Altena taking leave of absence

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

After nearly five years of working to make the college experience beneficial and enjoyable for Dordt students, Sandi Altena has decided to take a year off from her position as Director of Residence Life to advance her own education.

Altena will spend her time working to obtain a Doctorate Degree in Adult Higher Education from the University of South Dakota. Not only will this degree allow Altena to possibly pursue a job in the administrative field in the future, but Altena also believes it will benefit her in her current position. "I hope this degree will give me better insight into the sociology of students," she says.

In addition to getting her degree, Altena will also spend time off with her newly expanded family. She and her husband, Dan, recently adopted a boy, Somnath, age two, from Nigeria. They join the Altenas' other four children. "It's been fairly chaotic, but it's been worth it," Altena says. "There's a bigger and bigger heart for ministry that's evident in the students and staff. That's great to see. That's what feels good when I think of my job."

Although Altena is looking forward to her time off, she says she will miss being away. "I'll miss the students, absolutely. I'll miss the good conversations we have and just listening. Dordt College is a place to grow. I've learned a lot. I feel fed here by the students and environment."

Current CA Bob Taylor is considering filling in for Altena next year.
Model Arab League involves students

Allison De Jong

A & E Page Editor

Last weekend, eighteen Dordt students headed to Northwestern College in Orange City to participate in the Great Plains Model Arab League. They joined groups of students from Augustana College, Illinois Central College, Northwestern, and the University of Sioux Falls, representing eleven Middle Eastern countries on a variety of issues: environmental affairs, joint defense, Palestinian affairs, ministry of the interior and social affairs. The League was presided over by the secretary general, Dordt alumnus Mark Van Wingerden, who flew out from Washington state for the occasion.

Over three intense days, the students spent most of their time discussing and debating issues, forming resolutions in their specific committees and trying to pass resolutions on topics of importance to the countries they represented. Delegates discussed topics from drug trafficking to education, ways of improving the infrastructure of Palestine and the Joint Defense Committee had to respond to the emergency situation of Iran invading Lebanon all the way to Beirut. For each topic, the delegates had to do their best to present their country accurately.

"I had to put myself in someone else's shoes," said junior Allan Yates. "I had to have a different ideology for a couple of days." "I was challenged to look at controversial issues from another angle," said senior Ben Visser. "It was valuable to step outside the perspective that I'm used to." After two and a half days of working within the committees, all of the delegates met together to vote on and adopt the final drafts of the resolutions. While most resolutions passed, a few were unacceptable to the majority.

All of the proceedings were performed using parliamentary procedure, which was new for many of the students. "It took some getting used to," said senior Tricia Van Dyk. "But after a few hours, we realized how much it helps keep the discussion moving."

In the afternoon of the last day, awards were given and a new secretary general was elected for next year. Junior Nick Daveelaar, a Model Arab League veteran of three years, was unanimously voted to this office. Junior Jon Myers was voted to be one of the Assistant Secretaries. Other Dordt students received awards as well: senior Shari Olmsted earned an Outstanding Delegate award, while junior Ray Persenaire, sophomore Andrew Hoeksma, sophomore Josh Bulk, freshman Kateilyn Bangma and freshman Gerrit Wieringa earned Honorable Mentions. Dordt's Syria team also earned an Honorable Mention for best delegation.

While the sessions were long and the research detailed, students enjoyed participating in Model Arab League. "It was a great learning experience," said Josh Bulk. 

"I would encourage people to do this. I learned so much about Syria as well as the other countries represented," said Shari Olmsted. "This is a part of the world that we need to learn more about."

Students attend leadership conference

Kim Lucier

Staff Writer

The twelfth annual leadership conference, titled "Leading Through the Ages," will take place at Northwestern College from April 12-13. Those attending the conference from Dordt College include around 125 campus leaders. Some of these leaders consist of peer counselors, peer mentors, residence life staff and student forum, as well as others. Dordt College often sends the largest number of students to the conference.

The conference enables students to participate in various workshops and discussions, as well as providing time to enjoy speeches and a movie. The purpose of the conference is to allow campus leaders to reflect on their roles and abilities and to gather ideas for greater service.

Those running the conference are actually students who work with its organizer, Kimberly Case of Northwestern College. Through the conference, students gain service experience by organizing the event with one another.

"One of the biggest benefits for Dordt students is listening to challenging speakers but also interacting with students from other Christian colleges," said coordinator of organization Ron Rynders. "We learn and serve at the conference."

Choral festival coming

Allison Schaap

News Assistant Editor

The gift of music will be bringing nearly one thousand high school students from all over the United States to Dordt College on April 19 for a choral festival. Dr. Benjamin Kornelis, Associate Professor of Music, says the choral festival is held every other year and is very beneficial for high school students. "This is a part of the world that we need to learn more about," Kornelis said.

At this concert, each high school choral group chooses one song to sing in their individual school choirs, and then at the very end of the evening, they all join together as a mass choir. Kornelis will direct the mass choir, which will sing a variety of music in many styles. A few of the songs that the mass choir will sing are "Come Ye That Love The Lord," "Oh, Clap Your Hands," "Crucifixus," and "God of Grace and God of Laughter."

The Dordt Chorale and Concert Choir will join the high school choirs in this festival. The concert will be held in the B.J. Haan at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

Summer Beach & Boardwalk Ministry

Kim Lucier

Staff Writer

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April discussions address sexuality

Steve Kloosterman
Staff Writer

Student Services is sponsoring a series of discussions this month on the topic of sexuality in the light of God’s Word.

“A couple of months ago,” said Student Services counselor Bob Wiersma as he introduced the first of the “April Mondays at Nine,” “a couple of students were talking about sexuality and sex. They wanted to expand their discussion and brought it to Student School.”

Dr. Dale Evans of Bethesda Christian Counseling spoke April 1 on the topic of “Sex and Sexual Purity/Integrity,” urging his audience of about 150 women and men to struggle with what it means to be a sexual man or a sexual woman as a Christian.

“It’s important to set some boundaries [in relationships],” said Dordt psychology professor Danny Hitchcock, who attended the first session. “Some books, like ‘Passion and Purity’ by Elizabeth Elliot, Joshua Harris’ ‘I Kissed Dating Goodbye’ and ‘Why Wait?’ by Josh McDowell, talk about setting really firm limits.”

“The idea is that establishing some specific personal convictions about boundaries—even before any relationship starts—can help us to resist the temptation to go farther in a relationship than we want or should,” said Vau Dyk.

A panel consisting of Professor Mark Christian of the Psychology Department, Counselors “Uncle” Ron Rynders and Bob Wiersma and Director of Student Services Ken Boersma hosted the second discussion, on the topic of pornography, this past Monday to a somewhat smaller audience. The panel fielded audience questions on the availability of pornography, guilt and the nature of Internet pornography in particular, they also discussed several practical schemes for overcoming and avoiding this very real and deadly snare to the Christian.

Additional topics scheduled for later “April Mondays at Nine” in C160 are, as listed in The Today, “Homosexuality: What the Bible really says” by Dr. Syd Hielema on the 15th, “Sexual Violence: Rape and Sexual Abuse” by Darcy Maas and Carol Hill of the Family Crisis Center on the 22nd and “The Three Different Types of Love” by “Uncle” Ron Rynders on the 29th.

Fling promises fun
fairytale evening

Jon Hoogeveen
Staff Writer

Student Activities Committee will host the traditional annual Spring Fling on Saturday, April 13. This year the formal banquet will be held in the Recreation Center, beginning at 6:15. The theme will be “Once Upon a Time,” a fairytale theme.

Tammie Veenstra, co-chair of SAC, said that this theme was chosen because people know what to expect. It’s fun and people can dress up as fairytale characters if they want to.

The schedule of events will be free pictures taken by the Dordt’s Photography Club and lunch at 6:15. Dinner catered by Currie Foods at 7:00, fun love songs sung by Tricia Van Ee and Liz McPherson and ballroom and regular dancing following the dinner.

Battle of the Bands 2K2

The Pizza Ranch sponsors a night of great local music, fun entertainment, Pizza Ranch pizza, and lots of free giveaways.

April 13: Doors open at 7:30 P.M.
Stout Center Community Center

Featuring some of the top local bands from NW Iowa

4 Day Morning - 2001 Champion
1st Place Band

Hosted by Improv Comedy Group from Northwestern College

Good Things, Everyday!

All ages: No alcohol allowed
Mitch Beaumont
Editor in September of 1998 my first Diamond article was published. I can't even remember what my story was about that first issue. I only wrote about ten articles that year, but I immensely enjoyed the experience.

I enjoyed working with the Diamond enough to apply for the editor's position running the next two years. I was the Assistant Editor. This year, of course, has been my first try at being editor-in-chief. I have enjoyed the experience so much that I'm pursuing the Editor position at a small newspaper in South Dakota.

It is so hard to believe that this editorial will be my last for the Dordt College Diamond. After writing more than 50 articles and being an editor for better than 35 issues, the Diamond has been an important part of my life for the last four years.

As I've been planning for the future with my fiancé, I have asked myself numerous times if I'm really ready to graduate and use what I've learned the last four years. The stark and almost harsh reality between life at Dordt and life beyond the walls of Dordt is hard to comprehend and hard to accept.

For four years, I have called this campus, even the town of Sioux Center, my home. There is no doubt that graduating from college with a degree in journalism is a huge achievement for me, and it is almost impossible to describe the sense of accomplishment I feel as I wrap up my college career. There is also no doubt that I need a break from school.

What, then, do I do with this conflict between the harsh reality of life after Dordt and the need for a break from school? Involved in this conflict are elements such as having to pay bills on a daily basis, going to work on a daily basis twelve months a year, increased responsibility from class work in just "playing the game," not seeing the people I've grown so close to the last four years ever again. The list goes on and on.

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I am all of a sudden forced to think about life after Dordt. That I never thought would come, my sense of comfort takes over automatically, but then red flags go up all over the place telling me that nothing is for sure anymore.

I have come a long way since I first started thinking about the future. I am much more comfortable with the thought of not knowing where I will be in a month. I certainly cannot say I am perfectly at peace with that fact, but moving beyond Dordt seems a little less intimidating now. I have no doubt that my Savior will provide for me and my wife, and I have no doubt that wherever I land after graduation will be where He wants me to be and not where I want to be. That is my prayer.

As I graduate and move into this world with no guarantees, I am grateful for the education I received on this campus. In the process of examining my sense of comfort is that in conflict with the ever-changing reality of the world, I have realized what a blessing it has been to share my thoughts with the campus community. I have shared many thoughts, many struggles and many joys on this page in the last three years, but it wouldn't be a newspaper without you, the reader. So, thanks for reading.

Editors

Josh Bowar
Assistant Editor

April 11, 2002

Thanks for reading

WANTED:
Assistant Editor for the 2002-2003 Year

If interested, contact Professor Lorna Van Gilst

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Cheryl Vos conducts one of her Chemistry experiments in the Dordt labs.

When asked why he decided to lead this group, De Vries responded by saying: "After taking Medieval Philosophy, I really fell in love with Augustine and especially 'Confessions.' So when an opportunity came to devote a semester to it, I jumped at the chance. He just really has an intriguing way of looking at and describing Christianity and philosophy and the Christian life with beautiful language and interesting topics."

De Vries is really enjoying his time spent in study of St. Augustine. He says, "The book sparks really interesting discussions that are very relevant to my life right now but also to my future. A lot of times we get off on tangent discussions that don't necessarily have to do with the reading, but the mix of people in the class and topics in the book lead to really interesting discussions."
Pigeonholed: Anatomy of "Destiny"

Chris Maust  
Staff Writer

For this week's issue, I've been offered a challenge. I was told to review this CD that Positive Airwaves just received from the record company. Not such a challenge, right? The Katinas. As a Christian soul band on their second album, they remain relatively unknown to me. I never ventured far enough away from the rock section of my hometown record store to see the Katinas' previous album. Their sound seems vaguely familiar to me. Imagine Carman's music of the late nineties, give him the vocals of N' Sync, and you just might be able to imagine the music of the Katinas.

"Destiny" was definitely a primary concern in the making of "Destiny." Behind the romantic and somewhat revolution-minded Christian message, the rhythmic pulsations of the Katinas are designed for motion.

I'm really struggling to form an opinion about the Katinas at all. Their message isn't subver-
sive, so one can't rage with it. Their music isn't sterile, so you can't just write them off as a band that someone somewhere else must like. The Katinas' attitude reminds me very much of "The Waiting's" self-titled album. The lyrics are in your face and honest, but still retain a message unique to the Katinas. Are they passionate? Sure, they sing their hearts out, but their words just don't bowl me over.

Technically, they make music that's good to hear. Spiritually, it's nice to see a Christian band reaching a large audience. Personally though, I can't get off the fence in respect of my opinion of them. "Destiny" will be added to the Positive Airwaves repertoire and played on 88.5 FM.

2001 Gotee Records
The Katinas: Destiny
Est. Runtime: 48:00

Art show concludes some senior academic careers

Andrew De Young  
Staff Writer

As the academic year comes to a close, and many seniors are looking forward to graduation, Dordt's senior art majors are finishing their senior careers by putting on an art show. The Senior Art Show, which is going on now, has been part of the art program at Dordt for quite some time. "The show is basically the culmination of four years of studying art," says Carissa Ritzen, one of the artists.

According to professor Jake Van Wyk, the Senior Art Show gives art majors a chance to show "the cream of the crop," the very best work these artists have done over the last two years. "Many of the pieces show the growth and maturity of the artists," he says. The show is another aspect of senior seminar, a class that Van Wyk teaches. Along with displaying their work, students are required to write what Van Wyk calls an artist's statement. "He says, "The statement is basically a summary of what their inspirations are, what their work is about, and what goals they have."

Although the Senior Art Show is required for all art majors, the students don't get very much help from professors. Choosing the art and displaying it is mostly the responsibility of the students. According to Van Wyk, "We're there for advice, and we are a resource, but the students mostly do everything themselves."

The first show ended on April 11. The second show will begin April 11 and go until April 21, with a reception held on April 20 at 7:00 p.m. The third show will start April 22 and go until May 3. From May 6 to 10 there will be a reception held on May 9 at 7:00 p.m. All shows are in the B.J. Haan Auditorium Mezzanine and the Classroom Building gallery.

Interested in working with the Diamond next year?

Positions are open for:
- writers
- page editors
- assistant editor

If interested, contact
Professor Lorna Van Gilst

Someone shows their art to some other people.

Photographer.

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April 11, 2002

Page 6
**Spring seasons bloom over break**

*photo by: John Hansen*

After a rocky spring break start in Florida, the Dordt baseball team has rebounded in conference play. "The Defenders played twelve games on five separate days, and returned home with a 7-5 record to start the season." Besides playing in the games, the Defenders spent a few days on the beach and one day at a marine park.

The baseball team also spent their spring break in Florida. The Defenders were less successful in their quest, losing all seven games they played in Panama City. While an 0-7 record isn’t the best way to start off the season, head coach Tom Visker points out that the Defenders were playing teams as well as an NCAA team. He feels the competition the team experienced in Florida has helped the team in regular conference play. Since the break, Dordt has gone 5-6, with all five wins coming in conference games.

**Lacrosse resumes play**

*Jason Mulder Staff Writer*

Dordt College Lacrosse began the spring season by hosting a small tournament on March 30 including Kansas and the University of South Dakota. Kansas defeated USD in the first game by a score of 19-1 and then handed Dordt its first loss ever, by a score of 7-6. The Sowers then defeated USD 11-1 in the final contest of the day. Briar Van Eps lead the team with six goals for the day, with Brad Vanderberg contributing four and Brett Sichmeller, three. Dordt will again host USD on Friday (April 12) with away matches following against Creighton and USD on Saturday in Omaha.

Team captain Dave Vander Tuin said that some new players have really contributed this year. Dan Walstra, Chris Kuperus, Daren Dieleman, and Mark Van Dusseldorp have all been great additions to the squad. Seniors Brian Ochser, Dave Stomp, and Mark Van Donselaar will be missed greatly, but with 22 returning players, the team has high hopes for next year.

Dordt hopes to join the Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association next year, which will bring with it more games and travel, as well as more competition. They hope to play a few fall home games as well as take a road trip to Nebraska and Kansas.

**2002 Winter Intramural Champions**

**Women’s Basketball:**
- PILLIANA
- VENOM

**Men’s Basketball:**
- 7 Days of Ben (A)

**Congratulations!**

**Stats**

**Baseball**

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**Outdoor Track**

**Disney Relays 3/4/3/15**

**Men:**
1st place: 4x800 relay (8:11.23)

2nd place: 4x400 relay (3:19.27)

**Women:**
1st place: 4x400 relay (3:30.93)

**Jaque Scoby Page Editor**

All the brown faces that appeared on campus last week following spring break weren’t all the result of PLIA trips. This year, four Dordt College athletics departments wanted in on the spring break action. Florida was the most popular destination, drawing both track teams, the softball team and the baseball team. The tennis teams were less ambitious in their excursions, as they traveled through parts of Kansas and Missouri.

Dordt’s women’s softball team this year traveled to Fort Meyers, Florida, to participate in the Gene Cusic Classic tournament. The Lady Defenders played twelve games on five separate days, and returned home with a 7-5 record to start the season. Besides playing in the games, the Defenders spent a few days on the beach and one day at a marine park.

The baseball team also spent their spring break in Florida. The Defenders were less successful in their quest, losing all seven games they played in Panama City. While an 0-7 record isn’t the best way to start off the season, head coach Tom Visker points out that the Defenders were playing teams as well as an NCAA team. He feels the competition the team experienced in Florida has helped the team in regular conference play. Since the break, Dordt has gone 5-6, with all five wins coming in conference games.

The men’s and women’s track teams participated in the Disney Relays in Orlando over the break. The teams were originally scheduled to participate in a second meet at Life College in Atlanta, Georgia, it was canceled. After the meet, the team spent a day at both Disney World and the beach before doing a service project. Team members assisted Wycliffe Bible Translator volunteers in packing files and computers to move to the organization’s new headquarters in Orlando. To some members of the team, this proved to be the most rewarding aspect of the trip.

The women’s tennis team also started their season with a match against Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. While the women won this round, the men were less successful in their bids against William Jewell College (MO) and Benedictine College.

All the trips offered the athletes and programs an excellent opportunity to start their respective seasons, and provided a basis on which to build.
The politics and economics surrounding the debate over drilling in Alaska tend to draw attention away from the scientific standpoint. It is true that pollution associated with drilling only small areas of land and drawing oil from large surrounding areas is bad, but when drill pads and pipelines are scattered among regions, the habitat becomes fragmented. Many small drill pads are actually harder on the environment than a single large one would be. Populations of creatures do not thrive or survive the same way humans do. Splitting up their homes into little pieces will, in fact, hurt their numbers. In addition to habitat concerns, pollution becomes a large problem. Prudhoe Bay is the largest area of oil exploration in Alaska, but the amount of pollution generated there can be compared to the amount generated by a small city. The Arctic Refuge comprises the 5% of the North Slope of Alaska that has not already been opened to oil drilling. Is 5% too much to ask?

Dependence on oil does not need to remain a harsh reality. It is true that change comes very slowly and a structural shift away from fossil fuels is no exception. But if change takes so long to happen, the sooner we start doing something, the better. Instead of exploring and drilling for more oil, alternatives must be sought out. Opening the refuge to drilling could create jobs, but for every job created by non-renewable energy, two can be created by renewable energy.

Developing new technologies will not only take time and money, but new attitudes about living are required as well. Supporting initiatives to increase fuel efficiency to 40 miles per gallon, which is technologically possible at this point, will save far more oil than can ever be found in the refuge. Complains about costlier energy will, of course, arise, but the energy debate should involve thinking critically about what we value the most and how we can live responsible lives.

Christians should look at the issue surrounding the refuge and be able to recognize the splendor and magnificence of the fragile Arctic ecosystem. Deuteronomy 11:11-12 says, "But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end." The Arctic refuge is a special place on earth. It is special to God, so it should inherently be special to us. The author of the response to drilling should be the first to recognize the importance of maintaining the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a distinct wilderness.