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Student film crew receives award of excellence

A group of Dordt filmmakers received the Award of Student Excellence for their short film “Brooklyn Shae” at the Iowa Motion Picture Association’s (IMPA) annual awards ceremony on March 29.

“This award was a great honor for us all,” said junior Tanner Brasser, a member of the “Brooklyn Shae” production team. “It means so much when a panel of professionals choose a film you made. It is reaffirming to be chosen for an award like this.”

The IMPA works to promote filmmaking and filmmakers in Iowa. Each year, the IMPA holds an awards show and judges films in many categories, including advertisements, feature films, acting and animation. Dordt College digital media professor Mark Volkers, who is on the board of the IMPA, commended the team on their success.

“It really is a well-crafted film and displays the talents of the individuals involved, but also the combined, collaborative talents they have when working as a group,” said Volkers. “I’m proud of them and I’m proud of the work they did.”

“Brooklyn Shae,” a psychological thriller, tells the story of a college student stranded on campus over break. A kidnapping frames the story about loneliness and how easily people seem to go unnoticed or slip through the cracks.

The film team was made up of five Dordt digital media majors: seniors Kelley De Jong, Justin Gloudemans and Andrew Miller, and juniors Abby Louwerse and Brasser. The team entered their film into five film festivals. The IMPA was the first festival to hand out awards.

The team is still waiting on results from the four other festivals that their film was entered in. The results from the other festivals are expected to come in during the coming weeks and months. Volkers was optimistic about the film’s chances at the other festivals.

“The IMPA festival is the first we’ve heard back from and it took highest honors, so we’re looking forward to good news from some of the other competitions,” said Volkers.

Despite the privilege of being selected for this award, the biggest honor, according to the team, was being able to present their work to their fellow students here at Dordt.

“To be honest, the most affirming moment for me was last semester when we screened our film on campus for the first time,” said Brasser. “I was so honored that over 120 people came to watch a short film I made, and I was encouraged when my peers said they felt like they were watching a real Hollywood film.”

This festival did not offer the entering teams any financial rewards, but the other rewards were enough for Brasser and the team.

“...The real reward of winning this competition allows us to label Brooklyn Shae as an award winning film,” said Brasser.

Four professors to retire at the end of the year

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

As the class of 2014 prepares to graduate and enter the real world, four Dordt professors are preparing to retire from Dordt: former philosophy professor and current Dean and director of the Andreas Center John Kok; biology professor James Mahaffy; professor of computer science Dennis De Jong; and art professor Jake Van. These men have been members of the faculty for a combined 118 years.

John Kok

John Kok joined the philosophy department at Dordt in 1983. Kok’s favorite class to teach was Philosophy 201, the introductory class that has since morphed into Core 200. For about ten years in the late 20th century, Kok taught both sections, and every student who graduated went through his classroom.

There were a few recurring lectures that Kok used in that class. In his first lecture, he would ask his students, “What is red?” to stretch their minds and think differently about something that they know very well.

For an illustration to teach modal diversity, he would lecture for almost 75 minutes with a geranium in front of him, pointing out the different modes or ways we can understand the flower.

“Those are the kinds of things that students would remember,” Kok said.

On two occasions, students presented him with a red t-shirt with text: “What is red?” at the end of the course.

Since the early 2000’s, Kok has taught less and less. Kok was the primary author for a $50,000 grant proposal which led to a $2.5 million grant, and he served as Dean of Humanities from 1997 to 2010.

When Kok switched to a more administrative position, the dynamic of interpersonal relationships changed.

“Before at faculty meetings, I didn't shy from asking difficult and provocative questions,” Kok said. “As dean, you are the one who has to answer those questions.”

Kok is also an accomplished editor and has been the managing editor for Dordt College Press for the past 14 years.

“We publish four to eight books a year,” Kok said.

Kok has increased the number of titles under Dordt Press and highlighted many works by Reformed Christian authors which would otherwise be hard to find in English.

“This next year will be the first time in 31 years that Kok will not be walking the block and a half from his house to campus every day. Upon leaving Dordt, Kok hopes to take a bedroom in his house, turn it into a study and do what he has been doing for awhile now without the administrative position.

“I want to get back to what I went to grad school for,” Kok said. “And that is to read and think and write.”

James Mahaffy

James Mahaffy studied at Dordt himself from 1966-70 and taught high school science classes before coming to Dordt in 1979.

One of the changes that Mahaffy appreciated at Dordt was a change to the...
While it isn’t necessarily unusual to see tractors and four-wheelers making their way through town, one day out of the year it is considered entirely normal for combines, tractors and livestock to appear on the front steps of Dordt College.

Dennis De Jong, a returning professor of Ag Day raises awareness

Dennis De Jong is finishing up his 29th year at Dordt. He has taught about half of the computer science courses in his first 27 years and more recently teaches math education and precalculus math.

Over the years, De Jong has seen the computer science program go through several computer languages and the increase of web programming.

“When I started, we didn’t have personal computers,” said De Jong. “We had a minicomputer connected to 20 terminals in a lab for both students and faculty. Professors started getting terminals in their offices and it grew from there. We didn’t have laptops and didn’t have tablets which are all things that we need to address in terms of computer programming now.”

De Jong still keeps a label on his desk from some of his students in a higher level computer science course. In class, when they had information they were done with he would tell them to “throw it in the bit bucket.”

“At the end of the course, he received an old ice cream bucket with that label naming it “the bit bucket.” The students had written their names in the background in ASCII computer code.

“Yeah. That was a good one. That fit my sense of humour.” De Jong said. “It’s also fun to have former students come back as colleagues.”

Professor De Jong  Photo by Andrew Deelstra

Former students Nick Breems and Valorie Zonnefeld currently work for the math department.

De Jong plans to stay teaching part-time this next year and to continue as the supervisor for student math teachers, which involves visiting their classroom four times a semester.

“I like seeing what’s going on in the schools,” De Jong said. “I don’t have any other projects lined up.”

Jake Van Wyk

Jake Van Wyk was brought in to take over art history and ramp up the more applied arts by using his broad background and skills in fine arts as well as printmaking and graphic design.

In the 23 years that Van Wyk has been working in the art department, the number of art majors doubled and tripled and are now about 5 percent of Dordt’s student body. A graphic design emphasis became very sought after. Today, about 75 percent of Dordt’s art majors have at least a minor or emphasis in graphic design.

“I do some advising, promote it and know it, but I no longer execute it or teach it,” Van Wyk said. “I am happy to allow other specialists do that.”

Van Wyk was privileged to bring in David Versluis to teach graphic design, allowing him to concentrate on fine arts—clay, sculpture and ceramics.

Van Wyk has taught the capstone course for all art majors and also Core 160: Introduction to the arts.

“It’s fun and a challenge,” Van Wyk said. “In a most Christian circles it is a little bit too sensual and little bit too personal. I like to remind them that they don’t have a choice.”

“Art is also a part of the world that God created, and we can’t ignore that.”

“I will miss some of that interaction,” Van Wyk said. “Students give me ideas and make me feel young again.”

With the excuse of demonstrating asymmetrical balance, Van Wyk has a wrestling schtick in Core 160 in which he takes down one of his students. This has led to him running the wrestling club on campus for the past ten years. Van Wyk picked up wrestling late when he was in college and was too stubborn to give up.

“In a way it goes with my mantra of doing things the hard way,” Van Wyk said. “It gets in the blood and system and into your way of living.”

Van Wyk thinks that the physical part of his lifestyle is why he leans toward large-scale projects and using stone, prints and rolling techniques.

“A full life whatever it may be builds into a collective subconscious that should come out of your artwork,” Van Wyk said.

Before leaving, Van Wyk has one more art project to contribute to Dordt’s campus. It is a 20 ft by 16 ft tile collaboration with Versluis. It will be executed with about 1400 lbs of clay and will be fired by Van Wyk.

Van Wyk plans to continue his projects and finally get a website. He has an operational studio on his farm and will stay and work from home.
Polar Plunge takes over Facebook newsfeeds

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

If you’ve been paying attention to your Facebook feed lately, you’ve probably noticed the sudden explosion of videos with the title “Polar Plunge” or “Sandy Hollow Challenge.” More likely than not, you’ve watched at least one of these videos.

In case you haven’t been following this trend, however, the Polar Plunge is a challenge in which people get nominated to jump in cold water and then have to nominate at least three other people. Since Facebook is a heavily used form of social media, nominees post video proof of their participation on Facebook. Since Sandy Hollow, a park just outside of Sioux Center, is pretty much the only place with water around Dordt, the challenge has become known to some as the “Sandy Hollow Challenge.”

The Polar Plunge began as a fundraising challenge for a baby in Missouri named Landon who has been diagnosed with cancer. People can nominating other people to do the challenge and then donate money for each person who accepted the challenge.

However, students at Dordt who have been completing the challenge don’t seem to be doing it for charity. Students have mixed feelings in response to the challenge. Marta Vander Top, a freshman, was nominated for the challenge but decided to start a new challenge: the nap challenge.

“I’m not against the challenge, but when I was nominated, I was busy and couldn’t do it within 24 hours. I needed a nap more than I needed to jump in some cold water, so I just made the nap challenge,” said Vander Top. Students like Vander Top have been using the videos as a form of creativity. A large chunk of Dordt’s student body and even a few staff members have been nominated. Students even got the pleasure of watching President Hoekstra complete the challenge.

“His video made my day,” said Vander Top. “I’ve really enjoyed watching it spread throughout Dordt. It’s one of those things that brings campus together. It’s something that everyone can and has been talking about.” However, not everyone shares Vander Top’s approval of the Polar Plunge. Some students just ignore their nominations or have made videos protesting the challenge.

Jon Hageman, a junior, believes that the challenge is not a good use of time.

“It’s also important to see it as an opportunity to get more experience and meet more people. As long as you make sure you have the right friends, then you can’t get nominated.”

Now that the weather in Iowa is getting warmer, Hageman hopes that the Polar Plunge will stop spreading.

“I’ll probably die away like most fads do. The thrill will pass,” said Hageman. “And I’m looking forward to that so people can stop posting the videos on Facebook. If you’re not going to do it for charity, don’t fill up my Facebook with your videos.”

Spring NATS

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

While many Dordt students take voice lessons, only four students took the opportunity on April 5 to go to Sioux City for the NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) competition. Sophomore Marshall Fynaardt and junior Rachel De Boer both advanced to the final round of the competition.

Each year, there are two NATS competitions: one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall competition is state-wide while the spring competition is regional. Students who participate in NATS are separated into divisions by gender, style of music they perform and year in school.

De Boer says that the regional competition is less competitive.

“There aren’t as many big schools at the spring NATS,” said De Boer. “At the fall competition though, you get to hear a lot of amazing singers from bigger schools, which is really neat.”

De Boer and fellow Dordt student Marshall Fynaardt were able to make it through all three rounds and perform in the recital at the end of the day. Fynaardt, a sophomore, credits his success to the fact that he prepared well for the competition.

“Last year, it didn’t work. I didn’t work, nominate other people to do the challenge and then donate money for each person who accepted the challenge.”

According to Ko, the biggest part of these meetings is the lecture time, during which a student volunteer movement ignite the campus like it once ignited the U.S. in the 19th century. Ko feels it is important that students know they are called to be messengers to all nations, even if it means making sacrifices. If you want to get involved in Vision School, please contact Sung Jae Ko, and he will be more than happy to let you know how you can be a part of this movement.

“and this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come,” Matthew 24:14.
Students complete semester-long projects

Senior engineering major Anderson Clare is currently working on a project he calls the "Defender Utility Vehicle." The primary goal in Clare’s project is to assist in the growth and development of the farm operations and agriculture program at Northrise and the project will strive to meet specific needs of the Northrise Farms.

"Design work for the Defender Utility Vehicle (DUV) began with administrative tasks such as project proposals and budgeting and some initial conceptual design that included research into similar products," Clare said. "Currently, many people, especially women and children, travel great distances on foot for access to water, healthcare or education. Because a single project cannot solve this vast problem, we have chosen to contribute to the solution by partnering with Northrise University of Ndola, Zambia."

But this project means more to Clare and his fellow student partners than just a grade. "Around the world, many people in developing nations do not have access to tools that fulfill very basic transportation needs," Clare said. "Currently, many people, especially women and children, travel great distances on foot for access to water, healthcare or education. Because a single project cannot solve this vast problem, we have chosen to contribute to the solution by partnering with Northrise University of Ndola, Zambia."

The projects that senior students create and participate in are used as different ways to express themselves and their passions. It is a way to introduce them to their fields professionally and for some, it is an opportunity to get their foot in the door.

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Rachel Mulder - Staff Writer

Where are you currently teaching? What grade or subject are you teaching?

Matt DeJong, I am finishing up my time at Unity Christian High School, where I am teaching Applied Geometry, Geometry and Algebra 2. These classes consist primarily of sophomores and juniors, but I also have a few freshmen and seniors.

Where was your first placement and what grade/subject did you teach there?

My first placement was at Remsen Union High School, where I taught freshmen, sophomores and juniors Geometry, Algebra 2 and Precalculus.

Were your experiences anything like what you thought they’d be?

My experiences entailed a few things that I expected, but there were also a lot of aspects that I did not predict. For example, since I am unfamiliar with much of northwest Iowa, I had no clue that Remsen was such a small town. I was expecting my public school placement to have bigger class sizes and larger graduating classes, but I had smaller class sizes than I do at Unity, including a class of only three students. At Unity, I knew that they were a one-to-one school (all of their students have laptops in class), so I knew that there would be an emphasis on using technology in the classroom. However, I did not expect that finding productive things to do on the computers would be so difficult.

There is a lot of educational stuff online for students to do, but finding things that are beneficial and motivating for students was not as easy as I expected.

How have your student teaching experiences reaffirmed your decision to be an education major?

My student teaching experiences definitely reaffirmed that I want to be a high school math teacher. I love getting to know students and teaching them along the way, and I especially like to challenge them to think in ways that they typically are not used to doing in math classes.

What has been the best or most memorable experience of student teaching?

The most memorable event of my student teaching happened on the first day at Remsen. I spent the whole first day observing my cooperating teacher, and she introduced me to each class. After I said a few things about myself, I allowed the kids to ask me anything they wanted to. Almost every class asked one or two basic questions, but my second period class, which had a few more energetic students, got to know almost everything about me in under ten minutes of questioning. Right away I knew that class was not shy.

What is one piece of advice or something you’ve learned from your student teaching?

My piece of advice to other education majors who are going to student teach soon is to ask the teacher for a little bit of freedom. Once you start planning lessons on your own and no longer stick to what your cooperating teacher has always done, you will finally start to feel like a teacher. A little bit of hand-holding on their part is good for a while, but freedom is essential if you want to feel prepared for your first year of teaching.

Have you been looking for jobs? What are your plans for after graduation?

I have been looking for jobs all over the country, and my fiancé hopes to find a job wherever I land a teaching position. Right now I have a few leads, but nothing is set in place yet. I hope to spend the summer here in Sioux Center, get married in July, go on a honeymoon and get ready to move to wherever God calls us.

Rachel Mulder - Staff Writer

Coffee and journals, ceramics and writing. Remembering the small things.

This spring, digital media major Justin Gloudemans is creating a series of videos that emphasizes the small details in life.

“My senior project is a video series called “The Finer Details of Life.”” Gloudemans said. “The videos are 2 to 5 minute mini documentaries about people’s finer details of life. These are the things that cause them to slow down and reflect, create, be in solitude or share joy with others.”

Gloudemans chose this project because he wanted to show the need to slow down in our busy, crazy lives.

“We need to be able to slow down and have moments of reflection and pause from routine and speeding from thing to thing,” Gloudemans said. “I realized that people have certain activities, like making coffee, writing, doing ceramics and more that allow them to slow down.”

Gloudemans hopes that people will see the themes in his films such as slowing down, creating, remembering and noticing. He hopes that his viewers will be inspired to find their own finer detail in life.

Students in other programs are working on senior projects, as well. Some of these include art, engineering, social work and theatre.
This semester, I have provided suggestions about things I would change at Dordt. Unfortunately, I am not in charge, and due to financial, moral or bureaucratic reasons, these changes will likely never happen. In my final column, I will enclose with a suggestion you can benefit from for years—my favorite TV shows.

1. The Wire – This is simply the best television show ever created. The Wire tells the story of the city of Baltimore. Each season displays a different aspect of the city, ranging from gangsters and police to politicians and newsmen. However, it is not the plot but the characters and their story that make the show. With excellent dialogue and real stories, The Wire creates the deepest characters I have seen. The Wire's one flaw is its slow beginning that turns many viewers away. Commit to the show and watch all five seasons. You won't regret it.

2. Game of Thrones – Based on the popular fantasy books by George R.R. Martin, the HBO adaptation of Game of Thrones is excellent. You can get past the sex, incest and chilling evil displayed on screen, the plot, characters and sheer grandeur set this show apart. Set in medieval times, the show sets different people, families and regions in a "game for the thrones." Constant plot twists that show little regard for character attachment keep you guessing at every turn.

3. Sherlock – This BBC adaption of the popular Sherlock Holmes novels is the best show available on Netflix (Sterling the duo of Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, Sherlock utilizes 90-minute episodes to really drive into cases. Unfortunately, due to its excellent script-writing and attention to detail, there are only nine episodes. This series can provide enjoyment for all ages.

4. Breaking Bad – Walter White and Jesse Pinkman utilize science in a way never before seen on TV. What starts as a man cooking meth to provide for his family turns into significantly more as Breaking Bad explores human motives and the dangers of our actions. This show is also available on Netflix.

5. Lost – Even if you can't deal with things getting weird in the later seasons, the first three seasons are excellent. (Netflix)

6. House of Cards – Kevin Spacey, corrupt politicians, full seasons at once. (Netflix)

7. The West Wing – Regardless of your political position, the characters and dialogue drive a successful political show. (Netflix)

8. True Detective – This mystery series features top-notch characters and one of the greatest tracking scenes ever.

9. 24 – Who doesn’t love Jack Bauer? First five seasons are available. (Netflix)

10. Archer – Little-known show that was cancelled during season two. (Netflix)
Carman stars in javelin

Sam Ekstrom - Staff Writer

Most people are familiar with long jump and shotput. Less known, though, is the javelin portion of the track and field throws docket.

Because Iowa high schools don’t participate in javelin, there are fewer throwers that toss the javelin here at Dordt. Fortunately, junior Brittany Carman comes from Mount Vernon Christian High School (Wash.) where she started throwing a javelin at age 14.

“Having the high school javelin is slightly different than the college javelin,” Carman said.

“The now-20-year-old Carman was given a scholarship to throw at Dordt, and she is the only competitor on the women’s team who threw the javelin in high school. This isn’t uncommon for regional schools. Carman says that many of her opponents in the Greater Plains Athletic Conference appear to be newcomers to the sport as well.

“Some kids look behind them as they throw,” said Carman. “Some kids do a stutter step, cross-cross-apple-sauce kind of thing as they throw. It’s really entertaining to watch. Though some are inexperienced, the GPAC is still one of the premier conferences in the NAIA for throwers. First-year throws coach Joe Snyder described the level of competition.

“If you look in the NAIA top-10 rankings for the throwing event, it’s not unusual for the GPAC to have five to six of those spots,” Snyder said.

Snyder is 22 years old and is just a couple of years removed from throwing javelin for Ashford University (Iowa). At the men’s level, javelins are 8.5 feet long and weigh 28 ounces. For Carman, the “poison ticks,” as she calls them, are 7.5 feet long and 21 ounces. For either gender, however, it’s all about technique.

“Contrary to popular belief, the javelin should not be thrown in the same way that a baseball is thrown,” said Snyder. “The motion should be more of an over-the-top motion to prevent injury.”

“Try very technical,” Carman said. “If you have the entire technique down, you’ll throw far no matter the weight training you do.”

Listening to Carman talk technically about javelin may sound foreign to many novices. She thrives on phrases like “grape vines,” “cross-overs” and instead of feet or yards, her “run-up” is measured in “javelin lengths.”

“Not surprisingly, Snyder is impressed by Carman’s technical prowess.”

“Brittany Carman is a good worker who pays a lot of attention to detail,” said Snyder. “In javelin, only a participant’s top throw is recorded. Carman has been very consistent, throwing around 120 feet on a regular basis.

The now-20-year-old Carman was given a scholarship to throw at Dordt, and she is the only competitor on the women’s team who threw the javelin in high school. This isn’t uncommon for regional schools. Carman said. "Our focus during our spring season is, number one, individual skill development, and one-A, being competitive, " said Dordt

“Competing is one of the most satisfying things to see as a coach. For the coaches, the work is just beginning. The name of the game is recruiting, the year-round grind that every collegiate coaching staff must endure.

"This recruiting is just an absolute animal," said men’s head coach Ross Douma. "It’s just a monster in and of itself."

“There are things to do each day, each week, and it really never stops,” said women’s coach Craig Stiemsma.

Both men’s and women’s coaching staffs are in constant contact with high school athletes. Douma said he is already recruiting from the high school class of 2017 – current high school seniors, in other words.

“Here’s probably communication with about 175 to 200 kids at various times,” said Douma, who is in his fifth year of coaching. "Obviously, there’s contact with your top-tier kids a whole lot more, but that process is never ending.

Of those recruits, perhaps one-tenth of them wind up signing with the Defenders. Last season there were 22 freshmen between the men’s varsity and junior varsity rosters, which was considered a large class.

Stiemsma’s varsity and JV teams had 13 freshmen after losing only one senior the previous year. With six seniors leaving from this year’s team, Stiemsma has holes to fill on his roster.

“We really try to recruit by position," said Stiemsma. "[We recruit] as to what things they can do well to help the program.”

On the men’s side, Douma said he has three basic criteria for examining a potential recruit.

“They have to be open to a Christian education, they have to be a very good student and they have to be able to play basketball very well,” said Douma.

Carman placed fifth at the Sioux City Relays on April 12 with a throw of over 123 feet, bettering the throw that earned her fifth place at the GPAC Championships last spring.

Snyder is intrigued to see what Carman can accomplish in the closing weeks of the outdoor track and field season.

“She’s only about five feet away from the national-qualifying provisional mark,” said Snyder, “and she’s been putting in a lot of work, so we’re excited to see some big things from her in the next few weeks.”

Offseason sports update

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

It is the offseason for Dordt College Defender sports like volleyball, football and soccer, but that does not mean that these sports have stopped. For players and coaches alike, the offseason is pivotal for any success during the regular season.

“The focus of these sports during the offseason is different than during the regular season. Competing is one of the most important things during the regular season, but that is not the sole focus during the spring season.

“Our focus during our spring season is, number one, individual skill development, and one-A, being competitive,” said Dordt College football coach Chad Hanson.

“Working through those technical aspects and then watching your players succeed is one of the most satisfying things to see as a coach.”

That development is key for success in the regular season. During the fall, players do not have the opportunity to work on solely one aspect of their game. Instead, they work on a full arsenal of skills to be the best all-around player they can be.

This is especially critical in football.

“We always work on our fundamentals,” said Dordt College football coach Greg Youngblood. “During the regular season, guys on the scout team lose a lot of reps, but during the spring everyone has an opportunity to develop and improve, which can help them in the fall.”

That development is key for football players come autumn. When fall camps start in August, players have two weeks to prepare and get ready for the season opener.

“We get to try new things in the spring,” Youngblood said. “Every year we have a new identity with new players, and the spring let’s us try new schemes and figure out what our identity is going to be.”

The volleyball squad just wrapped up its spring season, which involved several practices, lifting and two weekend tournaments. Football has its annual spring game.

Carman stars in javelin

Sam Ekstrom - Staff Writer

It’s currently the offseason for Dordt’s basketball teams. If you’re a player, that means rest, recuperation and a chance to catch up on schoolwork and How I Met Your Mother.

For the coaches, the work is just beginning. "There’s probably communication with about 175 to 200 kids at various times," said Douma, who is in his fifth year of coaching. "Obviously, there’s contact with your top-tier kids a whole lot more, but that process is never ending.

Of those recruits, perhaps one-tenth of them wind up signing with the Defenders. Last season there were 22 freshmen between the men’s varsity and junior varsity rosters, which was considered a large class.

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On the men’s side, Douma said he has three basic criteria for examining a potential recruit.

“They have to be open to a Christian education, they have to be a very good student and they have to be able to play basketball very well,” said Douma.

Once a recruit meets those requirements, the coach becomes a salesman. Stiemsma mentioned all that a coach must pitch to a potential player.

“There is a lot to sell,” Stiemsma said. “We work on campus visit days, calls, emails and texts as well as notes to them to help them find out about Dordt, our program, our academic program, our campus and players.

Douma said that he and his staff conduct several preliminary measures before contacting a player directly. ‘These steps include looking at online databases, contacting other coaches and checking out the recruit’s social media profiles.

The latter can often be a deal-breaker for Douma.

“Twitter is very revealing. Facebook is very revealing,” said Douma. “There’s been a lot of kids we’ve just been able to move away from simply because it’s not worth the hassle with the baggage that we’re going to get.”

Modern technology has changed recruiting in other ways, too. Douma said he sends text messages to two or three recruits per day, as opposed to the phone calls of old.

“Calling on the phone has taken a backseat to texting,” said Douma. "Kids are not nearly as comfortable with phone conversations as they were even six years ago."

Because Dordt is a member of the NAIA, they are not bound by NCAA contact restrictions with recruits. This gives them leverage in recruiting some players that may have Division II or low-end Division I talent.

“If you don’t try to cast a big enough net and aren’t going to take the risk to try and get them in the first place, then you’ll never get them,” said Douma of upper-echelon recruits.

Sometimes coaches’ efforts are in vain. Not every cast reeds in a big fish.

However, the rewards of the recruiting process are evident to Coach Stiemsma.

“I really enjoy recruiting a lot,” he said. “It is a lot of time and travel, but Dordt is a great place to recruit to. I find it a tremendously rewarding and interesting venture.”
The Fantasticks will dazzle audiences

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

The world's longest-running musical is making its way to Dordt College! The Fantasticks, a musical by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, is a mixture of romance and adventure. With its captivating plot line and unconventional theatrical methods, The Fantasticks brings musical theatre to life with a wacky yet lovable cast of characters.

“The Fantasticks is so fantastic because it is a quirky, goofy show where people can be entertained by all the actors,” said freshman Sophie Schmidt, who plays the role of Hucklebee. “It is definitely worth seeing!”

The cast is made up of only eight members and is directed by theatre arts professor Josiah Wallace.

The performance will be accompanied live by pianist Rantia Bandua and harpist Leanna Bentz.

“I am really looking forward to having the whole show come together with costumes and lights and props,” Schmidt said. “Josiah is a great director and has done a great job getting us all ready for the show! My favorite part of the production is the fact that we are such a small cast, we get along very well and grow in relationships with one another.”

Cast member Jennifer Allen believes the show is about discovery and exploration.

“It’s practically a parallel story to what we are going through in college right now,” Allen said. “It’s a fun show to see, and it’s a great thing to be a part of.”

Tillema and de Waal take NC/DC

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

Dordt senior Kelsey Tillema accompanied by fellow senior Sara de Waal won NC/DC 2014. Tillema sang “Gravity” by Sara Bareilles and “Rumor Has It” by Adele to secure the first place. Tillema sang “Gravity” by Sara Bareilles in 2013 to claim first place. “It was a crazy whirlwind,” de Waal said. “Many students have an attitude of not even trying before the competition.”

Tillema and de Waal plan to split the prize money. “We wanted to do ‘Rumor Has It’ by Adele, so we asked Audrey,” Tillema said. “She made that song sound so great.”

Tillema and de Waal plan to split the prize money. “Tillema plans to convert her winnings to ‘free fun money’ and may acquire new clothes and a few new shades of lipstick,” Fynaardt said.

NATS

Continued from page 3

If you're not comfortable standing in front of a judge, then that stress comes through in your singing,” said Fynaardt. “You need to be able to stand in front of judges and not freeze up or get nervous. I want to go to seminary and become a preacher, and I know that when I get up in front of people as a preacher, they will be judging me. So learning how to feel comfortable in front of people now will help me later.”

Not only can the student performers learn from their NATS experience, but the teachers who go as judges can learn as well. Pam De Haan, a vocal instructor at Dordt, believes that the judges can take advantage of this opportunity too.

“I go looking for new literature and ideas for my own students,” said De Haan. “As a judge, I can see the bar that has been set for where students should be and I can ask myself, ‘Are my students at that bar?’”

Deordt usually sends at least ten students to NATS every year, but this year the turn out was low. Fynaardt believes that students should be taking this opportunity while they can.

“Many students have an attitude of just getting through lessons for their scholarships,” said Fynaardt. “But this is the only opportunity you’ll get to do this. Take advantage of it; excel rather than coast through it all.”

De Haan encourages her vocal students to experience NATS.

“It takes initiative on their part,” said De Haan. “I know they’re going above and beyond the normal requirements. But they’ll be able to see self-improvement and begin to enjoy singing at the performance level!”
Blast from the past
Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

First off, just to put this out there, I am currently using Microsoft Office Word 2007 to write this. Those reasons will not be disclosed. Second off, I just watched what could be considered the best movie of 2001. Just kidding, but at the same time...

Yeah, I’m kidding.

Now before I make the final reveal of the Kaiser review of this semester, you need to be aware of something. Whenever I get stressed, or get hit by large bouts of anxiety, I watch ridiculous movies. If you haven’t figured it out already, here it is: When I’m talking ridiculous, I’m talking lame movies usually from the late 90’s to early 2000’s. What do all of those films include? Pitiful fashion choices, a Bowling for Soup soundtrack, and Freddie Prince Jr. On the bright side, I figure that since I haven’t even turned 20 yet, I can get away with it.

So this is me, getting away with it.

If anyone has heard of the movie Max Keeble’s Big Move, you have to agree with me. It was, potentially, the pinnacle of your childhood. Right now, that VHS is sitting in a closet in the basement of my house, unfortunately. If you want to borrow it, page my Dad. Otherwise, you can watch it online...

For three bucks.

The story summed up in a nutshell is that this seventh grader finds out he’s moving to Chicago. He decides to get revenge on all of the bullies, including his principal, before he ships out. Get it, got it, good. Plot twist. He doesn’t actually end up moving, so either he has to set things straight, or watch his best friends get pounded for the rest of their high school lives. When I was 10, this kid was my hero. He still is. Except he was in Home Alone 3 and that was awful. That’s where the line gets fuzzy, but all actors have to start somewhere.

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The golden elements of this film:
1. Evil ice cream man that dresses like an umpire
2. Australian tuba players
3. Josh Peck wearing a bathrobe
4. The older brother from Malcolm in the Middle
5. The fact that the secretary’s last name is “Rangoon”
6. Random Tony Hawk cameo
7. 1985, Tomato Face Callahan. Held come right up to you and shove a tomato in your face.
8. It doesn’t remind me of my middle school experience whatsoever.

Ok fine. The movie overall is dumb and predictable, but it’s pretty hilarious. Slightly hilarious. I find almost everything funny. It’s my human flaw. If your younger siblings haven’t seen this, do them a favor and watch it with them. And then after Max Keeble, watch all three Mighty Ducks films in a row. If your main character’s name in real life is Emilio, it has to be good.

Also, there’s a cafeteria food fight (obviously), but they end up creating the best rig that has inspired millions of pubescent teenagers. They hook up a leaf blower to a tuba and then dump mustard into the large opening of the instrument. Mustard, spewing out of the mouth hole—who can I pay to think up brilliant ideas like that for me? “Can’t catch up, because it’s mustard!” Oh Josh Peck. You truly can do no harm.

This is a farewell to all of my beloved Dordt students that take the time to read my nonsense. Good luck to everyone during finals week. Actually, good luck to everyone that reads this article. Attempt to make me proud. See you on the flipside.

Off-season continued

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Science Building Update
According to Arlan Nederhoff, Vice President of Business Affairs at Dordt College, the science building construction is pretty much on schedule. The completion date is set for August 1, 2014, in order that faculty and staff can be moved in prior to the start of the fall semester classes.

Some could argue that the fall season would be impossible without the spring season. Not only do players work on certain parts of their games and apply them in friendly competition, but they also get to construct a routine that will enable them to be the best they can be come fall.

Off season isn’t such an off season after all.