Dordt offers new community major

Narayan Núñez Blandón - Staff Writer

The faculty at Dordt College have created a new major for students who are interested in helping others but are not sure which major or tools will help them in their aspiration. This new major is community development.

The new community development major equips students to understand a community’s dynamic systems and the complexity of a development program. Furthermore, it provides the students with knowledge and skills necessary to comprehend community development theories and methods so that they, as individuals, see the wider picture of development and cooperate in a more meaningful way.

In addition to the community development foundation courses, students must also take courses from two fields in which they want to specialize. Some of the fields of specialization include: business and economics, communication and digital media, facilities and infrastructure, politics and social policy, and others.

The department intends to invite community developers from around the world to be part of this initiative. Additionally, students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the First Monday Speaker Series.

First Mondays: more than a community block

Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

What would bring critically acclaimed speakers and writers such as Rev. Tony Campolo, James Schaap, and Dr. Nancy Pearcey to a small college in northwest Iowa? Dordt’s First Monday Speaker Series.

“The vision of the First Monday Speaker Series (FMSS) is to bring people to campus who will challenge us and the broader community to stretch our imaginations, grow our understanding, and engage our world deeply and differently,” said philosophy professor Neal De Roo, fellow of the Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service. The Andreas Center, in conjunction with Dordt’s co-curricular committee, has coordinated and sponsored the FMSS since 2009.

“At the Andreas Center, we think this fits well with our desire to inspire people to live in healthy relationships with God and with creation, both by helping us better understand what these “healthy” relationships might look like and by inspiring us to then live in those ways,” said professor De Roo.

Every year, the Andreas Center and the co-curricular committee compose a list of six high-quality speakers. Pastor Aaron Baart, along with professor De Roo and the co-curricular committee, have chosen this year’s speakers.

Professor De Roo says, “We try to get speakers who will help us think more deeply and clearly about how God’s will, expressed in God’s Word and God’s world, should shape how we live in a variety of different kinds of relationships (student, friend, employee, nurse, farmer, neighbor, etc.) and those who will help us understand the pressing issues facing us in the world today.”

The next individual in this year’s series, Sara Gerritsma-DeMoor, will speak on Oct. 6. Ms. Gerritsma-DeMoor is one of four CRC campus pastors at the University of Toronto. She is also on the Christian Reformed Board of Home Missions and the Executive Committee of the Christian Reformed Campus Ministry Association.

Mr. Rick Watts will speak on Nov. 3.

Art department welcomes Wassenaar

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

New professor Sara Alsum-Wassenaar has loved art for as long as she can remember. “I remember when I was little, even before I started going to school, I would always ask for art supplies on my Christmas list,” Wassenaar said.

Her specialty is three-dimensional art, including ceramics and sculpture. Originally from Holland, Michigan, Wassenaar received her B.A. in art and psychology from Hope College, her M.A. in education from Grand Valley State University, and her M.F.A. in new media from the University of Illinois.

With her new position as assistant art professor, Wassenaar teaches classes on ceramics, design theory, art education, and a section of core 160. She also has a passion for art in the media, and discovering new ways that art and psychology are connected.

“It’s so interesting to me how art and psychology can overlap,” Wassenaar said. “It’s seeing how images can affect your brain and how you can respond to them.”

Wassenaar had spent time previously living in Florida where she was a high school art teacher, and also has previous experience in teaching middle-schoolers outdoor education.

Wassenaar’s love for what she does can be described simply: “I love the non-verbal mode of communication that art offers.” Wassenaar said “It can communicate a huge range of ideas.”

Wassenaar had heard of Dordt College through her husband, whose family is from the area. When she heard there was an opening, she jumped at the opportunity.

“It’s Dordt’s caring community that I like the best,” Wassenaar said. “I always feel welcomed, and it’s great seeing people I know all over the community.”

Her art show that was produced while she was finishing her M.F.A. degree in Illinois is called “Foraging Set.” In her artist statement, she speaks of how the piece represents to her the “foraging activities possible in the human environment.”

With Wassenaar’s strong experience in the field of education and art, she has been able to teach and instruct students in what she loves to do most.
The coffee shop in the science building is open from 8:30-1:30. Photo by Megan Kaiser

“Half-healthy” may be the correct words to describe a majority of students and faculty of Dordt when it comes to eating.

“ar to be healthy, or not to be healthy” is a choice for both teachers and students, both upper and lower classes. One may think that lowerclassmen have it easier with pre-paid meal plans to access the Grille and Commons, but that may not be the case. There are plenty of interfering factors.

“My eating habits have gotten worse since starting at Dairy Queen. I eat there for dinner because I get a discount. Unfortunately, the Dining Commons Aren’t open for dinner before I have to leave for work,” said sophomore Dominic Vermeulen.

Of course the Grille is open at this time, but the hot meals don’t start until 7 p.m. For many, the choice between a single wrap, sandwich, or salad isn’t enough. And when one adds more options to their meal, Defender dollars can burn up quickly.

Kaylee Ogle, a junior at Dordt is now entering her third year of working in the commons.

"Just from observing, for Mexico, was extremely overwhelmed when they get in line at the commons. They seem to throw it all on their plates. Nevertheless, as the year goes on, I think it finally starts to dawn on them that they aren’t as hungry as they think they are."

In a round of observation from 11:29 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, approximately ninety-one fresh food items were sold from the Grille. Many salads and wraps were sold, but almost everyone made chips their side of choice. Fifty-nine hot meals were served during that time as well. It cannot be determined whether individuals ordered a healthy grilled chicken or a greasy ham and cheese sandwich.

However, more than half ordered fries as their side. Forty-one unhealthy sides of chips overshadow the nineteen healthy sides of that were purchased.

Students can’t be the only ones to blame. Members of faculty are also a part of the stats.

“I am healthier during the summer. I live more active lifestyle than too. I can’t really say I blame the Commons and Grille for a lack of healthy options though,” said on-campus pastor Aaron Baart. “I feel like there are plenty of healthy options at either location. It’s more the fact that I make poor choices, especially when I am in a rush, but I think that some faculty members make incredibly healthy and environmentally responsible eating choices,” said Baart.

Students may feel more pressure to watch their wallets rather than their waistline, especially for those about to graduate. For example, in the Grille, you can get a whole hot meal, plus fries, for about the same price as a salad. Many would rather eat the whole meal over risking feeling hungry twenty minutes later.

“When I graduate, my eating habits probably won’t differ from my eating habits now. It will really depend on my income. Sixty-nine percent use cards or check and my present and potentially my future,” said senior Ross Van Groningen.

Still, what is offered on campus cannot be to blame. Plenty of fresh options are offered. The choices that are made by both members of faculty and the students are what determine the health status of Dordt. Being told what is healthy and what isn’t can only do so much. Exercise does not balance out bad eating, but the same can be said about healthy eating and inactivity. The battle is mindfully choosing and executing what is best for one’s body.

The coffee shop in the science building is open from 8:30-1:30. Photo by Megan Kaiser

Grille Purchases

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Student health

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Community major (cont.)

Continued from page 1

the major offers a semester-long, off-campus experience (domestically or internationally) during which the students are given different tasks to be involved in real-life experiences with organizations such as World Renew, Christian Reformed World Missions, Food for the Hungry, Chicago Department of Planning and Development, and more.

Agriculture professor Ronald Vos has significantly contributed to the creation of the major. He believes that this major will prepare students to serve adequately for the various community development opportunities.

“I think Christians want to help, but they need to see the big picture, otherwise, they could end up hurting instead of helping,” Vos said. “We want people who are community development majors to have special skills, not just have a broad [knowledge] background. We think it is important to have areas of specialization so [the students] are competent.”

This major is ideal for students who are interested in helping others, or that feel they are called to share their gifts and talents with people who are in need. With this major students will have a large range of career opportunities, varying from field to city planning, agricultural training in developing countries to economic development.

Students are also given the opportunity to obtain a minor on community development if they have already chosen a major in another field, or if they want to obtain knowledge and skills regarding the program.

Professor Ronald Vos has performed community development work for more than 20 in various regions of the world including Russia, Ukraine and, most recently, Zambia. Experienced on the serving field, he is passionate about helping those in need in different ways. Vos, along with other professors from Dordt, are joyful to have this major at Dordt.

Any students interested on the community development major and the opportunities and courses it offers can reach Professor Ronald Vos by e-mailing him or by stopping by his office.

Eric Row - Staff Writer

The licenses are acquired, the equipment is in hand and students seeking study nooks have already explored the furniture. The unnamed science building coffee shop is ready for its first customers.

The new coffee shop will be organized and run by the Dordt College Business Club, or the DCBC. The DCBC has had four years of experience running 55th Avenue.

In the past weeks, business administration professor and club advisor, Art Attema went through some of the same steps that he performed to help set up 55th after Kuyper apartments was constructed in 2010.

“Back then,” Attema said, “there was some skepticism as to whether a student-led business could thrive and not be a drain on the college. We had the privilege of building a reputation that we can do it.”

When the college wanted an establishment similar to 55th in the science building, the business club was asked if they would be willing to run this new location as well.

“We told them that we could make it work if they wanted us to,” Attema said. “They got back and said they wanted us to.”

Attema hashed out the details to transform the space that was the administrative office of the old science building into a store. The sanitation and ventilation requirements in particular were a challenge to meet due to the small space, but he is ready to step back and let club members do their thing.

“I don’t run it, I get it started,” said Attema. “Once we get rolling, the students do all the ordering and pricing.”

In the meantime, Attema has been working with Casey’s Bakery for a fresh pastry delivery that can be distributed at the coffee shop in the mornings.

“They would put them together,” Attema said. “And we would sell them until they’re gone.”

This idea of selling what someone else makes describes the kind of service that 55th provides. Their food license is a distributive license, which means that they are only allowed to prepare and sell pre-made products.

Business club marketer Hunter Weinert promised that the new shop would be reminiscent of what Dordt students have come to love. It will be more than just a coffee shop.

“It’s smaller than 55th, but it will still have our specialty items like Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, Gatorade, and Pepsi products,” Weinert said.

Weinert encourages students to follow 55th Avenue’s Facebook and twitter, as the new facility will open up new opportunities for special events and prizes this year.

Business Club members take shifts manning the counter at 55th Avenue. By working two hours a week, club members get all their expenses paid on the business club trip. There are trips during both the fall and spring semesters.

Dordt students may disagree on whether the new science building coffee shop is necessary, but they all agree that it needs a schnazy name. Students are encouraged to submit their name ideas for prizes in a competition for prizes through a survey monkey site at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X6ZBS2H. Contest ends at noon on Thursday.

New coffee shop

The coffee shop in the science building is open from 8:30-1:30. Photo by Megan Kaiser
Whether it is the smell of bacon and manure, the big extensive cornfields, the big organ in almost every church, the style of worship, or the language, many Dordt students whose homes are hundreds of miles away from Sioux Center are prone to suffer a cultural shock.

This school year, Dordt College welcomed a variety of students coming from countries like South Korea, Indonesia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Brazil, Rwanda, and the Philippines. The first days of college in a new country might be overwhelming for many students. The cultural differences became evident quickly, and for some students were shocking and frustrating.

According to the Centre for Humanitarian Psychology (CHP) in Geneva, Switzerland, cultural shock is the moment when individuals living in a culture different from theirs start to notice the meaningful differences between their culture and the one they are living in. The CHP mentions that some of the common reactions to cultural shock include confusion, depression, difficulty to adapt socially, and feeling isolated or frustrated.

Although culture shock varies from person to person, students who come from overseas are the most susceptible to suffer from it. For many international students, this is their first time traveling abroad by themselves, speaking a language that is not native to them, or eating foods they have never tasted before.

Dr. Curtis Taylor, dean of global education at Dordt College, points out that some social values or characteristics of American culture can create conflicts with students from abroad. For example, students that come from a more collective society find it hard to adjust to the social value of independence and individualism of the United States.

Viviana García Macías, a junior nursing major, expressed how little details about cultural differences frustrated her. “People here shake your hand and don’t hug you when you meet them,” García Macías said. “I come from a place where you kiss on the cheek and hug people even if that is the first time you meet them.”

CHP mentions that coming to a different country might be difficult because the shock can interfere with the students’ emotional and rational processes: it can make the students feel disoriented, alone, or angry. Making social connections at first might be complicated also when there is little common background. García Macías states how frustrating it was at first when she could not interact with other freshmen that came from the same high schools. “Many American people had their groups already formed from Unity or Western High Schools. It was hard to integrate in their groups.”

Despite the initial difficulty of adaptation to a new culture, CHP mentions that there will be a period of adjustment in which the individuals living abroad psychologically accept and adapt to the new environment. It could take several months for this stage to start, but with the support from family, friends, and the new relationships in the new country, the stress decreases.

Despite the fact that cultural shock is difficult at first, the experiences can lead students to know more about a different culture, about other people, and about themselves. Although living in a diverse world might be challenging at first, in some ways it reminds us about how in God, we are all equal.
Video experience for five lucky students

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Five Dordt digital media students now know what working for a business takes.

This past summer, Kaylie Ogle, Tanner Brasser, Lance Wunderink, Megan Kaiser, and Courtney Samuel used their film skills and knowledge to create educational web videos that will air worldwide. The company they interned for, Glynlxon, Inc., is a leader in providing educational opportunities and curriculum for a diverse mix of preschool to 12th grade students.

The main point of the videos was not to teach the lesson, but to show how the lesson applies to real life. Tanner Brasser created a video on the importance of understanding the Pythagorean Theorem. He staged and captured a fun skit, hoping that it would spark the interest of the viewing audience. From showing the importance of reason, to displaying the relevance of deductive

reasoning, 17 videos were created between the five interns.

Over the span of two and half months, the individuals did research on their lesson of choice, wrote scripts, found locations, filmed interviews, recorded b-roll, and spent endless hours editing, created After Effects projects, and color corrected. Their videos had to be first approved by digital media professor Mark Volkers, and then approved by Jen Salta, who works at Glynlxon headquarters in Phoenix. Once approved by Salta, the videos were exported and sent off for Glynlxon’s use.

The interns had to find their own actors and individuals to interview. Most tried to schedule interviews in Sioux City, but a few took place in other locations. A video on graphing took place at Chrysalis, a bridal salon, also in Orange City. Courtney Samuel, graduate of the 2015-2016 class, was able to conduct an interview with a meteorologist at the local TV station, KCAU, in Sioux City. The interns were also able to interview a pilot from the Sioux Center Municipal Airport.

"Working for Glynlxon this summer was truly an awesome experience. I was fortunate to work with a great team along with Professor Volkers throughout the summer, which made coming to work fun and exciting everyday,” Samuel said.

The finished videos were presented on the big screen at the Spark Creative, located right next to the Fruitened Plain, on Saturday, Sept. 6. The group gathered together from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. to share their videos with everyone who were either interviewed or were used as an extra in the videos. Three of the five interns presented their work in person; Wunderink and Samuel were unable to attend.

"Even after seeing the videos over and over again, it is great to see them on the big screen. They worked hard this past summer and it was a lot of fun to watch the progress,” said Professor Volkers. This is the second year that Prairie Grass Productions has worked to create videos for Glynlxon.

The students can now add Glynlxon cinematographer and editor to their resumes, which will benefit them when looking for future jobs in their field.

"Overall, it was great opportunity and experience that allowed me to grow in all areas of Digital Media. If I could, I would do it all over again,” Samuel stated.

Symposium Update: Welcome back!

Every fall, a group of students assemble to discuss issues on campus and to represent the interests of the student body as a whole. This group is made up of members who are elected during the previous spring semester; this group is Dordt’s Student Symposium.

Student Symposium serves as a student representative council, using discussion to find different ways to improve student life on campus. Symposium also oversees the running and funding of Dordt’s extracurricular clubs, such as the agriculture and bee club. In its current form, Symposium has been meeting once a week since the 2008 school year to hear club proposals, vote on various funding decisions, and to assess progress on a set of goals specific to each year.

This year, Symposium has several goals: to increase awareness of Student Symposium on campus, to improve student satisfaction, to be a resource for clubs and to promote and improve environmental sustainability on campus.

Symposium meets every Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the Terrace Room in the Campus Center. Meetings are open to anyone, and all students are encouraged to attend. Attending a meeting is a good way for students to know what Symposium does and to understand more about how Dordt is run.

If serving on Student Symposium and representing your fellow students sounds like something you would be interested in, there are a couple of ways to get involved: the first would be to come to a meeting and decide if you would like to join. If you do like what you see, the next step would be to get elected to council.

A member is elected to represent the different majors on campus, and to represent each undergraduate dorm hall. The major representatives are elected every spring, but the hall representatives are elected in the beginning of the fall semester; keep your eyes on your dorm bulletin boards or ask your LCA for more information.

If you want to get in touch with Student Symposium, there are a couple different ways: you can “like” Symposium on Facebook, you can follow @DordtStudSym on Twitter, or you can email Symposium@dordt.edu. We would love to hear from you!

Students of Dordt: Alex McDonald

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

"When I see the barber wire fence, it means I’m home.”

There’s a lot you probably don’t know about Alex McDonald. She has strawberry blonde hair, a bright smile and has been a military kid her entire life.

She’s lived on military installations in nine different states. North Carolina, Washington DC, Washington, Illinois, and Iowa, to name a few.

"It’s rough when you’re younger and learning how to deal with it," she said. "When you get older, you learn how to roll with the punches." She’s thinking Italy or Germany.

"I'm glad that I'm a military kid," she said. "It taught me a lot of things, but most importantly how essential family control is." She paused.

"Oh, and that God is always in control." Alex McDonald can tell the difference between thunder and artillery.

She’s a military kid, and she wouldn’t have it any other way.
I am a sophomore transfer from Joliet Ju-
nior College. What can I tell you about that? Although somewhat obvious, I'm eager to write and to get know more about Doedt and what it has to offer. Through this column I won't be writing about my view and how I view everything on campus as a new student. I will be informing readers about my past and the people in my life who I've been able to create memories with. My family members are definitely the people who affect me the most, and I have so many great memories with each and every one. Of course not all memories are cheerful. Some are better than others. One experience that I remember clearly is going to Ottertail, Minnesota, with my grandpa, my brother Adam, and my dad to fish.

Our trip started as a complete train wreck. It all began when the ball on hitch came off while on the road. I do not recall when this happened, but my family likes to assume that it came off somewhere in Wisconsin. As if that wasn't bad enough, when we finally ar-
ripping weather. What if there were things that you would like to have a dialogue with your past fresh-

thoughts—these kind of people are the ones that will become your best friends. Take care and invest in these friendships. These are the people that will introduce to your families and make you feel welcome in this new land.

As soon as our trip started looking great, huge, black, scary storm clouds rolled in. My Grandpa Floyd, scared, "If I see lightning, we're going in". No way were we going to let a little rain ruin this fishing trip. So what did we do? We decided to turn the boat so that our grandpa couldn't see the huge strikes of light-
inghitting the area in front of us, and shock-
ingly, my grandfather didn't notice a thing. We sat on the lake, staring at the water and wonder-
ing, tasted amazing!

Now let me tell you something. If you have a chance to swim in the lake, do so.

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Sports

Defender volleyball: California and beyond

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

Before every season, the Dordt College Defenders volleyball squad meets to discuss the values and goals they want to achieve throughout the season. This year, three goals were mentioned repeatedly: building the team relationship, enjoying the game of volleyball and respecting every opponent. After the team’s trip to California and the rest of the nonconference schedule, those goals are already a success.

“I think the trip went well,” said women’s volleyball coach Chad Hanson. “We were able to accomplish our goals and more. I was interested to see how competitive we would be against some very tough opponents. In the four matches we played we grew considerably in maturity, communication and effectiveness on the court.”

The women’s team had two wins and two losses on its trip to the Golden State. Both losses came against nationally ranked teams, while both wins came in five sets on the same day, with only a two-hour break in between. “Our nonconference schedule is hefty in the caliber of opponents we’ve scheduled,” Hanson said. “The schools that we beat are top teams in other conferences.”

It’s performances and schedules like Dordt’s that earn the respect of not only other GPAC schools, but also of schools across the nation. Respect also plays a big factor in national rankings both before and during the season. Dordt’s volleyball squad came into the season ranked 13th nationally, but if Dordt wants to remain near the top, keeping opponent’s respect will be very important.

“Inside our program, trying to keep our players motivated, focused and driven to daily improvement, team camaraderie and an identity beyond who we are as individuals helps earn that respect,” Hanson said. “If our athletes enter the gym each day and have a focus of what they can do to contribute to the greater cause of our competitive program, that will help us grow.”

Looking ahead in the season, there is no reason the Dordt Defenders cannot contend in the GPAC. But Hanson realizes that looking ahead can be dangerous, so he and the program will continue to take it one game at a time.

“Nationals is always in the end picture, and we really want to play on Saturday,” Hanson said. “If we play on Saturday, we’re playing in the final four. The reality of us building the confidence and competitiveness to get to that point will mean we must first take care of our nonconference schedule. It won’t be easy, and we’re really going to have to work and be committed to our efforts.”

Making it to the elimination rounds in the national tournament made this past season a success for the women’s team. With balance throughout the roster (two seniors, two juniors, three sophomores and three freshmen in the regular rotation) and experience from previous seasons, this year could be a great year to be a Dordt College Defender.

Since coming to Dordt in 2011, Coach Chad Hanson (pictured above) has an overall record of 63-38 (.623) with three postseason trips and one nationals appearance.

Football program brings record recruiting class

Aaron Ladzinski - Staff Writer

Coming off of a 2-9 season, Dordt College football has reason to believe that this could be a year where the program takes a major step. With a recruiting class of over 60 new faces bringing an influx of youthful talent, the potential for positive growth is there. With a senior class of only 6 individuals, these recruits will be looked to right away to provide immediate playing time.

Senior running back Dan Fennig offered his feelings toward the freshman lineup. “I feel that we have a great pool of talent and we need these freshmen to stick around. I like most of them,” said Fennig.

Freshman Alex Vasquez from Carrollton, Texas, looks forward to the challenges that a new level of football will inevitably bring. “It’s definitely a challenge but also a fun experience,” said Vasquez. “I’m comfortable stepping in right away to help lead the team, even if some of them are old enough to have jobs and kids.”

Other freshmen expected in rotation are running back Xavier Caffee, offensive linemen Ricky Nelson, and Sam Ackerman, defensive linemen Ben Bajama, and defensive backs P.J. Trammell and Markins Goodman, while many others fill special teams positions.

Such a large class allows the Defenders to reacivate a junior varsity team which will play Monday nights against schools also found on the varsity schedule. The JV squad will primarily be made up of the remaining players not found in a varsity rotation to gain playing experience.

Even with the youthfulness and inexperience of the newcomers, Fennig and his fellow seniors are optimistic about what their team can do. “We have a great chance to be the best we have been since I have arrived here. Saturday will be a great gauge to see how we do,” said Fennig.

Youth often times goes hand in hand with energy, something this team is hoping to be full of. With the experience and heart of upperclassmen and new life brought in this season, everyone is looking for a strong season, and a strong future for the Defenders.

The Defenders go on the road this weekend to Fremont, Nebraska to kick off conference play against Midland College before a two week homestand against Morningside College and Briar Cliff University.
Beauty Given by Grace: by Sadao Wantanabe

Meagan De Graaf - Staff Writer

Dordt College takes pride in its Christian diversity, there are many ways on campus to experience other cultures and share our common faith.

Dordt students attend a college where so many things reflect our worldwide faith, even the exhibits arranged by the art department. From now until Oct. 16, the works of Sadao Wantanabe, a Japanese Christian artist, will be on display in the Campus Center gallery.

Watanabe converted to Christianity at age 17, then used art as a way to express his faith. Watanabe struggles to maintain a balance between expressing his current faith and honoring his Japanese heritage.

Professor David Versluis of the Dordt College art department said, "A key aspect for viewers... is to see this show as the work of a professional artist who took his Christian faith seriously. " All believers are called to take responsibility for viewers… is to see this show as the work of a professional artist who took his Christian faith seriously." All believers are called to take their faith seriously, so it is important that we see examples of how this can be done.

"I would like to be able to heed the voice of heaven," said Watanabe of his Biblical designs, which have been featured in museums as prestigious as New York’s Museum of Modern Art and the Vatican Museum. In a brilliant combination of the two most important cultures in his life. Watanabe found a way to portray Biblical events through traditional Japanese artistic media. He uses a Japanese art form called katazome, which involves hand-cutting and dying stencils. These stencils are then arranged on paper, which is often handmade, to create a picture. In this case, each picture depicts a Bible story. Each work of art in the exhibit features a Bible verse and an explanation for the piece, which brings a new perspective to the verses Christians read so often.

The exhibit features a guestbook where anyone who visits can leave a remark about how they have been affected by the art there. Some of the comments included words like "amazing" and "beautiful" to describe the artwork they had seen. Those who have attended the exhibit were clearly affected by Watanabe's unique artistic testimony and felt called to react to it.

For even more information on this cultural experience, the department of art and design will host a reception on Sept. 17. There is a program at 7:00, but the reception runs from 6:45-8:00 that night, and the art department would love to see interested students join them to learn more about this exciting cultural artwork.

Freshman Talent Show
The annual Freshman Talent Show took place on August 27 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium during W.O.W week. Acts displayed a variety of talents and the classic talent show host skits. Stay tuned for other events put on by SAC.

Winners were as follows:
1. Jeremy Lounsbury - Beatboxing
2. Erica Liddle - Juggling
3. Ariel Gomes - Nontraditional guitar playing

The Show
Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

Silence falls and the lights go up—it is time for The Show to begin.

Performing The Show as a part of the Week of Welcome celebrations has been a Dordt tradition since the late 1990s. The Show began as a way to introduce new students to some of the issues they might face during their time on campus. The performance also highlights the various resources available to help students during difficult times.

Though The Show may be directed primarily towards the freshmen, upper classmen are encouraged to attend as well. "These issues [addressed in The Show] don't go away after someone's first year at Dordt," commented theatre arts professor Teresa Ter Haar.

Dordt junior Taylor Leach, stage manager and technical support for this year's performance, recalled her first impression of The Show.

"I remember being shocked a little bit because I wasn't necessarily expecting Dordt to bluntly address issues like sex and drinking, mainly because I had never had them addressed so directly," Leach said.

"I thought The Show would be all about rules," said freshman Tairin Van Tol. "It was really good, though. The actors were good. The things they talked about were really interesting."

The Show addresses serious issues college students face with an honesty and humor that engages the audience. "Most significantly, the performance tries to ask questions about these issues – not provide answers," explained Ter Haar.

"Now that you are on your own, you need to prioritize things and make good choices. There aren't any parents around to hold you responsible," freshman Stephanie Haan reflected. "You need to be responsible, but it is OK if you don't always do everything perfectly."

The Show illustrates the choices and responsibilities college students have, but it also reminds us that we are all in need of God's grace.

"To quote The Show, 'I want to love, I want to be loved.' We all share in these feelings in some way or another... It's our nature to search for a community where we fit in and feel accepted," said Leach. "If there is one thing that students need to take away from The Show, it's that you don't have to struggle through life alone and that there are always people who care even if you haven't met them yet."
Beware:  I think I may have fallen in love.

Singer Jillian Banks, known on stage as Banks, should not have the large following that she does. Starting out relatively unknown and releasing her music through the website SoundCloud, she achieved a quaint record deal through her friend Lily Collins. Her name gained traction when BBC Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe played her first official single “Before I Ever Met You” on his show.

The floodgates opened. Banks released EP after EP, receiving critical acclaim with each new release. Earning numerous awards, as well as being featured in TV spots, and in magazines, Banks shot up in the music industry.

Her moment in the spotlight peaked in 2013 when she toured as the opening act for Ontario-based singer The Weeknd on his fall tour. Banks went on to schedule her own tour in the United Kingdom, as well as appearing in the popular music festivals, Coachella and Bonnaroo, in 2014.

She is following up all of this success by releasing her first album. Goddess, which hits stores Sept. 9, is a collection of the best songs her numerous EPs had to offer, sprinkled with new content. With her style of music described by many as PBR&B (a combination of Pabst Blue Ribbon- a widely-known ‘hipster’ beer- and rhythm and blues), she seeks to step into the shoes of her predecessors and idols including Feist, Fiona Apple, and Erykah Badu.

Interestingly enough, Banks’ tour with The Weeknd solidified a significant similar style between the two singers. Goddess’ production - constructed underneath meticulous detail of big names like Sohn, Shlohmo, Jamie Woon, and Justin Parker - coupled with her vocals, ranging from Lorde’s to Ellie Goulding’s register, give the album just the right eeriness to compliment The Weeknd’s shadowy, mysterious sound.

While The Weeknd’s work contains mainly chauvinist lyrical content, Banks’ differs here, conveying the opposite approach. Vogue declares that Goddess “perfectly captures a feeling of being lost and powerless in the world.” Banks wanted to release an off-kilter love album and has succeeded in creating a perfect environment to croon about her ups and downs experienced throughout her love life.

The first half of the album is its high point with its methodical, beat-heavy, haunting opener “Alihi,” in which Banks desperately pleads, “Please, give me something to convince me that I am not a monster.” “Waiting Game,” released before the conception of the album - and arguably, its high point - sees a mellow, resigned Banks in a Weeknd-esque tone pensively assessing her relationship. The first single off the album, “Brain” is a simple warning from Banks to her lover to stop trying to impress everyone he comes in contact with. Starting out in a melting low register, she amps up the heat midway through the song to shriek out the piercing reminder again.

While this was her freshmen effort, one would be wise to look out for Banks in the future. We definitely haven’t heard the last from her.

Songs Worth Noting: “This Is What It Feels Like” “Drowning” “Beggin For Thread” “Warm Water”