And Retasya Makes Four

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Dordt’s twelve Indonesian students have dubbed themselves InDORDTnesians. They’re among the more than 100 international students living and studying at Dordt. Four of them are also siblings.

Retasya Badudu joined her sister and two brothers on campus this fall.

Senior Ranita Badudu, the first of the siblings to attend Dordt, says she always wanted to study abroad, and her parents wanted all four of their children at the same college. “In a developing country like Indonesia, you have to go to college,” Ranita adds.

After Ranita enrolled at Dordt, her siblings followed. “I had no choice!” jokes Rainanda “Ray” Badudu, the third eldest.

“Like my brother said, I didn’t have much choice,” adds Retasya. “But I wasn’t forced to come. I visited and talked to the professors, and I saw the benefits to a smaller college.”

“Studying abroad forced me to be more mature and independent,” says Raddhitya “Brad” Badudu, the second oldest. “If you have the chance to get a head start on adulthood, why not?”

The Badudus were first introduced to Dordt College when a friend suggested they meet with former Dordt Director of Admissions Curtis Taylor when he was visiting Indonesia.

“What first attracted us to pray about Dordt was that Dordt doesn’t only educate students to master knowledge, but more importantly, to prepare them to be the light of the world using their knowledge,” says Rina Badudu, the students’ mother. “Sending four children to Dordt is part of our family’s faith journey.”

Even with siblings attending the same school, studying in a foreign country can be difficult. “Coming to Dordt was my first time in the States, and I haven’t been back home since then,” says Ranita.

Being far away from other family has been “the biggest challenge,” says Brad. “Asian cultures are usually dependent on family,” and being away from family during the holidays or when a loved one dies is hard.

“The exclusivity of being an international student is also a challenge,” says Ranita. “You want to take pride in your own country, but you don’t want to be proud, you know? Everyone shares lots of similarities because we’re all human beings, but it is easy to see differences.”

“People don’t like doing hard things, and going back to the familiar is just comfortable,” says Ranita. “But, especially in recent years, international students have branched out.” She believes this has significantly benefited both international and domestic students.

Food is one way the Badudus have connected with the Dordt community. The siblings meet with fellow Indonesians and international students at the weekly coffee time hosted by the Global Education Office (“Which is open to domestic students!” interjects Ranita) and the “International Table” at the Commons, which also welcomes all students.

“The ‘International Table’ in the Commons is a good way for American Dordt students to get to know international students,” says Ray. The “International Table,” two long rectangular tables surrounded by students from across the globe, gives Dordt students a unique opportunity to learn about a variety of cultures while building friendships with people from all parts of the world.

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As a new Dordt student, Retasya has been grateful for this opportunity. “I’m excited to learn about other people’s cultures. I’ve never been away from Asia,” she says. “And I look forward to learning more about my heart and about God while I’m here.”

Her parents are grateful, too.

“We believe that Dordt is the place to help each of our children become a mature disciple of Christ, and we would not change that for anything,” says Rina Badudu. “We would make the same choice again—to keep our eyes set on God, and hear and follow his direction in making the decision.”

LYDIA MARCUS ’18 WITH ASHLEY HUIZINGA ’18

The four Badudu siblings stand near the clock tower with their parents, who recently traveled to campus from Indonesia to visit their children, all currently students at Dordt.