

Full-Scale, On-Campus Events Welcomed Back by Students

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FULL-SCALE, ON-CAMPUS EVENTS WELCOMED BACK BY STUDENTS

After two years with few in-person, indoor campus activities, the Dordt Student Activities (DSA) committee, which plans and oversees campus events, held movie screenings on the Campus Green, Airband, and other activities this fall. The two largest events were the Freshmen Talent Show and Airband.

"We really wanted to make sure that we started this year off strong with events to push student involvement in campus community," DSA President Lexi Schnaser says.

This year's Freshmen Talent Show was open for all students to attend, in contrast to last year's show, which was held in an empty B.J. Haan Auditorium and livestreamed on the Campus Green. This time around, seniors Sharlee Fopma and Sarah Holmberg hosted the event and came dressed in Hawaiian shirts and cargo shorts. Contributions to the show included piano playing, standup comedy, card throwing, and more.

In November, seniors Chase Pheifer and Parks Brawand hosted Airband, an event where students show off their lip syncing and choreography skills. A group of senior girls, dubbed "Remember Me..." performed to a compilation of Taylor Swift songs. The Resident Assistants of the men's residence halls gave a winning performance as they danced to a compilation of pop and Disney songs, including snippets of "You're Welcome" from the movie *Moana* and "Love Story" by Taylor Swift.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made community-building difficult. In the past, DSA's large events attracted many students from across campus and provided a way for them to get involved in campus community life. With the exception of the livestreamed Freshmen Talent Show, DSA sponsored only one major event during the 2020-21 school year: The Event. This



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The stage of the B.J. Haan Auditorium was transformed for Airband, an event where students lip sync and perform choreographed dances to popular songs.

well-attended, unmasked event combined three favorites: Talent Extravaganza (TX), NCDC—a music competition between Dordt and Northwestern College—and Airband.

because, through campus events, students make connections and meet new friends, says senior Johanna Gross.

"I met all of my friends through being involved in Dordt activities, so I'm so glad that underclassmen are experiencing these events again because it's an actual representation of what it's like to be a student at Dordt again," says Gross.

Sophomore Aleasha Hintz says she "felt like a second-year freshman" at the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year because there weren't many opportunities to meet people on campus last year.

"I had figured out the school aspect of Dordt, but I hadn't figured out the social aspect," she says. "The addition of campus events has been an overwhelmingly positive thing in my life."

Schnaser is happy with how DSA's events turned out this year.

"DSA events are very Dordt-centric with a lot of references to Dordt-specific things such as professors, classes, and stereotypes. It's a fun way to bring people together in community," she says.

HANNAH VANDERHOOF ('22)

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— Aleasha Hintz, sophomore

As a result, this year's seniors are the only students on campus who have experienced a relatively normal year of activities. Juniors attended some of these events during their freshman year, but the sophomore class has experienced only a small taste of what events and community can look like at Dordt. This year's freshman class is the first class in two years able to experience a normal freshman year, with all the usual events.

The DSA pushed for large events right away this year. This is important