

DOANE

2024 FALL EDITION

ANSWERING THE CALL

Meet the students,
alumni and faculty
in the Crete
Volunteer Fire
Department

pg 26



DOANE

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ANSWERING THE CALL

Meet the students, alumni and faculty in the Crete Volunteer Fire Department

Abbie Willett, class of 2025; James Yost; Courtney Marcelino '19; Kaidan Smith, class of 2025

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From the President

In my first two years as president, our focus was turned inward, as we worked as a community to improve our shared governance and internal processes. It was exciting to see our culture improve, the employee turnover rate drop, and confidence in administrative leadership rise. We made search engine optimization a priority for our IT and marketing teams, and have seen double-digit increases in page visits, clicks and more to Doane.edu. We streamlined the enrollment process for the Open Learning Academy — and enrollment is up even compared to our previous best year. Our first-year retention rate in Crete was over 93% between the first and second semesters (the highest in 20 years), and we hope to see similar numbers this fall as those students return as sophomores.

During our first two years, we also invested in our people and facilities. This past year, we began to see improvement resulting from those investments which included opening not one, but two new campus buildings, the C. Donald Brodie Hall and the yet-to-be-named president's residence and event venue. Our IT team installed exterior keyless door entries on all campus buildings in Crete and Lincoln, and this will greatly improve the safety of our students and employees. This fall we unveiled our remodeled dining hall for students.

During this third year, I have also noted progress measured in a new way; through the conversations I've had with hundreds of alumni across the United States and elsewhere. I've learned that our alumni share my vision for the future of Doane. We have all raised our expectations as to what Doane can and should become: **The institution everyone wants to be like!**

No university can be great without active and committed alumni. Your engagement and support are crucial to helping Doane overcome the challenges of the next 150 years and will ensure our continued momentum toward achieving our short- and long-term goals. We're doing things a little bit differently. We are expecting more from ourselves. And people are taking notice.

None of this has been or will be possible without the incredible support and hard work of our Board of Trustees, our faculty and staff, our students and you — alumni, donors, friends and families. I hope you're as excited as I am to see what we can do together in the coming year. Thanks so much for all you do for Doane and our students.

Merrill Will Ring - Go Tigers!

Roger Hughes, Ph.D. '82
Doane University President

DOANE MAGAZINE 2024

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C. Donald Brodie

Doane University's newest residence hall, a 73,000-square-foot, fully accessible, state-of-the-art building that joins Smith Hall on the north side of campus, opened in January 2024. Upon opening, the building was simply referred to as "New Hall." On May 10, after the annual spring Board of Trustees meeting, the building assumed its permanent name: C. Donald Brodie Hall. The hall is the namesake of one of Doane's most dedicated supporters and the benefactor of its largest gift to date.

Guests at the naming ceremony learned about Brodie (who was affectionately known as "Don") and his love for Doane through remarks by Roger Sheffield and Steve Rasmussen '96A, former vice presidents at Doane, and Roger Hughes '82, Doane president.

Brodie had humble beginnings on his family's ancestral farmhouse in

York Region, Canada, where he and his sister, Cora, developed appreciation for community and philanthropy. These values were evident through the siblings' charitable endeavors in their hometown and internationally.

Brodie served as a member of Doane's Board of Trustees from 2000-2017. He first became involved with Doane in the early 1980s through his affiliation with the Doane Family Association of America. It was during his time as a trustee that Brodie developed an immeasurable love for Doane.

Brodie would schedule extra days on campus around board meetings to connect with employees and students.

"Don was deeply invested in ensuring the success of each and every student," Sheffield said. "He believed that a Doane education

empowered individuals to make a meaningful difference in the world."

Brodie passed away in February 2022 at the age of 88.

Doane profoundly honors Brodie as a quiet philanthropist who impacted the lives of so many people. His transformational legacy gift will ensure that Doane will continue to provide an exceptional collegiate experience for generations of Tiger students.



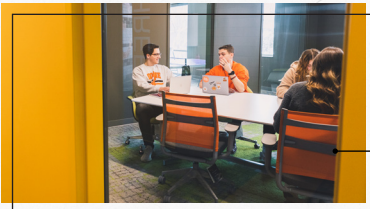
"Like Don, she cherishes the future of this institution and expresses her profound gratitude to the Board, administration, faculty and students for honoring Don's legacy," Sheffield said.

Brodie Hall Timeline



2022

September 19
Groundbreaking ceremony
After bidding adieu to the quads in summer 2022, Doane broke ground on the new residence hall. Members of Doane's leadership team and partners from Clark & Enersen and Sampson Construction participated in the ceremony.



2024

January 10
Sneak peek photoshoot
A small group of students participated in a photo shoot with Doane's Office of Strategic Marketing.



2024

February 5
Ribbon cutting ceremony
The residence hall opened its doors to the public for a ceremonial ribbon cutting and tours.



Roger Sheffield was present as a representative of the Brodie family and long-time friend of Don and Cora. Sheffield is former vice president of institutional advancement at Doane and founder and CEO of Aspen Philanthropy Group.

Other speakers included Board of Trustees members Dr. Susan Fritz, Steve Rasmussen and Rev. Jim Keck and Brodie Hall resident Harper Case, class of 2026.



2023

April 13
Under construction
President Hughes toured the construction site.



2024

January 16
Welcome home!
Students moved into the 127-person residence hall that boasts 4-, 6- and 8-person suites.



2024

May 10
Naming event
The new residence hall officially became known as Brodie Hall, as the name was unveiled in an official ceremony. The public, media, Doane students, employees, friends and the Board of Trustee members attended.

Setting the stage for future leaders

Writer Michael Stehlik '07
Large Photo Ernest Wong



"I say to you, dear young friends, the task is up to you [...] all learning does not take place in the classroom," Polk said in his address. "Keep the faith. Let love be genuine. Build bridges and oneness in our society and, at all times, pray for peace and its continuation."

On the green space immediately south of Doane's new C. Donald Brodie Hall, sits a newly laid small outdoor theatre. This space, much like Cassel Theatre, is not just a physical structure, but a platform for students to amplify their voices, engage with one another, and forge meaningful and lasting connections. It's a testament to Doane's commitment to providing spaces for student expression and empowerment.

So when it came time to choose a name for the space, one trailblazing leader rose to the top: **Rev. Dr. Robert L. Polk '52.**

Polk, who's from Chicago, was initially denied admittance to Doane in 1949 solely based on race. Eventually, Polk completed his degree and became Doane's first Black graduate in 1952.

In 2015, Polk's influence was pivotal in the university's establishment of the Robert L. Polk Lectureship on Race and Social Justice. This ongoing platform is instrumental in fostering public and candid conversations about current issues and race, particularly racial healing and equity. The lectureship will celebrate its tenth anniversary this coming April.

On May 17, 2024, Polk returned to Doane's Crete campus to deliver the key address at the baccalaureate ceremony. This spiritual, reflective tradition doubled as the naming event for the Robert L. Polk Open Air Theatre.

To round out Polk's weekend in Crete, he shared a meaningful lunch with current members of his fraternity, Delta Kappa Pi, enjoyed a reception with close friends after the baccalaureate ceremony, and delivered the commencement address during the afternoon ceremony on Saturday, May 18.



Top photo: The Robert L. Polk Open Air Theatre sits just south of C. Donald Brodie Hall.

Bottom photo: During his weekend in Crete, Polk enjoyed meeting current members, alumni, and advisors of his fraternity, Delta Kappa Pi.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
POLK LECTURE SERIES

University Highlights



BY THE NUMBERS

452
students graduated in the Class of 2024 (includes December 2023 and May graduates)

\$41,600
in grants received from August 2023-May 2024, with **\$2.45 million** pending

3,355
hours of service recorded from July 2023-May 2024 in Helper Helper, a volunteer tracking and management app, with a **\$106,696** economic impact to Saline and Lancaster counties

289
students made the Dean's List in Fall 2023 and **258** made the spring Dean's List

10
meritorious achievement awards received by Doane Theatre at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival



A day off, a week to move forward

For the second year, Doane celebrated Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a week of programming for students, faculty and staff in Crete and Lincoln. And for the first time, the university closed on Monday, Jan. 15 in observance of the federal holiday recognizing the civil rights leader. Events included guest speakers, workshops, discussions, volunteer opportunities and a candlelight vigil.



LEARN MORE IN OUR JANUARY ARTICLE

Accreditations
Four programs in Doane's College of Business are now accredited through the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Accreditation for the Agribusiness, Accounting, Business Administration and Master of Business Administration programs was announced in mid-May.

The Master of Arts in Counseling program retained its accreditation through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs through 2030. The program celebrated its initial CACREP accreditation two years ago, backdated to Jan. 14, 2020.

Building Bridges
In December 2023, a \$15K grant from Interfaith America helped Doane begin Bridging the Gap. The nationwide program, started in 2020, helps colleges and universities support students and campus professionals in developing skills to listen, understand, seek common ground and work with others across deep differences over six hours of coursework and discussion. It started as part of Doane's Forward Together 2.0, the university's institution-wide strategy to drive inclusion and belonging. The training will continue to be offered after the grant has ended.

MicroMasters Launched
The new MicroMasters in Strategic Leadership & Communication was launched in early 2024 on DoaneX. Students can sign up online at any time, begin classes whenever they want and complete the MicroMasters in as few as 12 weeks. The courses in the program are also directly transferable to the Master of Arts in Leadership (MIL) program. The microcredential program was developed by **Dr. Jared Cook**, assistant professor of leadership.



Student Successes

- **Dani Avalos '24** received a Fulbright Scholarship
- **Johnathan Schmidt (class of 2026)** was the first Doane student to participate in the Fund for American Studies' summer program
- Students **Tasha Pedersen '24** and **Jordan Bocock (class of 2026)** attended the Council for Opportunity in Education Policy seminar in Washington, D.C.



Writer Sara Hinds

North Dakota, Norway and New Orleans.
There’s only a handful of people who could tell
you the connection between the three locations.
And no, it’s not that they all start with ‘N.’

A group of Doane sociology students and faculty visited each of these three locations in the 2023-24 school year to elevate their research on the prison system.

Faculty-led trips like these are just one example of study abroad opportunities students have at Doane. The Norway trip was unique in that it was entirely funded by the Ardis Butler James Grant. Students took a corresponding corrections course taught by **Nathan Erickson, Ph.D.**, then-associate professor of sociology at Doane.

Other departments, like Spanish, English and theatre, plan faculty-led trips. These usually take place over summer or fall breaks, and last less

than two weeks. Short summer experiences are becoming more popular, says **Andy Johnson Wysocki, Ph.D.** '10, assistant professor and director of the honors program. They're more accessible for students who are busy during the school year with sports, student teaching, etc.

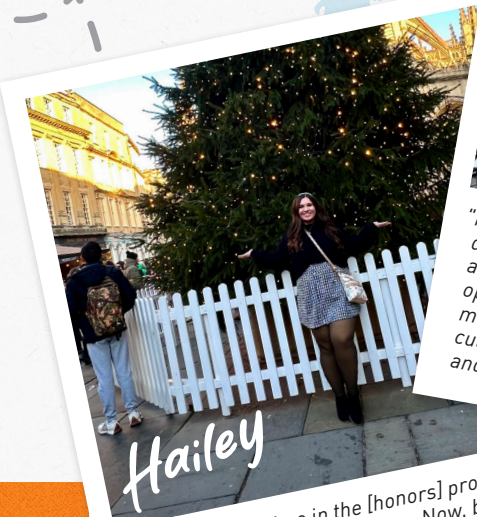
Aside from faculty-led trips, students can embark on solo trips. These are usually part of an international program where students take classes abroad.

Not only is studying abroad a strong recruitment and retention tool, Wysocki sees the positive impact it has on her students. In fact, studying abroad (not on a faculty-led trip) is a requirement for her honors

students, as well as all Spanish majors. For the former, cross-cultural engagement is a core value of the program. For the latter, what better way to improve a language than immersion into that culture?

For other students, studying abroad is a transformative experience. One you can't replicate in a classroom with lectures and books. It's experiential learning to the nth degree.

"It just really enhances what Doane does best," Erickson said.



"Because of my time in the [honors] program I was able to do a study abroad in London. Now, because of that experience, I have realized how much I loved London (and Europe in general) and am planning on applying to grad school in London to further my education and love of learning in a place that I adore."



"It would have been easy to be upset at the food being different or Japanese being a hard language to speak and understand at times. But, instead, I let myself be open to learning and, in doing so, found myself be much better place. I cared to connect with people and culture and left Japan a little smarter, a little kinder, and a little more receptive."



"[Studying abroad] broadened my perspective by engaging me in a new culture and challenging me to adapt to different ways of thinking. I learned to navigate unfamiliar environments confidently and gained a deeper appreciation for diversity and global connection."

Meghan Gallagher, class of 2026
Destination: Dublin, Ireland

Megan Chambers, class of 2026
Destination: Paris, France

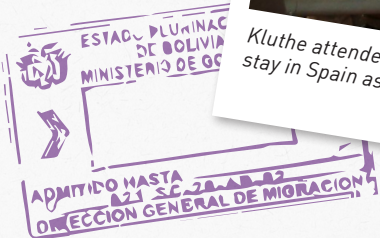
Hailey Trahern, class of 2025
Destination: London, England

Anabelle Daugherty '24
Destination: Athens, Greece

John Dawes, class of 2025
Destination: Kyoto, Japan



Kluthe lived with a host family in Heredia, Costa Rica to further her studies in advanced Spanish.



Rachel Kluthe '12, '14E, '18DE: small-town girl, big-world dreams.

Kluthe went on three study abroad experiences as an undergraduate: Costa Rica, Brazil and Thailand. These trips only piqued her curiosity. She received a Fulbright Scholarship upon graduation, and spent her first year teaching abroad in Madrid, Spain.



Kluthe attended a Real Madrid game during her stay in Spain as part of the Fulbright program.

"I lived in a flat with seven strangers from five different countries, and among the eight of us, we spoke 12 languages. The only universally spoken language in the house was Spanish," Kluthe remembers. "It was the most beautiful, enlightening, transformative experience of my life, and not a single day I have lived since hasn't been altered for the better because of it."

She returned stateside to teach middle school math for 10 years in Seward, Nebraska, where she instilled a respect and wonder for the world in her students. Beyond lifelong friendships and memories, Kluthe gleaned a compassionate worldview and strong voice from her travels.

"Traveling has saturated my heart with empathy for people from all walks of life and fueled the fire in my soul to leave every destination better than I found it," Kluthe said.

Stamping the passport, padding the resume

Tim Burge '12, director of international programs at Doane, helps students dot i's, cross t's and take care of every letter in between before they travel abroad. This involves all the required paperwork to enter another country, enroll in another institution and transfer credit hours.

"When it comes to marketing their study abroad experience, like on a resume or in an interview or something like that, by the time you are done, you've basically taken a master

class in organization," Burge said. Add "develop critical thinking skills and a sense of empowerment" to the list, Wysocki said. While students are navigating (literally!) unfamiliar places and situations, they're actually strengthening their adaptability and problem-solving skills.

Making global connections

Over the summer, Wysocki and her husband traveled to Scandinavia where they grabbed dinner with a German colleague she studied abroad with in 2008 and his family.

"You get to meet people from all over the world and really get to know

people who are different than you and have different cultures than you," Wysocki said. "And I just think that multicultural focus is always good for both humanity and for being able to work with people who are different than you."

Gaining perspective

When you think — and travel — outside the box, you realize just how small that box is. Learning about what surrounds them positively impacts students as they learn to challenge the world they grew up in.

"I would compare it to a fish understanding what water is," Burge said of studying abroad. "You understand more of what you know. You get

a sense for place. You get a sense for where you are and appreciating what makes Nebraska or the United States unique as a place in the world. You certainly learn a lot about other places. But I think some of that self discovery is probably one of the biggest transformative things."

Providing support to students

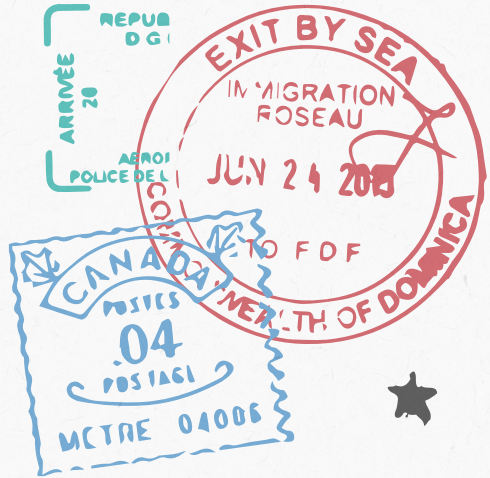
Doane provides a \$1,000 study abroad scholarship to students with 60 credits hours who are in good academic standing.

"That's also something that I think really sets us apart as an institution," Burge said of the scholarship. "I am not aware of anybody else that's doing that."

Students can use the money for faculty-led trips or solo trips and put it toward academic expenses, tuition fees, airfare, meal plans, etc. The honors program secured additional money from the Board of Trustees for study abroad scholarships specifically for honors students. Eight honors students studied abroad in the 2023-24 school year and summer — 21 honors students intend to study abroad in the 2024-25 school year.



"Studying abroad would not have been possible for me without the scholarships awarded to me by Doane and Doane Honors. They helped me tremendously and the weight of the financial burden being lifted off of my shoulders made this experience more enjoyable, but also more achievable."



BY THE NUMBERS

\$4,750

Average cost of a one-month study abroad summer program

**According to the University of Louisville*

40

Doane students studied abroad in the 2023-24 academic year and earned credit

9

Countries were the destinations for study abroad experiences (Costa Rica, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom)

0.12

The increase in GPA upon graduation for students who study abroad vs. students who don't

**According to The Consortium for the Analysis of Student Success through International Education*

2023-24 ATHLETICS

D GPAC REGULAR
SEASON CHAMPION

***** GPAC TOURNAMENT
CHAMPION

Senior Joe Osborn

BASEBALL **D**

Winning championships and Tiger Baseball go hand-in-hand these days. The Tigers won a share of the GPAC crown for the fourth straight year, a feat that has not been matched since the GPAC formed in 2000-01.

Senior RHP **Aaron Forrest** earned GPAC Pitcher of the Year honors for the second straight year. He broke numerous Doane pitching records for a season and a career. Forrest went 11-1 on the season with 96 strikeouts.

Senior OF **Joe Osborn** earned First Team All-GPAC honors for the third year in a row and walks away with his share of records at Doane, including 58 home runs and 199 runs batted in.

MEN'S GOLF

Senior **Ryan Weiss** moved into fourth on the career scoring average list as he graduated with a 76.30 and finished a three-time All-GPAC honoree. The Tigers took third at the GPAC Championships, finishing eight shots shy of defending their crown in the 54-hole tournament.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Tiger women broke records throughout the year, capping the season with a fourth place finish in the GPAC Championships and 54-hole school record. **Jim Danson** was named GPAC Co-Coach of the Year and sophomore **Kaitlyn Dumler** was named GPAC Newcomer of the Year. Dumler set the school record with an 81.2 scoring average.

CROSS COUNTRY

The men placed second and the women placed fourth in the GPAC Championships. The men earned an at-large berth to the NAIA Championships where they finished 15th overall with two All-American finishes.

Sophomores **Emmanuel Yego** and **Nelson Ruto** placed in the Top 40 to earn All-American honors, the first for the program since 2009. Yego placed 22nd overall and Ruto took 35th. On the women's side, sophomore **Calla Wittland** qualified for the meet and finished 141st overall.

The men's cross country and track programs placed 6th in the Program of the Year Award for the NAIA from the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Sophomore Nelson Ruto

SOFTBALL

The Tigers took strides forward in their first year following the return of **Renae Littrell** as head coach. They qualified for the GPAC Tournament and finished seventh in the conference.

Sophomore P/DP **Faith Molina** went 12-8 with two saves and 101 strikeouts. In the final week of the regular season, she was named both the GPAC Player of the Week and the GPAC Pitcher of the Week.

MEN'S SOCCER

Tied for eighth in win-percentage in the GPAC standings, but missed the tournament based on points. The men finished 3-7-7 overall and 1-5-5 in GPAC play.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Placed 10th in the GPAC with a 3-6-3 conference record, going 4-8-4 overall. Senior F **Lexi Torok** posted nine goals, the most in a season since 2015.

FOOTBALL

Doane finished 2-9 overall and finished in a tie for 9th in the GPAC. Coach **Jonathan Johnson** was hired in January and has created a buzz within the team as they prepare for the fall. Sophomore LB **Jarett Boggs** led the team with 80 tackles and junior P **Kelen Meyer** ranked fourth nationally in punting as the duo earned First Team All-GPAC honors. Doane led the NAIA with 12 National Football Foundation (NFF) Hampshire Honor Society recipients, awarded to graduating seniors.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Tigers were unable to get on track in the second half of the season as they battled to a 7-21 overall record and tied for 10th place in the GPAC. A highlight victory for the team was a four overtime triumph over Briar Cliff, 105-102, in which junior G **Brady Timm** posted 41 points.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Tigers were in the hunt for a national postseason bid throughout the season but came up shy as they finished eighth with an 11-11 record in the GPAC and 16-13 overall. Junior G **Mak Hatcliff** earned GPAC Player of the Year honors as she led the conference in scoring for the third straight season, and in the process became the program's all-time leading scorer. In three years, she has amassed 2,013 points.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Shooting Sports finished fourth at this year's ACUI National Championships in Division III, earning three individual national championships and one team national title. Senior **Payton Detavernier** won the women's trap title with a 99 and the doubles trap title with a 95. Sophomore **Cody Eye** took the doubles trap title with a 97. As a team, Doane won the doubles trap event with a 480. Earning the team title were Detavernier, Eye, junior **Sam Arnett**, senior **Seth Swinea** and senior **Skylar Clark**.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Tigers finished fourth in the GPAC with a 13-12 overall record this season. Six players earned All-GPAC honors including seniors **Esteban Gutierrez** and **Federico Infante**. The duo finished second and third, respectively, in wins for dual singles matches dating back to the restart of the program in the 1990s.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Freshman **Maria Purizaca Soto** established herself quickly as one of the conference's best players. She finished the season ranked No. 20 in the ITA, posting a 22-1 dual record and a 28-3 overall season record while being named the GPAC Player of the Year. In total, five players earned All-GPAC honors as the team finished fifth in the GPAC.

TRACK AND FIELD *

Indoor:
The men won the indoor conference championship, defeating Dordt by 28 points. The coaching staff was awarded the Fred Beile/GPAC Coaching Staff of the Year for the indoor men's season. Senior **Zach Turner** was awarded the GPAC Men's Track Performance of the Meet. At nationals, the men had four NAIA All-American performances and finished 16th overall. The women took second place at the conference meet with sophomore **Josie Garrett** named the GPAC Female Outstanding Athlete of the Meet and Women's Indoor Athlete of the Year. The women collected three NAIA All-American honors and finished 18th at the NAIA Championships.

Outdoor:
Both teams finished second at the conference championships, with the women's race coming down to the final event on the track.



Sophomore Josie Garrett



CHEER & DANCE

The dance team qualified for the NAIA National Championships for the third straight year after taking runner-up honors in the GPAC Championship meet. The Tigers finished sixth overall at nationals, posting a total score over 85 for the second straight year. Senior **Kelsey Brady** and sophomore **McKenna Wiley** received First Team All-American honors with four other Tigers receiving honors, giving the Tigers a school record six All-Americans.

The cheer team finished sixth at the GPAC championships as third through sixth was separated by a mere 0.67 of a point. Senior **Megan Wiley** became just the third competitive cheer member to earn All-GPAC honors.

MEN'S WRESTLING D*

The men's wrestling team won the GPAC regular season title with an 8-0 record and claimed the GPAC tournament title as well. At nationals, the Tigers finished fifth overall with four wrestlers earning All-American honors. Junior **Bradley Antesberger** was named the GPAC Wrestler of the Year and **Dana Vote** was named the GPAC Wrestling Coach of the Year.



Junior Bradley Antesberger



Sophomore Cristelle Rodriguez

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Year two has been a busy one for the women's program, both collegiately and nationally. Sophomore **Cristelle Rodriguez** built off a successful first season, starting in the summer as she represented Team USA at the 20U World Championships at 57kg. In December 2023, she qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials by placing fourth at the U.S. Senior Nationals. In March, Rodriguez finished off an undefeated college season as she won the 123 lbs. division at the NAIA Championships and was named the NAIA Women's Outstanding Wrestler of the Meet and the NAIA Women's Wrestler of the Year. In April, she won the 20U U.S. National Championship and will represent the USA in the World Championships again. Rodriguez followed up a week later with a fourth place finish at the Olympic Trials.

In the 23U U.S. National Championships, freshman **Aspen Barber** took third place at 72kg. **Ashlee Palimo'o**, a redshirt junior, and **Aevri Ciha**, a sophomore, finished in eighth place at 59kg and 65kg, respectively.

VOLLEYBALL

The Tigers finished 8-19 overall and 6-10 in the GPAC, placing eighth and qualifying for the conference tournament. Several of the team's contributing players were freshmen and sophomores, giving new head coach **RanDee Ochinero** a strong base to work with. She comes to Doane from NAIA power Rocky Mountain College (Mont.) where she served as an assistant coach.

ESPORTS

The inaugural season of Esports was a successful one under Coach **Aaron Blackman**. The program had a slow start in the fall, going winless in the Super Smash Bros. game. However, in the spring, the program started to hit their stride. The Overwatch team went 6-3 on the year and advanced to the conference semifinals.

There were two teams that competed in Rocket League. The Tiger Orange team finished 6-3 and advanced to the conference semifinals before bowing out to the Tiger Black team. Senior **Garrett Scheet**, junior **Braden Lackey** and sophomore **Winston Sears**, who make up Tiger Black, went 13-1 on the year and won the conference title. At nationals, the team won their first three matches and advanced to the championship match before falling for the only time this season to Ithaca Blue, 4-2.

GPAC COACH OF THE YEAR HONORS:

- Dana Vote (men's wrestling)
- Ed Fye '82 (men's track & field)
- Jim Danson (women's golf)

THE POWER IN PIVOTING

Alum competes in her fifth Paralympics in Paris

Writer Sara Hinds

“Who here has heard of the Paralympics?” **Natalie (Nelsen) Schneider ’05** asked the basketball team made up of seventh grade girls in spring 2024.

Every player raised their hands. There’s no way, Schneider thought. She made her first Paralympics team in 2008, and back then nobody knew what it was.

“That’s like the Special Olympics, right?” was a common response. Schneider would correct them — just as amazing, but completely different.

Schneider rephrased her question.

“Ok, who had heard of the Paralympics before your coach told you I was coming?”

But their coach hadn’t warned the girls that a four-time Paralympian (two-time gold medalist, one-time bronze medalist) was visiting them.

That awareness is important, Schneider said. For six years as a teenager, she didn’t know. Not just about the Paralympics, but of opportunities for kids who face cancer, life-altering injuries or are born with disabilities to play sports.

“You learn so, so much about life just by playing sports,” Schneider said. “No matter what level you’re playing, you can learn a lot about how to treat people and how to work together.”



A titanium prosthesis in one of her legs prevents Schneider from running and jumping, but not from pursuing professional wheelchair basketball all over the globe for Team USA.

Schneider was born to play sports. Her dad, **Dennis Nelsen ’67**, coached basketball at Crete High School after playing for Doane University where he earned three MVP honors.

“The day I was born was basketball game day [for him],” Schneider said fondly. Her dad passed away from Parkinson’s after the Tokyo Paralympics. “He came to the hospital when I was born. And then he went and coached a basketball game that night. I was really born into basketball.”

Growing up, she and her two siblings attended the shooting camps their dad hosted. As a sophomore at Crete High School she helped the team reach the state tournament.



Courtesy of USOPC/Mark Reis

The U.S. women's wheelchair basketball team won gold at the 2023 Parapan American Games in Santiago, Chile, and qualified for the Paris Paralympics.



Courtesy of USOPC/Mark Reis

Basketball and Schneider just made sense. It was an easy layup, until it wasn’t.

Bone cancer. The summer after her sophomore year. Ten months of chemotherapy and ultimately a surgery that replaced half of her femur and her knee-joint with a titanium prosthesis. She could walk, but was told she couldn’t run or jump anymore.

“I identified as an athlete, and so losing that in high school at 16 was really, really hard,” Schneider said. “I didn’t know who I was anymore.”

Ever the athlete, getting knocked down only meant Schneider would rise again, stronger. Her mom, Nancy, and dad found other outlets their daughter could try to love just as much as basketball. Golf, choir, school. Nothing was hitting.

Until her mom saw a newspaper article about sitting volleyball. Team sports with the camaraderie was what had been missing. A few months later, Schneider discovered wheelchair basketball.

Five Paralympics later she still loves it. Paris is supposed to be her last Games, right?

“Yeah,” Schneider laughed. “I think I really mean it this time.”

She earned a master’s degree in statistics and worked as a statistician for a while, ultimately deciding to commit full time to family and basketball. She lives in Syracuse, Nebraska, with her husband, **Dan Schneider ’03** and their three daughters. And she travels the world playing professional wheelchair basketball in the Paralympics, world championships, Parapan American Games and more.

While her professional career is winding down, sports will stay at large in her life. She’s currently working toward her personal trainer certification. She’ll also have more time to coach youth basketball and train young athletes.

“I didn’t expect to be playing at a high level in my late 30s,” Schneider said. “And now I’m 41 and I’m still keeping up with the 20-year-olds on the court. So I’m like, ‘Well, hey, why not?’”

“I didn’t expect to be playing at a high level in my late 30s,” Schneider said. “And now I’m 41 and I’m still keeping up with the 20-year-olds on the court. So I’m like, ‘Well, hey, why not?’”

Her daughters are her biggest motivators, though. They help Schneider practice. They’re learning the important lessons you learn from sports, like hard work pays off. They’re learning about the adaptive sports community, experiencing global travel and watching the meteoric growth of women’s sports.

And her dad’s MVP trophies from Doane sit on a shelf at her house, viewable from her training area. They are a reminder of her initiation into the world of basketball at birth while she trains to accomplish more than she ever realized she could.

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL STRATEGY

- There’s no double dribble foul
- Speed is more important than height
- Players are rated with a classification system based on their impairment(s). The lower their class, the more severe the impairment.
- The classification point total of the five players on the floor cannot exceed more than 14.
- Schneider has the highest classification possible (4.5)
- “If I can get right behind a teammate who’s a class one, we do something called a seal,” Schneider said. “I can follow them right to the basket and the defense can’t stop me without stopping my teammate’s chair. It’s almost like a little train that goes through to get me in the key.”

READY YEAR ONE

Writer Sara Hinds

It's a typical Tuesday night for **Theo Jones (class of 2027)**. As the commentator for Doane's esports team, he leads the weekly Twitch stream of Super Smash Bros.

It's a typical Tuesday night for **Winston Sears (class of 2026)** and **Braden Lackey (class of 2025)**. The soccer teammates and floormates are hanging out. Well, it's not so typical, because tonight, Sears suggests turning on the Twitch stream of the Doane esports team.

Both men follow the team's Instagram account. They'd seen the posts about the weekly Super Smash Bros livestreams.

They hear Jones's voice call the action on the stream.

"It was the coolest thing ever," Lackey said. "This is at Doane? We have a commentator? We have a smash team? We were getting so hyped."



**This is at Doane? We have a commentator?
We have a Smash team? We were getting so hyped."**

— Braden Lackey

Soon after, Sears and Lackey started playing in the esports room, otherwise known as Room 188 in the Communications Building. It's a designated space for the Doane esports team to practice, but open at times to casual drop-ins from any student looking to game.

Two weeks before the January 2024 registration deadline, they became official members of the team.

PRESS START

After being named head coach in May 2023, **Aaron Blackman** spent the summer purchasing equipment, recruiting students and bringing to life his vision for a team.

As an active gamer himself, and a former journalist with Blizzard Entertainment (a video game developer and publisher) Blackman knew exactly the type of environment he wanted to build for a team.

There's a propensity for individuals and teams in the esports arena to be toxic. With online anonymity, they feel removed from reality, and therefore, consequences and feelings. Blackman wanted to avoid that stereotype.



Page 18: Rocket League Black team (L to R: Braden Lackey, Winston Sears and Garrett Scheet) zoned in.

Page 19: (L) Emma Dobrec and Theo Jones (R) Aaron Blackman,

And if you ask him what he’s most proud of from this season, it’s not only the national success they’ve had (more on that in a minute) it’s the inclusive nature of his team.

“They’re becoming friends with one another,” Blackman said. “We’ve created a place on campus that people can come and hang out and play, but then for those who want to go the extra mile, [who] want to compete, they can.”

On any given day you can walk by the esports room and see at least 10 students playing games, Jones said. Or one of the Overwatch, Rocket League or Super Smash Bros. teams practicing. Lo-fi music provides a consistent hum. Overhead lights are a no-no. There’s no better word to describe it other than chill.

Word of mouth, social media and twitch streams brought potential new teammates to COMM 188. From there, it’s part skill, part commitment on making the team, like any other sport.

There’s practices, scrimmages and competitions, like any other sport. Lackey has learned how to communicate and prioritize better, like any other student-athlete.

So if you ask him or his teammates if they consider esports a ‘real’ sport, they’re confident in their answers.

“It is,” Lackey said. “There’s such a big skill gap within it that I don’t think a lot of people realize.”

This gap is noticeable when Lackey and Sears start talking mechanics and key binding as ways to improve for next season.

If we’re talking success in wins, there’s only one level of achievement higher the duo can reach. In their first season, Lackey, Sears, and teammate **Garrett Scheet ’24**, finished as national runners up as the Rocket League Black team at the NECC National Tournament. Scheet was named the team’s MVP for their first year.

Jones is just as excited for Rocket League Black’s inevitable success. As commentator, he’s had a behind-the-stream seat to the season. He’s earning a degree in education, but wants to see how far he can go with commentating, his newfound passion.

He worked closely with **Emma Dobrec ’24**, a producer for the team.

Together they ran live streams for almost every game, which ended up being multiple times a week. They’re tucked in a room inside the main esports room, behind mics and cameras. The gamers play in the main space, a watch party — usually the rest of the team and friends — congregates below in COMM 67.

Post-goal celebrations from the players are heard downstairs, and cheers from the watch party are heard upstairs. Sears proudly sends livestream links for his friends and family to tune in.

“Our setup is actually really good,” Sears said of the production that includes graphics and interviews. “It’s the small details that make it worth watching.”

Our setup is actually really good,” Sears said of the production that includes graphics and interviews. “It’s the small details that make it worth watching.”



(L to R) Zeke Krejci-Hyde ’24, Jose Purizaca (class of 2026) and Emmanuel Medina (class of 2027)



(Front) Nathan Shupe (class of 2027) playing Rocket League (Back) Scheet, Purizaca and Blackman

GAME ON

Year two of the esports program is underway in fall 2024. Blackman expects to offer three or four different games.

The 2023-24 season ended with 25 students on the roster, nearly doubling Blackman’s preseason goal of 14. Two Doane esports teams finished as conference semifinalists. And Rocket League Black will be back, too.

“I’m excited for more success,” Jones said. “I have seen how much fun these guys have. And I interviewed every senior that we had, and every single one of them said, ‘it’s just a fun program. It’s a fun place to be.’ And I want to see that continue.”

I have seen how much fun these guys have. And I interviewed every senior that we had, and every one of them said, 'it's just a fun program. It's a fun place to be.' And I want to see that continue.”
— Theo Jones

DOANE ESPORTS LINGO

Twitch: Video streaming platform where gamers broadcast livestreams

Overwatch: Team-based, multiplayer first-person shooter game

Super Smash Bros: A fighting game filled with characters from Bowser to Zelda and other franchise favorites in between

Rocket League: Soccer but where the players are vehicles; one of the preferred games of Doane esports

Keybinding: A way for more serious gamers to customize the controls of the game to fit their needs



Since 2023, Brady has been connecting Doane with regional businesses and organizations looking to upskill their workforce.

Let's get straight to businesses

Writer Liz McCue

Doane's Director of Strategic Partnerships helps Nebraska organizations and companies find solutions to workplace challenges through connections with Doane faculty and staff experts



Go For Launch workshop participants attended a pitch night to present their business plans.

If you've taken courses at Doane's Lincoln campus or Omaha campus location, you've probably run into **Chris Brady '13L**. He was previously the director of Doane's two urban facilities and teaches history classes.

In 2023, he switched gears to become director of strategic partnerships, with a goal of helping regional businesses and organizations upskill their workforces through academic and non-academic education programs.

It's a new role at Doane, but has roots dating back to the start of the university's non-residential options. Early Lincoln programs offered career development to industries in the city in the 1980s, like computer classes that offered credit toward a bachelor's degree but were created in response to the needs of a business partner.

"There were previously strong partnerships that funneled students into our adult learner programs on the Lincoln campus, but times have changed," he said. "There's still a demand for partnerships, but they look a little different."

To some degree, those demands are more like a match game — if a business or organization has "x" problem, is there a staff or faculty member who can help provide a solution?

"I help businesses troubleshoot workforce challenges, to see if our degree programs or tailored professional development programs can provide solutions to knowledge or skill gaps," he said.

These challenges can include something as simple as needing to be able to create more effective presentation slides, or as complex as learning to navigate communication between younger and older generations. Sometimes requests are for leadership training, or for insights on Clifton Strengths.

Take one partnership, with the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. The organization wanted to offer additional resources to young or aspiring entrepreneurs in the city. Together with Doane's Entrepreneurship and Strategic Partnerships departments, they held Go For Launch, an eight-week entrepreneurship workshop through fall 2023.

The workshop was offered to Doane students and community

members not enrolled at the university, with nine students and nine community members participating. On Dec. 12, workshop participants presented their business plans and pitches to potential investors, Lincoln business representatives and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. Audiences stayed for hours to watch the event — even as it was standing room only.

The partnership is just one example of how Brady's work is not only establishing connections between businesses and Doane, but helping community leaders in Lincoln, Crete and beyond to network and grow.

"My view is that our non-academic, professional learning programs live up to the mission of our university," Brady said. "We're improving lives through education."

Interested in working with Doane? Reach out with any questions or inquiries: chris.brady@doane.edu or 402-763-2991

STEPS TO SUCCESS

1. Each partnership starts with an email or phone call to Chris Brady.
2. Brady arranges a discovery meeting to learn more about the challenges a business, organization or industry is facing, and what their desired outcomes are from working with Doane.
3. Brady makes connections with a Doane staff or faculty member with skills that can address the organization's needs.
4. A contract is coordinated, with a timeline for sessions, lessons or instruction and several options depending on if an organization wants to dip in a toe or go all in.
5. After the contract is completed, Brady follows up — were the desired outcomes met, are there additional trainings that could help, etc.



Kwame Gyamfi pitches to potential investors on Dec. 12 as part of the Go For Launch workshop. Gyamfi is the school community coordinator at Civic Nebraska's Community Learning Center at Lincoln Northeast School.

Opportunities for Success Through Entrepreneurship

Writer Grace Schroller



Paul Jarrett, co-founder of Bulu, speaks on the Crete campus November 9, 2023. OWN hosted the speaker that was open to students and the public.

In the Fall of 2022 something great blossomed at Doane: the creation of the Entrepreneurship department including a minor and certificate. The program began with the support of passionate donors and the Board of Trustees as a way to prepare students for a future in business and startups.

Lisa Tschauner '07 GI, chair of the entrepreneurship department, plays a key role providing significant professional guidance for the program.

“Entrepreneurship integrates very well with other majors at Doane and is very purposeful,” Tschauner said. “The entrepreneurship minor could be a foundational component to all the other programs at Doane.”

Doane offers six entrepreneurship classes — including an entry-level, dual-credit class for high school students that will be available to Doane students in 2025 — all featuring different skills to be learned and opportunities outside of the classroom. The department partners with local businesses in

the Crete and Lincoln communities, such as Ace Hardware, Crete Area Medical Center, Heath Sports and Tees, Nelnet, Loudr, Bulu and Reliant Transportation. These organizations sponsor prizes and serve as guest speakers, mentors and advisors to students. It’s a win-win-win for students, Doane and businesses, Tschauner said. Take Reliant Transportation for example.

“They present challenges in their company to our students and work with them to ideate and prototype possible solutions that they can actually implement,” Tschauner said. “Now, several of our Doane graduates go to work for Reliant Transportation.”

Bronson Wyman '24 took ENT 401 - New Venture Experience, where students designed and operated their own business. Bronson and his team created a podcast called “Tiger Talks.” They worked with local businesses to negotiate ad sales and network. He also took ENT 495 - Launching an Entrepreneurial Venture.

“The entrepreneurship program was beneficial for me, because it helped me learn how to sell myself as well as a product,” Wyman said. “From learning to push a product that was my own business in my senior fall, to learning how to do a business model overall my senior spring, [entrepreneurship] really helped me develop my intrapersonal traits as well as business knowledge.”

The entrepreneurship program also established a new student entrepreneurship organization called OWN, which stands for Opportunities, Wealth, Networking. The senior capstone class, BUS 496 - Strategic Management led to the development of this group. The group helps prepare student entrepreneurs through real-world experiences and empowers them to be creative thinkers through resources, opportunities and an inclusive environment. In the first year, they hosted “OWN Your Voice” a speaker series featuring successful entrepreneurs and alumni, offered professional headshots to students and attended the Midwest Entrepreneurship Conference in Omaha.

A future goal for these students is international travel. Their goal is to find a business in another country and assist them in solving challenges within their businesses, and to experience entrepreneurship in other countries.

The program also administers events such as “Big Idea Doane.” Students get the opportunity to pitch their new business ideas to judges who are entrepreneur professionals in the Crete and Lincoln area. The top three are then selected for cash awards of up to \$3,000.

“I’d suggest everyone at Doane, entrepreneur or not, to involve themselves in Big Idea Doane, because you never know what might come from it,” Wyman said. **Cale Stolle**, associate professor of



Big Idea Doane, November 13, 2023

Top left: Alyssa Luebke, class of 2025, and Zack Perez '24 (two members of the 2023-24 OWN Exec Team)

Top right: Mary Blackledge, class of 2027 and the CEO of OWN for the 2024-25 school year, pitches to the judge panel. Judge panel L to R: Brian Ardinger (Director of Innovation at Nelnet), Jen Bossard (professor at Doane), Paul Jarrett, Dan Hoffman (CEO at Invest Nebraska). Not pictured: Derek Bierman (CIO at Doane).

Bottom photo: Bronson Wyman '24

engineering and physics at Doane, recognizes how the entrepreneurship program embodies Doane’s liberal arts education. Many of his students have been finalists in the Big Idea event.

“[Tschauner] pushes students to explore creative solutions and take exploratory routes that may seem daunting, and leads students through challenges as a method of personal growth, both in capability and in understanding of self,” Stolle said.

Tschauner echoes the versatility of studying entrepreneurship for any student at Doane, no

matter their major or career aspirations. While some students do have goals to open their own business, it’s not a requirement to study entrepreneurship. Many employers seek graduates who have the innovative skills they learn in these classes like critical thinking, problem solving, business planning, negotiation and communication.

“Entrepreneurship is just very interdisciplinary, it’s one of those foundational things that is only going to make a student a much stronger professional,” Tscahuner said.



Answering the Call

Meet the students, alumni and faculty in the Crete Volunteer Fire Department

Writer Rebecca Svec

Photos Ben Meyer

Courtney Marcelino '19 planned to earn a biology degree from Doane but was unsure of her career path.

Abbie Willett (class of 2025) is pursuing a biology degree with a health sciences emphasis but has found additional purpose in a Crete volunteer role that complements her studies.

Harrison Gaman came to Doane from El Paso, Texas, to study and play football, but planned to go 'four years and out', right back to his home state to work in law enforcement. Today, Marcelino is a paramedic for three Nebraska medical centers and will soon finish her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Willett is now halfway through her biology requirements, remains committed to her volunteer role, and plans to use knowledge from both as a future pathologist assistant.

And Gaman is a career firefighter in Lincoln and a Crete resident with no plans to leave Nebraska.

What happened? The Crete Volunteer Fire Department. Each volunteered with Crete's fire department and rescue squad — as many Doane students have done over the years — and found a surprising and positive impact on their futures.

Making Doane students eligible for the squad has kept the Crete department's volunteer numbers healthy, with a steady stream of young recruits. Some have made Crete home and remained with CVFD; others take their fire and Emergency Medical Services skills back to hometowns or the new towns they call home. Some find a new career path and a new family among fellow squad members.

"It has turned out to be a really good program, benefitting the fire department, the City of Crete and the students," said James Yost, Crete's Assistant Fire Chief. It began as a 'What if...?' idea to keep the volunteer numbers up, looking for a solution for the problem facing many rural

Nebraska communities: A shortage of volunteers when the 911 calls come in.

Why not let Doane students use their college address inside the fire district as a permanent address, making them eligible to volunteer, someone asked.

This year about a quarter of the 34 members on the CVFD roster are Doane students, in addition to several Doane alums.

A situation a few years ago highlighted just how important the Doane ties have become. When the ambulance left the station for an emergency call, five of the six responders were current or former Doane students.

"Without the Doane affiliation, we would have had a delayed response or called mutual aid for help," said Yost, a Crete native in his 17th year on the department and a firefighter in Lincoln for the past 14.

Top Photo: (L to R) Brad Elder (biology professor at Doane), Kaidan Smith, Abby Willett, Hayden DeBoer '23, Courtney Marcelino and James Yost



"It has turned out to be a really good program, benefitting the fire department, the City of Crete and the students."

— James Yost, Crete's Assistant Fire Chief



CVFD Requirements

- At least 18 years of age
- High-school diploma or GED
- Valid driver's license
- Live within the Crete Fire District



“We will literally run into fires to save each other... we completely rely on each other. For me, (CVFD) turned into a family I didn’t know I needed,”

— Courtney Marcelino '19



Crete’s department averages about 900 calls per year, made up of roughly 500 EMS calls, 100 fire-related calls and 300 interfacility transfers. Even with their call load, they don’t expect volunteers to make every call, and the department makes it clear to students that school comes first, Yost said.

At the same time, some students will find growth and education within the department. The time among the CVFD ranks has put several students on the path to medical and firefighting careers, including paramedics, nurses, a Doctor of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and a Physician Assistant.

The list includes Marcelino, a paramedic who found a passion for

emergency medicine through her time with fire and rescue, as well as Gaman, a captain and 14-year member of the Crete department in addition to his work with Lincoln Fire & Rescue. While attending Doane, he joined CVFD hoping to learn emergency skills to apply in a law enforcement career, then realized he had found his career. He loved tackling a grassfire one day; performing chest compressions on a car accident victim the next. No two days alike, except knowing someone needed them.

The department pays for students’ training to earn their EMS license and is considering a reimbursement model for paramedic classes. On one hand, Yost said, they are paying training costs for a student who might only be with them for three

years. The flip side, though, is the stream of staffing it provides. The station has Wi-Fi and an open, welcoming feel, offering students a place to study or just hang out, Yost said. He likes walking into the station and seeing students on laptops or working on the ambulance with other volunteers.

Many of the students said they consider the department a second family, a connection that keeps them in touch with CVFD long past college.

“We will literally run into fires to save each other...we completely rely on each other. For me, (CVFD) turned into a family I didn’t know I needed,” Marcelino said.

Meet some of the Doane + CVFD family



Kaidan Smith (class of 2025)
A Crete native, Smith grew up caring about his hometown and giving back. He’s also gained a confidence he didn’t know he was lacking.



Abbie Willet (class of 2025)
A traumatic event from Willett’s childhood on a farm near Shelby, Iowa, helped shape her passion for emergency service.



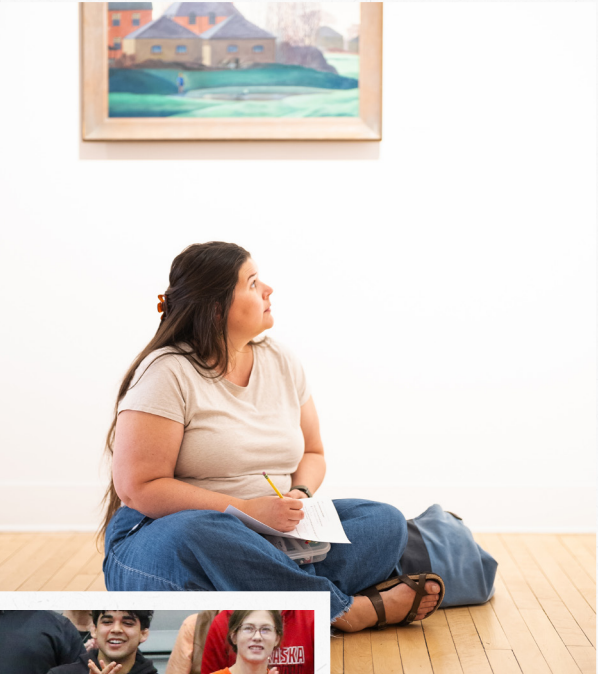
Courtney Marcelino '19
Following in her late grandpa’s footsteps, Marcelino has gone from a rookie college member to treasurer and an almost 8-year member of the squad.



READ THEIR STORIES!



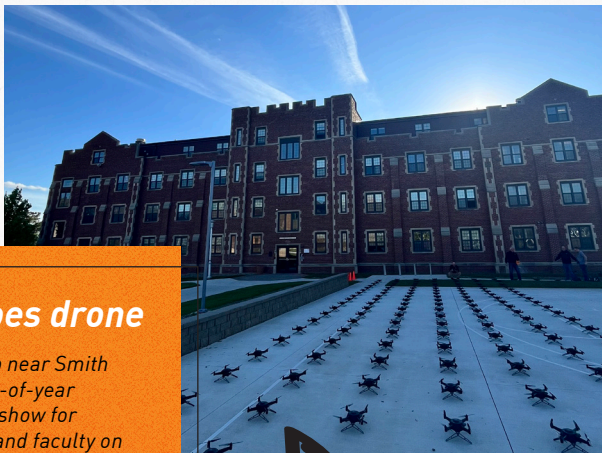
Paint it orange
Students from intermediate and advanced painting classes painted fire hydrants across the Crete campus in the spring. Edward Jones in Crete helped fund the colorful project.



Say cheese whipped cream
The annual Relay for Life event took place in Fuhrer Field House on Friday, April 5. The year-long fundraiser raised more than \$32,000 for the American Cancer Society.



Doane goes drone
Drones lined up near Smith Hall for the end-of-year surprise drone show for students, staff and faculty on Thursday, May 9. The event celebrated 2024 graduates and the naming of C. Donald Brodie Hall. According to Fantasy Drone Shows, it was the first show in the nation to feature the new X7 drone.



Financial Overview

Combined Gift Revenue (restricted, unrestricted and capital)

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 (FY2024)

Bequests	\$	1,038,012.25	21.57%
Alumni	\$	1,328,531.86	27.61%
Foundations	\$	940,077.82	19.54%
Trustee/Faculty/Staff	\$	509,456.80	10.59%
Friends	\$	613,163.79	12.74%
Parents	\$	175,721.45	3.65%
Corporations and Businesses	\$	205,200.03	4.26%
Religious Organizations	\$	1,675.00	0.03%

Grand Total

Total Donors

\$

4,811,839.00

4,625

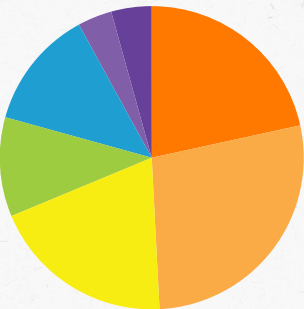
100%

Doane Fund (unrestricted)

Total Raised	\$	1,295,917.65
Total Donors		1,610

Giving Participation

Board of Trustees	100%
Alumni giving	
All Alumni with a degree	5.64%
Undergraduate – Crete	11.70%
Undergraduate – All	7.91%
Master	0.75%
Doctorate	6.25%
Employee Giving	
Full-time	46.52%
Full-time and Part-time combined	44.30%



- Bequests
- Alumni
- Foundations
- Trustee/Faculty/Staff
- Friends
- Parents
- Corporations and Businesses
- Religious Organizations



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SUPPORT DOANE

What's the Difference?

THE DOANE FUND is to be used during each fiscal year for the immediate needs of students, faculty, staff and the university.

THE ENDOWMENT serves as an investment that provides long-term financial stability and security for Doane.

THE DOANE FUND	THE ENDOWMENT
Doane's "checking account"	Doane's "savings account"
Available for immediate needs	Invested to provide lasting security
Expenses not covered by tuition	Foundation for the future
All gifts making large impacts	Gifts creating an enduring legacy
Short term	Long term

Personalize your Philanthropy

Philanthropy doesn't have to be complicated. Start by asking yourself when, what and how you want to give or contact the Advancement office for assistance in personalizing your giving.

Whether you want to give now, spread out your gift through a multi-year pledge, or make plans for giving in the future, we can help create a philanthropy plan that fits you!

Outright gifts are essential to sustaining Doane University's current development and growth. Whether you're writing a check or donating stock or other assets, your gift will support the Doane experience for all students

through personalized interactions, opportunities to travel and engage in meaningful research and more — all while developing critical thinking and leadership skills that will benefit the world after leaving Doane.

A multi-year pledge can enable you to give at a comfortable level with a cumulative benefit and impact. You can make monthly, quarterly or annual contributions to fulfill your pledge and have the opportunity to support critical areas like the Doane Fund, specific departments and scholarships.

Through planned giving opportunities, donors can take

advantage of other strategic giving options such as donor-advised funds, IRAs, charitable gift annuities, gifts of real estate, bequests and more.

Once you better understand your when and what, you can decide how you want your gift to impact Doane and its students. Do you wish to provide immediate impact through a gift to the Doane Fund or provide permanent support with a gift to the endowment? Or, do you want to split your gift between an endowed fund and the Doane Fund?

Either way, the Advancement Office can assist you in creating a personalized philanthropy plan that accomplishes your goals.



Donor Spotlight

Paul Oppenheim '65 and his wife, Barbara, have found giving to Doane to be mutually beneficial on many levels. For Paul, Doane is a part of his family history that goes back to the 1920s when his grandfather relocated the family to Crete so that his children could attend Doane. Paul's mother (as well as her five siblings) attended

Doane and his father taught at Doane before the family moved to Chicago when Paul was five.

According to Paul, he was always aware of Doane but never really thought it would be a possibility for him to attend. However, he was admitted and earned an academic scholarship, which enabled him to follow in his family's footsteps.

Paul majored in political science, was an inaugural member and captain of the men's wrestling team, and was a member of the band. His deepest relationships and affinity for Doane were developed through wrestling and his courses with Bob Conner, his wrestling coach and political science instructor.

The Oppenheims give to Doane through their IRA required minimum distribution (RMD). It allows them to make an annual contribution to support the areas that mean the most to them: wrestling and the Doane Fund. Using RMD funds also provides them tax benefits as donors.

"When we give to Doane, we know where our money is going. It's a small school, not some vast impersonal charity," Paul said. "I like to think the money we have given has had some impact on the students and programs. Students from all backgrounds, from affluent to very challenging, can go to Doane and flourish. That's what makes small liberal arts colleges like Doane an important educational asset. We can see the impact Doane has on students. We're happy to be a part of that."



Refer a student through the Alumni Referral Scholarship

As a graduate of Doane, you know firsthand the amazing experiences our students receive. With the Alumni Referral Scholarship, you can help future Tigers have the chance to experience it for themselves. There’s no limit to the number of students you can submit for an award. You don’t have to wait until their senior year, either; refer a high school freshman to give them lots of time to think about becoming a Tiger!

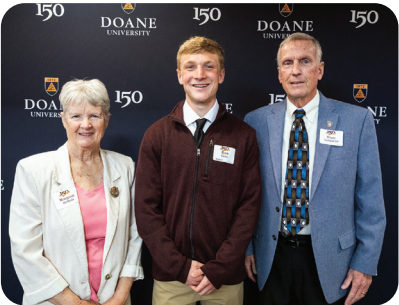
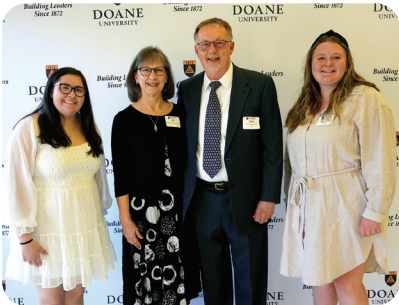
THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE!

- Step 1**
You, the Doane alum, fills out the Student Referral form at doane.edu/referral
- Step 2**
The referred student is notified and applies to Doane
- Step 3**
The student’s application is reviewed, and their acceptance is shared with the student and referrer
- Step 4**
Your referred student receives \$1,000 annually for up to 4 years!

98% of students referred last year are enrolled at Doane this fall!



YOU can make an impact on Tiger students at NO COST TO YOU!



The Sweeter Things in Life

Sweet Things by Marcy is a living testament that a lot can change in just a few years.

Writer Michael Stehlik '07
Photos Liz McCue



Marcy Haas '18L went from being a part-time home baker during the pandemic, to sharing a commercial kitchen with other businesses, to becoming a full-time business owner with her own space. She moved into the latter on April 1, 2024.

Located at 14th and N in downtown Lincoln, Sweet Things by Marcy is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, with online order pickup available Monday through Saturday.

Desserts from Sweet Things by Marcy can also be enjoyed at Lincoln restaurants like Canyon Joe's BBQ, Lila Mae's Southern Kitchen and SoulFull Cocina.

Haas's love for baking is a lifelong passion that began at the tender age of 6 when she learned from her mother.

"I use most of the same recipes that my mother learned from my grandmother," Haas said.

Her passion is evident in every southern staple she crafts, such as hummingbird cake, Kentucky butter cake and peach cobbler.

Haas said that sweet potato pie is her favorite item to bake.

"It reminds me of my mom and all the warmth and love in her kitchen year-round," she said. Even her business's namesake is infused with a personal touch, this time from someone outside her family.

"My friend and I came up with the name after singing Chaka Khan's 'Sweet Things,'" Haas said.

She dreams of Sweet Things becoming a household name in Lincoln and across Nebraska. And with determination and a heart like hers, it's not just possible — it's inevitable.



Class Notes for 2024

- A Administration arts and management master's program
- C Counseling master's program
- DE Education doctoral program
- E Education master's and advanced degree programs
- GI 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
- W Online bachelor's programs

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

Half-Century News

Dr. Barbara R. Cole '63 *Mount Pleasant, S.C.*, was awarded the Doane Builder Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award is presented to alums who have distinguished themselves and Doane through outstanding achievement, professional accomplishments, community service and their relationship with the university. It is considered the highest award alums can receive.

1970s



Gammas from the '70s. A group of Gamma Phi Iota sorority sisters got together to share lunch. Front row, L-R: **Eunice Kemper McArdle '70** *Crete*, **Christine Corallo Chilcoat '72** *Stanton*, **Marsha Olson Prior '71** *Lincoln* and **Barbara G. Bunner '72** *Boise, ID*. Back row, L-R: **Joann Snitily Couton '74** *Wahoo*, **Edith C. Skelton '74** *Lincoln*, **Patricia Jestes**

Pecoraro '73 *Omaha*, **Elaine L. D'Amato '71** *Omaha*, **Beth Jenkins Dunker '73** *Beatrice* and **Jean Larson Hulbert '72** *Lincoln*.

Dr. Michael F. Rapp '76 *Denton*, was awarded the Exceptional Service Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award recognizes an alum who has provided extraordinary service to forward the cause of Doane through their volunteer efforts.

1980s

Ginger Frey Pittman '81, '01E *Pickrell*, received the Golden Apple Award for April 2024. This award is given to a deserving teacher in the local area each month of the school year. It is presented by KOLN/KGIN News and sponsored by the Doane University College of Education.

Michael W. Krantz '83 was posthumously awarded the Doane Builder Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award is presented to alums who have distinguished themselves and Doane through outstanding achievement, professional accomplishments, community service and their relationship with the university. It is considered the highest award alums can receive.

Donald D. Partridge '83 *Waverly*, was awarded the Honor D Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award is presented to former Doane athletes who have distinguished themselves by outstanding service in their life's work.

Senator Thomas R. Brewer '84 *Murdock*, a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe and a member of the Nebraska Legislature from the 43rd district, was honored for his involvement in several Native American initiatives. The Chief Standing Bear Project selected Senator Brewer as the recipient for its annual "Prize for Courage," presented on Indigenous People's Day, October 9, 2023.

Wende Beechler Burton '89 *Fort Worth, Texas*, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for The Family Place, which serves those affected by domestic violence. Wende serves as a nonprofit consultant for Social Impact Architects after working for more than 14 years at Communities Foundations of Texas.

André L. Davis '89 *Lenexa, Kan.*, has been hired as vice president in the Employee Benefits Group with Alliant Insurance. In addition, André served as the featured speaker at the Scholarship Endowment Dinner held at Doane on April 17, 2023.

1990s

Dr. Chad L. Denker '93, '97E, '01E, '14E, '19DE *Bellwood*, was awarded the Educator of the Year Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. This award is presented to an alum who has made outstanding contributions to the field of education and is selected with assistance from the education department.

Summer Wait Stephens '99, '02E *Grand Island*, has accepted the associate superintendent position with Grand Island Public Schools after serving as the Churchill County School District Superintendent in Wyoming.



Jon K. Drogheo '94 *Arvada, Colo.*, was awarded the Colorado EDGE Soccer Club's Competitive Girls Coach of the Year in 2023. In addition, Jon received a nomination for Colorado State Soccer Associate Coach of the Year. Jon is assisted by his daughter, Elana, a former Doane soccer player.



Dan M. McPherson '94 *Aurora, Colo.*, was named an Educator of the Year for Cherry Creek School District for the spring of 2024. He has taught at-risk students at an alternative high school for over 20 years.

2000s

Chad A. Gillespie '00 *Kearney*, is one of six candidates who will run in the general election for the Kearney Public School Board of Education in November. There are three open seats on the board.

Lindy N. Quick '00 *Lancaster, Ohio*, authored the book "SAFe(R) Coaches Handbook: Proven tips and techniques for launching and running SaFe(R) Teams, ARTs, and Portfolios in an Agile Enterprise."

Jean M. Synowicki '00E *Riverton, Utah*, is the new principal of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Ogden, Utah.

Cheryl R. Richter '01E, '09E *Lincoln*, retired from Fredstrom Elementary after the spring 2024 semester after serving as principal.

Susan E. Cassata '01E *Lincoln*, serves as principal of Lincoln's new high school, Standing Bear High, after 15 years as the principal at Lincoln East.

Jeff J. Brehm '02E *Walton*, retired from Calvert Elementary after the spring 2024 semester. He served as principal.

Eric L. Stearns '03 *Lincoln*, had his Raku pottery featured in the main exhibit of the Prairie Art Center in North Platte during the 2023 holiday season.

Scott M. Morris '05 *Omaha*, was awarded the Platt Music Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The recipient of this award is chosen with assistance from the Doane music department and is presented to an alums for outstanding achievement in music.

Jessica L. Alexander '06 *Chatsworth, Calif.*, was awarded the Paul Kersenbrock Humanitarian Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award is presented to Doane alums who, in the Alumni Council's judgment, distinguish themselves by extraordinary, unselfish dedication and service to others in their work and lifestyle.

Dr. Stacey Bachle Brandt '06 *Clatonia*, expanded her physical therapy practice to include a new location in Beatrice: Beatrice Physical Therapy.

Megan Zabrocki Forbes '06 *Seward*, began serving as Doane's donor relations and stewardship manager in August 2023.

Amanda Bennett Lothrop '06 *Slingerlands, N.Y.*, serves as the Medicaid chief operating officer for the New York State Department of Health.

Andrew R. Brabec '07 *Omaha*, is now vice president of marketing and e-commerce at Borsheims.

Allen D. '07 and **Bethany Wolfe Gilbert '10** *Omaha*, welcomed their daughter, Olive Katheryn, on September 24, 2023.

Michelle L. Dutcher '08E *Kearney*, was appointed the principal at Kenwood Elementary for Kearney Public Schools.

Pepper L. Papineau '08L *York*, was named vice president/compliance officer & assistant CRA officer for Cornerstone Bank in York.



Rudi Molet Wolfe '08, '10E, '13E *Lincoln*, left her role as assistant principal at Elliott Elementary

School to assume the role of principal of Zeman Elementary for Lincoln Public Schools.

Clay H. Blackman '09E *Stromsburg*, was announced as the north central division president-elect for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Linda P. Dugan '09E *Tucson, Ariz.*, was one of 10 Tucsonans selected to serve on the Arizona Daily Star's volunteer editorial advisory board.

Bailey Heafer Feit '09, '11E *Lincoln*, was nominated by Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird to fill a Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission vacancy.

2010s

Justin R. Cox '10
Omaha, and Elise Sambol were married on May 23, 2024, in Omaha.

Luke P. Henderson '10
Norfolk, was named a finalist for county court judgeship in the Sixth Judicial District. Luke is an attorney at Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, Bartell & Henderson in Norfolk.

Michael '11, '14A and Sarah Adams Vargas '10
Dublin, Ohio, welcomed their daughter, Rachel, on November 16, 2023. Rachel joins siblings Paisley (4) and Levi (2).

Derrick C. Wells '10
Alliance, has been named head coach of the Bulldog wrestling program at Bridgeport Public Schools.

Danielle Brown Cox '11GI
Grand Island, was promoted to vice-president/depositor services at Cornerstone Bank in York.

Kate A. Engel '11A
Lincoln, was named the next executive director of the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation.

Jennifer L. Worthington '11A, '18E
Grand Island, retired after 20 years of working for Grand Island Public Schools.

Caleb T. Hock '12
Scottsdale, Ariz., is the owner of Glory Gains Gym, a top-of-the-line private personal training facility.

Anthony W. '12 and Kelsey Wildeman Odem '13
Lincoln, welcomed their son, August Henry, on December 20, 2023. August joins his older siblings, Margo and Archer.



Natalie Kramer Oborny '12
Hays, Kan., and her spouse John welcomed their third son, Levi Thomas, on August 29, 2023. Levi joins brothers Ian and Issac.

Victoria “Tori” Renken Colwin '12, '17E
Omaha, and her spouse Matt welcomed their daughter, Sophie, on August 2, 2023. Sophie joins her older sister, Evie.

Travis J. '13, '18E and Stacy Hahn Brewer '14
Omaha, welcomed their daughter, Lucy Jo, on April 10, 2024.

Brijesh “BJ” S. Lawrence '13
Omaha, was inducted into the Omaha Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame.

Nicole Tegtmeier Lawson '13
Omaha, was awarded the Young Alumni Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award honors Doane graduates 35 years of age or younger for demonstration of and lasting commitment to the highest ideals and models of excellence exemplified by Doane.

Tonya D. O’Neel '13L
Lincoln, was awarded the Exceptional Service Award at the Homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet on October 1, 2023. The award recognizes alums who have provided extraordinary service to forward the cause of Doane through their volunteer efforts.

Valerie J. Vandenberg '13E
David City, received the Golden Apple Award for February 2024.

This award is given to a deserving teacher in the local area each month of the school year. It is presented by KOLN/KGIN News and sponsored by the Doane University College of Education.

Preston R. '14 and Lacey Wright Hild '15, '21E
Lawrence, welcomed their daughter, Elise Marie, on April 22, 2024.

Reed W. Hitz '14
York, and his spouse Rachel welcomed their son, Rigley William, on October 27, 2023.

Augustine “Augie” M. Sanchez '14, '19A
Kearney, is the director of community standards and student conduct at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Jed E. '15 and Allison Bennett Derr '15, '18E
Omaha, welcomed their daughter, Mia Kate, on April 10, 2024.

Alika E.K.K. '15 and Julie Jirovec McNicoll '16
Ewa Beach, Hawaii, welcomed their son, Cru Charles K.K., on December 8, 2023.

Stephanie J. McNichols '15C
Lincoln, has accepted a job offer at Stepping Stones as a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

Emily C. Wiebeck '15E, '19E
Lincoln, was named the new principal at Hill Elementary with Lincoln Public Schools for the 2024-25 academic year.

Bianca D. Ayala '16E, '24E
Grand Island, was named the new principal at Gates Elementary within the Grand Island Public School district.

Megan M. Goplin '16GI
Grand Island, was introduced as a new member of the CHI Health St. Francis Foundation's Board of Directors.

Blake A. '16, '19E and Michelle Hachtel Bunner '16
Harvard, welcomed their daughter, Norah Raelee, on October 12, 2023.

Dana Murray Jackson '16L
Great Bend, Kan., is a certified physician assistant and recently accepted a position with the orthopedics, physical therapy, and sports medicine care team at The University of Kansas Health System in Great Bend.

Lindsey T. Jurgens '16GI
Grand Island, has been named executive director of the Grand Island Area Habitat for Humanity. Lindsey previously served for three years as program coordinator for Leadership Unlimited.

Brianna Oropeza Eaves '16
Ashland, and her spouse James welcomed their daughter, Aurora Sue, on January 6, 2024.

Scott A. Phillips '16E
Aurora, a seventh-grade math teacher at Aurora Middle School, was named the 2024 Nebraska State Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes the contributions

of exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled classroom teachers who can inspire students of all backgrounds and skills to learn.

Alicia Dallman Shoemaker '16E, '21E
Omaha, received the American Council on The Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Teacher of the Year award. This award elevates the status of the language teaching profession at the state, regional, and national levels by creating opportunities for recognizing the most accomplished members of the profession. The Teacher of the Year becomes a national spokesperson for the language profession to further demonstrate the critical importance of learning languages and cultures to the general public.

Arik A. Todd '16
Greenwood, owns and operates Windy Hill Farm and Beef. Arik and his spouse **Nicholle Vernon Todd '15** are the proud parents of son August Frank. Nicholle is a special education coordinator/administrator for Lincoln Public Schools.

Kacie Roberts Wise '16L
Lincoln, has been promoted to database specialist at Nebraska Community Foundation.

Tyler N. Chapa '17
Forest City, Iowa, will be the next head coach of the Waldorf Warriors Football team.

Jordan Buttermore Coburn '17
Sanford, N.C., and her spouse John welcomed their daughter, Cassidy Rose, on August 5, 2023.

Colten D. '17 and Alix Bryant Mach '17, '20E
Crete, welcomed their son, Beckett Dean, on April 10, 2024. He joins his siblings Rhyker Jo and Cason James.



Samantha A. Valadez-Haralabidis '17
Lincoln, married **Yiannis Haralabidis '20** on February 26, 2022. In late 2023, Samantha was announced as the associate head coach of Doane Tiger Softball.

Abigail Bills Martin '18GI
Grand Island, has been named communications and marketing director of the Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce.

Amy L. Clark '18E, '21DE
Lincoln, has been hired as the director of continuous improvement at Lincoln Public Schools.

Leslie A. McIntosh '18E, '22E
Syracuse, was awarded the prestigious national Milken Education Award in November 2023. This is considered the “Oscar of Teaching” award. The intent of the award is to celebrate the K-12 profession and inspire young people to pursue teaching as a career.

Chase A. '18 and Julia Reed Stone '18, '20E
Lincoln, welcomed their son, Thomas Alan, on April 9, 2024.

Lucas C. Antholz '19
Urbandale, Iowa, and Audrey Wilhelm were married on October 14, 2023.

Haileigh R. Arthur-Tardiff '19
Marysville, Calif., and Jordan Georgeson were married on November 4, 2023.

Amy Horner Carnie ’19E
Roca, principal at Hill Elementary School, is looking forward to returning to a critical position as a school psychologist within Lincoln Public Schools to further support students.

Holly A. David ’19E
Lincoln, has been promoted within Lincoln Public Schools to principal at Maxey Elementary after serving as assistant principal at McPhee Elementary.



Matthew C. ’19 and **Lauren Schmidt Gilg ’19**
Lincoln, welcomed their son, Silas Henry, on April 18, 2024.

Brysen C. ’18 and **Maddie Kucera Mach ’19**
Crete, welcomed their son, Rennon Charles, on November 2, 2023. He joins his older brother, Myles.



Tazia J. Simpson ’19
Gering, and her partner Dominic Romo welcomed their daughter, Leilani Jo Lucina Marie, on February 10, 2024.

2020s

Tanner B. Harsin ’20 and **Alexandra “Allie” L. Binder ’22**
Colorado Springs, Colo., were married on August 19, 2023.

Roger D. Sack ’20
Lincoln, accepted a position at Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP Law Firm.



Jennifer KuncI Parker ’20, ’23E
Crete, and her spouse Shane welcomed their son, Asher, on July 29, 2023.

Katie Bohrer Shipp ’20O
Omaha, was awarded the 2023 National Alliance Outstanding Customer Service Representative of the Year award. The award is the most prestigious honor available to insurance customer service representatives. Katie is the commercial account manager for Dodge Partners Insurance in Omaha.

Wyatt M. ’21 and **Ashley Jacobson Bodfield ’21**
Crete, were married on April 13, 2024.

Michael J. Gillotti ’21DE
Lincoln, was announced as the next associate superintendent for educational services with Lincoln Public Schools after serving as principal at Scott Middle School.

Erin N. Skinner ’21B
Madison, S.D., accepted a position at Dakota State as the new head coach of the women's softball team.

Michael A. Schommer ’22W
Omaha, is a commercial lender at Union Bank and Trust in Omaha.

Allison K. Skala ’22
Crete, and Shane Renner welcomed their son, Hendrix Scott, on October 11, 2023.

Jason D. Jensen ’23
Imperial, is currently teaching K, 5-6 grades physical education and is the assistant junior high football coach at Chase County Schools.



Johann D. ’23 and **Madisyn Warrelmann Ott ’22, ’24E**
Eagle, were married on June 24, 2023.

John P. "Jack" ’23 and **Elizabeth Lewandowski Krejci ’23**
Lincoln, were married on September 23, 2023.

Monique R. Ruiz ’23E
Lincoln, is principal at Norwood Park Elementary with Lincoln Public Schools.

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. Names are listed according to graduation year.

Frances “Fran” Ruzicka Gilliland ’43
Haxtum, Colo., July 6, 2023

Paula Minnick Knapple ’47
Lexington, February 22, 2024

Rosetta Grefe Nystrom ’48
Portland, Ore., September 25, 2023

Lois Duffy Quimby ’48
Nebraska City, May 16, 2024

Norma Finnell Ernst ’49
Brooklyn Park, Minn., January 26, 2024

Fran Jones Bell ’52
Bloomington, Ind., January 14, 2024

Lucy Moyer Smith ’54
Lynchburg, Va., April 22, 2024

Helen "Nadine" Petersen ’55
Northbrook, Ill., November 29, 2023

Richard C. "Rick" Gibson ’57
Council Bluffs, Iowa, July 26, 2024

Richard C. Vasak ’57
Santa Monica, Calif., January 31, 2024

Harold L. “Swede” Graff ’58
Aurora, Colo., June 27, 2023

Donald L. Jelinek ’60
Omaha, January 28, 2024

Darrel F. Husa ’62
Kohler, Wis., March 11, 2024

John D. Morgan ’62
Lincoln, October 16, 2023

Thomas B. Songster ’62
Arlington, Va., December 22, 2023

Vincent L. Horky ’63
Lincoln, July 19, 2023

Rennie W. Brantz ’64
Boone, N.C., October 9, 2023

Dr. Barry L. Johnson ’65
Rushton, La., August 9, 2023

Trudy Sondag Beachler ’66
Plymouth, Minn., July 26, 2023

Virginia Long Kunc ’68
Lincoln, May 30, 2024

John R. Lothrop ’68
Slingerlands, N.Y., May 4, 2024

Susan Pierson Hoppel ’69
Lincoln, July 27, 2023

John F. Aman ’70
Lincoln, August 9, 2023

JoAnn Weber Betts ’70
Omaha, December 6, 2023

Peter W. Coburn ’71
Missouri City, Texas, July 27, 2023

Paul E. Pearson ’71
Lincoln, June 17, 2024

Linda Simpson Morton ’72
Bennington, August 20, 2023

Steven C. Haller ’72
Sioux City, Iowa, November 4, 2023

Debra Farster Uarich ’78
Omaha, September 7, 2023

Donald E. Johnson ’80
Eules, Texas, December 30, 2023

Duane L. Broeker ’81
Seward, August 11, 2023

Terry W. Schuman ’82
Denver, Colo., August 30, 2023

Mary M. Corder ’86L
Lincoln, July 4, 2023

Mark R. Woolard ’88
Table Rock, December 23, 2023

Bradley J. Feeken ’98, ’05E
Gretna, December 30, 2023

Erin M. Schmit ’00L
Lincoln, October 11, 2023

Joshua K. Wright ’00
Ashland, April 13, 2024

Ann Marie Lawton ’01L
Pleasant Dale, December 20, 2023

Matthew J. Hofts ’03
Lincoln, December 12, 2023

John E. Stout ’13L, ’17A
Louisville, November 21, 2023

Steven C. Loftis ’15A
Lincoln, November 3, 2023

She saw the stars

And never lost sight of the path that led her to them

Writer Liz McCue

Julena Steinheider Duncombe '32 began her career in education — in one-room schoolhouses in western Nebraska and in the barracks of Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. While her work shifted from students to stars, she never lost her passion for encouraging women and others underrepresented in the fields of science and mathematics to pursue studies and careers within those fields.

Duncombe was born in 1911 in Dorchester and grew up in Goehner. She studied mathematics and astronomy at what was then Doane College, taught by Dr. Julia May Hawkes, one of the first women to receive a doctorate in astronomy.

Duncombe also broke barriers in her career as the first woman to use the six-inch transit (a large telescope mounted on a north-south meridian) at the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO).

She observed stars, created punch cards used in early computing machines to tabulate orbits, predicted and mapped solar and lunar eclipses, and helped build a catalog of data — approximately 1.5 million punch cards according to her obituary published by the American Astronomical Society (AAS). She

was widely recognized for her contributions to astronomy and mathematics, with the AAS naming a National Science Foundation-funded grant program to support outreach and education programs for the 2017 solar eclipse in her honor.

Her love for education can still be seen at Doane, as well, in a fund created in her name to provide scholarships to students pursuing programs in science and mathematics. Her husband of 55 years, Dr. Raynor Duncombe, established the endowment with a gift of \$50,000 shortly after her death in 2003. Endowed funds are invested, ensuring the fund can support students and continue Julena's legacy across 21 years and into the future.



Duncombe during her time working at the USNO.
Courtesy of the USNO Library.

Endowments serve as an educational institution's financial backbone. For Doane, the endowment is not just a fund but a testament to the generosity, vision, and commitment of our community.

The endowment's principal remains intact, while the investment earnings provide an annual revenue stream with a 5% yearly spend. This support includes:

- Scholarships, particularly endowed scholarships
- Faculty excellence, especially endowed professorships and chairs that attract and retain top-tier talent
- Continued campus development, like science labs and residence hall
- Sustainability, especially through uncertain economic times

Industry experts recommend an endowment provide one-third of an institution's operating budget. Doane's \$112 million endowment represents 13% of its operating budget. Growing our endowment is imperative. Donors can help in many ways, including adding to current endowment funds or starting new funds.

For more information, contact Director of Planned Giving **Thomas Reeves '88** at 402.826.8284 or thomas.reeves@doane.edu.

Back the Orange & Black

Connect with alumni and support current Tigers at these upcoming events!

October 2024

13 Lincoln Children's Zoo event
18-20 Homecoming Weekend

December 2024

6 Lincoln Campus Holiday Open House

February 2025

21 Scottsdale, AZ
Los Angeles, CA

March 2025

Kansas City, MO
Dallas, TX

April 2025

Lincoln
Omaha
Central Nebraska

June 2025

Minneapolis, MN
Chicago, IL
Central Nebraska

July 2025

Ogallala
Denver, CO
Kansas City, MO

August 2025

Lincoln Saltdogs Event

September 2025

Family Weekend, Crete campus
Lincoln Children's Zoo event

October 2025

3-5 Homecoming Weekend

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Questions: Email alumni@doane.edu or advancement@doane.edu.

Music:

Tiger Pep Band Invitational
September 7, 2024

Froshmore Choral Festival
September 25, 2025

Homecoming Concert
October 20, 2024

Fall Festival of Winds
November 2, 2024

Christmas Festival
December 7 & 8, 2024

Doane Vocal Festival
January 6, 2024

Theatre:

Town Hall by Caridad Svich
(Sept. 19-21)

Between the Lines by Jodi Picoult and Samantha van Leer, Original Book; Timothy Allen McDonald, Book; Kate Anderson & Elyssa Samsel Music & Lyrics
(Nov. 14-17)

A Map of Virtue by Erin Courtney
(May 1-3)



Clues

1. Near ye olde Merrill Hall, stands this wooden structure, where the first Doane president used to park his horse. No, really.
2. Hungry football fans line up here
3. You can tell the time — debatable how accurate it is to this day — in the shadow of clue #5
4. This structure will ring tonight according to our official fight song. (It actually rings every hour.)
5. Built in 1883, it's the oldest building on the Crete campus
6. "Doane is, was, will be" is carved on this outdoor wooden artwork near Cassel Open Air Theatre
7. To be, or not to be, that is the clue for this building that's home to our theatre program
8. One small step for students, one giant paw print for this statue
9. You'll find this Greek-influenced structure among the trees just north of Frees Hall

Home Sweet Doane

Test your Crete campus knowledge before homecoming!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE ANSWERS



DOANE UNIVERSITY

1014 Boswell Avenue
Crete, Nebraska 68333

doane.edu

