

Using Our Gifts

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Recommended Citation

Moss, Sarah (2022) "Using Our Gifts," *The Voice*: Vol. 67: Iss. 3, Article 2.

Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol67/iss3/2>

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JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

CLASS OF '72 REUNION

On May 19, graduates of the class of 1972 came back to campus for their golden reunion. The day was jam-packed with events, from a welcome coffee time to a walking tour of campus to a banquet in the West Commons. Attendees connected with old friends, shared memories, and saw how Dordt's campus has changed in the past 50 years.

IN THIS ISSUE

4 Kendal Zylstra spent his senior year balancing schoolwork and political ambitions.

5 Defender Crops gives agriculture students a chance to get their hands dirty in order to learn more about farming practices.

6 A baseball record that's been in place for 50 years has been struck out.



9 Austin Brown, a senior digital media major, passed away from medical complications this spring.



12 At graduate dinners, seniors enjoy a meal, share advice, and chat with President Erik and Dr. Barb Hoekstra one last time before commencement.

16 In Constitutional Law, students are randomly assigned one of three roles and must debate seven cases on the Supreme Court docket.

22 Dr. Matt Beimers is inspiring the next generation of educators through History and Philosophy of Education.

26 Dr. Nana Quaicoe was recently awarded an award for excellence in teaching and professional service for his work as economics professor at Wartburg College.

USING OUR GIFTS

In May, Dordt held a watch party for the finale of Fox's Domino Masters, a show where teams used thousands of dominoes and many intricate Rube Goldberg contraptions to create amazing domino art. Dordt students Alex and Derek Koops were part of team Dominerds, who made it to the final three.



The Campus Center was packed with 400 students, alumni, and friends of Dordt who were eager to watch the finale. Young children clamored to get a photo with Alex and Derek. During commercial breaks, Dordt Media Network Director Rich Lodewyk asked Alex and Derek questions about their domino builds, what it was like to be on the show, how they developed their domino art skills, and more.

Later, when the television show host announced that Dominerds had won and would receive \$100,000, everyone in the Campus Center jumped up and cheered.

This event was the highlight of my spring semester; it was fun to watch these talented students use their unique domino art skills and to have Defender Nation rally around them.

Dordt has many talented students and alumni like Derek and Alex Koops. In this issue of *The Voice of Dordt University*, we tell stories of other gifted students and alumni: a senior who ran for a government position while balancing his schoolwork, a baseball player who struck out a 50-year record, an economics professor making a difference in students' lives, and more. It's encouraging to see alumni and students glorifying God by utilizing their talents and gifts.

Sarah Moss

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