"Academically Adrift": Are Dordt students falling behind too?
Study shows that college students are not learning as much as they should be

Kelly Zatlin
Editor

A recent study done over the past several years has shown that college students are not learning anywhere close to their full potential. Is that also true of Dordt students?

Back in Jan. 2011, the book Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses released a study on the academic gains of 2,300 students enrolled in a range of four-year colleges. They discovered that 45 percent of students “did not demonstrate any significant improvement in learning during the first two years of college. For all four years, 36 percent of students saw no substantial increase in learning.”

Several professors at Dordt don’t buy into these statistics. Communication professor Dr. Charles Veenstra questions what kind of test would determine how much a student has learned.

“What test would I give you to prove that you didn’t learn anything in college? I would say it’s not time for the test yet,” said Veenstra.

Professor of English, Dr. Mary Dengler, is also a skeptic. She believes that students often haven’t been able to fully process what they have learned which could be why they see the results of their learning down the line. “I’m not sure I agree even with the statistics,” said Dengler. “Students may say ‘I haven’t learned anything,’ but then they find out through reinforcement or even through life situations where they’ve had to think about those things. It’s all there — it’s just they haven’t had to unearth it.”

Some students at Dordt still feel as though they aren’t necessarily learning the information that they will need to apply to their vocations down the line.

“I feel like I’ve learned a lot of information over the years,” said junior Jaclyn Droge, “but I still don’t know how it will be beneficial later on. Dordt does a good job of teaching us, but not always at helping us apply the information.”

Sophomore Mia Lavato, in comparing college to high school, said “It’s definitely more of a work load, but at least it’s not like I feel I’m becoming more educated.”

Though the students may not realize it now, their professors see them cultivating knowledge over the years.

“I see students grow all the time,” said Veenstra. “I look at my CORE 100 group and I think ‘oh my, you’re going to need a lot of work.’ So you go step, by step, by step… but also I think ‘Oh you’re going to grow.’ I see them a year or two later, and they are doing fine.”

Some of those involved in promoting higher education, however, are greatly disturbed by this study. In a Huffington Post article about this book, the President of the United States Student Association, Lindsey McCluskey, said the problem stems from colleges treating students like consumers providing business to their corporation.

There is less personal attention in the classrooms, fewer tenure-track positions, and more classes are being taught by teaching assistants and in some cases undergraduate students,” said McCluskey, according to the article.

Veenstra recognizes the tendency for colleges to move towards being a business rather than a place of learning, but he is confident that Dordt does not have this attitude toward its students. “That’s always a fear that we have, that we turn this into a business model,” said Veenstra, “probably because we hear a lot about budgets and how much we give out in scholarships. But I can tell you here, that the faculty, and I’m sure the administration too, do not see you as consumers.”

“I really speak for public institutions; I really can’t, because I know they have some good instructors and some that are not good. But I see among my colleagues at Dordt a lot of care for the students,” said Veenstra. “We’re here because we want to teach students.”

As a freshman, Michael Van Driethoon says he can tell he is already learning a lot here at Dordt. “I can see improvement in my own studies and in my own classes. Especially in my accounting and business classes because it’s stuff that I’ve never learned before.”

Whether or not students recognize that they are learning, the professors are the ones who see the change evolve in the students throughout the years they are here, and even after they leave.

Often students will come back for a job, get married, and then come them years later, either here or at other schools, that say “at the time it didn’t mean much to me, but in the interim years, I understand what we were doing then and it makes complete sense to me now,” said Dengler.

Veenstra would like students to ask themselves the question, “So what is education? Is it piling up a whole lot of facts? No, it is the development of a person.”

Roommate-less

While some students are off studying abroad, their roommates feel the effects of being “left behind”

Shanna Braunischweig
Staff Writer

A new semester has begun and for some it has brought new changes to their living situations. Apartments and dorms that used to be snug as a bug are now spacious and roomy.

Although more space would seem a welcome change to many, if given the choice, students would rather have their roommates back at Dordt than have the day.

Last semester Amber had four roommates in the Kuyper apartments and this semester she currently has only two. One thing that she doesn’t miss, however, is “the dish-pile-up in the sink that seems to never go away when there are more people.”

Kacy Oberlofski, a freshman here at Dordt College lives in West and has a four-person room all to herself. Luckily, she is in training to be a police officer, majoring in criminal justice. If anyone should try and break in, she could single-handedly hold down the fort.

When asked if she enjoyed having a “suite” to herself, she said, “It kinda scared me at first, but now I really enjoy it.”

She puts everything she doesn’t use on one side and lives on the other. Turns out she has so much space she doesn’t know what to do with it. When asked if she should invest in a goldfish to keep her company, Kacy said, “If I get a goldfish I might start talking to it and go a little crazy.”

Jon Slaber, who also lives in the Kuyper apartments, had five roommates last semester and two roommates this semester: “Mike got married, Gary is in LA for a semester abroad, and Phil is working at home doing his senior design project,” Jon explained.

Similar to Amber, he likes the space but would rather have his buddies around. Even guys, it seems, enjoy their male bonding time. The remaining roommates all have the luxury of having their own room.

So there you have it. It’s not about the space that you live in, but rather the friends that fill it. For those of you who have a full house and wish that one or two of your roommates would fly the coop for the semester, may be you should think again. What are a few more dishes when you have friends with which to share laughter and late night discussions.

Who is listening to KDCR? pg. 3

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Photo by Aanna Stadem
Ron Sider speaks on fixing the deficit

By Staff Writer Alex Updike

Staff Writer Rachel Mulder

Ron Sider speaks on fixing the deficit. He asked because he believed government programs such as food stamps, Pell Grants or WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) should not be cut.

Two major concepts Sider believes we need to understand in order to make fixing the deficit possible are an understanding of economics, and a set of relevant Biblical principles.

Sider referenced Nehemiah 5 which is properly titled, “Nehemiah Helps the Poor.” In this story, the poor Jews had to sell their children into slavery and the rich Jews were benefiting from taking belongings from the poor.

“Everyone should contribute to the common good. Christians should create a movement to work together to eliminate the deficit,” Sider said.

Taxes are a good thing because they represent a way that we love our neighbor. They help us live a good life and allows for community.

Some things Sider says we need to keep in mind are to: “keep and strengthen effective programs, cut ineffective programs, and continue to invest in education.”

The Canon wants YOU!

A simple way to say “I Love You”

By Staff Writer Alex Updike

Staff Writer Rachel Mulder

Rachel Mulder

For professor of theology Dr. Ron Sider, who was the first Monday speaker this month, holistic ministry, public policy, the poverty crisis and deficit crises equals a justice deficit that he believes we, as Christians and American citizens, can fix.

“The richest one percent owns more of the nation’s wealth than the bottom ninety percent,” Sider said.

One major statistic Sider shared was that 40-45 million people live below the poverty line and 20 million of those people are below half of the poverty line.

In the U.S. today, tens of millions of people need food each month. Sider explained that “six percent of food aid comes from private sources and 94 percent comes from the government.” He believes that more could come from private sources, like churches.

There is no Biblical basis that says government can’t help the poor who are in need, but good government must be limited government.

“Should we slash programs for the poor people, or is there a better way?” Sider asks because he believes government programs such as food stamps, Pell Grants or WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) should not be cut.

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Students not tuning in to KDCR Radio
If students aren’t listening, who is?

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

It uses a 100,000 watt transmitter to reach people 80-90 miles away, as well as a website to reach people around the world; but few students listen to KDCR at its base of operations: Dordt College.

Students from various residence halls said that they don’t listen to the radio much, tending to prefer other media for music.

“As far as the music goes, a lot of times students have iPods, computers and access to YouTube and Pandora. They can create their own ‘radio stations’ that suit their musical desires,” student David Mahlum said.

While working on campus last summer, student Steve Spurgeon noted that the songs KDCR play tended to be somewhat repetitive.

“There were a couple different times when there would be a song they’d play multiple times in a short span. Sometimes a couple times in an hour or three to four times in two or three hours,” Spurgeon said.

Mahlum’s comments matched Spurgeon’s, saying that he found music choices would sometimes sound alike.

When asked about KDCR’s music selection, station manager Denny De Waard explained that the average time people listen to the radio is about 20 minutes.

“For 20 minutes you have an almost complete rollover in audience, primarily because most people listen in their cars or listen when they’re getting ready for work or for school in the morning, De Waard said.

Among students interviewed at length, there was a general consensus that the target audience of KDCR was not college students but people older than college age.

“The student body is not targeted by us, although we’d love to have them listen -- but that’s not who we’re trying to design our broadcast day for;” De Waard said.

“I think it gears a little more towards an older generation, maybe somewhere between 22 and up,” Megan De Bok said.

Although the students’ guesses were not too far off, De Waard gave a very specific target audience that centered on a 38-year-old woman.

“The idea is that a 38-year-old female, probably a soccer mom, has kids that are in junior high into early high school, and that’s a good time for Dordt College to become involved in that family’s life,” De Waard said.

He explained that although Dordt alumni are also a secondary audience, the model of the 38-year-old woman is a marketing tool for the college.

Catering the station to the students would be like preaching to the choir.

“If we wanted to do that, we could do it more cost-effectively with a lower power transmitter,” De Waard said.

Schaap’s last hoorah...at Dordt

English professor Jim Schaap invites the campus to attend his last fiction reading before he retires

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

He read to our parents 35 years ago, and on Sunday February 19, he will read to us for the last time at Dordt College.

Dr. James C. Schaap plans to read stories he has written to an audience of staff members, students, and community members in Classroom SB101. Readings like this used to happen more frequently, he said, but Dr. Schaap has not given a reading in several years.

After this semester, Dr. Schaap plans to retire and “do nothing but write,” he said in a conversation. He says he is interested in writing on contract for organizations and doing his own creative work.

“I really like my job,” he said about his position as an English professor. “And I’m really going to miss the students. What I probably won’t miss—coming up with things to do in class,” he said with a chuckle. Although he enjoys teaching, Dr. Schaap admits that his current job does not give him as much time to write as he would like.

Dr. Schaap has been writing for nearly 40 years and has published 23 books during his writing career. Many of his stories come from Midwestern anecdotes and stories, making him a favorite author of regional readers. His reading on Sunday includes several stories written recently from his collection entitled “Stories from Up the Hill.”

The stories are a little goofy,” he said regarding his selection, involving “redeemed zombies” in a Midwestern cemetery. Dr. Schaap’s “Stories from Up the Hill” are full of magic realism, a genre that seems to interest the current generation, he said.

“I plan to make a little show out of it,” said Dr. Schaap. All students are invited to this last reading.
Engaged and Underage

In honor of Valentine’s Day, let’s see what students have to say about love at Dordt

By Kristin Janssen

With approximately 39 married junior and senior students, someone unfamiliar with the Dordt culture may think wedding fever is in the water, marriage counseling is a core requirement, and engagement rings are offered free with tuition. Add to that the 100 or so students who are currently flaunting a sparkly diamond or have lost their life savings to Pat’s Jewelers, an outsider might even think Dordt offers scholarships for those who marry before or upon graduation.

The “Mrs.” degree is another common phenomenon often mentioned in everyday conversation at Dordt. Freshmen and other new students and staff may not understand the term, so clarification may be necessary. The “Mrs.” degree essentially refers to the many females who enroll at Dordt with the main intentions of finding their future husband, thus graduating with their “Mrs.” degree. A similar, although not as common phenomenon called the “Mr.” degree also occurs. Although the “Mrs.” and “Mr.” degrees are an entertaining idea to discuss, the question of whether or not students actually agree that this degree is being sought out at Dordt is important to address. Junior Mia Kornelis agreed that some people may come to Dordt to find a spouse, but she further elaborated, “I think that there are also people who do come here to study and get a degree knowing that there is a good chance that they will find someone to marry, also.”

Micah Kreykes, also a junior at Dordt, thinks that coming to Dordt for the sole reason of finding a spouse is “dumb.” While he agrees that there are probably several females who came to Dordt to find a husband, Kreykes added, “I’m sure there are plenty of guys here to be husbands, too.”

Since the “Mrs.” degree may indeed exist at Dordt, this means many students are settling down after only knowing their spouse for a couple years at most. So, with love on many students’ minds as Valentine’s Day rapidly approaches, asking for more Dordt student input on the romance phenomenon occurring in Sioux Center seems only appropriate. One married Dordt couple, one engaged couple, one dating couple, and two single students provide feedback to a few personal questions about the trend of being “engaged and underage.”

Mike and Denise, Married for almost 2 months

How young is too young to get married?
Mike: There’s not a specific age.
Denise: Younger than 18

How long do you think you should date before getting engaged?
Mike: Well that depends on age. In a college setting, it’d be less time.
Denise: You should probably date 2 years. It really depends.

Did you come here for your Mrs. Degree?
No.

Mr. Degree?
No. I did not. I already had my girl before I came here.

Valentine’s Day Plans?
Mike: Kind of, yes.
Denise: Yeah, we’re going out for dinner and shopping with the gift cards we got for our wedding.

Gina, Single

How young is too young to get married?
Under 20

How long do you think you should date before getting engaged?
It kind of depends on a lot of things...

Did you come here for your Mrs. Degree?
NO. Could you put that in as big of letters as possible? No, no, no. No thank you. Everyone told me that’s why I was coming here and I got so upset. No.

Valentine’s Day plans?
Yeah, intramural basketball and dinner with the girls.

Josh and Sierra, Engaged

How young is too young to get married?
Josh: 16.
Sierra: I don’t think there’s an age. It’s more based on maturity. Are you ready? It’s not just happily ever after. You really have to work at it.

How long do you think you should date before getting engaged?
Josh: I don’t think there’s a set amount of time. It depends a lot on your relationship and how it progresses.
Sierra: Long enough so that you’ve seen the person in enough situations so that you can know how they will react. It also depends on how much interaction you have. At Dordt, we can see each other every day. It’s not like that everywhere.

Did you come here for your Mrs. Degree?
No (she laughs). Although that’s what everybody expected...

Mr. Degree?
No. I did not. I definitely came for my engineering degree, but I’m very happy to be leaving with a double major.

Valentine’s Day plans?
Josh: I have an incomplete plan.
Sierra: I don’t know. I have plans for him...

Kyle and Stephanie, Dating

How young is too young to get married?
Kyle: 18-ish
Stephanie: Under 20

How long do you think you should date before getting engaged?
Kyle: A little under a year
Stephanie: It depends on how old you are. At Dordt, I’d suggest a year.

Did you come here for your Mrs. Degree?
No, I didn’t, but it doesn’t hurt!
Mr. Degree?
No (he smiles).

Valentine’s Day plans?
Kyle: None yet. Should I have some?
Stephanie: Something simple because we just celebrated one year with a dozen roses.

Joel, Single

How young is too young to get married?
22

How long do you think you should date before getting engaged?
Depends on who you are, probably at least six months or maybe more

Did you come here for your Mr. Degree?
No

Valentine’s Day plans?
None
My Grandfather’s Country...

Hank Houtman Columnist

Do you ever take time to simply sit in silence? It seems that too often in our lives we run through our daily activities and take little time to simply sit and enjoy the world around us. Yes, it is important to complete daily tasks, but do you take time to simply sit and reflect on life? It seems that our generation always has to be moving or doing something. What is sitting in silence considered taboo or boring? My challenge to you, whoever you are, is to simply sit in silence for some period of time at least once a week. Go sit somewhere silent, turn off all electronics, grab a bible if you so desire, and simply sit and reflect on life. Just exist for a period of time and let your mind get lost in its own thoughts.

It seems that our generation has the idea that having fun involves doing something active or something with lots of people. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with that, sometimes it is good to simply just sit and exist. You can sit by yourself or with others, but the point is to sit in silence and just let yourself relax.

Some of the greatest thinkers of our history were those who were in solitude or silence with just their thoughts. When you take time to simply exist, you are able to think about the things you care for most. It’s in those moments that you really see the answers you’ve been looking for the entire time.

If there’s anything that our older generations can teach us, it is that the best things are those that take time to accomplish. Rushing through things just produces more flaws. For example, I could simply write this column in 15 minutes and make it short, quick, and to the point, but then why would you want to read it (if anyone reads this anyway)? The reason I write this column is that when you neglect to take time to think, then you simply regurgitate the same crap over and over again. It’s like arguing the same argument over and over again.

You get nowhere and eventually end up exactly where you first started. As an old friend of mine told me many years ago, “sometimes you need to get lost to find yourself”. If you’re stressed, busy, angry, or just simply irritated with life, the best thing to do is simply sit in silence, and then you will remember the peace that was once in your life. Sometimes you need to simply sit and listen, and much will be revealed to you.

Opinion

Think Outside the Box

Danae Geels Columnist

In fact, I think we all tend to do this because of our natural human self that prefers comfort. We set expectations on God because we want to know what will happen so that we can prepare. Not to mention we subconsciously think that our way will work out best. Obviously, it’s not true, and thank God He is so patient that He doesn’t get upset when we try to get Him to do what we want again and again.

I’m learning to anticipate more what God will do, rather than expect. I am finally learning to let it sink in that God is able to do so much more than my brain could ever imagine. That way, I don’t get disappointed when God doesn’t do what I expect Him to. Instead, He surprises me and awes me by doing things in a way that only He can.

I’ll admit that I have set expectations on God for what I want Him to do on Dordt’s campus. I have expected Him over and over again to work in a certain way, at a certain time, and at a certain place. But I’m through with that.

From now on, I am thinking as far outside of the box as my brain is capable of. I am only anticipating what God can do with this campus. I can’t begin to imagine the ways that He will move, and frankly I don’t really want to imagine it. God has and will continue to step in and move in ways that He knows best and that best work according to His purpose. Will you join me in great anticipation and prayer for God to move in ways that are immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine on this campus?

Senioritis: Words from a bachelor

Adrian Helema Columnist

By the time this issue of the Diamond comes out, it will be February 9-ish. February 9, is of course, completely unimportant. It does, however, happen to be five days away from Valentine’s Day. Which means this week’s column will focus on one thing and one thing only: love. That’s right folks, we’re about to get mushier and more disgusting than the banana I left in my backpack over break.

Fear not, brave souls! The love doctor is here. Some people say that love is in the air. I disagree. Love is in the air. In the air. In the air.

Some people say that love is in the air because they have invented in the next decades. If you’re reading this and you’re thinking, “What am I going to do with this column? I can’t begin to imagine the ways that He will move, and frankly I don’t really want to imagine it. God has and will continue to step in and move in ways that He knows best and that best work according to His purpose. Will you join me in great anticipation and prayer for God to move in ways that are immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine on this campus?

The Semester is well under way and homework, projects, and presentations seem to be stacking up. I glance at my calendar and my schedule is unfamiliar. Filling.

I have five plates of tasks to complete at hand, and it may be more than I can chew this time around. I don’t know if it is the same for you, but I always imagine figuring out the business of the semester by powering through one thing at a time along the way. But this time it’s different. I don’t see the light at the end of the tunnel. It is as if I complete an assignment and I am boomeranged back into doing the same thing every week. The academic hustle wears thin and frayed these days.

Truth be told, I am running on fumes and it’s only February.

My mind is playing tricks on me, and I feel like spring break is only 15 days away, every day. I just don’t have the same mental vigor that I once had when I was starting my college career.

No matter how hard I try to sit still and do nothing, I always find something to get into, problems of a busbody.

But it all makes sense; maybe I am learning the hard way. They say persistence pays off and I’m no quitter, so I guess the day-to-day is an investment.

Whether you consider yourself an opportunist, over-achiever, slacker, or somewhere in the in-between, the grind is picking up.

Now give it a try. Take time to plan and then plan to execute.

The secret is to clear your plate, one bite at a time.

Even the impossible is encouraging.

The Hendy Show

Alex Henderson Columnist

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Harmy’s Army  
( of thoughts)  

Jordan Harmelink  
Sports Editor  

My friends and I had a little discussion over what is better—college or professional sports?  

Level of competition:  
Watching professional athletes go head-to-head gets boring and predictable after a while. Collegiate events feature amateurs going against amateurs, where mistakes are made and nothing is predictable. Mistakes make the game exciting and unpredictable. Mistakes are more frequent at the college level. For example, basketball is more exciting to watch at the college level rather than the professional level because shots will be missed on occasion. Some might argue that watching a 120-118 game is exciting; I would argue that it is not. I would rather watch a game that keeps me on the edge of my seat where shots are quite frequently missed. The degree of competition is also more entertaining at the college level. In the professional game, every person is considered the best at their respected position. The college level features amateurs against amateurs where mistakes are prone to happen. The mistakes make the game less predictable. Advantage: College.  

Fans/Atmosphere:  
Fans in the stands at college events cannot compare to fans in the stands at a professional event. The DePaul Campus, for example. The DePaul fans in the stands make a game interesting; I would argue that it is not. I would rather watch a game that keeps me on the edge of my seat where shots are quite frequently missed. The degree of competition is also more entertaining at the college level. In the professional game, every person is considered the best at their respected position. The college level features amateurs against amateurs where mistakes are prone to happen. The mistakes make the game less predictable. Advantage: College.  

Track to great start  

Justin Pastoor  
Staff Writer  

Just a few days after the beginning of the new semester, Dordt’s track and field had their first meet of the season. Since sporting events, I have had a little bit of excitement tailgating both at a college and professional football game. The atmosphere surrounding Kinnick Stadium blew the atmosphere around Arrowhead Stadium out of the water. The rowdiness and excitement around a college campus beats out the five or six 40-year-old guys throwing a football around a parking lot trying to pummel their fragile egos and relive the glory days. Advantage: College.  

Rivalries:  
Rivalries are quite frequently missed. The degree of competition is also more entertaining at the college level. In the professional game, every person is considered the best at their respected position. The college level features amateurs against amateurs where mistakes are prone to happen. The mistakes make the game less predictable. Advantage: College.  

Pricing:  
Consider ticket pricing between two of the top sporting events at each level. According to www.sb-tickets.com, the average Super Bowl ticket for this season’s contest cost between $2,000-$7,000. Personally I don’t know who would pay money to watch the Super Bowl live, especially given the teams in the Super Bowl this year. Compare the price to that of the Bowl Championship Series National Title game between LSU and Alabama, where the average ticket cost was about $1,400. Advantage: College.  

Dordt tracksters have performed very well. Junior Briania Vander Woude is leading the conference in the 55m dash and the 55m hurdles, and her times are meeting national standards. Sophomore Katie Boomer’s time in the 600-meter run has placed her 2nd nationally. Senior Michelle Steiger is sitting in the top five in the conference for her performance in the women’s 5000m run.  

Nico Pfeifle is fourth in the conference with his 400m dash time and has worked his way into a top 15 place in the nation. Ryan Tolen has met national standards with his time in the 800 and currently sits third in conference, while sophomore Erin Francis is leading the conference in the men’s 55m hurdles.  

The men and women’s 4x800 relay teams are seeded second in the conference and have each reached national standards. On the field events side, Vander Woude is leading the conference in the indoor pentathlon as well as fourth in the high jump and third in the long jump, receiving national recognition for all three. Senior Crystal Vander Zee is also second in the conference in the long jump as well as fourth in the triple jump. Many school records have already been broken and even more top ten places have been achieved. While the team still considers themselves to be in the beginning stages of the season, they are very optimistic.  

We certainly have more seniors and upper classmen, so we have great leadership, but we also have a very talented freshmen class. The team is similar to last year, though, in the sense that they are a hard-working group with good team chemistry; they push each other and support each other,” said head coach Craig Heynen. “As far as performance, we are stronger in middle distance and pole vault this year, but we also have more throwers, but not many upper-class throwers. We are better overall in the middle distances this year.  

After the NAIA National meet, the first weekend in March, the outdoor season begins. The new season brings an added group of athletes to the team, as many events are strictly outdoor. Other athletes will join, being done with current winter sports. Outdoor nationals are held May 26 through the 28th.

Sports

Dordt defeats Northwestern

Jordan Harmelink  
Sports Editor  

Recently, another chapter was put into the record books in one of the greatest rivalries in Northwest Iowa: Dordt versus Northwestern. The women’s team played tough for the first half but were unable to stay with the third-ranked team in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) and were ousted 87-62.  

Dordt College versus Northwestern (wins-losses):  

Dordt vs. Northwestern rivalry so special is that it often features student-athletes who played together or against each other in high school. Looking back through the archives, courtesy of www.dordt.edu/athletics, listed below are the records for the Dordt vs. Northwestern rivalry in each sport, respectively.  

Dordt College versus Northwestern (wins-losses):

Baseball: 43-95  
Men’s Basketball: 25-75  
Women’s Basketball: 17-61  
Football: 0-4  
Men’s Soccer: 25-7  
Women’s Soccer: 19-1  
Softball: 23-50  
Volleyball (since 2001): 24-13  
Lacrosse (since 2006): 3-0  
Note: Men’s and Women’s golf records were not available.

Photo by Jamin Ver Velde

Volleyball (since 2001): 24-13

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Dordt theater students awarded special honors

Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

Jonathan Posthuma and Anna Vanden Akker received special honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival from January 16 to 20 and were nominated to showcase their talents on a national level.

Posthuma, a senior majoring in Secondary Education, Music, was awarded special honors for his musical composition and sound design featured in The Glass Menagerie, and will be showing his work again in the National KCACTF Conference in Washington D.C.

Vanden Aaker, a junior, was awarded similar honors for her film and projection work also featured in The Glass Menagerie, and will be showcasing her work at the United States Institute for Theatre Technology conference in Long Beach, California.

"I didn’t really expect to win any awards," said Posthuma. "I mostly was excited to observe how people acted to my design as well as to receive feedback from the judges."

Vanden Aaker agreed that comments and critiques from the judges were the most she hoped to get out of the festival. "I definitely did not expect to win...when I won, I never even heard my name because by the time ‘Dordt’ was out of [the announcer’s] mouth we were all screaming. I was out of my chair before ‘College.’"

The future holds great promise for these two Dordt theatre students, and both are excited to see what is in store. "This opportunity could open up doors for me as a composer for theatre, so I am very excited," said Posthuma.

While also hoping for a possible internship or future job, Vanden Aaker said simply, "I’ll see what God has planned."

The festival is not only about the competition, but also about what students can gain and growth they can achieve, says Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Dr. Teresa Ter Haar. "The national awards are so competitive. I saw the number of entries in the design expo, and it was overwhelming," said Ter Haar. "I think our awards show the strength and depth of the program, as well as the talent and creativity of our students."

Posthuma agreed. "In my opinion, the most important thing to remember when composing music for the theater is fitting your design into the vision of the show, supporting the choices of the other designers and actors. This might mean limiting yourself to fewer ideas, but allowing other aspects of the show to gain new life."

Ter Haar also said that the competition as a whole and the awards and recognition received not only by Posthuma and Vanden Aaker, but also several other Dordt theatre students and faculty were notable. "The awards also create a real excitement for the technical areas of theatre and the many opportunities for students to get involved in that type of work," said Ter Haar. "Theatre isn’t just about acting—it’s about all the areas that go into making a production come to life."

Additional awards presented to current and former Dordt students:

- Senior Jennifer Kanis for scenic design.
- Junior Brian De Young, Posthuma, and freshman Mark Steiger for sound design.
- Senior Ellen De Young received special recognition when she was selected to be the stage manager for a stage crew competition.
- Alumni Jason Kornelis and junior Maria Bouwkamp were selected out of 250 participants to move on to the semi-final round.
- Seniors Emily Hageman and Vanden Akker for acting talents during auditions and were chosen to perform in scenes at the conference.
- Senior Clare Laverman was named runner up for her playwriting composition, Little Letters, and was contacted after the festival by a college interested in performing her play in the fall.
- Professor of Theatre Arts April Hubbard was chosen to direct a scene.
- Costume designer Susan Blom for her costume designs in Tartuffe.

The Gaudete Quintet to perform

Kelsey Sederstrom
Staff Writer

"Gaudete" is Latin for “to rejoice,” and the Gaudete Quintet will certainly bring joy to whoever attends their concert! The Gaudete Brass Quintet, founded in 2004, focuses on chamber music for brass instruments.

In the words of their website, the Gaudete Quintet is "devoted to presenting serious brass chamber music at the highest level of excellence and to encouraging worldwide appreciation of the art of brass chamber music."

The Gaudete Quintet has shared their love for this genre in numerous ways and places, including CD’s, live performances in distinguished concert venues, public radio broadcasts, and a combined performance with an educational tour at colleges and universities.

From re-creating pieces based on Renaissance music, to performing noted modern composers, the Gaudete Quintet is continually expanding its repertoire.

At their upcoming performance at Dordt, they will play pieces by influential contemporary composers, such as Joan Tower, Giaches De Wert, David Sampson, Stacy Garrop, John Cheetham, Brian Baxter, and Rob Deemer.

On Friday, February 10, two separate events will be held at Dordt by the Gaudete Quintet. At 3 p.m. in M 108, they will hold a master class to inform students about chamber music and playing brass instruments. It is free and open to the public. The second event will be a concert, free and open to the public. Presenting chamber music of 2011, the Gaudete Quintet has labeled their concert with the theme, “So Last Season.” The concert is at 7:30 p.m. in the BJ Haan Auditorium.

By attending either of these two events, students will be exposed to an enjoyment of unique and excellent chamber music for brass instruments, as performed by an outstanding and devoted group; the Gaudete Quintet.
Amusements

What if...

A humorous look at the many "what if" that could drastically affect your life

By Alex Updike

Everybody loses things; it’s just a fact of life. In fact, just this year I’ve lost (and subsequently found), my iPod, a pair of shoes, my coat, a sweatshirt, chapstick (multiple times), and my wallet. But does anything get lost more often than hardware supplies? Yes, hardware supplies! Those little guys just seem to roam wherever they want until they wind up stuck in the bottom of some guys foot, providing him an awesome story to tell girls he just met about how he stepped on a nail and it “didn’t really hurt that much.” Throughout history, nails have been used to build magnificent creations, even start revolutions. But what if those nails hadn’t been found? Let’s imagine one such instance, shall we?

Picture yourself in 1517; you’re probably bored because TV, Xbox, computers, Facebook, movies, and frozen pizza have yet to be invented. Nevertheless, there is great religious animosity in Western and Central Europe under the Pope, and you are a young up-and-coming theologian, affiliates being known on the streets as Marty-L. You’ve had it with the selling of indulgences and the general bureaucracy, arrogance, and abuse of power in the church, so you write down a thesis, then another, then 93 more. You’re planning to really stick it to the man by nailing these on the church door, but then tragedy strikes; you can’t find a nail! Yes, I went there: what if those nails hadn’t been found? Let’s imagine one such instance, shall we?

Obviously, the only reason Luther’s argument was able to find a nail was because he was a young up-and-coming theologian, affiliates being known on the streets as Marty-L. You’ve had it with the selling of indulgences and the general bureaucracy, arrogance, and abuse of power in the church, so you write down a thesis, then another, then 93 more. You’re planning to really stick it to the man by nailing these on the church door, but then tragedy strikes; you can’t find a nail! Yes, I went there: what if those nails hadn’t been found? Let’s imagine one such instance, shall we?

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Did you miss me? I’ll just assume yes. It’s been a while since you have read an article by your favorite movie reviewer. I’m sure your hallways have seemed darker, classrooms emptier, and the campus gloomier, but don’t worry. I’ll be back soon. I’ve been given the privilege and blessing to study journalism in our nation’s capital, but we can discuss that later. Right now, I’m here to provide a ray of sunshine in that bleak, cloudy weather we all call Iowa winter.

I’m here to give you some tips and tricks on what NOT to say when in an interview. Here are the top ten:

10) “I’m very self-motivated. For instance, this month alone I’ve killed 27 dragons in Skyrim.”
9) “I’ve always admired Hitler. He seemed to be a real go-getter.”
8) “Where do I want to be in five years? Your office.”
7) “My strengths are my weaknesses.”
6) “My weaknesses are my strengths.”
5) “Who is my role model? That guy in Scarface seemed to have it all together.”
4) “My favorite college subject? Napping.”
3) “My long term career goals can be summed up in two words: ‘Mom’s basement.’”
2) “How has college prepared me for the real world? It hasn’t.”
1) “Is that YOUR daughter? Is she available?”

I had one interview while I was here. They declined my application. I’m not working there now. Take it from an expert. Don’t say it.