

Remembering Emma

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REMEMBERING EMMA

Emma Nibbelink, a Dordt University freshman from Luverne, Minnesota, passed away in a car accident on Tuesday, January 10.

"We grieve Emma's passing, and we pray for the Holy Spirit to be near to her family and friends," says President Erik Hoekstra. "We have Christ's assurance of going before Emma to prepare a place, which provides hope even during the sadness we experience today."

Emma chose to major in business: marketing and minor in sociology during her time at Dordt. Energetic and bubbly, Emma was known for her cheery disposition and her laughter. She had many friends on campus.

Kristen Van Elderen, a freshman nursing major who was a close friend of Emma's, says that Emma was wonderful at bringing people together. "About 90 percent of the people I know now at Dordt are because Emma introduced me to them, and many friends say the same. We miss her terribly," says Van Elderen.

Professor of Language Studies Dr. Leendert van Beek taught Emma in Core 100, an introductory course for incoming students; he also served as her academic adviser for the fall semester.

"Emma was very engaged in my class. She was eager to answer questions," he says. "If at some point, there came no reply from the class, I just had to look at Emma, and she would speak up. She was also a very positive influence in the small group discussions we had."

Emma served as an admissions assistant for Admissions Counselor Selena Munson ('21), who will never forget how much Emma enjoyed cold-calling high school students on the phone to tell them more about Dordt.

"She would come breezing into my office for our weekly meetings, telling me about what she had going on that week: her other job in the Rec Center, the sociology minor she picked up mid-semester, her voice lessons, her off-campus job, or the hijinks she was getting up to with her many friends," says Munson. "I will remember Emma as a bright, sparkling ball of energy, who



lifted whatever room she walked into."

"She held nothing back," adds Bailey Moret ('20), who also worked with Emma in the Admissions Office. "She would introduce herself to anyone and quickly befriend them or make them smile. She made you feel seen, laughed easily, and loved so well."

Associate Professor of Music Dr. Carrie Groenewold says that Emma had a lovely voice and participated in the music

program on a vocal scholarship. "Emma had a bright and energetic demeanor, and others gravitated toward her," says Groenewold.

Emma enjoyed working at the Rec Center, and Assistant Athletic Director Trent Roose ('18) recalls how dependable and hard-working she was.

"She had a heart for serving others. When her tasks were finished, she always enjoyed recapping the week or weekend and connecting with our morning community members. It was common to hear her laughing with her co-workers or striking up a conversation with our facility users."

Emma and her friends were avid Defender hockey fans, attending every home game. Head Hockey Coach Tyler Morgan and his team enjoyed knowing that they would see Emma after a game right outside the locker room. "Emma had the most contagious laugh, and she always wanted to be sure that people were having fun. There will always be a spot in our student section for Emma Nibbelink."

"Emma knew and loved her Savior and is now with him in eternal glory," says Aaron Baart ('99), dean of chapel and chief of staff. "Yet, Emma will be dearly missed and mourned for by her family and the close friends she made during her time at Dordt. Please pray for God's nearness and comfort for her friends and family during this difficult time."

SARAH MOSS ('10)



MEMORIAL CHAPEL

To view the celebration of life chapel service held in remembrance of Emma Nibbelink, please visit the link from the QR code.

