Engagement?

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NEWS

This fall, Dordt officially launched Pro-Tech, a pioneering approach to hands-on, professional-technical education.

Four (count them) siblings from Indonesia are studying at Dordt College this year.

Dordt College welcomed its first Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Joyce West, who joined the Education Department for a semester-long visit this fall.

FEATURES

Students and professors at Dordt explore challenging questions at the intersection of faith and science.

Dordt’s Assistant Director of Admissions Eric Tudor has risen quickly among the ranks of competitive cyclists. For him, though, cycling is about more than winning.

What do a children’s card game and projective geometry have in common? A retired and current Dordt mathematics professor join forces to explain the hidden math in the matching game Spot It!

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Dordt students Kyle Fossé and Makeila Shortenhaus dance as Leonato and Hero during the masquerade scene of this fall’s theatre production, Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing.

A growing number of Dordt students spend the summer doing research alongside professors across the disciplines.

ALUMNI

This year’s Distinguished Alumni, Yvonne (Vaags) and Jason Kimm (’99), were honored for their work blending traditional and conventional approaches to agriculture in Montana.

April and Kelly Crull have spent more than two decades exploring what it means to plant and nurture churches in the vibrant urban neighborhoods of Spain.

ENGAGEMENT?

Engagement is an abstract word, and like all abstractions, it’s not easy to pin down. The Wall Street Journal recently named Dordt College the nation’s top college or university in the category of engagement, a measure of teaching quality and students’ involvement in the learning process.

These lists are greeted with great fanfare in the press, trumpeted across the webpages of the worthy and well-ranked. But rankings, and the news stories that come with them, quickly drop off newsfeeds and out of memory, leaving the real work of teaching and learning to go on as it has and will, often without much acknowledgement. It’s the ordinary work of the classroom, performed diligently by the professors and students who meet each other there.

What matters about something like “engagement” is what it looks like on the ground, in the flesh. Engagement, in the lives of students at Dordt, is a wild, growing, joyful thing—not something easily quantified. And like all kinds of learning, it can involve the pain of re-thinking, of letting go, of re-building.

The stories we tell on our pages are, ultimately, stories of engagement. Whether it’s students in this fall’s Agroecology course, trudging through wet pastures and learning from farmers, or it’s humanities majors exploring career options in Sioux Falls, or it’s students doing summer research alongside their professors—transformative learning continues, list or no list, ranking or not.