Tim Pawlenty kicks off the Presidential Lecture Series at Dordt

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Tim Pawlenty, former Minn. governor, spoke at Dordt College Monday night as the first of several speakers in a new Presidential Lecture series hosted by The Family Leader.

“The Family Leader is a Christ-centered organization that will lead with humility and service to strengthen and protect the family…our goal is to honor and glorify God — not a political party, not a candidate, and not a program,” said the Family Leader website.

Pawlenty’s speech was evidence for his support of family and faith. “We have to put individuals and families in the driver’s seat…we don’t want to be a country that turns away from God, we should turn to God,” said Pawlenty.

“Towans play a vital role in hosting the first in the national presidential caucus,” said Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO of The Family Leader. “The Presidential Lecture Series is a focused strategy to facilitate meaningful exposure to the candidates.”

“As far as funding goes, the series is sponsored and funded by the Family Leader, [Dordt] is simply a venue,” said Sonya Jongama Knauss, Dordt’s Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

Pella Christian High school and the University of Iowa are two other venues at which this series will take place. Once a month these three venues will host a prominent political figure. The next speakers in the series are Congressman Ron Paul, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, and Senator Rick Santorum. “Dordt is nonpartisan and does not take political stance on issues or candidates,” said Jongama Knauss. “I think that any time Dordt has an opportunity to host Look for the Diamond online: [Twitter]
Follow us on Twitter: @TheDordtDiamond
Like us on Facebook: The Dordt Diamond
Read us on Tumblr: http://dordtdiamond.tumblr.com

Dordt recognizes Eating Disorder Awareness Week
Feb. 21-25

“Here’s to you, Ms. Robinson”
One-on-one interview with Pulitzer Prize winning author, Marilynne Robinson

Photo by Emily McFarland

Mondays Speaker Series.

After her morning lecture on “Where Does It Come From?”, Robinson was kind enough to give me an interview.

Kenny Gradert: You’ve set two of your novels in Iowa. You’ve lived in our fair state for over twenty years while at the renowned University of Iowa’s Writer’s Workshop. You’ve called Iowa the “shining star of radicalism.” What do you truly think of this state?

Marilyn Robinson: Insofar as I’ve experienced the state, I like it very much. It certainly is a place where I’ve chosen to live a major part of my life. It’s a beautiful state and I love the history of it. Of course it doesn’t always live up to the best moments of its history but in general it seems to me a good civilization.

KG: Is it still the shining star of radicalism?
MR: It struggles to be! (Laughs). In certain ways, yes, and no.

KG: The main character of Gilead, Reverend John Ames, is a pastor that seems to go against popular negative images of Christians. He’s sophisticated yet unpretentious. He’s educated—well-read in contemporary philosophy and theology. He can hold his own against skeptic, sophisticated atheists. Did you purposefully create Ames to go against stereotypes?

MR: In a certain sense, I knew I was writing against stereotypes. I myself have had the privilege of knowing elegant, sophisticated, and well-meaning pastors and I would have simply been falling into the cliché if I had been describing something else. I struggle with the tendency that some Christians have to stereotype themselves.

KG: In what manner?
MR: Well, to forget that they have a profound intellectual history behind them, to use scripture in ways that are often sort of abusive because they are not conscious of history and contexts in ways that people like Luther and Calvin were conscious of. I think that people often are demanding respect for Christianity who are not themselves, it seems to me, respectful to the best traditions of Christianity, including intellectualism.

KG: What was your first experience with writing?
MR: When I was a little kid I fiddled around with writing poems. I’ve always done it.

KG: Do you still write poetry?
MR: No—no, no, no, heaven forbid. I got to a certain age and realized how bad my poetry was!

KG: Do you have an intended audience for your fiction?
MR: It’s hard to know. This sounds odd, but in a certain way, my characters are my audience. Because if I do something that feels wrong to me, it feels like I’ve wronged them.

KG: In your morning lecture, you discussed the “mystery of being.” I think often we have a hard time seeing that mystery. How can we train ourselves to see more mystery in life?
MR: I read the Scientific American all the time. There are new cosmologies and things like string theory, where they just sort of fracture assumptions and talk about the deeper realities that are so elusive and so surprising. And just consider the incredible improbability of this little luminous planet in an obscure corner of what is, for all purposes, an unimaginably gigantic explosion. Consider the fact that we can feel that anything is ordinary. The ordinary is the most amazing thing in the universe.

KG: It’s interesting to hear you talk about science that way, because often it seems that people come to science as a way to demystify the world. You’re saying that if people dig deeper with science, it’s a way to bring to light the mystery of the world.

MR: Absolutely. And I think one of the things that religious people deprive themselves of is what science actually is and does. The whole fabric of existence is unbelievable. I think that too many religious people are afraid of science. Maybe physicists can look at what they describe and feel as if that’s a simplification. But I think in general they don’t feel that at all. I think that are something that more or less saturates all cutting edge discovery. Just to be afraid of science as a category when if you look at it and I mean real science, not these doodle books that come out—it’s a great enrichment of theological consciousness.

KG: Thank you so much for your time. I hope you enjoy campus!
MR: I think it’s been a success so far!
Dea-ncing with the Stars
Dance competition at Dordt will serve as a fundraiser to save a life

Adam McDonald
Editor

You can try to take a seat, but when you see these dancers perform you’ll want to get up and move with them.

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

Dordt College will be hosting “Dea-ncing with the Stars,” a dance competition and fundraiser where experienced dancers will partner up with amateurs and dance their way to the number one spot. The money raised is going to help former Dordt student, Dea Lier’s Medical Expense for a kidney transplant, so he can then continue his agricultural ministry to the poor in the Ivory Coast.

“I have done other fund raisers patterned after the TV show ‘Survivor’ and ‘Who Wants to be a Millionaire.’ I always thought it would be fun doing one patterned after Dancing with the Stars,” said event coordinator, Vern Eckhoff.

I read Tim Gallaghers’s article on Dea’s situation about all the trials, hardships, and sacrifices he has put into his ministry to help his people back home in the Ivory Coast. The least we could do is give some of our time and talents in one short evening to help Dea carry out his mission.”

There are six experienced dancers coming from Robin’s School of Dance here in Sioux Center. They will be paired with six inexperienced contestants from five nearby towns. The professional dancers will have only two short weeks to come up with a freestyle ballroom dance routine.

The participants are Amy Doppenberg, Monica Aalbers, Nicole Baart, Ces- sar Gomez, Pastor Verlyn Boone, and Rick Koositra. The experienced professionals are Lee Stover, Loken Vande Vege, Jonny Grotenhuis, Mel Knoebloch, Ashley Wood, and Amanda Hulstein.

“I want to tear up some floor and have some fun,” said sophomore Johnny Grotenhuis. “Dancing has always been a passion of mine, and I can’t wait to show off our routine.”

The professional dancers had to be willing to give their time not only to teach an inexperienced dancer a new ballroom dance, but also choreograph a routine to perform in front of a large audience in the B.J. Haan auditorium.

The criterion for being a contestant was not only to embrace Dea’s situation, but be willing to raise one thousand dollars from their local community.

Picking representatives from five different towns adds to the excitement and friendly competition to have people come to watch and support their dancer.

That evening the audience will be able to participate by using their cell phones to vote for the dancers of their choice along with the judges.

The judges will be Bob Vander Plaats, President and CEO of the “Family Leader” out of Sioux City; Robin Van Es, owner of Robin’s School of Dance from Sioux Center; Kiley Seligman, dance teacher at Dancers Unlimited in Spirit Lake. Jenna Rehnstrom, news anchor of KCAU T.V. Channel 9 Sioux City, will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

PLIA Preview

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

For students who eat in the Commons’ west dining hall, Jane Velez-Mitchell and the program HLN is a common meal-time conversation topic.

“Through compassion and honesty, Jane reveals perspectives not seen anywhere else to deliver one of the most compelling hours on TV,” the official HLN website states.

“I like the way it fills me in on the news for the day since I don’t really watch news in my room,” said freshman Jonny Grotenhuis. “Dancing has always been a passion of mine, and I can’t wait to mine, and I can’t wait to show off our routine.”

“We picked HLN because it gives headlines and lets people know what is going on. We’ve had requests for other programs, but how do you decide what to show? Everyone won’t agree on one program,” said Carrie Foods representative Jeremy Vandenberg.

Students wishing to learn more about the program can visit HLN’s website at www.cnn.com/hln.
Please don’t stop the music
A new band on campus encourages students to start rocking

The annual cultural fair and the international fashion show were combined into one event for the first time ever this past Saturday. Linda Van Wyk, coordinator of international students, organized and oversaw the Cultural Fair.

“It used to be two events so it was difficult putting the two together,” said Van Wyk. “It’s exciting to see things come together.”

The Students Without Boarders club, which hosts the Fair each year, decided to combine both events this semester in hopes of attracting more people.

Wendy Gomez, who helped organize the fair, said one of the purposes behind the events being combined was to reach out to the community. Many families in Sioux Center were there, as well as members from the Laos Church in Sioux City.

“Lots of people were helping out,” said Van Wyk. Dordt’s own 5th Avenue cafe was there providing free drinks while Olivia’s Bakery in town gave away free food. Both American and international students were helping out at both the different booths and the fashion show.

The fashion show was hosted by students, Sam Yang and Adam McDonald. Volunteers from the community, as well as students and faculty strudted down the runway in the latest fashions from all over the world.

During the fashion show some of the students sang while others performed a dance from their native country. A few of the students, like Sam Lee and David Lee who were representing the Philippines, made the audience laugh with their antics as they walked down the catwalk.

There were other various performances by Dordt students.

Dordt senior Bjorn Vaagen-Smith did a demonstration of Taekwondo, six girls did a Latin dance, the swing dancing club performed, and Cesar Smith did a demonstration of juggling.

Gomez summed up the event saying, “It's all really beautiful image of God's creation and want others to help in creating bands on campus.”

Amos Slade, which got its' name from the villain on Disney's “The Fox and the Hound”, rocked a show at Dordt back in November after only having two practices.

Since then, they have recorded several songs that are up on amosslade.com as well as their Facebook page which has received as many as 68 "likes" in only a matter of weeks.

"Go to our website and listen to our songs," said Engbers, who has been sending a constant flow of e-mails around the area to get gigs and expand their fan base.

The group hopes that their music might inspire students to create bands on Dordt’s campus.

"This is a call for any musicians to make bands," said Gradert. "Start a band and come to a show."
Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Welcome to my World:
The story of a Dordt student who fought anorexia...and won

I never wanted to be like that. It’s not like I planned on becoming anorexic. I just wanted to start eating a little healthier. Actually, my disor-der got its start when I had to monitor everything I ate for 3 days as part of an assignment for class. After that, I figured I should start eating a little bit healthier. Three months later I was trapped in a full-blown eating disorder. Since I always had a healthy relation-ship with food and exercise, I was totally blinded by my dis-order and in complete denial. At the peak of my disorder, I entered college as a fresh-man, and my body began to deteriorate. I hated college. I finally had a “light bulb” mo-ment, and I realized that I had a problem and needed help. I was officially diagnosed with anorexia over Christmas break my freshman year. So here is a brief glimpse into my story. I hope that I can be a voice for those who suffer from anorexia on this cam-pus. It is my prayer that God uses this brief personal reflec-tion to show you a little more clearly what it is like to suffer from anorexia.

Darkness is everywhere. Everything is hopeless. Noth-ing is fun. You never smile or laugh. The life is sucked out of your eyes, and you don’t enjoy doing things anymore. You don’t want to be with your friends. You don’t enjoy anything. You have no desire or passion for life. Your eyes look dead, your skin is pale, and your body weakens. You never look forward to any-thing. There is no light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. You want to throw in the tow-el. You don’t want to be active or involved in different events. You just want to be alone with your thoughts. When it is just you and your thoughts, no one knows what is going on in your head but you. You don’t have to be vulnerable, and you don’t have to face rejection or your fears.

What are your thoughts like? Let me give you some ex-am-ples: “If you eat that cook-ie, it will prove to everyone in the room that you have no self-control. You are fat. Everyone is talking about you. You don’t have a boyfriend. You can’t tell anyone what you are thinking about because then you for-sure would have no friends. No one loves you. You are fat and worthless. You can’t eat that. Look how beautiful that girl is. Your worth is defined by your appearance. You need to go to the gym. Do you know how many calories are in that? You need to go on a diet. You can only drink water. You are never allowed to eat dessert. Don’t go to a restaurant. You will never have a boyfriend. You are a horrible and self-ish person. You are a joke of a Christian. You call yourself a Christian? You are the most selfish person in the world. Why do you think about your-self all the time? You are full of sin and shame. There is no hope for you.” These thoughts go through your head all day and every day. There is no es-caping the thoughts. They are there when you try to do your homework. They are there when you are sitting in church. They are there when you watch a movie with your friends. You can’t escape the thoughts. You can’t tell anyone what you are thinking about because then you for-sure would have no friends. No one loves you. You are fat and worthless. You can’t eat that. Look how beautiful that girl is. Your worth is defined by your appearance. You need to go to the gym. Do you know how many calories are in that? You need to go on a diet. You can only drink water. You are never allowed to eat dessert. Don’t go to a restaurant. You will never have a boyfriend. You are a horrible and self-ish person. You are a joke of a Christian. You call yourself a Christian? You are the most selfish person in the world. Why do you think about your-self all the time? You are full of sin and shame. There is no hope for you.” These thoughts go through your head all day and every day. 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The life-changing factor in this story is the grace of God. As I mentioned, God did not instantly deliver me from this pain, but I see now that God was with me through every horrible step of this journey. I see God’s hand in the most painful moments, and I see how he has used this experi-ence to shape me today. Healing does not mean that I never think about food and calories. It does not mean that I never face temptations and negative thoughts. Unfortunately, it does not work like that. How-ever, healing means that I now have hope. I am not captive to food and irrational restrictions. God has redeemed me, and he is still working in my heart to make me more like him. I have life again, and I am free to make choices. I have passions. I have dreams. I have energy. I am a new person because of what God has done in me. My story bring you hope today, hope that is only found in Jesus Christ. To Him be all the honor and glory.
Jaleesa Dyk
Columnist

We as college students exist in an out-of-control world. We sprint from class to class, camp in the library, go crazy on the weekends, and sleep when our eyes are closed. We despise our best efforts to caffeinate our bodies into endurance. As Dordt students, we are repeatedly reminded of the importance of incorporating God into our crazy schedules. I’m certain that I don’t stand alone in the self-imposed guilt trip that I endure following such reminders of my responsibilities as a Christian. This week especially I couldn’t deny the obvious “God slap” following the echoing messages from God’s Word.

Sunday night professor and writer James Schaap led his audience in viewing a series of slides depicting beautiful land-scapes coupled with striking words attributing to the beauty of God’s creation all set to the sound of angelic choral singing. Those beautiful words came from our one and only John Calvin, the gorgeous photos displayed the radiant beauty of our neighboring, stark white, farm spelted, maneuvers spread, love landscape, and the angels singing reside in Dordt’s own music classrooms. Guild rippled over me. How many times had I complained about these very things?

As much as I thought I’d gotten the point, evidently God wasn’t satisified. Wednesday morning I shuffled into chapel half awake as Pastor John Calvin, the gorgeous photos displayed the radiant beauty of our neighboring, stark white, farm spelted, maneuvers spread, love landscape, and the angels singing reside in Dordt’s own music classrooms. Guild rippled over me. How many times had I complained about these very things?

I know what I need to do. After all, wouldn’t it be easier to a point, I knew where she was coming from — she’s a young woman earning her degree from a community college. But my guess is that she’s short on the education, having to do it all.

To a point, I knew where she was coming from — she’s a young woman earning her degree from a community college. But my guess is that she’s short on the education, having to do it all.

After all, wouldn’t it be easier to say forget college, forget hav- ing a career. Give me a husband, a cookbook and some laundry detergent and I’ll be set for life. My best friend, who I’ve known since high school, didn’t go to college because she wants to be a stay at home mom. She was expecting her future husband to be able to support her. That was long before her dar- ing boyfriend dropped out of col- lege. She knows how to do it all too — work, raise a family, keep a house — without a college degree. She’s never wanted a career. But as I watch my mom, 53 and recently unemployed, try to find a decent job without any higher education, I’m thankful for the opportunities I’ve been given, for the chances I’ve taken, and for the people who believed in me and inspired me to reach for something more.

I know what I need to do.
Dordt track athletes make Nationals

Kristin Janssen  
Staff Writer

The Defender Track & Field team has had a successful season thus far. With only two meets left, nine athletes have already qualified for the NAIA National Indoor meet in Geneva, Ohio, on March 3-5. The women’s 4 X 800 meter relay team (Merissa Harkema, Kendra Kroeze, Katie Bonnema, Michelle Steiger) qualified last weekend. Steiger has also qualified in both the 3000 and the 5000 meter runs.

Bonnema, a freshman, is looking forward to the opportunities running at Nationals will give her. “It will be a good learning experience,” she says, “plus, I’ll get to know my teammates better.”

The men’s 4 X 800 team, consisting of Ryan Tholen, Tim Bierma, Nathan Brace, Kristin Janssen  
Staff Writer

and Josiah Luttjeboer, has also qualified for Nationals. Luttjeboer, a four-time Indoor Nationals qualifier will be running the 4 X 800 for the fourth year in a row. Regarding Nationals, Luttjeboer says he is most looking forward to the team bonding and competition. “Competition at that level is fun and intense.”

Briana Wubben, a sophomore qualifier in the high jump and 60 meter hurdles, also has one year of experience at the National competition. Now that she has qualified for the meet, she feels relieved and hopeful for the rest of the team. “There’s a good chance more of the team will still qualify,” said Wubben.

The Defenders traveled to Storm Lake this past Saturday and will host the next meet on February 12.

Jennifer Van Der Hoek  
Guest Writer

Name: Jordan Janz  
Year: Senior  
Major: BuAd Marketing emphasis  
Sport: Hockey  
Hometown: Denver, Colorado

What are your plans for next year? Looking for a job in marketing and plan on playing beer league hockey.

What is your favorite sport to watch? Hockey

If you could change one thing about hockey, what would it be? Play-off games shouldn’t be allowed to end in shoot-offs at the college level. If it’s so important that you’re in the play-offs, you shouldn’t be allowed to end in a shoot-off.

What else are you involved in around campus? I’m on the golf team, teach “learn to skate”, and I’m on the athletic committee, too.

How many Defender Dollars did you have left over at the end of last semester? I spent them all. I bought a lot of scones and cookies at the end of the semester… and took our back-up goalie out on a date once.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Sioux Center? The Ridge

Photo by Dave Walters

Packers fans meet in Grille area to cheer on their team to victory!

Photo by Aanna Stadem

Go Packers!

Superbowl Fun Photos

Photos by Aanna Stadem

Photos by Aanna Stadem

$5.00 College Buffet

(with college I.D.)

coupon valid  

Pizza Ranch

valid only at Sioux Center Pizza Ranch

Photo by Aanna Stadem
Dordt Theatre chooses french comedy as next project

Alex Updike  
Staff Writer

“Tartuffe,” a French dramatic-comedy, is already in progress as the Dordt theatre department’s next mainstage performance.

The play, which involves an insincerely pious villain attempting to dupe an unsuspecting Christian family, has an excellent balance of both drama and comedy as it shows the seriousness of Christian piety while mixing it with subtle humor that keeps the audience interested and entertained.

Why “Tartuffe?” Well, as director Simon Du Toit said, Dordt thought that it was “time to do something fun.” Many of Dordt’s previous plays, while excellently done, were either serious dramas or musicals.

Professor Hubbard and Professor Ter Haar came to Du Toit and asked him to choose a classical play with a comedic element as “they felt it would be a nice thing for the community.”

Through consideration and communication, the trio of Dordt theatre professors came to the conclusion that “Tartuffe” was the play for them.

But “Tartuffe” was not simply one of many choices for the talented director; “I’ve loved this play for years,” said Du Toit. “It’s wonderfully well-written and perfectly structured—it practically directs itself.”

He described the play as tremendously funny and warm, as well as having a good balance between funny and serious, a play which has a richness about it which has always been attractive to him. Rehearsals are well underway and “Tartuffe” is set to hit the mainstage Thursday, February 24th at 7:30 PM.
Comic Mishaps

by Meghan Aardsma

RED, white, and Bruce

By: Joe Venhuizen, Staff Writer and Adam McDonald, Editor

Joe: “Red” was pretty entertaining. It was an action movie, and it was a comedy, though it didn’t do a great job of either one. The action was thoroughly unrealistic, and the laughs were by no means constant. And a lot of scenes actually developed rather slowly for an action/comedy.

Adam: I would agree. “Red” felt like another excuse for Bruce Willis to blow things up. But I will say that partnering Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman was a good call for the director. I was entertained, although I wouldn’t buy the movie I would rent it via Redbox.

Joe: “Red” was pretty entertaining. It was an action movie, and it was a comedy, though it didn’t do a great job of either one. The action was thoroughly unrealistic, and the laughs were by no means constant. And a lot of scenes actually developed rather slowly for an action/comedy.

Adam: That is so true, Joe. You know, it’s the kind of movie that warrants sarcastic comments, funny jokes and stupid humor. Please do not take this movie seriously. If you feel a need to watch an action movie, watch “The Rundown”. If you have a need to watch a comedy, watch “Tommy Boy”. If you have a need to watch a stupid action comedy, watch “Red”.

Joe: You know, I wasn’t disappointed when I watched this. I think the best part about “Red” is that it doesn’t pretend to be something it’s not. The producers know it’s unrealistic. They know it’s kind of stupid. But they play it up, and that’s half the fun. Don’t expect a masterpiece. Just throw it in with a few guys and have a good time.

Keys to Fake Success

by Dave De Wit

Today’s lesson: Basketball

Step 1: Talk yourself up, e.g. “Scored 40 last time I played; it was an off night.”

Step 2: Use basketball terms in your day-to-day activities. “Alley-Oop me that coke can.” “Box out a spot for me in line!”

Step 3: Drink Gatorade.

Step 4: Get tattoos on every inch of your body.

Step 5: Create a “baller” nickname for yourself. Choose anything that sounds cool, preferably a dangerous animal, and if you’re white, add “White” before whatever cool name you chose.

Step 6: Drink more Gatorade.

Step 7: Watch the 1996 live-action/animation film Space Jam minutes before game time.

Step 8: One last shot of Gatorade.

Step 9: Fake an injury during the tip-off.

Congratulations! You’re now a fake successful basketball star!