said he was shocked by the response that Santorum gave him.

“It's sort of preposterous because I guess he expected softball questions and not such a loaded question like that,” said Walters. “As someone who is in the minority here, I need to speak up for other people that might feel the same way. After the Santorum discussion broke out, people have come to me saying thank you for speaking up because they’ve been too afraid to articulate their thoughts to fellow Dordt students for fear that they might be hostile.”

Later in the questioning, Santorum responded with a list of consequences that were posed were somewhat confrontational, I thought that both the questioner, but then also the whole I was surprised that both questioner and the speaker maintained their composure.”

Senator Santorum immediately responded with, “You go to Dordt College, and you asked that question?”

Because the stereotype of Dordt College and northwest Iowa is often considered to be fairly conservative, Santorum seems to assume that the majority of Dordt students think conservatively. Walters, however, brought to light that not all students are of the same mindset.

In a later interview, Walters was “clearly agitated” when he responded to the questions that were posed were somewhat confrontational, I thought that both the questioner, but then also the whole I was surprised that both the questioner and the speaker maintained their composure.”

Santorum was “testy” and “condescending,” according to the CNN article.

“Really? Wow,” Santorum said. “I think the students stated themselves fairly clearly, and Santorum was high-minded in his responses and honestly rude,” said student Nick Van Ee, “particularly towards Kornelis.”

Walters also felt as though Santorum could have reacted in a different manner than he did. “I believe it was unprofessional of him to turn questions back at me, rather than answer the benefits of the audience,” commented Walters.

Jeff Taylor believes these articles released in the media make Santorum out to be the bad guy, more so than he really is. “I do think the media is portraying it as though he lost his cool and got testy,” said Taylor. “I didn’t see it that way. I thought he was forceful, but I don’t think that he was angry.”

Even though Walters had a nerve-wracking, face-to-face debate with Santorum, he feels positively about where this will lead him and fellow Dordt students who have the same beliefs as him. “I would just like this to be a learning experience for both myself and other Dordt students,” asserted Walters. “I would like it to be a sort of catalyst for discussion on what our roles should be at the individual level, at the church level, and as a federal government to care for our poor. Hopefully, this discussion will continue to happen.”

Rumors of off-campus housing cleared up

Rachel Mulder  
Staff Writer

Housing is a hot topic with college students, especially before breaks and around registration times. And once again, the conversation has come up. There is a rumor going around about the age for off-campus housing being lowered, due to the fact that Dordt’s residence halls and apartments are so full.

“That’s the first I’ve heard of it. No, it’s not in the plans,” said Robert Taylor, Director of Residence Life at Dordt College.

The apartments are very crowded this year, but that isn’t a reason for Dordt to change the off-campus housing age requirements. They are working on plans to potentially fix the problem on campus for students.

“We’re working on some things that have not been approved yet, so I can’t say what they are, but I certainly don’t like the way things went last year,” remarked Taylor.

Dordt only owns two building that are used for off-campus housing – one has eight apartments and the other has four apartments.

“These are used by-and-large for staff members and graduate assistants. It’s a good back-up plan when we have certain situations,” stated Taylor.

Students who live off campus pay the same amount for housing as they would if they lived on campus in any of the three apartment buildings, but hopefully, the community at Dordt, as well as Kuyper apartments keeps some students on campus.

“The whole focus is we want to keep our older students on campus because we believe they set the tone for the rest of campus. Hopefully the students who have been through our program for four years know how to help others along,” Taylor said.

Married couples also have to find their own housing off campus. Dordt doesn’t provide that service for those students any more.

“We’ve tried to do married housing at times, but we are so close to capacity every year, that even if it looked like it would be possible to house a few [married couples], we better just stay away from that,” stated Taylor.

“We found that we can alleviate some of the stress without letting people move off campus…that’s not happening. We just want to make [the housing situation] better,” asserted Taylor.
News

What’s new with PLIA?

Adam McDonald
Editor

Toronto, California, Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, and Denver are just a few of the locations PLIA (Putting Love Into Action) will be going this year, but since the success of this Spring Break event continues to grow, new locations such as Cincinnati, Argentina, and Carmel will be added to the list of options for students to choose.

“Most people start their trip thinking they’re going to help others, but in the end the people and ministries that you help give you so much back and give you a better understanding of the Body of Christ and how people live in other parts of North America,” said junior BJ Ryks, co-chair of PLIA. “It gives students a chance to indulge in and help others instead of themselves on Spring Break - very contrary to the typical idea of spring break. Plus, it’s cheaper than flying home for break and way more fun.”

The three newest locations - Cincinnati, OH; Argentina, KS; and Carmel, NY - are available to Dordt students, places that previously haven’t been options. However, sometimes raising money for the trip can be stressful and hectic.

In order to raise money, students can send out support letters to family, friends, and their church. They can also volunteer at fund raisers, such as tip nights and the pancake supper.

“We’ve only had our Leader and Early Bird deadlines so far, but we’d love to see 140 or more participants,” said junior Karisa Vander Groef, co-chair of PLIA.

PLIA is more than just serving a group of people, but it’s also about building community with fellow Dordt students. “It’s hard to choose a favorite part,” stated Vander Groef. “I guess having the chance to serve with a group of fellow students you don’t know very well, but then ending up becoming such a close group! I felt so much withdrawal after the trip thinking they’re going to need me, but it’s also about building community with fellow students you don’t know very well when you get back.”

PLIA lasts ten days. If you want to help others, want to meet new people, and want to create lasting memories, then leave the beach towel in your drawer, your sunglasses in your car, and roll up your sleeves. It’s time for PLIA!

Outside beverages now banned at sporting events

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

Recently the Dordt athletics department approved a new policy banning outside beverages and containers from home Dordt sporting events.

“This is another way of trying to help young people make wise choices,” asserted Glenn Bouma, Dordt’s Director of Athletics. “We know there is some concern, so we are addressing it.”

Bouma indicated sporting events would most likely see staff and security personnel in order to promote college policy at indoor sporting events in both the DeWitt Gymnasium and the All Seasons Center.

“Most students don’t know this, but the All Seasons Center already had a policy for the community regarding outside drinks and bottles,” Bouma said. “We’re just trying to create a healthy, family-friendly policy that promotes the laws of the city and of Dordt College.”

Only several sporting events have been held since the enactment of the policy on November 30, but many students are already speaking their minds.

“Dordt knows that students are bringing alcohol into those events, most specifically the hockey games,” stated student Alex Updike. “All the students know who the students are who do it, and it’s kind of unfortunate that Dordt is forced to enforce a rule for everyone because of only a few students.”

“At most sporting events that I have attended, rarely do they let fans take any snacks or beverages into games,” said Kyle De Boer. “I assumed that was the same at Dordt events.”

Other students were more concerned about having to purchase drinks inside the sporting event.

“I guess it seems a bit harsh to ban all drinks, especially if you include water. Some of those events can be rather long, and frankly, I don’t feel like I should have to pay for drinks as well,” stated Erin Cordell.

“I’d rather bring in a hot chocolate or pop of my own than having to buy one,” said Cassie Holwerda.

But many students did not seem to mind the policy, as long as it remained an issue only at sporting events.

“As long as we can still bring our coffee into class without somebody smelling it or taking a sip out of it, I will be happy,” said Jason Schuringa.
Three Dordt students receive highest FFA award

Kristina Heflin  
Staff Writer

“I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words, but of deeds.” In the Dordt College Agriculture department, these words of the FFA Creed are especially exemplified by three students who recently received their American Degrees at the 84th Annual National FFA Convention.

Geoffrey Stout, Sarah Van Den Berg attended the convention, which was held Oct. 19-22 in Indianapolis, to receive the highest award available to members of the Future Farmers of America. This year they joined 88 other students from Iowa and approximately 3,500 students from across the nation.

“I won’t deny it’s a lot of work, but I think the payoff in the end is worth it. A very small percentage of members actually get it,” Schultz stated.

The award requires an extensive amount of paperwork in the application based on at least three years (typically more) of work on the student’s Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE), as well as an evaluation of the student’s volunteer work, GPA, and leadership abilities.

According to the National FFA website, students’ SAEs are “planned, practical activities conducted outside of class time that help students develop and apply agricultural knowledge and skills learned inside the classroom. These activities can include entrepreneurship, placement (paid or unpaid), or research/experimentation.”

Dordt’s students say they have greatly benefitted from the leadership skills gained in the application of these projects.

“It really built up my ambition and gave me something to do, somewhere I could belong.” said Van Den Berg.

Though only one of the students is now pursuing an agriculture related degree, all agreed that the experience and the hours of work that went into the pursuit of such an outstanding award would leave a lasting impression on their lives.

“It taught me to be on that wall.”

“My experiences in the FFA gave me a greater appreciation for agriculture,” he said. “There’s more to it than just hooking up your tractor and planting crops, even though that can be fun too!”

The pursuit of the degree not only produces character qualities in students, but can also reveal characteristics already in place, such as determination and ambition.

“A week before finals, Dordt’s campus is filled with holiday festivities. Gifts are given and received. Santa hats and horrendous Christmas sweaters are worn to class, and a CDA-sponsored Christmas house competition have taken place. Residence Life and the Kuyper Scholars, among other clubs and organizations, have already enjoyed their annual Christmas festivities by gathering at staffs’ homes for meals, commemorating the year’s accomplishments, and dressing up as Santa Claus.

Yet, among all the fun, Dordt may have missed the Reason for the Season: Christ’s birth. While lights, greenery, trees, and bright red hats fill the buildings on campus, nativity scenes are scarce. The clock tower rings out more secular Christmas songs than Christian. Even the Christmas Tree Lighting, planned to become an annual event, almost left out the real Christmas story of a baby born in a manger to save mankind’s lives by secularizing its festivities and only including two Christian Christmas songs.

“Don’t forget the reason for the season.”

Kristin Janssen  
Staff Writer

Students and staff were privileged to arrive back on campus after an accounting Thanksgiving break. The return was made even more joyous by the decorative holiday touch created on campus. From a giant Christmas tree outside the Admissions Office to literary legends decked out with Christmas hats in the library, this campus is full of holiday enthusiasm.

While Residence Life and Student Symposium members donned Christmas hats and hand-delivered tootsie roll-flavored hot chocolate to onlookers, Dordt’s campus and the Sioux Center community gathered in the center of campus to light a Christmas tree for the holiday season last Tuesday night. Darin Lamers thoroughly enjoyed the first-year event, commenting, “I especially enjoyed the hot chocolate! It brought much joy and warmth to my Tuesday evening!”

The large crowd gathered across the cement between the giant evergreen tree outside of the Eckards Lounge and the clock tower.

President and Mrs. Zylstra recited a traditional Christmas story and greeted the hot chocolate-sipping crowd. Soon to follow the greetings was the first annual lighting of the Christmas tree.

The massive tree outside the Campus Center now lights up campus and can be seen all the way from Covenant dorm rooms on the opposite side of campus.

After the Christmas tree lighting, the crowd turned around to see the Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Ben Kornelis, staged unassuming holiday favorites such as “O Holy Night,” “Silent Night,” and “Silent Bells.”

Sleigh bells jingled in the distance as a large sleigh gave rides around campus, while the sleigh-leading horses left their mark all over campus sidewalks.

“Only three people from my chapter had ever gotten the degree, and their pictures were all framed on my ag teacher’s wall,” stated Van Den Berg. “I wanted to be on that wall.”

Schultz jokingly summed up what he saw as the most important aspect of this award. “It’s taught me that life and farming are a lot like legalized gambling. All sorts of hazards can happen; you never really know what to expect.”
Political Poll

Who would YOU vote for?

Compiled by Kelly Zatlin, Editor

With the Iowa caucuses coming up on January 4, students are starting to think about who they might vote for in the GOP presidential race. The top three candidates in the race, according to polls, are currently Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, and Mitt Romney. The caucus will show who will win Iowa’s vote, and since Iowa is a swing state, the outcome could pave the way for the rest of the election. Whichever candidate wins the primary will go up against Obama in the November 2012 presidential election. According to thepresidentialcandidates.us the approval ratings are Newt Gingrich at 31 percent, Mitt Romney at 17 percent and Ron Paul at 16 percent. Let’s see what some Dordt students think:

Nick Van Ey:
“I’m independent but I would vote for Ron Paul primarily because of his stance on the craziness of the war we’re fighting. I think he is valid in his understanding of how our actions precipitated those events.”

Jillian Hooyer
“I would probably vote for Mitt Romney because he’s done a lot of work outside the political spectrum so that he could bring his experience and help change the way we’re going. Even a slight change would be better than what’s going on now.”

Michael Gorter
“I’m leaning towards Newt Gingrich, but I would have to look into his beliefs more. Michele Bachman would be second, but she doesn’t really have a good chance anymore.

Bri Zandstra
“I would say Newt Gingrich because he takes a strong stand on a lot of things. Even though I might not agree with them all, I like a person that is consistent.

Nate Tenbroek
I would vote for Mitt Romney because he has the best chance of beating Obama.

Brooke Veurink
“I’d probably have to do more research and see the candidate’s values and morals of where they stand with abortion and gay marriage — people’s rights in general.”
Opinion

Small Beginnings

This fall, I was encouraged to make a list of ten goals. The list has been tucked away on my desk all semester, but I haven’t paid much attention to it. Looking at it now, I’ve realized that I set my goals too high. If you’re in the same boat as me—realizing you didn’t get everything done that you wanted to during the semester—hoping to grow more spiritually and didn’t, or whatever the case may be—then I want to offer encouragement. Even if you’re not feeling that way, maybe you can take this away for further use.

It’s an Old Testament parallel from Zechariah 4:6-10 (New Living Translation). Take a few minutes to read it and then reflect with this column.

God’s people have just been released out of captivity in Babylon. God’s Temple is in ruins. The Temple has to be rebuilt, and God tells Zechariah that Zerubbabel is going to lay the foundation of His Temple and complete it (vs 8). And how is this going to happen? Not by force or strength, but by God’s Spirit (vs 6). With God’s Spirit, Zerubbabel will not be stopped by anything. The biggest mountains will be come level fields that cannot keep him from setting the capstone of the Temple in place. So even though Zerubbabel might look at all the work that has to be done on the Temple and feel discouraged, God tells him, “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begins...” God is trying to give Zerubbabel a little pep-talk. Now here’s the parallel: We’re God’s people released out of captivity in sin. God’s Temple—which is our own bodies according to 1 Cor. 6:19—may not be in total ruins, but they’re certainly in need of some rebuilding. Our Temple has to be rebuilt, and God is telling us that we will lay the foundation and complete it. And how is this going to happen? It’s not by using our efforts to get good or to have really strong self-discipline. It’s by His Spirit! With God’s Spirit, we will not be stopped by anything. The biggest obstacles in our walk with God will become level fields that cannot keep us from setting Christ, the capstone of our Temple, in place. Even though we might look at all the work that has to be done, we are reassured that God and the Temple are not discouraged, God tells us, “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” The beginnings are small, but the capstone—the perfect finishing-touch—will be set. And when that happens, we will shout: “God bless it! God bless it!” Do not despise your beginnings, no matter how small. Simply continue to look forward, relying on His Spirit’s power and blessings, knowing that God is rejoicing to see you become more like Him.

Danae Geels Columnist

Turning Thoughts into "Things"

So here we are, at the end of the fall semester -- the end of 2011. Where has the time gone? Almost all the madness of a "dead week" that doesn’t really exists. Take time to reflect on all you took for granted.

No really, find a quiet place and just reflect on how far you have come in just a semester’s time.

Indulge in the sweet new memories -- The lack of winter in the fall, new friends, and those epic late night parties.

There is no coincidence that you are where you are simply because of what you have already done.

The end of the beginning is really bittersweet. By now you have become fully engaged in the Dordt community, and have had great feats wrestling through the tough times.

Not trying to be sappy, but this year for me has been nothing less than remarkable.

I have the greatest roommates. They have made this year a great one so far. Shout out to them for being awesome.

Okay, fair enough. No more reflecting, it’s time to press on and move forward!

Grab a piece of paper and make a list of things you weren’t able to do. Don’t forget to include your academic goals. Seriously though, make it a fun list.

I challenge you, personally, to see to it that you meet your goals this coming semester!

I won’t doubt you for one second.

I wish you good luck as you complete your finals; Finish strong.

I do hope you enjoyed reading my columns as much as I enjoy writing them.

And to all, I wish you a happy holiday season.

Until next time, exercise gratitude and lead by serving others.

Thank you for reading.

Alex Henderson Columnist

Senioritis

I thought about giving this column a subtitle, but that might imply that this is a respectable piece of literature. Somehow, I think nobody really wants to believe that. So, no subtitle. But if I had to, I guess I would give this week’s masterpiece the subtitle of “Goodbye pt. 1.”

No, I’m not leaving—stop jumping up and down ecstatically.

Other people, however, fellow students and friends of mine, are going to be finished with Dordt come Christmas time. They’ll leave for their respective corners of the universe, with no guarantee of return, except for maybe graduation. Hence, “Goodbye pt. 1.”

And with so-long, farewell, and auf wiedersehen, right around the corner, a lot of us have somehow dominate my thought process lately: last. This is the last time I’ll watch a movie with this person. This is the last Blades game we’ll go to. This is the last time we stuff six adult males into a five-person car for a road trip to Sioux City; seriously, guys, that was painful. I should know, I’ve been here three years. Actually, I’ve been here since the fall of 2008. No, I’m not leaving—stop jumping up and down ecstatically. Other people, however, fellow students and friends of mine, are going to be finished with Dordt come Christmas time. They’ll leave for their respective corners of the universe, with no guarantee of return, except for maybe graduation. Hence, “Goodbye pt. 1.”

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Life is a blessing, and every moment you breathe is a gift. At any moment it can be all taken from you in a blink of an eye. Enjoy the blessings that the generations before you have bled for. Remember who you are, where you came from, and where we all came from.

It’s 70 years since December 7, 1941—seventy years since the attack on Pearl Harbor, the opening battle of a war that couldn’t end for four long years, a war that engaged Europe for even longer. Think of that sometime. Think of how much was sacrificed for you to have the life you have.

Adrian Hielema Columnist

Hank Houtman Columnist

As Christmas approaches and the time when families get together for the Holiday’s, I cannot help but remember the blessings we have. No matter where we’re from or whatever we’ve been through, all of us have many blessings that we take for granted. Yes, times may be tough, and, yes, sin still afflicts our lives, but we’re free. We are free to worship how we like, free to eat and drink what we like, and free to walk around without having to fear for our lives.

North Americans and even North American Christians are surrounded with the many blessings we have. Many of us complain about every little detail of our lives and rarely stop to remember our blessings. Maybe it’s time to stop whining. Nobody cares about our little American complaints. We are immensely blessed, and it’s time to recognize that. You took a good grade, you got the part you’ve always wanted, you might be breaking the law—well, too bad. Suck it up and face the consequences of your actions.

As Thanksgiving came and went, I pondered what I wanted to thank for and realized how truly blessed we all are. We are at a college where we are able to understand this world as His, not ours. Each day we can grow more deeply and broadly in our faith. We are surrounded by friends who would gladly sit down and enjoy reasonable conversation with us, and yet we complain? Just 50 years ago college was not even an option for most people, and yet we altogether too simply take it for granted.

I challenge you to go out and pursue the blessings you have. Strive to go one day with out complaining about one single thing.

Alex Henderson Columnist
Sports

Football good for Dordt? Yes!

Jordan Harmelink
Staff Writer

With the 2011 football season completed, it is time for coaches and players to reflect on the season and begin preparing for next season's campaign. One major change that has occurred within the coaching staff, as head coach John Heavner resigned from his position two days after an instant replay game as a head coach at Dordt College.

Heavner was hired as Dordt’s first head football coach in 2006. Fielding a junior varsity squad in 2007 and a varsity squad a year later, Heavner built the Defender football program to what it is today. After a season that ended on November 12 with a record of 2-9, Heavner decided it was time to resign from the program that he started. Heavner guided Dordt College to six wins and six losses in one season of junior varsity and three seasons of varsity.

Since Heavner’s resignation, Dordt College has received high interest from a variety of former football team college coaches about the vacant position.

With Paterno’s retirement and Dordt College beginning its search for a new head coach, the Dordt College football program, a lot of discussion took place about whether or not it would be sustainable for the Dordt College community. So in March of 2005, a committee was put together to analyze whether or not football was a possibility within the Dordt College community.

One of the biggest questions regarding whether or not Dordt should get football was if football would be compatible with the mission of Dordt College.

Section II of the “Football Feasibility Task Force Report” states, “Dordt’s mission is to equip its student athletes with a Reformed, biblical understanding of play, game, and sport for lives of services to God and others. A lofty goal that is questionably attainable if it can be done in some sports with physical contact-like lacrosse or hockey, it can be done in football.”

Football on campus was viewed as a “serviceable in-site” provided by not only football, but in all Dordt College athletics that would “carry over into the variety of vocations these athletes will experience following college.”

Like most sports on campus, the goal of the game is to score points and win, not to hurt people; although the threat of injury is always there in athletics. Looking at the committee’s concern of whether or not Dordt football would sustain the mission of the college, it is safe to say it has. This year’s and last year’s senior football players graduated and many of them will further God’s kingdom in whatever ways they are called.

Another problem that was brought up in this task force is whether or not Dordt College players are “jocks” and only hang out with each other. The committee wanted to analyze how the culture of the football team would be received among the other students. At first, it was fairly obvious that many of the football players on campus did not connect well with other students, but that has changed significantly over the past three years.

“I think that at first, who we are as a team, ourselves and maybe think they were better than the rest of us,” senior Matt Van Bosch stated. “That has changed significantly.

Of course the easy solution for Dordt College would be to just cut the football program all together. But if football, like other physical sports, can be played in a way that pleases God, why not keep it? Dordt made it a point to hire a coach that will teach his players to first, glorify God, and second, play football. Dordt succeeded with Heavner and we can trust that the new coach will do the same.

Ask an Athlete

Shanna Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Dordt College cross-country coach Greg Van Dyke has been named the 2011 Hauff Mid-America Sports/Great Plains Athletic Conference Men’s Cross Country Coach of the Year. What is his key to success? What do you think he has done to help his players to be the best they can be? What are his goals for the team?

What is your full name? What is your family name? Where are you from?

“Greg David Van Dyke.”

“Sheldon, Iowa.”

Are you married? Do you have any kids?

“married. Yes, two kids.”

“Sheldon, Iowa.”

“Sheldon, Iowa.”

“Yes, two kids. Jaida is actually going to be 4 on Thursday, December 8, and Poppy was born November 8, so she is about a month old.”

Are you a Dordt graduate? What year are you graduated?

“Yes, I am. I graduated in 2002.”

What is your favorite part about coaching cross-country?

“I am competitive, so I like the competition side of it and seeing how the athletes perform.”

What do you look for when trying to coach athletes?

“First of all, a talented runner but also what other things they can bring to the team. Things like personality, leadership, their faith — and if they are going to be a good fit on our team. With cross country, the team dynamic is very important because you are running with each other and supporting each other.”

What’s your best quality or ability?

“I have a little bit of road rage.”

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What do you think sets you apart from other coaches? What do you do differently?

“The award was a fun honor just because I enjoy helping the other coaches in ALL sports — should have decided when and how he went down inside the program of the college, it is safe to say it has. This year’s and last year’s senior football players graduated and many of them will further God’s kingdom in whatever ways they are called.”

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“First of all, a talented runner but also what other things they can bring to the team. Things like personality, leadership, their faith — and if they are going to be a good fit on our team. With cross country, the team dynamic is very important because you are running with each other and supporting each other.”

What do you think sets you apart from other coaches? What do you do differently?

“The award was a fun honor just because I enjoy helping the other coaches in ALL sports — should have decided when and how he went down inside the program of the college, it is safe to say it has. This year’s and last year’s senior football players graduated and many of them will further God’s kingdom in whatever ways they are called.”

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On January 12, the 48-hour competition for the Film Challenge begins. Each team must write, film, and edit a movie within 48-hours that includes a random, predetermined element. It must fit into four specific categories: Genre, Props, Line of Dialogue, and Character. “Sky’s the limit,” said V olkers. Each team will receive an e-mail at 4 p.m. on January 12 that includes the elements they must incorporate into their film in order to qualify. This not only “keeps it challenging,” as Volkers said, but it also “keeps everybody honest because they don’t know what type of film they will be making.”

“Sleep optional weekend,” is what team members often call the weekend of the contest, stated Volkers.

Junior V ero Visser Galvan, majoring in Digital Media Production, has experienced this firsthand and is planning on entering into the contest again this year. “It is so awesome, the time goes by so fast!” exclaimed Galvan.

“I like coming up with ideas,” she said. “You have to come up with ideas so fast, but in the end, you’ll be really proud of it.”

“You’ll learn more in 48 hours than I can teach you in an entire semester,” Volkers said when commenting on Dordt students’ own involvement in the contest.

“We learn a bunch of stuff in class, and everything I learned in class I was able to apply to the video,” agrees Galvan. “The only way to really learn what you see in theory is putting it into practice.”

“Having ‘content worth consumption’ is one of the things judges look at when evaluating the films. “It’s all about story,” Volkers said, not “being foul and vile for the sake of being foul and vile.”

“The video making and the professionalism adds to it, but the heart of the competition is a good story,” asserted Galvan. “I hope I can make a good story with my teammates, and besides that, add to what we’ve been learning in class.”

“(The contest) gives everybody a chance to see what they’re made of, [or] what they can do,” Volkers said. It challenges students to “show the world there’s as much talent here as anywhere else.”

“As soon as we were done with the video, we were like ‘let’s do it again!’” stated Galvan.

Look for updates as well as rules and regulations on Dordt’s website at Dordt.edu/filmchallenge.

Choral Caroling for Christmas

On the third weekend in February will remain the date for the film challenge awards ceremony, but the second weekend will be transformed into the Prairie Grass Snow Sculpting contest and ceremony. Each registered team will be given a 66 foot block of snow and allowed 48 hours to sculpt it, based on a provided theme, with judging taking place within an hour of the contest’s close.

“I’ve never built a snow sculpture before, but think it would be a blast to try and do it,” asserted Volkers.

The remaining two weekends of February will each get their own 48-hour challenges over the next two years, explained Volkers. These may include a 48-hour dance choreography contest and a 48-hour "project runway" style fashion contest.

Chorale is one of four curricular choral ensembles in Dordt’s music program; students are chosen by audition at the beginning of each semester.

Although Chorale may be a class, it doesn’t feel that way to the students involved. There is still plenty of time for jokes, laughter and great memories. “Janie Hoezee and I both decided to join together and ended up sitting by each other, so we have lots of laughs trying to sing like we’re in the opera,” said junior Ellie Dykstra. “Choir wouldn’t be the same without her.”

Dykstra’s favorite part about caroling is simply singing together. “The chorale is full of so many talented voices, I love when we’re singing through a song and the choir reaches the climax of the piece and the sound is so powerful it gives me goose bumps.”

So if you are looking for top quality Christmas carols, look no further than Dordt’s Chorale. Soon enough, Chorale will be ringing their silver bells and wishing you a very merry Christmas.
Ask a Musician

Many of us can not identify with the typical student who has a band or orchestra in their life. While most of us, to some extent, have studied music, there are those who not only love it but have dedicated themselves to the study of music. Although music is a universal language, the amount of people who are interested in learning it is limited to many of us. Why is that? We will be hearing from a student who has studied music in depth and is sharing her perspective with us.

Adam McDonald
Editor

Normally, we ask an athlete on their opinions, thoughts, and beliefs on why the world goes “round”. But what about musicians? Thankfully, you can stop asking yourself this question. We have junior Camille Pechin to offer us insights on life, love, and the violin.

What instrument do you play?
The violin

How long have you been playing?
I started just before I turned five, so sixteen years.

What made you decide to pick that instrument?
I actually don’t even really remember. It’s hard for me to remember a time when I didn’t play. It feels like I always have.

What time did you get up this morning?
7:45

Who would win in a fight? Steve Irwin or Chuck Norris with a broken leg?
I would be able to fly. It would be such an adrenaline rush, and I could go anywhere!

If you could have any superpower, what would you choose and why?

If you could date any celebrity, who would you choose and why? "laughs" Getting a little personal, aren’t you? I can’t let just anyone know my type.

What is your favorite TV show? I’ve never really watched much TV. Growing up my family actually didn’t have one for a while. When I’m home though, I do love watching sports with my dad. Does that count as a show?

Underwater. I’ve always wanted to go scuba diving, and there would be so many different beautiful things to see. If you could do ANYTHING for your future job, what would you choose? "Why?"

If I could live for a year or more in every country I would in a second. There are so many different cultures in this world; I want to immerse myself into all of them! Not to just visit places but to really get to know and understand them, to get to know and love the people.

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