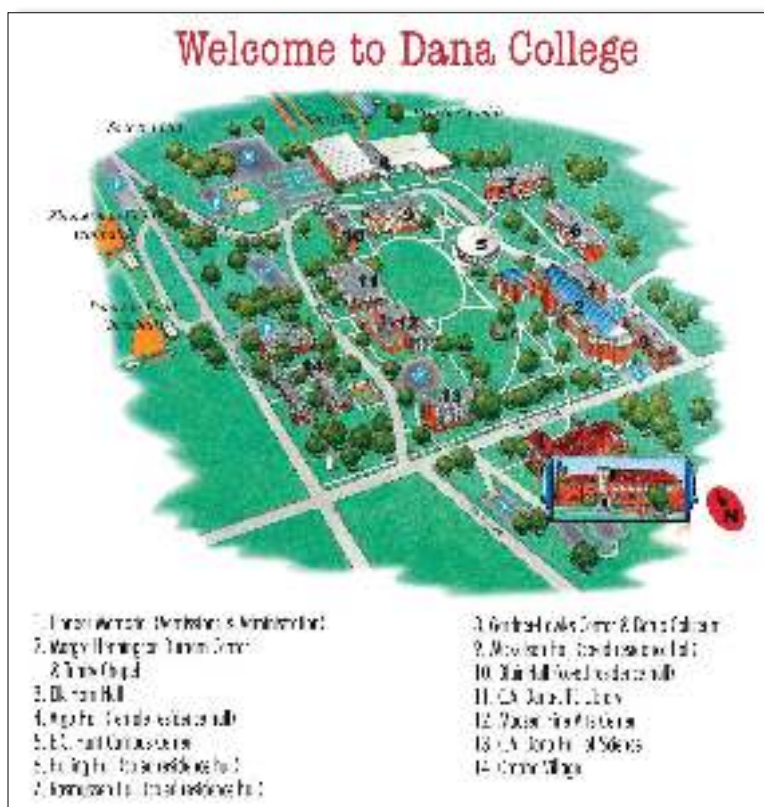


WELCOME TO THE PAST

Dana College is a vital part of Blair's history and cultural make-up. Alumni gather yearly to honor their school and the contributions made through learning, sports, cultural events and more.



This exhibit is a walk down memory lane. Visit several of the campus buildings while you learn about campus life and activities. Visit the bookstore. Experience life at Dana, either for the first time, or through fond memories that surface. Enjoy!

A.M. ANDERSEN HOME

In 1883 A.M. Andersen and his wife built a house in Blair, and began holding seminary classes the fall of 1884. This was the beginning of Trinity Seminary. One upstairs room was reserved for classes and two smaller ones for dormitories. Mrs. Andersen arranged to board the students, and four young men moved in to begin their preparation for the ministry. The house, located at 2104 Park Street in Blair is still occupied.



We know you're going to love this exhibit. Would you like to see more? Visit the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska to learn even more about this historic campus!



OLD MAIN

The original Trinity Seminary building, which formed the central unity of the administration building, was erected in 1886 at a cost of about \$7,000. It was a four story building, sixty by thirty feet, calculated to house forty students and the president's family, besides classrooms and administrative offices. The first story had solid brick walls, the second and third stories were brick veneer, and the top floor was in the form of a French attic. The building was sixty feet tall, with the tower reaching twenty feet higher.



The 32 x 50-foot north wing of Old Main was erected in 1893 and cost about \$6,000. The 32 x 72-foot south wing was built in 1905 at a cost of about \$9,000.

During its long and distinguished history Old Main contained housing for students and administrators, a chapel, a library, and classrooms for both Trinity Seminary and Dana College.

Tragically, Old Main was completely destroyed by fire during a major renovation in 1988.

WOOD-FRAME GYMNASIUM

The first gymnasium, which was financed through private subscription in 1902. The gymnasium was a wood-frame building 30 by 64 feet, costing \$1,200. It was said that at the time of construction, it had the largest gymnasium floor in the state, and the school's pride in this building is reflected in the catalog for 1904-1905, which states, "It has been equipped with all the necessary apparatus. In connection with the gymnasium are well appointed bath rooms." In 1928, with the dedication of the Alumni Memorial Auditorium, the old gym was sold to a neighboring farmer for \$187.50 and was removed to a hill just outside of Blair, where it was altered slightly and used as a farm building.



The Old "Gym"

ARGO HALL

Construction of a new “Girls’ Dormitory” began in 1922. The building was later renamed Argo Hall after the town of Argo, Nebraska, where the forerunner of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church came into being in 1884. Besides providing living quarters to accommodate 250 students, the dormitory housed kitchen and dining room facilities for the entire student body.



In 1959 the dining room facilities were remodeled into a cafeteria in order to serve the greatly increased student body. Argo Hall is scheduled for demolition in 2018 as part of the Angels Share plan for the Dana College campus.

ELK HORN HALL



Four years after the construction of Argo Hall, the new “Men’s Hall” was begun. The Men’s Hall became Elk Horn Hall, commemorating the Iowa community of Elk Horn, birthplace of Elk Horn College, which moved to Blair in 1899. The building was completed in 1927 at a cost of around \$65,000. In outward appearance it matched the women’s building, but was of somewhat more modern construction. Its capacity was 85 students besides trunk storage space and office and living quarters for the dean of men. Elkhorn Hall relieved the pressure for housing in Old Main and permitted some of the dormitory areas in that building to be converted to classrooms. Elk Horn Hall is scheduled for demolition in 2018 as part of the Angels Share plan for the Dana College campus.

ALUMNI MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

In 1927-1928 the spacious Alumni Memorial Auditorium (AMA) was built southeast of Old Main at a cost of approximately \$45,000. This building housed the \$4,200 Møller pipe organ acquired in 1931. The AMA served as Dana College's all-purpose building—chapel, gymnasium, concert hall and the site of countless plays, recitals, banquets and commencement ceremonies. The great Danish heldentenor, Lauritz Melchior, performed there, and Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark spoke there when he and Crown Princess Ingrid visited the campus in 1939. The AMA was demolished in 1982 to make way for the Madsen Fine Arts Center.



1918 Homecoming



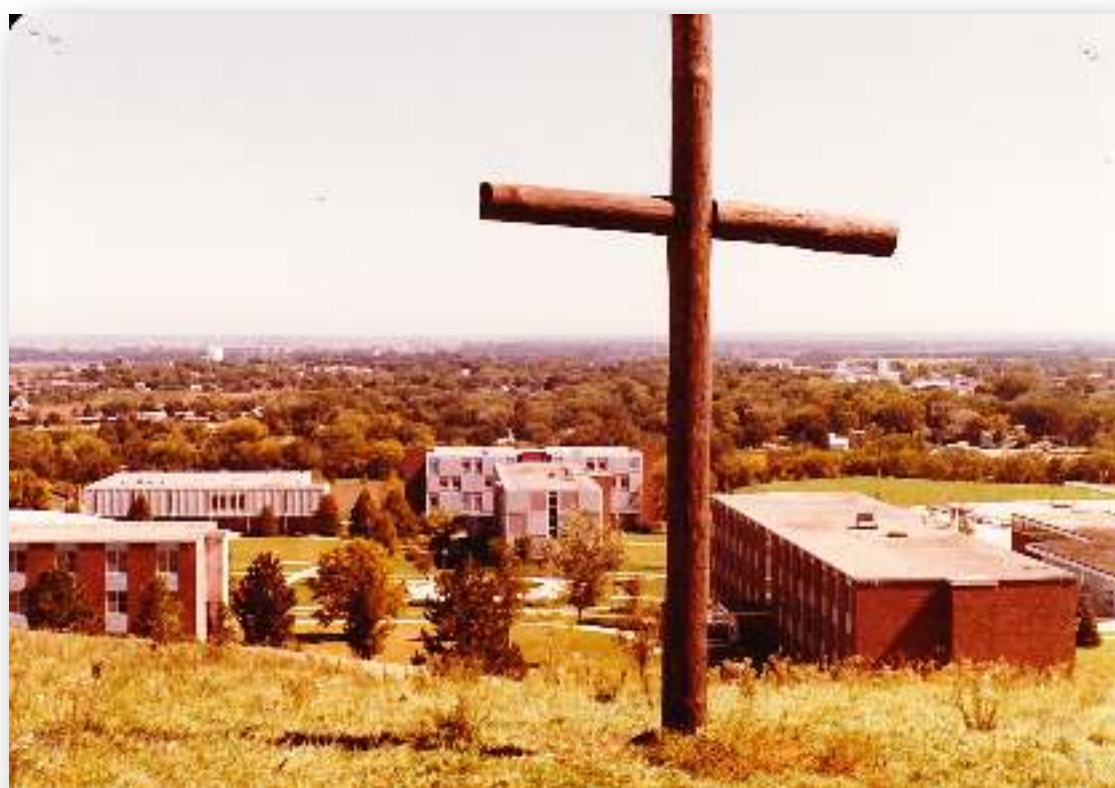
PIONEER MEMORIAL

Pioneer Memorial was dedicated in 1948 to the memory of Dana's founders. It was built at a cost of a little over \$270,000, most of which was raised through church drives. This building contained faculty offices and rooms for classes and seminars, but its primary purpose was to house the library and administrative offices. It was also the home of Trinity Seminary until 1956 when the seminary was moved to Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. In 1969 the college library was moved to the new, larger Charles A. Dana-LIFE Library. With this transfer, the former reading room was renamed Parnassus and became the center for Dana's innovative humanities program. It became a venue for many humanities-related presentations as well as art exhibits, recitals and receptions. Pioneer Memorial was also the home to the student-operated radio station, KDCV/FM.



THE CROSS

The cross on the hill behind the two dormitories, erected during the school year of 1949-1950, has always traditionally stood at the highest point of the campus. Made of sections of telephone pole, it was a favorite gathering place for prayer and meditation. In 2018 the 50-year-old cross broke off at its base, and the Dana College Alumni & Friends have undertaken a fundraising campaign to create a cross out of more durable materials that will emulate the old wooden cross in some ways, but will enable it to stand even taller.



MICKELSEN HALL

A new women's dorm, Mickelsen Hall, was completed just before the opening of school in September 1960 and housed 138 women. The dedication ceremony was held on October 23 as part of Homecoming. The building was named Mickelsen Hall in honor of Board of Trustees member Peder M. Mickelsen and his wife Christine, long-time friends and benefactors of the school. Their son Henry had attended Dana and was later killed in World War II. The Mickelsens gave his back pay to the college for a scholarship. Just as the dormitory was being completed, Mrs. Mickelsen made an additional contribution of several thousand dollars to provide complete furnishings for the lounge and reception room. In all the Mickelsens donated more than \$100,000 to Dana College. A relief on the front of the building is by sculptor Hermann Becker and depicts the spirit of learning passing her knowledge on to a young student. The base has representative symbols of the Nebraska plains.



OMAHA VILLAGE

Omaha Village was built in 1962 to accommodate a swelling population of married students. Located on the lower east side of the campus, the complex was named “Omaha Village” because an 1872 painting donated by the Kline family, early donors of land to Dana College, shows Omaha Indians camping on the hill. Omaha Village became the first of the buildings on the Dana campus to be demolished in 2018. The area makes way for a planned housing development.



CHARLES A. DANA HALL OF SCIENCE

The Charles A. Dana (pronounced Day-na) Hall of Science was dedicated November 4, 1962, but not actually occupied by students and faculty until January 1963. It was built at a cost of \$525,000. It is easily recognized by the iron and mosaic mural on its west side. It was named after the industrialist-philanthropist whose foundation offered a generous challenge gift toward construction of the building. A few years later the Dana Foundation also contributed to the construction of the library. The science hall housed the science and mathematics departments and Doctors Auditorium, which was used for lectures and special events. The mural was designed by Dana College art professor F. Wm. Thomsen and incorporates the basic elements of science, earth, air, fire and water.





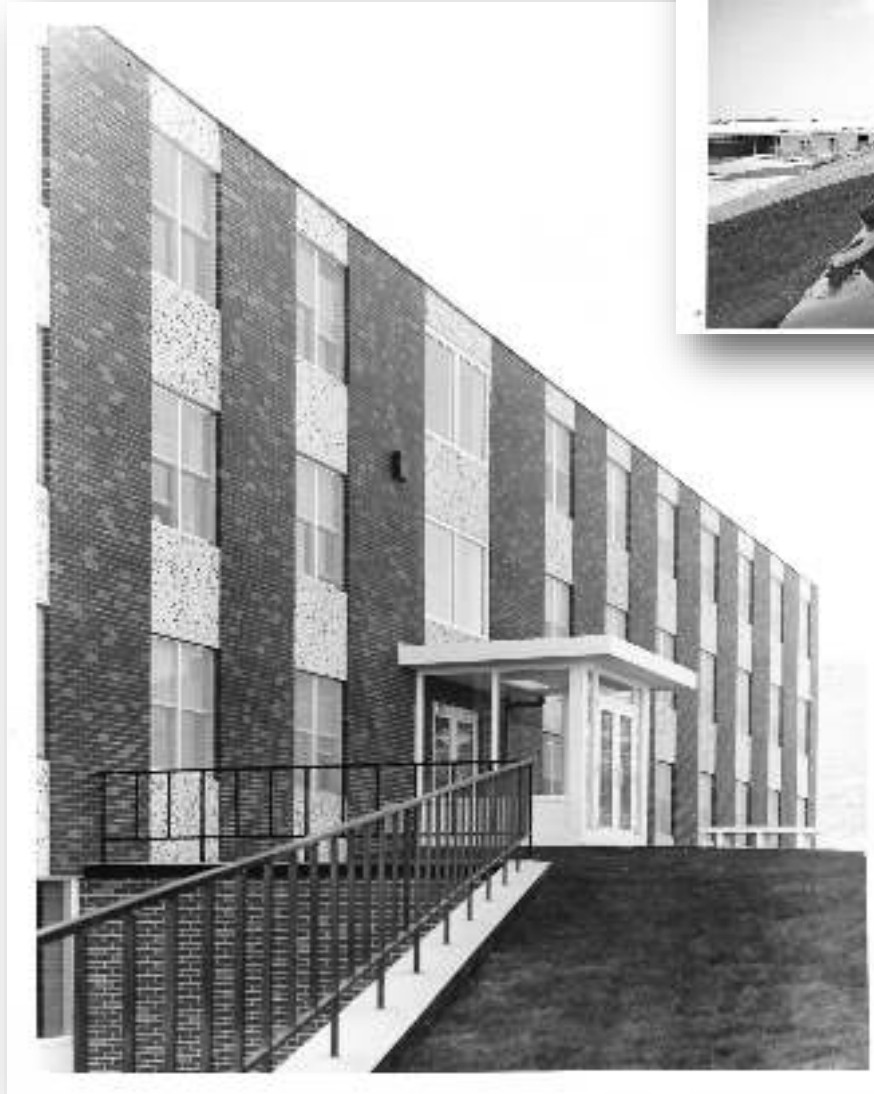
HOLLING HALL

Holling Hall, the new men's dormitory, was finished at a cost of approximately \$200,000 just as school opened in September 1964. Although workmen were still putting the finishing touches on the inside of the building, students were still able to move in. It was dedicated on October 4. Designed to house 164 men, Holling Hall was the fifth major building project to be completed at Dana in the previous five years. It offered in addition to the dorm rooms, a lounge area. Construction was made possible through a gift from Miss Marie and Mr. Emanuel Holling of Millard, Nebraska. Located just north of the new Viking Field, its completion brought Dana's dormitories to four in number—two for men and two for women.



RASMUSSEN HALL

Another men's dormitory was completed and dedicated during Homecoming November 4, 1966. The new Campus Center was dedicated at the same time. Later named Rasmussen Hall, it was built at a cost of \$450,000. Rasmussen Hall was named in honor of the late John Rasmussen and his wife, Christine Rasmussen of Pasadena, California, benefactors to Dana for many years. It was very similar in size and capacity to Holling Hall, which was designed to house 164 men.



CAMPUS CENTER

Dedicated in 1966, the Campus Center was the first attempt on a large scale to improve student services. It offered expanded facilities for recreation, relaxation and a well-rounded program of extracurricular activities. It was a \$500,000 two-story circular building containing eight major areas with the top and ground floors connected by a hanging stairway. The ground floor contained offices, a large Dragon's Head coffee shop and recreation area, book store, all purpose lounge with adjacent television parlor, information center and post office.



The main dining room and kitchen took up most of the second floor. Also on the second floor was the Presidents' Room, set aside as a tribute to Dana's 12 presidents, which was used for board meetings, receptions and other special purposes. The building was later named the E.C. Hunt Campus Center.

BORUP COLISEUM

Borup Coliseum was dedicated in 1967. It is named for Christen and Maren Borup of Beresford, South Dakota, whose generous bequest helped provide funds for its construction. The Wurdman Pavilion, which was added in 1981, contains two racquetball courts, a wrestling room, training rooms for men and women and locker rooms. The Pavilion was named in honor of the late Trafford J. Wurdman, and Omaha businessman. Borup's lower level featured a basketball court, indoor practice area, locker rooms tile area and an Olympic-size swimming pool, built with funds from a student-organized drive. The upper level had classrooms and offices. Viking Field and Stadium were south of the building. Completed in August 2003 the **Gardner-Hawks Center** was named after the two families whose foundations provided the major gifts for the building. The Peter Kiewit Foundation also made a key challenge gift. The building contained a three-court gymnasium with adjoining classrooms and support facilities. Connecting the Gardner-Hawks Center to Borup Coliseum is the Cooperman Atrium, named in honor of Harold and Merriam Cooperman. Glass at each end permitted a view of the classroom center tower to the north and the track and field to the south.



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Performing Arts Center, later renamed the Madsen Performing Arts Center with the addition of an art department, was completed in 1984. It provided classrooms, a photography lab and darkrooms, a rehearsal hall and a full-sized theater and concert hall. Dr. Dennis Henneman, former theater director at Dana stated that he spent several years researching and analyzing more than 100 performing arts complexes in the U.S. and Canada. “In light of all of this research, I must say that the performing arts complex meets the needs of Dana College far better than most of the complexes I researched.... I really believe that you are successful in getting top value for your dollar. It appears to me that you have created for yourself a \$3 million-plus facility at a cost of around \$2 million. For this you are to be commended.”



CHARLES A. DANA-LIFE LIBRARY

The Charles A. Dana-LIFE Library, completed in 1969, was built with challenge funds from the philanthropist and with funds from the American Lutheran Church. “LIFE” stands for Lutheran Ingathering for Education, and was a fundraising drive of the Lutheran church for its schools. The reference collection and tools, periodicals, workroom and offices were on the first floor and the stacks were on the second. Both floors had lounge areas, and displayed sculptures and paintings by Dana graduates and members of the art faculty. The ground or lower level of the library is where the **Danish American Archive and Library** came into being and evolved. (We moved to our current location in 2010 when Dana College closed.) The library contained two special rooms—the Heritage Room and the Melchior Memorial Room, which featured historic Danish artifacts, furniture and books, some as gifts of Queen Margrethe of Denmark and the family of Lauritz Melchior. All of Melchior’s music is now part of the DAAL music collection, and our beautiful conference table and chairs are from the Heritage Room.



BLAIR HALL

Blair Hall, dedicated in 1969 was available to upper class women. First year students were not allowed there. It was built at a cost of \$655,000 and was named in gratitude and tribute to the city of Blair, which celebrated its centennial that year. Blair Hall is a five-story structure similar in design to Mickelsen Hall. It was accessible from Mickelsen through a glassed-in enclosure and provided living space for 148 women. It also contained several guest rooms and a small meditation chapel. This chapel was a memorial to the late Therkild Nielsen of Southfield, Michigan.



CLASSROOM CENTER

The replacement building for Old Main, which was destroyed by fire in 1988, was dedicated October of 1993. Situated just west of the original Old Main site, the new Classroom Center provided 30 faculty offices, five student lounges, nine general classrooms and seminar rooms, a conference room, lecture hall, language laboratory, computer center, radio and television production and broadcast studios, a print communication area, a center for the liberal arts known as The Forum, and the campus ministry center. In all, the new building added more than 40,000 square feet of instructional, worship and office space to the Dana campus. Trinity Chapel, located at the southeast corner of the Classroom Center, was named in tribute to Dana's parent institution, Trinity Theological Seminary; its founder, the Reverend A.M. Andersen; and all Trinity Seminary faculty and alumni. It provided worship space for approximately 200 people. It was made possible through a grant from the trust of Therkild and Margaret Nielsen of Detroit. In 2001 the Classroom Center was renamed the Margre Henningson Durham Center in honor of the continued support of higher education from the Durham family.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information about the Dana College buildings in this booklet came from sources found at the Danish American Archive and Library (DAAL). The Dana College collection is by far the largest in the archive, and it is at the DAAL where the history of Dana College is preserved. The sources used for these descriptions include:

Saga of the Tower by William E. Christensen

A Place Called Dana by Peter L. Petersen

The Dana Review

Dana College informational brochures and booklets.

The photos and artifacts in the displays both at the Blair Public Library and Technology Center and the DAAL have come principally from the DAAL collections. Our thanks to Duey Heffelfinger of Blair and the Washington County Historical Museum in Fort Calhoun for supplementing our displays with photos and artifacts of their own.

Barb Sandvold of Blair designed the exhibit. Also contributing to the success of this exhibit are the Dana College Alumni & Friends and the Blair Public Library and Technology Center.



“The better way to preserve [Dana College] buildings is in historical photographs that allow people to recall the fun they had there, not for the people to see the deterioration of those buildings. It’s best to let go of those physical buildings and hold on to the good memories.”

Sandra Jensen

Chairman, Dana College Alumni & Friends Association