Thanking Donors through GRACE Days

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Many students, faculty, and staff of Dordt College came to the Rec Center on Wednesday, March 28 to celebrate the donations given by alumni and friends. This celebration was called GRACE days, which refers to the number of days each year that are fully supported by donors. The GRACE days event was held for students to give thanks to these donors and friends of Dordt who support their education.

“The idea of GRACE days is to help students understand (in a fun way) the impact of donors on campus and on their education, and to give donors a chance to hear messages of gratitude from students,” said John Baas, Vice President for College Advancement at Dordt.

“Without all our donors, it would not be possible for some of us to attend Dordt. And I don’t think that students realized that we are basically going to school for free right now because of our generous donors,” said Kristen Tiel.

This was a concept we’ve considered in the past but didn’t actually implement until this year. We partnered with Student Services and many volunteers (students and faculty/staff) which helped tremendously in making it successful,” said Baas.

“We will be assessing over the summer what future plans will be for the future of GRACE Days but it will involve a significant celebration. We were delighted with the turnout and the student response has been fantastic,” said Bethany Schuttinga, Associate Provost for Co-Curricular Programs.

Students who came were encouraged to write a note of thanks to a donor and sign a large “thank you” banner. They also received a free meal and had the chance to run through a 100-foot inflatable obstacle course.

“I’ve heard from a number of students and employees who really appreciated the event. The turnout was higher than what we hoped for and we were pleasantly surprised,” said Barb Mellem, Director of Annual Giving at Dordt College.

Because of all the donations that are received, students’ tuition for the last twenty-three days of the school year is covered. “Without all our donors, it would not be possible for some of us to attend Dordt. And I don’t think that students realized that we are basically going to school for free right now because of our generous donors,” said Kristen Tiel.

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Rebirth at the Agricultural Stewardship Center

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again. It’s springtime, and life is being reborn, literally, out at the Dordt College Agricultural Stewardship Center.

Every spring the Agriculture 101 class, made up mostly of ag freshmen, gets an “animal experience” project. Pregnant ewes (that’s sheep for the laymen) and calves are delivered out to the school farm, then divided among groups of students. The students are responsible for the animals’ daily care for nearly two months, lasting until almost the end of the spring semester.

The purpose of this project is to give students experience in multiple, hands-on, facets of animal agriculture. Students who have sheep experience must work with calves, and those who have worked with cattle have responsibility for the sheep.

No matter what project the students end up with, a good time seems to be had by all. At nearly all hours of the day, students can be found at the farm feeding, cleaning, or just playing with their animals.

Even non-ag majors seem to anticipate this time of year. Students from every grade and major tag along with their friends, hoping to get a chance to hold and maybe even take pictures with the baby animals.

Not everything is so rosy at the farm, however. Part of the lesson to be learned through this experience is to deal with the realities of an agricultural lifestyle, which can be disappointing at times.

Not every lamb is born alive, and not all make it through their first week. It can be heartbreaking, but comfort can be taken in the promise of new life contained in every lamb that does make it and lives to jump, run, and play with his brothers and sisters.

The lambs and calves do seem to have something in common with their freshmen caretakers, however. They seem to be constantly reminded that never before has Iowa seen such a beautiful spring.
Poverty Simulation Raises Student Awareness

Aanna Stadem
Staff Writer

Last week, junior social work majors spent hours preparing and orchestrating a poverty simulation available to all students. The goal of the simulation was to aid students in understanding regarding individuals and families who are struggling financially. The result was just that: the simulation was an organized, chaotic event involving students of many different backgrounds determined to understand and succeed in a foreign way of life.

All participants were given a role to play. The roles varied across the board, ranging from newly unemployed, to single parent, to social security senior citizen. The majority of the roles were people constantly fighting to stay above the poverty line; still working and families who are struggling financially. The result was an organized, chaotic event involving students of many different backgrounds determined to understand and succeed in a foreign way of life.

First Monday Speaker: What are we Afraid of?

Kelsey Sederstrom
Staff Writer

“It’s so beautiful here,” said Beatrice De Graaf as she stepped on the stage Monday morning. “Dutch people have never had a reason to come to the center of the United States, but it’s quite beautiful!”

De Graaf’s speech began with a history of security, starting with charlemagne protecting his people from drought and ending with modern times when the United Nations seeks to prevent another world war. She defined security as both a feeling and an absence of harm. Most especially, she correlated security with protection from future events.

According to De Graaf, security is not just a present state. It is most importantly what we want our future to be.

The core of De Graaf’s speech addressed how man fails to control the future. National security is virtually useless, because as individual opportunity grows, so also uncertainty increases.

De Graaf says that American culture and media are geared towards looking at destruction because they know it is what concerns us the most. Man knows his fatality. De Graaf sparks the question, where do we turn in our search for hope of protection? Ourselves? The government?

As Reformed Christians, De Graaf says we know that our security is not physical, but spiritual and moral. We find spiritual peace in Christ, our shepherd, LORD, and king. Whom then shall we fear? Nothing can stand against Christ; our sole comfort in life and death.

“Christ is our security,” seemed to be the constant theme throughout De Graaf’s speech.

Symposium Update

Hello again fellow students and welcome to another student symposium update. Since I am unsure how many students actually read this article, I have an idea to catch your eye.

DO YOU NOTICE BOLD PRINT?

Hopefully I have your attention now. However, it must be said that we at symposium do keep a professional attitude (though it may not be exemplified by bold print or recent election posters).

Our main purpose in these measures is to remind you that Student Symposium is here on Dordt to help students. We fund clubs, we listen to your concerns, and we welcome your ideas. Let us get to know you.

We have recently elected members for next year, so be sure you are familiarizing yourself with the faces that will represent you as a student body. We look forward to another year of operation, and we thank all of you who showed your support by voting.

This year in Symposium, great leaps have been taken. We have rewritten our constitution to improve our operation. We have accepted new clubs and allotted funds for them. We have communicated with the administration on your behalf. Thank you for your support.

But enough about us, tell us about you! We want to get to know you, and we want to know what Dordt means to you. Want to learn more about symposium? You have many options!

Email us at: symposium@dordt.edu

Check our Website at: homepages.dordt.edu/symposium (We are hoping to put this on DENIS)

Or talk to a member!

In Christ,

Steve Olson
Officer of the Press
National Library Week: A Time of Excitement and Free Food

Katelyn Eikes
Editor

April 8-14 is National Library Week and the Dordt College library will be holding some entertaining and tasty activities that you won’t want to miss! Kicking off the week, there is an edible book contest. When registering, the kids choose two of these classes and activities from a list of 40. When registering, the kids choose two of these classes and activities from a list of 40. Each entry is judged by the judges and voted on by the public.

Shanna Braunschweig
Staff Writer

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Become a Counselor for Dordt Discovery Days

Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Every summer Dordt faculty, local educators, and artists host a week-long camp on campus for junior high students called Dordt Discovery Days. Classes take place in the morning and afternoon each day, and throughout the rest of the day students participate in activities like swimming, devotions, games, and a Sioux Center-wide group scavenger hunt.

When registering, the kids choose two of these classes and activities from a list of 40. Some of these include Crazy Olympics, Golf, Racquetball, a CSI Investigation, Guitar Lessons, Cartooning, Pottery, Stain Glass, Digital Scrapbooking, and even Photography.

This five-day camp, at the end of June, gives kids who have completed sixth, seventh, or eighth grade the opportunity to see what it’s like to live on a college campus.

Current Dordt students, and a member of the community will be in charge of taste and critiquing the entries. However, the decisions are not left entirely to the judges. Students, faculty, and staff are all encouraged to come to the library and vote for the cake they think should win the prize for the viewer’s choice award.

There will be four categories: judge’s choice, best tasting, and best pun. The prizes consist of $40 for first place and $20 for second place in each of the four categories, so try out your culinary skills and win some cash.

“Last year was the first year we did this and we were absolutely amazed at how many people we got,” said librarian Kathy Fictorie. There were 24 submissions last year and they are hoping to surpass that this year.

In addition, on Wednesday, April 11, the “read celebrity” poster will be unveiled, and chocolate chip cookies will be served while supplies last.

A paper airplane contest will be held on Friday, April 13, beginning at 11:00 a.m. So for all you engineers out there, or for those of you who think you have what it takes to construct a winning airplane, come to the library and participate.

Let’s be honest, when is the next time you will be encouraged to fly airplanes across the library? Probably not until next year at this time, so take advantage of the situation. There will be a gift certificate for the winner.

As if all of this isn’t enough to bring students to the library, there will also be daily drawings for $10 gift certificates to local businesses such as the Pizza Ranch, Casey’s Bakery, and the Fruited Plain. Make sure to place your name in the drawing already on Monday morning.

Last, but certainly not least, there will be mints all week long! Who doesn’t love a winter mint lifesaver, or two, or four, to get you through the week of classes?

“It’s really one of the most fun weeks we have at the library,” said Kathy Fictorie, “so come join the fun!”

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KELLY ZATLIN
Features

Putting Love Into Action 2012

Kristin Janssen Staff Writer

Team Atlanta

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” This verse, found in 1 John 3:18, served as the key theme for the PLIA teams that served across the United States and Canada during Spring Break. Over 1,500 students put love into action on twelve different teams. Some of the teams spent their break together as far away as Salt Lake City, Atlanta, Camden, Las Vegas, and Toronto, while others stayed closer in cities like Cincinnati, Denver, and Argentine, Kansas.

Caleb Wubben, a junior co-leader with Elise Wedel, spent his Spring Break in Inez, Kentucky. One week before PLIA teams departed for service across the country, the community of Inez was hit by a devastating tornado, so the team worked alongside 200 community members, helping clean up an entire hillside in a section that was completely wiped out by the storm.

“Seeing the devastation and the terrible homes some of the children were raised in made me appreciate of the way I was raised,” said Wubben. “I was also reminded not to put too much stock in earthly possessions because they can be gone in a second. Instead, I need to store up treasures in Heaven.”

Salt Lake City is a site that PLIA teams started heading to only last year. This year, the team helped out a small Christian Reformed church in the city populated by a great majority of Mormons. Dordt students painted buildings, cooked for a homeless shelter, and helped out in a group home. In addition to the love they shared through actions, the team also learned about Mormonism.

Stephanie Geertema, a junior member of the Utah team, shared, “Being the religious minority for the first time was a challenge for my faith.” She reflected that her team definitely learned the importance of living out their faith all of the time. In the midst of such widespread Mormonism in Salt Lake City, Geertema said it was “extra important” to actively live out her faith.

On the other side of the country, senior Ellen La Bouef learned a similar lesson in Atlanta. In the city, the La Bouef’s group worked with elementary and middle school students, helped on a farm at a summer camp, and traveled to many different shelters where they were about to learn about the cycle of poverty.

She said L. Baker, the team’s contact and service organizer in Atlanta challenged the team to see themselves as “the only Bible a person will read in a day,” meaning that living out love and care in stead of judgment and arrogance is important at all times. “We learned about service as an everyday approach, representing Christ to everyone around me, whether I’m on PLIA, in another state, or simply at home,” La Bouef shared as a summary of her team’s reflections on the trip.

Dordt students who spent their Spring Break as a part of the Shiprock, New Mexico team deepened their understanding of what it means to live a life of complete and passionate service. Junior Rachel Dotinga, who co-led the Shiprock team with senior Kurt Buikema, said her team’s role was simply to help an over-worked pastor in any way possible.

Dotinga said the community expected much more work from the team than expected, which gave them the opportunity to have true servant hearts, regardless of how much work still needed to be done. Personally, Dotinga said, the high expectations “challenged me to keep the attitude of wanting to serve as much as I possibly can.” As a whole, Dotinga believes the team developed a strong “passion to give up their time to serve.”

Another nine Dordt students had the opportunity to travel 23 hours to Camden, New Jersey, and work with Urban Promise, an organization serving the broken Camden community by equipping Camden’s kids with a passion to love and hope to help one of the most dangerous cities in America improve.

The Camden PLIA team spent the week in the midst of the city filled with sadness, poverty, and drugs and had the chance to clean after-school program sites, visit and serve at the Francis House, shelter for people with HIV/AIDS, and work with middle school kids at Urban Promise’s week of Olympics.

Freshman Renee Buikema confessed, “I didn’t have hope for Camden until I saw how many people in Camden had such a strong hope for their own community.”

Buikema’s freshman teammate Jerusha Pimentel said visiting the Francis House was one of her favorite experiences of the trip. “We try to detach ourselves and remove ourselves from people in drastic situations,” she said, “but in Camden—where today’s lepers and forgotten people live—that’s where I think Jesus was at work. It was so real. It was healing.”

Becca Van Dam summarized one of a lesson all of the PLIA teams seemed to echo. “We learned how much not only inner-city kids and homeless need our love, but also how much our team needs to love each other and continue sharing the love Christ has given us back home.” Clearly, putting love into action also means being blessed with truth about God’s love and service as well.

Several PLIA members were asked to explain what PLIA means to them:

David Miedema, Senior, Team Las Vegas
“You think some people have it all good, but everyone has their own struggles and needs love and encouragement.”

Derek Lourens, Junior, Team Carmel, NY
“Putting love into action can come in many forms. Most of the work I had to do was talking to people about Jesus and letting God make all of the difference.”

Abby Helder, Junior, Team Argentine, KS Co-Leader
“Everything that we do while on PLIA (or in life in general) should be done with LOVE—a willing heart, a generous heart, a patient heart, a kind heart, and a heart that truly wants to bring Heaven down to Earth.”

Derek Brumfield, Senior, Team Carmel, NY Co-Leader
“Loving is not judging people before you get to know them”

Amber Vander Veen, Junior, Team New Orleans Co-Leader
“There’s more to it than you initially think…It’s about sacrificing your time and energy, really putting the needs of others before your own, and not taking the easy way out.”

Leah Werkhoven, Sophomore, Team Shiprock, NM
“Putting love into action is just waking up each day with a smile on your face.”

Drew Johnson, Sophomore, Team Salt Lake City
“It [putting love into action] shows us that we are doing God’s work and that there are many different ways for us to do it.”
Who are you? Is that a question you take time to ask of yourself? Often, we get caught up in the chaos of life and we forget to take time to look in the mirror and ask “Who am I?” I looked in the mirror and asked myself this question and was prepared to accept the answer I received. This shocked me awake and led me down a journey I did not expect to be on. While this path has been harrowing, in more ways than one I could have imagined, it has also taught me much and showed me that there truly is still good in such a fallen world. Now, you might be saying “why does this matter to me?” Well here is the answer: while everything may be going bad, there is always a comfort. There is always comfort in knowing that if you take the step, God will be there to catch you. As we have seen through history, men did not simply take the easy solution, but rather they took that step of faith trusting that God was there to help them.

So I challenge you as this last month of the school begins, to not simply wade through the waters and slide by. It’s time to rise and be who you were born to be. It’s time to be who your grandfathers fought to protect. Stand up and become leaders, stewards, and disciples. Stand up with courage and walk humbly in the fear of our Father. Do not turn out of fear and fee, rather take that step of faith. Trust in the Father and trust that he will recede the waters of turmoil.

If you give up on looking for answers, and rather listen, you will discover the true beauty that is all around us. Searching for God will only make you more lost, rather give it all up and listen. It is in these silent moments that you will hear his voice like a soft whisper in your ear.
Track Team Earns All-American Honors

Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

A week before spring break, on March 1-3, Dordt College had 22 individuals from 13 different events participate in the indoor NAIA National Track and Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio. Out of the 22 students and 13 events, four Dordt Athletics earned All-American honors in individual events, and three other relay teams earned honors as well.

Katie Bonnema was one of two Defenders earning second place throughout the meet. Bonnema placed in 600 meter run with a time of 1:32.88, less than two seconds off of the first place finish. Briana Vander Woude had a runner up finish in the women’s pentathlon. She finished with 3789 points overall, 72 points behind first place. Vander Woude added a 6th place finish in the 60 meter hurdles in a time of 08.91 as well as competing in the high jump finishing twelfth, and the long jump finishing thirteenth.

Nic Pfeifle placed 5th in the 400 meters with a time of 48.79, six-tenths off first place. Ryan Tholen also ended up with a 5th place finish in the 800 meter run with a 1:52.59.

The three relay teams were the women’s 4x800 meter relay, and both the men’s and the women’s 4x400 meter relay teams.

The women’s 4x800 team placed 8th overall, running a time of 9:20.71. The team consisted of Merissa Harkema, Whitney Wilgenburg, Lillie Koerner and Nichole Duncan. The women’s 4x400 team, made up of Caitlin Troost, Tara Postma, Kari Van Beek and Bonnema ran a 3:58.27, which was also good for 8th. The men’s 4x400 placed 5th. Alex Henderson, Joe Lammers, Aaron Floen and Pfeifle placed 5th, running 3:14.96.

“The opportunity to perform on a national stage is always a blessing, I just try to soak it all in while I’m there and walk away from the meet with a solid performance,” said senior Alex Henderson. “There’s really no difference other than not knowing the other teams. You can always count on everyone to perform at a high level from the start, everyone gets the same chance and some make it to the last day and some don’t.”

“Once you reach the National stage and you run exceptionally well it becomes a mentality that you do the same repeatedly and one thing about it is that it takes a lot of time and hard work,” said junior Nic Pfeifle. “It’s really a huge honor to know that you are running with some of the best athletes in the nation.”

Sports

Lacrosse Preview

Jordan Harmelink
Sports Editor

The 2012 Dordt lacrosse season is off to a bit of a rough start. The season started back on March 27 in Ames, IA with the Sowers taking on St. Cloud State University and the University of Minnesota in a pair of scrimmages. The Sowers were unable to match the level of play that both teams brought and lost both contests. Last weekend (March 31) the Sowers took on Carleton and Bethel, dropping both of those contests as well. With four games left of the schedule, the Sowers are eager to put some tallies in this year.

This Season:

This year’s squad features only three seniors: Tyler Buys, Eric Spoelstra, and Jordan Harmelink. The rest of the team is made up of seven juniors, four sophomores, and five freshmen.

“All these guys are working really hard on their own and at practice,” said Coach Paul Hoogendoorn. “I’m excited to see how this season pans out.”

On offense, Mark Opp returns as last year’s leading scorer. Opp scored 10 goals and tacked on four assists during the 2011 season. Other offensive contributors expect to be Alex Soundy, Nate Weigel, Spoelstra and Buys.

Defense starts with goalie Jordan Yntema. Jordan Shaffer and Harmelink return as the only long pole defenders with experience. Harmelink was fourth on the team in ground balls last season, and Shaffer looks to carry the momentum he gained during the fall exhibition games where he scored his first career goal. Landon Tillema, Dylan Hoekstra, and Alex Geley will also sport the long pole and help out defensively.

“Dordt College lacrosse has a long history of being a physical team,” Shaffer said. “Most teams don’t like playing us because they know they are going to get hit.”

While most of the games are on the road, Dordt will host two home games against conference foes on April 28 on the Dordt soccer fields against Creighton and Palmer. So if you are looking to check out the 2012 Dordt College lacrosse team, April 28 is your chance!

Remaining Schedule:

April 14: @ Missouri S & T in Kansas City, KS
April 21: @ MSU-Mankato in Mankato, MN
April 28: Home vs Creighton (11:00 am) & Palmer (3:30 pm)

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Choir Tour: From Iowa to California

Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

Dordt’s very own Concert Choir traveled across the U.S. during Spring Break, successfully showing off their skill in performances to a wide range of audiences and venues.

Fifty upperclassmen make up the Concert Choir and their ability to perform a variety of styles and genres is what makes them stand out from other Dordt choirs. Each tour is different, and this year the choir traveled and performed in Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

The choir traveled west, giving 15 performances, nine of which were full concerts, five were at school assemblies, and one of which was at a church service. From the beginning of the trip to the end they traveled a total of 5,140 miles.

Having conducted the choir since 1994, Dr. Benjamin Kornelis once again led the choir across the south west.

“The tours present an opportunity to hone and perfect our performances to a very high level of precision, as well as instruct our students what it takes to present the same program repeatedly to different audiences in different venues with (sometimes very) different acoustics,” Kornelis said.

Alena Schuessler, an English Writing major, is one of the talented fifty who performed across the Southwest. “I was thrilled to go on the trip,” she said. “I got to know so many people I just hadn’t known very well before the tour...[and] what I discovered [along the way] was a beautiful landscape and hugely hospitable people.”

The pieces performed by the choir were as diverse as the locations they were performed in. At their Tour Homecoming Concert on March 23, the choir’s performance pieces ranged from Charles Hubert Hastings Parry’s “I Was Glad,” Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune,” and Beethoven’s “Hallelujah” from The Mount of Olives.

“These tours are [also] great when we get into high schools and show prospective students the high level of quality performance that Dordt is able to present,” Kornelis said. “They see that we do good stuff and do it very well.”

“It was a great experience,” Schuessler added. “The kind that I feel like everyone needs at least once in their college career.”

Women of Lockerbie Cleans Clothes... and Heals Hearts

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

“There is no grief like the grief of losing a child:” an odd theme for a play performed in front of a mostly college-aged audience to be centered on. How can one connect to a play centered on an ideal that simply does not relate to us? The answer lies, as many of us have come to learn through our own college career, on a deeper level of meaning. What if, instead of being centered on the emotional idea of losing a child, the play was focused on the deeper idea of cleansing ourselves of grief? What if the idea of the Women of Lockerbie was to turn our attention to our own dirty laundry, our own “shelves of sorrow?”

On the surface, the Women of Lockerbie has a simple plot: a mother and father unexpectedly lose their child, Adam Livingston, in a horrific plane crash and return to the site years later to attend a memorial. Upon their return, Mrs. Livingston having received even a fragment of her son’s remains, relentlessly searches the local hills for any shred of memory linked to her only child. Eventually, she learns of a warehouse filled with the victims’ remains involved in a plot involving a potential burning of all those remains, she is granted permission to search the warehouse for anything belonging to Adam; anything that could bring her a semblance of closure. After failing to find even a shred of clothing, Mrs. Livingston is distraught, clawing at herself in a fit of emotion, only to have the very man who so vehemently tried to burn all evidence, return Adam’s suitcase to her and her husband. The play ends with Adam’s father finally feeling the emotion of his son’s death while the women of the town quietly wash the victim’s clothes in the local stream.

It really is a touching play all on its own, but the acting and direction is what brings out the play’s deeper meaning and really made the Women of Lockerbie stick with the audience. Through the play, deeper issues of God’s involvement in tragedy, how to handle tragedy from a male versus female perspective, what love is compared to hate, and each individual’s ability to move on from their own “dirty laundry” were all explored.

By the end of the play, the audience realizes that not only is Mrs. Livingston mourning a loss, but so is Olive, the leader of the local women who lost both her daughter and husband when the flight crashed into the town. Two women must come to grips with their horrifying pasts in order to move on to a future not controlled by the hate which had gripped them. By the end of the play, both are able to wash the victim’s clothes in the local stream, an obvious metaphor for the cleansing of their souls.

Overall, the play was very well done. The acting was solid and the play spoke on a level beyond what the actors were physically portraying on the surface, both which speak volumes of senior director Clare Laverman. Through a simple hour and a half on a floor in a theater, an audience was able to take a deeper look at grief, forgiveness, and what it truly takes to wash our dirty clothes clean.

Prairie Grass Productions Wins Two Telly Awards

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

Professor Mark Volkers’ documentary “The Fourth World” displayed the quality of Dordt’s Prairie Grass Productions (PGP) by winning two Telly awards.

Professor Volkers explained that the Telly Awards are mainly recognized in the film industry as a show of quality acknowledged by peers in the industry.

“A lot of film companies, if their budget only allows them to enter one competition, will choose to enter their film in the Telly Awards,” Volkers said. The student-assisted production earned a bronze award for cinematography and a silver award for its quality as a documentary. A Silver Telly Award is the highest award offered.

“It gives recognition and in some ways it validates the product. Others within this industry who know what they’re looking for say ‘Yeah, this is worthy of our highest award,’” Volkers said.

The students that helped in the production of the film have already graduated. However, some students in the digital media department expressed their thoughts on the awards.

“There were students that shot for it, and so it really reflects well on our program here,” sophomore Andrew Miller said.

“Seeing Professor Volkers win awards like the Telly is not only encouraging because we have a professor who can do these things but it’s also that as students we have hope that we can do work that well as well,” sophomore David Mahlum said.

Volkers has occasionally commented in some of his classes that Christian productions are often seen as low quality. The two Telly Awards say otherwise.

“I think it helps validate what we’re doing because students were heavily involved in this film,” Volkers said. “It lends a lot of weight and credence to PGP, which is a big part of Dordt College. It honors PGP and in so doing it honors what Dordt College is doing in the world of media.”

“It shows that we can win awards even though we’re a small Christian college. It shows that Christians can still make a good production,” Miller said.

Despite the fact that the documentary has already been finished, presented at film festival, and judged at the Telly Awards, the production is not yet available for public viewing.

“I can’t do public screenings or presentations, and I can’t be selling DVDs on the internet or in stores yet. That would definitely be in a lot of the festivals that I’m trying to get into. I would love to show this on campus. I want the premier screening to be right here at Dordt College but I can’t. I have to wait,” Volkers said.

Volkers explained that those wishing to view the film will have to wait until some time this fall.
By Alex Updike

Cell phones have proven to be one of the most significant and widely used Western-world inventions in the history of mankind. I’m man enough to admit that I used mine to call my momma, I mean, mother, this very morning. Others of you have probably called your parents within the last couple of days as well. And if you haven’t, shame on you for being horrible children. Still others of you have probably called or texted your significant other today . . . and yesterday . . . and the day before . . . and the day before that. Seriously, they aren’t going anywhere, so put the phone away and stop making the rest of us feel bad.

The point is, we probably don’t realize how hooked we are on cellular communication and how much we depend on it on a day-to-day basis. But what if cell phones had never been invented? OMG, like that’s totes not LOL (I don’t! I’m NOT lol’ing, so give your thumbs some time to relax and read on.

On April 3, 1973, Martin Cooper placed the first ever call on a portable cellular phone. That has nothing to do with my article, but now next time your parents ask you what you’re learning in college, you can recite this bad boy to them. Anyway, so what does the world come to if cell phones were never invented? For starters, my mom can’t interrupt my writing with phone calls about whether I picked up the package from or not. Should I go to the table with a note that says, “I’ve been stalking you. You have thirty seconds to text me.”

Now, whether or not I would have written this if I’m not accessible 24/7; and sometimes that sounds awfully nice.

But then again, who uses a cell phone that often to actually call people? It’s all about texting these days. It’s what all the cool kids are doing. Can we even imagine a world without texting, though? Well, seeing as I’m not an engineering major who stares at numbers all day and still has a chunk of non-analytical brain left, I’d say yes, yes I can. I’ll just tell you right now, without texting, there’s absolutely no economic recession. How’s that, you say?

Let’s begin where all good stories do – high school girls. High school girls are the undisputed queens of texting; at least, nobody else in the room I’m in is disputing it. Of course, none of them know I’m writing it either, but I digress. Those young’uns will stare at a little screen filled with black letters, cheezy emotions, and constantly evolving acronyms all day. And that “all day” includes school, too. See where I’m going with this? If you don’t PDTTPASPA (put down the phone and start paying attention) before . . . and the day before that. Seriously, they aren’t going anywhere, so put the phone away and stop making the rest of us feel bad.

This sudden spike in attention leads to better grades and a greater appreciation for knowledge. Armed with a new thirst for the unknown, high school grad students will send in college applications at a record percentage. Greedy schools, eager for money, accept these “fresh, young minds” and begin to mold and shape them into the future bankers, farmers, engineers, teachers, doctors, and lawyers of the world. With a record number of the U.S. population having college degrees and higher education, we see an influx of skilled workers, brilliant minds, and new inventions into the economy. Since I know absolutely nothing about economics, this solves everything.

So, as you can see, I am in fact indirectly blaming girls for one of the worst economic recessions in the history of America. But then again, they’re probably too busy texting somebody to read this anyway, so I’m golden . . . no wonder I’m single.

Hey everybody! It’s good to be writing for my favorite paper again. Well it’s spring time, which means time to go outside. No more stuffy rooms or long sleeve shirts! That means no more excuses not to go on Dordt walks! Here is my top ten list of “Things to do with your Boyfriend or Girlfriend.”

Men:
1. It’s spring, which means time to cut back on Call of Duty and Madden. Why not plan a picnic with your special lady? There are great spots near Sandy Hallow.
2. Go swimming! While at Sandy Hallow bring a swimsuit and swing on the tree rope; cool off on those hot days together.
3. Campus Golf! On a sunny afternoon, there is nothing better than playing a few rounds of campus golf. Show your girl those mad golf skills you acquired this winter while playing Tiger Woods PGA Tour.
4. Take a walk to Children’s Park and bring a camera. Take pictures of each other on the playground while playing tag. There is nothing more fun than reliving your childhood with someone you love.
5. Go look at stars! Girls love stars! Bring a blanket and lay on the grass together, making your own constellations.

Women:
1. Although it is spring time, that doesn’t mean your boyfriend will be willing to give up video games completely. Go over to his apartment to watch him play Mass Effect 3. Although it sounds boring, there is nothing like playing a video game for an audience, especially if the audience is the girl he loves.
2. Surprise him by making him dinner one night (men love food). There is something magical about walking into your apartment and seeing dinner already made for you.
3. Go to Wal-Mart and buy two water guns. Fill his with water and leave it on the table with a note that says, “I’ve been stalking you. You have thirty seconds to get outside.”
4. Challenge his skills to bean bag toss. Tell him the loser has to buy dinner and you get a five point head start. He will love the challenge.
5. Suggest going for a walk even if he is busy. Hold hands while you stroll down the streets and talk about more fun things to do together.