



for alumni and friends of  
North Iowa Area Community College

# inTouch

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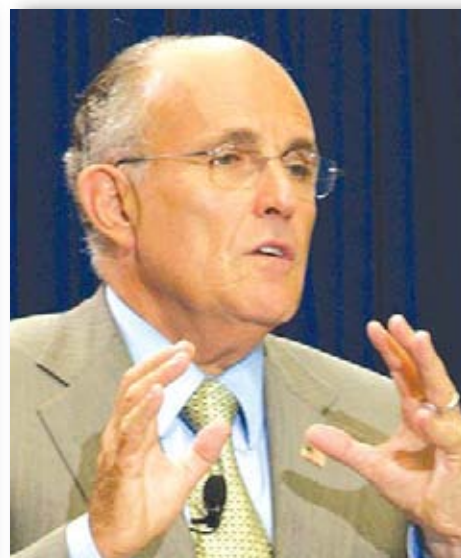
| Fall 2007



*Senator Barack Obama*



*Senator Hillary Clinton*



*Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani*

## On the Campaign Trail History in the Making at NIACC

As the nation enters the season for presidential campaigns, NIACC students and the North Iowa area had the opportunity to participate in a number of political educational opportunities on campus. Senator Barack Obama visited the NIACC campus on Wednesday, April 4, for a public rally and on Thursday, April 5, for a healthcare forum. Senator Hillary Clinton spoke at NIACC on Friday, May 25. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani gave a speech on the NIACC campus on Monday, August 6.



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## NIACC President Morrison Announces Retirement

Dr. Michael C. Morrison announced during the "All-Staff Meeting" his retirement sometime during this college year.

"It's been a great honor to be a member of the NIACC family since 1989," Morrison said. "Working in a team environment with great support from the Board, faculty and staff has been an absolute joy and pleasure. It has also been a great honor to be involved with the most important educational movement in the history of higher education – the community college movement. This is my fortieth year in education and I can't think of a better way to have spent my career. Many thanks to the NIACC family and to all of our great partners."

Morrison explained that he wanted to provide the Board sufficient time to select NIACC's new president and make a good transition. "With the news of Dr. Mike Morrison's impending retirement, I have been struggling with mixed emotions. First was sadness, because I know we are going to miss Mike's leadership, vision and drive. NIACC has a history of terrific presidents and Mike has set the bar even higher for his successor. He has been a strong leader for NIACC, our region and our state," David Steffens, Jr., president of the NIACC Board of Directors, said. "My second emotion was that of happiness and excitement for Mike and his wife, Pat. They have certainly earned the right to transition to this next phase of life, and I can only hope that they enjoy retirement as much as I have enjoyed working with them at NIACC."

It is clear that Morrison will be missed. "Mike has had a huge impact on NIACC not only in the last few years as president but as vice president of academic affairs before that. He is so passionate about the students and improving the lives of people in our communities. His impact on us has been

**"Working in a team environment with great support from the Board, faculty and staff has been an absolute joy and pleasure. It has also been a great honor to be involved with the most important educational movement in the history of higher education - the community college movement."**

invaluable," Jean Torgeson, NIACC Board member and Iowa Association of Community College Trustees past president, said. "No one else could have taken NIACC where he has taken the College. In the face of decreased funding, Mike was able to keep the College growing with new programs. He's one of the most ethical people I've ever met in my life."

Linda See, NIACC assistant to the president, agrees. "Mike Morrison has been a great person to work with, and he is an incredible president. He has shown me a great deal of respect, and he has helped me gain a great deal of confidence in myself and how I perform my job. He has also enabled other NIACC employees to do a great job through the respect and encouragement that he gives them," she said. "Mike is a true visionary. He can see the challenges that surround and lie ahead of the College, and he has spent endless hours working with his NIACC team to help all of us be prepared to meet these challenges."

Morrison received the 2005 Chief Administrator Award from the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees and the 2004-2005 Award of Merit for Contributions to the Strength and Direction for Career and Technical Education from the Association for Career and Technical Education.

"As a result of his efforts, Mike will be leaving NIACC a better place than when he came here. NIACC is experiencing record enrollment, an excellent financial condition and outstanding faculty and staff. We have been able to expand the number and types of programs we offer to the community and most recently we have been able to revive the wrestling program and will be building a new recreation center for our students to use," Steffens, Jr. said.

Prior to becoming NIACC president, Morrison served as the vice president for academic affairs at NIACC since 1989. Previously he worked for 19 years in instruction and administration at North Dakota State College of Science. He has an AA degree from Austin Junior College as well as Bachelors and Masters degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

The NIACC Board will plan its selection process carefully, beginning with an initial planning discussion.

"We need to continue to earn the great



Dr. Michael C. Morrison

reputation NIACC has had for many years. Most important we need to continue to provide access and opportunities. We definitely want to continue our collaborative partnerships. Mike started what we called Tech Prep program that is now Career Link. That initiative made us leaders in Iowa and the nation. Mike has been successful in solidifying articulation agreements with four year institutions from Iowa and other states," Torgeson said. "NIACC needs to continue to be visionary. One of the next large challenges for the state will be the shortage of a skilled workforce. Community colleges fit the role to provide that trained workforce. We'll have to focus on that challenge as well as legislative advocacy in order to keep our institution strong."

The leadership at NIACC (and predecessor Mason City Junior College) has changed hands relatively few times despite the school's nearly 90-year history. Though their titles have changed from dean to superintendent to president, the chief administrators have included James Rae (beginning in 1918), Jay B. MacGregor (1925-26 and 1928-29), R.R. Fahrney (1926-27), S. L. Rugland (1929-1943), Luelda F. Carlton (1943-1947), Clifford H. Beem (1947-1966), William F. Berner (1966-70), David R. Pierce (1970-1981), David L. Buettner (1981-2001) and Michael C. Morrison (2001-2008).

## New Three Page® Business Operating System Available to Businesses From NIACC

Increased profits and improved communications in business operations are achieved by a new program now offered by North Iowa Area Community College.

Called the Three Page® Business Operating System, the program uses the talents of a company's management team to create a realistic plan and to measure performance weekly, according to Bill Burdick, NIACC continuing education business coordinator, in charge of the program.

Burdick noted that as a former manufacturing manager, he always emphasized to his team "to keep it simple to achieve a much better opportunity for repeatability and expected results." The Three Page® Business Operating System meets that objective.

"In the past year working with management teams of businesses implementing the system, I see teams grow in confidence and improve communications. As a team, they have established challenging business goals, developed action plans necessary for attaining these goals and developed the measurements necessary for tracking the progress towards

achieving the goals," he said.

He noted that the system can be installed in four 1-to-2-hour meetings on a recommended schedule.

In use by businesses in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Arizona, the program was developed by VIX® Design Products, Inc. a business management and development services company in Forest City, IA.

According to VIX® founder and retired Winnebago President and Chief Executive Officer Ron Haugen, the Three Page® Business Operating System provides simple tools for profit center managers to effectively achieve their operational goals.

"Our program gathers information and resources from a typical business and applies this material in patent pending key elements used in business operations," Haugen explained.

Featured in the system is an easy-to-use Forecast/Tracker software that creates forecasts, annual operating schedules and weekly performance measurement reports. The software was developed by Kevin and Keith

Brunsvold of Williams & Associates, PLC, Mason City.

According to Randy Broesder, general manager of Farmer's Cooperative Association, use of the system for the past four years, "has enabled us to double our sales and achieve sales per employee 12% higher than co-ops of comparable size and product mix."

Broesder added that, "with the system, the co-op has built an effective team, made dynamic improvements in interdepartmental communications, expanded from one to three locations, and built confidence in our forecasts with the Board of Directors."

DK Arndt PC, a Forest City accounting firm, also has used the VIX system for the past four years, increasing profits by 100%, and sales by 37%; and expanding from two to four office locations. "We use the program's weekly meetings effectively to review results and resolve issues," owner Dave Arndt noted.

For more information on The Three Page® Business Operating System, contact Bill Burdick at 641-422-4183 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4183 or email burdibil@niacc.edu.



## Celebrating our 10th Anniversary

### NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Happy 10th Anniversary! 1997 - 2007

The John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) at North Iowa Area Community College was started in 1997. The NIACC JPEC building was announced in 2000 after a \$1.1 million contribution from NIACC alumnus John Pappajohn, and his wife, Mary. Since its beginning, the NIACC JPEC and Small Business Development Center have made great strides in working together to grow North Iowa.

"We're extremely proud of our efforts to enhance the economic development of North Iowa. We want to grow business and jobs that will strengthen our area now and in the future," Jamie T. Zanos, director of NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, said.

The creation of new jobs in the area has also been seen as a result of the work done by the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and the Small Business Development Center. Approximately 126 new jobs have been created in the past year, totaling around 477 new jobs since 1997. Since the Center's inception in 1997, over 6,090 participants have taken advantage of the entrepreneurship programs.

"Thanks to John Pappajohn's dedication to entrepreneurship in the state of Iowa and his vision, NIACC's John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and the Small Business Development Center have made a difference for North Iowans," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.



Anyone interested in programs for business support or education can visit [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn), call 641-422-4342 or toll-free 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4342.

The John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center is located on the North Iowa Area Community College campus in Mason City, Iowa and provides

college level courses and degree programs in entrepreneurship, as well as consulting services for business start-ups and existing industries in the North Iowa region. The Center also provides FastTrac® training programs both for beginning companies and existing companies.



*The Pappajohns*

## Government Accountability Office Commends NIACC and Workforce Center on One-Stop Service

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently visited Iowa in response to a bipartisan request from the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to look at the degree to which community colleges are integrated into the one-stop system under the Workforce Investment Act nationwide. As part of their trip, the GAO commended representatives of North Iowa Area Community College and the Iowa Workforce Center regarding their partnership efforts through the Workforce Development Partnership.

"We were very pleased that our one-stop was selected for this visit by the State as a 'Best Practices for Iowa.' As we begin our eleventh year of this partnership, we continue to benefit from the joint projects, collaborative leadership and resource leveraging," Nancy Bair, director of the Workforce Development Center, said. "The visit gave us a great chance to reflect on our accomplishments as partners."

As an effort to learn what states are doing to combine community college and workforce efforts into one-stop services, the GAO objectives were to examine the extent to which the nation's network of community colleges are linked to the one-stop system, look at conditions or practices that enhance the potential for effective linkages and evaluate the U.S. Department of Labor's efforts to encourage these linkages.

"This recognition from the GAO confirms the value of our partnership strategies. We leverage resources and add value to serve a wider and more diverse clientele," Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

Findings from the GAO visit provided an impressive and complimentary view of NIACC's partnership with the Workforce Development Center and their joint efforts to create a one-stop service to North Iowans. Ideas from the partnership may appear in national recommendations on other partnerships around the nation.

## Year-End Giving Benefits Students & Region

As fall begins to turn to winter many of us will begin our planning for the upcoming year, but some of us will be considering how to finish 2007 from a tax planning standpoint. A gift to the NIACC Foundation through one of the myriad of gifting options available can provide both a tax advantage to those in higher income brackets as well as a much needed and welcome gift to support NIACC and all the activities and programs it offers throughout North Iowa.

The InTouch newsletter provides you a glimpse of the many successes that NIACC and its students and partners enjoy, as well as in this edition the financial condition of the NIACC Foundation. None of this success would be possible without the strong financial position that the College enjoys or without the generosity of many people throughout North Iowa. Whether those gifts support scholarships, scholastic programs, buildings, instructor education, sports activities or more, they are critical to the current and ongoing success of NIACC.

Year-end is a good time to visit with the

NIACC Foundation to discuss how your gift could make a difference in the life of a student, or impact the economic growth of the region through business programs and gain the advantage of a tax deduction as well. We would be pleased to discuss all the various options, including Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and other vehicles to help you make your impact on the future of the College.

We would encourage you to call and make an appointment to discuss how a year-end gift to the NIACC Foundation can match your goals of making a difference in North Iowa and beyond. Call the NIACC Foundation office today to set up an appointment for our staff to meet with you and your tax advisor to implement a plan that best fits your needs and desires. A gift to NIACC will stand the test of time and benefit future generations of students and many others of the 27,000+ people that utilize our services in North Iowa.

Call Jamie T. Zanos, Director of Institutional Advancement at 641-422-4162, [zaniotam@niacc.edu](mailto:zaniotam@niacc.edu)

## NIACC Instructor Callanan Named to Iowa Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners

Susan Callanan, of Mason City, has been named to the Iowa Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners for a three year term. This board oversees the licensing of physical and occupational therapy practitioners and regulates the rules relating to physical and occupational therapy in the State of Iowa.



Callanan has been an instructor at North Iowa Area Community College in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program since 2000. Callanan earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University and her Doctorate of Physical Therapy from Creighton University.



# NIACC Honoree, Speaker Coaches and Competes in Wheelchair Track and Road Racing

The keynote speaker for the next “Pathways to Success” program (in Spring 2008) will be Adam Bleakney, a NIACC 1997 graduate who currently lives in Savoy, Illinois. He will also receive the 2008 NIACC Outstanding Alumnus Award at that time.

Bleakney, originally from Mason City, raced for the University of Illinois where he graduated with a Master’s Degree in journalism in 2003. After working for BlazeSports America in Atlanta, Georgia, for two years, he returned to the University of Illinois with his wife, Laura, to take on the head coaching position for the University wheelchair track and road racing squad. He is currently training for the Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

During his racing career, Bleakney was champion in the 2006 Indianapolis Mini-Marathon, 2005 Nashville Marathon and 2002 Chicago Marathon. He was the 800m silver medalist in the 2004 Paralympics and an 800m finalist in the 2000 Paralympics. Bleakney was runner-up in the 2004 Chicago Marathon and 2004 Columbus Marathon.

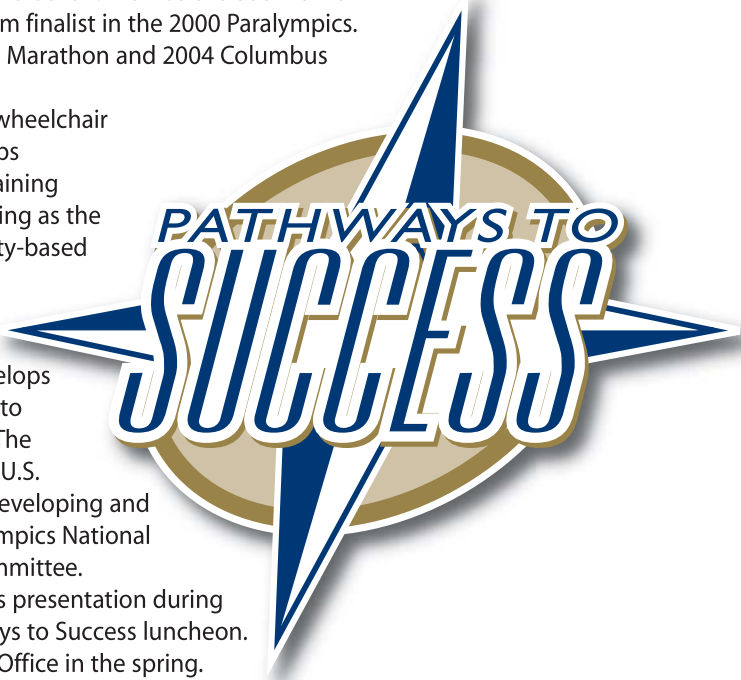
As head coach of the University of Illinois wheelchair track and road racing team, Bleakney develops individualized and comprehensive annual training programs for student athletes as well as serving as the lead track instructor for numerous community-based and national level sports clinics.

Bleakney also works as free-lance web and print designer for Free-lance Creative Development in Champaign, Illinois. He develops and deploys full-scale web sites from design to programming for multiple clients, including The America Series, VieSports Marketing and the U.S. Paralympics National Track Meet, as well as developing and producing branding identities for U.S. Paralympics National Track Meet and International Paralympic Committee.

The public is welcome to attend Bleakney’s presentation during the NIACC Alumni Association’s 2008 Pathways to Success luncheon. Tickets will be available from the NIACC Box Office in the spring.



Adam Bleakney



## Distinguished Alumni Nominations Sought

The NIACC Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the NIACC Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is designed to recognize graduates of North Iowa Area Community College or Mason City Junior College demonstrating superior achievement of a personal, professional, or civic nature who have made a difference in their communities. Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented during the annual Pathways to Success event in the spring. To nominate yourself or someone you know for the NIACC Distinguished Alumni Award, go to [www.niacc.edu/alumni](http://www.niacc.edu/alumni) and select the “Alumni Award Nomination” link. Nominations are accepted year-round, with final selections after the first of the year.

## North Iowa Small Businessperson Scores First NIACC NanoLoan

Michael Groesbeck has a powerful vision; linking diverse home based businesses in North Iowa together in a comprehensive website that is more attractive to search engines. The NIACC NanoLoan program is helping him make that vision a reality.

“Every business and their brother are on the Web,” Groesbeck said. “The challenge for a small home based business is to break free of the clutter and get your products or services noticed for a reasonable cost. There are thousands of HBE’s (home based enterprises) in the area. Most struggle with a lack of tech support and money to create a presence on the web. I can come in, create a storefront for them that include high quality photographs and integrate everything into a web based community where their goods and services can be found without breaking the bank.”

The NanoLoan Program targets a specific, underserved segment of the entrepreneurial community; businesses in the ‘pre-bankable’ phase. NanoLoans up to \$2,500 can be used to move a business model farther along in its development by paying for prototype development, patents, equipment, working capital and other start up costs.

“The NanoLoan program was a perfect vehicle for moving Mike’s business concept forward,” observed Ted Bair, SBDC Director. “He didn’t need a lot of money to get over the tipping point and he already operates a home based business, Portraits of Iowa, so the challenges associated with starting and operating a new business were understood. This new venture represents a good first investment for the NanoLoan program. It is these types of start-up opportunities that led NIACC and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center to create the program.”

Applicants are required to successfully complete the FastTrac® New Venture™ course; a 10 week ‘business boot camp’ that exposes entrepreneurs to key aspects of being a small business owner and helps them put together a



SBDC Director Ted Bair presents Michael Groesbeck with a check from the NanoLoan program.

business plan. FastTrac® graduates from NIACC have enjoyed significantly better business survival rates with over 200 businesses founded since 1997 and 78% still in business today.

“If it hadn’t been for the NanoLoan program,” said Groesbeck, “I would have probably delayed things to put together enough money to ‘bootstrap’ the start up. Because NIACC and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center put this together to help entrepreneurs, I can pursue my dream right away.”

For more information on the Iowa Home Business Exchange [www.iowahomebusinessexchange.com](http://www.iowahomebusinessexchange.com) or Portraits of Iowa [www.portraitsofiowa.com](http://www.portraitsofiowa.com), contact Michael Groesbeck at (641) 512-1718 or [michael@portraitsofiowa.com](mailto:michael@portraitsofiowa.com).

For more information on the NIACC JPEC NanoLoan program, call (641) 422-4342 or visit [www.niacc.edu/pappajohn](http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn).

## NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center Breaks Ground on Business Information Center for Business Incubator

The North Iowa Area Community College John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center broke ground on a new Business Information Center to serve tenants of the Business Incubator on campus and is being built through the support of the Small Business Administration and Congressman Tom Latham. It is scheduled to open mid-October and several tenants have already been identified.

“With the excellent resources available at the NIACC JPEC I am optimistic that our incubator will help entrepreneurs be successful and improve both job creation and job retention in North Iowa,” Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said.

The new Business Information Center will provide Business Incubator tenants with a variety of services, including on-site consulting on financial, marketing, domestic/foreign sales, human resources and operational issues, access to the top business research library, a multimedia conference center and promotional activities.

“The attraction of a business incubator is inexpensive rent, but the strength of a business incubator is the high survival rate,” Mark Olchefske, NIACC regional business development service director, said. “Because of the intensive consulting services and resources available, companies that have graduated from incubators have a long term survival rate that is twice the national average. Most important, space is still available.”

A business incubator provides the ideal next step for a home-based business that wants to get out of the basement, garage or back bedroom.

Sitting on the west side of campus, the NIACC JPEC Business Incubator allows opportunities for a variety of businesses. The incubator has several different types of spaces available that are suitable for limited manufacturing and business-to-business service companies. The spaces are not appropriate for retail shops or restaurants.

For tenants of the NIACC JPEC Business Incubator, there is a contractual obligation that goes beyond a typical lease. Each business’ financials are reviewed monthly and the owners are coached on different aspects of business, especially in areas where there is weakness. The owner owns the business and makes the decisions, but there is a strong, experienced support network.

Unlike new incubators where funding shortages limit the types of services and equipment available, the NIACC JPEC Business Incubator employs the full assets of the College to help businesses help themselves. The JPEC holds a wealth of business experience, but NIACC also has other things that few can offer: modern manufacturing equipment for prototyping, wet lab space for biotechnology and chemistry, access to both on and off site research libraries, specialized and general business training, access to different types of debt and equity financing, high speed wireless internet connectivity and opportunities to network with other entrepreneurs.

Plans extend beyond the confines of the campus to embrace the entire nine county area in North Central Iowa. From the outset, the plan was to make NIACC a hub around which several small incubators that are located in the surrounding counties orbit. The satellite incubators will enable new companies to stay close to their local communities but have access to most of the same services available on campus. The overarching objective is to create a North Iowa Regional Business Incubation System that will maintain a steady stream of new business opportunities for local residents.

For more information on the NIACC JPEC Business Incubator, contact Olchefske at [olchemar@niacc.edu](mailto:olchemar@niacc.edu) or call (641) 422-4191.

## NIACC Faculty Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards

North Iowa Area Community College faculty members Bill Basler, Borden Plunkett and Norb Thomes received NIACC's "Excellence in Teaching" Award for 2007.

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

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

Basler, representing Career and Technical faculty, heads up NIACC's day and night criminal justice program. Student nominations for Basler included comments such as, "He is extremely knowledgeable, patient and the best instructor I have ever had," and "He cares about students and their well being."

Plunkett, representing Arts and Science faculty, teaches several courses in the communication division, including composition and speech. Plunkett's student nominations included comments such as, "He is the most intellectual, interesting and inspiring person I have ever met," and "He is always willing to listen to students."

Thomes, also representing Career and Technical faculty, teaches information technology courses for NIACC. Student nominations for Thomes included comments such as, "He works with students to make sure they learn as much as they can," and "He is understanding and supportive."

## New Scholarships

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

As a long-time educator, Noreen H. Barkema understood the value of an education. Noreen taught in rural Hancock County, Klemme and Mason City throughout her career. Noreen passed away in November of 2005, leaving the NIACC Foundation \$100,000 in her estate to establish **Noreen H. Barkema Tuition Grants** to be used for needy students.

The **Lloyd and Georgetta Farrer Scholarship** was established in April through a \$10,000 contribution from the Farrer Endowment Foundation. These scholarship awards are unrestricted.

Another recent estate gift provided nearly \$30,000 to the general scholarship fund. **Margaret Charlene Garrels** was a home economics teacher for 41 years, 35 of them in the Mason City School District. Charlene only stipulated that the money be used for scholarships.

The **David and Sandra Gobeli Scholarship** is being provided by Dave and Sandi Gobeli to benefit a student in the accounting area. This term scholarship commemorates Sandi's 36 years of service to NIACC. Sandi retired from the position of Vice President for Administrative Services at the end of 2006.

The **David G. and Jane Angelo Punke Scholarship** was created this summer by Jane Punke, of Nevada, IA. Jane and her late husband, David, both attended Mason City Junior College. Jane wanted to provide opportunities for deserving students who may have financial difficulties without the help of scholarship assistance. This scholarship will be awarded on an alternating basis to a graduate of Clear Lake High School or Mason City High School majoring in agricultural or health care.

### Significant Contributions To Existing Scholarship Funds

The **John and Donna Hitzhusen Scholarship** received significant contributions from Donna Hitzhusen and The Brown Foundation, Inc. Both gifts were made to memorialize Dr. John Hitzhusen, who passed away early in 2007. John had a passion for the mission of NIACC and demonstrated his support by being involved with the NIACC Board and the NIACC Foundation Board for over 25 years. The John and Donna Hitzhusen Scholarship was originally established in 1998 and is available to students who reside in Charles City or Floyd County.

The **Glen and Penny Krogh Scholarship** was initially started in 1997, but recently received a major boost from



## International Alumni Spotlight

### An Interview with Michael Pederson of Copperas Cove, Texas and Tikrit, Iraq



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

**Answer:** I currently own a home in Copperas Cove, Texas. My wife and I have lived there since January of 2006. I work for Delta Company, 57th Signal Battalion, 3rd Signal Brigade. I started as a Platoon Leader with about 60 soldiers underneath me. I was responsible for training my soldiers "up" for Iraq and ensuring they were physically capable of handling the elements in Iraq as well as the war fighter skills they need to survive over here. As a Signal Platoon Leader, I was also responsible for the communication links between Army elements in the field. After leaving Ft. Hood, Texas, for Iraq I was assigned as an Executive Officer for Delta Company where I am currently responsible for the transportation and logistics of 120 Soldiers and also second in command of Delta Company. My Unit should be redeploying back to Ft. Hood, Texas in mid November where I will be reassigned as the Battalion Assistant S-3. This job will entail network operations and Battalion level tactical planning. I personally have been living in Tikrit, Iraq since October of 2006.

#### **Question: How did you get from NIACC graduation to being a First Lieutenant in the Army?**

**Answer:** NIACC opened the door for me to numerous four-year colleges. Coming out of high school I was not equipped with the study habits and discipline it would have taken to survive at a four-year school. After attending NIACC, I had a firm grasp on the college life and applied to the University of Iowa in 2002. I spent a year at Iowa studying business but decided to change my major to Sociology and Criminology after I took a course in Sociology as an elective. After changing my major I applied to the University of Northern Iowa where I earned a double major in Criminology and Sociology in 2003. At that time I had been working in Human Services for five years and had been offered a job in Ames, Iowa, that I accepted, as a Residential Manager for a Psychiatric Mental Institute for Children. I spent a year learning management and leadership in this position and was ready for the next challenge. In 2004 I applied to the Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was the only one selected by the Iowa OCS board to attend the school for that year. I

graduated OCS in April of 2005, as a distinguished honor graduate, and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. I was then given orders to Ft. Hood, Texas.

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

**Answer:** NIACC was a huge transitioning time for me. I went from a sporadic young decision maker to a young adult that was able to put education as his number one priority. I noticed right away that the instructors were completely in tune with every student and the small classroom environment made learning enjoyable. At NIACC you never felt like just another number out in a mass of students. If you didn't show up for class you could expect the instructor to ask why the next day! Going to a university, I found myself missing the exclusiveness and assurance of NIACC's small classroom environment. One of my favorite instructors was Tom Jolas, by far one of the most personable and effective instructors I have ever met. I believe NIACC's curriculum was challenging but realistic to any student that was willing to apply themselves. NIACC was the perfect catalyst to transition me from a high school student to a college level student ready to take on an undergraduate degree. I would encourage any high school graduate to attend NIACC before committing to a four year institution.

#### **Question: What's next for you?**

**Answer:** I will be receiving a promotion to Captain in April of 2008. At that time I will be pursuing an MBA and taking the Army a day at a time (I will no longer be obligated by contract but will stay in at my own leisure). I will also be assisting my wife, Melissa (Daley) Pederson, (also a NIACC graduate) with her real estate career and making up lost time with my wife and 11 month old son.



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

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

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

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



the Glen M. Krogh Trust. This endowed scholarship benefits area students pursuing a degree in education or the dental profession.

### Other notable gifts to the NIACC Foundation...

John and Barbara Lawrence gave a \$100,000 unrestricted gift. Barbara is a 1961 graduate of NIACC.

John and Mary Pappajohn continued their financial support of NIACC by adding another contribution of \$125,000 to support the efforts of the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. John and his wife, Mary, helped establish the JPEC 10 years ago to assist entrepreneurs in the area.

# North Central Iowa Alliance Announces First-In-The-Nation Entrepreneur Health Insurance Program

“HELP@NCI to Assist Startup Businesses with Health Insurance Costs”

A visionary, first-in-the-nation program created by the North Central Iowa Alliance (NCIA) will help startup businesses decrease health insurance costs, removing a major roadblock for people who want to start their own business.

The Helping Entrepreneurs Launch Program at North Central Iowa (HELP@NCI) provides free health insurance to qualified entrepreneurs in the region for their first three years in business.

The genesis for the health insurance assistance idea appears to have many “fathers/mothers.” Sociologists have found that cultural environments and events often generate a scenario where many people have similar independent ideas at approximately the same period of time. Subsidizing health care costs to move the economy forward has been discussed for several years. Anne Kinzel, Governor Vilsack’s policy analyst in 2004 advanced the idea that one of the options in the Iowa Values Fund should be to provide entrepreneurs with a health insurance subsidy. Reported discussions at Kaufmann Foundation events and also among regional EDC directors, a Wall Street Journal article and Tom Quinlan at a Business and Industry Group meeting advocated similar ideas.

Qualification for entry into the program will be through the North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center and North Iowa Business Accelerator. In addition, the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center’s planned “Regional Incubator System” will provide a regional feeder system for this initiative. Through these entry points, JPEC staff will work with the entrepreneur to determine the viability of the business plan and, if appropriate, direct the entrepreneur client to participate in HELP @ NCI.

“This initiative is very important for three reasons,” says Dr. Michael Morrison, president of NIACC. First, it reduces a significant barrier for entrepreneurship, the most important engine for economic growth in our region. Second, it represents the region coming together for a regional economic development initiative. Third, it can be a prototype for other partnership initiatives to promote progressive economic growth for all North Iowa.”

While funding for insurance is provided at no cost to the entrepreneur, he or she will be aware of the true cost so that it can be reflected in their business plan. Participating entrepreneurs will be required to reside in Iowa as well as maintain the principal headquarters and operations of their company in the contributing counties in Iowa for the duration

North Central  
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of their participation in the program.

“What NCIA has done with this project, with its out-of-the box and collaborative thinking, is exactly what we want to encourage,” says Cali Beals, Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) community development division coordinator. “This program is on the cutting-edge and we expect it to be a model for economic development groups around the nation.”

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, one of the country’s leading entrepreneurial foundations is supportive of the program’s mission.

“The Kauffman Foundation understands the continued escalation of healthcare costs, coupled with the uncertainties about future trends in these costs, rank high on entrepreneurs’ lists of concerns,” said Robert E. Litan, vice president of research and policy at the Kauffman Foundation. “In addition, the fear of losing healthcare insurance compounds workers’ anxieties about job loss itself, and most likely deters some employees from leaving their current jobs to launch new enterprises.”

The idea for the HELP @ NCI started small. It came up during conversation among several promoters of economic development in North Central Iowa. A small group began to discuss how they might help more potential entrepreneurs in the area make the leap to going into business for themselves.

One of the members found an article about how health insurance costs were preventing many potential business owners from getting started because they couldn’t leave their employer’s healthcare plan. The group was also aware of the need through the experiences of area entrepreneurs and the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center (JPEC) at NIACC. They wondered, “What if we could do something to help remove this roadblock?”

The group subsequently submitted an application to the IDIED Community Development Fund, a fund that provides financial and technical assistance to Iowa communities for creative and innovative economic development projects.

NCIA received a \$50,000 Community Development Fund grant from IDIED and raised more than \$15,000 in matching funds to qualify. With the available funding, HELP @ NCI

is ready to provide an affordable and reliable health insurance option to entrepreneurs in North Central Iowa.

“This new HELP initiative will provide a capstone to the myriad of other support programs for entrepreneurs located in North Iowa that differentiate us from other parts of the country and removes one more impediment to the launching of new businesses and growth in North Iowa,” says Jamie T. Zanos, director of the NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. “We are happy to play a leadership and business support role in the evolving entrepreneurial system in North Iowa, but most importantly we are thrilled by the collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit shown by these organizations to establish a means for startup business owners to have health coverage.”

NCIA’s goal is to increase entrepreneurial activity in the region by providing a safety net of health insurance for entrepreneurs and is part of its plan to make North Central Iowa the preferred destination for entrepreneurs.

“In North Central Iowa we realize the critical importance of entrepreneurship to the economic health of this area,” says Curtis Brown, NCIA director and executive director of the Mason City Economic Development Corporation. “When we encourage entrepreneurs, we help to create jobs and stabilize or increase our population.”

HELP @ NCI collaborators include: Iowa Department of Economic Development, North Central Iowa Alliance, North Iowa Area Council of Governments, North Central Iowa Growth Partnership, North Iowa Area Community College-John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center, Alliant Energy, Aquila, Mason City Chamber of Commerce, Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa, Hancock County Memorial Hospital and Health Services, Butler County Resource Development Group, Franklin County Development Association, Hancock County Economic Development Council, Mitchell County Economic Development Corporation, Charles City Area Development Corporation, Wright County Economic Development and Winnebago and Worth Counties Betterment Council.

North Central Iowa Alliance, a strategic marketing partnership, is united in its effort to attract and retain industry to North Central Iowa. The alliance includes the counties of Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth who have joined together to help industry expand and relocate to the region.

## Faust Named Outstanding Mathematics and Engineering Student at NIACC

Andrea L. Faust, a North Iowa Area Community College graduate and graduate of Mason City High School, was selected by the NIACC Mathematics and Engineering Division as Outstanding Sophomore Student in Mathematics.

Faust transferred to the University of Northern Iowa this fall and plans to tutor and lead a supplemental instruction group for math there, just as she has done at NIACC. She also plans to eventually teach high school or college math because she enjoys helping others to enjoy and learn math.

Recipient of the Pathways to Success Award, Faust was a leader for Supplemental Instruction along with being a private tutor at NIACC.

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



## Torgeson Earns Iowa Association of Community College Trustees’ Most Prestigious Award

The Iowa Association of Community College Trustees (IACCT) honored Jean Torgeson, a member of the North Iowa Area Community College Board of Directors, with its most prestigious recognition, the John P. Kibbie Award, at its annual conference in Council Bluffs.

“Jean’s leadership for community colleges has been extraordinary,” Dr. Michael Morrison, NIACC president, said. “She has been a very strong advocate for NIACC and our sister institutions, as a NIACC Board member and an IACCT Board member. The College and the Board are exceptionally proud of Jean’s accomplishments and her dedication to the community college movement.”

Torgeson has served on the NIACC Board of Directors since 2001, and she has served as vice president of the Board since October 2005. Beginning in 2003, she has served on the IACCT Board as well. In addition to her duties as vice president of the NIACC Board of Directors, Jean is now serving as the chair of the IACCT Board; a member of the Executive Committee of the NIACC Foundation; and a member of the Political Action Committee for Iowans for a Skilled Workforce. In January 2007, Torgeson was also appointed as ACCT Central Regional Director to complete the term of that office. In addition, she is a member of the ICN (Iowa Communications Network) - ETC (Education Telecommunications Council) Committee.

IACCT is an organization that provides leadership in developing, strengthening and coordinating efforts to promote educational interests in Iowa and to provide a forum for addressing issues affecting access, excellence and effectiveness of Iowa’s 15 public community colleges.

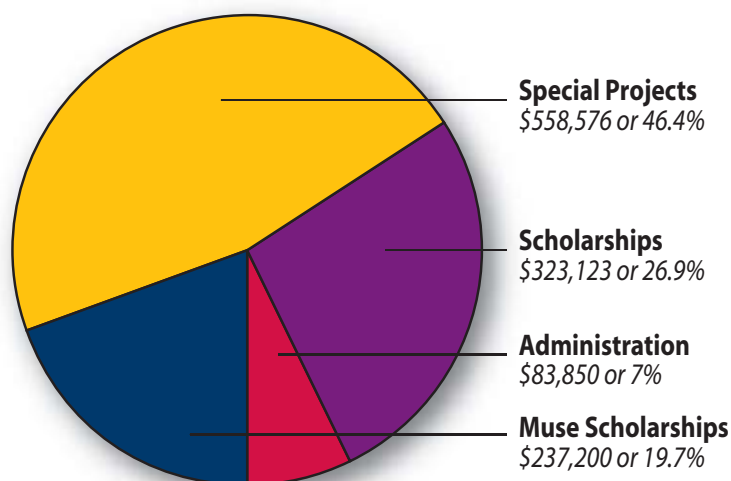


Jean Torgeson

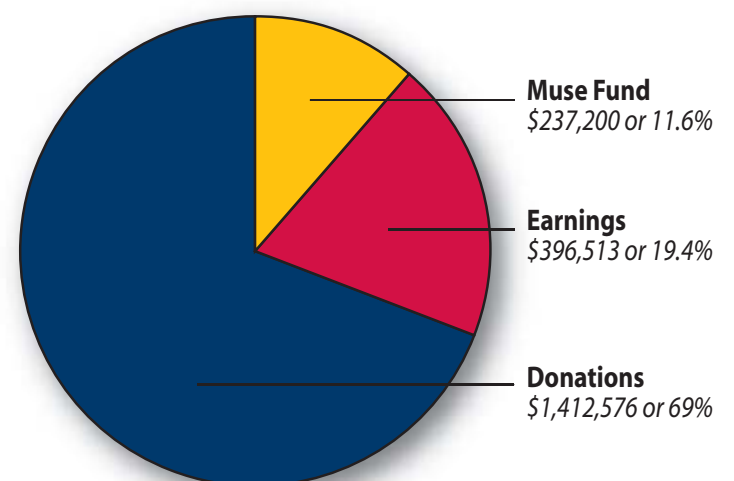


The NIACC Foundation strives to enable students to attend North Iowa Area Community College and participate in extracurricular activities: The Foundation solicits, manages and administers contributions, both real and personal, made to the Foundation at the College; The Foundation supports improvements in the facilities and services that will broaden the educational experience, personal, either outright or in trust, to or for the benefit of NIACC or to or for the benefit of other organizations.

EXPENDITURES AND ALLOCATIONS: \$1,202,748



RECEIPTS: \$2,046,289



The NIACC Foundation received \$2,046,289 between July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007. Total assets of the Foundation exceed \$17 million. Approximately 17 percent is invested in North Iowa financial institutions. The rest is in The Commonfund, a non-profit membership corporation organized and operated and providing investment management services exclusively for educational institutions. A member for over 20 years, NIACC is the first community college in Iowa and one of the few community colleges in the country to belong to The Commonfund.

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3M Foundation  
Phyllis Tietjens  
Jerry and Jean Torgerson  
Mark and Jean Torgeson  
Ann Troge  
Judy Troge  
Sandy Troge  
Larry and Sherri Troshynski  
Dayle Upham and Susan Slick  
Doug and Linda Upmeyer  
Bob and Toby VanDenBosch  
Linaflor Vicerra  
Carl and Roberta Vogelhuber  
Jeremey and Nicole Vortherms  
Mary Jo Vrba  
Lynette Waldow  
Albert and Kay Walters  
Sheryl Walton  
Greg Warneke  
Roger and Mary Weaver  
Daniel Weber  
Robert Weepie  
Kevin and B.J. Welch  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Jeff Welter  
Mike and Kathy Welter  
Robert and Rita Welter  
Dick and Rita Wempen  
Steve and Mary Wendt  
Andy and Toranna Wermes  
John and Mary Ann Westby  
Mike and Jennifer Westby  
Keith and Marilyn Westpfahl  
Karen White  
Rex and Diana Widdison  
Ken and Karen Wilford  
Sandra Willman  
R.B. and G. Ann Wilson  
Ken and Carol Wiltsie  
Bill and Marilu Wohlers  
Woodharbor Doors &  
    Cabinetry, Inc.  
Lori Wragge  
Glen and Heather Wright  
Lyle and Mary Ann Wright  
Scott and Cindy Yerington  
Jim and Cindy Zach  
Jamie and Nancy Zanos  
Tula Zanos  
Art and Mary Ann Zanotti  
Tom and Helyn Zarfos  
Robert and Joann Zelinski  
Zilge Appliance Center, Inc.  
Jim and Linda Zirnheld

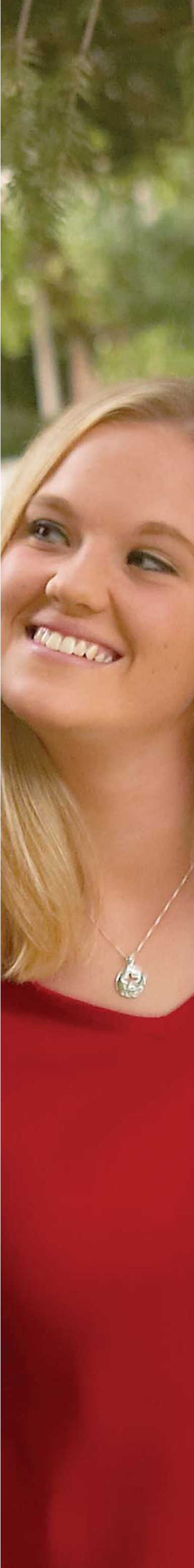




PHOTO RENDERING OF NIACC RECREATION CENTER.

## NIACC Digs Into New Recreation Center

North Iowa Area Community College hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new NIACC Recreation Center facility on campus just east of the Muse-Norris Conference Center on Thursday, August 23.

The new NIACC Recreation Center design features the following:

- 2 levels
- 41,156 square feet total
- Activity area on lower level with courts
- Wrestling room
- 4 office locations
- 3 classrooms
- Men's locker room
- Women's locker room
- Suspended track
- Athletic training area
- Energy and environmentally efficient facility
  - ° Designed for energy efficiency and sustainability

- ° Preliminary point tally qualifies the building as a certifiable LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) project as designated by the U.S. Green Building Council
- ° \$1.46 per square foot back in incentives from Alliant Energy for conservation strategies integrated into the building design
- ° Occupancy sensors, daylight harvesting and energy efficient fixtures will alleviate artificial lighting costs

- ° High efficiency ventilation (ERV) system will maintain indoor air quality while reclaiming energy from the building
- ° Geothermal heating and cooling system

*The NIACC Recreation Center project architect is Bergland and Cram. The project contractor is Henkel Construction.*



## Heithoff Named Third Team Division II All-American

Baseball player Tom Heithoff (Carroll/Kuemper Catholic) was named as a third-team Division II All-America player for the National Junior College Athletic Association after earning Region XI Player of the Year honors earlier this year.

Heithoff was a standout for Coach Todd Rima's Trojans, who finished 33-20 overall. The infielder/pitcher batted .406 last spring and produced 17 doubles, five triples and 12 homers, which was tied for seventh in the national rankings. His 67 runs batted in ranked third nationally.

On the mound, Heithoff finished 6-1 overall with an earned run average of 3.15. Although he didn't toss enough innings to qualify among the national leaders, his 58 strikeouts in 45 2/3 innings would've put him fifth statistically in strikeouts per inning.

Tyler Moore of Meridian Community College in Mississippi was chosen as the Association Baseball Coaches of America (ABCA) Player of the Year after leading the nation with 19 homers.

An All-State player during high school, Heithoff had been a standout as a NIACC freshman as well, hitting .396 with 21 runs batted in and posting a 5-2 record as a pitcher with 45 strikeouts in 42 2/3 innings.

## Check Out the New NIACC Foundation Web Site!

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

The NIACC Foundation has unveiled its new web site at [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation)! The new site offers helpful information on private gifts, annual giving programs, planned gifts and major or special gift campaigns.

You can find information on building your gift, different ways to give, memorial gifts, naming opportunities and more. The convenient gift calculator will make figuring your gift much easier. You can even quiz yourself on creating a better will, the ins and outs of estate taxes and making planned gifts work for you.

Check out the new NIACC Foundation web site to learn more about the NIACC Foundation or to give online.

## Sederquist Receives North Iowa Builders Exchange Scholarship

Stephanie Sederquist, a student in North Iowa Area Community College's climate control program, was awarded with a scholarship from the North Iowa Builders Exchange.

The North Iowa Builders Exchange selected Sederquist, of Binghamton, NY, for the scholarship based upon her program of study, school and community activities, special honors and awards and career plans. Once she completes her education in climate control at NIACC, Sederquist plans to pursue an engineering degree at NIACC and then transfer to Iowa State University to study construction engineering.

"Winning the scholarship was great, because it helped with my tuition," Sederquist said. "I think it's a big step for women in the career field, too. I'd love to see more women get into such a fun career field."

Sederquist is enrolled in NIACC's climate control program, which provides opportunities to develop the skills necessary to work in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) industry. The climate control curriculum allows students to study areas of residential and commercial heating and air conditioning.

"I was glad that one of our students got the scholarship to help her pursue her goals," Tom Crowley, NIACC Climate Control Instructor, said. "Scholarship opportunities really help students with school debts. Plus, the North Iowa Builders Exchange scholarship is a great opportunity. I'll encourage the students in our program take advantage and apply for it again next year."

The North Iowa Builders Exchange, a non-profit organization, works to promote and educate the building industry. As part of the group's mission, they work with local schools to promote education in the building trades fields and award scholarships annually.

For more information on NIACC's climate control program, call NIACC at 641-422-4245 or toll-free at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4245, or visit [www.niacc.edu](http://www.niacc.edu).



## We want to hear from YOU next!

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



Wired Differently Technology Showcase at NIACC November 6

If you think spyware is a trench coat and sunglasses, vista is a mountain view and popups are cute little kid books, plan to attend the Wired Differently Technology Showcase at North Iowa Area Community College on November 6. The event is co-sponsored by NIACC and the Mason City Chamber of Commerce.

“This will be a great opportunity to see the latest and greatest stuff at the largest technology event in North Iowa. While this is the 5th Wired Differently event, it has absolutely exploded and is going to be bigger and better than ever. Companies like Cisco Systems, Inc., the Technology Association of Iowa and keynote speaker Terry Jones, founder of Travelocity, will all participate,” Mary Mosiman, NIACC information technology program leader, said.

Attendees to the event will include small business



owners, information technology professionals, business executives and students from across North Iowa.

Terry Jones, founder of Travelocity.com and eCommerce Pioneer, will serve as the keynote speaker at the Wired Differently Technology Showcase. “It’s a new world out there...where the ‘office’ is anywhere and communication is constant, the pace of change is staggering, and the ‘wired generation’ is entering the workplace,” Jones said.

For more information on the Wired Differently Technology Showcase, contact Mosiman at 1-888-GO NIACC, ext. 4149 or mosimmar@niacc.edu.



Area Students Recognized at NIACC Web Design Banquet

Over 120 people, including students from the Beginning Web Page Development class at ten North Iowa high schools, instructors, parents, NIACC students and personnel attended the Beginning Web Page Development Web Design Recognition Banquet held this fall at the College.

The event celebrated the winners of a web design contest offered to students participating in Beginning Web Page Development courses in a number of North Iowa area high schools. Winners from each high school were awarded a three credit hour NIACC scholarship for their projects. The other students were recognized as honorable mentions from their high schools.

The participating high schools included Charles City High School, Clear Lake High School, Corwith-Wesley-LuVerne High School, Forest City High School, Mason City High School, North Central High School, Northwood-Kensett High School, Osage High School, Rockwell-Swaledale High School and Ventura High School.

**ALUMNI ALMANAC • 1970s • Jerold Martinek ’72** is the principal at Dike-New Hartford Community Schools. He lives in Belmond, IA. • **Dennis Hejlik ’73** is a Major General/Commander in the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command. He is stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. • **Maureen (Jacobson) Goranson ’74** is employed with McCoy & Company in Clear Lake, IA. She lives in Clear Lake with her husband, Gale. • **Jean (Woodiwiss) Torgeson ’76** has been honored by the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees with the John P. Kibbie Award. • **Sandra Gobeli ’78** has been appointed as pastor of the Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church in Council Bluffs, IA. Prior to this appointment she served as interim pastor of Rockford and Marble Rock United Methodist Churches. She lives in Hancock, IA with her husband, David. • **Tim Hauber ’78** is the Vice President for Enrollment at AIB College of Business in Des Moines, IA. He lives in Windsor Heights, IA. • **1980s • Roger Pearce ’81** has been promoted to service manager at Schukei Chevrolet-Volkswagen in Mason City, IA. He lives in Mason City with his wife, Dee and family. • **Tammy (Gray) Hansen ’83** is a Nurse Manager at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo, IA. She lives in Cedar Falls, IA with her husband, Russ and children, Ryan and Tyler. • **Teresa (Thomas) Miller ’83** is self-employed as a Market Research Programmer. She lives in Fort Worth, TX with her husband William. • **Anne Zook ’83** is employed by Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa in Mason City, IA and has been accepted into the Harvard Medical School Program in Palliative Care Education and Practice. • **Todd Toresdahl ’84** is employed by Cirque du Soliel's Mystere in Las Vegas, where he lives with his wife, Kathy. • **Brenda (Meyer) Williams ’84** is an RN in Gilbert, AZ, where she lives with her husband, John, and family. • **Patrick Palmer ’85** has received the CEA Comp TIA DHTI+ certification for Digital Home Technology Integrator from CompTIA, an industry-wide training program. He has operated his home-based business in Hampton, IA for more than 10 years. • **Diane (Dirschel) Ryberg ’85** is a Design Analyst at Partt & Whitney Rocketdyne in West Palm Beach, FL. She lives in North Palm Beach, FL with her husband, John and children, Courtney and Darren. • **Teresa (Heitland) Symens ’86** is employed as an infection control nurse at Mercy Medical Center – North Iowa in Mason City and has been named the Dorothy A. Rasley Infection Control Practitioner of the Year by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. • **Lori (Lensch) Luzum ’87** is a 3rd grade teacher at South Winneshiek Community Schools in Calmar, IA. She lives in Decorah, IA with her husband, Loren and family. • **Mark VanLent ’87** is employed as a field support specialist with TeamQuest Corporation in Clear Lake, IA. • **Jeff Becker ’89** is employed by D&D Advertising in Cincinnati, OH as an Advertising Executive. He lives in Cincinnati, OH. • **Jay Dahl ’89** is a teacher and coach at Boone Community Schools in Boone, IA. He lives in Boone with his wife Erin. • **Marne (Law) Markwardt ’89** is a teacher at Belmond-Klemme Schools in Belmond, IA. She lives in Clear Lake, IA, with her husband, Chad, and family. **1990s • Scott Moeller ’91** is a 4th grade teacher at Cross of Christ Lutheran School in Anthem, AZ. He lives in Anthem, AZ with his wife, Keri and family. • **Jeremy Hubbard ’92** is employed by McQuay International as an application engineer. He lives in Maple Grove, MN with his wife, Stephanie and two boys. • **Mark Rahm ’92** is employed as interim city engineer by the City of Mason City. He passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination and is a licensed professional engineer in Iowa. Mark lives in Mason City with his wife, Linda. • **Arian Schuessler ’92** is the Multimedia Coordinator with the Globe Gazette in Mason City, IA, responsible for the papers website videography and editing and posting news reports. He lives in Mason City with his wife, Katie. • **Matt Brunk ’93** is self employed as an owner/agent in Liberty, MO. He lives in Liberty, MO with his wife, Jennifer and three girls. • **Joanie Leerar ’93** is the Human Resource Coordinator at Snap-on Tools in Algona, IA. She lives in Algona with her husband, Jason and family. • **Jennifer (Robinson) Schaefer ’93** is employed by Sedars Auto Park in Mason City, IA as controller. **Heidi (Heineman) Guta ’94** is employed at Boston Scientific in Los Angeles, CA. She lives in Studio City, CA with her husband, Sharli. • **Kerry (Merrill) Klunder ’94** is employed as a medical social worker for Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa and is also an adjunct instructor at North Iowa Area Community College and Hamilton College. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Matt. • **Amy (Brown) Scarlett Jr. ’95** is employed at Benedictine Hospital in Kingston, NY. She lives in Catskill, NY with her husband, Linca. **Shanna Laughton ’96** is employed as Head Administrator at Manly Nursing and Rehab in Manly, IA. She lives in Mason City with her two boys. • **Richard Mackin ’96** has joined Hogan-Hansen, P.C., Certified Public Accountants and Consultants in Mason City, IA, as an accountant. • **Melinda (Smith) Pederson ’96** is employed by Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA as assistant manager of client services. • **Jonathan Brown ’97** is employed by Decker Sports in Mason City, IA. He lives in Mason City with is wife, Kariann and family. **Sara (Trenhaile) Clausen ’97** is employed as a senior applications analyst at General Mills, in Minneapolis, MN. She lives in Brooklyn Park, MN with her husband Perry. • **John Ressler ’97** has qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table’s Court of the Table. He is a 12-year Round Table member and seven-time Court of the Table qualifier. • **Jeremy Witt ’97** is employed by The Principal Financial Group in Mason City, IA and has been promoted to Assistant Manager. • **Anna Marie (Olesen) Clausen ’98** owns Clausen Chiropractic in

Sheffield, IA. She lives in Sheffield with her husband, Brent. • **Angela Zimmerman ’98** received her Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Communications from the University of Northern Iowa. She is employed by ME&V in Cedar Falls. • **Dawn (Eskildsen) Waldeland ’99** is employed with U.S. Bank Home Mortgage in Bloomington, MN. She lives in Apple Valley, MN with her husband, Travis. • **Sara (Rye) Pals ’99** is a realtor with Rye Realty Inc. in Mason City, IA. She has received the Iowa Association of Realtors Individual Achievement Award in the Silver category. • **2000s • Molly (Pederson) Knoll ’00** is the Assistant Director of Institutional Advancement at NIACC. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Ryan. • **Sheri (Kleinwort) Muller ’00** is the associate librarian and archivist at Grand View College in Des Moines, IA. She lives in Jewell, IA with her husband, Adam. **Diana Symonds ’00** is employed by Anchor Realty Inc. in Clear Lake, IA as broker associate. She has been awarded the certified residential specialist (CRS) designation by the Council of Residential Specialists. • **Joel Heinz ’01** is employed at Target Distribution Center in Cedar Falls, IA. He lives in Cedar Falls with his wife, Mindy. • **Jesse Lutz ’01** is a self-employed farmer in rural Manly. He lives in Manly with his wife, Jessica. • **Casey Mussman ’01** is employed by Lehigh in Mason City, IA. He lives in Mason City with his wife, Aimee. **Krisann Bergo ’02** is a Sociology instructor at Black Hawk College. She lives in Rock Island, IL. • **Blair Brunsvold ’02** is employed with Advanced Computer Technologies in Northwood, IA. He lives in Manly, IA with his wife, Brooke. • **Haylee (Steenhard) Miller ’02** is employed by Rye Realty Inc. in Mason City, IA. She is a member of the Greater Mason City Board of Realtors, the Iowa Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. She lives in Mason City with her husband, Ryan. • **Ryan Studer ’02** is employed by Lichtsinn Motors in Forest City, IA as the GM and recreational vehicle business manager. **Brent Anderson ’03** is employed by Kraft Foods in Mason City as the Safety, Security and Environmental Manager. He lives in Mason City with his wife, Sherri and family. • **Brooke (Brodersen) Brunsvold ’03** is employed with the Mason City School District in Mason City, IA. She lives in Manly, IA with her husband, Blair. • **Jamie Ford ’03** is a full-time law student at William Mitchell Colege of Law in Saint Paul, MN. • **Marie (Harms) Ott ’03** is employed by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP as an Assurance Associate in Des Moines, IA. She lives in Ankeny, IA with her husband, Matt. • **Katie (Robinson) Roderick ’03** is employed by Rye Realty Inc. in Mason City, IA. She is a member of the Greater Mason City Board of Realtors, the Iowa Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. She lives in Mason City with her sons, Dakota and Dalton. • **Adam Blakewell ’04** is employed by Allied Construction in Charles City. He lives in Charles City with his wife, Edna. • **Jonathon Myers ’04** is a HVAC Specialist at Allen Memorial Hospital in Waterloo, IA. He lives in Clarksville, IA with his wife Bethany and family. • **Edna (Klink) Blakewell ’05** is employed by Comprehensive Systems in Charles City. She lives in Charles City with her husband, Adam. **Kimberly (Fatka) Maas ’05** is a mortgage loan officer at Bank of America in Mason City, IA. She received the 2006 Winner's Circle Award for outstanding loan production in 2006 at the Iowa Mortgage Association Spring Convention in Cedar Rapids. She lives in Clear Lake with her husband and daughters, Stephanie and Mackenzie. • **Jason Wubben ’05** is a computer networking technician. He lives near Buffalo Center, IA with his wife, Rachel.

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

**IN MEMORY • Alumni (by class) •** 1931 Neva G. (Sheridan) Bertagnolli, 95 • 1940 Ralph R. Thomas, 83 • 1941 Dr. Robert W. Green, 85 • 1943 Dr. Roy V. Maxson, 85 • 1948 Paris A. Di Gregorio, 87 • 1950 Edna J. Klaassen, 105 • 1954 Lee R. Findling, 77 • Forrest L. ‘Buzz’ Godden, 77 • 1959 James W. ‘Jim’ Burrell, 74 • Astrid ‘Babe’ (Haugo) Quisling, 94 1961 Elaine ‘Sherry’ Carol (Sheridan) Hiszczynskij, 66 • 1964 Paul V. Paulus, 69 • 1965 Shirley D. (Hilleary) Strathman, 76 • 1970 Max D. Jeffrey, 56 • 1971 Shirley D. Strathman, 76 • 1972 Michael G. Trettin, 54 • 1974 Thomas J. Burns, 52 • 1976 Rodney W. Olson, 50 • 1978 Gordon S. Dye, 75 • 1979 Bradley N. Paulsen, 59 • 1983 Kathie J. (Seter) Berge, 43 • 1985 Ronald F. Olson, 44 • 1986 Dona J. (Moor) Sticha, 55 • 1989 Barbara L. (Poulin) Jones, 61 • 2002 Jennifer M. Hammand, 25 • 2003 Adam L. Pinkele, 26 • 2005 James L. Olson, 32 • **Other NIACC Friends •** Ruth I. Banning, 93 • Carol E. Basgall, 91 Richard ‘Dick’ William Blake, 70 • Dorothy Curran, 91 • Clarence E. Deardeuff, 79 • Merlyn R. Elman, 78 • Mary C. Fox, 81 • Bruce B. Girton, 77 • Andrea ‘Andi’ D. Halverson, 54 Francis Leslie ‘Les’ Johnstone, 83 • Helen M. (Heinz) Koebrick, 92 • Elinor T. Kornhauser, 77 Mary J. Lafayette, 96 • Ervin K. Larson, 75 • Dr. Sophocles D. Marty, 78 • Judge Ralph F. McCartney, 82 • Mary K. Meeker, 61 • Dean H. Nerdig, 87 • Harold W. Paine, 86 • Anna Parks, 74 • Alston Penfold, 87 • Joseph Perkins, 37 • Glen Roben, 89 • Greg Schneider, 46 Hans C. Sell, 86 • Vern F. Stork, 83 • Dr. Ralph C. Swale, 80 • Douglas R. Swyter, 58 George A. Weber, 81

NIACC Introduces Six New Program Opportunities

Students have six new options for study at North Iowa Area Community College beginning this fall. The newly-organized programs include medical coding diploma program, accounting certificate program, retail management certificate and diploma, climate control technology, welding technology and senior network administration. NIACC's new or updated programs provide students with a foundation in each of the six areas.

New/Updated Programs at NIACC:

**Medical Coding Diploma Program** - The health sector of our economy, like most other sectors, is making increased use of information technology. NIACC is working with Mercy Medical Center and other health care providers to insure that we address education and training needs in this area. The new Medical Coding Diploma Program is an option ladder into NIACC's Medical Office Specialist Program. It will provide students with a broader-based skill set to work in the health care and health insurance industries.



**Accounting Certificate Program** - NIACC already offers an associate degree in Accounting. As of Fall 2006, the College had 72 students majoring in accounting and many other students take individual courses in accounting. The new Accounting Certificate Program provides students with a great opportunity to either add skills to their resume or to build a foundation to move on to an associate degree.

**Retail Management Certificate and Diploma** - NIACC already offers an associate degree in Retail

Management. Our new Retail Management instructor has recommended that we add Certificate and Diploma options, which will provide shorter-term credentials that can be offered to students.

**Climate Control Technology** - The climate control industry (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) has a continuous need for skilled workers in North Iowa and in most areas of the country. During the past year, NIACC has reviewed and updated this program. An important addition to the curriculum is a course sequence in digital controls technology.

**Welding Technology** - There is a continuous demand for welders in North Iowa and elsewhere. During the past year the College has reviewed the curriculum, designed a new welding lab, and set aside funds for new welding equipment.

**Senior Network Administration** - NIACC is a Regional Academy for the CISCO Corporation, which is the primary provider of computer networking technology in the U.S. The College has a basic Network Administration program and networking courses that attract information technology students from other specializations. Our new Cyber Security specialization requires students to take several networking courses. Most students who are interested in Senior Network Administration are working professionals. The College is converting the Senior Network Administration program to an online (Internet) program, which will be more accessible to students who are working full-time. The new program delivery model will employ digital video lectures that can be accessed on a computer screen or an iPod.

Six Area Schools and a \$500 Scholarship Featured at Inaugural NIACC Cup

North Iowa Area Community College welcomed six area schools to the inaugural NIACC Cup at Rice Lake Country Club in Lake Mills.

Participating schools from North Iowa included Belmond-Klemme, Hampton-Dumont, North Butler, North Central, Forest City and Lake Mills. NIACC also had a team.

"The NIACC Cup provides a great opportunity to bring area schools together and celebrate a scholarship that will benefit a NIACC student," Dan Mason, NIACC athletic director, said.

The Lake Mills Community School District team protected the home course advantage by posting an 11 under par 60 to take home the NIACC Cup and win a \$500 scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to an incoming NIACC freshman from the Lake Mills school district for Fall 2008.

Team members of the winning Lake Mills team included Wayne Van Veldhuizen, Mark Van Gorkom, Jamie Ham and Brad Groetewold.



NIACC Accounting Graduate Receives National Scholarship

Christine Harms, a North Iowa Area Community College accounting graduate, received the national Teachers of Accounting at Two-Year Colleges (TACTYC) Scholarship.

Harms, of Mason City, will receive \$1,000 toward her education. For her entry, Harms wrote an essay addressing a managerial accounting problem. She was sponsored for the scholarship by NIACC accounting instructor Greg Lauer and chosen from a national pool of candidates as a recipient of the prestigious award.

"Christine is one of the most outstanding and talented accounting students that I have had the pleasure of working with in the classroom," Lauer said. "You will not find an individual that is more dedicated to success and professionalism than Christine."

TACTYC was founded in 1974 by a group of innovative educators. TACTYC's primary objective is the advancement of accounting education. The group emphasizes the development of creative and innovative teaching and curriculum.



A Gift to Us That Returns the Favor to You

You've heard the old adage that it's better to give than to receive. But with a charitable gift annuity, you help yourself at the same time you are helping us.

Add Up the Numbers

Most organizations use annuity rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities.\* These rates are the same for men and women and are slightly lower for two annuitants of the same age.

Let's look at what these rates mean for a donor aged 75. Jane has long wanted to make a significant gift to The NIACC Foundation, but she likes the security of receiving income payments from her assets, and she doesn't want to give that up.

After hearing about the benefits of charitable gift annuities though, Jane finds that she can make a charitable gift and receive a steady stream of payments. With a gift of \$10,000 to The NIACC Foundation, she sets up an annuity that pays her \$710 annually in quarterly installments (7.1 percent of her \$10,000 gift).

As a result of her generosity, Jane will also be able to claim a charitable deduction of \$4,688 on her income tax return in the year she makes the gift.\*\* At her 28 percent annual income tax rate, this saves her \$1,313 – making her out-of-pocket cost for the gift only \$8,687. Taking into account her tax savings, with each annual annuity payment of \$710, she is actually receiving 8.2 percent of her out-of-pocket cost.

Assuming she lives to age 87, her life expectancy, more than half of the annuity installments she receives will be nontaxable. To realize the same after-tax amount to spend or reinvest, an all-taxable return would have to be 10.1 percent on net cost for these years.

For additional information, articles or examples, check out our web site at [www.niacc.edu/foundation](http://www.niacc.edu/foundation). Go to Planned Giving and click on Ways to Give. There, you will find articles on charitable gift annuities, a gift calculator and more information on other gifting vehicles.

Please contact Jamie T. Zanios at 641-422-4162 or via email at [foundation@niacc.edu](mailto:foundation@niacc.edu) for more information.

\*\*This figure is calculated using quarterly payments and a 5.8 percent federal midterm rate, a figure used by the IRS in determining the future value of a gift.

ONE LIFE		TWO LIVES	
Your Age	Rate of Return	Your Ages	Rate of Return
50	5.3%	50/55	4.7%
55	5.5%	55/60	5.0%
60	5.7%	60/65	5.5%
65	6.0%	65/70	5.7%
70	6.5%	70/75	6.1%
75	7.1%	75/80	6.6%
80	8.0%	80/85	7.3%
85	9.5%	85/90	8.4%
90+	11.3%	90/95+	10.1%

The rate of return is slightly lower for two lives because the period of payment is generally longer.  
\*Please be advised that not all organizations offer CGAs at the above ages and rates. Contact The NIACC Foundation for current rates.

Give Online

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



## NIACC Faces

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

**Jerrod Behr** is the new 3rd Shift Custodian and was most recently employed at Woodharbor in Mason City. Jerrod received an A.A. from NIACC in 2001.



**Michael Blackburn**, new Enrollment Specialist/Assistant Football Coach, comes to NIACC from South Dakota State University. He earned his BA and MS from SDSU as well.



**Christine Brandt** is the new Developmental Math Instructor. She earned her bachelor's degree from UNI and came to us from the Mason City School System.



**Tanya Dadisman** is the new Administrative Assistant in Admissions. She previously worked at Hy-Vee, and was the NIACC Accounts Receivable person from 2000-2005. She earned her B.A. from UNI.



**Richard Fergola** is the new Head Wrestling Coach for NIACC. He served in a similar position at Dana College in Nebraska. Richard earned his master's at Emporia State University in Kansas in 2004.



**Shelly Hagarty** is the new Administrative Assistant in the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Shelly earned her A.A. in Business and was the owner of the Frontier Trading Company in Clear Lake. She was most recently employed at Principal Financial.



**Lori Hall** is our new Associate Degree Nursing Instructor, with a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and served as an adjunct instructor for NIACC while working full time for Mercy Medical Center North Iowa.



**Gregg Helmich** is our new Building Trades Instructor coming to the College from the Forest City School System with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Industrial Technology-Education.



**Sandra Huff** is the Community/Business/Industry Instructor and has a B.A. in Accounting from Buena Vista University - Mason City. She has worked as an adjunct in NIACC's Business Division since 2002.



**Beckie Minear** is the new Systems Administrator/Programmer-Analyst in Technology Services. Beckie is a returning employee, having held the same job at the College from 1988 to 1999. She was employed with Cerro Gordo County prior to coming back to NIACC. She holds an A.A. and an ASB from the College.



**Jason Ott** will be NIACC's new Second Year Climate Control Instructor. Jason received his A.S. in Applied Science in Climate Control Technology from NIACC in 1996 and was most recently employed by Bonded Plumbing and Heating.



**Emily (Arnold) Ruehlow** is the new Administrative Office Assistant - Athletics. Emily previously worked for Farm Financial Strategies. She has a bachelor's degree from UNI.



**Marilyn Shelby** is the new Developmental Writing Instructor. Marilyn earned her master's degree from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and was most recently working as a freelance editor assisting graduate students with dissertations, theses and journals.



**Heather Stubbe** is the new Workforce Advisor. Heather most recently worked for the State Police Officers Council and received her bachelor's degree from Morningside College.



**Deb Throne** is the new School Partnership Coordinator coming to NIACC from Lake Mills Community Schools. She earned her B.A.s in Accounting and Secondary Ed. from Buena Vista University-Mason City.



**Ted Weiland** is the new Chemistry Instructor at the College and previously served as an Associate Lecturer at UW-Stevens Point/Marshfield. Tim earned his master's degree at Iowa State University.



**Tim Westrum** is NIACC's new Welding Instructor coming to the College from Austin Public Schools. Tim earned his bachelor's degree at ISU.



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

**Dana Heimbuch** will now be the Business Internship Administrator having most recently served NIACC in the position of Administrative Office Assistant-JPEC. Dana received her ASB from NIACC in 1996 and has been employed by NIACC since 1998.



**Lisa Ludwig (Steiff)** is the new Computer Technician having served as the Help Desk/Media Technician since 2004. She began her employment at NIACC in 1999 as a Natural Science Associate. Lisa received her bachelor's degree from Buena Vista University-Mason City in 2004.



**Deb Smith** will now be the Housing Office Assistant/Campus Facility-ICN Scheduler. She is making the change from Continuing Education Secretary to Housing Office Assistant but will retain her Campus Facility-ICN Scheduler duties. Deb has been employed at NIACC since 1997.



**Lois Spieker** has taken over the duties of Help Desk/Media Technician. She most recently served as Computer Technician/Housing Office Manager and has been employed by NIACC since 1989.



**Curtis Vais**, the Head Track and Cross Country Coach, has had Assistant to the Athletic Director added to his duties. Curtis has been employed at NIACC since 2004 and has a bachelor's degree from Mount St. Clare College.



**Kim Kraus** has moved into the Library Serials Associate position from the Library Circulation Assistant position in which she has served since 1984. Kim received her Clerical Diploma from Hamilton College.



**Jerry Magnuson** has moved from his position as Workforce Advisor to Employment/Training Specialist at the Iowa Workforce Development Center. Jerry has been employed at IWDC/NIACC since 1998 and prior to that, worked for NTAEA-Gerard. He earned his bachelor's degree at Buena Vista University-Mason City.





## NIACC Extreme Makeover: College Edition Winners Announced

Laura Fielder, of Nora Springs, and Troy Machin, of Osage, have been announced as the winners of North Iowa Area Community College's Extreme Makeover: College Edition.

Fielder and Machin will receive free NIACC tuition plus textbooks and more for the 2007-08 school year. Fielder hopes to work in the business field. Machin plans to pursue an education in industrial technology.

The three runners-up, Joanne Brown, of Forest City; Ronda Raimann, of Charles City; and Marilyn Wahlgren, of Greene, will each receive a \$1,000 NIACC scholarship this year.

Over 800 votes were cast online for NIACC's Extreme Makeover: College Edition.

Entrants wrote and submitted a brief 250 word essay telling why they need or deserve an educational makeover. Then, a panel of judges selected five finalists. The final step was to have the public vote on who was in need of the Extreme Makeover: College Edition.

The Extreme Makeover: College Edition contest is the latest twist to the tuition-reduction promotions initiated by the College in 1997. Such programs have benefited over 600 people, and this opportunity will allow even more to explore the option of returning to school and refreshing or enhancing their skills.



*Laura Fielder*



*Troy Machin*

## NIACC Offers Scholarships for Adult Students

Adults can now start fresh with a scholarship at NIACC and invest in themselves through their education.

NIACC's scholarships for adult students, which range from \$125 to \$750, are available to individuals at least 23 years old who have not taken a NIACC credit class in the past three years.

"NIACC's scholarships for adult students are for anyone who needs a fresh start or has ever said they don't have the time or money to go back to school," Chris Frenz, NIACC adult student recruiter, said. "This assistance will help those who qualify get the education they need to improve their skills or completely change their skill set."

For more information, call 1-888-GO NIACC or go to [www.niacc.edu/makeover](http://www.niacc.edu/makeover).

### Class of 2007

Around 600 students graduated from North Iowa Area Community College during the commencement ceremony on May 4, 2007. The College awarded 684 degrees, diplomas and certificates along with several honors and recognitions. NIACC's Class of 2007 represents 3 countries, 10 states and 96 communities across Iowa.



# NIACC

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