Dordt professors write book

John Brinks
Staff Writer

Dordt College English Professor John Van Rys, along with former Dordt professors Randall VanderMey and Verne Meyer, have written what Van Rys calls "a student-friendly writing text designed for college freshman-composition classes and writing-across-the-curriculum programs."

The College Writer will replace Write for College as the writer's guide for Dordt students and has been adopted for classes beginning in the fall semester of 2003.

The Houghton Mifflin publishing company originally contacted Van Rys with the idea for the new book two years ago. Most of the hard work on this book was completed this past summer.

While writing the book, the authors placed special emphasis on thinking skills, argumentation and persuasion. The College Writer has more explicit instruction on the specific forms of writing than did Write for College, which was originally intended to be used in high school Advanced Placement classes.

The new book contains twenty-nine samples of student writing by past and present Dordt students. The sample writings were taken from mostly English classes, but also include writings from psychology classes and lab reports from science classes.

The College Writer also contains examples of professional writing from Dordt College English professors. James Schaap and Dave Schelhas. Many other Dordt professors were contacted as consultants to the book.

One of the reasons for the new book, said Van Rys, was a need for updated material using the Internet in papers, as well as citing Internet sources. Write for College was published seven years ago and much of its information on the Internet is now out of date.

Van Rys said that "Before the book was off the press, it was already adopted by two other colleges – Georgian College in Toronto, Ontario, and a university in the Eastern United States."

Van Rys' favorite parts of the whole process of writing a book was working with the students and their model papers and working hard to make the book useful for college students.

Copies of The College Writer are available in the Dordt College Bookstore for $50.75.

Social Work professor retires to Minnesota

Social-Work professor retires to Minnesota

Psychology at Augsburg College in 1963, and a Master of Social Work Degree at Florida State University in 1965, Helmstetter served as Director of Social Work at a state mental hospital for four years.

In 1970, he founded Human Resource Associates, Inc., at Hastings, Minn., which offers training programs, mental health and employee assistance clinical services to companies. From 1988 to 1991, Helmstetter worked as an independent consultant, training and clinical consultant, assisting church social ministry organizations and churches.

With a desire to teach in a Christian institution, Helmstetter quipped that the destination he picked, Arizona, was replaced by the destination God had picked for him, Iowa.

Helmstetter says he'll miss working with Dordt students in their field placements, teaching classes on aging and seeing students accepted into graduate school, but his retirement will allow him to continue his work in other ways, staying active as a thinking, caring Christian.

Senior Jodi Cooper, a Social Work major, said, "Dr. Helmstetter definitely kept God as the center, and helped us keep our focus as social work majors on following Christ."

Helmstetter and his wife, Eileen, have recently moved from Sioux Center, Iowa to London, Minn., where they plan to spend their retirement years.

Students inspired by recent AMOR experience--Page 2

These 12 Stones are spiritually grounded; far from rolling--Page 6

INSIDE

Stained glass piece becomes a reality

Andrea Vander Wilt
Staff Writer

Dordt's dream of having a stained glass piece on campus became a reality over Christmas break. A six-paneled stained glass piece featuring three torches created by Lauren Ochsner hangs in the west entrance of the Campus Center in front of the library.

Several years ago the Art Committee at Dordt began to consider purchasing a stained glass piece for the campus. The committee did not know where to put the piece, but when the plans for the new Campus Center came out, Ochsner approached the art committee about doing a work for the new building and in the fall of 2001, the art committee asked Ochsner to come up with a design.

Dordt chose Ochsner based on several guidelines they have for choosing artists whose work will be featured on campus. "These guidelines help us know where to start looking, and also help us connect to and support artists who share the same values and worldview with us," Art Curator Helena Geel said.

Ochsner began brainstorming and came up with several ideas. He had originally planned on doing a domed piece, but there was nowhere to put it in the building, so he came up with the six-paneled design. After he had the design he decided to fill the three largest panels with torches, which symbolize the trinity and knowledge, as well as the passing of faith from one generation to the next.

In the spring of 2002, Ochsner presented the design to the art committee, and they began working together to come up with a finished product that Ochsner and the college would be very happy with. "The finished product contains about 3,200 pieces and weighs about 1,200 pounds," Ochsner commented. Ochsner, with the help of his wife Barb, spent between 300 to 400 man hours working on the piece. The piece is entitled "LIJA" which stands for the first letters of both Ochsner and his wife's parent's names.

Many students and parents got a chance to preview the piece during Parent's Weekend. The college wanted the piece on campus for dedication, but the work was not quite finished. The committee decided to temporarily set the piece in Eckhardt Lounge, so it would be on campus for viewing.

The piece hangs in the Campus Center as a constant reminder of our faith, our Lord, and the Christian "LIJA" by Lauren Ochsner hangs in the entryway of the Campus Center. The price was installed last week.

Dr. John Van Rys anticipates students using The College Writer to assist them in their writing.
Students Enamoured with AMOR

While many students spent their Christmas break catch¬
ing up on some much needed zzz's, thirty-five Dordt students set out to serve in third world coun¬tries. Three teams of students were sent to three Caribbean countries to serve God. And although each team had their share of experiences—everything from tarantulas on pillows to Ken Bussema get¬ting his chest hair braided—the students did not lose sight of their reason for participating in the AMOR program in the first place: God.

AMOR stands for A Mission Out-Reach, and grew out of the student-formed serve pro¬gram called PLIA. Students who started the AMOR program want¬ed to provide an opportunity to serve in third-world countries as opposed to PLIA which serves primarily in the United States. And that is exactly what the students on the 2003 AMOR team did.

The students went to Nicaragua, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, helping out with established organizations. The Haiti group worked with an orphanage called Children of the Promise, and provided some relief for the regular workers there. The other two groups primarily worked in construction. The Dominican Republic group worked with World Wide Christian Schools and the Nicaragua group helped out at Rancho Ebeenezer, which trains farmers to use their land in more productive and stewartly ways.

Three engineering majors, John Mahan, Jeremy Bleden and Micah Schreur, decid¬ed to integrate their AMOR expe¬rience into their senior design project. Because of the alternating dry/rainy seasons in Nicaragua, the three designed a cistern for Rancho Ebeenezer to store runoff during the rainy season. Micah Schreur, senior engineering major, says that the trip has definitely made him con¬sider how God could use his abili¬ties in a country such as Nicaragua. "I never really had any desire to do long term missions, but since the trip it's crossed my mind," said Schreur.

Schreur isn't the only one who's considered a career in mis¬sions as a result of AMOR. Senior Michelle Kooiman is returning to Nicaragua to begin teaching in the Christian school that the group worked with. Becky Van Den Berg from the Dominican team was deeply affected as well. "I almost didn't want to come back to school," said Van Den Berg. "I want to take a year off and go out on a serve trip for a year or longer."

Students sign up for AMOR in early-to-mid September and begin having weekly meetings in October to get to know their team members. Students also spend some time learning about the culture of their assigned coun¬try and work on fundraising up until Christmas break.

Current Chapel Changes

Don'ts's chapel program is undergoing a change this spring semester. Every Thursday chapel service will be tied to a theme called "Like a Tree." This is the first time that a theme has been carried out over an entire semester with all of the speakers designated for the Thursday chapels being asked to focus on the theme. Special music and songs will also be chosen to reinforce the "Like a Tree" theme.

It was almost a year ago that the Spiritual Activities Committee began to discuss implementing a theme for the chapel program. They saw a need to "revitalize chapel," says Pastor Don Draayer. Pastor Don observed that students were choosing the options of Gift and weekly Praise and Worship more often than chapel. While these are fine programs, he believes that chapel is a unique opportunity for stu¬dents and faculty to come togeth¬er. He would love to see faculty members using chapel as a tool for growth and inspiring students to use it as well.

The Spiritual Activities Committee chose the theme based on Psalm 1:1-3, which speaks of a tree drawing strength through its roots, planted deep in streams of water. The committee considers a flourishing tree a valuable image on which to meditate. They want to impart the idea that growing in integrity and a spirit-filled life is a process, one that needs regular nourishment in order to develop.

Left: John Mahan cuddles with local wildlife.
Below Left: It's Shovel'n' time!
Below: Director of Off-Campus Programs Ken Bussema gets his chest hair braided at the beach.
Below Right: The finished product. Yikes! Colorful beads were added to complement Prof. Bussema's eyes.
Too bad he's got his sunglasses on. It ruins the effect, don't you think?
Dordt College buys guest house for alumni use

The new alumni house will allow people to visit during the school year and have a place to stay. While the main purpose for this house is to accommodate alumni, it will also be available to the campus community for meetings and small gatherings. "Our goal is to make it available to the whole campus, with priority to alumni," said Hagey. The house is scheduled to be finished by early June, although it is in need of updates and repairs. Dordt plans to hire a caretaker for the house to keep up with these repairs and act as a host to visitors. The lower level will be converted into an apartment for the caretaker.

Unraveling the mystery of unbelief

Author Ruth Tucker speaks at Convocation

Alison Alons
News Editor

Are we walking the tightrope of faith? Are we strong in our faith? Author Ruth Tucker questioned during her Spring Convocation address on Thursday, January 16 in the BJ Haan Auditorium. Tucker, Professor of Missiology at Calvin Theological Seminary, explored the idea of belief and unbelief in her most recent book, Walking Away From Faith: Unraveling the Mystery of Unbelief, and spoke on some of those issues to the students and professors of Dordt College during Convocation.

"We must recognize that we are all vulnerable in our faith walk, but remember that God is continually working in our lives," said Tucker. She commented on how God uplifts us in our struggles during our faith lives, and she urged the audience to understand that unbelief is a portion of faith. "Some feel that if they experience unbelief, they have to walk away from the faith, but this is so untrue." Tucker's book reflects a personal struggle, embodied in the well-known passage from Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.""Why is it that others cannot seem to retain their beliefs, despite valiant efforts?" Tucker writes. "I seek to offer some tentative responses, primarily through the voices of those who have, so to speak, been there, done that." Tucker's message looked at the challenges to religious faith, and how the mystery of the faith can often lead one to doubt. "We must realize that the Christian faith is not easy to rationalize...but we must continue to celebrate the mystery of the faith."
Discussions, debates and differences on gender roles

By Ann Renee Andree
Assistant Editor

"Biblical gender roles are equal, but not identical" was the title of the Diamond editor's opinion piece. The assistant editor disagrees.

I began writing this article, intending to tear Steve's arguments apart. While writing the article, I found myself involved in many, many discussions and debates on the issue of gender roles. As a result, I have changed my perspective to the issue countless times. Arguing against Steve's view on gender roles will get us nowhere. Gender roles are all in the name of the Lord Jesus. The body of Christ, rather than fighting each other.

Recognize two important aspects of gender roles. First, the distinction, and close their minds to other possibilities. Speaking to the body of Christ, rather than fighting each other.

"And all they that believed were together and had all things in common" (Acts 2:44). Sharing costs isn't necessarily a bad idea. And, no per meal, we are not getting smeared. Stuart staff writer Rachel Volkers noted in the October 11 issue ("Dordt Commons is right on the money") that the 14-meal plan comes out to $4.33 per meal, whereas the 25-meal plan to $2.64. Of course you can spend a little less if you eat macaroni and cheese every day and maybe go to Harder's every once in a while. Go ahead and do that, if you want to; it is your duty as a junior. More power to you. Just be glad you aren't at Northwestern, where all students are required to buy a meal plan, juniors and seniors too.

The main idea is flexibility. It's good for Dordt students to have some sort of hot food available most of the day. And the 25-meal plan allows for that. If you happen to be hungry, you don't have to worry about it. And if you want to go past your 14-meal limit. You don't have to budget your meals. Imagine that—at college, something you don't have to worry about.

First, the issue of gender roles is not the salvation issue. We must work together as the body of Christ, rather than fighting each other.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen" (2 Pt 3:18).

(Declarations are taken from Forty-six Favourite -Isms by Professor Clarence Joldersma of Calvin College.)
Students studying abroad abound

Ben Visser
Middle East Studies Program in Cairo, Egypt.

On our second weekend in Egypt, eight of us decided to take a trip up to Alexandria, which sits right on the Mediterranean at the very western edge of the Nile delta. Upon arriving in Alexandria around 10 p.m., we began searching for a hotel. It was the end of the tourist season, so this proved more difficult than expected.

Around midnight, two of the guys who had gone into yet another hotel to check for vacancy. I was standing with Peter (the other guy) and the girls on the street corner down from the hotel, at the intersection with the Cornish (the street that runs along the coast). We started to notice that the majority of horns were level down could be found in any semi-urban American city, but if you look up, above, say, to the first story of the buildings, you would see stone buildings, really old buildings with some remnant of ornate carving left over from older times, perhaps the times of Jane Austen, perhaps even the times of Alfred the Great.

Hidden behind the big black and red buses and the rolling crowds of business suits, trench coats, leather jackets, tourist shirts and brightly colored scarves are eras of history. Our seminar professor showed us a room that William Shakespeare might have stayed in when he passed through Oxford. It still had the best sample of Elizabethan wallpaper in existence. He had to take us through a bookie's office in order to get there. The library I studied in was older than the United States of America, being founded about the same time as Boston. The church I attended met in a thousand-year-old building and used electric guitars in their worship. The college at which I studied had brickwork from the 1870s, which was designed in its time for being an elegant innovation, and an ugly glass, saucer-shaped bar and dormitory circa 1970. There is a wonderful mixture of old and new.

Perhaps this accounts for some of the habits of the British people. I have never seen people more intent on getting where they are going. The average person on the street walks briskly and ignores everything around him or her, so intent on their destination or business. Yet, they think nothing of standing in line for groceries for ten, twenty or thirty minutes. They welcome our stores and products but prefer to keep their own manners. “Excuse me” should always be followed up by “I’m sorry to bother you, but.” Tea should come with pastries, which incidentally are called pad-dings. Emotional insights should be left out of polite conversation. So it’s no wonder that in spite of the similarities, American students may still feel tripped up by English culture. There is depth to their culture that is absent in ours. They were, after all, there first.

Jennifer Berkompas
Messiah College

Acento staff having fun at the Thanksgiving Banquet.

Rikki Mueller
Sevilla, Spain

Hello! My name is Rikki. I am a junior and I just returned from Trinity's Semester in Piano Sevilla-Spain. Wow...even though I am almost fluent in three languages, I have difficulties to find words to express just how awesome some of these three-and-a-half months have been for me.

First, I was blessed with a great, funny and crazy Spanish family. The Riveros made sure I and my roommate had a chance to try lots of typical Andalusian foods including fried tuna, squid, paella, tortilla de patatas, garbanzo beans, coronices, and, as a special treat, Pragasa, a traditional white wine from their own winery. At mealtimes, the whole family of 5 and the 2 of us would gather in the tiny kitchen. We would talk about the day's events, laugh with us about our language mess-ups (oh yes, there was always a few) and they taught us more about our culture. I learned that siesta, for example, is a 10-20 minute nap...and not the two-hour afternoon rest we made it into.

Second, I was blessed to be able to attend Acento, Trinity's school in Sevilla. I took classes in Spanish literature, short stories, history and grammar—and experienced a team of teachers who not only loved teaching their mother tongue, Spanish, but who also enjoyed laughing with us, having breakfast in little Spanish cafes, and showing us what being Spanish means to them. The teachers answered every question, used hands and feet and if necessary, other body parts to help us understand and became friends, providing a homey place away from home. With these classes, I had some memorable trips visiting cities like Ronda, Cordoba, Toledo, and Granada. They also made it a full time learning experience taking us to Flamenco shows, soccer games, theatre productions, museums, and lots of cathedrals. The teachers even taught and practiced traditional dances like Sevillanas with us in the middle of the hallway. If you are thinking about going to Spain, and would like to have more information, see pictures or simply feel like talking to more stories (I could talk about this for hours)...contact me and I will be happy to help you. ¡Hasta luego! Rikki Mueller
12 Stones Rocks With Debut Album

Jason Mulder
A&E Editor

The small New Orleans suburb of Mandeville, Louisiana appeared on the map when four of its hometown boys climbed the music charts with the release of their self-titled album 12 Stones. This hard-rock, high-energy quartet stormed onto the 2002 music scene in both Christian and secular crowds, less than two years after the formation of the group.

The band plays a harder style than say Creed or Staind; I would put them right alongside Nickelback and Puddle of Mudd, minus the profanity. Paul McCoy sings with the same throaty gusto as Scott Stapp (Creed) and Chad Kroeger (Nickelback) while guitarist Eric Weaver plays in the same league as Creed’s Mark Tremonti, skillfully shifting from elaborate solos to heavy-metal blasts. Throw in the dangerous rhythm section of bassist Kevin Dorr and drummer Aaron Gainer and you have the makings of a musical volcano that has only begun to erupt into the cd collections of young people across the country and beyond.

Christianity Today states “these guys are serious Christians” and that “12 Stones stands firmly on the rock of Christ.”

In “Broken,” lead vocalist Paul McCoy sings, “I need to be broken / Take the pain away / I question why you chose to die / when you knew your truth I would deny / You look at me / The tears begin to fall / And all in all faith is blind / But I fail time after time / Daily in my sin I take your life.”

But what does the band say? In an interview with InsideTrack, Paul McCoy is asked, “So would you say you’re a Christian band?” His answer: “No, we each individually have our own personal beliefs and relationships with God and we don’t want to, we’re not trying to sit here and force our belief on anybody. We’re a rock band but we just keep it positive.

Three of the band members thank Christ first in their liner notes and the lyrics are obviously positive and from a Christian background. I would argue that 12 Stones, similar to Lifehouse, is not a Christian band, rather, the group is Christians in a band.

Along with the popular single “Broken,” I really appreciated “Crash,” “The Way I Feel,” and “Soulfire.” By the end of the album, however, the songs begin to get a bit monotonous. The group sticks exclusively to mid-tempo heavy rock through out the album, which could have benefited by a slow ballad or fast-paced rocker.

12 Stones powerful, yet positive style has earned them a prominent place amongst contemporary music. With a #10 spot on the Top Contemporary Christian chart and a song on the best selling soundtrack to The Scorpion King, they have risen fast in only their third year as a group.

If you like the hard-core stylings of Creed, Nickelback, and even P.O.D. you definitely need to check out this talented young group.

Check this out!

Kittie Tue, Jan. 28, 7:00 pm Big Ben, Clinton, IA

Carmen Wed, Jan. 29, 7:30 pm Orpheum Theatre, Omaha, NE

Styx w/ Kansas and John Waite Thu, Feb. 6, 7:00 pm Pershing Center, Lincoln, NE

3 Doors Down Wed, Feb. 12, 6:30 pm Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND

Music Department Recital Fri, Feb. 14, 3:00 pm BJH

Talent Extravaganza Sat, Feb. 15, 7:30 pm BJH

Excised String Quartet Fri, Feb. 21, 7:30 pm BJH

Jerry Seinfeld Sat, Feb. 22, 7:00 and 9:30 pm Chester Fritz Auditorium, Grand Forks, ND

Twelfth Night Thu, Feb. 27 thru Sat, Mar. 1, 7:30 pm TePaske Theatre

Romero and Juliet Fri, Feb. 28 and Sat, Mar. 1, 7:30 pm Fisher Theater, Ames, IA

Campus Band & Jazz Band Concert Sat, Mar. 1, 7:00 pm BJH

Chevelle Tue, Mar. 4, 7:30 pm Bix, Fargo

Disturbed Fri, Mar. 7, 7:00 pm Fargo Civic Memorial Auditorium, Fargo, ND

Have an event that you would like posted?

Email janmeld@dord.edu
Dordt College Intramural Coordinator De Ruiter for the intramural activities. Ron Kingma believes that the main goal of the Intramural Council, De Ruiter, also believes that the intramural program is a great change of pace from the routine, a nice study break. It’s important that we all willing to take a look at other suggestions, the council is always kind of activities are appropriate,” said De Ruiter, but if you have any suggestions, the council is always willing to take a look at other activities.

To make the Intramural program more accessible to the students, a new link has been set up on the Dordt intranet page. Students can access the Intramural page either by clicking on the Athletics link or the Student Services link. On the intramural page, students will find all the information they need to register teams, the activities available, the schedules of activities, rules for each activity, announcements, the answers to frequently asked questions, and even how to apply to be an official of the intramural activities.

“It’s important that we all learn what it is to play as God’s creatures,” said De Ruiter. So if you are interested in the intramural program, De Ruiter encourages you to “check it out.”

Ron Kingma practices with Dordt athletes as a new assistant track coach this year. The Dordt indoor track team will open its season on January 25, after taking on the Concordia-Western track team in the NorthWestern tournament, the loss coming at the hands of Martin Luther College, a team they had beaten earlier in the season.

The rest of the year has included conference wins over Concordia and Dakota Wesleyan and conferences losses to Sioux Falls and Northwestern, who is currently ranked second in the nation. The Defenders have been forced to play the last few games without sophomore Dan Hopers, who is out with a broken foot.

The Dordt College intramural program has been around for many years offering students the opportunity to interact with other students at the competitive level while serving the student body. In his second year as the Intramural Coordinator at Dordt College, Darryl De Ruiter, who took over after Syne Aloten’s 32 years as coordinator, and the 11-member Intramural Council, made up of Dordt students, work hard to offer the best to the students and provide as many opportunities as possible. The council meets once a month to review any questions or concerns. They also set up schedules, coordinate facilities and purchase new equipment with the money that they receive from the students’ activity fee (which is also used for other activities).

“We are here to service the students—to provide an outlet,” said De Ruiter. “It’s a nice change of pace from the routine, a nice study break.”

Joel De Wit, a junior Physical Education major from Alton, Iowa, also believes that the intramural program is a great opportunity for students to be involved in. As a third-year member of the Intramural Council, De Wit said, “It’s a good way to interact with other people.”

Dordt’s intramural program currently offers 8 different activities to participate in. The program includes four-on-four volleyball (in place of sand volleyball this year), basketball, bowling, floor hockey, indoor soccer, softball (spring and fall) ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball.

So far this year the participation total is 1,307 participants, with the number still rising as the participation total is 1,307 participates, mostly in basketball, bowling, ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball. So far this year the participation total is 1,307 participates, mostly in basketball, bowling, ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball.

Intramural: Check it out!

Rachel Volkers
Assistant Sports Editor

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**World Power and/or Wealthy Nation?**

Peter Anderson  
Staff Writer

There is a great paradox in the reasoning of those who want the United States to remain both a world power and a wealthy nation. The support of this position often stems from the idea that because we are wealthy we are required to be a world power. However, a government's forceful intervention into world affairs can only be achieved by forceful intervention into the domestic market economy, which in the end negates both the ability to be a wealthy nation and a world power.

We live in a world where there are unlimited needs and wants with finite resources to meet these desires. This is why people economize. They use their income and resources in the way they see fit (although obviously they are not always right) to meet their most highly desired ends. Division of labor within a market lacking constraints--the absence of violent intervention--provides the best setting for men to meet the greatest amount of their needs and wants.

In an unfettered market all resources and capital are used to create the means for people to best meet their ends. Therefore, the most successful entrepreneur will be the one that provides the highest quality goods at the cheapest prices to the most people. Those entrepreneurs that do not meet this standard will be eliminated from the market place.

Consequently, a free market is the best generator of wealth because all goods tend towards efficient production and coincide with the desires of the consumers. Therefore, the arbitrary production of unwanted goods is greatly minimized in an unfettered market.

**North Korea Update**

Compiled by Kristi Mulder  
World Editor

**Timeline of North Korea Nuclear Tension**

29 Jan. 2002: Bush labels North Korea, Iran and Iraq an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union address.  

4 Nov: Oil shipments to N. Korea halted

4 Dec: N. Korea refuses calls to open nuclear facilities to inspection

22 Dec: N. Korea removes monitoring devices at Yongbyon nuclear plant

31 Dec: U.N. nuclear inspectors forced to leave North Korea

6 Jan: N. Korea asked to re-admit U.N. inspectors or face action by U.N. Security Council

10 Jan: N. Korea pulls out of Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

11 Jan: N. Korea suggests it could resume ballistic missile tests.

North Korea has responded to Mr. Powell's comments and actions by saying it will only negotiate with the U.S. and rejects a U.N. role in the crisis.