Musical talent abounds at NCDC 2016

Jaden Vander Berg – Staff Writer

Sioux County prides itself in being a “Dutch” community. Residents have Dutch last names, families try to keep traditions alive and towns like Orange City have Dutch architecture and hold festivals celebrating their heritage.

Rik van Os and Geanne Vredeveld, two nursing students, are the most recent people to come to the Netherlands. After a decade or so in the Dutch education system, they are trying their hand out in America.

“We tried to come to America without any notions,” Vredeveld said. “Everyone is always saying Americans are fat, and in America everyday is big, but we wanted to see first hand a different approach. Students often don’t really know what their roommates and friends actually do in an English class, or an education class, or an engineering class.”

Feudal allows students to learn about the activities of their peers and engage with each other.

Continued on page 3

Dutch international students: ain’t Dutch ain’t much

Jaden Vander Berg – Staff Writer

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Continued on page 3
Most boring campus?: Dordt's secret drinking culture

Double feature: twins on campus

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

It is one thing to be mistaken for your sister, but when you mistake yourself for your sister, that's something entirely different. When junior Mara Van Essen looks in a mirror, she has to double check that her twin sister, Macy, isn't in the room.

From kindergarten through high school, they have lived, played and been seen together. Now, the world is a little bigger. Dordt twins share about how their relationships have changed as much as it pushes drinking off campus where further complications can occur.

Mara Van Essen looks in a mirror, she has to double check that her twin sister, Macy, isn't in the room.

Mixed up sibling for sibling can be annoying, but for senior Jessica Huizinga, it was detrimental to her education. Lillo's mother had to put her twin daughters in different classes in grade school because the teachers were prone to treating them as the same person. Jessica Lillo was behind in English and Jennifer Lillo was behind in Math, but not everyone gets caught. Another student shared that he isn’t worried about being caught. “We’re never really paranoid,” said the student. “You just have to be smart not let to many people in the apartment, always lock your door, and keep the music down.”

For students on ‘dry’ campuses, this lifestyle is not the reality. Dordt College is one such campus, its handbook proclaiming, “The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by anyone is prohibited on campus or in college-controlled areas, in college-approved housing facilities, in vehicles, and at college-related activities.”

This rule, however, can seem to serve more harm than good. Fortuately, on campus causes students wishing to break the rules to smuggle it into their rooms. It also does not eradicate the issue of underage consumption as much as it pushes this drinking off campus where further complications can occur.

Eric Rowe says that he hopes to have more performances within the community in the future.

“Once we have more connections and contacts with the community, it will be easier to set up the performances,” Rowe said.

Rowe says that public performances are good for the club’s members. While the club is conducive to helping its members improve their abilities, the performances provide a unique and necessary opportunity for them to showcase their hard-earned skills as well.

“Enjoy the performance nature of juggling,” Rowe said. “It’s fun to share skills with others, and it’s important for club members to see how their skills can be impressive. Sometimes after hours of practice and countless drops, you can get discouraged with what you know juggling-wise. But when you juggle for an audience, it’s easier to see that your hard work is worth it.”

Even as juggling proves itself to be more than a fun distraction for Rowe and the other juggler club members this year, the club members continue to challenge themselves in different ways and with different audiences.

Juggling club tosses around performances

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

For junior and Juggling Club founder Eric Rowe, juggling is not just a fun hobby. It's enjoyable for him, but he doesn't only juggle the typical three or four juggling balls; he juggles performances too.

Recently, Dordt’s juggling club has had the opportunity to perform for several organizations in the community. They’ve visited Kidzone at First Reformed Church, Franken Manor in Sioux Center and Kid’s Connection in Orange City.

Rowe has been using various methods of advertising for the juggling club this year. For example, he says that the director of Kidzone approached him at the club’s booth during the Taste of Sioux Center at the beginning of the year. In addition, Rowe did a little advertising in his bio for the recent Dordt mainstage theatre show, Lazzi Molieres, which he says got the attention of the event coordinator for Franken Manor.

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Yearly graduation ticket shortages

Janelle Cummenga – Staff Writer

Packed seats. Excitement in the air. Hundreds of cameras and phones held aloft, ready to catch the pivotal moment. A mass of identical black robes and caps.

These are just a few of the classic images that signify a Dordt graduation. In just a few weeks, hundreds of Dordt students will don their black robes and caps, walk across the stage, and accept their diplomas. Seats in the B.J. Haan will be packed with people, mostly friends and relatives of the graduates. These friends and family add up quickly, and the number of seats is not infinite, so this means there must be a limit on the number of people each graduation candidate can invite to see them walk across the stage.

Since the graduating class of 2016 is bigger than years past, the sides of the stage will be extended to fit all the graduates. This is a good problem to have, but it also means seating is more limited than normal. Each graduate receives four tickets to give to whomever they want. For many students, this is not enough for all the people they want to invite.

The administration realizes the seating scramble this creates and has considered different solutions in the past. In the end, they decided that holding graduation in the B.J. Haan is still the best option. It has a large stage, good sight lines and acoustics, seating suitable for elderly guests, an organ, a gravy area to mingle after the ceremony and video equipment to broadcast the ceremony. All these aspects combined are impossible to find elsewhere in Sioux County.

“I believe we’ve thought through all the options and have come up with a way that works pretty well, given everything the college is trying to do to make the ceremony meaningful and comfortable for everyone,” says Dr. Jim Bos. “We’ve been clear that we aren’t limiting guests, just guests in the B.J. Haan,” said Registrar Jim Bos. “To accommodate larger numbers of guests than can fit in the auditorium, the administration has organized overflow seating. They have done this for many years. Most recently, they have used lecture halls like SB1606.”

Overflow seating is comfortable and often includes refreshments. Other possibilities Bos considered for easing the seating process in the future included hosting a December ceremony or limiting guaranteed tickets to two and allocating the rest through an online ordering system. These are only ideas at this point, and nothing has been formally decided.

Senior Ben Vermeer joins the large group of students trying to find extra tickets for graduation, but he agrees with the administration’s decision.

“I suppose a case could be made for a new location for better seating,” Vermeer said, “but as setting goes, the Haan is probably the most fitting.”

Seniors like Vermeer resort to creative solutions in order to find more tickets. Many use online groups like Dordt Deals in order to connect with people who might have unused tickets.

Dordt administration continues to consider new ways in which to make the graduation process more inclusive and meaningful for all involved.

Ideafest: a recital for academics (cont.)

Juniors Janssen and Erica extend to fitting more graduates to see them walk across the stage.

The non-traditional approach to student work the Dordt attendees interviewed were entirely positive.

“The conference meets annually to discuss the scholarship and teaching of EBL,” Dr. Bob De Smith’s Shakespeare class, and attended and participated in the Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature. Both students, as members of English major, and sophomore Erica Liddle, English Language Arts Secondary Education major.

Shakespeare in college: students present at Early British literature conference

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

“The better three hours too soon than a minute too late” (William Shakespeare, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Act I, Scene II).

In terms of life as a college student, perhaps wiser words have never been spoken. But then again, in terms of life as a college student, perhaps another Shakespeare quote might be more suitable: “Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day...” (Macbeth, Act V, Scene V).

Regardless of the usefulness of Shakespeare quotes for college students, a passable knowledge of the great playwright is a given for any student pursuing a career in the field of English.

Enter Junior Jon Janssen, English: Literature major, and sophomore Erica Liddle, English Language Arts Secondary Education major.

Both students, as members of English programs’ Shakespeare class, attended and participated in the Northwestern Plains Conference on Early British Literature last Saturday, April 16.

“‘The conference meets annually to discuss the scholarship and teaching of EBL,’” Dr. Bob De Smith said. “I invited students from my Shakespeare class to present their portfolio work. [Jon and Erica] took up my offer.”

The email invitation from De Smith came as somewhat of a surprise, but Janssen says, “I had had a good experience at the American Writers and Writing Programs Conference last year, so the idea of actually presenting at a conference was tantalizing.”

At the Conference, Janssen and Liddle took turns presenting their work.

“Jon was especially interested in reading reviews; Erica discussed how they analyzed a set of playbills and also the design work they did for the play,” De Smith said.

Overall, responses to the Conference from the Dordt attendees interviewed were entirely positive.

“From my perspective, they did very, very well,” De Smith said. “Afterwards, my colleagues at the conference told me that Dordt was ‘doing it right’ and that these students were exceptionally poised and skilled... I was extremely proud of Jon and Erica’s presentation—their first public academic talks. They acquitied themselves, the English major and Dordt very well.”

“Disregarding the resume-boosting nature of the experience, it is always good to get an external perspective,” Janssen said. Stepping into a broader community of academia than Dordt’s sometimes humble offerings is certainly a worthwhile way to spend one’s time.

Student responses to De Smith’s Shakespeare class were also promising.

“Keen to have students discuss and expand in-class) may not be for everyone, but Janssen was enthusiastic about the benefits of the class.

“My advice for anyone with an open mind and schedule for electives is simply to take the Shakespeare class,” he said. “It is one of the best classes I have taken at Dordt, and I had constant epiphanies throughout the semester.”

The email from De Smith arrived on March 29.

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

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Dordt's future administration and students weigh in

Athletic facilities: expansion or overspending?

Tori Mann, Emily Postma, Jessica Setaivan, and Jadeen Vonder Berg – Staff Writers

Dordt College's current expansion phase includes the construction of new buildings as well as the creation of two new technical programs. President Eric Hoekstra told The Diamond at a press conference on April 11 that the college plans to offer a pair of professional-technical programs starting in the fall of 2017. Both the manufacturing engineering technology and farm operations and management would be “hand-on” two-year programs where students can earn associate degrees. Additional tech programs could follow in future academic years.

“I probably would have chosen one of them as a freshman,” said Garth Grubb, a Dordt sophomore now studying environmental science.

However not all Dordt students like the idea of adding the professional-technical programs. Some think such two-year programs go against Dordt’s current purpose to provide four-year liberal arts degrees.

“It looks like Dordt’s just going to start producing workers,” said Janie Sam Boman, a biblical studies major.

Hoekstra said for the first eight years of Dordt’s existence the school only offered associate’s degrees. He argued it is part of Dordt’s mission to provide programs when it can do it “distinctively and financially.”

“It’s our mission task that wherever biblical insight is required, Dordt is called to provide,” Hoekstra added.

Hoekstra said he believes “there is a hole in Christian education.” He said that hole is technical training combined with the worldview training Christian schools typically provide.

“We looked specifically at the geographical location [of Dordt College]. Manufacturing is huge in this region,” said President Hoekstra. “I’ve talked to employers in surrounding counties. They’ve expressed a need for employees with a worldview Dordt brings in addition to the skills they master.”

Hoekstra said Dordt also would incorporate into these new offerings the educational humanities foundation that comes from the core program.

“I think we are called to do it, and we’ll see how it works out,” he said.

As far as Dordt’s physical growth, Hoekstra said the ten-year, $25 million Science and Technology Center project has finally reached its closing phase. This completion includes the construction of a walkway connecting the science building to the Campus Center.

However, Dordt still needs to finish fundraising for this project. Part one cost $12 million while part two will also cost $12 million. Added to this is a $1 million maintenance endowment, a fund for building maintenance such as cleaning and heating.

Hoekstra said twenty-two million dollars has been raised for the construction. To address this, Dordt will have twenty-five fundraising events across North America, emphasizing their “STEAM” majors (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics). The college’s Board of Trustees also enacted a new policy for fundraising: Every time Dordt holds donor events for a new building on campus, 15 percent of the dollars raised will be put in an endowment, or “permanent trust,” to pay for any upkeep of the building. Hoekstra called this idea “wise.” He said this new policy will keep maintenance costs from coming out of students’ tuition.

President Eric Hoekstra was deterred by the murmur of staff responses to the question. His first reaction was simple but clear, consisting of four parts: aesthetic, social, enrollment and alumni.

Aesthetically, he mentioned that, “there’s a beauty to be expressed in athletics.” There’s something beautiful about watching Christian students use the gifts that they’ve been given for a purpose greater than their own satisfaction, and as a college, “we glorify God in the aesthetic sphere of life, too.”

Socially, as Jessica “Tessa” Askeland agreed. “Especially for Dordt, it’s a way to show the gifts that God has given you,” she said.

Askeland also noted that the programs “pull a different type of community to the college and add a different culture, diversity and some sort of camaraderie,” which ties into the second point of Hoekstra’s answer—the social benefits.

“Socially is mostly the team aspect,” said sophomore soccer player Sun Yong Lee. "Putting others before you, learning to work with others, pushing others to get better and holding one another accountable.”

Also, as Askeland mentioned, the programs tend to bring in a “different type of community,” challenging and students and faculty alike to step out of their comfort zones and get to know others from different backgrounds and even different countries.

Student-athletes, like Lee, are “disciplined, team-oriented...they don’t give up easily until they achieve their goals, which could also reflect in their daily lives” as a positive influence on those around them.

Even so, the second aspect—socially— has always been more of a danger than the other three parts of the answer. We have to be careful that students aren’t “overdoing their spheres,” as Hoekstra said, and “we have to always be on the watch for student-athletes blending well [with the whole campus upswell].”

Third, there’s little doubt that part of a sports program at an institution of higher learning is the “enrollment” aspect.

“We use the programs as an admissions tool, often offering scholarships to prospective students in place of a work study job,” Hoekstra said.

Finally, sports programs serve as a way of introducing students and faculty alike appear to the world, ensuring that the student-alumni bonds at Dordt.

Of course, Hoekstra notes, there are certainly dangers to having sports programs at colleges and universities. As primarily academic institutions, “[colleges] have to make sure that athletics doesn’t become subordinate to academics.”

And of course, this writer wasn’t able to approach President Hoekstra or any professor on campus to ask for an opinion. But in general, the interviewed students and faculty alike appear to believe that the benefits outweigh the risks.

Maybe part of it is a cultural thing?

“Yes, the form can be cultural, but every school has some kind of sports within it, whether a PE class or a group of clubs,” said sophomore Ellen Ingrid Dengah.

As the sports-crazed society of America today, it’s important for every student to be aware that questions like this exist. These questions can be avoided in the future, and we should all be able to answer sincerely to them when they are.

Letter from the editor

Jonathan Janssen – Staff Writer

Two friends sit in the Eckardt Lounge, not speaking. One slouches, flipping through Facebook feeds on his phone; the other ruffles the pages of The Diamond around the country. The friend who sits up today is a piece of the journalism. What they say, their conversation, several other students show up: a study group has assembled.

A story across from those fellows, what came to mind was not visions of paparazzo chasing down their prey like starving coyotes. Nor did I envision paja-huntersInternetters whispering, churning out dozens of cute kitten picture compilations or GIF-filled articles promising “The Cutest Cat and Pug Videos Ever.”#Ocean-hugger Tattoos.” These things have their place, no doubt.

What I saw was the student who edited different administrators and faculty members, who sat down with them to try to understand the rules concerning snow days. I saw him asking his friends and peers — perhaps people to whom he had never said a word before — about their variety of opinions on ornamental habits at Dordt.

I saw him bent over his keyboard, piecing together sentences of dialogue and exposition. I saw him who sat down with them to try to understand the rules concerning snow days. I saw him asking his friends and peers — perhaps people to whom he had never said a word before — about their variety of opinions on ornamental habits at Dordt.
I’m going to review a Netflix TV Show instead of a new upcoming movie.*ough The Jungle Book was worth watching, but I’d like to take a break for the past movies I reviewed. After hours of browsing Netflix’s extensive library of TV shows, I finally decided to watch Karl Pilkington: The World According to (2010).

Karl Pilkington, a middle-aged British man with a negative attitude towards the world—an attitude that is probably caused by the horrible London weather. He is determined to leave Great Britain because he thinks no place is better than the place you were born and grew up in. If you’ve seen the travel documentary series that inspired me to think differently and to look outside of my perceptions of faith, ideas, and professors who were willing to mentor an angry 18 year old student for their time at Dordt.

Jeremy Vreeken – Staff Writer

Final thoughts of a graduate

I never imagined that I would graduate from Dordt College. But here we are. If you would have asked me in high school if I was going to Dordt, I would have laughed at you. The joke is on me now.

I don’t have an easy answer as to why I came to Dordt in 2012, and throughout my first two years I can’t really tell you what was going out at the end of each semester. Since my freshman year, I spent much of my time focusing on finding my place. My place was high school, the cost, the education, and the content and major of my education or uncertainty of post-college life, very little has been firm during my time at Dordt. This begs the question of why I am still here. I may have thought about transferring each semester, but I never did. Something kept me coming back, something or more for each car fall and make the 18 hour drive down here, so what was it?

It wasn’t the football, or the Dordt Crusaders, or the chapel. It was relationships that brought me back. In my first year or two I was fortunate enough to find faculty who were willing to mentor an angry and confused freshman, affirm my questions and direct my interests. They were willing to take the time to listen and give me much needed advice. I had made some key friends that inspired me to think differently and to look outside of my perceptions of faith, ideas, and education.

College has given me more questions than answers when it comes to faith, learning, and life in general, but I think that might be the point. College is full of opportunities to make students live in faith and engage with the world better. At this point, it seems more important to be able to ask big and incisive questions than to find a few answers to live by.

I have asked me in high school if I was going to Dordt or not. I think you’ll find the benefits are more or less qualified than our peers, then let’s be less entitled, and more adaptable.

Caden Tinklenberg – Staff Writer

Opinion

The best mentor: An idiot abroad

Ellen Ingrid Destahl – Staff Writer

There are many issues that I feel confident defending my position on. Immigration is not one of those issues, nevertheless, it is a very important issue that I think is most in need of honest, humble discussion. There’s little better than the present to start talking openly about any concern, but immigration is particularly pressing due to both Obama’s inaction and a large number of illegal immigrants. I have left here to challenge yourself. Don’t let your hands in your shirt. If that is uncomfortable, put your hands in someone else’s shirt. That’s fine. Let them uncomfortable, but at least you’ll be warm. I think by dressing appropriately. “Men, ladies do not need to know that your boxers are decorated with little dancing dinosaurs.”

On staying warm during the winter: “If all these tips fail you, think of something new. Be creative. Make完全ly temperature compliant. Take your shoes off, put your hands in your shirt. If that is uncomfortable, put your hands in someone else’s shirt. That’s fine. Let them uncomfortable, but at least you’ll be warm.”

I don’t know about you, but I was heavily involved with the arts throughout my time as a student, theatre, yearbook, newspaper, art class, speech competition—you name it. And it was doable! But obviously, these activities were not held to as high a standard as collegiate art programs are. For example, just take a look at a few of the shows that were actually published in my time as a part of college art programs. The arts are much more involved in the arts and to be successful in artful endeavors. And honestly, I’ve learned a lot from my time as a part of college art programs. From my time as a part of college art programs.

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

Art’s: not the advanced course

What is so bad about illegal immigrants? Really? Because some people illegals are here to live off the system. Others claim that they’re stealing jobs. Despite every statistic and fact, they’re believed by many to be more criminal than the average American.

Amnesty laws so sovereign that those who break it are thrown out as unfit for even the most basic government assistance. And there would seem for people who insist that amnesty should never, ever be an option for anyone who has ever been on U.S. soil illegally. I guess I just don’t understand who was harmed by such a thing as that and why the punishment must be so severe.

Would we be trying to stop illegal immigrants? Our current system is based on a “most wanted” list where priority for deportation is given to the criminals, repeat offenders, etc. and the low profile illegals are mostly unaffected unless their name somehow gets on that list.

Should we go further and attempt to deport all undocumented persons in the country? If we as a nation have decided that immigration is not comparable to any other group and that some people who insist that living here already be subject to that new policy?

How would we go about deporting 11 million undocumented immigrants? Some people think there should be a train running to Mexico piled high with illegals. It worked in 1939 Germany. Realistically, the cost for process, content and non-promotion would be somewhere between $400 and $600 per American Action Forum. And legal and policy implications would be to mention local economies, business, and non-

ful life, will see the grand history behind the Great Wall. Pilkington only sees the Great Wall as unexciting, certainly not worth flying 20+ hours for.

He's made some truth that nobody else will or wants to talk about. Nobody wants to talk about the disappointment of travelling, but Pilkington will because he has no sense of travelling euphoria.

Jeremy Vreeken – Staff Writer

Arts: not the advanced course

It may sound clichéd or like a PR move, but it is true. If a degree is more concerned with information rather than discernment—no matter the area of study—then it is useless in a world where there is a right to live here, why doesn’t he or anyone else have the right to live to traveler more, unless you are like Pilkington and don’t want to know about the world. 3:5:5

If a degree is more concerned with information than with formation, with competition rather than community, and if it focuses on definitions rather than discernment—no matter the area of study—then it is useless in a world where there is a right to live here, why doesn’t he or anyone else have the right to live to traveler more, unless you are like Pilkington and don’t want to know about the world. 3:5:5

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I have asked me in high school if I was going to Dordt or not. I think you’ll find the benefits are more or less qualified than our peers, then let’s be less entitled, and more adaptable.

Caden Tinklenberg – Staff Writer

There are many issues that I feel confident defending my position on. Immigration is not one of those issues, nevertheless, it is a very important issue that I think is most in need of honest, humble discussion. There’s little better than the present to start talking openly about any concern, but immigration is particularly pressing due to both Obama’s inaction and a large number of illegal immigrants. I have left here to challenge yourself. Don’t let your hands in your shirt. If that is uncomfortable, put your hands in someone else’s shirt. That’s fine. Let them uncomfortable, but at least you’ll be warm. I think by dressing appropriately. “Men, ladies do not need to know that your boxers are decorated with little dancing dinosaurs.”

On staying warm during the winter: “If all these tips fail you, think of something new. Be creative. Make completely temperature compliant. Take your shoes off, put your hands in your shirt. If that is uncomfortable, put your hands in someone else’s shirt. That’s fine. Let them uncomfortable, but at least you’ll be warm.”

I don’t know about you, but I was heavily involved with the arts throughout my time as a student, theatre, yearbook, newspaper, art class, speech competition—you name it. And it was doable! But obviously, these activities were not held to as high a standard as collegiate art programs are. For example, just take a look at a few of the shows that were actually published in my time as a part of college art programs. The arts are much more involved in the arts and to be successful in artful endeavors. And honestly, I’ve learned a lot from my time as a part of college art programs. From my time as a part of college art programs.
Players congregate on the southern end of the field. Half of the football team is proudly wearing white; the other half has delightfully donned their blue uniforms, the whistle blows. Shouts and yells erupt as the Defender Drill gets underway. This moment is where pride is gained; these few minutes are where respect is earned.

One player in a white jersey gets down into his stance. He’s ready for the black-jersey challenger, crouched one foot away. They’re teammates for the season, but for the next five seconds, these two players couldn’t be further from it.

The whistle blows again. Each player bursts forward, lunging and colliding with the other. The impact sends sounds waves towards the handful of fans in the stands. Damn, THIS is football.

Our two challengers continue their duel. The player in white gets lower in his stance, considering his legs. His momentum continues to rev until the moment he has the upper hand. Driving his head into his challenger’s thighs, the white-jersey player hurches forward and removes the challenger from play.

The white team bursts into a frenzy, swarming and leaping onto the shoulders of their victor.

THIS is football.

There’s been a bit of a culture switch in the Dordt College football program over the past several months, beginning with the hiring of Head Coach Joel Penner.

Building on the base that previous staff had left, Dordt continues to make strides towards becoming an “industry-standard” program, starting with the coaching staff now in place.

“On our number one priorities for me was to get the staff together,” Penner said. “We had to get on the same page; none of us had ever worked together.”

Penner started as the head football coach of the Dordt College Defenders on New Year’s Day. From that moment on, he and the retained coaches got to work on filling the empty and necessary pieces of the puzzle of Dordt football.

“I can’t say enough about how smooth and how great this transition is going with the staff,” Penner said. “I am blessed with such coaches that I could literally take the week off, and I think things would get done just the way they’re supposed to.”

Aaron Mingo, offensive coordinator, and Lynn Nurt, defensive coordinator, have made vast improvements within this Defender football program. Despite their short and limited time thus far on campus, their impact on helping establish a new football culture at Dordt isn’t going unnoticed.

“Both of them bring some unique strengths and enthusiasm,” said Athletic Director Glenn Bouma. “I think they have a very neat mix of personalities and abilities within the three, but they’re all very good promoters in their own effective ways.”

Such enthusiasm and promotion is evident in a multitude of ways, perhaps most notably with the recruiting job that the new coaching staff has done.

“Recruiting has gone pretty well for us,” Mingo said. “We’re a little behind the eight-ball, a little bit behind with the recruiting class [because of] getting here in January, but we’ve signed over 40 guys now in the class, and we’re very excited about the guys we’re bringing in.”

Football is a year-round job for coaches, and recruiting is a big determinant in whether a program can and will be successful. With the coaching staff informed until the past month, the recruiting job that Mingo and the rest of the staff has conducted is remarkable.

including signing recruits ranging from California to Florida.

“It takes hard work and hard work,” Penner said. “Mingo is a great recruiting coordinator. He knows how to do it; he knows how to get it done. Obviously it’s not just one man doing it—it’s all of us—but he’s pointed it in the right direction.”

Not only are there dozens of recruits coming in for the 2016 season, but there is also a large portion of players returning from last season’s team as well.

Dordt football has its highest retention rate from fall to spring in program history. With more uppersclassmen returning than ever before, Dordt has been easily set up for its largest roster in program existence, there could be up to 120 players on the sidelines next fall.

“In football, it is so important to get a year or two of maturity in the weight room, in strength training, and in coaching of the proper techniques,” Bouma said. “It is going be an advantage to have the experience of last year back out on the field.”

The recruiting and development of previous staff members is also crucial to any success the Defenders have this year or moving forward.

“These guys are like sponges,” Penner said. “They want to be challenged, they want to be great. We’re not starting a program from scratch. We are standing on the shoulders of hard-fought territory. The banon has been passed, and we’re the benefactors of a great group of men.”

The drive for an industry-standard program and industry-standard culture continues for the Defenders, and its process can be seen in the way that practices are facilitated.

The Dordt team conducted a night practice under the lights on April 12, and early morning practices persist throughout the week—even...
Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Senior Taylor Leach drags a cart, which holds a papier-mâché cow onto stage. Her task is much more difficult than it looks because the cart is balanced upside-down, and the cart has square wheels.

Junior Nathan Ryder blows on a raw horn that seems to have no purpose. He is all alone, just another day on the set of Fools, Dordt’s student-directed Spring 2016 show.

The play, which is based on a short story by Mark Twain, has been cursed with stupidity for the last 200 years. The authors implement this stupidity in a variety of ways, including mannerisms and facial expressions. The costume, scene and prop designers have also played around with the stupidity aspect, which explains the cart with square wheels.

“It’s been such a joy to see the actors and designers have been playing around with their roles in this show,” said senior Lauren Bird, the student director of Fools. “The show is about a bunch of stupid people, so there’s a lot of room for silliness and playfulness.”

Bird is directing the production for her senior capstone project. When deciding which play to perform, many people had a lot of questions thrown at me and I had to make the decision that this biennial event is one that will be coming back for years and perhaps generations to come. Perhaps the only people entitled to a complaint or two about this event are those people in the students’ denominations, and that is the students who work study, who had to feed every one of those high schoolers in the limited amount of time between mass rehearsal and mass concert. Once again, future Defenders.

Artistic Director Domenic Vermeulen. “It also informs the audience that there are myths when it comes to dumpster diving, but we want to remind them that there are ways to reduce the amount of waste that is food going bad.”

“I want people to take away the idea that there are ways to reduce the amount of waste that is produced in the United States,” Vermeulen said. “They don’t have to necessarily start dumpster diving, but we want to remind them that there is a problem with how wasteful our country is.”

Senior Kyle Fosse and sophomore Ellen Ingrid Dengah have also covered some tough material.

“We hope our film ‘Even As I Am’ makes people want to question their faith and look further into their humanness and Christianity,” Fosse said. “It’s great to hear people talk about their lives and share their stories. You can gain so much just by listening to people, and making this documentary has really opened my eyes to understanding how powerful personal struggles can be.”

Senior Jessica Lillo and junior Lucas Simonson are creating a documentary about not being Reformed at a Reformed college.

“What we want people to take away from our film is that people are aware of differences chosen few employed by the church,” Lillo said. “We hope it will spark some questions and keep the discussion going.”

The creative juices have been flowing all semester in the digital media lab, so don’t be afraid to take a peek at the Mediafest schedule and check out the different documentaries. They will all be shown in room 319 in the Campus Center on April 21.

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New football culture culminates in spring finale (cont.)

on Saturdays. The renewed emphasis and enthusiasm placed on these “rigors of training” will better prepare Dordt for Saturdays in the fall.

Other athletic teams and departments on Dordt’s campus have also been invited to interact with this new football culture and coaching staff. At the night practice on April 12, the engineering department enjoyed a kicking competition with the football team; the agriculture department went to the team’s practice and threw some footballs around on April 7; and the men’s volleyball team enjoyed a dunk competition with the football team at practice on April 5.

These are a few of the many opportunities which the new coaching staff has opened up practices and engaged with other communities at Dordt.

Social media is another piece of the culture that keeps those on the outside involved. Tweets, pictures and videos are shared almost daily from the football program’s Twitter account (@DordtFB) to give fans and families an inside look at which drills are being conducted or which players performed well.

Twitter has even given fans some insight into Nutt’s “popsicle reward system” for the defensive members of the team. Any time a defensive player registers an interception, fumble or sack, they receive a refreshing popsicle after practice. As of April 14, Gerrit Wybenga leads in the Popsicle standings.

All of this renewed excitement, enthusiasm and change in culture will be evident on Saturday, April 30. Starting at 6p.m., Dordt football is hosting its first annual Spring Finale. Apart from what fans can see on the field—1-on-1 pass rush drills, 7-on-7, drill work, competitions and up-tempo play—a tailgate will be taking place in the parking lot adjacent to the football field.

“I just want to expose people to our players, because I think they’re a joy to be around,” Penner said.

“We’re creating a culture of enthusiasm and excitement around the program,” Mingo said. “We want to take advantage of any chance we get to draw people in and draw recruits in.”

If you’re looking for football, food and fellowship, stop by the football field on April 30. Witness the brand of enriched enthusiasm that the team brings, and experience the culture of Defender football.

Good weather finally prevails at Sioux City Relays (cont.)

said. “With his focus and quality practices, I think he will continue to race well throughout the outdoor season.”

Keith Heidema ran two solid hurdle races, setting personal bests for himself in both the preliminaries and the finals of the men’s 110-meter high hurdles. Heidema placed fifth overall in a competitive field. His time of 15.08 seconds is currently fourth best in the conference.

Veteran leader Kayla Byl rounded out her four-year career at the Sioux City Relays with a fourth-place finish in 3000-meter steeplechase and sixth-place finish in the 800-meter run.

Sophomore Audrey Brooks placed seventh in her debut steeplechase. The steeplechase is a unique race that requires runners to clear a hurdle barrier 28 times and a sloped water pit seven times over the course of the race, all totaling 200 meters shy of two miles. To make things more interesting, Morningside College, the meet host, stocks goldfish in the water pit.

The Defenders are preparing to compete again in a two-day meet at Northwestern College on April 22 and 23.