to Nick Hanig on July 10, 2004, in Rockford.

**Ryan Helgeson** '99 of Lake Mills, IA, has been appointed district sales manager for Winnebago Industries and his family has relocated to Michigan.

**Jade Pecha** '99 and **Mindy Eisentrager** '00 were married September 4, 2004. They live in Dumont, IA.

**Rachel Schleusner** '99 married Jesse Stensrud on November 20, 2004. They live near Joice, IA.

**June Whipple** '99 of Parkersburg, IA, married Michael Bahnsen May 29, 2004. She is a high school Spanish teacher for Waterloo Schools.

**Amy Bissig** '00 and **Adam Pedersen** '00 were married August 7, 2004. They live in Olathe, KS.

**Amy Davis** '00 married Christopher Douglas on November 20, 2004. They live in Mason City, IA.

**Valerie (Perleberg) Foss** '00 of Glenville, MN, is a registrar at Austin Medical Center.

**Anne Lauen** '00 of Clear Lake, IA, is a client service associate with the Principal Financial Group in Mason City.

**Craig Malone** '00 of Dow City, IA, runs his own business with the Principal Financial Group as a financial representative.

**Catherine Ewers** '00 was married to Patrick Sires on July 10, 2004. They live in Waterloo, IA.

**Christine Thompson** '00 of Osage, IA, married Andy Nessler on September 11, 2004.

**Jennifer (Petter) Traver** '00 of LeMars, IA, is a transitional kindergarten teacher and a volleyball coach in the Sioux Center Community School District. She and husband Timothy have two children.

**Bryan Wilson** '00 married Ashley Harden on May 22, 2004. They live in Austin, MN.

**Brian Budach** '01 of Lake Mills, IA, is a licensed athletic trainer and a certified strength and conditioning specialist with Accelerated Rehabilitation Center in Mason City.

**Dena Lamoreux** '01 married Jason Mertz on October 16, 2004. They live in Des Moines, IA.

**Heather Stricker** '01 won first place at Iowa State University's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) conference contest for her research study on the bobcat population in Iowa.

**Michelle Boelman** '02 of Mason City, IA, graduated from UNI last December and has already passed 4 of the 8 actuarial exams. This summer, she will marry **Bryce Rosel** '01, who was the top actuarial student at the University of Iowa in 2003. They are both employed by the Principal Financial Group in Des Moines.

**Brandi Doescher** '02 of Mason City, IA, married Leif Garnass on June 11, 2004.

**Lindsay Kingland** '02 married Joseph Langfeld on September 4, 2004. They live in Forest City, IA.

**Jonathan Heinz** '03 of Mason City, IA, married Ashley Meyer on October 9, 2004.

**Christopher Hogg** '03 married Amy Carlson on June 12, 2004. He works for Natural Plus in Clear Lake, IA.

**Courtney Schwartz** '03 of Mason City, IA, married Jason Ritter on May 22, 2004.

**Amber (Knapp) Sterns** '03 of Mason City, IA, married Raymond Sterns on August 21, 2004.

1. Be sure NIACC has your e-mail address.
2. Keep your information up-to-date by calling 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386 or visiting the alumni section of the NIACC website.

## 50 WAYS YOU CAN HELP NIACC

3. Join the NIACC Alumni Association (all NIACC friends are welcome).
4. Make a gift to the NIACC Foundation Annual Fund every year.
5. Contact your local and state legislators about issues that impact NIACC and NIACC students.
6. Encourage people to visit campus and consider NIACC.
7. Clip newspaper articles and obituaries about NIACC alumni and friends and send them to the NIACC Foundation.
8. Buy and proudly wear NIACC clothing for yourself and your family.
9. Cheer on the NIACC Trojans and Lady Trojans at an athletic event on campus or in your area.
10. Remember NIACC in your will or estate plans.
11. Share your ideas, praises and concerns when you see NIACC faculty and staff.
12. Help NIACC connect with individuals, corporations and foundations capable of providing financial support.
13. Attend a Performing Arts event at the North Iowa Community Auditorium.
14. Check out the NIACC website.
15. Support a NIACC student by creating a scholarship through the NIACC Foundation.
16. Be proud to be a NIACC graduate.
17. Share your successes (milestones, accomplishments, honors) for the Alumni Almanac.
18. Talk to high school students in your area about the advantages of attending NIACC.
19. Help NIACC find lost alumni (listed on the NIACC website).
20. Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) through the NIACC Foundation.
21. Provide an internship for a NIACC student through the North Iowa Career Center on the NIACC campus.
22. Advertise a position opening through the North Iowa Career Center.
23. Hire a NIACC graduate.
24. Make a gift to NIACC in honor or in memory of someone special to you.
25. Serve on an Advisory Committee for a NIACC Program.
26. Send your children and grandchildren to NIACC.
27. Stay in contact with your NIACC classmates.
28. Help organize a class reunion.
29. Serve on an alumni panel for a student recruitment event at NIACC.
30. Attend NIACC's Night to Shine.
31. Volunteer in an office at the College.
32. Donate a computer to a local family through the North Iowa Computers for Kids (NICK) Program at NIACC.
33. Donate equipment or another noncash gift of value to a specific program or the College in general.
34. Speak to a NIACC class about your professional experience.
35. Take advantage of lifelong learning opportunities through the College.
36. Pass along admissions materials to teachers, guidance counselors and students in your hometown.
37. Shop for gifts at the College Book Store ([www.niaccbooks.com](http://www.niaccbooks.com)).
38. Display your NIACC diploma in your home or office.
39. Include your NIACC degree on your resume and in announcements about you.
40. Drive with a NIACC decal on your car's rear window (available from the Alumni Association).
41. Transfer stock to the NIACC Foundation.
42. Enjoy conversations with NIACC students who call during phoneathons.
43. E-mail your favorite NIACC instructor (5 letters of last name plus 3 letters of first name@niacc.edu).
44. Take a NIACC class online.
45. Get to know NIACC administration, faculty and staff.
46. Do business with NIACC alumni whenever you can.
47. Recruit five new NIACC Foundation Annual Fund donors.
48. Join an Admissions team member in representing NIACC at a College Fair or high school visit near you.
49. Read the NIACC Intouch newsletter.
50. After you've finished with the Intouch, pass it onto a friend.

**NIACC**  
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## Automotive Program Earns National Recognition, Prizes

NIACC's Automotive Service Technology Program has been recognized nationally for its quality. The prestigious ASE Automotive Award of Excellence is sponsored by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), and the Automotive Planning Council. It was presented to the College during the ACTE Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo last December in Las Vegas.

"We're thrilled to earn national recognition for our top-notch Automotive Program," said NIACC President Michael Morrison. "This award signifies the high quality education that NIACC students receive."

Besides recognition, the NIACC Automotive Program received a number of special prizes that accompany the top award. They include: free membership in the North American Council of Automotive Teachers; a \$10,000 gift certificate for Snap-On tools from ASE and the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF); a fluke meter with accessories from Fluke Manufacturing Company; a 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan from Daimler Chrysler; and a 2004 Acura MDX from Honda Motor Company.

Candidates for the ASE Automotive Award of Excellence are judged on the quality of their automotive program, recruitment methods, entrance requirements, assessment methods, courses, advisory committee involvement, budget/financial management, instructional equipment, faculty and staff qualifications, professional development, facilities, student services, and student satisfaction.

NIACC's Automotive Service Technology Program, which is ASE and NATEF certified, is led by ASE-certified instructors Greg Arrowood, Rob Heimbuch and Jack Rohde. The program has but one simple goal – to ensure that its students are prepared for employment in the automotive service industry. According to follow-up studies, this goal is being met regularly with 100% of NIACC automotive graduates employed. 8 out of the last 11 years.

"Achieving ASE certification requires a great deal of work," said Tom Hovland, NIACC Automotive Technology Advisory Board Chair. "To take it to the next level and earn the ASE Automotive Award of Excellence is unbelievable. It means NIACC has been chosen as the top program among the best of the best in the country."

for alumni and friends of North Iowa Area Community College

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