Global Agriculture Summit last call to register

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

Spring break is within reach, but before you head out, check out the Global Agriculture Summit. The conference begins March 3 and wraps up on March 4, but those interested can choose to attend either one or both days. At the conference, participants have the opportunity to attend workshops, exhibits, and keynote addresses with scores of agriculturists, community developers, business people, and NGOs from all over the world.

Through the Summit, Christians engaged in agriculture will have the opportunity to celebrate successes, address challenges, and prepare to take action through agriculture to alleviate hunger and poverty in the world. Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, since 1991, will deliver the opening keynote address, “The Call to Flourish.” As president of Bread for the World, Beckmann will share his experiences with transforming agriculture for small-scale dairy and crop farmers in Kenya by helping small-scale farmers partner with the private sector. In this model, both parties invest in each other’s success, and this mutually beneficial partnership helps farmers earn more while improving the capacity and revenue of the private sector partners.

“As of 2016, we are a business 100 percent dedicated to partnering with groups of farmers to implement inclusive value chains,” said Wachira in an N’West Iowa Review interview. These men are only two of the many of inspiring and educated speakers who will share their experiences and visions at the Summit. Registration is open through March 4, so it is not too late to sign up to participate in this informative and encouraging conference.

Biomechanics lab target of new grant

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

Dordt recently received a grant to build a biomechanics lab, an addition to campus that could open the doors to opportunities for students of many different majors.

Dr. Kayt Frisch, assistant professor of engineering at Dordt, co-wrote the grant with Dr. Nathan Tinflle, Director for Research and Scholarship at Dordt; for a biomechanics lab can record the three-dimensional positions of objects. Frisch says that the lab will be useful for a variety of projects.

“This lab can record force over time. In that way we can record the force acting on the body and answer questions like ‘how walking loads the body?’ which is useful in making prosthetics,” said Frisch.

Frisch is interested in using the lab for research purposes. She is interested in looking at the ways that voluntary loads the body and how overuse injury is created. She says that it’s an exciting opportunity for Dordt students to have research-quality tools at their disposal.

The spot that Frisch is looking at to set up the lab is in an old racquetball court on the second floor of the Rec Center (above the lobby of the De Witt). Sophomore Jordan Severson will assist Frisch in setting up the lab this summer. He will be installing the equipment and setting up the programs.

“It will be up to me, with the guidance of Dr. Frisch, to do any experimental and/or design work to aid in the successful operation of the lab. I’ll need to figure out the ins and outs of the system so that it’s dependable,” said Severson.

Students can expect to be using this high tech equipment in various classes next school year.

Tech in class: personal or professor choice?

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

In a world where six-year-olds have smart phones, and your mother has more Facebook friends than you, the issue of proper technology use is becoming more important. Is there a value to a personal, mature choice in circumstances surrounding education and technology or should it be required or banned from a classroom?

In the education program’s classes, laptops are not banned and students are expected to bring their personal devices. They are often used in assessment applications and for reading electronic devices.

Though personal notes are the responsibility of students, education department head professor Tim Van Soeden says the instructor should be in control of the situation and know when to intervene. In his classes, when he needs their full participation in discussion, he will tell his students, “Lids down,” so they know to close their laptops.

History professor Walker Coogrove thinks differently, claiming that the right to take notes is like any other individual right that is given up for the benefit of society. He makes his decision to ban personal tech in core classes based on current research claiming that note-taking by hand is more beneficial and feedback from previous classes where he allowed computers.

“My bigger concern is the learning environment as a whole,” Coogrove said. “Not just individual students.”

Freshman Kethren Drury doesn’t use a computer to take notes and says that professors have the right to restrict technology based off of the nature of their job.

“Teaching is more like a dictatorship than a democracy,” Drury said.

Senior Ian Veenstra is in favor of using technology in classrooms. He says it would be better to adopt a desk with a built in computer.

“The activation password could be a student ID swipe. The educators could then be able to control the software and the content of the computers.”

“That way we can get the benefits of technology,” Veenstra said. “Without the negatives.”

The generally accepted negative of using a laptop or other device to take notes is the distraction that it can be to yourself and other students.

Senior Bryan Hannenbarg sees the problem with technology as related to the maturity level of the students. He remembers kids in high school who would use technology as nothing but a distraction.

“Even if they couldn’t play games, they would swipe back and forth between apps,” Hannenbarg said. “Anything to keep their attention.”

The history department’s general policy is to not allow personal devices in its core classes. Professor Paul Fessler pointed to the distraction that laptops can be to others. Fessler has a story of when he was sitting in the back of a classroom doing an evaluation and a young woman was multitasking and searching for swimsuits as well as taking notes.

“Do you see how that could be a distraction to those around her?” Fessler said. “It’s not just you. Other people are affected by the choice.”

Fresher Andrew Yoon agrees that technology can easily become a distraction to others.

“I don’t think there’s a good way to control it,” Andrew Yoon said.

In his physics class in high school, Yoon’s teacher was bothering, so he would play games on the tablet that he was supposed to use to take notes. Now, Yoon is more concerned about how he is affecting his classmates and takes notes by hand.

“I matured as I grew,” Yoon said. “I am
Pour showing: concrete canoe takes shape

Eric Rose – Staff Writer

Road, sidewalk, foundation, canoe. One of these is not like the other. For the past six years, the Dordt chapter of the Americas Society for Civil Engineers has competed in the Concrete Canoe competition. This year’s canoe, Serenity, was poured last Saturday.

The poor day is the largest step in the process that will culminate at the competition in Ames this April. Dordt will be a physical, floatable vessel to be judged on its aesthetics, a paper presentation documenting the process, and a race.

Over 20 students mixed batches of concrete based off of an original recipe and layered the mix onto a wooden canoe shaped frame. The workers started at 9 a.m. and had pizza for lunch. Only four people left at a time so the unfinished concrete wouldn’t have an opportunity to dry.

“If you have a cold joint,” Co-captain Stephanie Paum, said. “It will break easier.”

Theatre major, Taylor Leach, the design head for the project, worked to develop the theme that will be carried out into the entire process for this year’s canoe. “Serenity is about finding the peace and tranquility in teamwork,” Leach said.

During pour day, a dark blue dye was used in the concrete mix to color the bottom half of the canoe. The top was kept in the natural white concrete color to highlight adhesive vinyl decoration. Last year’s canoe, the Tulip Defender, featured a flower petal that notoriously caused an upgrade in the mesh this year.

Between layers of concrete, the pour day volunteers spread a fiberglass mesh to further strengthen the concrete. Paum served as a chemical engineer for an upgrade in the mesh this year. For the previous years, the canoe team used a black mesh that notoriously caused an unpleasant aroma when it bonded with the concrete. Dordt alum and admissions counselor, Andrew Deelstra, bought the roll when he was involved in the concrete canoe as a student for three years. “It was dirt cheap,” Deelstra said. “Probably why it stank so bad.”

The seemingly endless roll of mesh ran out last year. The crew had to substitute and cover the last quarter of the canoe with some hastily obtained screen door material. “I went to Bomgaar’s and looked for anything for lunch. Only four people left at a time so the unfinished concrete wouldn’t have an opportunity to dry.” Wollink said.

For students interested in joining the canoe project, Paum said points to future workdays including several days sanding and a decorating day for adding the adhesive letters. “You don’t have to be an engineer,” Leach said. “We want all people to come and be a part of the canoe.”

A look back at Dordt forensics

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

The Dordt Forensics team finished its season strong this month, with team members advancing to the semifinal and final rounds at both debate tournaments the team attended.

On February 5 and 6, the team competed in the Ichob Classic at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Seniors Justin Vos and Ranae Boonstra advanced to the semifinal round in debate. In addition, senior Courtney De Wolde and freshman Matthew Ojo competed in Duo Interpretation. Ojo and De Wolde finished sixth overall in Dordt’s first individual event entry.

“My favourite part, hands down, of being a member of the team is the people who make up Dordt Forensics,” De Wolde said. “I’ve been able to meet students and develop friendships with them solely because we are all on the same team.”

De Wolde joined the Dordt Forensics Team as a freshman. Among other advantages, her role in the club has helped her enroll in many projects better.

“The main skill I’ve been able to develop through participating in Forensics is becoming a better public speaker,” De Wolde said. “I’ve also become better at thinking quickly, taking in new information and formulating thoughts and ideas to use while standing at the podium in debate situations.”

On February 9, the team attended the final Parliamentary League of the Upper Midwest (PLUM) Tournament of the year, hosted by Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. Here, all three of Dordt’s two-person teams made it to the elimination rounds: the team of Ojo and sophomore Ben Kuiper finished in the Bronze Round, and both the team of De Wolde and junior Caeden Tinklenberg and the team of senior Chris Slice and Vos finished in the Gold Round. The tournament doesn’t make teams from the same school compete directly in their event, but when the De Wolde and Tinklenberg and team Slice and Vos was called a closeout. In the tournament’s individual-speaker’s competition, Kuiper came in first, Ojo came in second, Vos came in third, and Slice came in fifth. The PLUM consisted of many separate one-day tournaments, so the season’s overall highest scoring schools and individuals are also awarded. In that tally, Vos came in first, Boonstra came in third, and De Wolde came in sixth. As a school, Dordt came in first this season.

Ojo, who joined the team last fall, claimed internal support as his biggest encouragement. “This growth and success has been made possible by the team effort of the Forensics Team and diligent coaching of its directors,” Ojo said.

Director of Forensics and Debate Coach Donald Roth also complemented his crew. “I’m extremely proud of how the whole team has debated this season,” Roth said. “The last PLUM was a testament to how much they’ve all grown over the year, and I couldn’t be happier about the overall results.”

Resident life applications, more every year

Meghan De Graaf – Staff Writer

Resident Assistant (RA) responsibilities are very important to the well-being of students. RAs help incoming freshmen manage their new surroundings and get acquainted with college life.

There are about 4 to 6 RAs in every dorm between 12 and 24, depending on the size of the dorm, and they are responsible for monitoring his or her wing. RAs are also encouraged to plan entertaining extracurricular events for students living in their wing.

Because of the position, RAs are able to experience another side of campus life—one that often leads to interactions with students they might not have met otherwise.

For students like sophomore Sion Yang, being a part of the residence life staff helps create comfortability on campus. Sion is from South Korea, and she believes that being an RA helped her feel more comfortable in her new community. “I especially loved getting to know and work with new people,” Sion said of her RA status.

This year, Yang applied for a position as RA for Covenant Hall, likewise feels that her position has been nothing but a blessing. She was able to meet more students and grow friendships with other RAs and the girls on her wing. Tori said she also had advice to pass on to the future resident life staff.

“The best advice I can give comes from Sita Riblet, the building coordinator from last year, who told me that if you’re hired because we fit the cookie-cutter mold in other words, it’s ok to be different than other RAs!” Yang said.

When the RAs are chosen for a position as RA, the residence life staff could only choose a few students. Lisa Smith, Derek Buteyn and Kimberly Brinkerhoff, under the leadership of the Dean of Students Robert Taylor, interviewed all of these students and were responsible for making the difficult decision.

Some members of the residence life staff were chosen to return for RA positions, while other spots will be filled by current freshmen and sophomores next year. They will have the chance to help new students love their years at Dordt.

Tech in class: personal or professor choice? (cont.)

Continued from page 1

“becoming more aware of my surroundings.”

A project and discussion based class provides a more multi-dimensional aspect to the use of computers than a lecture based core class.

Cosgrove bans personal tech use in his core classes, but has no restrictions on upper level history courses which are often more intimate and structured around discussion. Cosgrove would be more conducive to allowing technology in core classes if the classes were smaller.

“It’s easier to manage classes with 20-25 students. I can more easily deal with improper use of tech,” Cosgrove said. “At that point there’s more relationship. We are more like a family and less like a massive lecture.”

The issue of proper use of technology is not related to an educational setting. Both Cosgrove and Udris pointed out that if they see use in the back at faculty assembly meetings, they can see how people use their computers.

“It’s not a student issue, it’s a human issue,” Cosgrove said. “Humans are distractible people.”
Interview a student: Jahn Kuiper, author extraordinaire

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

How often do you really think about the fact that, one day, your lab partner may be famous? In ten years, you may be telling people that you went to college with the Boy Who Lived—Rogue’s Chin culture that made these stories so real for him in her will. In his journey into the jungle, he travels to Burma to inherit the land his wife left, and the rest is history. What makes this story interesting from an academic standpoint, I was curious about the reality of the supernatural world and how this affects what is deemed important in Chinese culture. As a writer, I strive to make the reader question the supernatural and the reality of the world we live in.

What is writing to you? How does writing matter in your life? JK: Writing is my conduit of thought. As a child, I stuttered and was uncomfortable with speaking...[but] writing stories gives me the fluency to express thought, especially because I tend to see the world in terms of environment, time, characters, and arch. It’s a cliché question, but do you have any other inspiration for this? JK: In addition to the life experiences I draw on, I’ve also gleaned a lot of inspiration from my studies at Dordt. From the Education department, I’ve learned a lot about cognitive development theories and social interaction theories. I’ve noticed how the English culture and language have changed throughout the ages and how this affects what is deemed important in literature. This was a base of inspiration for me to pursue my Master’s degree in the Kuyper Scholar Program. When myths are often viewed as archaic and interesting from an academic standpoint, I was much more interested in how a living force shapes us and lives with us day-to-day...I’ve come to explore how God has created science [in order] to learn the knowable, and myth [in order] to surrender the unknowable...to live in awe at God. If we can accept that awe of the unknown as valuable...then myth takes on much more than academic value.

What is the most important class you took at Dordt? JK: Corporate Finance is one of the courses Visser taught for years. Visser commented, “If it had not been for the tests after the test, I would have really enjoyed teaching that course.” He said that he loved the materials, but the class was extremely difficult for some students. Attenta jokingly mentioned “they [the students] tremble at Visser’s test announcements.” Junior business major Sarah Fopma agreed that Visser’s classes, especially the tests, are difficult, but she admired the way he learned a lot after every test. Visser plans on spending more time with his wife and grandchildren after retirement. He also plans on teaching abroad and writing a book about the questions we no longer ask as a society. After building a career for four decades, Visser has grown into one of the most respected figures in the Business Department and has been recognized nationally for his teaching and scholarship from a Christian perspective. When asked about this, he is quick to acknowledge that he could not have done these things without the help of others, including his wife, Dordt and especially his business department colleagues.

What is one of Dordt’s claims to fame in its liberal arts education? One of Dordt’s boasts of providing a “complete comprehensive education from a solid, Reformed, Christian perspective.”

You went to college with the Boy Who Lived—Rogue’s Chin culture that made these stories so real for him in her will. In his journey into the jungle, he travels to Burma to inherit the land his wife left, and the rest is history. What makes this story interesting from an academic standpoint, I was curious about the reality of the supernatural world and how this affects what is deemed important in Chinese culture. As a writer, I strive to make the reader question the supernatural and the reality of the world we live in.

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Alsum-Wassenaar has curated an exhibit for researchers, and it’s decided to take part. Art professor Sara Alsum-Wassenaar has curated an exhibit for the Global Agriculture Summit that was thought provoking in regards to agricultural practices, she said. “A lot of the Summit that was thought provoking in regards to agricultural practices, she said. “A lot of the stories in agriculture.”

A few weeks, Dordt will be hosting the Global Agriculture Summit, and the art department has decided to take part. Art professor Sara Alsum-Wassenaar has curated an exhibit for the Campus Center gallery, all about agriculture and food. Artists from around the country will have their works displayed in the exhibition. These works will reflect on different varieties, such as paintings, drawings, sculptures and printmaking.

Alsum-Wassenaar explained she thought through curating this show. “I wanted to present an art show that would take place during the Global Agriculture Summit that was thought provoking in regards to agricultural practices,” she said. “A lot of the conversations about agriculture is dominated by commercial interests, and I think there are a lot of other important voices to listen to in addition to agriculture. We are increasingly disconnected from our food. I encounter a lot of students that do not like abstract art, but they also have no problem with extremely abstract food items. Can you get much more abstract than a Food Loop?”

Alsum-Wassenaar hopes that this art exhibit will help people make a connection between agriculture and the food they eat. The exhibit also offers a unique opportunity for the community to learn about different people’s stories in agriculture.

“I think of the show as a dialog about the complex collection created by the various actors in agriculture, from a nostalgic understanding of how a family farm functions to the genetically modified organisms to the identity or lack of identity of the animals,” she said. “One of the artists in the show is a Native American artist who creates images about bees. Both of these groups have been marginalized in today’s agricultural practices, and they are given a voice in this show.”

This exhibit will be in the gallery until March 14. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, March 3, from 5:30-6 p.m., with a talk at 5:15 p.m.

“God calls us to steward creation and, through Jesus, shows us how to deal with the marginalized,” she said. “This should guide how we engage with the land and the food that we obtain from it.”
Academic legitimacy and the cancer of prolonged adolescence: does Dordt measure up?

In a recent debate, Marco Rubio called out philosophers, driving young people towards welding degrees with the tantalizing promise of a welcoming job market and good pay. This is not an independent example, among many. An internet search on “worthless college degrees” reveals scores of articles lamenter the cancerous denigration of values that come with education.

Colleges all-over are scrambling to ensure students to their institutions in the wake of this economic shift. U.S. News claims that colleges have started offering “amenities ranging from laptops and tablets to gourmet dining plans and overhead housing and recreational opportunities” as enticements for incoming students (“How Do School Markets Themselves to Attract Students”). The problem is that the fact of this system of “free” amenities—which are, many times, paid for by students—is unstable. Offers will continue to escalate until it is unsustainable.

Another idea being implemented by colleges is an absolute disregard for proper etiquette for our “National Anthem,” our nation’s flag, and the brave men and women who face toward the music and act in the same manner. In the seemingly-altruistic to make schools more attractive, one easily forgets the merits of humanities degrees such as philosophy, history, literature, etc. This is not a politically partisan issue either; as, along with Rubio’s debate remark, President Obama called out the seemingly-worthlessness of art history degrees while touring a General Mills factory in Wisconsin.

If I may, I would like to suggest a refocus of patriotism and gratefulness to all those who served America. By respecting our flag, you are sending a silent, yet strong message of loyalty towards the red, white, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and freedom. That signifies purity and innocence, red for hardiness and trial, and all of this is possible because of our veterans who fought to give us these and more!

We are students, much the same that doctors are students, much the same that doctors are students, much the same that doctors are students, much the same that doctors are students, much the same that doctors are students, much the same that doctors are students, much the same that doctors are students.
Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

The magical world of intramural sports, where a group of students comes together in an effort to find a sport that suits them. It is a world where the end result may not be the best for the individual, but for the group, it could be a defining factor in their life. It is a world of bonds, friendships, and memories that last a lifetime.

Marquee wins and frustrating losses characterize the men and women’s basketball teams this season. Four years ago, Dordt had two teams competing in the GPAC, but now they have four. Both teams have had their ups and downs, but both have shown great potential.

Women’s Basketball

The GPAC is a pretty accurate description of what this season has been like so far," said sophomore Abby Chapman. “We have had some pretty high highs, like beating Bethel and winning our conference championship. We have also had some pretty low lows, like the loss to Mount Marty.

Men’s Basketball

This season, our team has had a lot of ups and downs. We have had some big wins, but also some big losses. We have played well at times, but also struggled at others. It has been a challenging season, but we have learned a lot.

Inconsistency describes GPAC men’s basketball. As the season winds down, it will be interesting to observe what other programs will do in the future.

As a team, Dordt totaled a program-high 61 wins. The Defenders also had five service aces. With the regular season moving forward, it will be interesting to observe what other program firsts Dordt men’s volleyball garners.

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Men’s volleyball snags varsity program’s first win


The win marked a major milestone for the Defenders as they look to build on their success. Dordt has struggled in recent years, but this win gives them hope for the future.

As a team, Dordt totaled a program-high 61 wins. The Defenders also had five service aces. With the regular season moving forward, it will be interesting to observe what other program firsts Dordt men’s volleyball garners.
If you are observant, you have probably noticed posters going up around campus with a variety of student faces and masks on them. Maybe you found a business card with the words “Del Dorré” and promises of popcornts printed on it. These developments are only the latest in a series of promotions for Dodd Theatre’s spring mainstage production, Lazzi Molière.

“Lazzi” is a French word meaning “comedic action.” As its name suggests, Lazzi Molière is a comedic production. It involves amped-up emotions, large actions, and stock characters who each have their own way of moving across the stage with the help of some X-Men to win her back. If this sounds clichéd, that’s because it is. The film makes no apologies for how stereotypically it steals ideas, jokes and themes from other superhero movies. That’s probably the main reason it’s worth watching — it takes a step back and laughs at its own absurdity. You’ll struggle to find many more reasons to see it.

Not since Zack Snyder’s “Watchmen” has a superhero movie been so grotesque or unabashed. Difference is, “Watchmen” felt like it had some story to tell, whereas Deadpool was even its downfall — it felt so heavy and broody that it hardly held any surface-level entertainment. “Deadpool,” on the other hand, is just the opposite.

Slaughtred in sex jokes, f-bombs and a few references that hover on actual perversion, I felt like the film was even its downfall from the effort that may have redeemed it. It was a very amusing way to be distracted, but it got tiresome after a while. It felt like seeing a decent plottine and fast-paced, gross conversations are legendary in the scope of derive superheroes characters.

“You don’t enjoy a good fart joke? But when the overall tone of a movie feels like it was designed to accommodate a string of innuendo, gore and surprisingly explicit sexual scenes, it gets a little tiresome after the first hour.”

And let’s face it, who doesn’t enjoy a good fart joke? But when the overall tone of a movie feels like it was designed to accommodate a string of innuendo, gore and surprisingly explicit sexual scenes, it gets a little tiresome after the first hour.

On the upside, Ryan Reynolds thrives in his role as the lead character, exuding just the right amount of confidence, wit, sass and morbidity perversely panache to pull off what could otherwise turn out to be a painfully unremarkable main character. His signature fourth-wall breaking, dripping sarcastic remarks and fast-paced, gross conversations are legendary in the scope of derive superheroes characters.

“Deadpool” is already listed as number 60 in IMDb’s top 250 movies, and I’m not sure what that says about today’s movie-going crowd. Of course, I’m missing the bias of having been steeped in the “Deadpool” games, comics and cartoons. Everyone I know of who already knows the name of this movie will agree that it’s not in the same league. Empathy for a superhero movie. I won’t be seeing “Deadpool” again in a hurry. However, I won’t say I didn’t enjoy the process of making that decision.

There are a lot of ensemble work in the production, meaning that the actors have to “bring something to the table” and trust that their fellow actors will do the same. “It helps actors rely on their own creative juice,” Wallace said.

The show is not only full of slapstick humor—it also serves a purpose. The over-the-top characters and acting serve to help audience members recognize something about themselves.

“It highlights our foibles and hopefully so does in a way that helps us recognize our failures,” Wallace said. This follows along with Molière’s own thoughts on comedy that should accomplish: “It is a vigorous blow to vices to expose them to public laughter.”

Liddle experienced some of this recognition in her acting. For example, her character is often angry. “[It makes] you think of people who are that angry on a regular basis and how exhausting that must be!” she shared.

Wallace was inspired to take on this project by time spent in Italy for graduate school. He spent a month intensively learning about Molière and the acting style that accompanied the playwright’s work.

There were many challenges involved in the making of Lazzi, from the script to mask-making to teaching an unfamiliar acting style. The show has been a lot of work to produce, but the results proved rewarding.

“At the beginning, it was, ‘How is this possible? It’s too much work!’” Wallace said.

“Then you look back now and say, ‘We did it.’” Liddle encourages those who come to the show to “Be willing to laugh with us, at us, and at yourself.”

Performances take place Feb. 24, 25, 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m., and on Feb. 27 at 2:00 p.m.
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Before and during Christmas Break, Dordt went 7-3 in GPAC play, good enough for second place behind Briar Cliff. After students returned to campus for the spring semester, Dordt went 2-8 in GPAC play, including a five-game losing streak.

Part of this disparity is schedule strength.

“I think, before and after Christmas Break, the schedule is a lot of it,” said coach Ross Douma. “I think we played a more favorable home schedule over Christmas Break.”

The other pieces of this disparity are the typical issues: defensive lapses, shooting slumps/free throw struggles and injuries.

In Dordt’s eight conference losses after Christmas Break, it’s allowed 90+ points seven times and 100+ twice. Also in those eight losses, opponents are shooting slightly over 50 percent.

Offensively, Dordt’s main offensive struggles have come behind the three-point arc. Throughout the course of the year, the Defenders shot 33 percent from deep. Again in Dordt’s eight losses, the Defenders are averaging 4.25 three-pointers per game.

Lastly, injuries have been a major factor, impacting Dordt’s rotation for nearly the entire season. Bryan Sumner, Dalton Franken, Alex Terpstra and Taylor Feenstra are a few of the many to miss time or be impacted minutes-wise due to injury.

“Every team incurs injuries to some degree,” Douma said. “We’ve had five guys who’ve endured a lot of missed playing time. It’s definitely impacted our team; it’s hurt our team. It’s put us in rotations that we near thought we’d ever play.”

Yet despite the struggles and breaks not falling Dordt’s way, the Defenders have an opportunity ahead. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, the Defender men will travel to Lincoln, Neb. to square off against Nebraska Wesleyan. It’s a No. 2 versus No. 7 seed matchup in which both sides won on their home floor, splitting the season series.

Beyond that, with two wins and a Briar Cliff run to the GPAC Championship game, Dordt could clinch a national berth. The Chargers clinched an automatic bid to nationals when winning the GPAC regular season. If Briar Cliff makes the GPAC title game, regards of the result, BC’s opponent will receive an automatic bid to the national tournament.

So perhaps Dordt’s rollercoaster ride may end on a peak after all. It will take some work, but three wins in the GPAC tournament—or two wins with some help (Briar Cliff)—will put Dordt in the national tournament over Spring Break.

All it takes is one solid run.

Humans of Dordt College

The funniest thing I have seen so far while student teaching was just standing in the hallways between classes and this little 5th grade girl walks up to a 5th grade boy, kind of looks at her and she was like “Hey, so I think you are pretty cute.”

The little boy just looks at her, dead in the eyes, and says, “Yeah, my mom thinks so too,” and just walked away like nothing happened.

Thomas Beck, senior

The Back Page

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Seasons of highs and lows for Defender basketball (cont.)