Student Services adds new positions into the Residential Life organization

Nate Gibson
Staff Writer

Over the past several months, Student Services has devoted a large portion of their time and energy toward planning a new system for Residence Life for this fall. "We are trying to acknowledge the fact that younger students are at a different place than older students," said Sandi Altena, Director of Residence Life. "Younger students tend to struggle with persistence in learning, whereas older students are launching and becoming invested community members. There needs to be a distinction in how Res. Life works with both of these groups."

The changes came about in part due to an increase in at-risk students (that is to say, students in danger of failing) living in the dorms this past fall. "The number of at-risk students was higher because enrollment was so much higher," Altena said. "There is not enough data to suggest a trend of failure, but I think that we can do better."

The first major change will be the removal of RD/CA positions, at least as students know them. Instead, those supervisory responsibilities will be consolidated into two professional positions, called Area Coordinators, both of which will live off-campus.

Four Learning Community Assistants, newly created roles, will live in the former RD/CA apartments in North, East, West and Covenant Halls. These will be paid work-study positions open to juniors and seniors who have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher. LCAs will "provide more opportunities for students to be involved in the dorms," Altena explained. Along with the Area Coordinators, the LCAs will work with at-risk students in an attempt to intervene, maintain a dialogue with the student's academic advisor, and provide links to such resources as the ASK Center.

Altena anticipates that the LCAs will work to forge a stronger bond between professors and students. "Dordt has always been a college committed to the development of the whole student, but this particular model is much more holistic and comprehensive than anything we've ever done before in our residential community," Altena said.

Although the new system will still include 22 RAs (one per wing) in the dorms, some of the past RA responsibilities will be delegated to new volunteer positions: Program Advisors. PAs will be elected by fellow students to a council of hall representatives, and will be responsible for planning building activities and individual wing activities. These positions will be voted on next fall. In the East Campus and Southview Apartments, ten RA roles will be replaced by four Community Development Assistants. The CDAs will organize peer groups consisting of roughly 12 students who are interested in discipleship or outreach.

According to Altena, these groups will perform a variety of tasks in the broader community, such as speaking in chapels at local schools, leading worship in nearby churches, involvement in prison ministry and work at the homeless shelter.

In the case of both underclassmen in the dorms and upperclassmen in the apartments, Altena strives to "provide more opportunities for students to be leaders."

Other changes include the creation of a Campus Ministry Coordinator position and modifications to Altena's job description. "The Campus Ministry Coordinator will assist in the development of a Christian residential community," said Altena. "My position has been restructured to allow me to focus more specifically on the development of an educational residential community."

The new system has been met with mixed reviews among those students currently involved in Res. Life, but some of these students see the changes as having great potential for positive development. "There are good possibilities. Gauging the age group is important," the changes in the apartments, Elgersma said. "The new dynamic in East Campus will encourage ministry and service, which is awesome." As for the LCA system, he said, "It might be tough going at first, and it will require a collective effort between faculty and students in order to pull it off."

"Dordt has always been a college committed to the development of the whole student, but this particular model is much more holistic and comprehensive than anything we've ever done before in our residential community," Altena said. "If we raise the bar, our history says that the students will shine."
New music program plan creates student excitement and worry

Jessica Assink
Staff Writer

The impending cut of Dr. Robert Horton from the music department caused a stir on campus last semester, as students attended mass meetings and tried to do something to change the decision. Now the music department has made their plan for changing the music programs at Dordt public. The recently approved plan involves several deletions and additions, including the loss of the church music major and minor and the addition of a music management emphasis. The plan includes an artist-in-residence program and a general music minor.

Karen De Mol, chair of the music department, and the other music faculty presented the proposed plan to music students on Dec. 4 and subsequently submitted it for approval by the humanities department, the Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee and the Faculty Assembly. These committees have approved the changes, and the program revisions will go into effect during the 2008-09 school year.

The music faculty faced with the prospect of fewer teachers to cover their classes, decided to discontinue the church music major and minor, citing the low number of students in the program. No students are currently majoring in church music, and only one student has a church music minor. Although three church music courses are being cut, the faculty will develop a new church music course that will combine elements of the deleted courses.

Students are disheartened by the loss of the church music program. “It sends the signal to prospective students that we don’t care about that program and music in the church,” said Susan LeMahieu, a sophomore music education major. “As a student here, I know that is not true and that our music professors do care deeply about the program.”

“Most, if not all, musicians will be involved in their church using their musical skills,” said Elizabeth Walters, a junior music performance major and church music minor. “The more educated our musicians are in the area of church music, the better they can use their talent to help congregations worship more meaningfully.”

An addition to the department, the new artist-in-residence program, will “identify an artist who will be here several times a semester to perform, lead master classes and give other presentations,” said De Mol. Dr. Robert Horton, a current music professor whose position is being removed, will likely be the first such artist. While students are excited about this program and hope it works out, students do not think it will make up for the loss of a faculty position. “I think the additions are a way to make us ‘shut up’ so the administration can say ‘look what great programs we’re adding to help the music program. It sends the signal to prospective students that we don’t care about that program and music in the church,” said Susan LeMahieu, a sophomore music education major. “As a student here, I know that is not true and that our music professors do care deeply about the program.”

Another addition is a music management emphasis, a program that will assist students interested in both business and music. The music management emphasis requires an internship with an arts organization.

Some music majors are frustrated by the cuts and worry that the administration is to be disinterested. “Do they not realize that music is our future, what we came here for, part of the reason why we are here?” said Leah Radde, a sophomore music education major. “It sometimes doesn’t feel like they consider the students in all this.”

“I’m a freshman music major stepping right into the middle of a mess,” said Lee Radde. “They failed to mention the fact that they were cutting Dr. Horton from the music department on their informational brochures.

Some students are considering transferring because of these changes. “I am extremely worried that the intensity and excellence of the music program will not be what it used to be,” said Leah Radde. “It’s the only reason that the music professors will do all in their power to push their students to excellence, but how is this group going to make us shut up so the department stretched so thin?”

Members of the administration say that the low number of music majors compared to faculty members is one of the reasons for the cut, but several students noted that many non-majors are involved in the various ensembles. “64 percent of the people on the jazz band/orchestra tour were non-music majors,” said Leah Radde, a junior music performance major. “It’s such a great variety of people with different opinions and personalities all brought together by one common thing - music.”

While some Dordt students were frustrated by the cuts and worried that the music program was not going to be what it used to be, the faculty was disappointed by the cuts. “It hurts me to see our music department take a hit like this, especially when all I hear about in the Reformed faith is that we must reclaim every square inch of the Kingdom for God,” said Leah Radde. “Is music somewhere to be found in those square inches?”

Iowa Caucuses provide wide variety of experiences for students

Cheryl Hiemstra
Editor

While some Dordt students were hitting the slopes or working to pay the upcoming tuition during Christmas break, a few students got involved with the political realm, particularly in the Iowa Republican caucuses. The Jan. 3 caucuses were the first in the nation for this year.

Sophomore Joel Veldkamp attended the West Des Moines caucus because, he said, “I am very concerned about the 2008 election. Its effects will last decades, for better or worse.” Veldkamp was not the only one to feel concern about the upcoming election – leaders expected 150 people at the West Des Moines caucus, 300 came.

In Sioux Center, Brady Peters was surprised at the number of attendees. “The TePaske Theatre was full, even the back was full," said Peters. As with all caucuses, there was a chance for a supporter of each candidate, in a three minute speech, to explain the candidate’s platform and qualifications.

Cal Henderson, a Dordt Senior, gave the platform speech advocating Ron Paul at the Sioux Center caucus. Senior Sam Maly, a Ron Paul supporter, said that “Ron Paul is the only candidate promoting real change. All the others are promoting establishment.”

Senior Jared Zylstra, Ron Paul supporter, said that “I am a Ron Paul supporter, and I have voted for Ron Paul for president three times. I have never voted for any other candidate.”

“While there was a lot of support for Huckabee,” said Junior Brady Peters, who attended the Sioux Center caucus. Veldkamp said that at the West Des Moines caucus, “One guy stood up and claimed that while Fred Thompson was in the Senate he had conspired with the Clintons to sell military technology to the Chinese (or something like that). He was all ready to see a throw-down, but for some reason the organizers didn’t want to start a debate (their words), so they let the guy explain his conspiracy theory, and then went to the vote.”

Veldkamp and Sophomore Piper Kucera were invited by a Des Moines Register and PolitiFact reporter to submit videos about the caucuses. Veldkamp interviewed with Ron Paul and also a congressman from Ohio. “One of my videos was part of a montage of videos that was briefly on CBS Evening News,” said Veldkamp.

Sophomore Josh Knyazebrenik attended the Grant Township caucus. “Because the precinct is so small, they joined with another precinct for the Republican caucus. There were fifteen people from my precinct there,” said Knyazebrenik. “We one of the smallest in the state.” Knyazebrenik also mentioned his preference for caucuses, which have more of a discussion-based format than primaries. “It’s interesting to hear what people have to say,” he added.

Knyazebrenik said he stayed after the vote to talk about the platform of the Republican Party, what they stand for, and future plans.

Calendar of the February Primaries
Feb. 1: Maine
Feb. 5: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado (caucuses), Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho (D), Illinois, Kansas (D), Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico (D), New York, North Dakota (caucuses), Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah.
Feb. 9: Louisiana, Kansas (R), Washington (D caucuses)
Feb. 10: Maine (D caucuses)
Feb. 12: District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia
Feb. 19: Hawaii (D), Washington (R), Wisconsin
Comfortable Christians

Chris Natelborg
Guest Writer

"If I were to face death because of my faith in Jesus Christ, what would I do? Would I try to save my own life by denouncing my Savior, or would I willingly confess my faith?"

Ironically, we readily confess our faith every day, but without the threat of death. We're blessed to have religious freedom and little direct religious oppression in North America. As a result, we've become comfortable with our faith, but only as long as it keeps us feeling safe inside our "Christian" bubbles.

"We've become like the rich young man who approached Jesus asking, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"" If Jesus instructed him to sell everything he had and give to the poor, he walked away sad because he wasn't willing to give up his selfish desires for the sake of Christ."

He was comfortable as are we. Most of us will not deny that we enjoy our earthly lives. We would rather be comfortable with what we know than face the unknown of eternity. If we were faced with martyrdom, I fear the majority of us would choose ourselves over Christ.

The fundamental issue I'm addressing here is not how much or how little we already sacrifice for the sake of Christ. The problem is that our view of faith and sacrifice is distorted—we view it quantitatively, as if more faith and more sacrifice makes one a better Christian.

"When Christ called His disciples, He demanded all or nothing, and He demands the same from us. On our own, we are incapable of giving our all to Christ. Instead, we view what we are comfortable giving. Comfort, however, is irrelevant for the true follower of Christ, a "comfortable Christian" is an oxymoron. According to Scripture, a true believer is one who follows eagerly at the feet of Jesus, leaving family and desires behind. He or she is willing to bear scorn and oppression for the sake of the Gospel message, which is not just words—it's action. While a comfortable Christian is oxymoronic, an idle Christian is at the mercy of the devil."

"Our sinful nature prevents us from giving our all to Christ, but Christ says that "all things are possible with God" (Mk. 10:27)."

"What does this mean for you as a college student? Will you abandon your comfortable bubble and leave your selfish desires in the dust? Will you stop drinking, drinking, gossiping or judging? Will you replace those things with self-control, genuine love, truth and compassion? Or will you bow your head in shame, turn your back on your Savior and walk away sad, unwilling to forfeit your selfish ways of living?"

"Don't hesitate: die to yourself and live for Christ. Anything less is death."

"Will you abandon your comfortable bubble and leave your selfish desires in the dust?"

Democrats vs. Republicans

Micah Shuurman
Staff Writer

"Politicalins don't address the issues that people need to hear... and that is my Canadian perspective." - Justine Moelker

Senior

"People should think about caring less about your own country and more about other people's countries, eh?" - Jenna Veebaas

Staff Writer

"If I were American, I think healthcare would be a big issue... and what they are planning to do with troops in Iraq... and illegal immigration." - Tim Keep

Sophomore

"Foreign Policy. They don't seem to care about any country unless it directly affects them."

- Justin Vugteveen

Freshman

"We need a leader who is willing to talk to other countries on an equal footing. We need a leader who isn't in the pocket of big business. We need a leader and who is willing to put God's will on his/her agenda. We need someone who will be honest. We need someone who isn't a Republican or a Democrat. We need an independent."
Justice Matters potluck
Students and administration reacquainted

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

The Justice Matters club hosted a potluck last week in an effort to promote open dialogue and awareness between students and administration. The aroma of pasta, soup, stuffed tomatoes and fresh bread filled the lower level of the Campus Center. Students and faculty gathered around the table of homemade foods to discuss the ways Dordt’s campus could become more conscientious about social and environmental issues.

Many students do not know who the people on the administration are and the work they do,” said Micah Schuurman, member of JM. The administration is also unaware of issues students are passionate about and much of student life outside of class time, he said.

Members of JM also hoped the potluck would provide an opportunity for brainstorming with the administration about actions Dordt could take regarding social justice and environmental needs.

The goal was for the administration and students to come together to create a fuller picture of students, said Schuurman. Members of JM wanted the administration to see that students on campus care about these issues, he said.

Schuurman said events like the JM potluck are beneficial for both students and administration because “it broadens our perspective of what campus community is.”

President Zylstra attended the potluck and said he was excited about the mission of Justice Matters. He said he was previously unaware of many of the events and activities JM hosts. For example, he said, “I didn’t know that there was a Creation Care club… that was really interesting because I wasn’t aware that there was, but I think it’s great.”

The CC club is a daughter club of Justice Matters and is sponsoring a campus-wide electricity conservation competition this semester. Zylstra said he was hopeful the competition would not only accomplish its goal of saving electricity, but that it would also serve the need to raise consciousness.

“Raising awareness and getting people motivated and engaged is the most efficient, but students should not feel inhibited in presenting those ideas for the administration to evaluate,” said Zylstra.

Both students and administration hope the potluck has served its purpose to establish more open and frequent dialogue about such issues.

“You just have to get people enthusiastic. It’s not that people don’t want to do it – they just don’t think about it” – President Zylstra

It was exciting to see the administration present and aware of what campus community is.”

Laura MacMillan, a junior at Dordt, said she has been working on reducing paper towel use at Dordt and the process can indeed feel like a wild goose chase. She has had to start back at square one and reconstruct her project numerous times, which she said is frustrating.

The club and administration hope to work together to address ideas and issues that include the construction of new apartments, using cloth bags for groceries, reducing use of Styrofoam, energy conservation, recycling and awareness of social justice needs.

Many of these systems are already in place, but the issue is a matter of raising awareness and getting people enthusiastic and motivated, said Zylstra.

He said though the administration has not talked yet about what they learned at the JM potluck, “these events help stimulate thinking.”

Zylstra said the administration does not get to see student life from the inside and thus can initially look at past various issues and actions that could be taken. The potluck helped begin to close the gap, he said.

For more information about the Justice Matters club, please contact Jeremy Westra, Laura MacMillan or Teresa Maas.
Jamin Hubner  
Staff Writer

Ever once and a while you’ll hear about a student or friend involved in "geocaching." What is it, and how did it become so popular?

At its simplest level, geocaching is a treasure-hunting game where users play GPS receivers to find hidden "caches," anywhere in the world. The "cache" is just a container or item that has some sort of value. The "geocacher" will place some kind of container with treasure inside and post the coordinates of the cache on a public website.

Senior Abby Van Den Top is an avid geocacher. "Geocaching is really fun and can be dangerous," said Van Den Top. "I fell into a man hole when Betsy Borr and I went. We began to get a little desperate because we could not find one so I lifted up this huge piece of metal and didn't realize there was a man hole under the sheet of metal and I fell into the hole and ripped the leg of jeans and I had a huge cut on my leg." She added, "We always choose to use lanterns to make it more fun."

The sport started out as "GPS stash" and involved the title "Geo-caching." It became popular around 2001 when GPS became affordable and widely available. Eventually, a host of websites came available online dedicated to the activity. Dedicating geocachers might be found subscribing to premium membership of Geocaching.com, which allows them to find cache challenges and have them automatically sent to their PDA or laptop on a schedule. Terra-cachers.com has also expanded the geocaching community where cache challenges are reviewed and participants can access more difficult challenges only if they have an acceptable history of caching experience.

"I fell into a man hole when Betsy Borr and I went."

Alvin Shim  
Staff Writer

The first time I heard of cottage cheese was through a commercial on TV, I was maybe seven years old at the time and that means it wasn't supposed to like this. Danny DeVito was 52 when he sat, soaking in the bathtub, and realized that he could package cottage cheese with a side of fruit. Not only is the Penguin from "Batman Returns" sitting in the bathtub, he’s in there with a plastic container of watery curds and a side of mashed peaches.

I really should be a fan of cottage cheese. It's food. It's no grosser than any vegetable that grows from worn, poor-assed bok choy, a member of the brassica family, fleshed and grilled. More than that, it's cheese. You know what cheese is?"anela Gouda, Feta, Cheddar, Brie, Swiss and Parmesan.

And then I realize why I don't eat cottage cheese because I don't need cottage cheese in the same way that I don't need to do that treacherous "exercise" thing. Not only have people mistaken my "bod" to be sculpted from marble by the entire community of Mythical Greek gods and goddesses, I have gone almost four years without eating cottage cheese.

Four years is about how long I've been in Iowa, the approximate time it takes to train a boxer (according to Morgan Freeman) and how long you go without sleep to accumulate a lifetime of debt, and that's only if you're lucky.

Four years ago, my family was invited to the Heleama house for a "Welcome, Good Christian Friends, to Iowa" dinner, and I actually had cottage cheese for the first time. It was during the first week of our moving in, and we were subsisting on Pizza Ravioli, Hamburger and Bambino Garden for food. We eagerly accepted the invitation and gathered, with smiles, around their dinner table. Mrs. Heleama dished out a steaming square of lasagna on my plate, and I saw the top layer. It wasn't browned, melted mozzarella cheese; it was chunky and, despite the heat from the oven, still glaringly white. "Oh, it's you," I thought and raised my glass to Danny DeVito's declining career.

I didn't want to be like those of my friends whom I hound and bludgeon because they are afraid of mushrooms without ever having tried any. I purchased a tub of small curd cottage cheese because, according to a cottage cheese fan and grocery-shopping companion extraordinary, "Large curd is gross." When I asked why, she looked at me like I was a complete moron. "Because the curds are bigger, duh." She was completely right. If you're going to be spooning curds of something teetering between the domains of liquid milk and solid cheese, it would be totally disgusting for the curds to be any larger than they have to be.

"It's food. It's food. A ton of your friends grew up eating it." These are the words I frantically recited in my head as I stared at my first. It smelled a bit like cream cheese, and I love cream cheese, but I was as horrified as I was when I first saw my brother smoking. A grape-sized portion of cottage cheese stared me down, glistening in its own abomination with grapes and oranges. We still have most of the tub left in the fridge and I'll be one guilt-ridden heathen if I let it go to waste, so I'll have to see how else it can be eaten.

Richard Nixon apparently snacked on it with ketchup. I'm willing to try the ketchup to see if it comes to food but, fortunately, I have no ketchup at hand.

It seems now, instead of being afraid, revolted and instead of when I ran into a cottage cheese fan, I can merely carry on with my life, filling my divinely sculpted body with real cheese and telling myself that, now, I know better.
“Charlie Wilson’s War” is hilarious, insightful

Review of the star-studded drama about 1980s politics

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

Tom Hanks, director Mike Nichols and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin have created something extraordinary: a wildly entertaining, belly-laugh inducing romp of a movie that revolves around...well, politics.

Based on the bestselling book by George Crile, “Charlie Wilson’s War” tells the true story of how Charlie Wilson, a well-connected, playboy congressman (played to perfection by Tom Hanks), masterminded a massive covert war to drive the Soviet army out of Afghanistan in the 1980s, an event that eventually contributed to the downfall of the communist empire.

Wilson is joined in his effort by his on/off girlfriend and political activist, Joanne Herring (Julia Roberts), and a bulk-headed CIA operative, Gust Avrakotos (Philip Seymour Hoffman).

The plot of this movie consists mostly of subplots involves Wilson being investigated for drug use by a young, ambitious U.S. attorney named Rudy Giuliani. “You know you’ve reached rock bottom when you’re told you have character flaws by a man who hanged his predecessor in a military coup,” Wilson quips.

The filmmakers seem to enjoy slipping in references to current events. One of the film’s music pieces, set “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod,” is an original composition by Eugene Field, to an original score.

The filmmakers do not ignore this reality. The film’s ending is bittersweet. After the last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, Gust confronts Wilson at a party and begs him to convince Congress not to abandon Afghanistan now that the Soviets are gone. The country is becoming a magnet for extremists, he warns.

As Gust’s words sink in, the camera zooms in on Wilson’s face, and we hear a commercial airplane roaring past in the distance. The next few scenes show Wilson desperately trying to get congressional funding to help the Afghans rebuild their war-torn country. His pleas fall on deaf ears.

The movie ends with a quote from the real Charlie Wilson about his “war”: “These things happened. They were glorious and they changed the world...and then we [screwed] up the end game.”

This knowledge is the dark irony that runs just underneath the surface of this witty, lighthearted film. The journey has been fun, but unlike any of the characters, the audience knows what’s coming next.

Kornelis chosen to compose a children’s choir piece

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

Iowa’s Choral Composition Commissioning Competition has selected Dr. Benjamin Kornelis as this year’s winner. Some say that all these years of working with energetic college students have prepared him for this year’s ensemble type: a children’s choir. But perhaps it is his work with the Siouxland Boys Choir that will aid him in composing this piece.

The yearly competition, a joint effort between the Iowa Choral Directors Association and the Iowa Composers Forum, aims to encourage the production of new music. One composer is selected each year and awarded $1000.

Kornelis is especially excited about the opportunity this commission gives him to write for a children’s choir. He’s also grateful to have had the opportunity of working with the boys’ choir this year. “I have a better idea about what works and what doesn’t for kids,” he said, referring to their vocal ranges and abilities.

He has already planned how most of the composition will sound but still has to work out a few variations for the different stanzas.

Applicants submit several compositions, as well as their intended text for the commission. Kornelis will set “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod,” a nursery rhyme by Eugene Field, to an original score.

Kornelis is the perfect choice for a long time, but he has not been able to find the time to write an extensive amount of literature. His goal in this competition is to write a score that is practical for use in many children’s choruses. “It’s very satisfying to know that something you’ve done is of use and value to someone else,” he said.
SAC calls for all Dordt talent

Grace Venhuizen
Staff Writer

Student Activity Committee (SAC) members decide the fate of talent show hopefuls Feb. 5 and 6 from 6 to 10 p.m. for the final competition held Feb. 16.

Talent Extravaganza (TX) is a student competition featuring a variety of acts. A panel of students and faculty members judge the contestants and award prizes (yet to be determined) to the top three acts.

"There are no set criteria (for acts) to follow."
—Jeanetta Groenendyk
SAC leader and TX judge

Auditions for TX will be judged by SAC members. Groenendyk said the group will be looking for a "mixture of things," including "talent, obviously" and for acts that will be "casual, not serious."

She said that talent can be expressed in a number of different ways, and she is looking forward to seeing a "taste of each side."

"There are no set criteria" for those auditioning for TX to follow, said Groenendyk, but they should just come and show off what they can do. She said that "a lot of good talents won't get cut."

One anonymous Dynamic Dance team member declined to elaborate on the routine her team was performing, only saying it was "intense" and "explosive."

Groenendyk said she expects there to be more dancing this year but she doesn't know why. Perhaps the reason is "because most people don't want to sing because [they think] singing is for NC/DC."

But singing acts are still encouraged to try out.

After judging the talent of others, Groenendyk will showcase her own talents at TX during a series of themed short skits. Between each talent show act, Groenendyk, sophomore Justin Carruthers, junior Mark Eekhoff, and sophomore Kristin Santana will act as emcees performing skits to introduce each act.

The group is still looking for a fifth member, laughed Groenendyk, especially after being "denied by Ryan Coon."

All the talents of TX will be performed on Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Here I am... A Senior...
And I'm not engaged.
Heck, I don't even have a girlfriend...

I wonder if Dordt will still let me graduate...

The North Hall RAs show off their dancing abilities and fashion tastes in the 2007 TX. SAC hopes to attract similarly entertaining acts this year.
Dordt came back from the trip 2-0. Dordt also beat two other non-conference opponents this month, winning 76-56 over Waldorf and by five points over York. From here on out, Dordt’s schedule consists of only GPAC games. In the conference, Dordt ranks sixth in points allowed, second in offensive rebounds, and first in blocked shots, led by freshman Bre Schneidemaan’s average of 3.1 per game.

Since Christmas, McKinnie Schmidt has averaged a double-double for the Defenders with 10 points and 10 rebounds per game. Kate Du Mez and Amber Soodsmid lead the season stats with 11.8 and 10.8 points per game respectively, while Kelsie De Noy cashes in at 8.8 points per game.

The Dordt men have been busy as well. On Dec. 28 and 29, Dordt played in the Black Hills State Classic in Spearfish, S.D. The men went 1-1 in the tournament, losing to host Black Hills State in their opening game and then beating South Dakota Tech 93-73.

Last week, Dordt broke into the national rankings at 24 in the NAIA Division II standings, receiving credit for their 13-6 overall and 7-2 conference record going into the polls. Dordt secured wins over both Northwestern and Dakota State earlier this season and nearly knocked off top-ranked Morningside at home last week.

All five starters are scoring in the double digits. Eric Van Maanen’s 15 points per game put him seventh in the conference. Logan Kingma and Michael Eekhoff are also in the top 20 scorers of the conference, averaging 12.7 and 11.0 respectively, Brian Eekhoff (11.0 ppg) and Scott Van Zanten (10.2 ppg) are 20th and 5th in rebounding in the conference with just under seven rebounds per game.

Both the women and the men face tough competition in February, including GPAC Northwestern, Hastings, Mount Marty, and Morningside before the end of the regular season.

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

With the men’s basketball team marking its 50th birthday, the Diamond convinced some former Defenders to reminisce about their playing days.

Now an English professor, James Schaap played Dordt basketball during his freshman and sophomore years, in the ’66-’67 and ’67-’68 seasons. He was pulled up to varsity as a freshman and traveled with the team in the ’67-’68 season.

At Chadron State University in South Dakota, he is especially memorable. “We had been talking to players from Yankton, who asked us what we were getting paid to play,” he said. “But none of us got scholarship money. They didn’t understand why we would play without a scholarship."

Schaap’s team played the last game in what is now the New World Theater; the De Witt Gymnasium was built in 1968.

Another change, besides scholarships and location, is the crowd size. “It used to be that everybody and their dog went to ball games,” Schaap said. Of course, he conceded, there weren’t as many options then—basketball was the sport. However, not everything has changed, like the rivalry with Northwestern.

“They always beat us,” Schaap said. “And the Northwestern player we hated more than anyone else was Rick Vander Berg!"

Schaap believes that his sophomore year of college may have been the worst year in men’s basketball history. “We had one win,” he laughed.

Quite on the opposite end, former alumni columnist and men’s varsity basketball coach Greg Van Soelen’s senior year may have been the best year in basketball. Dordt has seen. That 87-88 season, the team had a record of 25-5 and became the first Dordt team to go to the national tournament.

After playing a few years of professional basketball overseas and in the CBA, Van Soelen returned to Dordt to coach. “I love being around the game,” he said.

JANNA ZEUTENHORST, GWEN VAN ROEKEL, CARMEN MULDER, KATIE DE VOS, MISSY DRIESEN, KATHY VAN ROEKEL

Indoor track starts strong
Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer

The Dordt indoor track team is off to a quick start. Last Saturday at the Buena Vista Invite, the men finished third and the women were first. Jen Kempers won three events, and Lauren Olson recorded first- and second-place finishes.

Jon De Young finished first in the high jump clearing 6’3” and Brett Kroeze took first in the 600-meter event. Jon Vroom added a second place finish in the 400-meter race with a time of 52.73.

The Defenders hope that they will build on last year’s success and continue to improve. “We want to qualify for more events at nationals this year,” senior Jen Kempers said. “Last year we had four women and one guy make it, and this year we look to send more.”

Dordt will host the Dordt College Invite this Saturday, Feb. 2, in the Rec Center.

Dordt Sport Report: Kara Karlsqodt

Kara Karlsqodt
Basketball

“My dad has a great way of motivating people along with giving the best pregame pump-up talks.”

How do you have any superstitions? At the end of every warm-up I have to make right- and left-handed lay-ups.

What are your plans for after Dordt? To start making money to pay Dordt back.

Compiled by Alonna Dale

Outdoor track starts strong

Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer

The Dordt outdoor track team is off to a quick start. Last Saturday at the Buena Vista Invite, the men finished third and the women were first. Jen Kempers won three events, and Lauren Olson recorded first- and second-place finishes.

Jon De Young finished first in the high jump clearing 6’3” and Brett Kroeze took first in the 600-meter event. Jon Vroom added a second place finish in the 400-meter race with a time of 52.73.

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