

Jacob Lewis's Return to Dordt

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Faculty Notes

Education Professor Dr. **Gwen Marra** gave a presentation titled “Informational Texts and Vocabulary for Young Children” at the Iowa Reading Association Conference in Ames, Iowa, in June.



Assistant Provost Dr. **Leah Zuidema** gave a presentation titled “Expanding Concepts of Vocation in Christian Higher Education” to the IAPCHE-Europe conference in the Netherlands in April. In August, an article Zuidema co-authored, titled “Resources Preservice Teachers Use to Think about Student Writing,” was published in *Teaching of English*.



Mathematics Professor Dr. **Mike Janssen** gave a presentation titled “Improving Proof-Writing with Reading Guides” at MathFest in Columbus, Ohio, in August. Janssen also co-organized a MathFest session called “Formative Assessment Techniques in Undergraduate Math Courses.” In June, Janssen published an article titled “The Waldschmidt Constant for Squarefree Monomial Ideals” in the *Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics*.

History Professor Dr. **Scott Culpepper** contributed a chapter called “No More Mr. Nice Angel: Angelic Ethics from the Ancient World through ‘Paradise Lost’ to ‘Supernatural!’” to the book *The Supernatural Revamped: From Timeworn Legends to Twenty-First Century Chic*, edited by Barbara Brodman and James E. Doan and published by Fairleigh Dickson University Press.

Director of Graduate Education Dr. **Steve Holtrop** gave a presentation titled “How Serving Graduate Students is Different from Serving Adult Undergrads” at the Christian Adult Higher Education Association annual conference in Chattanooga, Tenn.



Kraayenbrink Jacob Lewis's Return to Dordt



DORDT COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Before a harrowing car accident left him with life-threatening injuries, Jacob Lewis, now a Dordt sophomore, played in the post for Dordt's J.V. basketball team.

JACOB LEWIS'S RETURN TO DORDT

RELATABLE

Lewis, who plans to become a physical therapist someday, believes this experience will help him better relate to those he cares for.

“I’m looking forward to being on the other end,” Lewis said. “My therapists think it would be a good way for me to relate with patients, knowing what they’re going through. Being in the hospital and then the rehab center and then an outpatient has helped me make my decision in that area.”

I remember getting gas and saying goodbye to my mom before I left,” Jacob Lewis said. “I remember getting on the highway and that’s all I remember until I woke up two weeks later.”

On March 24, Lewis was driving back to campus after a job interview. In the snow and ice, he hit a patch of slush and collided with a semi-truck. The semi flipped and Lewis’s car was totaled. First responders from Mercy Air Care in Sioux City, Iowa, airlifted him to the hospital. In critical condition, Lewis was sent to Omaha, Nebraska, where he spent more than 24 hours in surgery.

“He had a lot of fractures,” said men’s basketball Head Coach Ross Douma. “Most notably the vertebrae and the pelvis. What was really remarkable—and a miracle from God, for sure—was that he did not sustain any head injuries. From his neck down to his knees, he had something that was broken or injured virtually every four inches.”

Lewis spent long weeks at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska, relearning how to stand and walk and perform daily tasks. The men’s basketball team visited him there to help lift his spirits and get his mind off rehab.

“There was a lot of joking and normal talk,” Lewis said. “It was good.”

Lewis returned to Dordt and his basketball family this fall. Looking back, he says the toughest part of his rehab was the mental one.

“I had to ask my parents and nurses

for everything,” Lewis said. “That was probably the worst—having to rely on everybody for everything, from feeding me to getting a glass of water.”

Back at school, Lewis is working with Dordt’s athletic trainers two to three times a week to get his strength and coordination back. Although he won’t be on the basketball court this winter, he will be helping the team as a student manager, encourager, and friend.

“He’s been a positive example of somebody who just keeps on fighting,” Douma said. “He had two concussions during the season last year, and he was undeterred. It would’ve been easy to just throw in the towel and look for another school close to home. But he wanted to come back and finish what he started. I think that speaks volumes about him and his character and how he was raised.”

CLARISSA KRAAYENBRINK (17)