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DOANE MAGAZINE volume 96

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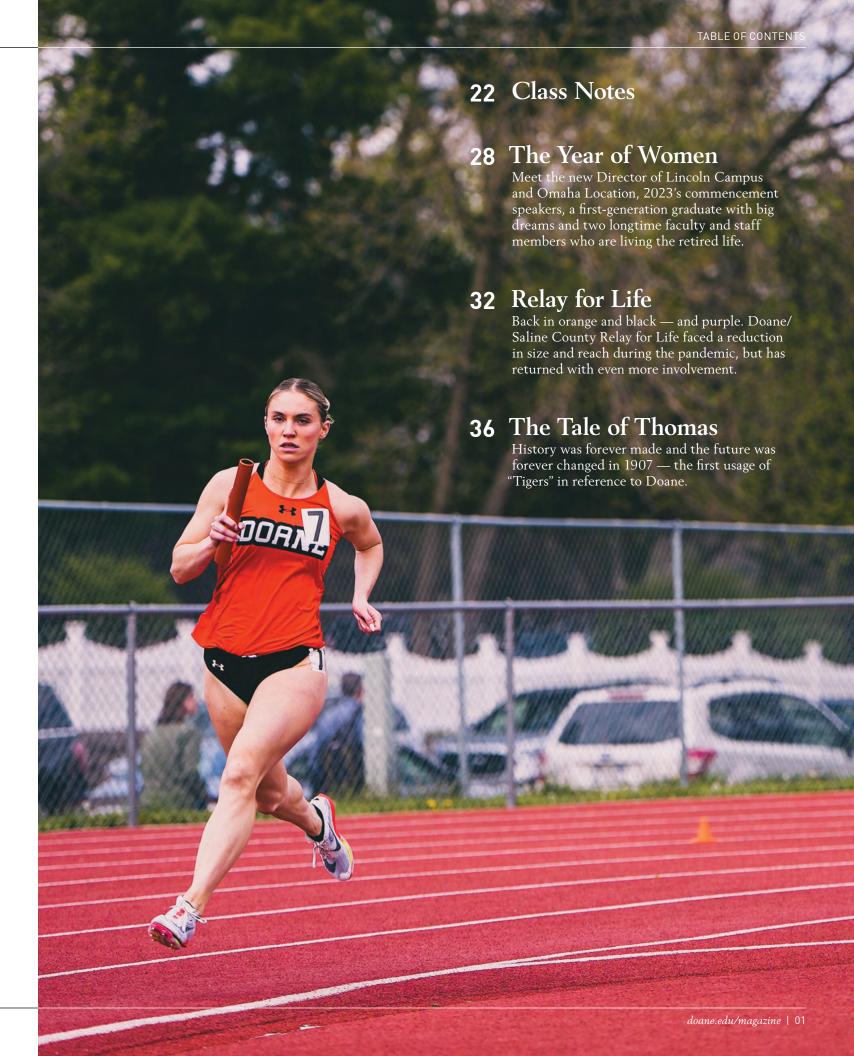
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UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the *President*



This past year at Doane, I've seen so much that makes me grateful for I our students, our staff, our faculty, our alumni and our communities in Crete, Lincoln, Omaha and around the world. You'll see plenty of these achievements and accomplishments in the pages of this magazine, from our nationally recognized athletes and theater productions to multimillion dollar grants that will help us provide even better educational opportunities to our students and beyond.

We're doing great things. But the enemy of progress is satisfaction. We want to make Doane the institution that everyone else wants to be like, and there are two additional pieces I want to highlight that will open the pathway to that goal.

The first: we have developed the Our Time to Lead 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. In it, we outlined our priorities for the coming years: to increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates; to provide high-quality academic programs; to strengthen equity, belonging and engagement; and to ensure a stellar, inclusive student experience for all types of learners. We're also going to be focusing on providing faculty and staff development opportunities, facility improvements and developing strategic partnerships.

The full Strategic Plan is available to read at doane.edu/strategic-plan.

Second: we've made great steps in updating our campus spaces. In January, more than 120 upperclass students will move into our new residence hall, an ADA-accessible building with suite-style living. We're also finishing the interior of our president's residence, and look forward to seeing you at events there in 2024.

There's plenty more in the works and you can expect some exciting announcements this coming year. As you flip through our magazine, I hope you feel as inspired as I do at the incredible feats of our Doane Tigers. And if you'd like to help, make sure you don't skip pages 34 and 35. We'd love to have you join us in ensuring WE BUILD LEADERS for our next 150 years.

Go Tigers!

Dr. Roger Hughes '82 Doane University President

University Highlights

Each year, Doane students, staff and faculty have incredible accomplishments and successes — too many to list! But we're going to try our best to call out some of the milestones and achievements making an impact on our campuses and communities.

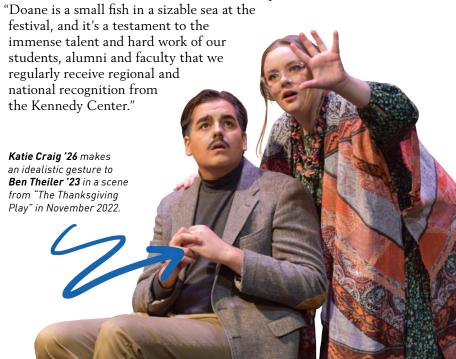


Doane Theatre rocks regional, national theater festivals

Specifically, both the national and regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festivals, typically abbreviated as KCACTF. Doane's department and students received eight national awards for the production of Lonely Planet in May 2022, and received four more awards by the end of the year. At the regional KCACTF in February, Doane claimed an additional six awards and other accolades.

It's a pretty big deal. Region V covers seven states, and doesn't differentiate between state and private schools or athletic conferences. Doane students are on the same stage as UNL, Iowa State, SDSU, Mizzou — and all colleges and universities in the U.S. belong to one of the Kennedy Center's eight regions.

"We're all so proud of all our students and faculty for these amazing accomplishments," said Rob McKercher, professor of theatre and co-director of the Theatre Department.





Seward High School was one of a dozen Nebraska high schools offering Doane Dual-Credit courses in fall 2023.

Doane Dual-Credit courses start in 11 Nebraska high schools

After being announced in December 2022, Doane's Dual-Credit program began offering courses online and in 12 Nebraska high schools in fall 2023. The courses allow high school students to receive college credit at just \$75 per credit hour, or at no cost for certain education courses.

Through a partnership between Doane, Crete Public Schools and Educational Service Units 5 and 6. students within those districts can take courses in the Educator Pipeline Collaborative (EPiC) Dual-Credit pathway at zero cost. The tuition waiver is funded by an Educator Shortage Grant received from the Nebraska Department of Education. The EPiC pathway provides high school students with an opportunity to explore teaching as a future profession.

Additional courses are available as part of the Doane Core, up to 33 credit hours of general requirements that can be applied toward any bachelor's degree at Doane, as well as the Exercise Science pathway, which offers courses beneficial to students considering degrees or jobs in fields including medicine, physical therapy and athletic training.



READ MORE ABOUT EPIC SUCCESS AT DOANE.EDU

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3 New Player: Esports launches for students in Crete and Lincoln

Tiger Athletics hit "start" on a new team this fall: esports. The sport is a growing industry — along with players who compete individually or in teams, the industry demands technical and communications skills, marketing and entrepreneurship for streaming, commentary, connecting with sponsors and sharing updates with fans.

Director of Esports and Head Coach Aaron Blackman said the team will have competitive positions, but offers opportunities for students interested in all parts of the esports industry as long as they're interested and passionate about gaming.

"All of the students are going to learn how to become better team members, they're going to learn how to analyze situations, how to problem solve and their critical thinking skills are going to go through the roof," Blackman said. "It's more than just playing video games. We're going to be giving them a lot of excellent life lessons."

Esports is open to students studying on either of the university's campuses, Crete or Lincoln, and to both undergraduate and graduate students. Like athletics and performing arts at Doane, tuition-based scholarships are available to students joining the esports team.



Dr. Timothy Hill, professor of political science, sits with students in one of his fall 2022 advanced political science courses.

4 Policy & Values degree program created

The Policy & Values major offers students an interdisciplinary approach to the study of policy, with a twist. In addition to studying how policy is created and administered, students will study the values — formed through religion, ethics, culture, society and history — that shape and influence policy.

The program has three specializations: healthcare policy, environmental policy and legal affairs. Its curriculum pulls from multiple disciplines including political science, philosophy, religious studies, sociology, communication studies, economics, business and environmental science. A degree in Policy & Values can serve a student interested in law or graduate school, or for entry into government, nonprofit administration and advocacy, journalism, lobbying, business, corporate compliance and more.

"This program is good for students who are interested in making an impact on the world," said **Dr. Tim** Hill, who created the program and teaches political science. "The breadth of coursework will provide a solid foundation for students to understand and engage with the world around them."

5 Agreements help support community college transfers

Students completing associate's degrees at Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, Mid-Plains Community College and Metropolitan Community College — all located in eastern Nebraska — have the opportunity to make a costeffective, seamless transition into a related bachelor's degree at Doane. Institutional agreements signed with all four colleges allow for new transfers to receive either reduced tuition while attending Doane courses in Lincoln or online, or a grant to attend the residential campus in Crete.

Dr. Paul Illich, president of Southeast Community College, and **Dr. Roger Hughes**, president of Doane, sign an institutional agreement.



6 Doane Forensics finds success in competition, leadership

During the 2022-23 competitive season, Doane Forensics students won 50 individual awards, including 12 championships. All eight members of the team qualified for the American Forensics Association-National Speech Tournament (AFA-NST), and qualified every event.

Alexandria Moulton '24 placed 16th in the nation in prose interpretation, which along with her informative speaking event, was delivered using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. This was the first time in collegiate forensics that a speaker used AAC devices in competition.

"While I am proud of our students' competitive success, I am even more proud of their growth as individuals. Each team member confronted and overcame their own individual challenges, ranging from trying speech for the first time to revolutionizing public speaking itself," said Nathaniel Wilson, director of forensics and assistant professor of practice in communication. "Best of all, they accomplished all of this while creating a supportive, welcoming, and healthy team culture."

Doane's coaches, Wilson and Jennifer Torres, assistant director of forensics, also pioneered methods to implement live transcription during speech competitions. In March, Doane became the first school in the history of collegiate forensics to host a tournament featuring live transcription in every competition round — a practice aimed at increasing access for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or prefer processing information through printed text.

Three members of the team were also elected by peers at institutions across the country to serve in positions with the AFA-NST. Moulton will be the student representative for AFA-NST's District IV, representing all teams from Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota. She is the first Doane student to be elected to this position.

Torres was elected as secretary of the AFA-NST and Wilson was elected as tournament director — two of just five officer positions in the AFA-NST.



NEED A REFRESHER ON DOANE FORENSICS? Check this article from after the mid-season nationals tournament.

Students **Maddy Ramey '26, Olivia Vore '24** and **Ali Moulton '24** laugh in the basement studio of Gaylord Hall.



UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured from left to right: Lorie Cook-Benjamin, Leriya'h Clay, Mohamed Sabiel, Dr. Roger Hughes '82, Payton Craine, Eveline Ungery, Alejandra Moreno (front) DeMoine Adams (back), Kenadee Broussard, Jevon Payne and Alex Morris.

The Belmont 8 Scholarship Program

Eight students, then fifth-graders at Belmont Elementary in Lincoln Public Schools, starred in the Emmy-nominated documentary, "We Will Not Be Silent," which followed their preparation for the city's 2021 MLK Youth Rally and March. In September 2022, they were announced as the first recipients of Doane's Belmont 8 Scholarship Program.

Students who complete the program, which runs from sixth through twelfth grade, will be awarded financial assistance to fully cover undergraduate tuition on admission to Doane.

Students in the first cohort (pictured above from left to right) are Leriya'h Clay, Mohamed Sabiel, Payton Craine, Eveline Ungery, Alejandra Moreno, Kenadee Broussard, Jevon Payne and Alex Morris. Students admitted into the program after applying in fifth grade showcase academic, leadership, community and/or family-based accomplishments, demonstrate contributions to advocating for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and enlist the help of their family, guardians or community in their education.

Starting in the sixth grade, the program will provide support to high achieving students early in their academic careers, through workshops, a leadership academy and coaching continuing throughout their middle and high school education.

Professional Certificates developed to supplement education and job skills

Doane launched two new Professional Certificates in March to provide students with cost and time-effective educational experiences. The programs — the Principles of Agribusiness and Software Development — are available entirely online through the Open Learning Academy (OLA) and are able to be completed in just one year.

Additionally, credits from both certificates can be applied toward completing a four-year degree program if a student chooses to get a bachelor's degree down the road.

"We know that not everyone can commit to spending multiple years completing a bachelor's program. Our certificates provide a bridge for students who want to quickly gain a foothold in their industry, upskill and move forward in their careers, or better understand the industries in which they work," said Erin May '14E, Doane's director of extended learning opportunities.

More certificates available through OLA are planned for the future. Check out the Principles of Agribusiness or Software Development!

Grants

By the end of the 2022-23 academic year, Doane faculty and staff had applied for and received more than \$4 million in grant funding to support degree programs, research, student services and accessibility, mental health and more. Here's a short overview of the grants:

From the National Science Foundation (NSF)

• \$1.5 million six-year grant to support students pursuing degrees in STEM majors.

READ MORE IN OUR DECEMBER 2022 ARTICLE:



- \$600,000 four-year grant to support Doane's Digital Imaging and Vision Applications in Science (DIVAS) project as part of the NSF's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) Exploration & Design: Engaged Student Learning program.
- \$562,500 three-year grant subaward from Iowa State University as part of the Iowa Illinois Nebraska STEM Partnership for Innovation in Research and Education (IINSPIRE). Doane participates in IINSPIRE alongside 16 state, private and community colleges.

From the Nebraska Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

- \$50,000 for a one-year grant funded 1:1 by EPSCoR and Doane to support the FIRST award.
- \$23,409 for a one-year grant funding teaching and research equipment.

From the Nebraska Department of Education

 \$100,000 two-year grant funding free tuition for students in Crete Public Schools and Educational

- Service Units 5 and 6 to take courses from Doane's Educator Pipeline Collaborative (EPiC) dual-credit pathway.
- \$84,000 one-year grant funding Nebraska Career Scholarships.
- A \$500,000 two-year grant from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Behavioral Health Education Center, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, supporting rural behavioral health training opportunities for students in Doane's Master of Arts in Counseling program.
- A \$306,000 three-year Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) campus suicide prevention grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This grant supports enhancing mental health services for college students; preventing and reducing suicide and mental and substance use disorders; promoting help-seeking behavior; and improving the identification and treatment of at-risk students so they can successfully complete their studies.
- A \$300,000 three-year grant from the Department of Justice that continues the Campus Advocacy, Prevention and Education (CAPE) project. Through inclusive prevention and education programs taught to students

- by peers, CAPE aims to reduce sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking and increase trauma-informed networks of support for survivors of interpersonal violence.
- A \$112,500 grant subaward from the University of Nebraska Medical Center as part of the Nebraska IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Developmental Research Project program. INBRE is ultimately funded through the National Institutes of Health's Institutional Development Award (IDeA).
- A \$5,000 "Building Interfaith America" grant from Interfaith America helped fund Doane's 2023 alternative spring break.

SEE A Q&A WITH STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TRIP ON PAGE 10.

- A \$5,000 grant from the Institute of International Education supporting students in applying for American passports to study abroad.
- A \$2,000 grant from Farm Credit Services of America that supported an online FFA competition to encourage Nebraska high school students to study agribusiness.



READ ABOUT THE COMPETITION AT DOANE.EDU!

Dr. Kate Marley (left) and **McKenna Revis '24** review data from their research on tumor development in breast cancer. Revis was paid as part of her summer research experience through the INBRE grant.



BRINGING A VISION TO FRUITION



Friends and classmates
Chad Hudnall O.D., Kara
Hudnall, Mark Allen and
Josh Conner O.D. stand
together for a photo
outside their businesses'
new, two-story facility.

BRINGING A VISION TO FRUITION at Unity Eye Centers

Writer Liz McCue
Photos Brad Mellema

In January, Unity Eye Centers celebrated a major milestone — the opening of a brand new, state-of-the-art facility in Grand Island, Nebraska. Unity partnered with Allen Capital Group to build the two-story facility, which the two businesses share.

But the story of Unity Eye Centers began far earlier, even before five of the optometrists that work at Unity's multiple Nebraska practices completed their bachelor's degrees at Doane.

It all started when several Grand Island graduates met at Doane. Mark Allen '99 (CEO and co-founder of Allen Capital Group) attended Northwest High School with Chad Hudnall '01, and helped recruit Chad to be a Tiger football player. At Doane, Chad met Kara Fiorilli '01 Hudnall (from Denver) and Josh Conner '01, also a Grand Island grad.

A little earlier, Jeff Pape '94 and Stephanie Quandt Pape '95,'01E graduated from Northwest, as well. And a few years later, so did Chris Rupp '04. All three knew Hudnall in some capacity, mostly through connections between their parents.

Chad, Josh, Jeff and Chris all knew they wanted to go into optometry by the time they arrived on campus.

"My dad and uncle were both in the eyecare industry, so I was able to see the profession up close," Jeff said. "I liked the aspect of providing healthcare while also being involved in retail with the frames and lenses."

Chad had always been fascinated by the profession, too. But during middle school, he had a serious eye injury that amplified that interest.

"I felt after that experience that optometry was what I wanted to do," Chad said.

He and Josh both went on to get their doctor of optometry from Indiana University. The idea of opening a practice together had been in their minds since their Doane days. But although they took separate paths after receiving their doctorates, the thought stuck with them. A few years before the pandemic, Josh joined Family Eyecare Center in GI, where Chad was already a partner.

"We had long discussed the possibility of one day becoming partners, and it worked out that Josh and his wife, Lynda, also an optometrist, could move back and join our practice," Chad said.

In 2020, they joined with Authier Miller Pape Eyecare in Norfolk and with EyeCare Associates of Columbus, creating Unity Eye Centers as an umbrella for all three practices. Now, Unity Eye Centers encompasses five practices serving five central and north central Nebraska communities.

Most recently, they added Ethan Rockwell — a 2019 graduate of Doane who began seeing Jeff for eyecare when he was three years old, and later worked at Authier Miller Pape Eyecare as a way to boost his intended application to medical school.

"Working as a technician, I quickly discovered there was much more to eyecare than the glasses and contacts side I had seen and was amazed by the variety of disease optometrists could treat, the technology and imaging that was available and the complexity of the visual system," Ethan said.

He ended up getting his doctor of optometry instead of medicine.

"I think that the fact we all have our Doane background as well as many of us having roots in Grand Island, it just fits very well," Chad said.



Mark Allen, CEO of Allen Capital Group, speaks to guests at the April 20, 2023 grand opening for both his business at Unity Eye Centers in Grand Island's Prairie Commons development.

Chad Hudnall O.D. holds a pair of giant scissors after cutting the ribbon celebrating Unity Eye Centers' and Allen Capital Group's grand opening.



ALT SPRING BREAK

Friendship, faith *and* following the path of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail

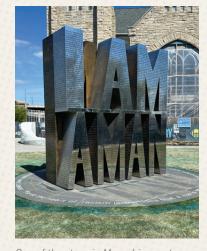
Writer Liz McCue Photos Eric Jones and Jas Jackson '24

In summer 2022, Dr. Leah Cech, then director of the Office of Religion and Spiritual Life, applied for a grant through Interfaith America. The goal of the grant, titled Building Interfaith America, was to create connections within communities of different faiths, and encourage participants to explore the intersection of community and faith.

The grant suggested an example: leading a trip along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. Which was also one of the dream trips **Luis Sotelo**, vice president of the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, hoped to offer Doane students after his own life-changing experience on the trail.

Doane received the grant, and Cech and Sotelo quickly took the idea to Nick Knopik, then-assistant director of leadership and service, who led the bi-annual Alternative Break trips. Alt breaks give students the opportunity to travel to cities across the country and learn about those communities through service — basically the jelly to the Building Interfaith America grant's peanut butter, especially with the work of Doane Serves student site leader Abrianna Miller '23 in coordinating faith-based volunteering opportunities throughout the route.

It all came together on March 11, as Sotelo, Eric Jones, then Smith Hall community director, Miller and Michalea Gilman '23, Jas Jackson '24, Chandler Cooper '23, Logan Bietz '25, Tasha Pederson '23 and Keke Jacsaint '24 left for the weeklong trip.



One of the stops in Memphis was to I AM A MAN Plaza, built to recognize the city's 1968 sanitation workers' strike and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



READ MORE about the timeline and locations visited and how the trip came to be.



Students and staff pose together outside the Old Courthouse museum in St. Louis.



A group selfie inside the Gateway Arch.

Why were you interested in attending alt spring break?

Jas Jackson: Aside from being a travel junkie I wanted to have a better understanding about my culture and the background of the country I live in. I wanted to be a part of the change for the future by learning about the past.

Michaela Gilman: I was interested in this trip because I wanted to learn more about how faith influenced the civil rights movements. I also wanted to be physically present in the places where significant events related to the movement occurred. By being present in these places I wanted to connect them with how my life was shaped today.

What were your thoughts going into the trip?

Abrianna Miller: I really wanted to focus on connecting each of our experiences to faith and the local community in some way, and I was blown away by the opportunities that more or less organically came from this trip. I was admittedly a bit nervous that it wouldn't work out as well as I hoped, but everything came together perfectly for this unforgettable trip.

What experiences during the trip left an impact on you?

Michaela Gilman: The Pearson Foundation had the biggest impact on me. I was filled with joy to have the opportunity to connect with students in the Jackson community. Regardless of their background and home life, my goal through that experience was to make sure that every child in that building knew that they were cherished and safe. I also had a personal connection with this opportunity by being a role model for young Black girls. Growing up I did not have that, which negatively affected my self-esteem and identity. I was truly grateful to give those girls something that I didn't have and influence them in a way that will continue to build them up to shine brighter than they already were.

What connections did you observe throughout this experience between faith, religion and the civil rights movement?

Jas Jackson: The main question that came to my mind was, how are these kids able to keep a smile on their face with all the racial injustices they face every day. They were able to keep their youth and innocence while fighting for what was right. Kids are the future and I aspire to have the kind of faith and strength they had.

Michaela Gilman: The church was deeply involved in supporting the civil rights movement by influencing genres of music, building funds and providing safe space for many. Faith deeply influenced the motivation and drive of those involved in the civil rights movement and guided them through adversity.

What's something you want others to know or that you found important from this trip?

Jas Jackson: I want others to be able to learn about these opportunities at Doane and take advantage of them. We are in school to learn and the best way to learn is to get outside your comfort zone. I came into this trip with a lot of knowledge but I left this trip with a new motivation for change along with new, lifelong connections.

Michaela Gilman: The most surprising thing about this trip was the realization of how much of what I learned was not taught in school at all or in its true extent. Given the magnitude and severity of the events that occurred during this movement, I am shocked that there has not been a lot of conversation about what happened or how these events affect the lives we live today. I want people to know that there is more out there and only a tiny fraction of it is covered in our education.

A moment for celebration on Beale Street in Memphis.





ATHLETICS **ATHLETICS**





Junior catcher **Ben Grigsby** ended the season with a .987 fielding percentage, while only notching three errors in 33 games.

BASEBALL*

It's **Josh Oltmans**'s world, and his team is thriving in it. Oltmans was named the GPAC Coach of the Year for the third year in a row. The team set a school record with 43 wins and ended their historic season in the opening round of the NAIA tournament.

Junior RHP Aaron Forrest earned GPAC pitcher of the year honors and is set up for a record-breaking senior season. He holds the school record for wins in a season. The records for career strikeouts and career wins are within reach. Both currently belong to/are shared by pitching coach **Elliot Engle '15**.

SOFTBALL

The Tigers ended their 2022 season with double the wins from the year prior. In June, **Renae Littrell** was named head coach, as Jordan Olson '16E took the head coaching position at her alma mater, Mayville State University. Littrell previously served as the head coach with the best win percentage in Doane program history from 2013-2017. A stint in which the Tigers won their first conference title and netted their first two NAIA tournament appearances.

VOLLEYBALL

Senior setter Jaime Renshaw settled into the school record books with 3,000+ career assists (fifth-highest). She earned a fourth straight All-GPAC honor and the team finished 11th in the conference.

TRACK AND FIELD

Indoor:

Senior Matthew Campbell became Doane's first three-time national champion in an indoor throwing event, and led the men's team to a sixth-place finish at the 2023 NAIA Indoor Championships in March. Senior Allison Skala finished second in the shot put and led the women's team to a 12th-place finish overall.

Outdoor:

Senior Kalen Dockweiler set a school-record time in the 3,000m steeplechase at the NAIA Championships, and placed second.

As a team, the GPAC runners-up finished 23rd overall with four NAIA All-Americans. Dockweiler was named First Team Academic All-American.

For the women, junior Macy Fuller broke her own school record in the hammer throw and finished third at the NAIA National Championships where the team tied for 39th overall.

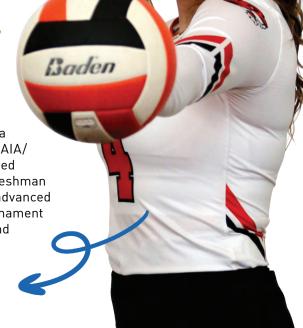
MEN'S BASKETBALL

With the final basket of his collegiate career, senior Alec Oberhauser went over the 1,000-career point mark (1,001) in his three-year Doane career. Earlier in the season sophomore **Brady Timm** sank a three-point buzzer beater. Both men were named to the all-conference team and the Omaha World-Herald All-Midlands' NAIA/ NCAA III team. The team tied for seventh in the GPAC.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sophomore Mak Hatcliff led the GPAC in scoring for the second straight season. She picked up NAIA All-American honors and was named honorary captain of the Omaha World-Herald All-Midlands' NAIA/ NCAA III team that also included sophomore **Macy Holtz** and freshman **Megan Chambers**. The team advanced to the GPAC post-season tournament for the first time since 2017 and finished eighth in the GPAC.

Renshaw led the team in aces this season and finished her Tiger career as a four-time all-GPAC player.



ATHLETICS **ATHLETICS**

MEN'S GOLF*

The Tiger men won their first GPAC championship and made their first appearance at the NAIA National Championships.

Earlier in the season, senior Blake **Anderson** broke the single-round record in program history. Myron Parsley was named the GPAC Men's Golf Coach of the Year. He was named Doane's Director of Golf, and will oversee both men's and women's golf programs next year in addition to his head coaching responsibilities.

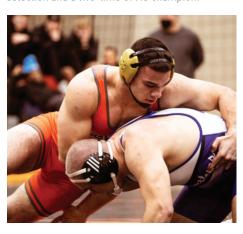
WOMEN'S GOLF

Sophomore **Emma Sheaffer** is chipping her way into the Doane record books. This spring she shot the second-best season average in program history, and the secondlowest low round in program history. The team finished 11th at the GPAC Championships.

SHOOTING SPORTS

With a third-place finish in Division III at the ACUI National Championships, the shooting sports team cemented themselves in the Doane history books with the best division finish in program history. They placed third in skeet, second in double skeet and super sporting and first in trap and double trap.

After two seasons, Alaska-native **Bradley Antesberger** is a three-time all-conference selection and a two-time GPAC champion.





Freshmen Cristelle Rodriquez, Karina Vang, Aevri Ciha and Lamia Benn (L to R) set a winning precedent in the program's first year at Doane.

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

The inaugural season was special for so many reasons. Competing in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC), freshmen Karina Vang (101 lbs.) and Cristelle Rodriguez (130 lbs.) started the season nationally ranked. Rodriguez earned an NAIA wrestler of the week honor and ultimately was named KCAC Wrestler of the Year. The team placed sixth at the conference championships with Rodriguez winning her weight class, and Vang and freshman **Aevri Ciha** (143 lbs.) picking up second-place finishes. The women finished 15th at the NAIA National Championships with Rodriguez finishing third and Vang finishing sixth — and both earning All-American honors.

MEN'S WRESTLING

Baagi Boldmaa is a name we'll miss writing. The three-time NAIA National Champion and three-time GPAC wrestler of the year at 141 lbs. didn't disappoint in his final season. He reached 100 consecutive wins (the sixth wrestler in men's collegiate history to do so) and an overall 116-3 record at Doane.

He joined teammates senior Daniel Vargas (125 lbs.) and sophomore Bradley Antesberger (197 lbs.) in individual GPAC championships to lift the Tigers to a second-place finish. Boldmaa and Antesberger both finished third in their respective weight classes at the NAIA National Championships to lead the team to a sixth-place finish. Four Tigers earned NAIA All-American honors as the team set a single-season school record for victories going 18-2.



Senior wide receiver **Chandler Cooper** posted 45 yards on three receptions against Jamestown on Oct. 1, 2022.

FOOTBALL

Freshman kicker/punter **Kelen Meyer** broke the school records for field goals in a season (16), longest field goal made (54 yards), and tied the record for field goals made in a game (4). He set the single-season record for punting average (42.3 yards/gm) and longest punt in a game (86 yards).

As a team, Doane tied for sixth in the GPAC and seven players earned nine All-Conference honors.



The dance team won six of their seven competitions as they broke the school record for overall score in three consecutive competitions.

CHEER & DANCE*

The cheer team posted a season-best score at the GPAC Championships where they placed fifth. The dance team won their first GPAC championship and first NAIA Regional Qualifier championship. The team finished a programrecord fifth place at the NAIA National Championship.

The team also earned GPAC Coach (Ashley Wilcox Lyon '07) and Dancer of the Year (senior Kelsey Brady) and set the school record for highest team score in program history.

MEN'S TENNIS

Senior Jorge Chevez started off the fall 2022 season with his third GPAC Men's Singles "A" Division championship and third Men's Doubles "A" Division (winning with sophomore Jose Purizaca.) Chevez ended his final season with a perfect record during the regular season and was named the GPAC Men's Tennis Player of the Year and an NAIA All-American honorable mention. He ended his Doane career on top of multiple school records.

> The team finished second in the conference, losing in the GPAC semifinals.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women finished third in the GPAC and seniors Ava Macke and Liz van **der Torre** led the team in first-team all-conference honors (six total team honors). Macke ends her Doane career atop several school records:

- Singles wins in a career
- Doubles wins in a season. (tied with van der Torre)
- Doubles wins in a career



Jorge Chevez's 60 wins in the 2022-23 season is the program record since the restart of tennis in the mid-1990s.

CROSS COUNTRY

The men placed fourth and the women placed seventh in the GPAC Championships in November 2022. Junior **Thomas Oliver** finished in the top 15 (13th) to earn All-GPAC honors in back-to-back seasons.

SOCCER

The men ended their season 10th in the conference. Three players earned GPAC All-Conference honors and six were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

The women clinched the eightseed in the GPAC tournament, but ultimately lost to top-seeded Jamestown.



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N

Rodriguez took home the top spot at the USA Women's Wrestling National Championships in April, securing her spot to compete with Team USA at the United World Wrestling Women's World Championships in August.

ROLLING WITH THE TAKEDOWNS

Writer and Photos Liz McCue

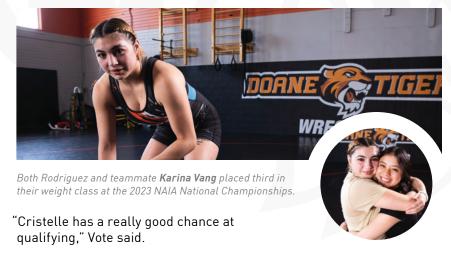
or top athletes, there's an inherent pressure to train harder and rank higher. Now add to that the intense scrutiny given to any woman in a highly competitive sport, from the public and from herself.

That was the starting point for **Cristelle Rodriguez '26** on her way to competing in
Warsaw, Poland the United World Wrestling
U20 Women's World Championships in August.
But, a month out, the tournament moved to
Amman, Jordan. And while there, competitors
and coaches from Team USA faced a terrible
bout of food poisoning even before reaching
the mat.

It wasn't ideal. For a great many people, there wouldn't have even been a second thought to throwing in the towel.

But not Rodriguez. And not Doane's Director of Wrestling, Dana Vote, who accompanied her to Amman.

She lost the qualification bout. But this won't be the only major competition she'll wrestle in this year. And next time? She'll make the journey alongside her friends and fellow Doane wrestlers — to the U.S. Olympic Trials Qualifier in Fort Worth, Texas.



He's planning to bring several studentathletes from the women's and men's teams to compete at the qualifying event, the 2023 Senior Nationals. Doane's women's team sent four to the team's first NAIA National Championships in March — Rodriguez, **Karina Vang '26**, **Aevri Ciha '26** and **Lamia Benn '26**, and added several strong first-years to the 2023-24 roster.

"I'm excited to see how they wrestle,"
Rodriguez said. "I feel like our team is going
to be really good this year because we have
so many girls."

GO BEHIND THE SCENES OF BOTH SHOOTS

Rodriguez





Brady

DANCING WITH DESTINY

Writer Sara Hinds Photos Liz McCue



Lyon brings the attention to culture, **Brady** brings the confidence. Together, the two led the dance team to a historic season.

hen Kelsey Brady '23 stepped onto the Crete campus as a freshman in 2019, she did as a basketball recruit. She joined Doane's cheer team, too. She'd participated in both sports at Malcolm High School.

That's the thing about destiny though. You have no say in the matter.

She started dancing at the age of three, but quit when she was 12 or 13. The dance studio was too far away and she'd leave school early to make practices.

There's this other thing about destiny — you can't avoid it.

One day her freshman year, Brady was running through cheer choreography in the Haddix studio. The dance team needed a sixth member to fill a vacancy and avoid point deductions in an upcoming competition.

"I did some turns just for fun, coach [Ashely Wilcox Lyon '07] walks in and one of my teammates goes, 'COACH! Kelsey can turn really well!" she remembered. "And then the next day they're asking me to join the team. And I was actually really excited because in my mind I was like, I want to be on the dance team so bad. I miss it."

When Brady dances, it's innate, natural, freeing.

"It's cool that what makes me happy is now bringing me so much success as well," Brady said.

She's the 2023 GPAC Dancer of the Year and led her team to a historic season. The Tigers won their first GPAC As a three-time cheer captain and one-time dance captain, her ability to lead is second nature, too. When she dances or leads, she oozes fire and efficiency. She's the first to correct teammates and the first

to offer praise.

championship and first NAIA

Regional Qualifier championship, and appeared in a second-straight NAIA National Championship.

"I love screaming 'oh my gosh!' when someone does a really good leap or something," Brady said. "Because I know it makes other people feel really good about themselves and confidence is such a huge thing with dance."

Since she was hired in 2015, Coach Lyon has diligently built a team culture where each athlete shines.

"Once everyone realizes their personality, how they operate, how they work, and how you can communicate with each other, it really makes a difference," Lyon said.

Lyon recognizes her own high expectations in the same breath as her team's ability to perform up to them. Dozens of athletes over the years, including Brady, have thrived under this coaching style that has earned Lyon three GPAC Coach of the Year honors.

Lyon is a three-time GPAC Dance Coach of the Year ('20, '22 and '23) and one-time Cheer Co-Coach of the Year ('18).



Lyon also expects honesty and goodness in her team both as student-athletes and humans.

"Because it shows in your performance," Lyon said.

Just watch Brady dance.

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME







Vance first sat behind the mic as a student in 1979 when he was public address announcer for football.

SHOUT-OUT TO CODY VANCE

Writer Rick Schmuecker

Welcome to Nebraska's most beautiful university campus." This is one of many signature statements you'll hear when attending a Doane Athletics event from the "Voice of the Tigers," Cody Vance '82. This particular statement has never been refuted according to Cody.

Cody is probably the most recognizable face at Doane for current and past students over the last 40-plus years. He has served a variety of roles (and rolls) for the university, working in admissions, advancement and currently athletics.

In addition to his public address work during games, he oversees what has been termed "Vance Concessions" where there is a cornucopia of epicurean delights that parents can feed to their children before bed.



You know a big play just happened at an athletic event when you hear a drawn-out word such as "THREEEEEEE" or "TIGERSZZZZZ" but you may not be aware that Cody is usually more nervous than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs.

This past March, Cody was inducted into the Doane Athletics Hall of Fame for his service to athletics as a recruiter, fundraiser, administrator, and at the end of the day, a true supporter of all student-athletes.



BRANDON WIESE '03 RACHEL HAGERMAN HAMBIDGE '07, '11E LINDSAY ANDERSON SULLIVAN '10 JARED SCHUURMANS '10 BRIJESH (BJ) LAWRENCE '13 CODY VANCE '82 DAVID ZIOLA 2002-2019

CLASS NOTES CLASS NOTES

Class Notes for 2023

- A Administration arts and management master's program
- C Counseling master's program
- E Education master's and advanced degree programs
- G Grand Island bachelors' programs
- L Lincoln bachelors' programs
- O Omaha bachelors' programs
- V5 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officer training in World War II
- V12 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officer training in World War II

Graduates without a letter designation are alumni of Doane's Crete campus.

Half-Century News

Rev. Robert L. Polk '52 Philadelphia, PA, has recently published his third book, a compelling autobiography titled, "Fly in the Buttermilk: One Black Man's Odyssey." Polk, 94, has authored two other books, "Crossing Barriers

& Building Bridges, a memoir" and



Ronald L. Chrans '56 Mount Pleasant, MI, W

"Tight Little Island."

Mount Pleasant, MI, While on a family visit to Nebraska, Commander Ronald Chrans (Retired) received a Quilt of Valor after serving for 27 years of active duty in the Navy. Chrans was a naval aviator with 3,700 hours of flying and 370 carrier landings — 120 of which occurred at night. During his career, Chrans served two deployments to Vietnam. He was also stationed at Pensacola and Key West in Florida, on a cruise to Europe, and as Officer in Charge at a base in Christ Church, New Zealand, before being stationed in San Diego.



Daniel DePasquale '67

Niagara Falls, NY, and his spouse, Trudie, were on an Antarctic cruise when two serious incidents occurred resulting in one person dying and others being injured. While the DePasquales were exploring on land, an inflatable boat taking passengers to a submarine malfunctioned, tossing one person into the frigid waters and causing injuries to two others. As a result of the injuries, the cruise ship headed back to Ushuaia, Argentina. En route, the ship encountered gale force winds in the Drake Passage and was hit by a rogue wave and a second giant wave that broke into seven secondfloor cabins and rocked the ship, tragically causing a death and multiple injuries. The DePasquales themselves were not injured. Once in port, the cruise line offered the DePasquales the option of flying home or spending four nights in Buenos Aires, the latter being the option the DePasquales selected. The DePasquales reported they returned to their home safely following their trip.

1970s

James R. Beatty '70
Omaha, was inducted into the

African American Golfers Hall of Fame.

READ MORE ABOUT BEATTY IN OUR TIGER BITES ON DOANE.EDU!



Stephen C. Joel '76

Lincoln, retired as superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools after serving in the position for the past 12 years. Joel has served in various capacities over a span of 46 years in education and is a member of the Doane Board of Trustees.

David L. Rosenbaum '77, '03E Plymouth, is serving as librarian of the Plymouth Library. Rosenbaum spent 27 years in education serving public schools of Tri County, Norris and Beatrice High Schools, and held a position with the National Archives in Washington, D.C. before taking the position in Plymouth. Rosenbaum considers himself to be an educator surrounded by books,

Steven D. Schulz '77

rather than a librarian.

Kearney, recently retired as the Director of Sports Performance at the University of Nebraska-Kearney where he worked with athletes from 2016-2022. A native of York, Schulz was a Doane College football standout. He earned his Master of Exercise Science from UNL and was hired as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach at Stanford University, where he led the Cardinals from 1981-1994. Schulz moved across the bay to work at Santa Clara from 1994-2010, then led the Boise State Bronco strength program from 2010-2013 before returning to Nebraska. Schulz led the Hastings College strength and conditioning program from 2013-2016 before finishing his career with the UNK Lopers. He has been nominated for various national awards and was also a competitive lifter at national and international competitions. Schulz has two sons, Nicholas and Christopher, and granddaughter, Scarlett.

James R. Olsen '79

Macomb, IL, retired from Western Illinois University (WIU) on June 30 after teaching mathematics and mathematics education for

29 years. Coupled with 10 years of teaching high school math in Nebraska and five years of teaching in graduate school, Olsen has taught mathematics for 44 years.

He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America (ISMAA). The award is given each year to a "friend and supporter of the section and its programs." The recipient must have been a member of the MAA, and have lived in Illinois for at least 10 years, with additional service requirements for the award. In 2019, Olsen was presented with the Award for Academic Excellence in Enhancing Learning with Technology from the WIU Provost's Office, and the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching with Technology from the WIU College of Arts and Sciences. Olsen shares that it has been an honor and joy to teach mathematics for 44 years and is very thankful for the math and teacher education he received while enrolled as a student at Doane.

1980s



Keith R. Kester '80

Grand Island, was named the Independent Boys Coach of the Year for the second time (2004) after leading the Grand Island Central Catholic boys track team to their second state track championship.

J. Marty Hughes '82

Auburn, was recognized for his 40 years of service by Auburn Public Schools, the Nebraska Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Nebraska Coaches Association for his service.

Marjorie I. Daley '87

Laramie, WY, published "An
Unorthodox War," a historical
fiction novel about a female
operative stationed in WWII France.

Jeffrey M. Johnson '88

LaVista, has joined the Nebraska School Activities Association as interim associate director after serving as the director of athletics at the College of Saint Mary.

1990s

Elizabeth L. Boesch '92L

Columbus, served as commencement speaker for Central Community College–Columbus's (CCC) Dec. 9 winter commencement ceremony. Boesch earned an associate of arts degree at CCC and a business administration degree from Doane University. She has 40 years of supervisory and executive management experience with the Nebraska Public Power District.

Sandra L. Hilsabeck '93L Lincoln, published her book, "Ready or Not: 10 Reasons to

"Ready or Not: 10 Reasons to Love Your Baby."

Terence "Terry" A. Hejny, Ph.D. '94E

Lincoln, was recognized for outstanding service by the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL) and selected as the 2022 Outstanding International Leadership Program Director.

Kenneth E. Schroeder '95

Ravenna, returned to Ravenna Public Schools as superintendent, effective July 1, 2023, after serving as chief financial officer for Grand Island Public Schools.

Matthew E. Bertrand '96

Humphrey, was awarded the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Outstanding Music Teacher for 2022-2023. Bertrand is a band instructor at Humphrey High School.



Daniel H. Behrens '97

Albany, OR, and his partner Jaymi Nash welcomed their son, Harlow Harold, on July 5, 2022. Harlow joins his older brother Charlie, age 13.



Jamie D. Ulmer '97

Beatrice, stepped away as the Community Players' managing artistic director after serving for 25 years.

Christine M. Brown '97E

Bladen, is director of learning and engagement at the Museum of Nebraska Art located in Kearney.

Jamie L. DeWispelare '98

Dallas, TX, is now chief financial officer at Humphreys & Partners Architects.

Justin L. Rowe '99

Laramie, WY., is associate director of retention marketing at the University of Wyoming.

Summer Wait Stephens '99, '02E

New Fallon, NV, is associate superintendent for Grand Island Public Schools. With 20-plus years in public education, Stephens has a strong record of championing students, building unity within teams and leading through cultural and curricular shifts. Beyond Nebraska, she was named the Nevada Superintendent of the Year in 2023 for her work leading the Churchill County School District for five years.

CLASS NOTES CLASS NOTES

2000s

Jaime J. Parr '00L Grand Island, is the executive director of the 2023 Nebraska State Fair.

Wayne P. Webster '00, '04A Wooster, OH, after serving as interim president at Wooster College,

Webster was appointed president of Albion College in Michigan. Webster brings 23 years of experience to his new role, including an extensive background in development, alumni relations, student engagement and shared governance. During his career, Webster led initiatives to raise more than \$25 million to fund endowments, support capital campaigns, enhance infrastructure and engage with constituents.

Benjamin C. Struby '01

Overland Park, KS, is a newly elected partner at Lathrop GPM effective January 1, 2023. Struby focuses his practice on bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors' rights.

Heather Nicholson Leader '03

Lincoln, was named Adapted Physical
Education Teacher of the Year by the
Shape Nebraska Society of Health

Amber Smith Roland '03

and Physical Educators.

Lincoln, was a featured artist at the Metro Gallery in Lincoln. Roland featured more than 20 paintings in her mixed-media exhibit "Ever Changing."



Joel T. Bacon '04

Blair, has been promoted to market president for the Washington County Area at First State Bank and Trust Co. – Blair, to lead agricultural and commercial banking efforts and take on strategic initiatives and branch leadership.

Tracy Hightower-Henne '04 Omaha, launched her campaign for the 2024 election to represent District 13 in the Nebraska Legislature.

Nicole M. Schatz '04
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH,
commands the 88th Security Forces
Squadron at Wright-Patterson Air
Force Base in Ohio.

Kelly Lewis Newvine, Ph.D. '05, '08E *Uniontown*, OH, is director of the School of Health, Education, Sustainability and Society at Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio.

Samantha Sindelar Bradley '05 Republican City, was promoted to associate vice president of early childhood mental health at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

Elizabeth A. Spencer '05, '18A Lincoln, was honored as Corporate Office Employee of the Year, for her role as district supervisor for Runza Restaurants.

Danielle Settles Beerbohm '06, '11E, '23E

Ashland, was named director of learning at Ashland Public Schools

Amanda Craven Madewell '07 Eugene, OR, and her spouse Steve moved from Wichita, KS, to Eugene, OR, where Mandie is associate director of residential operations at the University of Oregon.

Brian L. Hoogheem '07 Stillwater, MN, was promoted on January 1, 2023 to director, HR strategy at 3M. Hoogheem will be responsible for developing HR Strategic Plan and translating into annual operating plans/budgets while supporting key enterprisewide HR projects that support 3M's people plans.

Michelle L. McCarthy '08A Lincoln, is regional manager for the Americas and president of US operations for ALLPLAN USA.

Ryan E. Hogue '08, '12E Kearney, was selected as the 2022 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Nebraska State Association of Secondary Principals. This award is presented annually to a principal who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their school, region and at the state level.

Niki Stuertz Stehlik '08 Crete, is promoted to assurance director at HBE LLP, one of Nebraska's premier certified public accounting and consulting firms. Since 2013, Stehlik has been providing specialized employee benefit plan audits and not-for-profit audits to HBE clients, most recently

as assurance manager.



Rebecca Edgington Henning '09, '11E, '19E

Lincoln, and her spouse Keenan welcomed their daughter, Kyndal, on May 26, 2022. Kyndal joins older sisters Kamden and Karsyn.

2010s

Kari Adolf Peña '10

Omaha, and Melissa Peña were married in Niagara Falls, NY, on October 22, 2022 - which also happens to be Kari's birthday. Lindsay Anderson Sullivan '10 Holdrege, was inducted into the Doane Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 on March 31, 2023.

Chip P. '10, '12E and Sarah Merithew '12 Daehling Elkhorn, welcomed their son, Maverick Gerald on April 3, 2023. Maverick joins siblings Caden, Maddox and Charlotte.

James R. Marsicek '10 Manhattan, KS, is senior manager at Sink, Gordon and Associates at the firm's Manhattan office.

Jared J. Schuurmans '10 Milwaukee, OR, was inducted into the Doane Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 on March 31, 2023.

Jacob E. Leuenberger '11, '16E Lincoln, and his wife Meagan welcomed their daughter, Scout, on December 12, 2022. Additionally, Leuenberger was selected to be one of 10 American Teachers to present at the Fulbright Best Practice Conference for Sustainable Development Goals in Future Classroom Activities. Leuenberger presented on teaching sustainable development in rural areas at the conference held in Tokyo in August of 2022.

Sadie Martin Wright '11

Benedict, and her husband Kyle
welcomed Jacey Claire on October
10, 2022. She joins sisters Juliet (3.5)
and Jocelyn (1.5).



Ashli O'Brien Coles '12, '15E Lincoln, and her husband Carson welcomed their daughter Ellis on July 19, 2022. Ellis joins older sister Thea, age 2.

Adam G. Baxa '13

Louisville, and his spouse
Alexandria welcomed their

Alexandria welcomed their daughter, Parker Jo, on May 3, 2023.

Mark C. Funkey '13A Hastings, is the newly hired vice president of workforce services at Danville Community College of Virginia.

Brijesh "BJ" S. Lawrence '13 Omaha, was inducted into the Doane Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 on March 31, 2023.

Laura McNerney Happold '13 Giltner, and her spouse Joseph welcomed their son, Asher Gary, on August 1, 2022. Asher joins his three older siblings, Luke, Mallory and Michael.

Alexander S. Arkfeld '14 Omaha, and his wife Sara Gentzler welcomed twin sons, Otto Peter and Felix Russell, on June 13, 2022.

Ryan A. Baumgartner '14, '17A Crete, and his spouse Deidre welcomed their son, Boone RJ, on February 17, 2023. Boone joins his older sister, Laikynn, age 2.

Grant A. '14 and Brooke Burianek '14 Harms Sioux Falls, SD, welcomed their twin daughters, Anika and Nicklin, on March 9, 2023.





Heather J. Husen '14 Crete, and her husband Jeff Jirovec welcomed their son, Jackson James, on January 25, 2023.

Alex C. Scheuler '14L

Lincoln, has been named head coach for men's and women's soccer at Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC).

Zachary J. Wordekemper '14
West Point, is a family medicine
practitioner at Franciscan Healthcare
in West Point.

Ethan M. '14 and Nichole Cromwell '13 Zoerb Mason City, welcomed their fifth daughter, Merit, on April 18, 2023. Merit joins her older sisters, Faith, Charity, Grace and Harbor.

Nicole Reetz Gierhan '15
Beaver Crossing, and her spouse Cale
welcomed twins, Anistyn Jay and
Bennett Darrell Gierhan, on April 10.

Garrett C. '16, '19E and Taylor Lucas '15 Borcher Lincoln, welcomed their son, Cole Garrett, on March 21, 2023. Cole joins his older brother Lucas.

Brianna Golka Olson '15, 18E *Lincoln*, married Dustin Olson on July 23, 2022. Brianna teaches at Lincoln Pius X High School.

Ryan K. Harris '15 Grand Island, and his spouse Lexi welcomed their son, Jackson Daniel, on April 17, 2023.

Alexis R. Lipson '15

Lincoln, is now a Community

Director at Doane University

CLASS NOTES IN MEMORIAM



Alika E.K.K. McNicoll '15 and Julie A. Jirovec '16 Ewa Beach, HI, were married on January 7, 2023 at Lanikuhonua Kapolei, Hawaii.

JaCee Pilkington Petko '15 Scottsbluff, and her husband Michael welcomed their son, Jack Robert Petko, on May 13, 2023. Jack is welcomed by his sister Olivia.

Kellie Carnes Lundy '16 Crete, and her spouse Adam welcomed their son, Hudson, on April 10, 2023.

Jennifer Davis Bova '16

LaVista, graduated with her Master

of Business Administration and is working as a strategic account director of Licensing Partnerships at Data Axle.

David J. '16 and Breanna Fye '16, '18E, '20E McDonald

Phillips, welcomed their son, Archer, on June 29, 2023. Archer joins his older sister Kollyn (2). Archer is the grandson of Marty '83 and Pamela Bartlett '84 Fye.

Haley Norvell Hoarty '16, '19E Fairmont, is the 7-12 guidance counselor and head volleyball coach at Fillmore Central.

Jordan A. Olson '16E Mayville, ND, has been named as

the head softball coach for Mayville State University.

Amber J. Taylor '16E, '22E *Elm Creek*, is the assistant principal for Northeast Elementary School.

Kacie A. Wise '16L Lincoln, joined the Nebraska Community Foundation as office and gift processing assistant.

Tyler N. Chapa '17
Forest City, Iowa, has been named interim head football coach at Waldorf University. Chapa served as assistant for the Warriors prior to receiving the appointment.

Brian J. Gralheer '17E

Lincoln, has been announced as the high school principal for the York Dukes beginning with the 2023-24 academic year. Gralheer previously served as principal of West Point-Beemer High School.

Taylor M. Hayes '17 and Shelby J. Krueger '19 *Lincoln*, were married on December 3, 2022.



Morgan Hill Dowdy '17 Carleton, and her spouse Spencer welcomed their son, Westyn Lee, on December 27, 2022.

Grant W. Nuttelmann '17L Gretna, was promoted to HBE 360 outsourced accounting director, effective January 1, 2023. HBE LLP, is one of Nebraska's premier certified public accounting and consulting firms. Nuttelman has been with the firm since 2016.

Karli J. Weise '17 York, and Jordan Schoch were married on April 1, 2023. Karli is a clinician at an optometrist center.

Kelsey L. Bernhardt '18

Athens, TX, is an assistant coach at
Trinity Valley Community College.

Zachary S. '18 and Morgan Meyer '18 Zahnow Ashland, welcomed their daughter, Parker, on October 18, 2022. Parker joins her sister Rylie (age 2).



Bryce J. '19, '22E and Paige Teahon '19 Chudomelka Ashland, welcomed their daughter, Lacey May, on May 20, 2023.

Jasey J. Hartman '19, '21E and Turner C. Hill '19 Crete, were married on June 18, 2022, in Panama, Nebraska.

Dana Margritz Johnson '19, '21E Lexington, was named as Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Shape Nebraska Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Catherine M. Theiler '19
Lakewood, CO, is a Veterinarian at
Foothills Animal Hospital.

Landon J. Zarybnicky '19
Beatrice, is a physical therapist
at Jefferson Community Health
& Life Sports Medicine and
Rehabilitation Services.

2020s

Janey M. Due '20
Exeter, was a featured artist at York
Kilgore Memorial Library during
the month of January. Due's diverse
work of art ranges from vibrant water
paintings of fictional figures to a shelf

SCAN THE OR CODE TO VIEW THE FULL LIST OF CLASS NOTES

of artist's conk artwork.



In Memoriam

Friends and classmates of these deceased Doane alumni may call the Alumni Office at 402.826.8258 to ask if more information is on file.

Date of death follows each name

Bernhard R. Peterson 'V5 Omaha, June 6, 2023

Charles R. Svoboda 'V5
Kansas City, MO, September 16, 2022

Paul N. Exstron 'V12
Dubuque, IA, November 21, 2022

Frank W. Schmechel 'V12 Marion, IL, December 14, 2022

Ramona Dreyer Wickenkamp '49 North Platte, September 21, 2022

Marjorie Nuckolls Mooberry '49 Omaha, February 3, 2023

Mary Ludwig Anderson '49 *Irwin, IA*, May 8, 2023

Donn H. Crilly, M.D. '50 Superior, June 16, 2023

Herald W. Kruse '50 Los Alamos, NM, November 29, 2022

Jean Warren Tyser '50 Kalispell, MT, November 13, 2022

Glennys Tyser Ziegler '50 Crete, May 23, 2023

William C. Nuckolls '51 Lincoln, December 18, 2022

William K. Picard '52 Geneva, August 8, 2022

Joseph A. Pospichal '53 Lincoln, March 25, 2023

Darlene Roelfs Balderson '55 Diller, April 7, 2023

Marjory Chab Cizek '56 Boulder, CO, June 15, 2022

Mary N. Hawkes '56 Cromwell, CT, July 8, 2023

Gladys Schumacher Dobler '56 North Chesterfield, VA, June 5, 2022 Edward McIninch '57
Fredericksburg, VA, March 29, 2023

Joan L. Kerssenbrock '58 Wilber, January 22, 2023

John C. Kosterman '58 David City, January 7, 2023

William R. Lovercheck '59 Omaha, August 23, 2022

Donald R. Mazonec '59 *Tucson, AZ,* August 17, 2022

Christa Bickel McIninch '59 Fredericksburg, VA, January 9, 2023

Prosper "PD" Duensing '60 Lincoln, August 1, 2022

Anne Dedrick Best '62
Wheat Ridge, CO, December 5, 2022

Patrick L. Hanrahan '62 Port Orange, FL, March 6, 2022

David J. Vitek '62 Normal, IL, January 22, 2022

Robert E. Beetley '63 Fairbury, March 8, 2022

Allen O. Grell '63
Beatrice, October 28, 2022

Jean Krebs Weers '63 Diller, July 18, 2022

Brian E. Watson '65 *Phoenix, AZ,* February 18, 2023

George W. Miller '65 Lincoln, October 23, 2022

David J. Jelinek '66 Grand Island, April 7, 2023

Dale H. Lovejoy '66 *Phoenix, AZ,* January 3, 2023

Scott W. Dittrich '67 Norfolk, MA, March 21, 2023

Joseph A. Mares '67 Friend, June 25, 2023

David O. Dunham '68
Bennington, KS, July 25, 2022

James L. Lantis '68 Sutherland, November 5, 2022

Alonzo Y. Elliott '69 DeWitt, February 20, 2023 David L. Nienkamp '69 *Edgar*, July 7, 2022

Mark H. Epstein '70
Englewood, CO, March 3, 2023

Ronald L. Oleson '70 *Lincoln*, February 13, 2023

Thomas C. Nowiszewski '71 Blue Springs, MO, May 26, 2023

John S. Shurtleff '72 Grand Island, July 29, 2022

John N. Wissler '72 Pawnee City, March 10, 2023

Brian H. Horst '73
North Platte, July 27, 2022

Eric L. Trump '77
Emporia, KS, October 25, 2022

Elise M. Buchman '79

Eagle Rock, MO, June 4, 2023

Mary Olsen Steiner '80 Lincoln, January 17, 2023

Marlene Christensen Weed '82 Flagstaff, AZ, September 18, 2022

Anthony E. Heinzmann '88L Lincoln, July 14, 2022

Craig D. Potter '77, '90L Lincoln, August 11, 2022

James E. McGrath '93 Aurora, CO, June 19, 2023

Paula "Jean" Strathman Rumsey '94 Norfolk, July 13, 2022

James W. Hilmer '95 San Jose, CA, June 10, 2022

Fannie Lowe Atcitty '97E Shipwreck, NM, November 29, 2022

Carol J. Schulz '97E Beatrice, December 4, 2022

Matthew S. Short '05 Sioux City, IA, July 31, 2022

Michael R. Sorensen '06 Wauneta, August 4, 2022

Kelly J. Heser '07 Milford, September 12, 2022

Amanda M. Herman '09L Crete, March 20, 2023

THE YEAR OF WOMEN

Calm, Cool & Collected

Cat Archie-Johnson '14A steps into her new role as Director of Lincoln Campus and Omaha Location.

Writer Sara Hinds Photos Logan Fetzer '21 at Archie-Johnson was warned when she took the job in April that being the Director of Doane's Lincoln Campus and Omaha Location would mean getting a lot of phone calls and emails. And not all actually meant for her. But to Cat, that's just fine. Each question or request is an opportunity to impact the life of a prospective or current Doane Tiger.

The other day a young Black student was in search of wifi and a study space for her summer classes.

"She said, 'I didn't know that people who look like me work here.' Cat said.

"And so to give her that piece of hope, it enlightened her to something that she had never experienced. Hopefully, it will blossom into something where she can say, 'okay, I can do that too. I can be that too. She let me use this space.' Sometimes it only takes that one little kind gesture to really turn somebody's perspective and their whole world around moving forward."



A Doane graduate student herself, and currently working toward her doctorate of education, Cat has an intricate knowledge of what makes the university special — and how she can improve upon an already solid foundation.

"I feel like Doane is already a great place. I feel like it's a great institution. I feel like Doane really does produce those leaders. [We] say 'Doane builds leaders,' I agree with that one-thousand fold. And so for me, I just feel like this opportunity allows me to take the things that have been poured into me and to share them back."



Get to know Cat

- Makes a fierce gumbo (her husband's an executive chef but she's the executive chef at home)
- Mom to two daughters and four step-sons
- Dissertation topic will explore how Black women navigate unspoken societal expectations while being their authentic true self
- Taken and been exposed to four languages aside from English: Spanish, German, French and Japanese
- Loves bringing people together

"Sometimes it only takes that one little kind gesture to really turn somebody's perspective and their whole world around."

Dr. Linda Kalbach

Writer Jose Villalpando '23

After serving over 18 years as a professor of education at Doane, **Dr. Linda Kalbach** decided to make spring 2023 her last at the university, and move into the next stage of her life: retirement.

"The pandemic made it clear society really needs to focus on what matters and to approach what consumes our time differently. I want to embrace that lesson," Kalbach said.

Kalbach takes with her a lot of good memories of colleagues and, of course, the students she's known both in class and from chance encounters on campus.

"My proudest memory was when students founded their Doane Is Love Festival in response to Westboro Baptist Church's picketing the college for the positive support of its LGBTQ+ community," she said. Moreover, this memory relates back to one of her core beliefs.

"I truly believe in humanity's capacity to be better and to do better," she said. "Even in our darkest hours, there have been good people working to end the ugly and replace it with compassion."

In retirement, Kalbach will be able to focus more on herself and her interests, which include gardening, antiquing, reading and historical preservation.

As a final note, Kalbach wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who supported her throughout her time at Doane.

"Thank you Doane, especially my colleagues and students for your support and allowing me to be me in the ways that I taught and contributed. I hope each of you finds this type of acceptance in your work and your life," Kalbach said.

Kelly Jirovec

Writer Liz McCue

Twenty-six years is a longer period of time than most students on Doane's Crete campus have even been alive. In fact, in the past few years, **Kelly Jirovec** started seeing the children of students who walked into the nurse's office early on in her career at Doane, which began in fall 1997.

There's a good chance she remembers a few stories about those now-parents. No matter what you major in, what clubs you join, which sports you play or the residence hall you live in — everyone goes to the nurse's office, after all.

"She has an incredible institutional knowledge," said Kim Opsahl Heier '87, '05A who worked closely with Jirovec as the dean of students until 2004 and is now a member of the Board of Trustees.

Jirovec had planned to retire when she had grandchildren. Her son Jeff Jirovec and daughter-in-law Heather Husen '14 welcomed a newborn in January 2023. Jirovec's daughter and son-in-law in Hawaii, Julie Jirovec '16 and Alika McNicoll '15, are also expecting a son in early December. Retirement certainly allows for more flexibility in visiting them.

She began her nursing career working in a hospital, then at Crete High School. The position at Doane came open and she thought, 'well, I'll give it a try.'

It's come with challenges — college students aren't always known to make the best decisions around health and safety — but also a great many rewards as students discover who they are.

"It gave me a really good chance to help students transition from





dependent to independent," Jirovec said. "Growing up is a learning curve."

Over the years, her role has also grown, from providing part-time care to students on campus, to becoming an advocate for improving student health beyond the door of her office. Student demographics have changed and presented different needs.

"As time has gone on, we've seen a need for more advanced services," Jirovec said, such as a provider who can diagnose and treat students right on campus. "It really makes me happy to know that I'm able to make things better as I leave."

THE YEAR OF WOMEN

THE YEAR OF WOMEN



Lisa Slaughter Fye '97, '01E, '10E

Writer Jose Villalpando '23

A s the Crete Intermediate School principal, three-time Doane graduate and one of the university's 2023 commencement ceremony speakers, Lisa Slaughter Fye understands the importance of education. In short, it's because education gives people hope.

"When I start seeing that hope, it's contagious and I want to impact more people, give more kids and parents hope," Fye said.

That desire is what continues to fuel Fye's passion after 20+ years in public school teaching and administration. As a self-professed quiet person, she worries it may not come across, that "because I'm not up there rallying a crowd, people may not understand that passion I have."

But, based on a recent award, Fye's passion may be just as contagious as the hope she aims to inspire. Crete Intermediate School was recognized at the end of 2022 as a National ESEA Distinguished School for excellence in serving special populations of students, just one of 100 schools nationwide to receive the honor.

"I am so proud of the work the staff and students have done at Crete Intermediate. The best part of the award, however, was that we didn't even know this award existed," Fye said. "We were awarded simply for coming and doing our jobs and loving what we do."

"Public education is outstanding," she said. "I have never gotten out of bed and not wanted to go to work."

Outside of work, Fye is incredibly proud of her family. Her husband, Ed Fye '82, leads Doane Track & Field. Her oldest, Zach, will graduate from Doane this spring, and youngest, Landon, is a sophomore year at Wahoo High School. With a family heavily involved in athletics, she can often be found in the bleachers to cheer on the Tigers and the Warriors.

Megan Johnson Cook '15L

Writer Sara Hinds

M egan Johnson Cook was 18 months into her self-imposed, year-long moratorium on men. Then she met Chris at a street dance.

She told him it was actually a two-year deal — God was the only man she was allowing in her life then. The white lie had good intentions. Cook desired a life that was her own. A life that she could feel proud of, and one day, could involve her two sons — Cameron and Kiran — again. She desired the opposite of what she'd lived up to that point.

"I think I was just tired," she remembered. "I think my soul, my being was just tired."

After years of abusive relationships fueled by drug addiction, Cook hit rock bottom.

"I had lived life very, very broken and empty," she said. "But once they came in and those boys were gone [...] I just couldn't do it anymore."

She got clean and regained custody of her sons, who are now 19 and 24 years old. She earned an associate's degree from Southeast Community College and a bachelor's degree from Doane. Chris reached out after six months. The couple will celebrate their fourth wedding anniversary in November 2023.



Now, Cook is street outreach director for I've Got A Name, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in Lincoln. She works with trafficked or exploited women, assesses their needs and empowers them to control their future.

Life is good. Cook is grateful. And her goals are simple: continue to make her marriage wonderful; serve others through her job; and don't let the two intertwine. Because she's lived without a stable career or home life, Cook is protective of both.

"I really feel like everything that I went through in the past, that God's placed me in this position to be able to use that and use it for His glory, and use it for good," Cook said.

A Q&A with Noemi Arias Saldana '23E

Saldana is a proud first-generation student who earned her Master's of Education in Educational Leadership from Doane in May 2023. She's now pursuing her Master's of Education in School Counseling degree while teaching 4th-grade at Betz Elementary School in Bellevue.

As a first-generation student, why did you decide to pursue higher education? What roadblocks did you encounter?

I knew at a younger age what I wanted to do and in order to accomplish my goals of becoming an Athletic and Activities Director, I knew that I would need a higher education. There were many obstacles such as knowing the odds did not favor me being a minority in the field and being a first generation in getting a master's and above, it motivated me to work harder toward my goal. With the support of my parents, they encouraged me to take all the necessary steps to accomplish my goal.

How has teaching been going this school year? How have you implemented your master's degree learnings into the classroom?

School has been going great. I have 15 eager students wanting to make growth in various areas, such as athletics, mathematics and reading. Since graduating, I talk to my students about being leaders in and outside of the classroom. I have made a few references towards leaders, such as Gandhi, and what characteristics they had as leaders. I have over half my class going out for student council because they want to become leaders. I want to motivate students at a young age to think about college and what aspirations they have and start making small goals towards accomplishing them.



Saldana is part of a small percentage (8%) of Latinas who earn a master's degree.

Who was a major influence for you during your education here, and how have they helped you?

My parents [Maria and Gerardo] were my biggest influence on furthering my education. With them not pursuing a secondary education, their values on post-secondary academics were instilled in me from a young age and is still driving me to pursue my Ed.S. and Doctorate degrees.

I want to give a huge shout out to my boyfriend, Luke. He has supported me since the beginning with late nights working on assignments or mini cry sessions when it all seemed too much. He motivated me to continue and think about the end goal. If it was not for him, I do not know if I would have finished my master's program or even started my Ed.S. program right away. His love and support are what keeps me going on furthering my education.

Tell us a little about a cool project or opportunity you've done since graduation in May.

Since May, I have been working with Chad Holtz. Bellevue East's Athletics and Activities Director. as an intern. I figured if I want to become an athletic director, I should gain knowledge until an opportunity arises. I have learned how scheduling works with the NSAA, as well as figuring out what to do when games cannot happen due to weather or another school event. I realized Athletic and Activities Directors do more than just working on schedules; they have to do some physical labor. Groundskeeping is also part of the job description that I was unaware of.

Discovering that this is also part of the job, it makes me eager to see what else the entire role of AD entails.

RELAY FOR LIFE

RELAY FOR LIFE

BACK ON (THE) TRACK



After a hiatus driven by Covid-19, Doane and Saline County's Relay for Life returned to a full in-person night of events, fundraising and celebrating cancer survivors and caregivers

P or close to a decade, Doane was one of the top universities in the United States in fundraising for Relay for Life. The annual event held each spring, and the campaign leading up to it, raised up to \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society. Over the years, Doane's event expanded to include all of Saline County, with support and participation from local businesses and families.

The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, brought the big, in-person events that characterized much of Relay for Life to a halt. For the next several years, events were held online, or outdoors, or with limited attendance.

An in-person Relay was held in spring 2022. And then for the 2022-23 academic year, it went full speed ahead to resounding success. The entirely student-led fundraising campaign raised, from June 2022 to June 2023, \$32,800. Relay 2022-23 by the numbers



Total raised during the entirely **student-led** fundraising campaign



Students and staff who volunteered



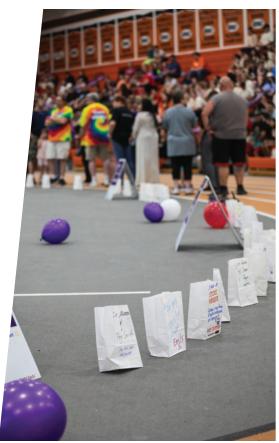
People came and participated in the night of Relay.





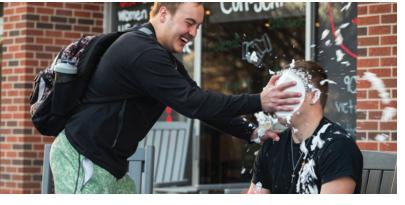


















FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
GIVING DAY 2023



Financial Overview

Combined Gift Revenue (restricted, unrestricted and capital) *July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 (FY2023)*

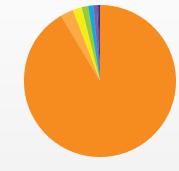
\$ 22,948,764.47	91.56%
\$ 675,063.63	2.69%
\$ 514,521.41	2.05%
\$ 339,904.03	1.36%
\$ 278,563.26	1.11%
\$ 192,797.71	0.77%
\$ 111,338.08	0.44%
\$ 4,040.00	0.02%
\$ 25,064,992.59	100%
5,307	
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$ 675,063.63 \$ 514,521.41 \$ 339,904.03 \$ 278,563.26 \$ 192,797.71 \$ 111,338.08 \$ 4,040.00 \$ 25,064,992.59

Doane Fund (unrestricted)

Total Raised		\$ 23,377,320.02
Total Donors		1.992

Giving Participation

Board of Trustees	100%
Alumni giving	
All Alumni with a degree	6.41%
Undergraduate – Crete	12.85%
Undergraduate – All	8.85%
Master	1.11%
Doctorate	13.33%
Employee Giving	
FT	52.01%
FT/PT combined	50.50%



Bequests
Alumni

Foundations
Trustee/Faculty/

Trustee/Faculty/Staff
Friends

Parents

Corporations

Religious Organizations

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUPPORT DOANE



DOANE UNIVERSITY × FREEWILL

A t Doane, our students are supported through every step of their Doane education. We want our entire Doane community to feel that same sense of support throughout their lives and careers.

Following graduation, Doane alumni continue to have access to ongoing career support offered through Doane's Office of Career, Leadership and Service in addition to networking through Doane's Alumnifire online platform. Additionally, we are pleased to announce we have partnered with FreeWill to provide a free resource to help map out a secure future.

Available to all alumni as well as faculty and staff, parents, friends, and members of our Doane community, FreeWill is secure, easy to use and entirely free. It offers state-specific, step-by-step processes to create important legal documents including wills, trusts and other important important documents such as financial power of attorney or advance healthcare directives. Additionally, it can be used with an attorney to address more complex estate planning needs.

By creating your plan, you'll have peace of mind knowing that, through whatever the future may hold, your will and estate are set to provide for your loved ones, along with the security to communicate important financial and healthcare decisions.

Generations of alumni, employees and friends have included Doane in their estates. Some have established endowed scholarships in their name, some have provided support for a program or department and others have directed their support to the permanent endowment, which provides a strong and stable foundation that supports all aspects of Doane.

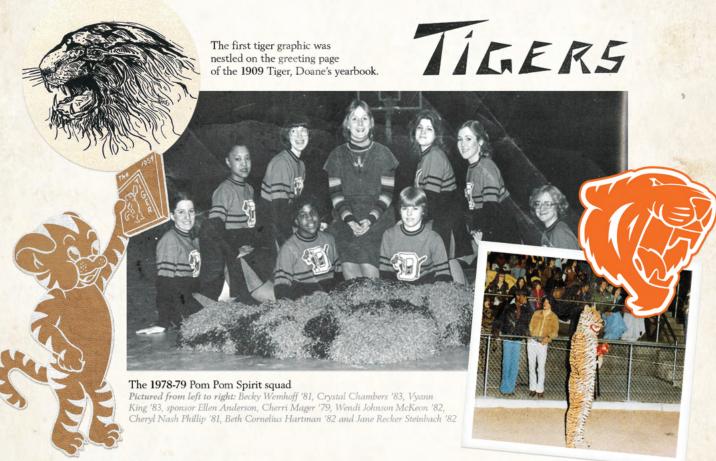
Take advantage of this opportunity to plan for your future and consider how creating your will can build a bright future — for yourself, your loved ones and our Doane community. Contact Thomas Reeves '88, Director of Planned Giving at Doane, by email (thomas.reeves@doane.edu) or phone (402.450.0613) with any questions or to discuss possibilities.



The Tale of Thomas

Like any good origin story, one day the hero is born. Doane has been around since 1872, but the tiger wasn't a thing until the early 1900s. It had a lot of growing up to do before it became the Thomas we all know today.

Writer Sara Hinds



Tiger staff member Mildred Oberg Kuncl '55 was the artist behind this meta yearbook cover and cute series of Tom and Jerry-esque Tigers.

The 1978-79 tiger mascot had that red lip classic thing going on.

TIGER TIMELINE

Special thanks to the Doane Archives for their yearbook collection and historical information referenced for this section.



1907 First "Tigers" usage found in a student-

produced annual



2001
The name "Thomas" is revealed at halftime of the homecoming game.



2009
Mascot club forms
with intent to increase
appearances of Thomas



2014
Secondary, inflatable mascot costume is introduced



2016
New tiger logo introduced, and is still in use

Another great year of Doane Theatre

They've received **national accolades** and held their own alongside some of the top theatre programs in the country. Now you have two opportunities to see why our Tigers are making a splash on the stage.

The Delays

by Sara Jean Accuardi March 6, 7, 8 - Curtain time: 7:30 p.m.

In an airport, where everyone's busy going somewhere, The Delays focuses on a group going nowhere. A play about the small moments that connect us.

Fly By Night Musical

by Will Connolly, Michael Mitnick, and Kim Rosenstock April 25, 26, 27 - Curtain time: 7:30 p.m. April 28 - Curtain time: 2 p.m.

Star-crossed love amidst an electrical blackout. But with rock music.





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