

## Let's Connect

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JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

## LET'S CONNECT

On a sunny yet unseasonably chilly day in late June, 257 sixth through eighth grade students arrived on campus. Dordt Discovery Days hadn't been in-person since 2019, and the campers were eager to stay in the dorms, participate in classes like Survivor Siouxnamie and Cooking with Karen, and make new friends. In many ways, 2021 Dordt Discovery Days gave middle schoolers a glimpse of what being a Dordt student could be like. It also gave Dordt faculty and staff a chance to see Dordt anew—to teach classes in a way that appeals to a younger audience, but also to form new connections with students who might one day return to campus as college freshmen.



This issue of *The Voice of Dordt University* looks at the many ways Defenders form connections. Professor of Language Studies Dr. Rikki Brons and five Dordt students used their Spanish speaking and writing skills to connect with elementary students, hospital patients, the formerly incarcerated, and more. KDCR 88.5 FM spent five decades serving as a bridge between Dordt and Sioux County. Classes like History of the Muslim World and Methods of Teaching STEM in K-12 Schools encourage students to look beyond themselves and consider different perspectives.

Making connections, forming friendships, being bridge builders—these are wonderful ways to show compassion and to live out our faith. They also help us continue fulfilling Dordt's mission to "work effectively toward Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life."

*Sarah Moss*

SARAH MOSS ('10), EDITOR

## GAME CHANGERS

Brock Huard, a former Washington Huskies quarterback and veteran college football analyst who now works for FOX Sports, spoke at the Game Changer Christian Sports Summit. Huard was one of several speakers, including Wayne Simien, a former University of Kansas basketball player, and Ron Brown, University of Nebraska's director of player development. The summit, which took place in June, sought to equip and inspire current and future athletic directors, coaches, and teachers in faith leadership.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**5** The four faculty members who are retiring this year have given more than 100 years of cumulative service to Dordt.



**6** A few adjustments were made to this year's commencement ceremony so that the class of 2021 would be able to graduate in person.

**8** With the lowest per foot utility cost in the state among Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Dordt works hard to be stewardly with resources.

**10** Students now have access to a screen-printing studio, thanks to the work of Graphic Design Instructor Vaughn Donahue.

**16** What is the lasting legacy of KDCR 88.5 FM?

**22** Five seniors who studied Spanish during their four years at Dordt gained new perspectives on the importance of language learning.

**30** Liz (Friesema, '05) Hoek and her family show the love of Jesus through adoption.

**32** Herm Van Niejenhuis ('71) helped to bring hockey to Dordt's campus both as a student and as a coach.

