

## Trimming to Thrive

Sarah Moss

*Dordt University*, [sarah.moss@dordt.edu](mailto:sarah.moss@dordt.edu)

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DORDT OFFICE OF ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

## MAKING DORDT HISTORY

In a game where points were tough to come by, the Dordt Defender women's basketball team secured a 53-52 win against Southeastern University and advanced to the program's first-ever NAIA National Championship game where they claimed runner up.

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# TRIMMING TO THRIVE

It felt like, this spring, nearly every tree on campus got a trim. Students and employees could easily spot downed branches and new calluses on trees that loom over East Hall, the spindly ones near the Campus Green, a knobby one right by the B.J. Haan Auditorium, and others.

Everyone seemed to be talking about it. *The Diamond*, our student newspaper, even published an article about the person responsible for the campuswide tree trimming. Craig Van Otterloo spent years working in park management and is, by all accounts, a trimming expert. In December when he started serving at Dordt, he decided the trees needed work.



"Right now, the trees look odd with all the fresh cuts," Van Otterloo told *The Diamond*. "Once the cuts begin to heal and the leaves come in, people will see why we needed to do it." Ultimately, the trees will produce larger leaves that will lead to a fuller appearance.

This issue of *The Voice of Dordt University* includes stories of students, faculty, and alumni who, like Van Otterloo, are focusing on what they are good at in order to make improvements for the future. Three environmental studies graduates have built their careers around water management to better steward resources God has provided. Professors and students are working on a Core Program refresh so that students can better understand why it is foundational to a Dordt education. A professor started the Gaming Guild as a way to encourage students to think more deeply about gaming and faith.

Perhaps these stories will remind you of the trimmed trees on Dordt's campus—how reshaping something can provide a new perspective that ultimately allows for a greater chance to thrive.

SARAH MOSS ('10), EDITOR