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Three Faculty Leave Their Mark at Dordt

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JAMES SCHAAP TELLS STORIES FROM THE PAST

We call people ‘senile’ when they don’t know the past anymore. Sometimes I think as a culture we’re approaching a kind of senility.” Emeritus Professor of English James C. Schaap’s latest venture with a local radio station is helping provide an antidote through stories of local people and events mostly lost from memory.



James Schaap

KWIT radio, NPR’s Sioux City, Iowa, affiliate, has partnered with Schaap to broadcast a weekly radio show called Small Wonders. Addressing an audience of listeners across Siouxland, Schaap shares stories he’s written about the region’s past and people, bringing to life an earlier era.

“Siouxland is my adopted home. Sometimes I think we don’t appreciate the lively history of the region as much as we might,” says Schaap, a Wisconsin native. “Making that history a joy to the listener is a great deal of fun.”

“We call people ‘senile’ when they don’t know the past anymore. Sometimes I think as a culture we’re approaching a kind of senility.”

– Dr. James C. Schaap, emeritus English professor

In one of his favorite pieces, “Music of the Spheres,” Schaap shares a piece of history with a hint of imaginative embellishment. Peeking out at the world through the memoir of a young schoolteacher who traveled west to teach in a tiny sod hut in Iowa, Schaap reveals her sense of isolation on the prairie. “It must have been really lonely out there in those days, and I could feel her loneliness in the way she talked about the children,” Schaap says.



SARAH VANDER PLAATS (05)

Small Wonders is a Monday feature on KWIT radio. Stories also air online at kwit.org/term/small-wonder. Schaap continues to post on his blog, “Stuff from the Basement,” at siouxlander.blogspot.com.

THREE FACULTY LEAVE THEIR MARK AT DORDT

DR. WAYNE KOBES

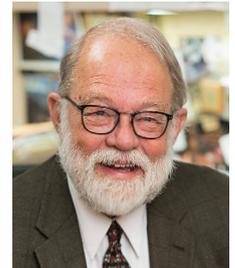
Professor of Theology Dr. Wayne Kobes, who first came to Dordt as a student in 1965, has served as a faculty member for 44 years. “As I look back and think about how I’ve changed since I set foot on this campus as a student until now, there’s a deeper joy knowing that this world belongs to God, that in Jesus Christ all things are being made new so that we can live out our lives in a bold humility,” says Kobes.



“Those really essential truths of Scripture come off Wayne’s tongue very, very easily because he believes them, he knows them, he lives them; I think we could all learn from that,” said Dordt President Erik Hoekstra in a retirement tribute to Kobes at the end of the year.

DR. ART ATTEMA

Professor of Business of Dr. Art Attema has served Dordt for 37 years. “He is a wise man who has an uncanny ability to see perceptively and find wisdom in people,” says Agriculture Professor Dr. Duane Bajema, who served with Attema for nearly four decades. Attema, who also attended Dordt as a student, intends to move to Minnesota with his wife following his retirement so he can spend more time pursuing his love of fishing and being part of the local community. “He has really enjoyed his work, and that has been obvious. He’s going to be missed,” says Laura Eekhoff, academic affairs executive assistant.



SANNEKE KOK

Coordinator of Academic Services for Minority and International Students Sanneke Kok served Dordt for 30 years. Kok was an adjunct language studies professor, teaching English for Academic Purposes and French Conversation. “Sanneke has a unique ability to empathize with those around her who are hurting and celebrate with those who are joyful,” said a co-worker in tribute to her service. Another said, “Sanneke has a deep sense of justice and advocates tirelessly for those who feel unheard.”

