Setting the Direction

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**Recommended Citation**

Droog, Sue () "Setting the Direction," *Dordt Voice, 2016-*, Vol. 64 : Iss. 1 , Article 18.
Available at: [https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol64/iss1/18](https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol64/iss1/18)

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ONE of the most rewarding parts of my job in human resources is sitting in on dozens of interviews every year. Toward the end of every job interview, I provide an opportunity for the candidate to ask questions that might help them discern if Dordt and this position is the right fit. Inevitably, they ask a question such as “What do you like best about working at Dordt?” or, “What is the culture and environment like at Dordt?”

As an HR leader, I find it encouraging to sit back and listen to Dordt faculty and staff describe Dordt’s culture to prospective employees.

Recently, I heard comments such as:

“I love the sense of community we have here.”

“I appreciate that there are high expectations here, but collaboration, accountability, and support for each other.”

“I enjoy opportunities to worship with faculty, staff, and students every Wednesday in chapel.”

“I love the sense of collaboration and respect between my colleagues. This is a place that encourages research, ideas, and innovation.”

“I feel valued for my knowledge and experience, and I am encouraged and supported in my professional development.”

One of my favorite descriptions given this past year was at the end of an interview. When asked to describe the culture at Dordt, the staff member said, “For me, it is like we are on a big ship. We all have our distinct roles or sections of the ship; some work in the kitchen or maintenance, some are in guest services, others are navigating and setting the direction to steer the boat. We all have different skills and different tasks, but at the end of the day, it is a blessing to be in a place where we are all working to move the ship in the same direction. We all know who we are but most importantly whose we are. We know who we serve, and that guides everything we do. Things can go wrong, but the focus people have at Dordt for our mission and glorifying God helps us stay on course.”

I feel blessed to be a part of this community and look forward to seeing how God will continue to bless Dordt in the 2018-19 academic year through the efforts of current and new faculty and staff who continue to build a vibrant culture together where we can serve God.

SUE DROOG SERVES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AT DORDT.

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.

Damon Dotson (’02) is a musical artist from Okoboji, Iowa. He has opened for such legendary artists as Willie Nelson, The Beach Boys, and B.B. King. Dotson has released four of his original albums and has performed additional shows throughout the Midwest.

Derek Imig (’06) was named assistant coach of the year for the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association in the high school division. The coaches, who were selected by a vote of their peers, were recognized for their lasting commitment to positively impact student-athletes, institutions, and communities. This past season, Imig helped lead Blanchet Catholic School’s varsity girls’ basketball team to the 2017 Oregon State Activities Association Class 3A State Championship with a third-place finish. His award was presented as part of the WBCA convention, coinciding with the Women’s Final Four in Columbus, Ohio.

Joe Hoksbergen (’05), whose pen name is Joe Hox, has illustrated three books, which were released on October 8 from New Growth Press. They are the first three in a series titled Good News for Little Hearts, and the books are designed for parents and counselors to read with children. The first book, Zoe’s Hiding Place, deals with the topic of anxiety, Jax’s Tail Twitches with anger, and Buster’s Ears Trip Him Up with failure. Learn more at https://newgrowthpress.com/zoes-hiding-place-when-you-are-anxious/.

Jessica (Walker, ’06) Louwerse received a master’s degree in urban global leadership from Bakke Graduate University in June. She is currently in Alaska, co-leading the 2018 Anchorage Urban Peacemaking Fellowship, a project of the Street Psalms Urban Training Collaborative. In Anchorage, she is pursuing her passions of neighborhood and civic transformation, serving the marginalized, developing local incarnational leaders, and engaging in peacemaking efforts. To learn more about Street Psalms, visit www.streetpsalms.org.

Corey Moss (’10), a certified public accountant, has been admitted into the partnership of Nichols, Rise & Company, LLP in Sioux City, Iowa. Moss works with a wide variety of small businesses and individuals, but he also has concentrations in farming, medical, construction, real estate, and investment entities.

Ruth Mahaffy (’13) has been recognized by the American Library Association for her excellent work with the English as a Second Language program and with the Sioux Center Public Library. In a new report from the American Library Association, the library has been highlighted as part of the American Dream Literacy Initiative, a grant program that supports services for Adult Language Learners.

This past May, Arielle (Johnston, ’16) Flynn received a master of science degree in genetic counseling from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.