Hundreds of men brave below-freezing temperatures to pray for community

Danny Moeser – Staff Writer

The event, labeled as the “1000 Man Stand”, started at the Home Building behind Culvers and ended at the B.J. Haan Auditorium. The walk began at 7 p.m. and shuttles were provided to transport the men to all different parts of Sioux Center. During the next hour, men young to old walked through side streets to pray over homes and churches.

“I’ve had so many people ask me if Sioux Center has done anything like this 1000 Man Stand,” said Aaron Baart, the Dordt College Chaplain and organizer of the event. “I really don’t think we have, I don’t remember the last time we’ve had a men’s event of this size.”

Baart had an idea several months ago to hold a men’s event and came up with the 1000 Man Stand.”

A Dordt College worship band led the men in praise and worship and Dordt College football coach Joel Penner along with Billy Sanderson, a member of the band from Minneapolis, preached short messages.

“It felt like we were making some ground spiritually because we were having some conversation and we were starting to take something back from the enemy.”

Throughout his message, Penner advised the men to look at their relationship with Christ from the perspective of a court trial. It can be a battle and full of difficulties, but always the pay off is guaranteed to be worth it. Penner encouraged the men to stay strong and humble throughout their walk with Christ and always remember to thank him regardless of the outcome. As long as they keep Him at the center, all things are possible.

Sanderson shared his testimony and battles with brain cancer. He reminded the men that God will save and come through, but it is all in his timing. He has everything under control and will provide the men the strength to be the strong leaders America needs.

The night ended with a time of more prayer and worship. The men broke into small groups to pray for strength and wisdom.

“We need Christian men to take control,” Sanderson said. “It’s time to lead and be the men that the world needs us to be.”

Contributed Photo

Master Plan renovations set over twenty years

Ashley Hawkins – Staff Writer

Ever find yourself thinking, what will Dordt become once I’ve graduated? How will things look in five years, ten years, thirty years? There’s a plan for that. Planning for such eventualities, Dordt’s Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Howard Wilson carries the proverbial keys to the schemes and goals for reconfiguring and repurposing the campus (and other lands owned by the college) over the next two decades.

The Plan involves renovations for every significant building on campus except the Campus Center. These plans include a potential Professional Studies Center connected to the Science Building, a new Commons and culinary arts program, and even renovations of existing dorms and dormitories.

“We had [the original plan] designed by a company called Crede from Green Bay, Wisconsin. They specialize in campus design. They spent quite a bit of time here, talking to faculty, talking to staff and students, asking ‘what’s your vision for the future?’”

Then a new company called Hastings+Chivetta, they’re from St. Louis. They’ve revised the plan a bit.

Wilson juggles many factors to be considered, such as available parking spaces, online courses, and future building renovations.

“We’re constantly deciding, is this the type of thing we want to do?” Wilson said. “Today we’d like to connect East and North [dorms], kind of a lobby or something. But you also have to think about where green belts should be, because it takes twenty years to grow a tree.

“I’m almost certain I’ll be crying into a bowl of ice cream… the Mayor actually asked us if we owned a third and the All Seasons Center touches the edges of the city limits, so we have a parking spot for everyone,” Wilson said. “We have a parking spot for everyone,” Wilson said. “That’s a passion for me: I have a wife and two daughters.”

Currently, the college is part-owner of TePaske Park (“we own a third”) and the All Seasons Center (“we own half”), the baseball field and the football field (“a three-way partnership between Dordt and the city and the school district”). Another major factor is the availability of parking for all 1400+ students.

“We have a parking spot for everyone.,” Wilson said. “This isn’t so much of a parking problem as a comfort [convenience] problem…

“In some institutions you have to take a bus to your dorm… [Still, Parking] is perceived to be a problem. How can we get better parking? How can we arrange it, [especially] for nursing students and Pro-Tech students who have to get off campus at 6:00 a.m.”

However, the plan can include every eventuality, and the Master Plan is a keepsake. The plan evolves regularly,” always with the caveat that it’s a twenty-year plan, it’s based on funding that we can raise, from asking people to help us… but it’s not carved in stone, it’s written in paper.”

Even in the last two years, we came up with the idea at the farm… the Mayor actually asked us if we’d be willing to exchange land. The farm [we owned] touches the edges of the city limits, now. We negotiated that trade with them [two days ago], now we’ve literally sold the farm, and got another one.

Yes, that’s right: It’s another typical Wednesday at Dordt College.

It also happens to be Valentine’s Day, a day when many remember the memory of a beloved Saint Valentine. Nobody really knows anything about him other than the fact that he was martyred… FOR LOVE (actually he was being persecuted by the Roman government).

I like to celebrate the St. Valentine’s Day massacre by dressing up as Al Capone and speaking in an Italian accent,” remarked sophomore Zach Diefken. “I’m going to be celebrating the true meaning of Valentine’s Day.”

Despite its blood-spattered history, the day is traditionally celebrated in a number of ways, including: stressing oneself out by pretending to be really happy or really sad over nothing, spending too much money on overpriced and/or unhealthy food and giving and receiving the severed reproductive organs of certain species of plants.

But is that what really happens on campus? Or is Valentine’s Day just another date on the calendar? To answer this question, we asked Dordt Students: what will YOU be doing this Valentine’s Day?

Some students choose to ignore the day completely.

“Someday we’d like to connect East and North [dorms],” said junior Sam Vant Hoff.

Many students are not going to spend the evening with their significant other. A lot of the couples around campus have already made plans to celebrate the holiday.

“Regarding my plans to spend Valentine’s day with my boyfriend, junior Karissa Van Surkum noted: “I was going to make some treats, but since you’re interviewing me and not answering my question of whether or not I can use your oven, I guess not.”

Other students, like junior Garth Van Donselar, prefer to leave room for Jesus.

“Since Valentine’s Day falls on a Wednesday this year, I’ll be at youth group like a good Christian,” Van Donselar said.

To most students, however, Valentine’s Day is just another day of solitude and crippling loneliness.

“I’ll probably end up drinking an entire bottle of sparkling juice by myself,” said single and musically-gifted second place winner of the talent extravaganza Rebecca Groninga, Dordt junior.

“I’m almost certain I’ll be crying into a bowl of cinnamon toast crunch,” said blue-eyed, intelligent and very eligible bachelor Adam Galloy, junior.

In order to keep up with romantic demand, Dordt is sponsoring a sparkling activities.

This year, for instance, the CDAs on campus are helping students send cans of “Crush” sodas to their crushes, and the cost is completely free.

After all, nothing says “I find you attractive” like a can of high fructose corn syrup.

“Someday we’d like to connect East and North [dorms],” said junior Sam Vant Hoff. Many students are not going to spend the evening with their significant other. A lot of the couples around campus have already made plans to celebrate the holiday.

“Regarding my plans to spend Valentine’s day with my boyfriend, junior Karissa Van Surkum noted: “I was going to make some treats, but since you’re interviewing me and not answering my question of whether or not I can use your oven, I guess not.”

Other students, like junior Garth Van Donselar, prefer to leave room for Jesus.

“Since Valentine’s Day falls on a Wednesday this year, I’ll be at youth group like a good Christian,” Van Donselar said.

To most students, however, Valentine’s Day is just another day of solitude and crippling loneliness.

“I’ll probably end up drinking an entire bottle of sparkling juice by myself,” said single and musically-gifted second place winner of the talent extravaganza Rebecca Groninga, Dordt junior.

“I’m almost certain I’ll be crying into a bowl of cinnamon toast crunch,” said blue-eyed, intelligent and very eligible bachelor Adam Galloy, junior.

In order to keep up with romantic demand, Dordt is sponsoring a sparkling activities.

This year, for instance, the CDAs on campus are helping students send cans of “Crush” sodas to their crushes, and the cost is completely free.

After all, nothing says “I find you attractive” like a can of high fructose corn syrup.

“I’m almost certain I’ll be crying into a bowl of cinnamon toast crunch,” said blue-eyed, intelligent and very eligible bachelor Adam Galloy, junior.

In order to keep up with romantic demand, Dordt is sponsoring a sparkling activities.

This year, for instance, the CDAs on campus are helping students send cans of “Crush” sodas to their crushes, and the cost is completely free.

After all, nothing says “I find you attractive” like a can of high fructose corn syrup.

“I’m almost certain I’ll be crying into a bowl of cinnamon toast crunch,” said blue-eyed, intelligent and very eligible bachelor Adam Galloy, junior.

In order to keep up with romantic demand, Dordt is sponsoring a sparkling activities.

This year, for instance, the CDAs on campus are helping students send cans of “Crush” sodas to their crushes, and the cost is completely free.

After all, nothing says “I find you attractive” like a can of high fructose corn syrup.

“I’m almost certain I’ll be crying into a bowl of cinnamon toast crunch,” said blue-eyed, intelligent and very eligible bachelor Adam Galloy, junior.

In order to keep up with romantic demand, Dordt is sponsoring a sparkling activities.

This year, for instance, the CDAs on campus are helping students send cans of “Crush” sodas to their crushes, and the cost is completely free.

After all, nothing says “I find you attractive” like a can of high fructose corn syrup.
Iowa bill hopes to lower charges for possession of marijuana
Tessa Hennonlia — Staff Writer

A bill attempting to reduce penalties for those found in possession of marijuana is being presented to Iowa lawmakers this session. According to State Sen. Brad Zaun (R), who drafted the bill, the goal of this proposition is to make sure that rare or first time use of marijuana does not affect future school and career opportunities.

This move is unsurprising, considering 29 states have now legalized the use of marijuana to varying extents. The drug can have many positive effects on the body and is most commonly prescribed for managing—specifically nerve pain—and nausea, often caused by cancer treatments. Marijuana has also been legalized for recreational use in nine states and the District of Columbia.

“It’s a good thing that the states are taking the lead like this because it is not, and never should be, a federal responsibility,” said Jeff Taylor, a political science professor. The current law in Iowa classifies the first possession offense as a serious misdemeanor, punishable by incarceration for up to six months and a fine of $1,000. The bill proposes that the punishment for first time possession of less than five grams be lowered to a simple misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a fine of $525.

While there is not an exact estimate, the lowered penalties would save the state a large sum of money that would have been spent on the incarceration of those charged with marijuana possession. In the 2016 fiscal year, Iowa had 3,399 convictions for first offense of marijuana possession, according to the Des Moines Register.

Dordt College reported a total of three arrests for drug law violations during the school years of 2014-2016. There were no reported disciplinary actions for drug abuse violations in those years. According to Dr. Tony Jelsma, a Dordt biology professor, the heavy use of marijuana can have negative health effects on the brain. The Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) found in marijuana mimics the brain chemical anandamide which affects brain areas associated with pleasure and memory. THC can alter the functioning of the brain and inhibit parts of the brain that shift focus or create new memories.

The use of marijuana, as with any drug, can also lead to addiction. Addiction to marijuana is unique because it involves building a tolerance, which causes users to need more product to get the desired effect, and has withdrawal symptoms. However, marijuana users do not exhibit the same psychological addiction found in users of hard drugs.

Craig Stensma, a Dordt health and human performance professor, said there can be serious consequences for long term users.

“Over time, there can be neurological symptoms. It can be detrimental to [marijuana users] overall lives,” Stensma said.

Concrete Canoe sets course for competition
Zachary Sanford — Staff Writer

For the ninth year in a row the engineering department has enlisted students to create a concrete canoe and enter it along with the team to compete in a concrete canoe race. This year the canoe is called the “Reformer.”

Planning began at the start of the new school year, and construction of the canoe soon followed. The material used to make the canoe itself is not ordinary concrete; it is a mixture of fiberglass, plastics, clay, concrete, sand, water, and small foam beads: a requirement under competition rules. The mixture allows the canoe to be lightweight. Two different types of concrete are used in the construction.

“A big change from other years is defining our techniques for efficiency,” said Jansieke deBoer, an engineering student. “Because there aren’t as many people involved this year, we’ve been working on trying to get more done in meetings, and refining our process so it requires the minimum amount of time and effort.”

Trenton Ribbens and deBoer are the project leaders. For these Sophomores, stepping into the leadership role was a big deal. There is a smaller group of students helping, as well as a time crunch. The planning and creation of the canoe is in their hands. Each student puts in around 60 hours of total work. With the help of other engineers, the group gives over 250 collective hours to the project.

The seniors have been helping us with this as they have been for the past four years,” Ribbens said. “We are trying to make it our own.”

The process started with planning and conceptualizing. Since they had made canoes in previous years, most of the work involved taking ideas and improving them. The group of engineers made a frame for the inside of the boat, then moved the pieces outside into the greenhouse. There, the group pulled wires and laid the groundwork for placing the concrete mixture in the mold.

“There is an experience of good, and plan and see something come out of it,” Ribbens said. “The accidents and classes are good, but to come out and apply it is better.”

Laying the concrete happened a few days after Christmas Break. They then placed wet towels on the slushy white mixture to dry. Evidence of the smooth, dusty progress of sanding shows on the outside and inside of the canoe.

The competition is held in mid-April at the University of Minnesota Mankato. The group is still looking for students who want to help out with building and finishing the canoe “Reformer.” The group will make a board with a list of information about the creation and design of the canoe to show alongside the canoe at the competition.

Trenton Ribbens said, “If you are at all interested in helping out, you should take-the-of-goals-all come out and help a concrete freaking boat,” deBoer said.

Employed employees were in charge of organizing the sessions and providing instructions. There were over 25 sessions available for students to participate in, they ranged from “Fetal Pig Surgery” to a lesson on Karate.

“This event is always so much fun to plan,” said Ashley Peters, the Osceola County Youth Coordinator for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. “We love to see all the students having so much fun with hands-on learning.”

Each group designed a poster to present to their advisors at the end of the day that encompassed all of their favorite aspects of STEM Fest. All of the groups were given the opportunity to go on stage and describe it to the rest of the audience.

Kayla Vande Vegte, a junior education major volunteered at the event as a group leader.

“It was great to see all of the schools come together for the festival,” Vande Vegte said. “We had a great day together.”

Job searching with CDC
Joshua Meribole — Staff Writer

As the Second Semester begins, Dordt student depends on what year they are, begin to prepare and search for jobs or internships. There several avenues that are made possible to Dordt Student on how they search and prepare for the work field. The Career Development Center is one of the possible avenues as it frequently puts on event for Dordt Students.

On Occasion, there are companies, organizations, and educational institutions that put on booths to attract Dordt Students. But how many students sign up?

For every organization that comes to Dordt, the number of student appear to vary.

“We don’t really have a way of knowing,” says Amy Westra, Career Center Coordinator. “We don’t have a good system of tracking that yet. It is one of my goals.”

However, Westra explained, the organizations that tend to engage students, get more sign ups than those who did not.

One of the event that the Career Development Center is the Job fair. During the Job fair, there were not many jobs available to many of the majors done at Dordt.

The fair advertised jobs related to Engineering, Agriculture and Business fields.

“His historical and its intention,” says Westra. “Westra went on to explain that the reason the job fairs are focused on specific majors, is because it allows a wider variety of companies to come to Dordt. If the job fair contained more companies and organizations that had to do with all the majors at Dordt, there would be, for example, one company per major. However, by making the job fair focused on certain majors, it gives student from some of Dordt’s most enrolled courses, multiple companies to choose from.

Westra also added that they were working on hosting a job fair that focused on humanities internships.

Elayne Apol benefited from the job fair. She currently is doing an Internship at GroShopp. She said that she handed in her resume however it took them a while to get back to her.

“There teaching me a lot about the manufacturing process,” Apol said. She went on to explain the benefit of internships.

“It helps you understand what it is your job is going to be like in the future. Having these internships has giving me a better idea of what engineering looks like, what engineers do as well as what I really enjoy and thus want to pursue as a future career. And I think that really, really helps. So that when I get to graduation, I am not so overwhelmed.”

Career Development Center has moved more to introduces Handshake, a LinkedIn-like job search, but made specifically for college student.

The CDC also does other programs such as Resume, cover however, looking at past events such as hosting with Resume’s, Cover Letters, LinkedIn profile reviews, Graduate school application and etc.

On February 9th the Career Development Center is hosting Etiquette Dinner.
Russia banned from participating in 2018 Winter Olympics

Prior to the start of the Pyeongchang Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee determined that Russia was to be barred from participating due to a major doping scandal in the 2014 Games.

Doping does not only enhance physical performance but can have serious consequences for the user's health. Doping has been linked to the deaths of multiple athletes, across many disciplines. The death of Linas Rumsa, a 21-year-old cyclist who died of a heart attack in May 2017, was a particularly shocking example of the toll doping takes on athletes.

“Doping is responsible for many deaths of young athletes in their prime,” said biology professor Tony Jelsma. Despite the ban, Russian athletes who could prove they were clean and uninvolved with the scandal were invited to compete in the Olympics as OARs. Olympic Athletes from Russia compete under the conditions that they do not wear Russian uniforms, the Russian flag will not be flown during opening ceremonies or the awarding of medals and the medals they earn will not be counted as Russian medals.

Iowa Caucus

This year’s precinct caucuses were held on Feb. 5 — the first in the nation to occur in 2018. The 3618 precincts met around Iowa to discuss platforms and to nominate candidates. Forty precincts said on an off year that at the precinct level not up for reelection, and so the caucus was focused on gubernatorial and congressional candidates.

This year, the Democrats and Republicans were joined by the Libertarian in their primary endeavors, thanks to the structure of showing of Gary Johnson in 2016 that gained the Libertarian party major party standing in Iowa. The Libertarian caucus for all of Sioux County was held in Sioux City, the Republican caucus was held in Orange City, and the Democratic caucuses met separately for its 16 precincts.

A typical Iowa Democratic Caucus, participants from preference groups according to the candidates they support. Then a half hour is given for people to persuade one another to support their candidate. After this, all candidates below 15% of the vote are removed, and their supporters must select a new candidate. Then each preference group elects delegates for the county convention who will support their candidate. The Republican caucus is structured differently; a simple ballot vote is taken, and delegates for each candidate are selected based on the caucus vote.

Turnout at the caucus was, as expected, low compared to that of a presidential election year. The Democratic caucus for Sioux Center North had three participants, and the Republican caucus for Sioux Center South had two participants. Jeff Taylor, Professor of Political Science at Dordt College, compared caucus turnout to the ebb and flow of tides. Considering the issue of low turnout, Northwest Iowa was hit by a snowstorm the night of the caucus. The Republican caucus, according to Taylor, far the OARs have competed without a hitch.

Fly, Eagles, fly!

This year’s Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 4, was an event for many.

On Sunday night, the dorm rooms were filled with fans cheering for both teams. Many Democrats from Minnesota either wanted the Patriots to win because the Eagles had beaten the Vikings or, like everyone else, couldn’t wait to see the Patriots win another Super Bowl.

A lot of the excitement came in the 4th quarter, even though the Patriots were behind, they have proven to be a fourth quarter comeback team. That truth was denied this year as the Eagles remained on top most of the game. Both teams managed to miss a combined 3-field goals from 30 yards or closer, a first in Super Bowl history. Another record set was the number of total offensive yards in Super Bowl history, 1,151, in the US Bank Stadium. Fans in the stands and across the nation witnessed a true underdog story.

This was the first Super Bowl that the Philadelphia Eagles have won since the team was created in 1933, when the team was purchased for only $2,500 and the name changed from “Yellowjackets” to Eagles.

Let’s cover some basic names and numbers.

We’ll start with the AFC-American Football Conference and the NFC-National Football Conference.

The NFC East conference is the 21st century, bringing home five Super Bowl wins in a 15-year period. The only other team who has won more rings than the Philadelphia Eagles, with a 6-7 loss record over the course of more than 30 years. Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady have led the NFL for most of the 2000’s.

I want to see the Patriots win because the Eagles beat my team, the Vikings,” said freshman Brandon Hofme.

The Eagles have won four NFC East Championships and two NFC Division Championships.

Amid the party snacks and the drinks consumed, a lot of yells and words crossed between halls. The majority of Dordt students seemed pleased with the outcome. Just a week and a half later, there isn’t much talk about or even notice that has changed two Republicans, two Libertarians, and an independent. Taylor believes that the incumbent, Kim Reynolds, holds a slight edge over the competition despite not previously being elected to the post. She was appointed to the governorship in 2017 to replace longstanding Governor Terry Branstad after he became the US ambassador to China.

Steve King, the congressional representative for Iowa’s 4th district is also up for reelection. Republican Cyndi Hanson is challenging him in the primaries and spoke at the Sioux County Republican Caucus. She had a poor reception, according to Taylor. For Democrats, Cape put forward four primary candidates, from which one will be selected to challenge King in the general election. Most political pundits believe that King will win reelection easily due to his previous election record; in 2014, King won reelection with an overwhelming 61.6 percent of the vote.

Staff Writer

Danny Mooers — Staff Writer

The Sioux Center Community School District has a new superintendent.

Gary McElwain, the current Sioux Center High School principal has been selected to take over the position. Current superintendent Pat O’Donnell will step down at the end of June after a 16-year stint in the district.

Before the school board started the interview process on Feb. 5, school board member LoriAnn Andersen joked with O’Donnell.

“You would be willing to leave your shoes in the board room for the interviews so we know what we have to fill?” she asked.

O’Donnell thanked the board when he presented his resignation in mid-October.

“I feel blessed to be here and for so long,” O’Donnell told the board. “There was a culture of working together that already existed before I got here, and I feel fortunate to have come here and to be a part of that. And because it’s the culture, I know it will continue on no matter who’s here after I’m gone.”

The board and community members are grateful to O’Donnell and the things he did to make the Sioux Center Community School District better.

“We appreciate what you (O’Donnell) have done for the board and the district,” Sioux Center Community School District Board Chair Tim Gesink said to O’Donnell at the school board meeting in October. “The district is better because of you. You’re leaving behind big shoes to fill.”

The board is confident McElwain will serve the community well.

McElwain has been in education since 1995. He began as a classroom instructor and taught through 2001. In 2001, he was hired as a high school principal. Sioux Center High School hired him as principal in 2006. After 12 years, he received his promotion.

“Gary’s familiarity with the community is what set him above the rest (of the candidates),” Gesink said. “We’re confident that he was the best candidate.”

Members of administration, the board, parents of students and faculty all had the opportunity to interview each candidate for nearly an hour. All expressed the same confidence in McElwain as the school board did.

All the candidates were current employees within school districts in Iowa, but none had the knowledge of the area that McElwain does.

The board made their final decision at 10:45 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5. The candidates had an entire evening of interviews, only stopping for a short dinner break.

Staff Writer

Tessa Hemmila — Staff Writer

The AFC New England Patriots have been a dominating team in the AFC East conference for the last 15 years, bringing home five Super Bowl wins in a 15-year period. The only other team who has won more rings than the Philadelphia Eagles, with a 6-2 loss record over the course of more than 30 years.

“This year’s precinct caucuses were held on Feb. 5 — the first in the nation to occur in 2018. The 3618 precincts met around Iowa to discuss platforms and to nominate candidates. Forty precincts said on an off year that at the precinct level not up for reelection, and so the caucus was focused on gubernatorial and congressional candidates and the medals they earn will not be counted as Russian medals.

The Kenny Moore’s Owensville Journal

The board and community members are grateful to O’Donnell and the things he did to make the Sioux Center Community School District better.

“We appreciate what you (O’Donnell) have done for the board and the district,” Sioux Center Community School District Board Chair Tim Gesink said to O’Donnell at the school board meeting in October. “The district is better because of you. You’re leaving behind big shoes to fill.”

The board is confident McElwain will serve the community well.

McElwain has been in education since 1995. He began as a classroom instructor and taught through 2001. In 2001, he was hired as a high school principal. Sioux Center High School hired him as principal in 2006. After 12 years, he received his promotion.

“Gary’s familiarity with the community is what set him above the rest (of the candidates),” Gesink said. “We’re confident that he was the best candidate.”

Members of administration, the board, parents of students and faculty all had the opportunity to interview each candidate for nearly an hour. All expressed the same confidence in McElwain as the school board did.

All the candidates were current employees within school districts in Iowa, but none had the knowledge of the area that McElwain does.

The board made their final decision at 10:45 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5. The candidates had an entire evening of interviews, only stopping for a short dinner break.
Clarissa Kraayenbrink--Staff Writer

National Heart Month

When I was born, I was cyanotic, which meant my skin had a bluish tint to it. The doctors in the hospital where I was born discovered that the deoxygenated blood in my lats was not flowing back to my heart and lungs to become oxygenated again. Thus, I was admitted across the state to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital and Clinics, where I received my first open heart surgery at three days old. I had two more at seven months and 22 months. When I was four, I was the first person in Iowa to get a Cardio/heel device in my heart to seal the hole the doctors left. I was ultimately diagnosed with Transposition of the Great Arteries, or TGA. Even now, at 22 years old, it still affects me and always will.

Growing up, I wasn't allowed to be as active as all the other kids. I played low-intensity basketball in elementary school and two years of volleyball in middle and high school at my small Christian school. I always dreamed of playing basketball all the way through your school years. That dream was shattered by middle school when my cardiologist told me I could not participate in competitive basketball in high school.

So it was with my heart to remain active on my own. In fact, this past fall, I completed my first 5K. It was mostly a combination of walking and running, but I crossed that finish line. I was so happy that I had decided to do this 5K back in July and started training that summer and fall. I didn't expect to achieve, had you asked me even a year ago.

Since I wasn't able to participate in athletics much, it has cultivated in me a desire to work in professional sports. I currently work for the Sioux City Bandits arena football team and my aspirations are to get to the NFL or MFL level someday. I love sports and would like to be able to be around them in my professional life as well.

I bet you didn't know that Olympic skateboarder Shaun White has a CHD. He was born with Tetralogy of Fallot, which is four-fold: a hole between the lower chambers of the heart, no breathing tubes between the heart and the lungs, the aorta is covering the aforementioned hole and the muscle around the lower right chamber is thickened. All of these means that the heart sends out oxygen-poor blood to the rest of the body.

A more recent case you may recall is late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel. His son was born with T.O.F, which he fearfully shared about on one of his shows last spring. TOF occurs in five out of every 10,000, babies, so it is pretty rare.

Although 15 percent of babies born with CHD don't see their 18th birthday, many babies go on to lead fairly normal lives. Even though CHD babies do have regular checkups with their cardiologists, it often doesn't hold them back. Although White is an extreme example – not many CHD babies will go on to become Olympic athletes, but they can still lead active lives.

I see my cardiologist every year and will for my entire life. Also, no matter how old I get, I will always go to a pediatric cardiologist. Trust me, it's already getting weird, being the only one above the age of 16 sitting in a waiting room that's filled with babies, young kids and all the toys and entertainment that comes along with them. Not to say it doesn't come with its perks though – all the doctors and nurses are super sweet because they're always working with kids. At my last appointment, I was put in a room with a whiteboard equipped with dry erase markers and a mini table and chairs. My cardiologist then showed me something until a nurse came in... Awkward.

February may also be the month of love as it contains Valentine's Day. Two things these symbolic months have in common is the color red. The first Friday in February is always Wear Red Day, which I participated in for the first time this year. Now that I'm getting older, I've become more cognizant of my condition and have done my own research on it, including lots of reading about American Heart Month.

I will still have obstacles to overcome, new ones popping up as I get older. But I know that God has a purpose and a plan for my life, far beyond what I could imagine. So for now, I just take it year-by-year, dealing with any obstacles as they come, and trust in God's plan. I have no idea what the future will hold, but I don't wait to see. I'm not letting this CHD hold me back.

The evolution and faith paradox... or is it?

Amelia Rene--Guest Writer

Faith and Evolution. Those two words together are seemingly the biggest paradox in the Christian church today; at least where I grew up they were. Growing up in Northwest Iowa, I was blissfully ignorant about the entire debate on evolution in regard to faith for the first 14 years of my private Christian education. So, then what? I'm sheltered for my entire life, shut out into the real world, and exposed to a culture that believes in a world developed over millions of years and began by chance; and to make things dear friends: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” If God wanted to use billions of years or if He would've had a much more open view to science when going into science. It would have allowed young Christians to learn more about God in an environment where they can not only be presented with science in a Christian perspective, but they can ask questions that can be answered with a combination of old and new science, and be able to write about this debate and how to approach it on their own and they can start answering those big question for themselves, not being exposed and culture shocked all at once like too many young Christians are today.

“If they are going to truly be Christian, they need to have a reason why they believe what they believe. Isn’t it better to have people going to church because they want to and not because they feel the need to because what they hear at church is not their own?”

God does not call on us to be complacent and He doesn’t call on us to deny an entire spectrum of His creation. Science and the theory of evolution have to long been a taboo topic in the church. The more educated we become, the more we should use it as a way to see and honor God and his complex creation, whether you believe in a 6-day creation or a 6-billion-year creation, they are both equally amazing and whichever stance a Christian decides to take will be an example of the infinite God we were all created by, but each individual Christian should have the right and the knowledge to choose which perspective they believe.

Students for Caring

Evangeline Colonvose--Staff Writer

Over Christmas break, the AdvocaCare National Success School celebrated its 25th Anniversary while hosting a two-day event packed with AdvocaCare enthusiasts. Dordt students Paige Vischer and Jacob Vander Will were among the many who traveled to Dallas, Texas, to attend the annual AdvocaCare health convention. AdvocaCare is a health supplement company based in Dallas, 10 main principles are the driving force behind honoring God through family, faith and friends.

“Know that anything that has those principles is something that will go somewhere,” Vander Will said.

At the conference, Vander Will and Vischer had the opportunity to watch and talk with AdvocaCare users, the creators of the product, and even former United States President George W. Bush.

“We’re so on fire to help others,” Vischer said. “We’ve seen what the products can do for people. We try hard to continue to help other people, feeling and experiencing the same things we do.”

AdvocaCare include strengthening and respecting families, building up a healthy self-esteem and improving overall physical health. Above all, AdvocaCare wants to put people first.

“We want to add value to people’s lives,” Vander Will said. “It’s our vision to help people with charity, to continue to help other people, feeling and experiencing the same things we do.”

“F modeled by AdvoCare is to honor God through working and giving your best ability,” Vander Will said.
Faculty Feature: Tom Clark

Evangelie Colaruso--Staff Writer

“This generation will be the end of the church.”

That’s not a completely uncommon phrase to hear these days. With church attendance seemingly on the decline and more people expressing dissatisfaction with the attitudes and actions they see from church members, the future can appear bleak. But Dordt Chaplain Aaron Baart is far from discouraged. Rather, he spends hours each week pouring over the Scripture and other literature, finding insight and learning more about this issue, in hopes of addressing it during chapel this semester. However, he hasn’t lost his mind on degrading Generation Z for the issues they’re facing.

“Wherever you go, that’s where you are,” Baart said. “Accessing care somehow is that first step.”

Baart is a part of this dialogue in each life of the students who desire to see Generation Z wanting something better, something more,” Baart said. “We are always working on those things. Also, students who attend our grant has let us know how they are trying to stay up to date as things. We are looking at how we teach the classes we have always taught, but also if we need to change the program. We look at our vision, our goals, what our website looks like. We are trying to develop them in their own lives. We want you to lead us,” Baart said.

He asks, what if the greatest leaders are the ones who can’t make it to their Sunday best as they sing children songs? What if the faith lives to imitate are the children in church? “Rather than telling the younger generation, ‘stick around and learn to be cynical just like us’ [we should tell them] ‘come with your world-changing ideas, Baart.”

Just because the voices of the current generation may seem drowned out, it does not mean there aren’t ways to help. There are people who desire to see Generation Z wanting to enact a difference in the church. Aaron Baart is one of them, and through this chapel series he wants to encourage dialogue in each listening student.

“I want you to change the church. I hope it looks nothing like it does now, by the timeGen Z is done with it. I want you to lead us,” Baart said.

Chemically standpoint, I heterozygous complex of the food. With the significant of an individual’s mental health. If you picture health as a stool, the three legs that support emotional health. If one leg is out of balance, the others are affected. Poor mental health can take a toll on academics, relationships, and many other aspects of life.

Unfortunately, there is no clear definition for what is considered mentally “healthy.” “What you think is mentally healthy for you might be different from someone else,” Baart said.

But when this leg of the stool becomes off-balance, reaching out to a trusted friend or getting professional help can be necessary. Campus Health Counseling Services appointments are available to students struggling with their mental health. Res Life, Pastoral Care and Career Services are other services on campus which can provide support for relationship, spiritual or career and calling concerns. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group also meets in the Finnsie Room of Central Reformed Church once a month.

“It helps you realize you’re not alone,” said one Student Support Group member. “When you experience things in a confidential environment allows participants to empathize and share the pain of mental illness.

“There’s no stigma attached to reaching out,” Baart said. “Accessing care somehow is that first step.”
Emma Stoltz—Staff Writer

KDCR is housed in a small building tucked behind the north side of Dordt’s Rec Center, but its voice is heard for 80 to 90 miles around.

Starting its 50th year of operation, KDCR 88.5 FM radio station serves by entertaining and informing listeners with contemporary Christian music, local news and sports, and Dordt athletics play-by-play, local sermons and more.

This April 9-13, KDCR will be hosting a “Share-a-Thon” to celebrate 50 years of KDCR operation (since Aug 16, 1968). The event will show how much better it is to have someone named Memory Market with a name because they hope to come out with more stories in the future.

The station meets the people on the weekends to record new stories in a manner similar to the way Black Mirror and Stranger Things are evidence of the newest era of pop culture science fiction, featuring stories that could happen anywhere and to anyone, and Stewart and Bender continue these trends, with their ominous take on what happens when you can no longer decipher memories from technology.

For inspiration, Stewart went as close to home as possible—her own cell phone.

“I was scrawling through my phone and looking at all my apps and thinking ‘What are they doing for me, how are they helping me?’ What could be the thing that makes this too much, what would cross the line? It was the Notes app in my phone… I write down a lot of thoughts here, giving too much forever and it’s down and immediately it’s gone from my head, it’s on my phone.” Stewart had written six novels in the last five years, wrote 142 pages of script for the drama in the first two weeks of August 2017. He also helps direct and edit the episodes.

“I had ready [writing] experience but not so much in a script area,” Bender said. “But when Geneseo reached out, it was like ‘OK, I’ll do the Facebook and Instagram accounts under the name ‘Lightning Mirror and Stranger Things are evidence of this surge. At the same time, shows like Black Mirror and The Room serves as the perfect example of a movie that tells the story behind it: aaron krayenhoff.
Renowned organist Gary Cobb came all the way from Malibu, California, to perform on Dordt’s pipe organ on Feb. 3. He included pieces ranging from well-known musicians like Bach to rather unheard-of composers like Robert Fleming.

During Gary’s performance class, held the Friday before the concert, students were invited up to the organ loft to watch him at work. “Gary is a gracious and skilled musician,” said MacInnis. He said Cobb has a willingness to work with others, and a wealth of valuable insight from which others can benefit.

Cobb didn’t begin playing the organ until he was 23. He said he was completing a doctoral degree when a mentor inspired him to take up the organ. He worked as a church organist for 40 years, and has also performed organ recitals in cathedrals all over the world, including Jerusalem.

Cobb opened the concert with Two Voluntaries by Francis Linley, his fingers lightly springing across all three sets of manuals, or keyboards. The last piece, “Toccata” by Canadian composer Robert Fleming, emitted a lot of energy and surprise, not unlike the movie soundtracks that Fleming is known for.

Depth and suspense are the content of Fleming’s films. Students. Robert Fleming, who lived 1921-1976, was one of the most prolific Canadian composers of his generation, writing music ranging from church music to film music. He had students doing undergraduate work on Fleming – editing his scores and studying his music. Fleming – editing his scores and studying his music.

MacInnis is also the primary contact with RCCO from Dordt when it comes to research. He wrote up a project proposal to RCCO from Dordt when it comes to research. He wrote up a project proposal to have students doing undergraduate work on music proved how powerful and unifying music can be, bringing different cultures together under the commonality of music.

Sophomore Alex Rexford—double majoring in Theater and Music—was one of the many students that Cobb brought to his audience. “I feel like my entire college career has lead up to this,” said Rexford. The play is based on the life of John MacNissi, a 19th century organist for 40 years, he has also performed organ recitals in cathedrals all over the world, including Jerusalem.

During Gary Cobb’s performance class, held the Friday before the concert, students were invited up to the organ loft to watch him at work. “Gary is a gracious and skilled musician,” said MacInnis. He said Cobb has a willingness to work with others, and a wealth of valuable insight from which others can benefit.

Cobb didn’t begin playing the organ until he was 23. He said he was completing a doctoral degree when a mentor inspired him to take up the organ. He worked as a church organist for 40 years, and has also performed organ recitals in cathedrals all over the world, including Jerusalem.

Cobb opened the concert with Two Voluntaries by Francis Linley, his fingers lightly springing across all three sets of manuals, or keyboards. The last piece, “Toccata” by Canadian composer Robert Fleming, emitted a lot of energy and surprise, not unlike the movie soundtracks that Fleming is known for.

Depth and suspense are the content of Fleming’s films. Students.

Robert Fleming, who lived 1921-1976, was one of the most prolific Canadian composers of his generation, writing music ranging from church music to film music. He had students doing undergraduate work on Fleming – editing his scores and studying his music. Fleming – editing his scores and studying his music.

MacInnis is also the primary contact with RCCO from Dordt when it comes to research. He wrote up a project proposal to RCCO from Dordt when it comes to research. He wrote up a project proposal to have students doing undergraduate work on music proved how powerful and unifying music can be, bringing different cultures together under the commonality of music.

Student-directed plays to be shown this semester

Elizabeth Helmhamp and Ashley Huizinga -- Staff Writers

This Spring semester, Theater Arts students will be putting on the student-directed plays “Eurydice” and “Lilies on the Land.” Senior Annie Sears—double majoring in Theater and English—was selected by Dordt student Alexandra Alex Rexford—double majoring in Theater and History—as director of Lilies on the Land. Both shows will serve as capstone projects for their Theater majors.

“[Eurydice] is a classic Greek tragedy, but the way that it’s told is not classical at all. It’s contemporary and poetic,” Sears said. Sears is focusing on creating a thematic meaning for recurring elements in the show. “For Eurydice, I’m leaning towards this concept of water… it’s essential to life… and tying the idea of water to the idea of memory. And memory is so essential to build your life upon.”

In the plot of Eurydice, the main character loses her memory when she dies and is washed out to sea, only to return to the Underworld to retrieve the soul of his recently deceased beloved, from whose name the play takes its title. The goal of reading so many plays in advance is to “find stories that we are interested in, and cast that are actually feasible to do,” Rexford said. “And also to find something that is meaningful and has purpose, something you are interested in and passionate about.”

Both plays will be performed in “in-the-round,” which means that the audience forms a ring around the stage, rather than all sitting on one side. Sears described how the presentation style is “really unique because Dordt hasn’t done a show in the round in a really, really long time… it presents all of the challenges that it brings. We are trying to design a set that is fluid and versatile.”

While Sears and Rexford are juggling their own busy schedules, both students recognize that it takes more than just a director to put on a show. There are other students and faculty members in charge of makeup, hair and makeup designs, props, scenic designs, lighting and sound, marketing, and graphic design. “It is really important to have the whole team,” Rexford said. “So they are helping me realize my vision.”

Rexford said, “But it’s not just me telling them, do this and this and this, [instead] all the designers come with their ideas for how the show could look on the stage.” Rexford says her job as a director is to “take all the different ideas and make all of [the design team’s] different ideas work into this whole beautiful production.”

Last but not least, actors are also an important part of any production. Auditions usually happen after the first or second design meeting, according to Sears. However, this year the casting happened before meetings began. “[Auditions] are probably one of the most difficult parts,” Rexford said, because “first you’re worried about enough people actually showing up to auditions—and thankfully there were—but then there was the problem of ‘oh I have plenty of people, but I have a small cast and now I have to decide who makes it and who doesn’t?’ so that’s always hard and difficult.”

After initial auditions, a second round, called “callbacks” were held. “Callbacks are always different based off each show, for my callbacks I didn’t do a lot of script reading, I loved the characters, because my cast is very much an ensemble cast, so what I was looking for was how the girls worked together,” Rexford said. “What’s an "ensemble" cast means that there is no “main character” in a play, and every character is equally important.

Both plays will be performed in the Black Box Theatre on campus, with Rexford’s Lilies on the Land to be held April 5-7, and Sears’ Eurydice projected for April 30-May 2, 2018.

Student-directed plays to be shown this semester

Elizabeth Helmhamp and Ashley Huizinga -- Staff Writers

This Spring semester, Theater Arts students will be putting on the student-directed plays “Eurydice” and “Lilies on the Land.” Senior Annie Sears—double majoring in Theater and English—was selected by Dordt student Alexandra Alex Rexford—double majoring in Theater and History—as director of Lilies on the Land. Both shows will serve as capstone projects for their Theater majors.

“[Eurydice] is a classic Greek tragedy, but the way that it’s told is not classical at all. It’s contemporary and poetic,” Sears said. Sears is focusing on creating a thematic meaning for recurring elements in the show. “For Eurydice, I’m leaning towards this concept of water… it’s essential to life… and tying the idea of water to the idea of memory. And memory is so essential to build your life upon.”

In the plot of Eurydice, the main character loses her memory when she dies and is washed out to sea, only to return to the Underworld to retrieve the soul of his recently deceased beloved, from whose name the play takes its title. The goal of reading so many plays in advance is to “find stories that we are interested in, and cast that are actually feasible to do,” Rexford said. “And also to find something that is meaningful and has purpose, something you are interested in and passionate about.”

Both plays will be performed in “in-the-round,” which means that the audience forms a ring around the stage, rather than all sitting on one side. Sears described how the presentation style is “really unique because Dordt hasn’t done a show in the round in a really, really long time… it presents all of the challenges that it brings. We are trying to design a set that is fluid and versatile.”

While Sears and Rexford are juggling their own busy schedules, both students recognize that it takes more than just a director to put on a show. There are other students and faculty members in charge of makeup, hair and makeup designs, props, scenic designs, lighting and sound, marketing, and graphic design. “It is really important to have the whole team,” Rexford said. “So they are helping me realize my vision.”

Rexford said, “But it’s not just me telling them, do this and this and this, [instead] all the designers come with their ideas for how the show could look on the stage.” Rexford says her job as a director is to “take all the different ideas and make all of [the design team’s] different ideas work into this whole beautiful production.”

Last but not least, actors are also an important part of any production. Auditions usually happen after the first or second design meeting, according to Sears. However, this year the casting happened before meetings began. “[Auditions] are probably one of the most difficult parts,” Rexford said, because “first you’re worried about enough people actually showing up to auditions—and thankfully there were—but then there was the problem of ‘oh I have plenty of people, but I have a small cast and now I have to decide who makes it and who doesn’t?’ so that’s always hard and difficult.”

After initial auditions, a second round, called “callbacks” were held. “Callbacks are always different based off each show, for my callbacks I didn’t do a lot of script reading, I loved the characters, because my cast is very much an ensemble cast, so what I was looking for was how the girls worked together,” Rexford said. “What’s an "ensemble" cast means that there is no “main character” in a play, and every character is equally important.

Both plays will be performed in the Black Box Theatre on campus, with Rexford’s Lilies on the Land to be held April 5-7, and Sears’ Eurydice projected for April 30-May 2, 2018.
Feature athlete: Alec Henrickson

Alec Henrickson is a junior Business Administration (Finance) major from Spirit Lake, Iowa. Henrickson, who came to Dordt for the basketball and the education in equal measure, now proudly wears #3 for the Defender men’s basketball team. As a guard, Henrickson leads the team with an average of 22.3 points per game (13.8 points per game this season). During his last three years of college basketball, he’s amassed over 1000 points—joining the ranks of the college’s 1000 Point Club—despite being injured for several weeks of the season.

Henrickson left Dec. 30th’s Peru State game early in the second half with an injury, according to a DC Athletics January press release, but he still managed to score five points and currently has 1,003 points. He ranks 37th all-time at Dordt.

“My favorite memory at basketball at Dordt,” Henrickson says, “was going with the team to Chicago this past summer to do some volunteer activities and play basketball.”

Henrickson started playing basketball when he was 3 years old. Prior to his college career, he looked up to athletes Stephen Curry, JJ Redick, and Tom Brady. Like those men, he’s intent on getting better and doing what he can to help his team be successful.

“As a team, we just want to keep getting better and better every day,” Henrickson says. “[We] continue to improve and grow closer as a team.”

The current list of Dordt College men’s basketball 1000 point scorers can be accessed online through Dordt.edu under “Recent News.”

First Mondays speaker

Laticia “Tish” Harrison Warren spoke on one aspect of faith most people do not think much about in her recent First Monday lecture “How We Spend Our Lives: Christian Formation in the Everyday.”

As the title suggests, she encouraged her audience to notice what we often fail to recognize: our daily habits. She began her First Monday lecture with a prayer from Psalm 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Warren challenged her listeners to remember we are all ordinary, and to think about how much of our calendar year consists of living out the ordinary.

When it comes down to practice, daily patterns (like the routine in a church service) shape life as much as dogma and creeds. Even good doctrine, Warren said, has the potential to distract people from good discipleship—that is, good living. Christians tend to think about abstractly; however, she emphasized that good doctrine “does not magically shape you.” She argued that there is also something important about the boring stuff. Only five percent of a person’s brain makes conscious decisions on a daily basis—the other 95 percent of what they do happens unconsciously. She encouraged her audience to analyze their habits and think of what happens “below our minds.”

“Everyone wants a revolution, but nobody wants to do the dishes,” she said, quoting writer Shane Claiborne.

Warren is currently an Anglican priest, serving in a church with her husband in Pittsburgh, Pa. She writes regularly for The Well, CT Women, and Christianity Today. She is also the author of Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life.

In her 20s, Warren began feeling like something was not quite right with the church as she watched fellow Christians in the mission field burn out around her. We admire active ministers, she said, who are worn out after a couple years of evangelizing. But why don’t we work to keep them from that burnout, to offer them the support they need in their daily lives as well as their pastoral work?

She continued her discussion with a 7:30p.m. session titled “Daughters Who Prophesy: Women, Discipleship, and the Church.”

Many faculty, staff, and community members attended, including Howard Wilson and theology professors David Henrecken and Justin Bailey. The panel presented questions about women and their roles in the church.

As Warren spoke, her love for the church and her community became clear, especially in her recognition that the church should be thankful for what theologians past have taught even while being aware that things might need to change.

“Women are humans,” Warren said. Unfortunately, while the church used to recognize that—Jesus respected women in a way that was radical to his time—all too many church members discount the services women do and do for the church body besides caring for their families and the next generation of believers. Warren asserted that other services women can—and should be doing—include teaching, training other women, and educating themselves about theology.

While it seems like an obvious statement, she said that women have the same spiritual needs as men and are also fully made in the image of God. Throughout church history, women have fought to make themselves recognized and have suffered in the church because of it. Most importantly, women are last becoming leaders in the church sphere in their own ways—blogging and writing, especially. So, we should encourage them, Warren said, to do the amount of theological training for women that we do for men, whether we believe women have the Biblical precedent to do so.

“We need trained, ordained women,” Warren said. In other words, we need women well-educated in theology, with institutional credentials and the accountability that consistory and synods offer male pastors and seminary candidates.

More than just making “corn husk dolls” in Bible study groups, she argued that female leadership needs to be developed so that the next generation has examples of great women to look up to.

First Monday speakers are something Dordt promotes so that students and faculty can “enrich their education experience.” The ideas that Tish brought to the table challenged professors and students alike to consider how they manage their lives as Christians.

“I don’t know what the future holds,” Warren said.

These conversations—over discipleship, women in office, and mission work—have been happening since Biblical times. Women ordination has always been complicated, and cannot be solved with an uneducated “yes” or “no.” The “right” answer, Warren seemed to say, is far from simple. But in the end, she quoted Martin Luther King Jr in concluding that “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

Men’s Volleyball

A team focused on growth: Dordt

A couple of weeks ago, the Dordt Men’s Volleyball team fell to third-ranked Minnesota State 3-0 in Parkville, Missouri against various teams in a 2-day tournament. The Defenders next home game is March 1 against Missouri Baptist at 7:00 p.m.

A couple of weeks ago, the Dordt Men’s Volleyball team fell to third-ranked Minnesota State 3-0 in Parkville, Missouri against various teams in a 2-day tournament. The Defenders next home game is March 1 against Missouri Baptist at 7:00 p.m.