“All My Sons” goes to regional competition

Jessica Braunschweg
Staff Writer

Chances are – you’ve either seen or heard about the outstanding production of “All My Sons,” put on by Dordt’s Theater Department this past semester. If you came out of the play a bit misty-eyed, slightly mesmerized and with a great appreciation for acting, you were not alone. The many people who reviewed this play thought it was worth seeing again. And it will be.

“All My Sons” was one of 54 entries from the Midwest region competing for a chance to put on their performance in the Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KACTF) at the University of Denver. Only seven of the 54 casts were chosen, and the fact that Dordt College was one of them speaks for itself.

The last time Dordt was honored with this accomplishment was 1981. Such a remarkable achievement has created a feeling of support and anticipation on campus as well as throughout the community.

“It feels like everyone’s excited for us, and that feels good,” Director Jeri Schelhaas commented proudly. Schelhaas has been working in Dordt’s Theater Department for nearly ten years and “All My Sons” is the third show she has directed. Though slightly overwhelmed at all that is left in preparation for the upcoming trip, Schelhaas’ delight cannot be masked. With coffee cup in hand, her fatigue from a long day’s work is evident, yet one cannot miss the evidence of pure joy that she finds in acting.

In theater production, much goes on behind the scenes that rarely meets the eyes of the audience. The last couple of weeks have been filled with lengthy rehearsals, stage changes, countless preparation and overall bewildernent. Yet the very experienced cast of ten remains focused and enthusiastic.

James Van Ry, creator of the set for “All My Sons,” is one of the many reasons for the play’s success: Van Ry’s skill and creativity has led him into his fourth year of working in the Dordt Theater Department. All of the set equipment has been carefully packed into a semi that will also make the trek to Denver.

The group of nearly 30 people were in Colorado from January 15-24. The play will be performed twice on January 21. Also, selected students and staff will take part in scholarships, awards, acting competitions, workshops and a variety of other skill-building activities.

The selectors at Denver will decide which of the seven schools will go on to be invited to the national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

In the meantime, hearts are pumping, scripts are fluttering and an 18-wheeler is leading the way. The stage is set and the cast is ready for a performance that will never be forgotten.

Arsonists sentenced

Andrea Vander Witt
Staff Writer

The arsonists who started the fire that destroyed the Sioux Center Public Library on July 23, 2003, have pleaded guilty to second degree arson and a serious misdemeanor charge during their trial, which took place January 5, 2004. Sentencing was reached in accordance with a plea agreement between the Sioux County Attorney’s Office and the defendants’ attorneys.

Jared Ehrp, 22, and Bradley Emerson, 22, will serve 340 days in jail for the serious misdemeanor charge of reckless use of fire. The two will be able to be released during the day for work and community service as well as substance abuse treatments and evaluations.

The two men also pleaded guilty to their second degree arson charge, which is a class C felony. They were sentenced to 10 years in jail for this charge but may not have to serve the time if they complete a set of conditions set up by the court.

In addition to jail time, both men received five years probation, 600 hours of community service, fines, and other stipulations that have to be met in accordance with the plea agreement.

The Public Library was completely destroyed in the fire, which inflicted over one million dollars in damages to the building alone. Also lost in the blaze was approximately $600,000 worth of contents, including all offices, computers, paperback books, videos, books-on-tape, software, an ICN room and sound system. To completely rebuild the library would cost around $2.5 million.

The library was moved into the community center on July 28 and began serving the community in early September. The police department and the fire department did an excellent job, going over and beyond their requirements,” Library director Karen Bjorkman commented.

Plans on what to do with the library have not yet been set, but there will be a joint decision between the library board and city council with input from the community as well.

The fire started when a firecracker was placed in the library’s drop box. During their hearing in the Sioux County District Court, both Emerson and Ehrp apologized for their actions and the damaged they caused. “It was something that they did that went wrong, and hopefully not done with malicious intent,” Bjorkman stated.
Professor Schelhaas is a shepherd of words

Rosie Grantham
Staff Writer

"Poets are caretakers of language, the shepherd of words." Such are the beginning words of a commercial promoting Professor Dave Schelhaas’s weekly radio program which examines the origins of English words.

The program, titled “What’s the Good Word?”, still airs Monday mornings at on KDCR. But after seven years of speaking weekly about words, Professor Schelhaas had accumulated a sizable collection of word-essays from past radio broadcasts, and began to think about possibly putting them into print.

"By the time the program had been running for 7 years, I had around 300 of these little word-essays, and I started thinking about maybe writing a book," the professor of English said. "I thought about it for a couple of years, then I finally pushed through to get closure on it this year."

The new book, boasts the title Angling in the English Stream: 100 Ordinary English Words: Caught, Filleted, and Served up in Tasty Little Essays, and deals primarily with words that can reference religious matters. Professor Schelhaas was quick to make the distinction between “religious words” and dealing with them in a “religious manner.” “Not all of the words (in the book) have a religious component but these 100 either refer to an early biblical translation or sometimes the essay I wrote is written like a meditation” said the new author.

Overall Professor Schelhaas is pleased with his new compilation of words and their meanings, and sees this book as the result of years of prior interest in the subject. “When I was a high school Lit. teacher, I realized how much words changed in their usage over time, and that started my interest in words and how they shift meanings.”

Schelhaas then pursued this interest, and the results came out in the classroom. “I used to tell my students what their last names meant for fun. ‘De Kruger’ means, ‘the Warrior’ and things like that.” Schelhaas means “scared rabbit.” But the thing that galvanized this professor to put his share his interests and his new compilation of words and their meanings, and sees this book as the result of years of prior interest in the subject. “When I was a high school Lit. teacher, I realized how much words changed in their usage over time, and that started my interest in words and how they shift meanings.”

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On April 7, Captain Harry Alexander Hornbuckle and his 80 men unexpectedly found themselves surrounded by 300 well-armed Syrian and Iraqi fighters. Despite never having been in combat before, Hornbuckle’s unit fought for 8 hours and killed 200 enemy soldiers without losing a single one of their own. Sounds like a book deal coming, right?

Wrong.

The TV movie, million dollar book deal, and front page exposure go to Jessica Lynch, who after suffering broken bones and other injuries when her Humvee crashed during an attack on her maintenance convoy, became the most well-known person of the Iraq War. She didn’t kill anyone. She recounts in her book that she lay unconscious the entire time, waking in an Iraqi hospital where she says the doctors and nurses took care of her to the point of pushing her bed to a window in the hopes that U.S. soldiers on a neighboring rooftop might spot her.

Though many of her comrades fought bravely, their names are rarely mentioned. Newsweek recognized a few of them briefly. First Sgt. Robert Dowdy was killed riding in Lynch’s military vehicle. Fellow soldier Pat Miller, a 23-year-old private, heroically killed eight Iraqis. Shoshana Johnson, a POW with Lynch, was shot in both ankles. But let’s get back to Capt. Hornbuckle. Reporters were with his unit, witnessed the victory, and wrote about it. Yet we ignore him—and many others like him who have accomplished incredible military feats—in favor of a young lady who never fired a shot. Why is this? Why have so many (dare I say, more deserving) soldiers gone unrecognized?

"Since the Vietnam War," writes Jonathan Eig in The Wall Street Journal, "much of the country has tended to venerate survivors more than aggressors, the injured more than those who inflict injuries."

"We want to fight wars," says John A. Lynn, a military historian, "but we don’t want any of our people to die and we don’t really want to hurt anybody else. So Pvt. Lynch, who suffers, is a hero even if she doesn’t do much. She suffered for us."

We treat the members of our military as victims, rather than warriors. "Supporting our troops" simply means that we want them to come home, rather than kick some terrorist butt and provide a better life for those whom they persecute. Can we no longer celebrate the military values of toughness, strength, and aggression?

"Has our culture become so pacifist at heart," asks Gene Edward Veith in World Magazine, "feeling so guilty at the violence of war that we cannot celebrate actions that violate our ethic of niceness?"

We may have evolved into a refined, peace-loving civilization, but don’t assume our enemies share our sentiments. Our enemies despise our niceness, exploiting our squeamishness about casualties, both of our own and of our opponents. Our sentimental ideology motivates terrorists. They realize that if a few American soldiers die—or even if too many of our enemies die—there will be an overwhelming flood of American compassion, guilt, and regret. We will call our poor soldiers home where they will be safe, leaving the terrorists to have their way with those we have abandoned. Every Democratic anti-war presidential candidate might as well be handing out invitations to set bombs and take pot-shots at our troops. If they can only make us feel bad enough...then our troops really will become victims.
You said it

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

"Chicago was a great change of pace and scenery. It was a good way to get experience, an internship so I could see what graphic design was like and to see the real world to see that hard work pays off."

Senior Carl Van Stryland –Junior Andrew Viss, who is located near the northwest entrance of the Dordt campus, says he won half the battle already.

"One of the major things that I learned was the personal contact with the patient. Contact is not taught in a classroom, and students have no idea what the workplace is about until they actually step in and do some hands-on things."

-Junior Lisa Huizenga, on her internship at a physical therapy clinic in Hull last semester.

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

OK, so you’ve memorized all the multiple-choice questions, soared through the tests, and typed out papers ‘til your fingers twitch involuntarily in your sleep. You’ve sweated over reams of class handouts, and many times you’ve toiled into the night, blinking your glazed eyes to look at a glowing computer screen. You’re a top-class student.

Unfortunately, no matter what your major, all your labors may go unnoticed by a potential employer unless you have some hands-on work experience.

Is an Internship for you?

Work experience in your field of study may only take up a single line on your résumé, but it may mean the difference between getting the job and getting unemployment compensation.

The traditional way of acquiring on-the-job know-how is through an internship program that allows you to reach set educational goals while working for a commercial firm.

There are several possible alternatives. Getting an actual summer job with an employer will definitely give you a leg up the career ladder; job shadowing might help you get a better sense of the workplace. However, neither job shadowing nor an actual job will give you academic credit, though, and job shadowing won’t produce a paycheck.

With an internship, however, you’ve got the potential for taking in both cash and credit.

According to Placement Coordinator Jo Faber, the recent downturn of the economy has led many companies to increase the amount of internships—especially non-paying internships—while hiring less paid personnel.

Even though internships abound, you may have to wait until after your junior year to get one. You’ll need to get some of the more major courses in your field of study under your belt before tackling the big-league professional world. But there are many different weapons within your grasp for this battle.

Tools and resources

Often the best policy is simply to just make a simple list of firms you’d like to work for, bite the bullet, and give them a call, send an emai, or show up on their doorstep in business attire with a copy of your résumé. Showing up unannounced is sometimes referred to as “The Cold Call Technique.” Explain who you are and ask if they have any internship openings, paid or unpaid, full or part-time. If you have a friend or know someone who works in your field, you’ve already won half the battle already.

Chances are that they do offer internships, paid or unpaid, full or part-time. If you go down to the placement office for more information.

Obstacles and Difficulties

Some departments at Dordt and elsewhere don’t allow students to take paid internships for academic credit, saying that students ought not to be paid for what should be primarily a learning, rather than a working, experience. The prospect of spending your precious summer hours on an internship that pays nothing while shelling out summer tuition to Dordt in order to receive academic credit for the experience may seem both ridiculous and terrifying.

But let me tell you on a little secret: you don’t have to tell Dordt about your internship in order to put it on your résumé! You don’t need to take academic credit for the experience in order to get credit for it in the eyes of a potential employer—although you may need the academic credit to graduate.

Taking a summer job in a strange city where you have no friends or family may be another potential stumbling block. For this reason the Placement Office has developed a network of Dordt alums from all over North America who are willing to help students get settled in and acclimated to their new surroundings. Click on “Placement Career Assistance Network” from the Placement office’s website for more about this service.

And Remember...

Don’t stress out. Everybody goes through the same struggle of looking for work experience, and most business owners were in your shoes once. It’s not a matter of life and death. Just give it your best shot.

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

"Placement Career Assistance Network" from the Placement office’s website for more about this service.

Dara J8II
Got to Id ag a ch n ad

-Steve Kloosterman

"I believe this internship will greatly prepare me for my future and help me see if this is where I want to go," Viss said. "The hands-on experience is worth at least as much as you would learn in a class."

-Junior Andrew Viss, who is only a couple days into his internship at American State Bank.

"I wrote a small number of hard news stories and mostly wrote feature articles. "After working hard in my classes at Dordt, it was rewarding to go out into the real world to see that hard work pays off."

-Junior Sarah Davelaar chose to do her internship at Medtec Orange City.

"It’s PROUD TO BRING YOU..."
Although most accidents occur within 15 miles of a person’s home, cross country trips require a special kind of stamina.

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

Sometimes you wonder that it doesn’t happen more often than it does. Since fifty-eight percent of Dordt students hail from outside of Iowa, and 10 percent of that number come from Canada, it’s safe to say that many students are driving long distances to and from home each break. This, combined with vicious winter driving conditions, creates a potentially dangerous atmosphere.

Rolling off the Interstate

“There were five us girls heading back to Ontario after exams,” says Ann Andree. “Heather Kooiman, Valere De Boor, Lynette Andree (my sister), and Teresa Schiltius.” Andree says that they were getting on to the I-94 interchange in Chicago, Illinois, when they around a curve, they suddenly flew off the road (possibly due to black ice), fell down a steep embankment and began to roll. The car rolled over and a quarter times. most of the windows were shattered, and the car itself was badly mangled.

“My first thought was, ‘Aw Rats, we’re delayed,’ said Andree. The accident delayed them a total of 12 hours.

Rescue workers had to tear off the roof of the car to free Kooiman, whose neck had been injured, but the other four girls managed to climb up and out of the vehicle. Kooiman was airlifted to a Chicago hospital for surgery. The other four suffered minor injuries but signed release forms because they were afraid of the cost of treatment. “Everyone was so helpful. The whole hospital knew us. We were kind of a novelty there,” said Andree. “There was this total trust in God” said Andree. “It was an unnatural form of peace.”

“I don’t really know why it happened. I just know that God is in control and God is using it. Sometimes we don’t understand God’s ways.”

—Jarris Rubingh.

Sliding in the Slush

Jarris Rubingh and George Den Ouden were traveling back to Dordt, going south on US 131 a few miles north of Cadillac, Michigan, when he hit a patch of slushy snow. The semi in front of him kicked up some slush as it went over the slippery spot, clouding Rubingh’s windshield, and as the car hit the spot, it began to spin. According to Rubingh, the car spun completely around once and skidded sideways down the road, narrowly missing another car, before running into the ditch on the right side of the road and hitting a tree with the rear axle.

Rubingh took eight stitches in his right eyebrow, suffered whiplash, and several other scratches. Den Oosten was saved from whiplash due the fact that he was asleep at the time of the incident. Although he is in the process of being fined for traveling faster than road conditions allow, and his car is a wreck, Rubingh considers himself more than just lucky to walk away from the incident.

“I don’t really know why it happened. I just know that God is in control and God is using it. Sometimes we don’t understand God’s ways” said Rubingh.

Continued Danger

It is also a only little less than two years ago Daniel Oosterman died in a head-on collision driving home after spring exams, and all of campus wondered why a fine young man like “Dan-O had to die.”

It is suspected that he fell asleep at the wheel. The ice and snow will melt this spring, but some dangers will always be present for drivers. Students, however, will continue to drive the long miles to Dordt, knowing that God indeed is in control.

Kuyper Scholar’s Program aims to challenge, improve students

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

The Kuyper Scholars Program (KSP) is a program designed to challenge academically talented students through courses with a Reformed perspective. After a proposal by student forum a couple of years ago, the KSP has been under consideration by various committees since the summer of 2003. If the KSP is implemented, more academically outstanding Christian students would likely be attracted to Dordt. The academic atmosphere for all Dordt students would also be raised.

Given that the program would focus on greater depth and comprehension, in students’ majors, students would be less inclined to “course crunch” for early graduation or to double major.

In order to be accepted into the program, students must write an entrance essay, have two letters of recommendation and demonstrate academic ability. To remain in the KSP, students’ GPAs must be no lower than 3.25.

“This is not an honors program, but it is for the very best students,” Dr. Charles Veenstra said. Veenstra is currently the head of a committee that is pushing for the KSP.

Graduation from the program requires students to complete a minimum of eighteen KSP credits. Credits are earned through scholars courses, seminars, special events, lectures held off campus and scholars projects. Completed scholars courses or projects would be indicated on scholars’ transcripts, noting the KSP as a minor.

Each student admitted to the KSP and in good standing would be awarded a Kuyper Scholarship of up to $1,000 per year.

Initially, the KSP would be applicable to freshmen entering the 2004-05 academic year. Upperclassmen may pursue interdisciplinary scholarship beginning 2004-05 on a credit-by-credit basis when all prerequisites have been met.

“We don’t want any singling out of people for special recognition,” says Veenstra. “The program is to give people a challenge.”

Drowsy Driving Danger Signs

1. Difficulty focusing or keeping your eyes open
2. Trouble keeping your head up
3. Yawning repeatedly
4. Wandering, disconnected thoughts
5. Feelings of restlessness or irritability
6. Difficulty remembering the last miles driven
7. Drifting out of your lane or hitting shoulder rumble strips
8. Tailgating or missing traffic signs or exits

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

January 23, 2004

Students continue to make the trek out to Dordt, despite dangerous conditions and long hours

Jarris Rubingh’s totaled Buick. Rubingh escaped with stitches.

Monica Rubingh

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2. Trouble keeping your head up
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Evening Prayers

Each sunset brings a struggle for words,
like the hunger to swallow
its golden syrup
that lingers on the greens and browns.
For to taste the horizon’s sponge of day
might be to know why things pass away
and what they leave behind for us
to carry, to cherish
until the dawn.
If we understood, we could use words;
but perhaps if we used words, we would understand.

The honeyed dusk bathes the dirt
where a footprint cradles a fallen leaf.
The golden fire has seeped into its veins—
shades of a mustard seed.
Days are savored by faith;
because we taste more than words.

-Diana Hoogerhyde
Punk Rock has long been declared dead, and truth be told, most punks will never admit that Punk (the style, the music, the lifestyle) was as staged as any incarnation of N' Sync ever was. Face it, the Sex Pistols were staged; that Punk (the style, the music, the most true punks will never admit just short of dishing out the .pseu-...
DIAMOND SPORTS

Winter sports update

Basketball teams “Defend” Dordt

Rachel Volkers
Assistant Sports Editor

The Dordt Defenders traveled to Pella on December 20, and took on the challenge of stopping Central’s Dutch. At halftime, the Defenders held a two-point lead, but Central rallied back and held a six-point lead at 6:44 left in the game. Dordt cut the lead to two with 3 minutes four seconds left. Brandon Haan’s back-to-back baskets and Brent Van Wyk’s free throw gave the Defenders the lead and the winning score of 77-75. Kyle Van Arendonk, a native of Pella, led the Defenders with 16 points, which put him over the 1,000 career point mark, with many alumni and fans cheering him on.

Then came to Dordt where the New England Patriots downed the Carolina Panthers by a score of 14-3. In the AFC match-up, the New England Patriots downed the Indianapolis Colts 24-14. The New Jersey, Indiana, Minnesota Super Bowl and Sacramento. The high-priced affair, at times the world of the NBA, is now earning more than a soap opera than a sport. This is the case for the upcoming Super Bowl.

The New Year started of right for the men’s team with a convincing 98-81 win while hosting Waldorf on January 3. The scoreboard had four Defenders scoring in double digits. Brent Van Wyk and Luke Ruter led the way with 19 points apiece.

The Defenders put their two-game winning streak on the line while hosting Dakota Wesleyan on January 7. A defensive battle, the Defenders held a 10-point lead at halftime and didn’t look back. The Defenders again had four starters scoring double digits in the 72-59 victory. Van Wyk had 16 points in the win.

Junior Brett Van Wyk looks to get around a Midland defender. He knows he has to be tall. Granted, it’s taken some time to get used to the idea of being short, but somewhere along the way I acquired a new appreciation for the little guys of this world.

On January 10, the 11th ranked Concordia Bulldogs came to town to take on the Defenders. With under 20 seconds to go in the game, the Bulldogs held a three-point lead. Van Wyk stepped up and hit a field goal, the Defenders stole the Concordia inbound pass and Ruter hit the game winning lay-up with 4.9 seconds to go. The Defenders led the Bulldogs by six but Shawna Flikkema came off the bench and led the Defenders with 17 points.

Midland Lutheran stopped the five-game winning streak on January 7. The Defenders lead at half slipped away as Midland Lutheran handed out the 75-81 loss. Hain had 22 points and eight rebounds in the loss. The Lady Defenders came back from behind and battled the Screaming Eagles for the lead. The Lady Defenders led the Screaming Eagles in scoring with 10 points in the second half.

The Lady Defenders next traveled to Fresno, California to play in the Pacific Tournament. The Lady Hawks played a strong first half and lost by one, 74-75. Janna O’Neill had 14 points in the loss.

The second round matched the Defenders with #4 Ohio Names. The Hawks played a strong first half as they extended an eight-point lead to 17. Angie Katsma was the only Defender scoring in double digits with 10 points in the 58-82 loss.

For the third straight year, the Lady Defenders came off a two-game winning streak to face the top-rated Dakota Wesleyan Tigers on January 7. The Defenders couldn’t match the Tigers through the second half but couldn’t pull the upset. Colleen De Groot led the Defenders with 13 points in the 60-81 defeat.

The Lady Defenders committed 17 turnovers and shot only 25 percent from the floor in the second half in a loss to the Concordia Bulldogs on January 10. Van Beek led the Defenders in scoring with 15 points and four rebounds.

The next challenge for the Defenders came when they traveled to Springfield on January 14. A cold shooting night plagued the Defenders, as they couldn’t match the Chargers’ 48 percent field goal percentage. Lindsay Van Wyk led the Defenders with 12 points.

The Defenders picked up a much needed win over Midland Lutheran on January 17. The Defenders overcame a slow start to pull out the 61-50 win. Tara De Boer led the Defenders in scoring with 13 points. The Defenders are currently 6-12 and 2-7 in the conference.

Quick Hits: Tall ain’t all

Jacque Scooby
Sports Editor

I used to be tall. Seriously. In high school, I was the second or third tallest person on the basketball team and routinely played the post position. My closest friends were a good three or four inches shorter than I was. And in all honesty, I believed I was tall.

Then I came to Dordt where 5’7” in shoes is anything but tall. In fact, people look at me strangely when I tell them I used to be tall. Granted, it’s taken some time to get used to the idea of being short, but somewhere along the way I acquired a new appreciation for the little guys of this world.

Take, for instance, Earl Boykins. He’s all of five foot five and plays professional basketball for the Denver Nuggets. Doesn’t do too bad for himself, either, averaging over ten points and four assists per game.

Or Dante Hall. This wide receiver/kick return specialist made NFL history this season by returning five kicks for touchdowns for my beloved Chiefs. He’s not very big either, coming in at 5’8”.

There are other Dante Hall’s and Earl Boykins’s in this world, and not all of them play professional ball. Some of them play professional parents and friends. But they have made huge impacts in whatever world they find themselves in. They have overcome whatever obstacle stood in their way—however tall that obstacle may have been.

My point is this. You don’t have to be a giant in this world to have an impact. Sometimes it’s better being short.