
Humanities Trek Across Sioux Falls

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Faculty Notes

Psychology Professor Dr. **Bruce Vermeer** and Biology Professor Dr. **Tony Jelsma** gave a joint presentation titled "Perseverance: Psychospiritual and Genetic Perspectives" at the annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation in Azusa, Cali., in July.



The presentation was based upon a senior research project conducted by biology major **Arielle Johnston** during the 2015-16 academic year.

Mathematics Professor Dr. **Valorie Zonnefeld** and Education Professor Dr. **Ryan Zonnefeld** gave a joint presentation titled "Technology-Infused Classrooms: Bridging the Gap in Pre-Service Mathematics Teacher Preparation" at a conference in the Netherlands. The Zonnefelds also gave a presentation titled "Faith Connections in the Math Classroom" at the Heartland Educators Conference in October.

Dr. **Valorie Zonnefeld** gave a presentation titled "Standards-Based Assessment in a Developmental Math Course" with Dordt students **Michal Huizenga** ('17), **Aaron Van Beek** ('18), and **Kate Van Weelden** ('17) at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference in October. She also presented "Implications of Growth Mindset Training on Undergraduate Statistics Students by Gender." After this presentation, Zonnefeld was invited to write a chapter for a book published by Springer.

Agriculture Professor Dr. **Dick Joerger** served as an evaluator of FFA Proficiency Awards in February and an evaluator of Instruction for American Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers in June. Joerger also served as a peer reviewer of research proposals for a regional research conference in June and a peer reviewer of article proposals for a professional journal in July.



HUMANITIES TREK ACROSS SIOUX FALLS

What can you do with that major?" It's a familiar question for those studying in the humanities. English, art, theology, history, theatre, and music majors know they're gaining skills in critical thinking, writing, and public speaking, but such soft skills don't always translate into clear-cut employment choices.

This fall, the Career Development Center staff took eight humanities majors to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to visit four up-and-coming companies and learn about careers available to students like them.

DocuTAP was the first stop on the trip. "You might think a software development company wouldn't be the place for a history, English, or theatre major, but you'd be pleasantly surprised," said Ashley Huizinga, a senior English major.

Daryl Bruinsma ('15), who studied graphic design and digital media production at Dordt, is a videographer at DocuTAP, where he employs storytelling skills cultivated at Dordt in a technology-rich context.

"We want focused but flexible employees," said Jarrod Heinz, CFO of DocuTAP. "We're looking for ideal team players: humble, hungry, and smart."

Fresh Produce, an ad agency that provides marketing and creative consulting services, is also eager to hire graduates with humanities degrees.

"If you have good ideas and you're good at articulating them, you belong here," said one copywriter to the students. Fresh Produce employs copywriters, graphic designers, and marketing strategists, all ideal positions for humanities majors.

Hope Kramer, a senior art major, appreciated seeing practical applications for her major. "It was helpful to hear from like-minded individuals in the field of work I'm interested in," she said.



BRANDON HUISMAN('10)

Dordt humanities students visit The Bakery, a coworking space in Sioux Falls eager to hire students with skills cultivated in disciplines like English, history, and theatre.

Stop three was The Bakery, a creative consulting company and open workspace in a converted former bakery. There, students learned about working as freelancers, something many had not considered.

"Entrepreneurship and owning your own business can be risky, but for those looking for independence, it can be the right fit," said Huizinga.

The final stop on the trip was at Washington Pavilion, a performing arts center. The Pavilion employs hundreds of workers, many of them history, English, fine arts, music, and theatre majors.

While most Dordt humanities students choose a major because they love what they study, most also know that employability matters.

Huizinga, like the others, enjoyed learning that "companies of all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds are on the lookout for ambitious, driven, smart, and connected students of all stripes and majors."

SARAH MOSS('10)