

Humbly Serving in God's Kingdom

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HUMBLY SERVING IN GOD'S KINGDOM

At the first Dordt event of my career, a high school tailgate where we served food, I asked a couple which football team they were cheering for that night. Their response was, "Oh, we're not here for the football game. We came to see Dianne De Wit." Creating a culture of belonging and connection with the Dordt community whether you're on campus or in another state, province, or country is no easy task, but that is the purpose of Dianne's work.



Over the past 26 years, Dianne has been one of the team members behind many significant milestones and events in Dordt's history; the 50th year Jubilee celebration, Meet President Hoekstra events, learning vacations in Africa and Europe, Move to University events, scholarship banquets, 50th class reunions, building dedications, and athletic nationals celebrations.

In partnership with others across campus, she built Discovery Days to be one of the most popular academic camps in the country. She transformed

parent's weekend into a combined parent and alumni reunion we call Defender Days that attracts over 2,500 to campus every fall. This year, Dianne will retire on the day of the commencement ceremony for the class of 2022, one of our largest campus celebrations.

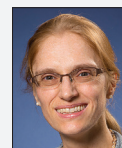
Dianne's retirement has caused me to reflect on how she and others have shaped our Dordt community. My hope is that each of us considers how we are humbly serving in God's kingdom and fill in those gaps where we have skills and gifts when no one else wants to take on the challenge. I encourage you to build connections and help others feel a special part of your life and mission, so they're inspired to love others well in return. I hope you'll equip each other for service and growth through mentorship, encouragement, and prayer. We are grateful for the way Dianne has loved and served our team, alumni, parents, students, and friends of Dordt University. Blessings in your retirement, Dianne!

Alicia J. Bowar

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

CAMPUS KUDOS

Director of Library Services **Jenni Breems**

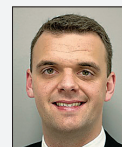


is serving as a Project Coordinator for the Iowa Private Academic Libraries open educational resources project. In 2021, Iowa Private Academic Libraries received a \$254,000 grant from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund to promote the adoption and creation of open educational resources, which are freely available online and reduce the costs associated with traditional textbooks. The project is funding 62 faculty projects at 18 academic institutions in Iowa. Six Dordt faculty are receiving funding: Dr. Carl Fictorie, Dr. Jason Ho, Dr. Mike Janssen, Julie Van Otterloo, Dr. Kathleen Van Tol, and Dr. Channon Visscher.

Data Science and Statistics Major **Miranda Vander Berg** and Professor of Computer Science **Dr. Kari Sandouka** presented a poster at the South Dakota State University Data Science Symposium. That poster, which presented the results of the machine learning algorithms Apriori and Association Rules, won third place at the symposium.

In January, **Dordt hosted the 15th and final Prairie Grass Film Challenge**. Participants had 48 hours to make and submit a film. The final awards ceremony was held on February 18, with a screening of all films.

Accounting and Business Administration Major **Kendal Zylstra**



announced that he is running for Iowa House of Representatives District 4. To learn more about Zylstra's campaign, visit zylstraforiowa.com.

Biology and Chemistry Major **Rachel Heynen** received a travel award for a poster presentation at the 16th Peptide Therapeutics Symposium. The poster presentation was titled "Using Picoloyl Ester and 2-Chloro-Trityl Groups for Site-Selective Sulfation of Peptides."

Alumni E-news

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One of the blessings of serving in alumni relations is the opportunity to share the stories of our alumni. Dordt's alumni humbly serve in every day ordinary ways that has an extraordinary kingdom impact in their communities and organizations. The *Distinguished Alumni Award* and *Horizon Award* are awarded to two alumni who come to campus to speak to our students and inspire the next generation of leaders. We share their stories with the Dordt community so that others may be uplifted by their service, and can offer a prayer of thanksgiving for what God's doing in the lives of our alumni.

Whose story of service inspires you? Who do you respect? Who are the leaders in your community? Who is changing their industry in new ways? Nominate them for one of Dordt's alumni awards so their work and impact can be recognized and shared with fellow alumni, parents, and students.

Alicia Bowar ('05)
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

Alumni Spotlight: Calvin Leader

Calvin Leader ('14) graduated from Dordt with a Computer Science degree. He now works as a software engineer for Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. Learn more about Calvin's work in cybersecurity in the alumni spotlight video below.

