



# inTouch

for alumni and friends of North Iowa Area Community College

## Current, Former Students Recognized during 15th Annual Pathways to Success

Three accomplished alumni and a record 48 current students were honored during the 15th Annual Pathways to Success Program hosted by the NIACC Alumni Association on April 22. Approximately 220 guests attended the luncheon held in NIACC's Muse Norris Conference Center.

This annual event gives the College an opportunity to simultaneously recognize current and former students, and for an honored alumnus to share his or her "pathway to success" with the group of top graduating students.

This year's keynote speaker and outstanding alumnus was Dr. Robert W. Keith, a 1960 graduate of the College (See story on page 2). Keith, who grew up in Garner, is Professor and Director of the Division of Audiology and Vestibular Testing at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was introduced by NIACC Board member Dean Cataldo, a childhood friend from Garner.

The 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Mason City residents Helen Ristau (Class of 1940), a retired teacher of 44 years; and Ralph W.E. Decker (Class of 1954), a retired state lottery director and FBI agent.

The 48 students, each nominated by at least two NIACC faculty/staff members, were recognized for their scholarship, leadership and character.

Event sponsors included the NIACC Student Senate, Cerro Gordo County Board of Supervisors, and Hearing Associates, PC.

### Ristau, Decker Named 2005 Distinguished Alumni

Ralph Decker and Helen (Ferrier) Ristau, both of Mason City, are NIACC's 2005 Distinguished Alumni. They were recognized during the 15th Annual Pathways to Success event at the end of the school year.

Helen (Ferrier) Ristau graduated from Mason City Junior College in 1940 and earned advanced degrees from the State College of Iowa (UNI). She was a school teacher for 44 years in the Mason City area. She has authored several books and continues to be very active in the community. She and her husband of 64 years, Walter, have two

daughters, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Ralph W.E. Decker graduated from Mason City Junior College in 1954 and from the University of California following military service. He worked as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for over 20 years and spent the next decade leading the creation and/or advancement of Lottery programs across the country. He and his wife of 50 years, Janice (Bowe) Decker, also a 1954 MCJC graduate, have several grown children and eight grandchildren.



Ralph Decker '54 and Helen Ristau '40 were named NIACC's 2005 Distinguished Alumni during the 15th Annual Pathways to Success luncheon. Family and friends of both honorees were in attendance for the special occasion.

### Thankful Beyond Words

NIACC alumnus Ralph Decker stood before more than 200 people filling the Muse Norris Conference Center on April 22 and expressed how grateful he was to be there to accept his NIACC Distinguished Alumni Award. His words couldn't have been more truthful.

Two weeks before Ralph was to be honored during the Pathways to Success program, he suffered a heart attack and underwent triple bypass surgery. His friend and racquetball partner, Dan Hussey of Mason City, is credited with saving Ralph's life.



### Distinguished Alumni Nominations Sought

Did your experience at North Iowa Area Community College (or predecessor Mason City Junior College) help you achieve your dreams? Are you successful in your career and/or your life? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you could be one of our future NIACC Distinguished or Outstanding Alumni.

At the end of each academic year, the NIACC Alumni Association hosts Pathways to Success to recognize the accomplishments of our alumni and students. The Alumni Awards recognize graduates of the College who have demonstrated superior achievement of a personal, professional or civic nature who have made a difference in their communities.

The NIACC Alumni Advisory Board selects 2-3 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients each year. A single Outstanding Alumni Award is presented annually, and the honoree serves as the Pathways to Success keynote speaker.

To nominate yourself or someone you know for a Distinguished Alumni Award, just complete the nomination form at [www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm) and select the "Distinguished Alumni Nomination" link. Nominations are accepted year round, with final selections after the first of the year.

We hope your experience at NIACC has enriched your life, and we look forward to reading about your accomplishments.

### Record Number Honored as Pathways Student Leaders



A record 48 students were honored for their scholarship, leadership and character during this year's Pathways to Success luncheon. Pictured here are: Back row (l to r) Brad Poppe of Hampton; Steve Madsen of Garner; Brian Hagen of Elkader; Jerad Welter of Rockford; Nick Hoskyn of Hazleton; Brett Cooper of Mason City; Brad Bohl of Mason City; Scott Wood-Bierbrodt of Nora Springs; Josh Holmes of St. Ansgar; Tyrone Oulman of Riceville; Jason Kline of Mason City; Matt VerHelst of Mason City; Clarence Schaffner of Rock Port, MO; Mark Jensen of Osage; Kevin

Eilers of Mason City; Ashley Gerdom of Mason City; Evan Zach of Mason City; and Jessica Getchell of Forest City. Front row (l to r) Jaci Gansen of Belmond; Stacie Slinger of Grafton; Stephanie Peterson of Rudd; Katrina Boring of Rockford; Kelli Terrell of Peterson; Wylie Busch of Mason City; Shawn Hoff of Mason City; Darla Kock of Riceville; Renee Davey of Manly; Paul Krukow of Bristow; Katie Schmitt of Rudd; Sara Chambers of Marble Rock; Jacque Smith of Rockwell; Kristy Tokheim of Rudd; Missy Gold Turner of Julesburg, CO; Marie Thomes of Clear

Lake; Valerie Brayton of Sheffield; Kaley Nonnweiler of Mason City; Stephanie Schulz of St. Ansgar; Caroline Paegle-Auras Jones of Britt; and Kate Droessler of Bancroft. Not pictured: Hitomi Abe of New Hampton; Jamie Bass of Nora Springs; Angela Brodersen of Manly; Jennifer Collins of Mason City; Megan Drew of Ventura; Zachary Fett of Garner; Shane McClintock of Mason City; Morgan Shields of Britt; and Bethany Shoger of Nora Springs.

## Dr. Robert Keith Recalls Fond Memories, Shares Keys to Success

Dr. Robert Keith shared memories from his days at Mason City Junior College, some rewarding professional experiences, a few of life's lessons, and recommended keys to success during this year's Pathways to Success Program. The Garner native who makes his home in Cincinnati, Ohio as an audiologist, professor, and author, graduated from the College 45 years ago.

"When I entered MCJC, Elvis Presley was drafted into the army, Alaska and Hawaii joined the U.S. as states, and Buddy Holly, the Big Bopper and Richie Valens gave their final performance at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake," he said. "I had just returned from three years in the army and 14 months serving in peacetime Korea. Several of my classmates were ex-GIs, including three men who were to become my brothers-in-law."

Keith, who went on to earn his Ph.D. in audiology from the University of Iowa, recalled his time at Mason City Junior College with fondness. He mentioned several teachers who impacted his life, including English instructor Mrs. Pauline Hedgecock and Clifford Beem, Dean of the College.

"He (Dean Beem) was a very kind man who seemed to know all the students. He taught a course in speech communication and was helpful to me in stimulating what was to become a lifelong interest and career in communication and its disorders."

Keith acknowledged that he and his classmates had some fun between work and study. As he spoke, his PowerPoint presentation revealed an old Associated Press photo of more than 100 MCJC students - including himself - piled into a hearse.

"I had excellent learning experiences, an ideal introduction to college life, and a good background for life at the university," said Keith,

**"My experience here provided an affordable start in a long journey and left me with affection for community colleges that I see as the answer to many of this nation's education problems."**

**- Dr. Robert Keith**



*Dr. Robert Keith (right), NIACC's Outstanding Alumnus for 2005, congratulates Kaley Nonnweiler, one of 48 students honored during the Pathways to Success Program.*

summarizing his junior college days. "My experience here provided an affordable start in a long journey and left me with affection for community colleges that I see as the answer to many of this nation's education problems."

In offering advice to the students and rest of the audience, Keith suggested that continuous contributions to an effort will sometimes take you to places you never dreamed.

"If you plan your goals and work diligently you will eventually achieve them, and also if you do your continual best you will

ultimately be rewarded in ways that may surprise you," he said. "The honor of being recognized by NIACC is a supreme example of an unexpected surprise."

### Keys to Success, according to Dr. Robert Keith:

- **Never stop growing.** The most satisfied people are those who learn something new every day and are enthusiastic about something (it really doesn't matter what).
- **Travel when you can.** Learn about other cultures. You will expand your appreciation for the diversity - and the sameness - of people everywhere.
- **In life you don't get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate.** Not everyone will see things your way, so be prepared to make a good case when you are asking for something.
- **You are drinking from a well you didn't dig.** Appreciate what your parents, teachers, and others have done for you, and remember to thank them frequently.
- **Get out of your comfort zone.** Experiment with ideas, read outside your profession, talk with people of all kinds and learn about their ideas. You'll be amazed at how interesting this diverse world is.
- **Keep your sense of humor.** It can be a mean and sad world sometimes. You need to fight your cynicism with humor and hope that things will improve if you just work at it.
- **Treat your body as if it is the only one you will ever have.** Eat well and exercise when you can. The better your body feels, the better your mind will work. With luck you'll manage to keep it going for many years.
- **Balance your life.** It is not all work and not all play. Remember that family comes first, because if it works out, they will be there for you at the end. Sometimes family has to wait for you to finish a project, but when the chips are really down, they need you the most - and you need them the most.

## Summer Camp Stretches Young Minds

Sports, nature, forensics, creative writing, computers, and theatre were just some of the areas kids explored during NIACC's Mind Mania summer camp. Designed for 4th-8th graders, the camp is in its second year. Mind Mania 2005 attracted more than 150 campers, nearly double the number from a year ago.

"A lot of kids from last year came back this year, and many brought their friends," said Mary Nell Fullerton, Mind Mania coordinator. "The subjects are of interest to kids, and the camp instructors - many of whom are NIACC faculty - really know how to make learning fun. Several of our instructors are noteworthy in their field across the state."

Mind Mania runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day for a week, giving students the chance to express their minds in the morning and their

energy in the afternoon.

Campers explored all the cool things about France in "There's More to French than Fries" and to act out all sorts of situations in "Lights! Action! Improv!" Down the hall, kids learned how to build their own websites, Play Doh "business" and even rockets.

"In Rockets Rule, we got to make our own rockets and shoot them off on the NIACC soccer field," said camper Taylor Greimann, 11, from Sheffield, who participated with her younger brother. "In Birdies, Bogies and Eagles, we practiced driving and putting and went to the Pine Creek Golf Course. We had a lot of fun during the week!"

For more information, call 641-422-4332 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4332.



*Hands-on activities made learning math fun during "It All Adds Up!", one of the many sessions offered during Mind Mania 2005.*



*Over 150 campers - almost twice that from one year ago - participated in Mind Mania at NIACC this summer.*

## North Iowa Business Accelerator Launches Efforts for High-Growth Potential Companies

North Iowa Area Community College's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) is off and running with the launch of the new North Iowa Business Accelerator, designed to target high-growth potential companies that embrace innovation, creativity and have a desire to grow.

This pro-active performance driven program seeks to help high-growth potential companies help themselves. From small stage to mid-size companies, NIACC's JPEC expects to visit 100 companies in the next 12 months throughout North Iowa, including areas serviced by Northeast Iowa Community College and Iowa Lakes Community College. This collaborative effort includes input from the economic developers throughout the region, Iowa Department of Economic Development and a new North Iowa Accelerator Advisory Team.

"We are excited about what this new program can mean to the industries and people who choose to live and grow here," said Pam Bishop, Director of Regional Business Development Services for NIACC's JPEC. "By expanding the known availability of expertise in our area, we can collectively continue to create a culture that embraces the innovative spirit."

For more information, call 641-422-4191 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4191.

## Backlin's Music Research Recognized

Bill Backlin, NIACC piano studies, music theory, and music history instructor, was honored during the National Convention on Keyboard Pedagogy as the Outstanding Research winner for his presentation, "The effects of altering environmental context on the performance of memorized music." Backlin presented his thesis findings with the University of Northern Iowa's Dr. Jennifer Mishra. His research dealt specifically with piano memorization. The convention drew people from the United States as well as Israel, Egypt, England, Canada, Russia, and Mexico.



## NIACC Foundation Website Offers Wealth of Information

Visit [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation) today!

Do you have questions about estate planning? Planned giving? Wills? Each month, the NIACC Foundation website features new articles and interactive features that cover such topics. If you're considering making some type of charitable donation, make a plan and consider all the possibilities, including the needs of NIACC, income tax deductions, and appropriate assets. And don't forget to take a peek at the free brochures that we offer. To find out more, visit [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation) and select "Planned Giving" in the box on the left.

## Haven't joined the NIACC Alumni Association yet?

It's easy - visit [www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm) and choose "Alumni Association" to learn how!



## North Iowa Venture Capital Fund Assists Local Software Company, Attracts Another

The North Iowa Venture Capital Fund (NIVCF), a community-based venture capital fund organized by NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center two years ago, is having an impact on the local business climate. Two recent examples are the expansion of Creative Solutions of Sheffield and the decision of Intradyn, Inc., headquartered in the Twin Cities, to locate a facility in Mason City.

The NIVCF, which is owned by 61 investors from 15 local communities, has received over 80 opportunities to invest in companies in Iowa and elsewhere. To date over \$800,000 has been invested in five Iowa companies with over half of that in companies in North Iowa.

"While the primary goal of the NIVCF is a return on their investment, its secondary goal is to spur economic development in the region through investment in start up or expanding business," Bob Lembke, President of the NIVCF, said. "There is no requirement for investment that a company be located in North Iowa, but certainly that can be a factor in the investment decision and the amount."

Lemke said the investment in Creative Solutions Unlimited, Inc. (CSU) of Franklin County represents the single largest investment by the NIVCF to date.

CSU was founded in 1988 by President and CEO Kathryn Alden as a software development firm specializing in long-term healthcare. The company has installed its healthcare software at approximately 300 sites across 14 states and maintains a market share of over 50% of the long-term care facilities in its home state of Iowa. CSU is deploying its new generation of integrated clinical and financial healthcare software in 2005, and anticipates doubling its national client base. Complementary products and services including continuing education and web application development also contribute to revenue growth.

"We have survived in a highly competitive environment in which over 80% of our national competition is no longer in business," said Alden. "The NIVCF investment in CSU allows us to create the positions we need to execute the five-year strategic plan we designed to take the company to the next level."

CSU will expand from 19 full-time employees in 2004 to 40 by the end of 2006. "We are fortunate to be in North Iowa where we have found talented and dedicated people who contribute to our success," she adds. "CSU is unique in the healthcare software business for many reasons, and we take great pride in the positive impact we have on the nursing home industry, especially here in Iowa."

The North Iowa Venture Capital Fund also attracted the attention of Intradyn, Inc., a technology firm based in

**"Identifying a future problem, predicting a market, crafting a solution, positioning to be a leader in that market and most of all, seeing it all come together as you imagined."**

**- Gary Doan, Intradyn founder and CEO, on the rewards of entrepreneurship**

Eagan, MN, which is expanding to North Iowa. It is believed to be the first time that a company has been attracted to a community in Iowa through the use of the new community-based venture capital funds that have begun springing up around the state.

Intradyn's facility in Mason City is expected to result in 60 jobs over three years.

The software firm, founded in 2001, develops data protection and preservation appliances and software solutions, offering enterprise-class functionality at prices affordable to small and mid-sized businesses. Its products are designed to address two of the key issues facing smaller businesses today: IT complexity and affordability.

Intradyn introduced the RocketVault™ Backup & Archiving Appliance in July 2003, and later that year won a "Best of the Tests" award from Network World magazine. The company's other products include the BackAgain™ family of data protection software for Windows environments, and the ComplianceVault™ Email Archiving & Retrieval Appliance, which helps companies affordably comply with such rules as the SEC's email retention and availability regulations. The company sells its products both in the U.S. and internationally through a growing network of resellers and partners.

Industry research firms expect the email archiving market to grow from \$500 million dollars this year to \$4.5 billion dollars in 2009 and the data protection market to grow to roughly twice that size.

Gary Doan, Intradyn founder and CEO, said the number one struggle for startup and developing companies is funding. "Anticipating a need for our solution, the development of the technology, early market positioning and development require more time than money, but creating demand and scaling the infrastructure of the company require significant amounts of money," he said. "The NIVCF investment, coupled with investment from our other fund and private investors, allow us to effectively build the company."

Intradyn's economic development package is the result of a cooperative effort by the Mason City Economic Development Council, NIACC, the John Pappajohn Business and Entrepreneurial Center, and the NIVCF.

"I think northern Iowa has done an extremely good job of assembling the key components to help entrepreneurs and their dreams to become a reality," said Doan. "Successful economic development requires the availability of a combination of key components that include good local educational institutions, a well-trained workforce with a good work ethic, and development capital. Northern Iowa has all of the components and the foresight to plant the seeds that will foster future economic growth."

Applications for funding through the North Iowa Ventura Capital Fund are available by visiting [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn) or calling NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center at 641-422-4111.

**The North Iowa Venture Capital Fund (NIVCF), owned by 61 investors from 15 local communities and administered by NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, has invested over \$800,000 in five Iowa companies, including two in North Iowa.**

## Leadership Iowa

Entrepreneurship was the topic of conversation during the Leadership Iowa session last spring which brought over 40 leaders from across Iowa to Mason City. Tim Putnam, Associate Director of NIACC's Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and a 2004 Leadership Iowa graduate, coordinated the visit.

The first day included a panel of entrepreneurs, a presentation on creating an E-Community, a venture capital panel, and an investment road show, highlighted by a lunch with John Pappajohn at the MacNider Art Museum. Following an evening reception with North Iowa business leaders and Leadership Iowa alumni, the class spent the

final day at First Citizens National Bank, where they learned about entrepreneurial support systems and entrepreneurship education at the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers statewide.

Each year Leadership Iowa selects dynamic individuals who seek not only to know Iowa better, but also to serve the state and their community in positions of responsibility. The group meets monthly at various places around the state from October through June. The Leadership Iowa program is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation.

## Youth Entrepreneurial Academy Teaches Students to Think “Outside the Box”

Sixteen high school students from across the region participated in the Youth Entrepreneurial Academy hosted by the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center during a week this summer.

The academy, which is in its eighth year, gives students an opportunity to apply their skills and creativity, understand critical thinking skills, and consider being a ‘job creator’ instead of a ‘job taker’.

Juniors and seniors are invited to participate through their high school guidance counselors, and participants are selected through an application and interview process.

Participating this year were: Dana Dzick (Clear Lake High School), Philip Biermann and Stephen Biermann (Forest City Christian School), Kevin Juhl and Raquel Schoneman (Garner-Hayfield High School), Jessica Peterson and Cassandra Street (Lake Mills High School),

Alan Kading and Gary Slocum (Mason City High School), Joe Burke, Christine Harms, and Jonathan Sheller (Mason City Newman Catholic High School), Alyssa Bradbury (Nora Springs-Rock Falls High School), Curtis Younker (Osage High School), and April Donahue and Luke Farlinger (St. Ansgar High School).

“I thought it was really a great experience,” said student Alan Kading of Mason City, who runs his own lawn mowing services business besides working at Hy-Vee. “We had such a great group of people, and it really taught me to look at things differently and think creatively.”

Kading, who is currently attending NIACC, said this point was demonstrated by presenter David Williamson who took a simple hinge and came up with 25 different things it could represent.

Jessica Peterson, from Lake Mills, who is majoring in graphic design at NIACC, said her favorite part of camp was

**“The camp made me feel like running my own business could be a reality some day.”**

**-Jessica Peterson, Lake Mills**

**“We had such a great group of people, and it really taught me to look at things differently and think creatively.”**

**-Alan Kading, Mason City**

hearing first-hand stories from Pat Galasso, who runs Ge-Jo’s in Clear Lake. “I never realized how difficult (running a business) could be, but how rewarding it is,” said Peterson. “The camp made me feel like running my own business could be a reality some day.”

Besides Galasso, instructors for the week included Joel Rogers, Mortgage Officer for The Loan and Mortgage Network, and Tim Putnam, Associate Director of the NIACC Pappajohn Center. Dan Long and Michele Lee, Mason City High School instructors, served as camp counselors.

Sponsors for the 2005 Academy included the NIACC Pappajohn Center and the John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation.



## Bright Math Students Compete at NIACC

The Great Plains Math League contest, hosted on campus earlier this year, brought 72 of the best high school math students from nine different schools to NIACC. The contest aims to highlight the numerical skills of high school students statewide. The event is one of a series of math competitions at various locations every year.

Participating schools included Algona Bishop Garrigan, Ames, Cedar Rapids Jefferson, Decorah, Iowa Falls, Mason City, Osage, St. Ansgar, and Waverly-Shell Rock.

## NIACC Sets Another Enrollment Record

Enrollment at NIACC climbed to 3,133 students this fall, breaking the 3,004 enrollment record set one year ago. This new figure is based on NIACC’s 14th day enrollment headcount, which subtracts withdrawals and cancellations that occurred during the first 14 days of school. It reflects the number of students currently enrolled in credit programs and does not include the thousands of students who enroll in non-credit Continuing Education and workforce training opportunities offered by NIACC throughout the year.

## Send Us Your E-Mail Address Today!

The College sends its alumni and friends periodic updates electronically, and we need your e-mail address to include you. Simply contact Sandy at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4386 or trogesan@niacc.edu to provide your e-mail address and name.



## Baseball Team Wins Conference Title

The NIACC Trojans Baseball Team captured their first Iowa Community College Athletic Conference title this year. They finished the season 39-15, the fourth season under Coach Todd Rima, which marks three consecutive seasons with 30+ wins. Nine players received All-Region honors, with four making the First Team.



## NIACC Singers Finish Year with Cruise to Mexico

The NIACC Singers performed at Disneyland and during a Carnival Cruise to Mexico following the vocal music department’s 30th annual production of Quodlibet. Their beautifully choreographed performances featured the music from the new legends of Broadway, Stephen Sondheim, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. The NIACC Singers are directed by Jayson Ryner.



## NIACC Hosts Midwest Environmental Educators

Environmental educators from across the Midwest gathered recently on the NIACC campus for "The Winds of Change," the 2005 Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC) hosted by NIACC and the Iowa Conservation Education Council. The annual event had not been held in Iowa for nearly a decade.

The conference agenda was packed full of interesting and inspirational presentations, pertinent field trips, savory homegrown food, and lively entertainment. NIACC experienced an enthusiastic turnout of naturalists, camp directors, classroom teachers, natural resource managers and others dedicated to environmental improvement, according to Carol Schutte, NIACC Biology

instructor and MEEC event organizer.

"This was a grand reunion for some and a great new 'first' for others as we joined in dedication to our common goal," Schutte said. "Besides the kudos for the programming, we received many glowing comments about our NIACC facilities and staff."

A REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant helped cover the attendance cost for Iowa pre-service and in-service teachers. The event was also supported by the Iowa DOT Living Roadways Trust Fund, Alliant Energy Foundation, NIACC Foundation, and Mason City Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Environmental educators soak up the spectacular scenery of Iowa's bluff country as they make their way along the Upper Iowa River. The excursion, one of nine Midwest Environmental Education Conference field trips, was led by Nate Hoogeveen, expert canoeist and author of *Paddling Iowa*.

## NIACC Library Receives Wild Earth Collection

The NIACC library has been selected as one of the Iowa repositories for the Wild Earth Collection, the journal of the Wildlands' Project [www.wildlandsproject.org](http://www.wildlandsproject.org) which served as a forum for inspirational and informative discussion related to the environment, wilderness, and conservation. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Agrestal Fund is making the preservation possible after the publication's 14-year run.

## State Funding Not Keeping Pace with Rising Enrollments at Iowa's Community Colleges

The most recent Iowa legislative session produced an additional \$9.8 million in state funding for the Community Colleges of Iowa, but the increase does not keep pace with growing enrollments at the 15 schools across the state.

Last fall, 81,803 students were enrolled in credit programs at Iowa's Community Colleges. Another 500,000+ enrollments were recorded through continuing education and workforce training at the schools.

"Though the defeat of the property tax relief and aid to Community Colleges last session was a disappointment, the increase in state general aid was a step in the right direction," said Colin Robinson, President of the NIACC Board of Directors. "We're certainly making some gains, but we still have a long way to go to secure a long-term solution to our budget and equity challenges."

According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, Iowa Community Colleges received just over \$2,000 per student in FY90 as compared to the 2005 estimated funding of \$1,809 per student. That falls well below the per-student funding of \$10,039 for the state universities and \$2,936 per-student funding for Iowa's private colleges and universities.

## NIACC Soccer Academy Partners with Italian Club

The North Iowa Area Community College Soccer Academy has announced its affiliation with A.C. Perugia, an Italian soccer club recognized as a leader in the development of its youth players in Europe.

"It's an honor to be selected to join the international network of Perugia's soccer schools," said Colin Murphy, Head Men's Soccer Coach and Technical Director of the NIACC Soccer Academy. "We're confident our affiliation with the club will establish the new academy as a first-rate, year-round center for player and coaching development in North Iowa."

A.C. Perugia will provide NIACC with training curriculum and technical assistance from its coaching staff, and NIACC will help develop local players who may be invited to continue their training with Perugia's youth programs in Italy.

The affiliation provides opportunities for the NIACC Soccer Academy to host player camps and coaching clinics to be conducted by Perugia's coaches and for academy teams to participate in international tournaments.

The NIACC Soccer Academy will be offering outdoor clinics beginning this fall and indoor sessions throughout the winter. For more information, call the NIACC Athletic Department at 641-422-4344 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4344.



## ABE Classes Offered Throughout North Iowa

North Iowa Area Community College offers free Adult Basic Education classes in many North Iowa locations, including classes for General Education Development (GED) and English as a Second Language classes (ESL).

These classes help students take the first step to a better paying job, higher education and more opportunities. NIACC serves students in a variety of ways such as assistance in improving English language skills, brushing up on skills that have been forgotten or neglected, or learning new skills that will help students earn their GED.

Adults who are seeking a high school education or equivalent need to know that graduation is not an impossible dream, but a realistic goal. For more information, call 641-422-4362 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4362.

## More Than 80 Receive GED

North Iowa Area Community College recognized more than 80 individuals this year during the annual General Education Diploma (GED) graduation ceremony on the NIACC campus. The graduates have successfully completed the GED battery of tests and obtained their high school equivalency diploma from the Iowa Department of Public Instruction. Over the past two decades, nearly 2,400 individuals have passed the GED tests through North Iowa Area Community College.

## Adults Take Advantage of Free Class

Droves of adult students are attending NIACC this fall. Well over 100 were enticed to return to school through NIACC's latest tuition-reduction incentive, College 101.

The promotion offered a free 3-credit-hour course during fall term to those attending one of the College 101 sessions this summer. College 101 provided an opportunity to learn what it's like to be an adult taking college courses. It was extended to individuals at least 23 years old who had not taken a NIACC credit class in the last three years.

The College 101 incentive is the latest twist to the tuition-reduction promotions initiated by the College in 1997 to help adults explore the option of returning to school to refresh or enhance their skills.

For more information about returning to school as an adult, call Pam at 641-422-4258 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4258.



## Over 650 Graduate from NIACC

Graduating students celebrated with family and friends during the NIACC Alumni Association's annual Graduation Reception, which was catered by NIACC Food Service and featured a beautiful (and delicious!) chocolate fountain. NIACC's Class of 2005 includes 655 students representing 5 countries, 11 states, and 103 communities across Iowa.



## Student Honors

### Student Athletes of the Year

NIACC basketball player Kelli Terrell of Peterson, IA, and NIACC baseball player Nick Hoskyn of Oelwein, IA, were named NIACC Student Athletes of the Year during commencement exercises on May 6. The award goes annually to two graduating students who have made a significant impact in the classroom, on the playing field, and in the community.

### Outstanding Math Students

Hitomi Abe and Jason Kline were named Outstanding Sophomore Students for 2005 by NIACC's Math/Engineering Division. Originally from Japan and a graduate of New Hampton High School, Abe is continuing her biology studies at the University of Utah before attending medical school. Kline, who is from Mason City, plans to teach secondary mathematics and is continuing his education at Iowa State University.

Selection of the students is based on their grade point average and participation in mathematics and engineering classes. The department has selected outstanding students since 1990.

### Scholarship Winner

Joshua Bryant, a student in NIACC's Climate Control program, has received a scholarship from the North Iowa Builders Exchange. He was selected based on his program of study, school and community activities, special honors and awards, and career plans. Once he completes his education at NIACC, he plans to start his own business.

"My grandpa owns his own business, so I thought I'd try owning my own business, too," he said. "Everything we've done in class at NIACC has really helped me prepare for that."

### 90% of Medical Assistant Grads Pass Certification Exam

Ninety percent of NIACC's Medical Assistant graduates from a year ago have passed the Certified Medical Assistant Examination of the American Association of Medical Assistants. Passing this exam gives successful candidates the title of Certified Medical Assistant. Eligible candidates must be graduates from accredited programs of study. NIACC's Medical Assistant program is a one-year program, which has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs since 1999.

### 57 NIACC Students Inducted into Phi Theta Kappa

Fifty-seven NIACC students were recently inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an international honor society that recognizes the academic accomplishments of students attending two-year colleges. Inductees of NIACC's PTK chapter must have a 3.5 GPA after completing 24 semester hours at NIACC and be enrolled in at least three semester hours of classes. 2005 inductees include: Paul Krukow of Bristow; Eric Cox of Britt; Arcon Concepcion, Kristin Eckenrod, Lucas Pogemiller, and Heather Schilling, all of Charles City; William Clapsaddle, Kara Meints, and Pamela Taylor of Clear Lake; Alexandria Snowden of Elma; Blaise Nagy of Forest City; Zachary Fett and Lisa Millard of Garner; Amy Ohden of Grafton; Stephanie Janssen and Michele Kirschbaum of Hampton; Alexis Hennigar, Kenneth Kunz, Sara Marken of Manly; Stacy Allen, Katjalee Beach, Wylie Busch, Jarod Deverell, Jodie Dirksen, Joshua Duitscher, Amanda Eldridge, Nathan Evers, Matthew Foy, Ashley Gerdom, Mary Hellweg-Herdliiska, Yolanda Hernandez, Shawn Hoff, Ryan Isaacson, Kyle Mussman, Morgan Quigley, Lori Smith, Amanda Spieker, Kathryn True Vaughn, Susan VanLaere, and Evan Zach, all of Mason City; Hitomi Abe of New Hampton; Jamie Bass, Lisa Campbell, and Scott Wood-Bierbrodt of Nora Springs; Chad Faas, Renae Kroneman, and Chad

Wendt of Osage; Jared Barnes of Plymouth; Brenda Reyerson of Rockford; Todd Caspers, Samantha Donisi, and Jacque Smith of Rockwell; Stephanie Schulz and Wendy Wrage of St. Ansgar; Megan Drew of Ventura; and Missy Turner Gold of Julesburg, CO.

### Athletes Honored for Academics

Nearly 40 NIACC student-athletes from five spring sports have been recognized by the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference for their outstanding achievements in the classroom. Three athletes were named Academic All-Americans by the NJCAA.

#### First Team Academic All-Region

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Sport(s)</u>
Bobby Anderson	Forest City, IA	Men's Basketball
Phil Culham	Mason City, IA	Golf
Beau Ellingson	Dyersville, IA	Baseball
Debra Hamilton	Latimer, IA	Softball
Justin Johnson	Mason City, IA	Baseball
Jeff Keen	Marshalltown, IA	Men's Basketball
Tommy Mousel	Sioux City, IA	Baseball
Joe Nelson	Mason City, IA	Baseball
Danny Reed	Lindstrom, MN	Baseball
David Reese	Forest City, IA	Men's Basketball, Golf
Jesse Seykora	Owatonna, MN	Baseball
Morgan Shields	Britt, IA	Softball
Bethany Shoger	Nora Springs, IA	Softball

#### Second Team Academic All-Region

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Sport(s)</u>
Angela Brodersen	Manly, IA	Softball
Nick Brummond	Lansing, IA	Baseball
Patricia Connors	Bode, IA	Softball
Brett Cooper	Mason City, IA	Baseball
Abbee Dickman	Thornton, IA	Women's Basketball, Softball
Andy Folkers	Alta Vista, IA	Baseball
Ben Gieseke	Boscobel, WI	Baseball
Ashley Grubb	Everly, IA	Softball
Katherine Hansen	Rockwell, IA	Softball
Nick Hoskyn	Hazelton, IA	Baseball
Tony Jansen	Rudd, IA	Baseball
Russell Jensen	Mason City, IA	Golf
Stacy Jensen	Mitchell, IA	Softball
Marcus Lunning	Mason City, IA	Baseball
Chris Meyer	Belmond, IA	Men's Basketball
Katie Meyer	Belmond, IA	Women's Basketball
Casey Nevill	Garner, IA	Baseball
Matt O'Brien	Winona, MN	Baseball
Chris Palmer	Dyersville, IA	Baseball
Justin Redman-Trotter	Hales Corners, WI	Men's Basketball
Janae Scott	Central City, IA	Softball
Courtney Sellon	Mason City, IA	Softball
Kelli Terrell	Peterson, IA	Women's Basketball
Brock Watson	Mason City, IA	Golf
Ben Zitelman	Dyersville, IA	Baseball

#### Academic All-Americans

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Sport(s)</u>
Stacy Allen	Mason City, IA	Cross Country
Brad Bohl	Mason City, IA	Football
David Reese	Forest City, IA	Men's Basketball, Golf

## Urich Joins Alumni Board

Bambi L. Urich of Garner has joined the NIACC Alumni Advisory Board. She graduated with honors from North Iowa Area Community College in 1996 and received her B.A. in Human Services and Client Centered Services from Buena Vista University in 2000, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She is currently the Outreach and Family Development Program Coordinator for the North Iowa Community Action Organization in Mason City.

Her memberships include the Iowa Family Development Alliance and the Iowa Community Action Association, and she provides practicum placement and supervision for Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa. She also serves on the Garner United Methodist Church (UMC) Staff Pastor Parish Relations committee, the UMC Crisis Management Team, and the local food bank board of directors.

She and her husband, Bernie, have three sons – Tyler, Trevor and Tanner. The NIACC Alumni Association, established in 1991, supports the annual Pathways to Success program and graduation reception along with student scholarships, the Intouch newsletter, and other alumni activities. Membership is open to graduates and others who have benefited from the programs and services at the College. For more information, call 1-888-GO NIACC or visit [www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.htm).



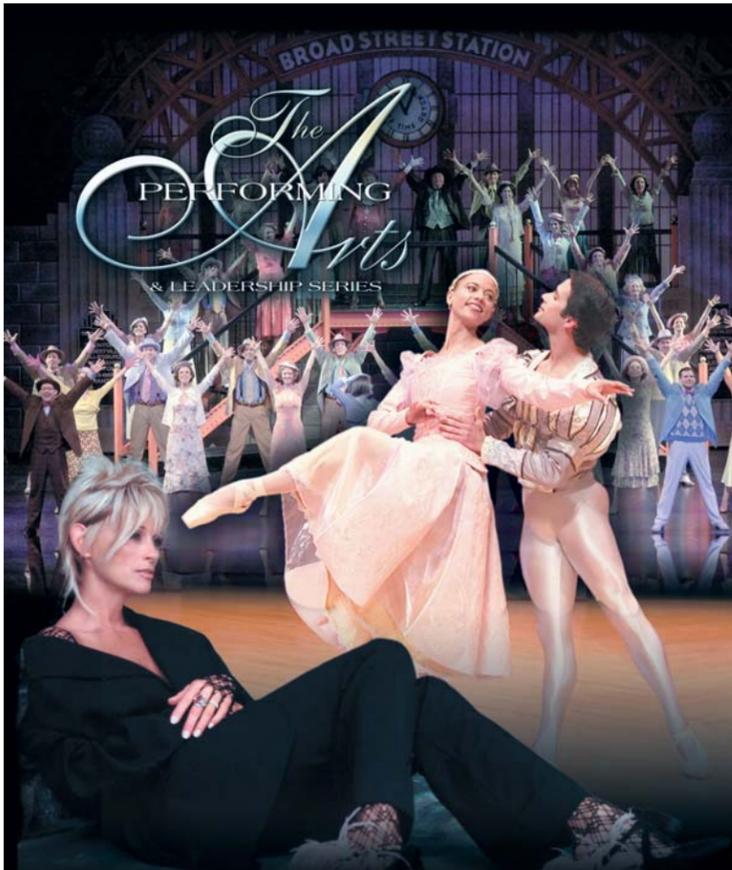
Bambi L. Urich



### NIACC Golf Outing Welcomes Pro Ball Player

Professional basketball player Raef LaFrentz, of the Boston Celtics, took to the green for the 3rd annual NIACC Athletics Golf Outing held August 1st at the Mason City Country Club. An All-American at the University of Kansas, LaFrentz has also played for the Dallas Mavericks and the Denver Nuggets during his professional career. Proceeds from the annual 4-person best shot tournament support NIACC athletic scholarships.

(Photo courtesy of the Globe Gazette)



**PERFORMING ARTS SERIES...**

Jose Porcel -  
Ballet Flamenco  
October 5

Dave Wickerham  
October 9

Lorrie Morgan  
October 15

Berenstain Bears  
October 23

Blast!  
November 1

Lorie Line  
November 11-13

Candlelight Christmas  
Festival  
December 8-9

The Nutcracker  
December 18

Jazz Festival - Five Play  
January 21

42nd Street  
January 26

Clifford The Big Red  
Dog Live!  
February 14

Leahy  
February 25

The Will Rogers Follies  
March 9

The Sound of Romance -  
The Association and The  
Lettermen  
March 18

Cinderella  
April 8

Harlem Gospel Choir  
April 29

**LEADERSHIP SERIES...**

Morgan Spurlock  
Supersize Me!  
October 27

Paul Rusesabagina -  
Hotel Rwanda Real  
Life Hero  
February 22

Bill Capodagli  
#1 Speaker on Walt  
Disney's Success Credo  
April 6

The entertainment lineup offers something for everyone including cultural dancing, award-winning musicals, and holiday events for the entire family! All events will be held in the newly-renovated North Iowa Community Auditorium on the NIACC campus. For tickets call the NIACC Box Office at 641-422-4188 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4188. To find out more about each show, visit [www.niacc.edu](http://www.niacc.edu)

**Auditorium Grand Reopening Concert**

The public is invited to help celebrate the newly-renovated North Iowa Community Auditorium during a Grand Reopening Concert at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11. The event will include performances by the NIACC Concert Chorus, North Iowa Choral Society, and North Iowa Concert Band. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. The million dollar improvement project, made possible through private gifts, features an elaborate fly system for sets, new dressing rooms, and a full-stage sound shell along with other acoustical enhancements.

**Service Learning Project Moving Full Steam Ahead**

Children in the town of Bolan, Iowa, have a beautiful wooden train to play on at the park. The "Bolan Express," designed and built by Gregg Helmich and his students at Forest City High School, was donated to the park following NIACC's fifth annual Design-Build Playhouse/Service Learning project. The locomotive received the "Most Inventive Craftsmanship" award during the competition, which is sponsored by the Contractors' Advisory Association (CAA) of North Iowa Area Community College's Building Trades Program.

Nine area high schools participated in the project this year. Guidelines are provided to the teams, who take into consideration the safety of small children in their design and construction. Each school receives \$350 from the CAA to help with building costs and selects the non-profit recipient of their playhouse or other structure. Students typically work on the project between February and May. The finished creations are transported to the NIACC campus where a team of architects and CAA members complete the judging.

**Categories and winners for 2005:**

- Most Creative Decoration: Belmond-Klemme High School
- Most Complex Roof: Charles City High School
- Best View Design: Mason City High School
- Best Workmanship: Lake Mills High School
- Authentic Architectural Style: Rockford Senior High School
- Most Resourceful: North Iowa High School
- Most Inventive Craftsmanship: Forest City High School
- Most Useful: St. Ansgar High School
- Most Durable: West Hancock High School

NIACC Building Trades instructor Andy Wermes is pleased with the project's success. "We want to continue to encourage high schools to build their construction programs and engage their students in service learning activities," he said.



**Lauer, Schmaltz Receive Excellence in Teaching Award**

NIACC faculty members Greg Lauer and John Schmaltz received NIACC's "Excellence in Teaching" Award for 2005. Instructors are nominated by graduating NIACC students. One Arts & Science instructor and one Career & Technical instructor is honored each year.

Lauer, representing the Career and Technical side, is an accounting instructor and leads NIACC's accounting program of study. He joined the NIACC faculty full-time in 1999, after serving as an adjunct instructor for over 10 years.

"Mr. Lauer has prepared me, not only academically, but socially and professionally, for my future," shared one student. "His teaching techniques, strong convictions and morals, and positive attitude weigh greatly on his teaching abilities."

Another student had this to say. "Not only does Mr. Lauer have incredible knowledge, but he knows how to share it with his students in a way that is easily understood and interpreted. He honestly cares for the students, and he took the time to not only know the name of every student, but made it a point to acknowledge each and every one at least once each day."

Schmaltz, representing the Arts and Science side, teaches Political Science and American History and chairs the Humanities and Social Science divisions at the College. He has taught for 30 years including 17 years at NIACC.

"Beginning with the first day of class with Mr. Schmaltz, I was totally enthused and eager to learn more. He is a great teacher, and his knowledge and enthusiasm are fantastic," said one of his students.

"I think it takes a wonderful teacher to change a person from disliking a subject to really enjoying it," said another. "He takes great pride in helping his students understand the material and in helping his students succeed."

NIACC's Excellence in Teaching Award was bestowed for the first time last year. Initial recipients were Gary Christiansen, Business Division instructor and chairperson, and Helen Karamitros, Sociology instructor.



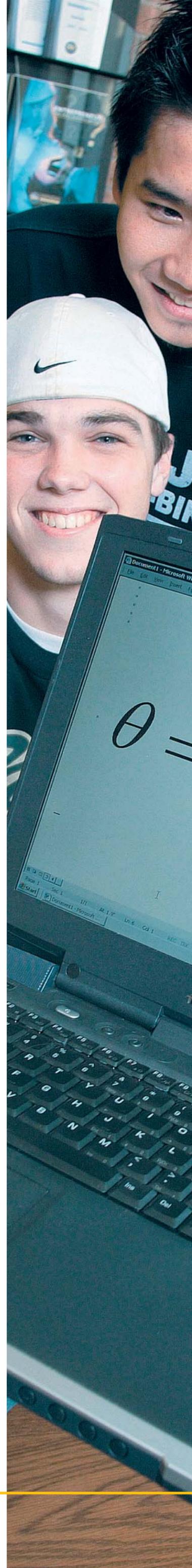
Greg Lauer



John Schmaltz

**Common characteristics noted by students about the honorees:**

- Knowledgeable
- Organized
- Passionate
- Interesting
- Personable
- Caring
- Motivating





## Regional Laborshed, Cluster Analysis Studies are Tools for Economic Development

North Iowa's key economic development stakeholders came together this year to conduct two studies which will serve as important economic development tools for the region. The regional Laborshed and regional Industry Cluster Analysis were completed by NIACC and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) in cooperation with 11 economic development groups across North Iowa.

The regional analysis provides insight into the overall industry makeup within the North Central Iowa regional commuting area and how the availability and characteristics of workers within the area can affect industry growth.

"The significance of these two studies is found in both the content derived from the analyses and, perhaps more importantly, the willingness of economic development organizations to work together on a regional basis to advance our prospects for a better quality of life," said Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC President. "Hats off to our economic development and business partners for working together for a common goal. Working together is working smarter."

The Laborshed study shows that 82.6 percent of people in the region are employed, 5.9 percent are unemployed, 5.9 percent are homemakers and 5.6 percent are retired. Of the homemakers, 33.1 percent are willing to re-enter the workforce. Of the retirees, 15 percent are willing to re-enter the workforce.

The study also shows that 56.7 percent of individuals in the region would be interested in operating their own business, and 62.3 percent of people in the area have some education/training beyond high school.

"By performing Laborshed studies through a regional effort, communities are able to share in the expense associated with the studies (economy of scale). The North Central Iowa regional study is comprised of 2,409 surveys which gives the region a wealth of information when it comes to identifying the strengths of the labor force," Paula Nissen, IWD project manager, said.

The Industry Cluster Analysis suggests that North Iowa should focus economic recruitment, retention, and growth efforts on five core industry clusters: motor driven products, heavy machinery manufacturing, construction materials, chemical production, and plastics manufacturing.

"This study helps reveal some underlying strengths in the North Central Iowa regional economy and gives developers more opportunities to support key existing industries," Jeff Nall, IWD Policy and Information Division administrator, said. "The information can also be used to focus business recruitment and other efforts, including education and training, where they'll do the most good."

The Laborshed and Cluster Analysis studies for North Central Iowa were sponsored in partnership with Alliant Energy, Butler County REC, Iowa Telecom, Iowa Workforce Development, MidAmerican Energy, NIACC, and Prairie Energy Cooperative on behalf of the cities of Britt and Garner.

### Economic Development Partners:

- Charles City Area Development Corporation
- Clear Lake Economic Development Corporation
- Forest City Economic Development
- Franklin County Development Association
- Hancock County Development
- Lake Mills Chamber Development Corporation
- Mason City Economic Development Corporation
- Mitchell County Economic Development Committee
- New Hampton Economic Development Corporation
- Winn-Worth Betco
- Wright County Development Corporation

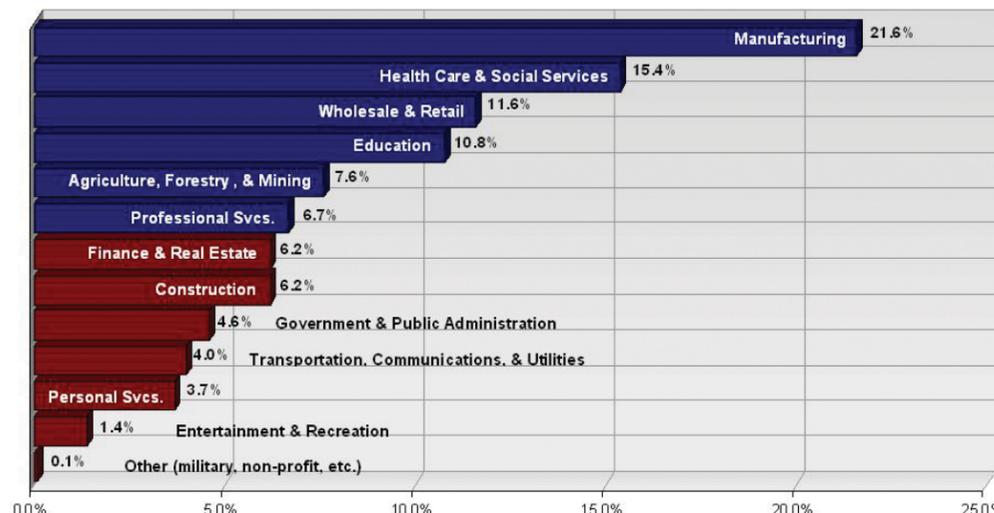
### 11 New Initiatives for Economic Growth:

- Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center
- North Central Iowa Growth Partnership
- Laborshed Analysis
- Industry Cluster Analysis
- North Iowa Accelerator
- Business Incubator
- North Iowa Venture Capital Fund
- North Iowa Growth Marketing Partnership
- More Aggressive Job Training Programs (260 E & F)
- Regional Economic Development
- Lean Programs

### North Iowa Regional Commuting Area



### North Iowa Employment by Industry



## Golfers Compete at Nationals

Three NIACC golfers – Tara Hansmeier and David Reese, both of Forest City, and Amanda Mujica of Mason City – qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Championships earlier this year.

Hansmeier and Mujica placed fourth and fifth, respectively, in the conference tournament which advanced them to the 2005 NJCAA Women's Golf Championships in Daytona Beach, FL. They are believed to be the first female golfers from NIACC to qualify for nationals.

This was Reese's second straight year to qualify for the NJCAA National Championships. The 2005 tournament was held at the prestigious Goose Pond Colony Golf Course in Scottsboro, AL.

The NIACC Golf Team is coached by Jennifer Currier.

## eBay is Focus of Wired Differently for Women Day

Buying and selling on eBay was the focus of NIACC's 3rd annual information technology day attended by over 50 North Iowa women. The main presenter during "Wired Differently for Women" was Monica Doyle, who has been teaching people how to sell on eBay for over five years. As an eBay Education Specialist trained by eBay and the principal of her own eBay consulting business, Just Show Me How ([www.justshowmehow.com](http://www.justshowmehow.com)), Doyle's passion is now her career. Participants also heard from Barb Lovick, an area collector who utilizes eBay regularly, and learned firsthand how to buy and sell collectibles on eBay. Those in attendance also received a free t-shirt, enjoyed a free pork loin dinner, and were eligible for prize drawings.

## Local Entrepreneurs Learn Marketing Warfare

More than 50 North Iowa entrepreneurs gathered on a summer's night at NIACC for the latest Entrepreneurs' Exchange which focused on marketing techniques. Guests heard from Maureen Collins-Williams, Director of the University of Northern Iowa Regional Business Center in Waterloo, and received a free copy of the book *Marketing Warfare*, by Al Ries and Jack Trout.

Entrepreneurs' Exchanges have been hosted by NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) quarterly over the past year and have experienced increased success and interest with each event. The exchanges focus on a specific aspect of entrepreneurial businesses and feature an expert speaker on the targeted topic, while also creating an opportunity for area entrepreneurs to network and share ideas.

The next Entrepreneurs' Exchange will take place on October 18, with a presentation from a nationally acclaimed business research organization in St. Paul, MN, that will demonstrate usage of sophisticated databases and resources for business and market research.

For more information, call 641-422-4342 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4342.

## American Idol Hopefuls

North Iowa Area Community College was host to talented young people for the "Fox47 Idol" contest on August 23. Jayson Ryner, NIACC Vocal Music Director, was one of the judges. Four winners moved onto Rochester, MN, with the winner there receiving a guaranteed audition in Chicago for the hit TV show "American Idol."



## Dinner, Entertainment Highlight NIACC's Night to Shine

Friends of NIACC congregated the last day of April for fun, food and festivities during "NIACC's Night to Shine" hosted by the NIACC Foundation. The beautifully-decorated Activity Center on campus proved to be a perfect setting for the black-tie affair, which featured a variety of entertaining activities throughout the evening. Highlights included casino games during the social hour and a performance by the NIACC Singers. The delicious filet mignon dinner, prepared by NIACC Food Service and served by NIACC students, was followed by a live auction and music from the Mason City Big Band. The capstone came when three friends of the College received the prestigious NIACC Shining Star Award (see related story on this page).



Mary Pat Cole attempts to win \$10,000 by rolling N-I-A-C-C during the dice game.



Friends of NIACC filled the NIACC Activity Center for the engagement.



Chefs Ken Webber (left foreground) and Steve Metz give instructions to the students preparing to serve the gourmet dinner.



Trish Hoffman, Marti Rodamaker, and NIACC Foundation Board Member Rosie Hussey enjoy a moment together during the evening.



The NIACC Singers entertain guests before dinner.

## NIACC Shining Stars Recognized

Three NIACC Shining Star Awards were presented during the NIACC's Night to Shine celebration in the spring. The honorees included the late Bob and Lois Bergland, Dr. and Mrs. John B. Dixon, and the Keithahn Family.

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

Bob and Lois Bergland both graduated from Mason City Junior College, NIACC's predecessor, in the 1930s. 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. The Berglands were proud of their association with the College and often spoke fondly of the school's progress. They were among the first alumni to participate in the NIACC First advertising campaign. Bob passed away seven years ago and Lois died last year. Their estate included a bequest to NIACC totaling over \$230,000 for NIACC scholarships. Accepting the award on behalf of the Berglands was Mary Nell Fullerton, Bob's cousin and a member of the NIACC staff.



Robert and Lois Bergland

Dr. and Mrs. John B. Dixon have had quite an impact on the region and on North Iowa Area Community College.

Dr. Dixon practiced ophthalmology for 50 years, 40 of them in Mason City. His wife, Mary Jane, was a social worker for several nursing homes in Mason City. She is a current resident of the Manly Nursing and Rehab Center. The Dixons are exemplary role models of philanthropy. They stepped forward during the Keeping NIACC First major gifts campaign with a \$100,000 contribution for scholarships and other needs. The Dr. John B. and Mary Jane Dixon Scholarship has already benefited a number of NIACC students. Last year, the NIACC Foundation received another significant gift from the Dixons, this time in the form of a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust. The trust will provide Dr. Dixon with income for the term of the trust with the balance accruing to the NIACC Foundation upon its termination. Dr. Dixon was present to receive the award.



Dr. John and Mary Jane Dixon

The Keithahn Family has been extremely supportive of North Iowa Area Community College over the years. Rollo Keithahn served as a member of the



The Keithahn Family, including Mary Keithahn (standing in back) as a child. Seated (l to r) are her brother Charles, mother Lena, and father Rollo.

Mason City Junior College and NIACC faculty from 1943 to 1971. His wife, Lena, was also an educator, teaching home economics and biology in the Mason City Community School District for 25 years. Together, they had two children, Charles and Mary. Following Rollo's death in 1984, Lena established the Rollo C. Keithahn Memorial Scholarship Fund. Every year, Lena continued to add to the endowed scholarship, increasing the principal investment so more and more students would benefit from the fund. In the early nineties, the Keithahn family created a Charitable Gift Annuity through the NIACC Foundation and sponsored the Keithahn Room located in the NIACC Activity Center. In the late nineties, the Keithahn Memorial Scholarship Fund grew by more than \$120,000 when Rollo's sister, Luella, remembered NIACC in her will. Following her mother's wishes, Mary Keithahn continued to support the memorial fund the past six years while Lena lived at Good Shepherd Health Center in Mason City. Lena passed away on April 4 at the age of 93. She also remembered NIACC in her will. Accepting the award for the Keithahn Family was Mary Keithahn.



Luella Keithahn

Several previous NIACC Shining Star award recipients were among the guests at this year's black-tie dinner celebration. Other NIACC Shining Stars include Jim Benjergdes, the Globe Gazette Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Fund, the late Betty Geer, Joyce Hanes, John Hitzhusen, Phyllis Murphy, John Pappajohn, and Tom and Linda Schaefer.

## NIACC Faces

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



Wayne Allison



Kristi Aschenbrenner



Pamela Bishop



Joshua Byrnes



Shannon Carpenter



Andrew Germundson



Larry Kollman

Wayne Allison is a Visual Art Instructor. Originally from Canada, he most recently served as an Associate Professor in studio art and graphic design at Graceland University in Lamoni, IA, where he earned his BA degree. Wayne also has his Master of Fine Arts from Syracuse University in New York.

Kristi Aschenbrenner is an Instructor in the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program. She lives in Osage and previously worked for Mayo Health Systems in Rochester, MN. Kristi has her BSN from Allen College and MSN through the University of Phoenix.

Pamela Bishop is the Director of Regional Business Development Services. She lives in Glenville, MN, and was most recently the Executive Vice President of the Albert Lea Economic Development Agency. Pam is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa.

Joshua Byrnes is the School Partnerships Coordinator. He was previously employed by Mason City High School. Josh earned his BA from Luther College and his MS from Winona State University. A Riceville native, he currently lives in St. Ansgar.

Shannon Carpenter is the Accounts Receivable Clerk in NIACC's Business Office. She has an Associate of Arts degree in accounting from Hawkeye Community

College and previously worked for H & R Block in Waterloo.

Andrew Germundson is a Custodian with NIACC's Physical Plant. He was employed previously by Menards and attended the Community College of the Air Force.

Larry Kollman is a Counselor with the Student Support Services Project. He was a social worker with the Department of Human Services and an adjunct instructor at NIACC for many years. Larry has a bachelor's degree from Buena Vista University and master's degree from Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Pam Langhoff is NIACC's Adult Student Recruiter. She has her AA degree from NIACC and BA degree from Buena Vista's Mason City Center. Before joining NIACC, Pam was a welder at Curries in Mason City.

Cindy Lind is the Financial Management Advisor at NIACC. She was formerly employed at USDA Rural Development in Iowa Falls. Cindy has her Associate degree from NIACC and bachelor's degree from Iowa State University.

Bryan Martin is an Enrollment Specialist and the new Head Men's Basketball Coach. He spent the last three seasons as an assistant with NJCAA Division I power Indian Hills Community College. Bryan earned his

BA from Simpson College and MA from the University of South Dakota.

Jerry Montgomery is a Housing Head Resident and Intramural Coordinator. He is also the defensive line coach for the Trojan football team. A University of Iowa graduate, Jerry played professional football with the New Orleans Saints.

Denise Schreiber is the Office Assistant in the NIACC Admissions Office. An Algona resident, she was previously employed by BARCO Dev. Co. Denise has her Associate in Science degree from Iowa Central Community College.

Scott Strohmeier is an Enrollment Specialist and the new Head Football Coach. He comes to NIACC from Kirksville, MO, where he worked for Truman State University as the Associate Head Coach and Offensive Coordinator. Scott has his BA from the University of Minnesota-Crookston, and his MA from Concordia University-St. Paul.

David Swartwood works as a Custodian with NIACC's Physical Plant. A former employee of Mason City Schools, Dave has his BA degree from MidAmerica Nazarene College.

Linda "Toby" VanDenBosch has been hired full-time as the Business/Medical Office Instructor. A graduate of North Iowa Area

Community College and the University of Iowa, Toby has been an adjunct instructor at NIACC for many years.

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

Cynthia Abben has moved from the Workforce Development Center, where she was a MIS Specialist, to the Student Services Office on the NIACC campus, where she is a Secretary/Receptionist. Cindy has been employed by the College for nearly 30 years.

Angie DeVries has switched from Secretary/Receptionist in Student Services to Secretary for the Student Support Services Project. She has worked for NIACC since earning her Associate degree in 1998.

Sandra Harrington has become the Office Manager for Student Services. She previously worked in the Admissions Office. A graduate of NIACC, Sandy has worked for the College since 1981.

Laura (Schurtz) Merfeld has switched from teaching in the Agriculture Division to the Business Division. A NIACC graduate, she also has degrees from Buena Vista University and Drake University. Laura has been on the NIACC faculty since 1990.



Pam Langhoff



Cindy Lind



Bryan Martin



Jerry Montgomery



Denise Schreiber



Scott Strohmeier



David Swartwood



Linda "Toby" VanDenBosch

**ALUMNI ALMANAC** | Katherine (Dallas) Hays '60 lives in Macon, GA | Nancy (Fiala) Purdy '60 lives in Medford, OR | Dr. Russell Schurtz '61, NIACC Foundation Board President, has retired from the Mason City Clinic where he was an ENT surgeon since 1975 | Gaylen Hicok '72 of Charles City, IA, is the Supervisor of Publications at John Deere, his employer for 29 years. He has a patent pending for a funnel adapter he invented | Barbara (Kohler) German '75 is an RN in the OB Unit in Brookings, SD | Holly (Elkin) Riemenschneider '75 of Webster City, IA, is in charge of the Health Sciences Program at Webster City High School and is an adjunct instructor for Iowa Central Community College | Randall Horn '77 is a Staff Programmer at IBM in Rochester, MN | Cathy (Wearda) Leong '78 of Alameda, CA, is an Account Executive for O2 Marketing + Design and President of the Alameda Chamber of Commerce | Jeffrey Kalvig '80 works at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge, IA | Scott Vaske '80 lives in Marion, IA | Thomas Church '83 is a Major in the US Army stationed in Columbus, OH, with 23 years of service | Carol (Stone) Nordhus '84 of Janesville, IA, is the Director of Quality Services Patient Education at the Waverly Health Center | James O'Connor '84 of Cedar Falls, IA, is Associate Director of Public Relations at the University of Northern Iowa | Mike Bailey '86 is the Head Men's Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, IL | Jon Best '86 of Waukegan, IL, is the Manager of Business Development in pharmaceutical contract manufacturing for Abbott Laboratories, Inc. | Jodi (Ostendorf) Cahalan '87 of West Des Moines, IA, is serving as Academic Dean at Des Moines University | Dr. Darren Lovick '87 of Clear Lake, IA, has earned certification from the American Board of Neurological Surgery after passing his oral exams. He is associated with Dr. David Beck and Dr. Sabrina Walski-Easton in Mason City and he serves on the NIACC Foundation Board | Susan Meinecke '87 of Forest City, IA, is employed by optometrist Robert R. Morrison | Debra Gretillat '88 has joined Wells Fargo Bank in Mason City, IA, as Vice President and Retail Store Manager | Linda Upmeyer '88, State Representative from Garner, IA, and NIACC Foundation Board Member, is one of 40 leaders from across the nation selected for the Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by the Council of State Governments | Lynn R. (Fuller-Kostka) DeVries '89 of West Des Moines, IA, is employed by the Des Moines school district | Steve Schnieders '89 of Clear Lake, IA, was appointed Manager of Operations at Stellar Industries in Garner | Rhonett (Kuesel) Wardenburg '89 is the Account Manager at Marsh Inc. in Iowa City, IA | Lori (Littleton) Cooling '90 of Colorado Springs, CO, is a substitute teacher and personal fitness coach; husband Mark is the top recruiter in the nation for the US Air Force Reserves | Joan Hanson '90 of Garner, IA, completed the 2005 Consumer Credit School. She serves as Commercial Banking Officer and Assistant Marketing Director of Clear Lake Bank & Trust Co. | Kevin Kahler '90 of Mason City, IA, teaches 8th grade at Clear Lake Middle School | Jeffrey J. Meyer '90 is a software engineer on the Apache longbow helicopter in Gilbert, AZ | Doug Burtness '92 of Mason City, IA, is a teacher at Clear Lake Middle School | Kerry Urbatch '92 is an elementary teacher in Herndon, VA | Julie (Anderson) Wiseman '92 is the Human Resources Director for Crescent Carboard in the Chicago, IL, area | Gina (Jenniges) Cole '93 of Waterloo, IA, is an Assistant Program Coordinator for the Brain Injury Unit at Harmony House | Andrea (Davis) Crites '93 lives in Fort Myers, FL | Gary Johnson '93 and wife Karen Regal Johnson established a scholarship at NIACC in honor of their recent marriage. They live in Mason City, IA, where Gary works at Holcim, Inc. and Karen is a NIACC faculty member | Jennifer Spencer '94 works for the Department of the Army in Kaiserslautern, Germany | Michelle (Hartman) Varner '94 of Northwood, IA, works at the Albert Lea Medical Center | Andrea Brown '95 of Burnsville, MN, is Lead Program Supervisor for a before- and after-school care program for the Burnsville Eagan Savage School District | Abby Callanan '95 of LaVista, NE, is a kindergarten teacher in the Omaha Ralston School District | Deborah Halfpap '95 works for the Iowa Department of Human Services in Mason City, IA, as a Targeted Case Manager | Gavin Sandvig '95, of Cedar Rapids, IA, is a second lieutenant with the Iowa Army National Guard and recently returned from serving in Iraq | Amelia Anderson Calvert '96 is employed by the Mankato Free Press. She and her husband Travis Calvert '93 live in Mankato, MN | Christine (Thompson) Troyer '96 is teaching preschool at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Osage, IA | Jeffrey Fahrman '97 of Marion, IA, works for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation | Lance Guth '97 lives in Jordan, MN | Dr. David Haas '97 of Mason City, IA, has joined Haas Chiropractic Clinic, the family business for nearly 30 years | Ross Koehler '97 is employed by Bergstrom in Rockford, IL, as a design engineer | Rebekah Gooden '98 is a teacher at Henrico High School in Richmond, VA | Jeremy Peters '98, a registered representative with First Citizens Trust Co. in Mason City, IA, earned PLANCO's highest honor last year for producing more than \$1 million in annual sales | Andrea (Magnuson) Serna '98 earned her MBA and lives in Black Hawk, SD | Angela (Charlson) Thompson '98 lives in Lincoln, NE | Jamie (Bower) Eggerichs '99 is employed by Trinity Catholic School in New Hampton, IA | Allison (Brumm) Hemann '99 lives in New Hampton, IA | Aimee (Eick) Turney '99 lives in Roeland Park, KS | Cody Williams '99 is working for Cerro Gordo County in Mason City, IA, as an Empowerment Coordinator after earning his master's degree in Mental Health Counseling | Jennifer (Bugge) Fleis '00 works at Gundersen Lutheran in LaCrosse, WI | Lucas Frank '00 is employed with Fit For Life Physical Therapy in Ocala, FL, as a Physical Therapist Assistant | Elizabeth (Martin) Hockey '00 works for Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo, IA | Ashley (Nessett) Schutz '00 lives in Puyallup, WA | Nicholas Wigant '00 of Ankeny, IA, is a Programmer with Briggs Corporation | Jeremy Ainley '01 lives in Clear Lake, IA, is employed by Clear Lake Boats and by NIACC as the Assistant Men's Basketball Coach | Shawn Elsbury '01 lives in Ames, IA | Joshua Laack '01 is serving in the United States Marine Corps out of Waterloo, IA | Erik Mullenbach '01 of Little Cedar, IA, is a technical writer at Stellar Industries of Garner | Mathew Schweizer '01 and Jennifer (Klouse) Schweizer '02 live in Mason City, IA. Mathew is employed by Drugtown and Jennifer is employed by North Iowa Vocational Center (NIVC) Services | Rosanna Timmerman '01 lives in New Hampton, IA | Krisann Bergo '02 of Lawrence, KS, is a sociology graduate student at Kansas University | Miranda (Stark) Eilders '02 lives in Ames, IA | Christopher Farghum '02 and Holly (Linderman) Farghum '02 live in Mason City, IA | Cody Heindold '02 is a Target Protection Specialist with the Target Corporation in Ames, IA | Melissa Hennings '02 lives in Sumner, IA | Amy (Erickson) Markham '02 lives in Mason City, IA | Jason Petersburg '02 has joined Veenstra & Kimm, Inc., in Mason City, IA, as a design engineer | Amanda Oувerson '03 of Joice, IA, is an intern for CycloneNation.com and a current competitor in the "right to earn a living covering your favorite college sports team" contest | Shana (Bjorklund) Rogstad '03 of Lake Mills, IA, works at Waldorf College as a Help Desk Technician | Megan (Grimm) Blickenderfer '04 of Nora Springs, IA, works as a dental assistant for Dr. Grimm in Charles City | Jessica (Hanna) Kudej '04 lives in Mason City, IA | Jesse Watters '04 is employed by Skiff Medical Center in Newton, IA

Send us YOUR update by visiting the NIACC website at [www.niacc.edu/alumni.btm](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni.btm) and choosing "Alumni Update Form." We look forward to bearing from you!

**IN MEMORY** | Alumni (by class) 1930 Mary L. (Felt) Posey, 94 | 1935 Ardith (Lock) Nelson, 88 | 1941 Vincent G. Reuter, 83 | 1948 Marcia C. Jennings, 76 | 1949 Joel C. Hanes, 76 | 1949 Robert 'Bob' C. Heiderich, 76 | 1950 Richard D. Ennis, 78 | 1951 Dennis F. Harold, 73 | 1957 Geraldine W. Hyde, 90 | 1961 James R. Hovelson, 69 | 1963 Viola (Haukness) Wells, 89 | 1964 Jerry K. Eckenrod, 63 | 1965 Lee R. Van Houten, 60 | 1968 Shari B. (Rust) Butterworth, 56 | 1968 Mark D. Albaugh, 56 | 1969 Alice B. (Sivwright) Harris, 84 | 1969 Janan K. Haugen, 56 | 1971 John O. Todd, 61 | 1972 David A. Beenken, 52 | 1972 Arlene A. Goehring, 84 | 1977 Shirley M. (Froning) Berge, 77 | 1979 Bradford C. Melby, 54 | 1981 Norma M. Bohman, 71 | 1982 Charles R. Platts, 72 | 1987 Jeanette Henriksen Culbert, 42 | 1990 David A. Petersburg, 38 | 1992 Pamela K. (Gaulery) Miller, 45 | 1993 Lonny L. Stoffer, 50 | Other NIACC Friends | Daniel F. Ballard, 58 | Leo W. Barkema, 83 | Merle C. Been, 72 | John R. Burns, 68 | Opal L. (Doidge) Carey, 95 | Betty 'Beje' Clark, 84 | Helen O. Currie, 92 | Ruth L. DeSart, 94 | William 'Bill' Draheim, 63 | Lucille Durkin, 91 | Donald M. Dye, 90 | Marjorie J. (Howard) Evans, 86 | Ardis R. Felker, 64 | Dennis A. Fuller, 58 | Dr. W. Gene Garrett, 77 | George E. Gaskill, 92 | William F. Gildner, 89 | Wilma A. Griebing, 91 | Ruth C. Hummel, 83 | Dean L. Jost, 76 | Franklin W. Kapke, 89 | S. Merrill Kelley, 88 | Lena M. Keithahn, 93 | Ronald J. Knop, 74 | Dr. Robert H. Koschmeder, 77 | Dr. Frank J. Linn, 93 | Marie 'Therese' Logue, 76 | Iva Julietta McDonough, 92 | Vern E. Nelson, 86 | James M. Jarvill, 72 | Harold E. Menning, 79 | Virginia D. (Madigan) Midness, 87 | Bernard Z. 'Ben' Miller, 87 | James C. Milota, 75 | Marian I. Morisky, 88 | Vernon D. Nyhus, 82 | Leah (Huettenmueller) Obrecht | Timothy R. Phalen, 76 | Dorothy A. (Rutledge) Phillips, 73 | David G. Punkte, 67 | Marjorie L. (Kleven) Quam, 83 | Garfield J. Seehawer, 83 | Arthur L. Skram, 80 | Steven D. Zimmer, 60

## Cafe Bean Opens in Beem Center

The colorful and aromatic Café Bean has opened in NIACC's Beem Center. The new area off the library provides students with a coffeehouse setting to study and socialize. Plans include turning Café Bean into a cyber café. With enough wireless Internet access points around campus, eventually NIACC will become completely wireless – giving students and staff access to information on the Internet and campus networks wherever they are.



## NIACC Introduces Manufacturing Pre-Employment Training Program: Career Link

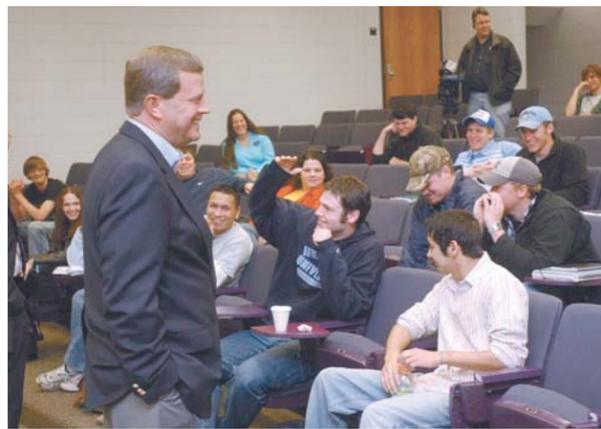
North Iowans can now receive a jump start on their manufacturing careers through "Career Link," a pre-employment manufacturing training program offered by NIACC in response to requests from North Iowa companies.

The 56-hour, four-week class helps prepare individuals for employment with area manufacturers. Career Link partners include Advanced Component Technologies, Inc. of Northwood; Eaton Corporation of Belmond; Fleetguard of Lake Mills; Hampton Hydraulics of Hampton; Iowa Mold Tooling of Garner; Kiefer Built, Inc. of Kanawha; Kraft Foods of Mason City; Larson Manufacturing of Clear Lake; Metalcraft, Inc. of Mason City; Suntron Iowa of Garner; and Winnebago Industries of Forest City.

Feedback from the pilot program, which ran Monday and Thursday evenings during August, has been positive. "I've never been in the manufacturing environment before, and this class gives you a very good review of what is expected," said David Willging.

Classmate Denise Ward also appreciated the interviewing and resume writing tips, and Brad Jones said the OSHA training was especially beneficial. "This program got our names into the business marketplace," noted Jones, "and employers are looking for people who are dedicated and willing to take this course."

Career Link will be offered again October 3-27 in Clear Lake. The cost is just \$25. For more information, call 641-422-4170 or 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4170.



## Congressman Visits Government Class

U.S. Representative Tom Latham visits with students during John Schmaltz's government class in the Beem Forum. His stop at NIACC, which came at the end of spring semester, gave students a chance to ask questions about various federal issues, including Social Security and No Child Left Behind. (Photo courtesy of the Globe Gazette)

## Loved Ones Live on Through New Memorial Scholarships

Students pursuing engineering, social science, or nursing careers have new scholarship opportunities through the NIACC Foundation thanks to individuals who have created endowed scholarships in memory of their loved ones.

Sandy Krieger of Mason City has established an endowed scholarship at NIACC as a tribute to her husband, Bob, who passed away August 1, 2004, at the age of 59. Bob co-founded the TeamQuest Corp., a software engineering company in Clear Lake, and served as its President and Chief Executive Officer until his death. He also formed the TeamQuest Foundation, organized to assist non-profit entities in enhancing the use of technology in their daily operations.

Sandy noted that sponsoring a scholarship provides an opportunity to impact someone else's life. "Bob believed in the importance of education as a means of improving yourself," said Sandy. "And a little help along the way is appreciated."

The **Bob Krieger Memorial Scholarship** will benefit engineering students while at NIACC or as they transfer to Iowa State University.

Barbara and Don Roeder of Waverly have doubled the scholarship awards provided by their family since the loss of Barbara's mother, Arlene Baia, on March 1, 2005, at the age of 82. Arlene was a nursing instructor at NIACC from 1968 until 1979, and she chaired NIACC's Health Division until her retirement in 1988. The lives of hundreds of nursing students were enriched through her teaching and leadership.

The Baia Scholarship was originally created by Arlene in memory of Barbara's sister, Bonnie, who passed away shortly after her 1970 graduation from NIACC. Bonnie's goal was to obtain a bachelor's degree in the social science field (psychology and counseling).

To honor their family members, the Roeders have established a new scholarship fund in Arlene's name and renamed the initial Baia scholarship fund in Bonnie's memory.

The **Arlene Baia Memorial Scholarship** is awarded annually to a second year Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student.

"Mom was proud to be a part of NIACC, its nursing program and graduates," said Barbara. "Since her passing, many former nursing students as well as nursing instructors with whom she worked have expressed to me the significant difference mom made in their lives as an educator, friend, and colleague. She would be pleased that, with this scholarship endowment, she will forever touch the lives of students through the nursing profession."

The **Bonnie Baia Memorial Scholarship** is a NIACC Ambassador Scholarship designated for a NIACC graduate transferring to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing or a social science major.

"During Bonnie's short life, she touched others with her humor, her interest in and concern for others, her ability to make people feel at ease, and her desire to help others asking her for advice," reflected Barbara. "A scholarship in her memory is a way to remember her and her dream of helping others."



Bob Krieger



Arlene Baia



Bonnie Baia

## Several other new scholarships have been created recently to assist NIACC students through the NIACC Foundation Scholarship Program. These include:

The **ACE Credit Union Scholarship** benefits second year NIACC students. Established by the Area Community Educators (ACE) Credit Union, which has served contracted employees of Mason City Schools and North Iowa Area Community College since 1933.

The **Gene and Pat Galasso Scholarship** benefits students in NIACC's Hospitality/Food Service Management Program. Established by Pat Galasso, a NIACC Foundation Board member, and her husband Gene. The couple owns and manages Ge-Jo's by the Lake Italian Restaurant & Lounge in Clear Lake.

The **GK Johnson Scholarship** benefits Nora Springs-Rock Falls High School graduates pursuing a degree in education. Established by NIACC alumnus Gary Johnson and NIACC instructor Karen Regal in honor of their recent marriage.

The **Lime Creek Nature Center Foundation Murphy Scholarship** benefits local students majoring in fields that support the mission of Lime Creek Nature Center. Established by the Nature Center with seed money from Phyllis Murphy and the late David Murphy, both NIACC graduates.

The **Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa Scholarship** benefits students studying nursing or other medical programs. Established by Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa as an endowed scholarship fund.



## Tech Prep Graduates Making a Good Living in Iowa Annual Earnings Average \$30,000

Area high school graduates from the Class of 2000 who completed College Tech Prep programs through NIACC are making an average of \$14,17 per hour, or nearly \$30,000 annually. The vast majority (80%) are working in Iowa.

The data was obtained through a recent phone survey of 58 students who completed the Tech Prep sequence of courses during their junior and senior years of high school. They earned 25 hours of college credit, on average, by graduation.

More than 20% of the respondents, who are about 23 years old now, earned a one-year college diploma and 40% earned an Associate degree from NIACC. Five individuals entered the military, and half transferred to a four-year college or university. Twelve had earned their bachelor's degrees, and a dozen more were pursuing their bachelor's or master's degrees.

The highest wage earner was making \$28.85 per hour, or \$60,000 annually.

### Health Careers Academy Opens in Belmond

Classes began August 24th at the new Health Careers Academy located in Belmond. This new academy is a partnership between Belmond-Klemme High School, the Belmond Medical Center, and NIACC.

Classes such as Introduction to Health Professions, Medical Terminology, Introduction to Psychology, and Developmental Psychology are being taught in a renovated classroom located in the former Belmond Medical Center ambulance garage. Composition and Speech are taught right at Belmond-Klemme High School. The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course will be offered during third trimester.

Students participating in the Health Careers Academy can earn up to 22 semester hours of college credit by the time they graduate from high school.

Program costs will be shared by NIACC, the Belmond-Klemme Community School District, the Belmond Medical Center, and the State of Iowa through special weighted funding available for shared programming.

*College Tech Prep opportunities are available to area high school students on the NIACC campus and at eight high school academies. Areas of study include Automotive Technology, Building Trades, Business, Climate Control, Health Care, Information Technology, and Tool & Die Technology.*

# NIACC

500 College Drive  
Mason City, IA 50401



### Senior Celebration

Britt Health Careers Academy classmates proudly wear their Senior Celebration medals received during the College Tech Prep Senior Celebration at NIACC in May. These students represent Forest City, Garner-Hayfield, Lake Mills, North Iowa, West Hancock, and Wooden-Crystal Lake-Tritonka high schools. A total of 119 graduating seniors from 18 area high schools were recognized during the event.

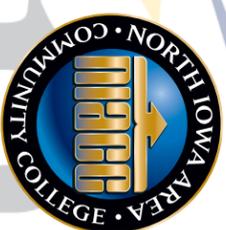


### Web Design Contest

These Mason City High School students and their instructors (front, l to r) Betty Stevenson, Tammy Johnson, and Steve Miller, were among those attending the Web Design Recognition Banquet at NIACC in May. The event celebrated the winners of a web design contest offered to the 245 students enrolled in NIACC's Beginning Web Page Development course at 15 area high schools. The winners received a 3-credit-hour NIACC scholarship.

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for alumni and friends of  
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volume 15 | issue 2 | Fall 2005

## NIACC President, Assistant Receive Top Awards

NIACC President Dr. Michael Morrison and his assistant, Linda See, were both honored recently by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT). Morrison received the 2005 Iowa Outstanding Chief Administrator Award, and See received the 2005 Iowa Outstanding Support Staff Award during the IACCT Annual Conference held in Waterloo the end of July.

"Wow!" is the word Jean Torgeson, IACCT Board and NIACC Board member, used to describe her reaction to the announcement. Torgeson had the honor of introducing both of them during the awards banquet.

"Dr. Morrison's concern for our students is shown in every aspect of his job. Our board and the community see him as responsive, optimistic and ethical, making him highly regarded among community leaders," she said. "And, as a 37-year veteran of NIACC, Linda's extraordinary efforts have exceeded all expectations. The core values and tremendous work ethic instilled by her are legendary."

Dr. Morrison joined NIACC as Vice

President for Academic Affairs in 1989 and became President of the College in 2002. Linda joined NIACC in 1968 and became Assistant to the President in 1999.

IACCT recognizes only one recipient for each of these awards from across the state annually. NIACC will host the IACCT Conference in 2006, which marks the 40th anniversary of the Iowa Community College system.



*Linda See and Michael Morrison are the only "team" to receive this prestigious recognition from IACCT in the same year.*

Support the  
NIACC Foundation  
Annual Fund  
*Look for the Enclosed  
Business Reply Envelope!*

As a friend of NIACC, we invite you to support the NIACC Foundation Annual Fund. Gifts to the Annual Fund are tax deductible and provide ongoing support for college priorities. NIACC depends upon Annual Fund contributions from alumni and friends to help advance its progressive agenda and to protect the school's academic quality. While Annual Fund gifts may be designated for specific areas, they are typically unrestricted, providing NIACC with the flexibility to support the areas of greatest need. A postage-paid response envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thanks in advance for your support; it does make a difference!

### Gift Tip:

Many employers match donations by their employees. You can multiply the value of your annual fund contribution if you or your spouse is employed by a company that offers a matching gift program. Check with your Human Resources department for more information.



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