Hoping for Spring

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HOPING FOR SPRING

Winter in the Midwest is an investment—a long-term commitment that often requires more than most of us care to admit. On the best days, it simply requires patience. And on the worst, it requires all of the strength we have.

We put our hope in spring. We dream of warmer temperatures, longer days, green grass, and brightly colored Easter dresses even as the thermometer plunges once again into temperatures that should really only be read about. Spring demands this season of change. We invest in the life of a student feeds their hopes and dreams in the midst of the year the daffodils don’t come back. Still, we hope—and we invest.

Whether big or small, short or long term, all of our gifts are used by the Lord for a special purpose.

And so we wait, hoping and investing in what is now and what is coming.

KAREN VAN SCHOUWEN (’01)

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.

In the late 1960s, a group of Dordt students began a tradition of making a yearly fishing trip to Dead Lake, Minnesota, during their four years at Dordt. These students included Jim Den Ouden, Gaylen VanderLugt, Cal Groen, Howard Walhof, Don Dykstra, Dennis Baas, and Jim Martinus, all 1968 graduates. Forty-nine years later in 2017, these eight friends spent a week at Morning Star Resort on Lake Andrusia in Minnesota, sharing a lifetime of stories and memories.

Scott Pryor (’76) is spending the spring 2019 semester in India on his second Fulbright grant. Pryor is posted to National Law University-Delhi and will conduct research into the implementation of India’s new insolvency and bankruptcy code. Pryor teaches U.S. bankruptcy law and other subjects at the Campbell University School of Law in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In June, Dr. Lloyd VanderKwaak (’78) retired as president and CEO of ChildServe, an organization helping children with healthcare needs. He will serve a one-year term as executive adviser to the new CEO as part of the ChildServe executive succession plan.

After graduating from Calvin Seminary in 2001 and serving as a senior pastor in several congregations, Joan (Vander Beek) ’81) DeVries completed her Ph.D. from McMaster University in 2016. In August 2018, she began work as an assistant professor of worship arts at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia.

Bradley Weidenaar (’94) received the 2018 Iowa Council of Teachers of English Distinguished Service Award. He currently serves as an instructional coach at Marshalltown High School. He has taught a variety of English classes, from at-risk to advancement placement.

After enduring several personal tragedies including involuntary childlessness, breast cancer, and a knee injury, Kristin (Johnson) ’97) Miller completed the Point to La Pointe 2.1-mile open water swim from Bayfield, Wisconsin, to Madeline Island on August 4, 2018. “I did it by putting one fin in front of the other,” says Miller.

Andrew J. Deaver (’05) was recently promoted to partner at Abrahams Kaslow & Cassman LLP, a law firm in Omaha. Deaver focuses his practice on estate planning, probate and trust administration, guardianships and conservatorships, and business organizational and contractual matters. He earned his J.D., cum laude, from Creighton University School of Law in 2010. He is admitted to practice in Nebraska and Iowa.

Sometimes, the return on our investment is nearly instantaneous—like those random 45-degree days in the middle of February in Iowa. At other times, we find ourselves wondering if this will be the year the daffodils don’t come back. Still, we hope—and we invest.

And so we wait, hoping and investing in what is now and what is coming.

KAREN VAN SCHOUWEN (’01)