Men’s Basketball wins historic game p. 6

Harlem Shake recorded in Hulst Library

Amber Vis
Staff Writer

The Dordt Harlem Shake was recorded in the Hulst Library on Feb. 14, and less than two weeks later, has more than 10,000 views on YouTube.

The video has been widely discussed among students and faculty around campus. But more than one mystery remains concerning the video and its participants.

The biggest question that everyone wants answered is, “Who is in the gorilla suit?” The main speculation traveling around campus is that President Erik Hoekstra was the gorilla. Another mystery was whether Bethany Schuttinga, Vice President for Student Services/Associate Provost, was actually in the video.

Additionally, it has been confirmed that one student would need to do community-service hours for scratching a book shelf.

The Harlem Shake is an Internet meme that went viral on YouTube in February 2013. As of Feb. 15, about 40,000 Harlem Shake videos had been uploaded to YouTube, which totals about 175 million views.

Dordt Sophomores, Luke Dykstra and Aaron Visscher, initially came up with the idea to record their own Harlem Shake after watching a video recorded by a school near where Visscher grew up. They ended up watching more videos and then started planning on doing their own.

According to Dykstra, the first time that they scheduled to record the video, the students didn’t have permission, and a janitor tried to kick them out. “He asked if we had permission to be in there, which we didn’t, so some students started freaking out and running out,” Dykstra said.

However, others didn’t think that they would get in trouble with a janitor, so they started playing the song. Everyone started dancing, while the janitor was yelling at them, Dykstra said.

The students ended up putting a video together, but it didn’t end up as well as they had hoped. Dykstra also commented that the dance resulted in some scratches on one of the book shelves.

After the first incident in the library, Rick Schmidt, Kyler Van Berkum, and Dykstra went to talk to Schuttinga the next day to ask for permission to do another video, but she ended up being sick. “We ended up running into the president while he was leaving his office, so we talked to him about it. He loved the idea,” Dykstra said.

However, Dykstra said President Hoekstra told the students it wasn’t his job to give them permission for the video, so they set up a meeting with Schuttinga for the next day. They all met the next day, and Schuttinga loved the idea, as long as the video didn’t contain any inappropriate clothing or dancing, Dykstra said.

“At first, she joked with us and said that we were all getting level 3’s from this,” Dykstra said. But to the students’ surprise, Schuttinga was really excited about the idea.

According to Dykstra, Schuttinga was present the night of the video, and she even participated in the video. Schuttinga confirmed that she had a great time at the video shoot, but she would neither confirm nor deny whether she participated in the video.

When asked about the gorilla rumor, President Hoekstra replied, “I’ve heard that rumor as well. I’m flattered and loving it and clothing, Dykstra said. He said there was some discussion about deleting the video, but due to the fact that the video has received more positive feedback than negative, it is still up for now.

According to Schuttinga, the video probably would have taken place whether she approved it or not, so she decided to work together with the students. The group worked together to create group expectations and appropriate apparel and actions.

“We have a great student body at Dordt College with interesting and creative ideas. This event was an attempt to do a large scale event in a positive way,” Schuttinga said.

New science professor on campus: Brittany De Ruyter

Hannah DeVries
Co-Editor

Even if you aren’t a science major, there is a new professor in the Science lab: Brittany De Ruyter, Biology/Chemistry Lab PT Instructor.

Even though she gets mistaken for a Dordt student at least once a week, De Ruyter in fact teaches labs for Biology 202 and Chemistry 122. She was hired to serve both the biology and chemistry departments by teaching certain labs and small tasks around the departments, including setting up a Facebook page, De Ruyter said.

Before Dordt De Ruyter worked at Sanford Research in Sioux Falls, SD in a lab under the Sanford Project studying Type 1 Diabetes. “I did a lot of animal research with mice. I never thought I would say it, but I miss my mice,” De Ruyter said. There are several new changes on campus that will take some getting used to as well. New faculty with new ideas, new structures on campus, new president... Also, I’ve been away from Dordt just long enough to not recognize any of the current students anymore! Makes me feel old!

The change in work-life is one of the biggest things De Ruyter noticed. “At Sanford, I had almost unlimited access to research resources and equipment. At Dordt, we’re much more budget-conscious, so I have to be more creative,” De Ruyter said.

While at Sanford, De Ruyter said she learned that “research is a dog-eat-dog business. Principal investigators are protective of their research findings and ideas. I wasn’t allowed to share information even with other labs at Sanford. Everything came down to getting papers published. It was a little unsettling.”

However, coming to Dordt was a positive change in work atmosphere. “The sense of community and feeling of serving a common goal is so refreshing. I feel pressure to do a really good job - especially working for people that were previously my professors,” said De Ruyter.

“I want to students to care about the experiments that we do rather than try to finish them as fast as possible, to trust me and be positively influenced by my ideas and understanding of science,” said De Ruyter.

“The professors I studied under at Dordt challenged the way I thought about science and ultimately changed the way I understand the world, and I want to influence students in a similar way.”

This influence she received from her own professors is what her current students are beginning to get from her as well. Senior Ashley Huisman, a communication major, said that “the experience (De Ruyter) brings from previously working in a hospital lab offers students insight into the practicality of chemistry as a career.”

Sidney Larson, a sophomore and HHP major, added that she loves how De Ruyter “understands how frustrating lab can be, so it’s nice to have a pro that is understanding.”

The Diamond
Dordt College
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Contributed Photo

How much do video games affect you?
Find out on p. 4
Financial planning for the future

Dordt Students get real world experience and knowledge from an expert in wise money spending and saving money

Adam McDonald
Editor

Thomas De Jong, an Investment Advisor Representative and financial planner for Money Concepts, came to Dordt’s campus last week to lecture students about financial stewardship. De Jong wanted the students to understand the importance of proper money management and how to properly manage the wealth God bestows upon us.

“I don’t care where you live in America. You are wealthy,” said Tom De Jong during his lecture. “Wealth is engulfing and must be properly managed.”

The main point that De Jong was trying to convey was that we should understand that when he referred to the wealthy, he was referring to almost everyone in America. According to De Jong, if you make more than $1,500/year, you are more wealthy than 2/3 of the world’s population.

The real idea in counseling is that you help people do things out of their control.

1. Everything belongs to God, even after you tithe.
2. Men are called to sacrifice and love their wives while women are called to respect and support their husbands’ decisions.
3. Stewardship does not equal tithing. Stewardship is what we do with all that God blesses us with, not just the ten percent we are called to give.
4. Do not be anxious about things out of our control.
5. There are two types of financial freedom: No debt and true dependence on God.
6. Keep an eternal perspective: Am I working hard to get more stuff or to advance God’s Kingdom?
7. Always seek wise counsel, not with just money, but in life, relationships, and your spiritual walk.
8. Write down your goals. Writing down your goals increases your success rate by 95%.
9. Live within your means.
10. Beware the danger of debt.

Mr. De Jong was obviously a very knowledgeable Financial Planner, and he was able to clearly explain some very key principles for students now and after graduation,” said senior Mark Opp. “It was really good to hear another perspective. People usually paint a picture in their mind about what marriage looks like based on marriages they’ve witnessed growing up, and it’s usually different than their significant others’.

Preparation for marriage is a vital, vital thing in pastoral ministry. It seemed to me that Tom’s emphasis on financial freedom was a very valuable and genuine perspective.  It made me wonder how many people come up, and it’s usually different than their significant others’.

Prepare/Enrich Relationship Assessment is the text that will be used and is already used in many marriage counseling settings in both Christian and non-Christian circles. It includes a 168 question survey that couples must fill out and information that helps guide groups and individual discussions.

Baart will give the couples books that they must read aloud to each other, because the key in relationships is communication. If they are able to read these books aloud to each other, they will be able to talk about anything. “The majority of divorces and marital problems for people come up on issues revolving around sex and money,” Baart said.

Many topics aren’t covered in a large group setting, especially sexual expectations and financial issues because those are hard for people to discuss in large groups. Baart will also assign topics for individual discussion that will take place on designated date nights.

“The real idea in counseling is that you help people do the work, you don’t need to do it for them,” said Baart.

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Pastor Aaron Baart and various guest speakers will host a six-week Pre-Marital workshop, beginning March 25, for dating and engaged couples on Dordt’s campus. This workshop in particular is interesting because it is pre-engagement counseling, so even couples who are in a serious relationship are able to participate. One advantage to this workshop is that the dating or engaged couples pick a married couple to mentor and meet with them on an occasional basis.

Pre-Martial Workshop: coming soon to Dordt

Photo by Emily McFarland

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Photo by Shelby Herrema

Symposium Update:

Hello fellow students, I hope this most recent Symposium article finds you well in the midst of this snowy semester. Symposium is working hard with club recognition and funding, but we have a new event we would really like you to join us for! A fine dining experience at the 55th on the 22nd of March! This is a fundraiser to help support a charity, and it is a kickoff for a charity program that Symposium will be running for many years! You will simply have to pay a fee (with defender dollars) to get a seat at this dinner, where you will be served a delicious meal! A portion of each student’s ticket price, and all tips, will go to a great charity organization. Hope to see you there!

Have a great day,

Stephen Olson
Student Symposium Press Representative

Photo by Emily McFarland

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Stephen Olson
Student Symposium Press Representative

Photo by Shelby Herrema
Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

February – it’s cold, dark, and snowy. Especially this week, which will see what is known as the full “Snow Moon” rise in the sky; it’s also known as the Hunger Moon, because it rose over the worst time of the year for ancient peoples who would often freeze or starve to death during this time of year. It’s easy to see how this month, often celebrated for romantic love, can also lead to bouts with sadness and depression.

The clinical term for these “winter blues” is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and researchers are discovering that this type of seasonal depression can be quite common, especially among college students and those living in the northern states.

Depression may typically be brought on by periods of lifestyle change and/or a loss of the social and emotional network of support found in the previous lifestyle. This is exactly the situation that many college students find themselves in, having left home to live in unfamiliar circumstances.

Although the results of recent studies have been inconclusive, there is some evidence to suggest that incidents of SAD increase as the latitude of the location increases, according to a report by Dr. Andres Magnusson, a research fellow at the National Public Health Institute in Helsinki, Finland.

Magnusson points out that the reasons for the increased occurrences in northern states can be attributed to longer periods of darkness, along with frigid temperatures which make outdoor activities nearly impossible.

According to the A.D.A.M. Medical Encyclopedia, symptoms of SAD can include:

- Hopelessness
- Increased appetite with weight gain
- Increased sleep
- Less energy and ability to concentrate
- Loss of interest in work or other activities
- Social withdrawal
- Unhappiness and irritability

It can be important to identify these symptoms and monitor them as they are noticed, because many of them are atypical of other forms of depression. For example, those who suffer from clinical depression may experience loss of appetite and/or difficulty sleeping, as opposed to the increased appetites and sleepiness seen in SAD.

There are no specific measurements to determine when it’s SAD and not just the effects of another late night of studying. The best way to know is to monitor yourself and know your own body. A counselor or physician can help with diagnosis though.

There are, however, ways to combat SAD. Dr. John M. Grohol, founder of PsychCentral.com, suggests several different methods. One form of treatment currently being explored is known as light therapy. This involves exposure to broad spectrum light bulbs, which will cause the body to mimic its response to natural sunlight, restoring its summertime circadian rhythms.

Other ways to keep the blues at bay include keeping a regular schedule, despite the body’s tendency to want more sleep. Try to eat healthy and stay active; this can also keep the body alert and the mind sharp.

And remember that Dordt’s counselors are there to provide help and support from a loving and Christian perspective. If you feel that you are experiencing symptoms of SAD, please feel free to contact the Dordt College Health Services at counseling@dordt.edu.

Cultural Fair Brings International Flair

Amber Vis
Staff Writer

The Students Without Borders cross-cultural group is preparing for Dordt’s annual Cultural Fair on Saturday, March 2, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Linda Schroedermeier, International and Off-Campus Coordinator, remembers the Cultural Fair when she attended Dordt in 2005. She recalls the fair as being a smaller-scale event back then, but over the years the fair has taken on various changes. Part of the reason that the event is bigger now is because the number of international students at Dordt has grown. There are currently 52 international students enrolled at Dordt.

Schroedermeier has been working at Dordt for three years, and when she started, the Cultural Fair was divided into two separate events. A fashion show took place in December, and the fair itself took place sometime in April. However, the Student Without Borders group merged these two events, and now both the fashion show and fair take place on the same day.

To kick the events off, there will be a time to mingle and walk around from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students, faculty, and the community are invited to enjoy games, various activities, food, and posters that share the different cultures represented at Dordt.

“This is really a good place for students to meet new people and learn about different cultures,” Schroedermeier said.

From 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., the audience can sit back and enjoy the international fashion show. This will include singing, dancing, and viewing students in their traditional clothing from their respective countries.

According to Schroedermeier, many countries will be included in the night’s events, including Paraguay, Nicaragua, Brazil, Korea, Canada, and the United States.

“For 364 days of the year, international students are adapting to American culture, and this is a cool way for international students to get one day of the year to talk about and display their own culture,” Schroedermeier said.

Dordt Senior, Joseph Kigeneh, has participated in the Cultural Fair for the past three years. He is thinking of participating this year by representing his country, Ethiopia.

“My favorite part of the cultural fair is to see students proudly representing their countries and sharing their culture and traditions through food, language, and traditional attire,” Kigeneh said.

He also mentioned enjoying the games and other items that uniquely represent the various countries, such as African wood carvings, Middle Eastern henna tattoos, and Korean manuscripts.

“The most important thing that American students learn from international students is cultural diversity. The cultural fair is an opportunity for both international and American students to learn more about each other and cherish the beauty that they find in their differences,” Kigeneh said.

During his freshman and sophomore years at the Cultural Fair, Kigeneh participated in the fashion show and wore his cultural attire that he brought from home. He also introduced his country and answered questions at the Ethiopian Booth.

His junior year, he served as the MC for the fair. This year, he plans on being the MC with Deborah Tyokighir, a Dordt sophomore from Nigeria. He will also help his Ethiopian friends prepare a “mildly spiced Ethiopian food.”

“If there is anyone who loves spicy food, I recommend that they try our spicy Ethiopian cuisine that will be available at our booth,” Kigeneh added.

Although the day is very important and special to the international students, there are not just international students in the Students Without Borders group. There are also students who are simply interested in other cultures.

While most of the students participating will be international students, Schroedermeier said that there will also be students who grew up as missionaries or went overseas. Some students go overseas and have such a “significant formative experience” that they want to share the culture that they got the privilege to experience, Schroedermeier explained.

The Cultural Fair is a free event where people get to experience “international flair,” Schroedermeier said.
Video game obsession. A different kind of addiction

Gaming companies want you addicted, but psychologists say that clinically you can’t be, at least, not yet.

Adam McDonald
Head Editor


Although technically not a clinical addiction, video games and TVs have stolen countless hours from high school and college students across America. And if game companies have their way, it’s going to continue.

“Technically, or clinically, there is no such thing as TV or video game addiction,” said Dr. Mark Christians, Professor of Psychology, “I’m using the DSM-IV-TR (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders) and within that, it will describe substance dependence and things related to chemical use that now qualify as an addiction. But there is such a thing as overuse.”

Psychologists haven’t classified video game or TV addiction as a clinical addiction, but will still look for similar symptoms in those who claim to be addicted: how often they do it, if it is interfering with daily social, spiritual, and academic learning he does is being called “the shortest…no, second shortest guy on campus, next to David Blandón” even though he quickly describes himself as “friend of the body of Christ. A well-rounded individual and developing him into a very social relationships, and if it is interfering with daily tasks just like any other type of substance abuse might.

The scariest part, however, is that video game companies are now structuring their games to get you to play them over and over again. According to an article on gamasutra.com, video game companies can control players’ behavior by introducing a reward system. Basically what this means is that every time you play a video game that allows you to level up or power up, you are playing right into the company’s hand.

You get a sense of accomplishment and reward by being able to pick certain perks. And after being rewarded, you go right back to playing, collecting experience points to emulate your feeling of accomplishment again.

In Christians’ experience as a therapist, he says that not once in his career has anyone come in seeking therapy for video game or TV addiction. “The big question we have to ask ourselves is ‘Who seeks out therapy for anything?’ That’s a significant decision to step over the threshold and say ‘I’m addicted and I need help’ and from my experience, no one has ever come in for video games or TV,” he said.

“This doesn’t mean we don’t recognize it (overuse) as a problem, but they aren’t seeing as such a huge problem to go see a psychiatrist and get medication,” said Christians.

According to Christians, the clinical world is doing studies in this field, but is more focused on schools and families, but not in mental health. “It’s not like little Jimmy goes and spends four days in the hospital because he can’t control his urge to play video games.”

The Stanford School of Medicine did a study and found that, while playing video games, the reward center in the brain of men is more easily accessed than in women. The premise of the study was to have men and women play a video game that consisted of guarding a territory by eliminating a ball before it touched the back of your area. The study “showed activation in the brain’s mesoscorticobasal center, the region typically associated with reward and addiction. Male brains, however, showed much greater activation, and the amount of activation was correlated with how much territory they gained.”

International Introduction: Narayan Núñez Blandón

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Many students may assume students come to Dordt because they are excited to experience America and enjoy the opportunities the country may provide for them. However, sophomore Narayan Núñez Blandón’s story is actually the exact opposite.

Blandón, a native of Tociantepe, Managua, Nicaragua, attended the Nicaraguan Christian Academy (NCA), much like other Dordt students from Managua have. He began learning English in sixth grade, and Blandón and his younger sister, a sophomore at NCA, are the only two English-speakers in his home. His parents do not know a word of English. Blandón is also fluent in Arabic, is able to read and write in Korean, is learning French at Dordt, and can speak Miskito—a Nicaraguan indigenous language—well enough to communicate with his grandmother.

The Nicaraguan sophomore describes himself as “friend-ly,” even though he quickly adds, “I don’t look like him.” He enjoys talking, although he once again described himself as “shy.” Blandón also made fun of his own height, describing himself as “the shortest…no, second shortest guy on campus, next to David [Puruolte], of course!”

Blandón enjoys studying in the Business Department and has gone on the club’s past two trips to Minneapolis and Chicago. As a Business Administration major with emphases in human resource management and marketing, Blandón plans to stay in American only until he can build financial stability and finish graduate school in some field of business.

After accomplishing those two big goals, Blandón plans to return to Nicaragua and use his education in some sort of business leadership position—something Nicaragua is greatly in need of because most young Nicaraguans gain an education outside of the country and never return.

However, Blandón’s plans have not always included acquiring an education from Dordt College, or even in the United States. Blandón’s reasons for coming to Dordt were indecipherable. “That’s a tough question,” he said, “I just came to Dordt. I don’t even know what happened. I had other places to go, but I think God just brought me here.”

He believes the non-academic learning he does is developing him into a very well-rounded individual and member of the body of Christ.
Look down at your feet. You have blisters. Look in the mirror. You have bags under your eyes. Look at your palms. You have callouses. There is only one solution to the overworked student: Spring Break. But if you are like most other people, you feel guilty just relaxing. (I would say “like me”, but quite frankly, I don’t feel guilty when I’m not being productive).

According to an article written by “The State Press,” America is the second country when it comes to its citizens overworking, second behind Japan. The biggest lie you can buy into is that your stress level is equal to your self-worth or success level. Newsflash: it’s not. Your stress only makes you crankier, sleepier, and generally less pleasant to be around.

Web MD says that more than 75% of all doctor visits have stress as a main factor. You don’t want to go to the doctor all the time just because your stress level is too high. I know that school can get stressful, but community growth I was experiencing, my life had suddenly been filled with simplification. Perhaps off of my first few columns from the Dominican Republic, you may not have gathered this, but the ways of life are much more simple here than those in America. 

I’ve been thinking a lot lately. And that’s not good. Bad things happen when I think too much. Bad things like headaches. But I’ve pushed through the pain and continued thinking, mainly because I didn’t think things, I wouldn’t be me. And why would I want to be anybody else? Unless that anybody else is Joseph Gordon-Levitt – that guy’s a stud.

Anyway, here’s a little something that I’ve given some noggin-time: What is the main theme running throughout the writings of Paul? I’m not even kidding – I’ve actually thought about that! And it makes sound a more logical that I really am. In all honesty, it’s only because I’m in a theology class where we’re required to read the Bible. Of course now I sound like a horrible Christian. But enough of this Faulkner-like rambling and on to the point.

Through all the thick and thin; through all the theological debates and learning; through all the commentary, one of the most solid themes I’ve found to be associated with DR living. As we spent the weekend eating delectable meals cooked by his aunt, riding donkeys, sipping coffee, playing dominos with the older, monolingual speaking men in the village, walking the gravel and dirt paths, and taking in the scenic views from the bright orange house on the highest point of Guara, I couldn’t help but think of how beautiful a life of simplicity, without the distractions of shopping, traffic, and the stress that it brings along with money and a busy schedule.

There are many lessons I would tell you I learned here in the DR. From not wearing shorts in a concho full of Dominican men not speaking English in the downtown of a busy, poor city to not letting high school boys make you sweat when they giggle at your green pants. But the most important lesson I learned: It’s not about the clothes you wear, the places you go, or the choices you’ve made in life about all about your ability to love your living and the way you’re loving. My advice to each of you: simply love deeply, and try to find yourself in a place where there’s nothing but community, coffee, rice and beans, and donkeys, and try to make it easy to do that. American lifestyle I’ll be returning to in a matter of weeks, but I’ll have to little less fostering to that lifestyle. My biggest challenge coming back will be my much anticipated comfort agent for simple times and places and pleasures in life. My response: challenge accepted.

The Gospel - So Simple Even Paul Couldn’t Complicate It

In Paul’s writings is this Gospel. It’s so stinking simple! The Gospel! In all his metaphorical language. In all his argumentation. In all his emotions, Paul always sticks to one thing – the Gospel.

So what is this Gospel? Take a second and tell yourself. See if you can even explain to yourself the Gospel of Christ. And if you can’t, don’t be down, because this lack of knowledge of the Gospel and the power behind it is the reason Paul had to write entire groups of people in the first place. Plus, shame on your church.

The Gospel, and what Paul continually comes to, is this: we are bad and incapable of saving ourselves through any actions or following of any law. But there is a solution. Jesus came, died on the Cross, and now His blood is our righteousness, our Holiness, and our perfection. And His Spirit that lives through us is to guide us in our strength to love, our strength to follow, and our strength in any weakness. And everything, including our ability to overcome adversity, love each other, and focus on Christ in the face of opposition, flows from this Gospel.

Through all the muck and mire of theology classes, church doctrine, and denominational tradition lays the Gospel, and our faith is no longer buried or hidden behind it. But we have to know it. So next time you pick up Paul, and consequently feel like pulling your hair out, look for the Gospel and dwell in the peace and comfort the simple truth presented by it. It’s a Gospel that is so wonderfully simple yet still powerful that even Paul couldn’t make it confusing; and that’s saying something!

Spring Break!

Jennifer Van Der Hoek
Columnist

America: rice and beans, no dry cleaning, and a motorcycle for transportation for a family of four. In the poor city of Santiago, these simple things helped to combat the minds of many—encouraging stealing and broken relationships amongst the community. In a place like Guara, however, the simplicity of life brings incomparable happiness and unbreakable relationships as the town of 150 people rely on one and other. Their daily physical, social, and emotional needs. Lucky for me, my student teaching experience allowed me to experience this as well.

Guara is a small village up in the mountains about 45 minutes from Santiago. The other student teacher at SCS is an American-raised, Dominican. His parents are both from here, and he still have family roaming the mountainsides of the DR. Building a relationship with him allowed me to have a companion to eat and expose to the simple, beautiful ways of life that you may not have gathered this, but simply love deeply, and try to find yourself in a place where there’s nothing but community, coffee, rice and beans, and donkeys, and try to make it easy to do that. American lifestyle I’ll be returning to in a matter of weeks, but I’ll have to little less fostering to that lifestyle. My biggest challenge coming back will be my much anticipated comfort agent for simple times and places and pleasures in life. My response: challenge accepted.
Men’s basketball wins first GPAC Championship

Justin Pastoor
Sports Editor

“History has been made! For the first time in Dordt basketball history the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) Tournament Championship has been won by the Defenders. In a 12 point win (75-63) over Morningside, Coach Douma’s team brought home the hardware for the 2012-2013 season.

Riding a seven game win streak and a 13-3 record since the turn of the year, the Defenders will now enter the national tournament at the College of the Ozarks in Branson, Missouri, coming off of a series of games that has been the best this group has ever played.

This will be the second year in a row that Dordt will be present in Branson. The team, led by a group of five seniors, is the first class Douma has coached for all four years, and the numbers only show a glimpse of their importance of the program.

"This is the first group of guys I’ve had for all four years, so obviously this class is a little special to me. In the short time they’ve been here they’ve revitalized the energy of the fan base in the DeWitt and shown how to truly play the game," said Douma. "In the long term, they’ve set a new standard of quality play is and what we need to expect of ourselves as a program.

It’s been neat to watch these guys develop as players from freshman to senior year in a lot of capacities; both off and on the court. Not only have they been the most successful four year stretch Dordt’s seen, they’ve also represented Dordt very well."

The senior class of Cliff Warner, Trevor Wollerstorff, Shawn Keizer, Jordan Vogel, and Chris Sievers has compiled a record of 95-33 in their four years, three 1000 point careers, a regular season GPAC Championship, a post season GPAC Championship, and two births at the national tournament.

Before GPAC tournament play began, Dordt finished the 2nd in the regular season with a record of 23-6. The first game of the tournament was a home victory over Briar Cliff, 91-76. Next was a contest against Midland that came down to the final seconds, but was able to hold off the final attack with the block of the season by Wollerstorff.

Dordt got some help firm Morningside when they hit last second free throws against Northwestern to bring the championship game back to the DeWitt.

"It’s honestly so loud in there it comes to playing the game when he’s 15 feet away from me," said Sievers.

"It’s just an awesome site to step out on the floor and not only is the student section packed to its limits, but you have all sections of adults and upstairs full, and only a small section of the gym is for the opponent," said Wolterstorff.

Dordt went a perfect 16-0 when playing on their home court this year, and have gone 31-1 in home games over the last two seasons and tournaments. Tournament play in Branson begins next week, with the team slated to play their first game on either Wednesday or Thursday.

Off-Season doesn’t mean no season

Athletic teams stay ready for their upcoming seasons.

Justin Pastoor
Sports Editor

While the primary focus in sports for this time of year may tend to be on basketball, hockey, and maybe some baseball as we get towards the spring season, this does not mean that our fall sports are taking their time off and having a leisure off-season.

"I don’t even really care for the term ‘off-season’. I like to think of it as a development season." said head football coach Greg Youngblood.

While the teams aren’t having actual competitions in most cases, arguments can be made that the workouts and practice schedules are more strenuous than the actual season can be.

The full teams roll onto campus a week or two before actual classes begin, and during that time, the focus needs to be on integrating new players to the program and logistics for the team. Having an "off" season allows the team to focus on more of the physical aspect of the game. Most teams will have a combination of strength training, conditioning, and they agility, or plyometric training.

This is also the time where teams have an opportunity to come together, build team unity, and begin to focus on what their goals are both as an individual, and as a whole unit.

"No matter what part of the season you’re in, there’s always going to be that team element. While you’re going through the grind of a season, however, you just don’t have the time or focus to build it up to the extent you need to be successful.” said Youngblood.

Football currently has strength training four days a week, while having a more conditioning oriented session twice a week during the morning.

Both the men and women’s soccer team are lifting three days a week while, similar to football, and have conditioning practices in morning. Both of those sports are primarily outdoor, and cannot head outside until weather permits to.

The volleyball team holds their games in a gym, and have already started court work, along with their lifting.

"The off season is huge. Teams are built and games are won during this development mental phase of what really is a year round season." said Youngblood.

Ask an Athlete

Name: Dustin Brisel
Age: 21
Major: Elementary Education
Sport(s) Involved: Baseball

Why did you come to Dordt?
Dordt was a place for me play baseball two more years after my surgery at Marshalltown Community College. Also I heard nothing but positives about the Education program here.

How did you first become involved in sports?
I’ve been playing sports my whole life. My dad played a lot of the same sports (football, basketball, baseball) that I ended up playing throughout my childhood and high school years, so he had a huge impact on me being involved.

What do you think sets baseball apart from any sport out there?
I really think it’s the mental side of the game. Baseball is such a mentally demanding game and there is just not a lot of people that can handle that demand on a day to day basis all year around.

Who’s your favorite professor here at Dordt?
Professor Mulder! That man has more energy than I do and that’s impressive.

Why have you taken such an enthusiastic approach when it comes to leading the student section when it comes to Dordt athletics?
My roommates last year really had an effect on that for me (Jordan Vogel, Chris Seivers, Cliff Warner, Jon Vogel, Austin Vandie Vegete). It was always fun when they worn early in the year so I thought why not make it even more fun for them and make it enjoyable for the fans as well. I love the atmosphere the DeWitt has to offer and I think our student section and the way we go at things makes it even better.

What single event would you go back in time to go see?
Probably to see Babe Ruth call his shot and just to see how far that ball actually went.

If you weren’t at Dordt right now, where do you think you would be?
Well hopefully somewhere south playing ball.

If you could have your choice of any celebrity date, who would you choose?
Kate Upton

Let’s say you win the lottery, what do you choose to do with the money?
First pay off my debt here and probably give my parents a healthy chunk so they can both retire. After that probably just have some fun with the left over.

What are top five things on your bucket list?
Go to every MLB ballpark, skydive, go to Australia, witness a perfect game in person, and box a kangaroo.
Man vs. plant: Little Shop of Horrors

Lauren Volkers
Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine a huge man-eating plant with great music and some talented Dordt students? You get Dordt’s newest theater production: Little Shop of Horrors!

All senior theater majors are required to do a project before they graduate, which usually involves either directing or acting in a production of their choice. Senior Nate Scheuers has chosen to play the part of Seymour, the male lead character in Little Shop of Horrors.

Senior Nate Scheuers is based on the life of Seymour, a clumsy, timid man who works at a flower shop in urban skid row. He comes across an unusual plant, which changes the course of Seymour’s life forever.

“I knew I wanted to do a musical or a funny show,” said Scheuers. “I’m more drawn to comedy. I want to draw people in and get them excited about theater.”

Alex Updike, another Dordt senior, will be directing this production.

“Every director can put his own twist on a show, so I’ve made this production different in a way that is symbolic and interesting,” said Updike.

Little Shop of Horrors will be performed in late April, but the cast has already started working.

“We’re going to borrow the plant costume from the University of Nebraska,” said Updike. “Once we see how big it is, we can start working around it.”

“I’ve already also gotten a lot of help from the theater department on this show,” said Updike.

“I talk with Teresa Ter Haar quite a bit and she sits in on meetings. Her knowledge is very useful, and the whole department has been super helpful.”

Updike and Scheuers hope that this production will draw in its audience. Not only do they hope to entertain, but they also hope to get the audience thinking.

“I think that the characters are easy to relate to,” said Scheuers. “There’s a connection there with most people.”

Even though Little Shop of Horrors is a musical, the public should not shy away from this opportunity to watch it.

“If they’re like me, they’re scared of musicals,” said Updike. “But this is very upbeat. Don’t let this musical scare you away.”

Junior Art Exhibit at Dordt

Lauren Volkers
Staff Writer

“The junior show is not just a big class project or one singular idea. In a sense, I have been preparing for the junior show since I decided to become an art major and began taking studio classes,” said Sara de Waal, a junior art major. “The show is an accumulation of all of our best work since we’ve been at Dordt.”

Mandy Faber, a junior art major who is currently on the Chicago semester, said, “Artwork is such a personal thing. Having work in the show makes me feel like a little piece of me is still back on campus.”

Kelley De Jong, another junior art major who is currently on the Los Angeles semester, also commented, saying that having artwork in the show makes her feel like she is still connected to Dordt.

There will be a variety of art shown at the junior art show, including a combination of photography, drawings, paintings, and mixed media conceptual pieces.

All three girls commented that they would be willing to sell their pieces if they got the right price, but they would have a hard time parting with any of them because they are so personal.

“My art work is a piece of me; it’s hard to sell when there are no re-productions I can hold onto for my own memory. If someone showed a genuine interest in purchasing one of my pieces, I would consider selling my work.”

The Campus Center Art Gallery is open every day from seven a.m. to 10 p.m. The display is free and open to the public.

The Dordt College junior art exhibit will be on display now through Sunday, March 17 in the Campus Center Art Gallery. The work of the following 11 Dordt juniors will be on display:

Artists who will be participating in the event include Caitlin Bronkhorst (Hawarden, Iowa), Kelley De Jong (Orange City, Iowa), Sara de Waal (Abbottsford, British Columbia), Mandy Faber (Bothell, Washington), Teddy Getenet (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Brett Jaspers (Ontario, California), Nathan Morehead (Sioux City, Iowa), Andrew Steendam (Dugald, Manitoba), Cailin Vaags (Abbottsford, British Columbia), Kathryn Van Groningen (Ripon, California), and Ashley Viet (Hawarden, Iowa).

Master Potter visits Dordt

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

“That mound is a divine gift from God,” Levi Yakuba, master potter and owner-operator of Dajo Pottery in Nigeria, told his audience on Wednesday night.

“That mound, a giant pile of clay, is what Yakuba uses to create some of the most beautiful pottery in the world. And although it may seem inconsequential to the untrained eye, to Yakuba it is pots, jars, cups, glasses, and plates that have won international awards and been presented to multiple presidents.

Yakuba started out as a typical young boy in Nigeria – with a complete disinterest in pottery, but because of his father’s push towards the occupation. But because of his father’s push towards the profession, Yakuba decided he would take up the craft. Since then, he has never looked back, working past the negative connotation and condescending looks from his native countrymen.

“Not only do they hope to entertain, but they also hope to get the audience thinking.”

As stated before, Yakuba began his full-time pottery business shortly after his home nation of Nigeria banned the importation of ceramics. He felt that the ban was his chance to do what he enjoyed, and he quit lecturing to begin potting full time.

This was not an easy endeavor, however, as Yakuba lacked the main equipment needed to become a potter: a kiln and oven.

But this did not stop Yakuba. He quickly remedied the problem by building his own, and since that humble beginning, Yakuba has expanded and become an internationally-known potter, spreading his work across Nigeria and beyond.

As stated before, Yakuba has had the honor of presenting his pottery to multiple Nigerian presidents. And he gives his creativity one-hundred percent of the credit, stating “creativity is embedded within you is what endears you to kings and queens.”

On top of these honors, his pottery has also won prestigious awards at the Ceramics Olympiad, including the Golden Award at its debut in 2007.

But in the end, Yakuba knows where the glory belongs. Beneath the master potter, the Member of the Order of the Niger (a prestigious honor), the National Productivity of Merit recipient, and member of the Fellow Society of Nigerian Artists, lies a man who readily gives the glory to his Lord, the true Master Potter.
Hannah DeVries  
Co-Editor

Rating: 8/10

Memorable Line: Pretty sure Josh Duhamel’s face in a family photo on the beach trumps them all.

Valentine’s Day may be over, but the romance in the air hasn’t completely been killed by the gray February skies. Whether you’re single, married, or anywhere in between, Safe Haven is one Valentine’s Day movie worth watching no matter what day of the year it is.

Sure, it’s based on a Nicholas Sparks novel, and yeah, the poster is of a picture-perfect couple on their way to making out. But don’t let this turn you away. In fact, at several points, the movie is downright creepy.

Safe Haven opens with a glimpse into an abusive relationship between a husband and wife although you never see the face of the man. The woman, Katie (Julianne Hough, also in Footloose), makes it to a tour bus with only a pillowcase full of clothing before a detective, already on her trail, can catch her.

The bus stops in a tiny town in North Carolina, where Katie steps off and, after falling for the calming small-town atmosphere and picturesque seaside landscape, decides to stay. Despite her best efforts to keep her head down, Katie finds herself drawn to widower Alex (Josh Duhamel, also in Transformers and Life as We Know It), a convenience store owner, his two younger children, and Jo, another woman who seems to have buried herself in the bayou-like forest far outside of town.

Attraction grows, romance blooms and just as Katie begins to let her guard down, her past reaches out and tears apart the new life Katie had been building for herself, forcing her to decide where she really belongs, and with whom her safe haven truly lies.

This movie was great because it didn’t focus solely on the romance. It switches between Katie’s story and the detective, who is definitely going above and beyond the call of duty to find her, and somehow looking more and more deranged as he does it. The sense of calmness around Katie grows just as the sense of unease and disgust surrounding the detective.

Some may call the story predictable, but there is enough action (yes, action, not drama) and twists along the way to make this more than a typical Nicholas Sparks-style romance. So even though this is a home-run of a date movie, it is also one worth watching with any crowd.