In Rich Soil

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IN RICH SOIL

If you are discouraged about the next generation, I suggest you meet some of our Dordt students.

At our annual Scholarship Donor Dinner in September, I asked the two students seated at my table about their favorite class so far.

“That would be my social work class with Professor Boer,” said one.

“I just love my nursing ethics class with Professor Bomgaars,” said another.

After identifying these classes, the students described how their eyes have already been opened to how they might bring God’s light into some of the darkest places in our society, how they’ve been challenged to look at issues in their potential careers through new lenses, and how they are more excited than ever about the callings they are pursuing.

We also heard several seniors speak from the podium—students looking forward to starting non-profits or to sharing the Good News to unreached people groups.

Scholarships, as celebrated in our annual dinner event, are critically important pieces of support for these students, making it possible for them to imagine serving in areas like social work, education, and missions without accumulating a heavy burden of debt. I invite you to join the growing community of scholarship donors who are making these careers possible. Our Advancement Office is ready to help make that happen.

Beyond scholarships, all of your gifts, whether for the Dordt College Fund, AMOR, building projects, departmental support, or the scholarship program, make a Dordt experience accessible for many students. These gifts deepen and enrich their experience.

I sometimes describe Dordt College as rich soil. Students “planted” here grow in extraordinary ways. The gifts of the community supporting them are the sunlight, water, and nutrients that enable them to flourish. Imagining the harvest gives me great hope for our future.

JOHN BAAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

STAN OORDT LEAVES HIS MARK ON CAMPUS

Campus has changed since Stan Oordt started work as a custodian in the science building in 1991. “Southview Apartments wasn’t built,” says Oordt, who recently retired from his position as Director of the Physical Plant at Dordt College. “There was a trailer court on the edge of campus. We didn’t have a soccer field. Yes, a lot has changed since I first started.”

Oordt was promoted to Director of the Physical Plant in 1993. “Since then, every building on campus has changed or been renovated in some way,” he says.

Over the years, Oordt and the maintenance team made many improvements to Dordt’s campus. Walk around campus, and you’ll notice beautifully manicured trees, freshly cut grass, and clean sidewalks. Step into the Campus Center, and you’ll feel like you’ve set foot in a brand-new facility, not a building built in 2002. Dordt’s maintenance team, led by Oordt, had a hand in nearly all beautification efforts on campus.

“When you have passion and ownership for the job that you do, you’re going to do well,” says Oordt. “God entrusted these buildings to us to take care of, and that’s been a priority for us.”

“Stan also cared deeply about the employees that worked in his department,” says Cindy Groeneweg, physical plant secretary. “He had a servant heart and was always willing to jump in where help was needed.”

SARAH MOSS (’10)

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