Community on Campus and Around the World

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COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE WORLD

These are words I hear over and over as I serve Dordt alumni and parents.

Story after story reminds me of how God is using Dordt to bless others—in big and small ways.

Ask a student, “What is it about Dordt that makes you want to be here?” and the answer you’ll probably get is “Dordt’s community.” Students genuinely like being with each other. And that sense of community extends beyond students; professors care about students as fellow disciples. Students share that their advisers are available to provide both life and academic advice. I can look out my window at home and see Dordt students in a professor’s yard, playing games and eating a home-cooked meal.

The community extends beyond campus. Just the other day, a junior was looking for a place to live for the summer and didn’t know anyone where she was moving. We reached out to an alumnus, and the immediate response was, “We’ll make sure she is welcomed in our church and our home. We’ll take care of her.” Four alumni couples partnered with us to host an event for over 100 people, and many attendees were prospective families who had never heard about Dordt. At the end of the event, one organizer noted, “It’s the least we can do to host these families so they can experience Dordt. Dordt families in Sioux Center take care of our kids during the school year, and we want to give back.”

This sense of community makes a big difference. In talking with one future Defender mom about her son, I asked her how he chose Dordt. She said she gave him this advice: Think about the people that have impacted you, molded you, and that you respect. Then ask them where they went to college.

Her son chose Dordt, in part, because of a teacher—a Dordt graduate—who had a great impact on his life. This graduate is shaping students in such a way that her life and work is honoring God. She’s making an impact, and it’s building the kingdom.

Think about the people that have impacted you, molded you, and that you respect. Then ask them where they went to college.

So what makes Dordt special? People who invest in one another and want to walk alongside each other. That sense of community is evident across campus, through neighborhoods, and around the world.

ALICIA BOWAR

ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

ALUMNI NOTES

Please send news of your alumni gatherings, professional accomplishments, civic participation, and volunteer activities. We’d love to include them on our pages.

Leonard Fakkema (‘81) is the K-8 principal at Ontario Christian Schools in California. Under his leadership, the K-8 program has grown to over 700 students.

Jodi Tukker (‘98) was recently promoted to associate director at Christian Opportunity Center in Pella, Iowa. She has held various positions over the years, including as program coordinator for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). In 2006, Tukker became a program manager for the HCBS program and in 2010 accepted a position as a regional director of the Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) program, a position that she has held for the past eight years.

Andrew DeYoung (‘05) was awarded the Minnesota Book Award in the young adult literature category for his book The Exo Project. DeYoung was also featured in the spring 2017 edition of Twin Cities Artists.

Alvin Shim (‘10) recently named office and communication administrator at Tierra Nueva in Burlington, Washington. Tierra Nueva is a church for people on the margins. “Our congregation comes from incarceration, addiction, trauma, gangs, homelessness, and migrant fields,” says Shim. “Our primary value is hosting God’s presence, sharing the peace and transformation of Christ to places of great need.” For more information about Tierra Nueva, visit www.tierra-nueva.org.

Jaclyn Ver Mulm (‘10) was named the Le Mars Citizen of the Year for her work to distribute wheelchairs on mission trips to Barlad, Romania. The award was presented to her at the Le Mars Rotary Club Awards Banquet.

Ally Karsyn (‘11) received the 2018 Greenlee-Kappa Tau Alpha Diversity and Inclusive Award for her work with her storytelling project Ode. The award, given by the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication at Iowa State University, recognizes excellent journalism that promotes a just, inclusive society and broadens understanding of diverse lives through ethical storytelling.

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