

Dordt College TheDiamond

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Colloquium series brings the sciences together

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

"An assortment of students from chemistry, biology and math walk into a lecture hall." Though this sounds like the beginning of one of those jokes science professors always seem to have up their sleeves, on Dordt's campus it describes Colloquium, the weekly science talks that have been ongoing for the 2014-15 school year.

Every Friday at 3 p.m. for the past two semesters, the research and scholarship office brought in speakers on behalf of the natural science departments. These talks were presented by professionals in biology, engineering, math and other science fields, and were attended by students and faculty alike.

The idea for colloquium developed at the end of last year, but organizing it and gathering speakers was a challenge.

"It was noticeable that there was no internal mechanism to bring external speakers in," said Nathan Tintle, director of the research and scholarship office.

In order to host colloquium regularly,

the research and scholarship office took care of the logistics and paperwork. The faculty members could focus on hosting the speaker without worrying about reserving the lecture room, promoting the talk, figuring out where the speaker would stay and giving a small compensation.

"We asked faculty to give names," Tintle said. "From those suggestions, we try to keep it balanced and rotate between departments. We do a little filtering and put fall suggestions off until the spring. We work with faculty to get people to come."

Whether Colloquium will continue or change next year and how it will change is still a discussion in the natural science departments at Dordt.

"It's a little unknown in the future," Tintle said. "Each department is looking at how to integrate it into programs and support it."

Math professor Tom Clark taught a one credit colloquium class in which students would go to the talks and write a response.

"Colloquium is a neat thing," said Clark, who taught the class in the fall semester. "But it didn't make for a good class."



Clark said that the talks serve as a way to get an interdisciplinary perspective on how you do science broadly, and not only in a specific field.

"With only a handful of people in a department, we get only a handful of different perspectives," Tintle said. "We want to bring other voices in."

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Celebrating Ideafest

Meagan DeGraaf-Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 23, Dordt College hosted its annual Ideafest, an all-inclusive, campus-wide event where students are able to present anything they have written, created, or studied over their time at Dordt.

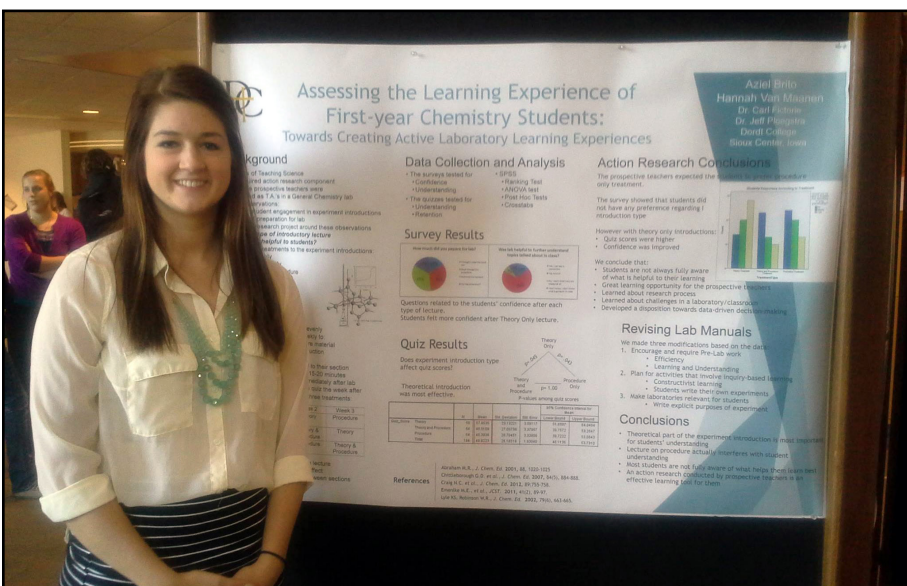
The purpose of this event is to celebrate the learning and research that has occurred throughout the past year, no matter what the field of study. Students present their research not only for their fellow Dordt College students, but also to the public.

Many different topics were explored at this year's Ideafest, both research and exploratory. Some of the research topics

covered were history, education, algebra, sex, coffee, poetry, and music. The all-day event took place in many different areas of the campus, including the campus center, science building, library and classrooms, so that attendees could get the full experience of Dordt's campus.

"I only went to a few presentations but I wish I had gone to more, because the ones I went to were pretty interesting," said freshman Ada Erlandson. Many other students felt the same way; they attended a few events and left more interested in the topics researched.

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Senior Hannah Van Maanen poses in front of her presentation on quality of learning in first year chemistry students

Contributed Photo

Campus small groups discuss Baart's series

Haley Mulder-Staff Writer

Pastor Aaron Baart did chapel in a unique way this semester.

By sending out a survey to all students, he gathered their most pressing questions and formed his Lent series around those questions. The small group sessions that connect with his chapel messages were also run a bit differently than before.

Students signed up online with either a faculty member or student as their leader. Groups ranging in size from four to 12

members met once a week engaging in discussion topics that may be considered controversial in today's social culture.

In last year's groups, the discussion was primarily linked with readings from the book, *The Cure*. However, the groups this year were formed more around open conversation and created a place where students and faculty members could safely ask their spiritual questions.

"These groups were started for those who are looking to do something for Lent," Baart

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Professor Stoub leading a Bible study with a group of undergrads

Contributed Photo

News

Senior engineering projects begin

Lydia Marcus- Staff Writer

At Dordt, an engineering student's senior year culminates in a project which uses his or her engineering abilities to fill a need in a local or international community. Seniors will present their projects at 7:00 p.m. on May 6 in SB 1606.

Seniors choose their projects in the fall semester and spend the remainder of the school year working on it. These projects are a part of the Senior Design course, which is entirely devoted to the development of the projects. Senior Design is not taught by one particular professor, rather, each engineering professor mentors one or two groups.

"The objective is to provide students with the opportunity to use the skills and project management tools to complete a relatively large-scale project," said senior Emily Riihl.

Eleven projects will be presented this year. Topics range from a solar air heating system to a round bale processing unit.

"The project I am working on is a water management system for the Esther School in Nyangwena, Zambia, Africa," said Riihl.

Riihl, Amanda Donnell, and Kim De Boer have developed a rainwater collection system and a greywater distribution system for the Esther School.

"The greatest challenge has been the communication lag between Zambia and the U.S.," says Riihl.

Riihl's group partnership with Zambia is unique. The other project sponsors are located in Iowa or South Dakota.

"I have most enjoyed the open-ended feel of the project because it has allowed us to think outside the box in terms of traditional water management designs," said Riihl.

Senior design projects require large amounts of time and effort, but they provide seniors with an excellent opportunity to practice the engineering skills they've cultivated over the past four years.



Chase Van Gaalan, Alan VanderWoerd, Dylan Postman, Kyle Ruiters and Professor Joel Sikkema with their award winning project. Photo by Dylan Postman

Seniors to perform year-end talent show

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

This year, Dordt's advancement department has put together a senior talent show that is set to take place on May 7 at 7:30 p.m., the night before graduation, in the BJ Haan Auditorium.

"The senior show has been a tradition at Dordt for many years," Career Development Assistant Missy Mulder said. "It's a fun way for the seniors to end their time here. Many of them even bring their parents, grandparents, and siblings."

Altogether there will be 21 students performing, two MC, and the entire concert choir.

This year is Mulder's first time coordinating the show.

"I have to solicit performers and different acts for the show and I also help coordinate all the other details with the help of Sarah Moss

and Brandon Huisman," Mulder said.

Mulder is the most excited for the variety of performances that will be showcased.

"There will be several musical performances, and some of them might even be comedic, but you'll just have to come and see the show if you want to know more!" Mulder said.

The two MC's for the show will be seniors Sam De Groot and Andrew De Haan. To open up to show, Dordt's concert choir will perform several pieces.

"The show will be a great time to enjoy performances by your classmates and friends," Mulder said.

Following the show, there will be an ice cream social at the Commons for the seniors and their families.

Concert choir to tour the Netherlands

Jonathan Janssen- Staff Writer

With the advent of summer comes numerous plans for how students will use of all their new free time. However, members of Dordt College's Concert Choir already have their plans made for the middle of May. Leaving on May 12 and returning on May 24, the Concert Choir, led by Dr. Benjamin Kornelis are heading to The Netherlands for their overseas choir tour.

The choir will spend their days traveling through The Netherlands and performing at various venues. For the performances, they have acquired a large repertoire of music—even a few in Dutch for local appeal—and will fine tune their performances to each different space that they are singing in.

Sophomore baritone choir member Josh Van Gorp was jumped at the opportunity to travel abroad with the choir.

"There will probably be less than ten opportunities in my lifetime to do something like this, so I want to get the whole experience," said Van Gorp, adding, "I've traveled coast-to-coast, but it was all within the United States of America. I think it'll be great to be in The Netherlands because I have Dutch heritage. Coming from a Dutch-settled area, I'm excited to see where my ancestors came from."

As for cultural experience, sophomore bass choir member Jacob Meyers is ready for a change.

"I'm not from a Dutch background, so it will be interesting to get a sense of the true Dutch heritage: where it came from, where it is, and where it is going," said Meyers. "I like to see how different cultures interact and live, what kind of food they eat – it will be interesting to get a new perspective on a different style of life."

Senior alto choir member Aubrey

Pasker is ready for the artistic attractions available after leaving a small, rural area like Sioux Center.

"The thing I'm most interested in seeing on this trip is the Van Gogh museum," said Pasker. "He's my favorite artist, so it will be incredible to see some of his original works of art."

While the trip itself will be memorable, many members of the choir are looking forward to staying in Europe after the tour is over.

"I'm taking five days after the tour to backpack from Amsterdam to London," said senior Chris Geels, adding, "I'm just winging it. I haven't put any thought into how I'm going to get there or what I'm going to see. I think this will give me an opportunity to fly by the seat of my pants and make the trip more memorable."

The choir will be having a going-away concert in the BJ Haan on Saturday, May 9, and will be selling CD's there and all through Europe in order to provide the members with less of a financial concern throughout the tour.



The Concer Choir being directed by Dr. Kornelis

Contributed Photo

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News

Adjusting to campus life after Korean military service

Narayan Núñez Blandón - Staff Writer

"It is a good opportunity for reflection and struggle. It is a good experience for life. But I do not want to go back there again," said Dordt student Jinu Jo.

At some point in their lives, every South Korean male must serve in the armed forces. As part of their mandatory law, they must register to a difficult military training and also serve in specific fields for approximately two years. After two years of serving, Dordt College students from South Korea, Jinu Jo, Kwan Yong Park, Hyunwoo Lee, and Joon Ho Choi, return to college and resume their studies after fulfilling their service in the military.

These four students agreed that there are a lot of mixed feelings before entering the military service. Some feel excitement for the new stage of their lives and find the military service a good time to reflect on life in general. Others feel nervous and anxious as they recognize that it could be one of the biggest challenges of their life.

The South Korean students explained that there are many South Koreans that try to avoid conscription. Some try to avoid serving by pretending to be sick, others even use certain chemicals on their bodies to disqualify themselves.

Despite the fact that most South Koreans go through very similar physical training, they all serve in different fields and areas. As a fuel and food supply specialist, Lee served in the office settings of the infantry regiment and was given the responsibility of managing large assets and funds.

"There was this program to help us

manage our resources and money," Lee said. "If you made one slight mistake, a lot of money would disappear."

On a more dangerous field, Choi served at the front line of warfare at the demilitarized zone. Even though they do not actively fight each other, there are times in which fear is present among those in the field because they are uncertain of what could happen in the zone.

Although South Korea has been in peace and civil rest after the Korean War (1953) there has still been uncertainty and military threats coming from their northern neighbors, North Korea.

"I shoot to prepare for warfare, and I was very nervous to die," Choi states as he shares how there was an instance in which North Korea declared an attack on South Korea and a spirit of fear filled him. But Choi was not the only one who experienced fear, Jo also went through a similar experience in another instance of uncertainty.

"When I was a private, the lowest military rank, Kim Jong-Il (former dictator of North Korea) died, so all military officials thought that North Korea was going to prepare for a war and show they are good even though their leader died," Jo said. "There was a fear of war (in the country)."

As an instructor in a training center, Park was responsible for giving proper instruction to the individuals beginning their two year mandatory service. Although his experience was not as fearful as those of Choi or Jo, his position was challenging because he had to work and deal with people who could not cope with the training.



Contributed photo

"There are some people that cannot adjust to the military service, so they wanted to commit suicide, so our job was to take care of them," Park says. "We could not rest because he had to be prepared for any emergency situation."

After the two years of military serving, however, the students stated that the obligatory conscription helped them reflect on their lives. The challenges and the pressure, they agree, helped them know more about themselves and their limitations.

American students do not have to deal with the thought of obligatory service in the military for national security. Even though the United States is at war against terrorism

and holds a posture against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), its citizens are not obligated to serve in the armed forces. Despite the fact that men between ages 18 and 25 must register to the Selective Service System, the system itself is more of a contingency plan in case of emergencies.

There are students at Dordt College that have not yet been exposed to experiences that challenges them and help them develop character. Although life changing experience varies from person to person, only a few students have been able to face extreme pressure and fear in their lives and learnt from it.

Ideafest (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The presenters, who ranged in education level from freshman to senior, presented not necessarily on their major, but something that was interesting to them.

Bailey McKee and Dominic Vermeulen created a short film for their documentary-making class, which they then presented at Ideafest. Their film was about coffee and its effect on culture, and, of course, coffee was provided during their presentation.

Other students, especially in the engineering program, also showed the culmination of their studies through the opportunity of Ideafest, showcasing their senior engineering projects that were a culmination of a semester's work. Many

English majors too showed what they had learned, through poetry readings or their recent compositions.

Students don't get too many opportunities to see what their fellow peers are doing within other fields of study because they are too busy learning their own subjects. Ideafest gives students and the community a great excuse to see all that happens on Dordt's campus.

Ideafest also helps people of the Sioux Center community to see the range of learning that happens at Dordt, be it agriculture or art. It is essentially a campus-wide showcase of the knowledge acquired by Dordt students.

Colloquium (cont.)

Continued from page 1

It was expected that colloquium would expose people to a broad understanding of how to do science across disciplines, but students tended to attend talks that are from the discipline they are pursuing.

"It's like there is this bifurcation in the audience from week to week," Clark said. "If there's a chemistry talk, then chemistry students come. If it's a physics talk, then physics students come."

The desire to continue Colloquium is there, but there is still a discussion addressing whether it will be worth the effort. The natural sciences department didn't have regular talks, so there was a backlog of speakers who

professors really wanted to bring in. Going forward, the list of speakers seems much shorter.

How to get students to come and learn is tricky as well.

"There are lots of models and ways you can do it," Tintle said. "Do you do it for credit? How is it credited? Extra credit can be challenging as well."

Colloquium may change its time, regularity or the extent to which students can get credit for it, but the basic idea of broadening a student's learning is something that the natural sciences at Dordt are excited to promote.

Small Groups (cont.)

Continued from page 1

[Baart] said. "They are meant for people to come together to share their thoughts and bounce ideas off of each other."

This semester, Baart designed chapel messages after popular questions among students on campus. The most prevalent questions involved diversity, homosexuality and dating.

"The topics discussed in the small groups were often related to chapel but did not have to be directly modeled after my message in chapel that week," Baart said.

Baart decided to mold the groups this way so that if a student was unable to go to chapel, they wouldn't feel left out of the conversation in their small group sessions.

Though there were more students involved in the small groups last year, there has been an even better response to the groups this year.

"The plan is to continue having small groups for many years to come," Baart said. "I would like to form the groups around a book again and have the author come and speak if possible."

The small groups are a perfect way for students to grow in relationships with others and discuss heavy topics that are prevalent on campus today.

Rain or shine, Dordt's annual Ag Day enjoyed by all

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Rain two hours before the event began was not enough to put a damper on the liveliness of Dordt's annual Ag Day. On Friday, April 24, individuals from both on and off campus gathered to celebrate the joys of Agriculture.

Ag day had it all, especially the machinery. Sprayers, skidsteers, tractors, semis, combines, and utility vehicles all made an appearance on Dordt's lot.

"The purpose of Ag day is to showcase the talents and hard work of farmers and Dordt Ag students, educate the public about agriculture, and provide fun and interactive opportunities for people to get involved," said Agri-Business major Alli Young.

There was definitely plenty to do and plenty to eat during the special afternoon. There was tire tossing, a photo booth with costumes, sack races, plenty of 'face in hole' photo opportunities, and the many sights and smells of the barnyard. From reptiles to horses, each and every petting zoo station had their own fact boards. Professional livestock judges came to oversee a livestock-judging contest for the local high school students. Ag club members served locally raised pulled pork lunches that satisfied everyone's appetite.

"I noticed some pretty big differences between this year and last year. A lot of improvement was definitely made. Most of the changes occurred within the Agvestigations program. Last year, all the stations were set

up in the rec center and led by mostly Dordt Ag students," said Young.

"Anna Den Herder hatched the idea of using the parking lot between the commons and East Hall as a "barnyard" that featured a different station for each species of livestock. Anna spent countless hours making educational posters to help kids learn about the different species. Instead of using Dordt students to teach, the Ag Club brought in experts on each species, such as veterinarians and local producers," said Young.

Young also had to spend from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with several hundred preschoolers and fifth graders and guide them through a series of interactive workshops.

"Working with the kids all day was a little tiring, but definitely worth it! My 5th graders were respectful and attentive. They asked great questions and seemed to soak in a lot of information," said Young.

Planning this event takes much longer than many realize. They begin thinking it through months in advance.

"The Dordt College Ag Club delegates an entire committee to coordinate events with people and businesses in the community," said Young.

The day was a huge success, but with cute animals and friends all around, how could one not have fun.

Check out dc_agday2015 on Instagram to check out more of the photos from Ag day!

Year in review for Symposium

Back in August, Symposium met during WOW Week to discuss its goals and plans for the year. During this meeting, the council decided upon four main goals to pursue during the course of this year. Those goals were: to increase student satisfaction, to increase awareness of Student Symposium, to promote sustainability on campus, and to be a resource to clubs. Symposium proceeded to work all year toward these goals, and kept very busy in those pursuits.

This year, three of the largest issues that Symposium dealt with were the Sustainability Committee, talking to Dordt Dining about sustainability and satisfaction, and helping the Men's Volleyball Club gain varsity recognition and financial backing from the administration and athletics department.

With Dordt Dining, Symposium discussed various issues, including food waste, menu and facilities improvements in the Commons, lines at the Grille, tray-less dining options, and aesthetic and service renovations to be made in the Commons.

The Sustainability Committee held several events on campus, including a plant-a-seed event, and "Mission Sustainable" in March. The Committee also met with the maintenance department, Dordt Dining, Bromers Sanitation, and Dordt's administration to discuss ways in which Dordt could become more sustainable.

The Men's Volleyball Club came to Symposium in the fall with a large funding request. In an effort to best serve the Volleyball Club, as well as other clubs on campus, Symposium began discussions with administration and the athletics department to find a solution to the club's large funding needs. After extended negotiations, the Volleyball Club was taken under the umbrella of the Dordt athletics department and plans to play as a full varsity team in the 2015-2016 school year.

During the course of the 2014-2015 academic year, Student Symposium heard funding requests from a broad range of clubs, from the College Republicans, to the Juggling Club, all the way to the Biology club. Symposium also helped form and advise a few clubs this year, including the Tennis Club, the Sports Management Club, and the Sustainability committee.

Student Symposium met at 7 p.m. every Wednesday to discuss issues and funding. Symposium meetings are always open to the student body and visitors are welcome and encouraged. Symposium strives to be a voice for students on campus and values the feedback and cooperation and collaboration of all students. The council looks forward to next year when it can again serve the needs and concerns of the student body.

Symposium would like to thank Robert Taylor, Thaddeus Van Essendelft, Dordt Dining, the athletics department, administration, faculty, and above all, the students of Dordt College for a productive and enjoyable year. The council wishes all students and staff a safe and relaxing summer and a safe return to Dordt in the fall.

Jeremy Vreeken
Officer of the Press for Student Symposium



(1)



(3)



(2)



(4)

1. Elise Maresh and Ben Korver and their respective animal friends
2. Some local grade school children hold up The Baryard banner
3. A delicious lunch was served by the Ag Department
4. Tanner Brassler is now a sheep

All photos taken by Megan Kaiser

Opinion

Final Words: Get out of your room



Justin Pastoor - Columnist

As I go into working on my last edition of the Diamond, I'm getting slightly suckered into that whole nostalgic thing that every college student says they're not going to do their last couple of weeks but yet does it anyway, whether or not they like to admit it. I'm able to look back on great nights with friends, relationships that I've developed with students and professors alike and mistakes that I've made academically, interpersonally and spiritually that I've been able to learn and grow from. But throughout all the positives and negatives I've experienced over the last four years, the biggest thing I've learned for making college, at the very least an enjoyable experience, is to just simply get out of your room.

By this I don't mean do homework somewhere else besides your desk, but rather take time for yourself and get involved with something besides what you're here to learn. I don't care if you're an engineering or nursing major; find something you love to do or want to try out and just go do it. Learn to enjoy the company of others and how to interact with people who might be different in a number of ways.

Outside of my classwork I've been involved with two athletic teams, three different work studies before I found the one I really enjoyed, a praise and worship band for two years, interned with coaches and have been a writer, sports editor and layout editor for the Diamond. Because of these I've been able to meet and form relationships with so many of the wonderful people that this campus has to offer and grow from what they have continued to teach me day in and day out.

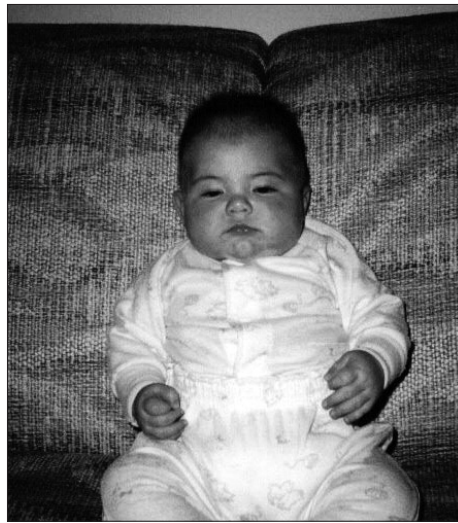
There are students I've befriended that I can't wait to see succeed in their future careers and professors that I've gotten to know on a personal basis, which is so much more enjoyable than constantly talking to a biology professor about the different filaments between the z-line of a sarcomere within muscle fibers.

From Stan Haak and Vern Eekhoff who were my supervisors working grounds crew over the summer, to the old ladies who every morning, without fail, will be walking around the indoor track greeting me with a smile and a wave, everywhere you look you will find people who genuinely care and take interest in you if you just get out there and simply introduce yourself.

We are wired to be social individuals. It doesn't matter if you're an extrovert, an introvert or prefer the company of farm animals, each one of us is designed to long for and enjoy the company of others and when you get to a point where you can give your time and abilities to others life becomes so much brighter and so much more fulfilling. Build relationships so you can give to others and I guarantee you'll be blessed by them in the future.

Each one of us here has been blessed with different talents. Some of us are musicians, some are athletes, others can paint a beautiful picture with a moment of inspiration and others have a patience to take people by the hand and help them along through any struggles they might be going through. And what a disgrace it is for us to waste abilities we've been blessed with; to not use them as well as we could possibly could is a shame. So get out of your room, get involved and get to know the hidden secrets within the people of the campus.

The Kaiser has spoken



Megain Kaiser - Columnist

1,577 miles. Trust me, I Google mapped it. That's the distance from my hometown of Fordyce, Nebraska to Los Angeles, California. Why did I waste my time checking the distance from the middle of nowhere to the middle of somewhere? Because it's where I will be spending my upcoming fall semester.

Here's the story. I'm a digital media major. I live in a village. Not a town, a village. Like, 100 people in a mile radius and everyone knows each other's names plus the middle names of their neighbor's pets. My village's Google map image is definitely from 2012. We have a bank, a gas station and a quaint little post office.

What's hilarious is the fact that I get anxious when large masses of students walk out of the classroom building when I'm heading to class, so how in the heck am I going to be able to handle the massive shock of Los Angeles!? It's safe to say that I haven't experienced a heck of a lot. I've visited California and New York, but I was always with a mentor. I only know safe situations, and the ones that slightly alarmed me were very brief.

Being immersed in a completely opposing social situation is going to be an adjustment. Not even a slight adjustment. It's more of like, one day I'm in Nebraska and the next I'm in California, so Megan, have fun with your 180 degree turn. Compared to my village, being friendly and saying hello to random people on the street in Los Angeles will have completely different connotations to those around me. I can't just leave my belongings unmanned in public areas. I WILL OFFICIALLY HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO DRIVE ON SEVEN LANE FREEWAYS. That sounds absolutely terrifying.

It's also good to think about it from the other perspective. What about all of these people that come from massive cities and get shoved into a college in an Iowa town? The shock goes both ways. Sometimes one is more highlighted than the other. Does that mean that one is easier than the other? Absolutely not. At least, I don't think so. The adjustment isn't just the change from traffic to cows on roads; it's everything in between.

I don't want to speak on behalf of the individuals who have experienced either of these sides, but I will soon be one of those people. It's not an easy situation. I will be both scared and overwhelmed, potentially making me a mess. Homesickness will probably happen. I'm accepting that now. It's not going to be easy at the beginning. I can't go for evening walks when it's dark or walk to my car alone at night. However, there is the excitement of experiencing something completely different. I have the opportunity to experience more of a melting pot than I have ever encountered before. There is a whole world waiting outside of our windows. You might already be a part of that world, but I'm not. It's coming. It will be here before I know it, and I will appreciate it for all its worth. To everyone traveling near or far, I wish you the best.

Eric Rowe: Look Around



Eric Rowe - Columnist

I like to show off. Whether it's juggling apples, dancing across campus after midnight, playing improv games on stage or drinking my water bottle in the library, I try to do things in the coolest way possible both for my enjoyment and the enjoyment of anyone watching. Lately I have been learning the need to appreciate the coolness in others.

If it's acting, juggling, dancing or student news writing, I have a certain amount of skill and expertise in the area. I tend to measure this skill through the compliments, and acknowledgement I get from audiences. Music is usually the skill that I can't quite wriggle my way into impressing people with, though I try my darndest. I can't play an instrument and I don't know how to sing so it doesn't work that well. I think that I am drawn to appreciate the musical talent of others because I don't have any myself.

While watching NCDC through the semis and the finals, I felt two things. The first was a desire to go do something impressive and exult in the cheers. This was shot down very quickly in my mind, because I am fairly worthless in a singing competition. The second feeling was calming. If I can't show off, I can at least appreciate the skill, talent, and work that my fellow college students who can show off are presenting. This is a continuation of a thought that has struck me through the past few weeks. It's amazing how varied and talented people are. I was invited to a music department recital and was surprised to see acquaintances and classmates who I had never previously associated with singing. The songs were powerful because I had never acknowledged the possibility that those people could do what they can. Probably because they don't show off. If you find enjoyment by performing in front of people, you miss the performances of other humans. Humans who spend just as much time developing and increasing talents.

Everyone who surrounds you has skill and talent in something. I am an engineering major and before one class, I and my friend and classmate set out to decide who the most middle of the road student in our class was. It soon became apparent that there was no one who could purely represent what it meant to be an average student. Everyone either played a sport or multiple sports, was in band or choir, involved with theatre, or actually got a decent amount of sleep at night instead of staying up late doing homework. The many facets of our classmates struck me as a wonderful reminder that the world is full of diverse skills. It's time that I stopped moping at my inability to steal the show all the time. There are plenty of people with more interesting skills. Our God knows how to make em.

This appreciation for the gifts of others is uncomfortable for the dedicated show off because it's hard to enjoy seeing people who can show off more than you can. I get this while watching theatre plays in which I am not stealing the show of and watching sports games. I used to think that my greatest regret was not learning music or sports. Now my greatest concern is not that I have a narrow show off repertoire, but that I am ignoring the talents of others.

Jerusha Yerusha



Jerusha Pimentel - Columnist

This is my last column, folks. In nine days I'll be walking across the BJ Haan stage in a flimsy black robe and a funny square hat, shaking hands with President Hoekstra, and walking off the other side. I'm pretty frightened to think about what may come next for me, but the weird comfort is that a lot of us here are frightened about it, too.

I think back to my first day of Freshman orientation (I hated that stupid scavenger hunt), and how I was scared that day, too. I've come to the conclusion that fear is a pretty good thing. 'The unknown' is a healthy pool to begin wading in--especially when you hear God's voice whispering your name above the waters just in front of you. Do you know what is beyond? No. Maybe a massive sea creature is swimming just below the surface, and maybe it is hungry. But we can't control that.

What we can control is our two feet, placing them forward, one step at a time, in obedience. I like to come to a point in life when I'm more afraid of disobeying God than of the dangers that might be lying in whatever place He is calling me. We have to trust the fact that He would never ever call us into unknown waters where a massive shark is waiting just to abandon us to be eaten. That's not to say He won't call us into shark-infested waters--He might.

We can't ever know what God will do. Sometimes He takes people from our lives. Sometimes He allows others to break our hearts, or to hurt us or even violate us. In the moment, in the middle of it all, we are angry and hurt. We feel He does not care, and we question His goodness. We might even run away for a while.

But this doesn't scare Him. He is so marvelously unlike us. I think it pleases Him best when we just sit and think about Him. I used to ramble panicky prayers and repeat my repentances and ask Him to help me and please give me this, and please give me that. But now, when I want to feel close to Him, I just sit and think about Him.

I think about how He has seen every time a human has fallen in love. Or how he literally thought up things like giraffes and volcanoes and music. I think about how he gave us ten toes and ten fingers, and how our thumbs are shorter than the rest, and how beautiful eyelashes are. He is everywhere, and He wants us to find Him, because it brings such delight.

I once read an analogy made of God being like a parent who hides Easter eggs in the backyard for his kids. A parent doesn't hide the egg three feet under the ground, or high in a tree the child can never find. He purposefully puts them in places the children can find it. The delight is to find them after searching. How boring would it be if all the eggs were just sitting there in a pile in the middle of the backyard?

God is so much like a parent. We're supposed to find Him! Perhaps many of us will never understand this to its full degree until we have children of our own. Anyway, to end this shambly, rambly column, I'll just say: He really, truly loves you. Ask Him to prove it.

Sports

Looking back on a strong year for Dordt teams

Aaron Ladzinski - Staff Writer

Dordt College continues to bring in success in the athletic program no matter how big or small. Like every team, Dordt has had its up and downs. This year, the teams had many ups. Dordt had multiple national appearances and All-Americans in all of its sports. Even though that is all great sometimes, it is the little memories that can make the year great. Win or lose there is always fun and hard work put into every sport. Everyone deserves to be recognized for hard work and dedication while representing our school.

Women's volleyball came into the season hoping to repeat and make it to nationals. The team went 18-11, enough to make the GPAC playoffs and make it to semifinals of



Sophomore Brook Wolterstorff

the tournament before losing to Midland. The women's leading hitter was Brooke Wolterstorff. She led the way with 346 total kills. On the defensive side, the women were led by Meghan Krausman.

Men's volleyball went to nationals and is going to go varsity next year. The team had a record of 27-4. They received their first two losses before nationals and the other two during nationals while head coach Brian Hoekstra was named Coach of the Year.

"It was a great year," Andrew Kootsier said. "My favorite part was just being able to play with a great group of guys"

Both soccer teams had great seasons. The women made it to nationals and finished 5th in the nation. The men sent multiple people to the national race, but the whole team missed nationals by a few seconds. Nick Vander Kooi was the lone representative for the men.

"I was happy to be back again," Vander Kooi said. "It was a tough race and horrible weather for the race but overall being there was a highlight."

Both soccer teams had great seasons. The men played to a 13-7 record and a 7-3 conference play. The team was one win away from making it to the conference championship when they fell to Midland in the semifinals. Derick Sackey, led the team in both goals and points and Brady Van Holland led the team in assists.

The women had a rebound from the year before. Coach Bill Elgersma came back to coach the women. The team went from no wins last year to going 6-10-1. The leading player for women's soccer this year was Natalie Sakuma, with 12 goals. The team

was made of a few juniors, no seniors and an underclassmen majority. The team is one to watch for next year.

The Blades hockey team had rough schedule filled with a number of top teams in the nation. Three teams they played ended up at the national tournament. The Blades overall record was 5-21-1, an overall down year from years past. The leading scorers were Aaron Ladzinski, Matt Champion, and Nic Enerson. Matt Champion was selected as an All-American for the 3rd team Pacific region.

Men's basketball entered GPAC play with aspirations of making it to a 4th straight national tournament but fell short against a record strong conference. The team's record was 18-13 with a conference record of 9-11 and was bounced first round against Midland. Leading scorer and all-american Nathan Rindels, averaged 16.4 points a game.

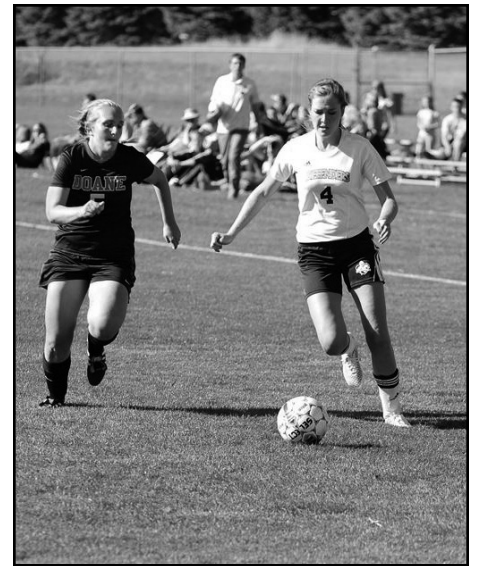
Women's basketball faced a lot of injuries throughout the season but managed to pull off some great wins. Its overall record was 11-19. The team went 9-1 against the non-conference schedule. Abby Chapman led the team in points with of 12.5 ppg and Mycah Hulst lead the conference in both blocks and rebounds.

Both golf teams played well in the fall and spring this year. The key leaders on the team did excellent. Renae Visser led the women's team with an average score of 87.9 for 18. The men's leader was freshman, Tony Kallevig, with an average score of 77.3 for 18.

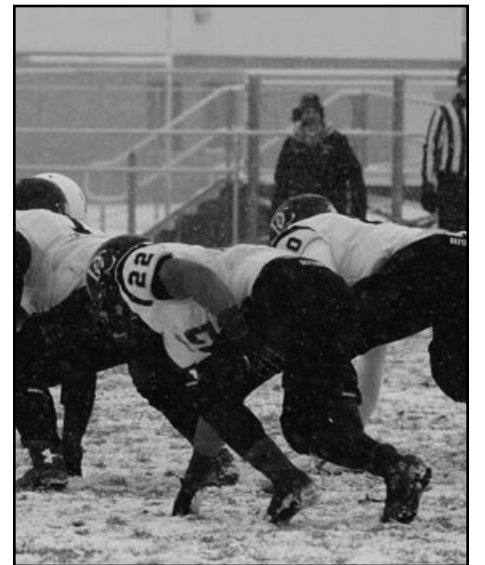
"I didn't expect to do so well," Kallevig said. "I just went out and played my game and it worked"

The men's football team tied the best

Continued on page 8



Freshman Adri Van Groningen



Senior Dan Fennig

Spring season leaves Dordt golf optimistic

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

Dordt College Golf finishes a strong spring this weekend, leaving optimistic mindsets as the teams prepare for the 2015-16 season.

The women finished their season on April 24 in a GPAC meet, while the men close out their season this weekend with the highly anticipated NorDor Cup.

"Winning the NorDor Cup was definitely one of our main goals that we laid out at the beginning of the year," said sophomore Christian Manes. "We feel like we have a great shot to win this year and bring the cup home for the first time. Winning the cup would be the exclamation point on a fairly successful year."

Indeed, it was a fairly successful year. The men finished well done the stretch, ranking in the top half of their past several tournaments, including a second-place finish at the Northwestern Spring Invite. Even better than that: the Defenders beat Northwestern by one stroke.

The spring season wasn't quite as kind to the women's team, who finished in the penultimate position in all four of their spring tournaments. Golfers are hoping a golf-filled summer will help improve on those finishes next season.

One of the keys to success is consistency—something both teams have been working

on—and it's starting to show. Consistency has been a major focus for several golfers on the men and women's sides.

"I feel like I am more consistent than prior years, and my play in windy and rainy conditions has definitely improved," said junior Micah Roos. "Having a best score of 77 and a worst score of 83 in meets this year shows some consistency which is nice in the game of golf."

More individual consistency has led to better finishes this year than last, particularly down the stretch. But despite the better play, Dordt golf isn't satisfied to sit where it is.

"As a team, I don't think we are that satisfied overall, Roos said. "We have played pretty well in a couple of meets, but we are only sitting middle of the pack in the GPAC. We are doing a little better than last year, but we aren't where we would like to be as a team."

It's that drive and demand for more that have some at Dordt optimistic about the golf teams next season. Some talented recruits for next season help the cause, too.

Both teams counted on their fair share of seniors with the women having five on the roster and the men having seven. Dordt's hope is that some of the newcomers and those remaining on the program can fill those shoes and continue this upward momentum.

But even if Dordt wins the NorDor Cup to close out the season, it'll be up to the individual golfers to continue their individual



Selfie stick moment of the men's golf team captured during the team's spring break trip to northern California

Photo by Christian Manes

progress during the summer. Each golfer has something specific they can always improve on.

"I hope to improve on my driving for next year," Roos said. "I feel like that is the one very inconsistent part of my golf game that costs me the most strokes. It has improved quite a bit this season, but there is still a ton of room to improve."

Keeping overall sharpness and focus is

key for carrying the momentum over to next season.

"I plan on putting in a lot of work over the summer when I'm home and play in a few tournaments to keep my game sharp," Manes said.

If Dordt men's golf continues on this current trend, it just might be a dark horse in the GPAC in 2015-16.

Arts and Entertainment

Bridget Rowe exhibits “Perceptions” art show

Meagan DeGraaf - Staff Writer

As the end of the school year approaches, students have the opportunity to enjoy the art of many graduating seniors. Four previous art shows have already taken place, with the most recent show featuring art from senior Bridget Rowe.

On April 25, Bridget opened her gallery of art, called Perceptions, to the public. Since then, she has had many people visit, including Dordt College President Erik Hoekstra, who said in passing that he enjoyed the performance art pieces.

Her art ranges from photographic performance art to more abstract pieces,

covering a wide range of emotions and topics. She focused on relationships, perceptions, and human interaction.

“Through my art, I hope to make viewers think about their own relationships and how they treat others,” said Rowe. Many of the pieces invoke this thinking through the use of text within the pictures, which ultimately exemplify the perceptive labels people are given.

She also wanted people viewing the art to think about what makes them the person they are. Many of her pieces featured important statements amongst the abstract painting surrounding them. The “Word Vomit” series was one that evoked such thoughts.

Many of her pieces were changed and completed over long periods of time, because she wanted the pieces to accurately portray her perceptions.

“People and psychology are endlessly

fascinating to me, and provide a source of inspiration,” said Rowe, who is graduating this May with degrees in social work and art. Her interest of people and their relationships has led her to reflect that in her art and field of study.

The majority of her art pieces are very complex, just as people are. Her art is intended to make viewers think, as much art does. Viewers learn things about themselves and others through art more than they realize.

Until May 2, Rowe’s exhibit Perceptions will remain in the art gallery across from the Eckhardt Lounge in the campus center. This is the last senior show that will be displayed.

David Versluis, an art professor at Dordt College, stresses the importance of art on a college campus. This art is free to view and right in the campus center. Students are strongly encouraged to view the art exhibit while it is still open.



“Perceptions” will hang in the Campus Center Gallery through May 2

Photo by Jeremy Vreeken

The New City prepares for summer touring

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

An interview with Jon DeGroot about the growth and development of Dordt’s summer travelling worship band, The New City.

Q: Who is involved in the New City group?

Jon De Groot: Daryl Brunisma (Sr. Digital Media) - Co-leader, guitar

Justin Pastoor - (Sr. Exercise Science/ Psychology) - Bass

Marta Vander Top (So. Worship Arts Major) - Co-leader, Vocals, Keys

Christian Manes - (So. Biology Major) - Guitar, Vocals

Sarah Bos - (Fr. Spanish Major) - Vocals

Sam Roskamp - (Fr. Agriculture) - Drums

David Brown - (Fr. Worship Arts) - Sound Tech

Q: Why/how did the team get started?

De Groot: The team was started because of 1) a need for worship leadership that arose from churches, camps and events, 2) a departmental desire for continuous training and development for our worship team members (Worship Arts Majors and Minors and Campus Ministries students), and 3) Dordt’s desire to connect with a broader constituency. This is the third year the team will be traveling.

Q: What (if anything) has The New City been doing during this school year?

De Groot: The group has been practicing, team building and scheduling events.

Q: What plans do you have for the group in regards to this summer?

De Groot: They are getting a later start this year due to some prior family vacations,

but they will have about nine weeks of employment with seven of those on the road doing week long summer camps and serve projects. They will also be leading at a number of local churches.

Q: Has the identity of the group changed/grown since it got started? If so, how?

De Groot: Only as much as the students involved, the impetus and vision is the same. Each year we will ideally have one or two students who have done it previously for consistency, with some underclassmen representation for future growth and involvement.

Q: What are the goals of The New City? What would you like to do or how would you like to grow the group?

De Groot: The goals are designed to meet the needs stated above. I also desire spiritual growth in the students as they spend the summer ministering to young people and local congregations. In the coming years it would be a dream to see a partnership with digital media, drama, art, theology or athletics to provide speakers, artists, drama companies or sports clinics that are so good in what we bring that camps and churches are lining up to have them come. I would really like to see advances our technological presentation with what we are able to with the arts of sound, lights and video.

Q: What can Dordt students do to support the New City?

De Groot: 1. Pray for them 2. Look for a schedule (on the website soon) and consider supporting the team by visiting a local church that will host them this summer. 3. Fellowship with them when they are not on the road (ask how it’s going).



Top: The New City logo for the summer

Logo and photo by Daryl Bruinsma

Bottom: The members of the summer team. From left to right: Justin, Christian, Marta, Sam, Daryl and Sarah

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The Back Page



Sports year in review (cont.)

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record in Dordt's history, going 2-8 for the season.

"It was tough at times," quarterback, Taylan Seaman said. "But we pulled through knowing down the road we're going to be the team to beat."

Sixty of the players were from the freshmen class and the majority of the team will be returning next season. The team has a lot to look forward to in the next couple of years. The leading rusher was Daniel Fennig and the leading receiver was Jason Miller

Both baseball and softball are still currently in play and the teams are shaping up for a playoff run. The baseball team is only 2 games out of the playoffs. The team is 14-22 and 6-10. They could make the playoffs for the first time in Dordt's history. The softball team are 8-9 in conference and are currently

the 7th seed. The team could move up to as high as 5th if they beat Northwestern and finish off the season with 3 wins.

The track team has been doing excellent as the team is competing in all the meets and plans to send multiple competitors to outdoor nationals. The team already sent members to the indoor finals. The list of athletes that went included the men's and women's 4 x 800, Lauren Opp who ran the 5000, Erika Douma, Miranda Velgersdyk, Kayla Byl, Nicole Slater Sam Wensink, Stephan McNamara, Nick Vander Kooi, Trent Kischer, Kelsey Lewis, Lillie Koerne, and Justine Van Zee.

Overall, Dordt athletics ends the 2014-2015 school year on a strong note. Teams are looking forward to future successes and are excited to represent Dordt well next season.

Feature Photo



Aaron Baart and "Carl the Defender" sporting the proposed "new uniforms" for Dordt athletics

Kanye West takes a new direction with "Only One" and "FourFiveSeconds"

Jonathan Janssen- Staff Writer

What in the world is Kanye West up to? After releasing Yeezus in 2013 to rave critical reviews, West took a year-and-a-half hiatus to go on tour. During this time, he was in and out of media's eye going into numerous extended rants in his concerts and, in the infamous 2014 controversy, stopping his show because there were people seated at his concert – only to discover he was directing his complaints at the disabled section.

After a rocky year, West finally jumped back into the musical world with two new releases: "Only One" and "FourFiveSeconds." While technically intended to be released on Rihanna's upcoming album, "FourFiveSeconds" bears obvious connections to West's own "Only One" in two primary ways – their stripped-down, minimalist sound and famous Beatles guitarist Paul McCartney's feature on both songs.

In these unexpected mashups of one of rock & roll's most iconic members and the self-proclaimed "god" of hip-hop, McCartney takes up the background providing a poppy ballad for West on "Only One" and an up-tempo acoustic riff for Rihanna and West on "FourFiveSeconds."

"Only One," sung entirely by West with the use of his signature autotuned voice, showcases West as an introspective son dreaming about Donda, his late mother, talking to him from heaven. West touches on many different subjects, ranging from his recent bouts with public opinion to his new daughter North. McCartney's hand in this song becomes more understandable when "Only One" is compared to the Beatles' hit "Let It Be" – a record written by McCartney about his own late mother "speaking words of wisdom."

The song ends with a beautifully simplistic piano solo from McCartney that extends well over a minute. Ending with

a splayed out chord, McCartney provides a perfect outro to West's most touching song since his last ode to his mother "Hey Mama" in 2005.

"FourFiveSeconds" sees McCartney backing Rihanna and West with muffled exuberant chords while the two belt out their frustrations with their respective partners.

McCartney's signature Beatles sound is displayed brightly on the bridge as he trades in his guitar for organ keys. On top of a gospel-sounding chord progression, Rihanna gets introspective about her relationship, realizing that there are problems on her end as well as his.

While the songs' lack of over-the-top production is somewhat refreshing in a genre filled with artists covering up their lack of talent with the ubiquitous autotune, the underproduction here borderlines on forced one too many times. While the idea could have spawned a more authentic, artistic sound, it instead falls into context-limbo – it's hard to tell when and where these songs should be played.

Now, months later, West has released the third single "All Day" to critical acclaim. Those who criticized him for his departure from hip-hop music were pleasantly surprised to find "All Day" a club banger which features artists Theophilus London, Allan Kingdom, and – as usual – Paul McCartney.

The song is a bit repetitive and uninspired with West using variations of the N-word (in order to complete rhyming schemes) 45 times, but this weakness is substantiated by the high energy of the piece and an ending that breaks all conventions, distorting London and McCartney's voices in a futuristic appeal.

Taken as a whole, these singles prove that West has not run out of steam or ideas, and his future endeavors should prove to remain provoking and unsettling in the face of current conventionality. Time and time again, West forges through the banality of musical imprisonment to push genres to – and many times, over – their breaking points.



Kanye West performing "All Day" at the 2015 BRIT Awards

Contributed Photo