

Building Defender Nation Through the Alumni Council

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see that I could make a difference."

Verbrugge enjoys leading and mentoring people in his role as program manager. He also appreciates being able to reconnect with Dordt through people like Leader, Timmer, Moss, Sandouka, and Hoekstra.

"Dordt didn't have a computer science program when I was a student, and now it does," says Verbrugge. "When I spoke with Hoekstra in 2013, I was curious: How good was this computer science program? I've been pleasantly surprised by the students who have interned and now work at the lab, and by the work that Kari Sandouka and others do with the program."

Timmer is thankful for the opportunities he had to learn and grow while studying at Dordt.

"The field of computer science moves extremely fast, and it can be hard to keep up with emerging technologies," he says. "Dordt prepared me to know how to learn and adapt to these new technologies in an efficient manner. In software development, being a lifelong learner is extremely important, and Dordt prepared me for that."

Moss encourages Dordt students in engineering and computer science to consider an internship at APL.

"If you have a chance to apply for an internship, take it," he says. "You'll work alongside some of the smartest people in the nation. An internship is a great way to get your foot in the door and to learn."

Leader is grateful he took a chance and moved from his hometown of Crofton, Nebraska, to Maryland.

"I can't thank Ken Verbrugge enough for giving this opportunity to me. He and his wife Judy have been hugely helpful, from helping me find a place to live to introducing me to people around the area. Now I'm in a great position just by getting out of my comfort zone and taking a step of faith. I ended up going somewhere I wouldn't have dreamed of when I started at Dordt."

SARAH MOSS ('10)

BUILDING DEFENDER NATION THROUGH THE ALUMNI COUNCIL

Each fall and spring, you'll see an energetic group of alumni visiting Dordt to learn about new things on campus, to provide encouragement, and to give valuable feedback. They sit in on classes, interview students for the Alumni Association Scholarship, review pages of alumni award nominations, and advocate for bringing back homemade pies served on Sunday in the Commons (I hear this was a tradition on campus long ago!). They listen in on updates from academic departments on campus, celebrate the exciting things happening, and reminisce about those "good 'ol days."



These members of Dordt's Alumni Council come from communities across North America and represent geographic locations where Dordt alumni and parents live. Drawing on their diverse backgrounds and graduation years, their purpose is to advise the Alumni Office and hold us accountable to Dordt's mission while

also serving as a link between Dordt and our alumni.

These alumni are an important part of our team and are often called our champions for the work they do in their communities. They share their experience with prospective students and encourage them to attend Dordt. Alumni Council members help us organize events in their communities. They assist graduates new to their communities in finding housing or recommend Dordt students for internships in their businesses.

Dordt University Alumni Council, thank you. I'm grateful for your service to Dordt's alumni and parents and for the way you promote Dordt. You're building the Defender Nation community in your churches, schools, and workplaces.

As one council member put it, "We've got to also be number one in alumni engagement!" I couldn't agree more.

Alicia Bowar

ALICIA BOWAR ('05), ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

