Warp knew this mostly seniors, Time go with the crowd.” said. “But once people,” Kielstra in front of a crowd; an audience. 2000s, Friday night Esther Kielstra who “No. 5” and ending with Sia’s 2016 hit “Cheap the group settled on a medley of music starting listening to nearly every song from every era, up with a concept proved difficult, yet after learning Venhuizen’s choreography. Coming dance around the stage, lip syncing to pop songs the BJ Haan auditorium to watch their peers Writer Jaden Vander Berg and Mindi Wikstorm – Staff

A Hawley, jolly night of live music in 55th Avenue

Ashley Huisenga – Staff Writer

Did you know a guitar that looks and plays like a piano exists? Did you know keyboards can come with two levels? Did you know one lead singer could make three different girls as embarrassed as possible (of which I was privileged to be one) by unexpectedly directing his song at them? After all, by Dordt terms, direct eye contact for more than three seconds is practically a proposal.

Well, I didn’t. At least not until Caleb Hawley and company (Devon Vesberger on keys, Spencer Stewart on bass, Jordan Rose on drums) rocked out on the stage of the 55th last Monday, Sept. 19. With a few opening hits by up-and-coming local band The Ruralists (featuring Dordt’s own English professor Luke Hawley and theology professor Ben Lappenga), Minnesota local Caleb Hawley sang to a packed crown of Dordt students avoiding their Monday night homework. After a lot of pelvic thrusting and dramatic lighting shifts, the group finished off their set with a solo acoustic rendition of Luke’s original “On My Own Two Feet.” Crowd favorites included “Bada Boom, Bada Bzing,” “I Believe I Can Fly,” and “Wish You Were.”

With lines like “We all got problems/We all got pain/We all need love and lots of drugs ‘cause we’re insane” and the interactive experience of watching Caleb stalk and soar and slide across the stage, both the singer and the audience seemed to be having a great time.

“I enjoy the Dordt crowd,” Caleb said. “I feel like they start off reserved, but there’s something inside them that just wants to jam out.” — This is no doubt a direct reference to the inner Praise-and-Worship Pentecostal in even the most Reformed of Dordt students.

Caleb Hawley, a Minnesota native by birth, came to campus last October, but that didn’t stop him from coming back for a Read What You Want meeting, a songwriting session and Monday night’s concert.

“I’m proud to see him doing something he really enjoys, something he excels at,” said brother and professor Luke Hawley. “Just him, in the fullness of his humanity—Caleb Hawley and company will be undertaking another US tour in the next few weeks, but maybe next year will see them returning to the 55th stage with more loud shirts, skinny jeans, pink furry guitar straps and permed-up hair. Until then, keep up on the Hawley brand of Midwest rock by following Caleb on “all the social medias” (including calebhawley.com) and attending The Ruralists’ concert on Oct. 15 in the Fruited Plain Cafe.

Time Warp wins Air Band in flurried fashion

Sadee Vander Berg and Mindi Wikstrom – Staff Writer

Friday night, Sept. 23, students packed into the BJ Haan auditorium to watch their peers dance around the stage, lip syncing to pop songs of past eras. This year only four groups performed, but the host of honors Lincoln Rus and Kevin Steiger helped to keep the audience involved and entertained.

After competing in different groups for three years, Luke Venhuizen and his ensemble of Madly Wade Kemp, Esther Kielstra, Shannise Qui , Rachel Blom, Levi Minderhoud, Mariellen Hoffand and Janelle Cammenga took the stage and claimed victory.

The group practiced their routine for almost ten hours, and much of the time was used learning Venhuizen’s choreography. Coming up with a concept proved difficult, yet after listening to nearly every song from every era, the group settled on a medley of music starting listening to nearly every song from every era, up with a concept proved difficult, yet after learning Venhuizen’s choreography. Coming dance around the stage, lip syncing to pop songs the BJ Haan auditorium to watch their peers Writer Jaden Vander Berg and Mindi Wikstorm – Staff Writer

New communication professor Tom Prinsen tells his story

Elizabeth Bouwkamp – Staff Writer

“Karla always says, ‘if you want to see the Lord’s sense of humor... tell him your plans. Communication Professor Tom Prinsen and his wife Karla recently moved to Sioux Center, Iowa. The small Iowa town is familiar and reminds them of their college years when they first met at Dordt College. Karla was a freshman at the time, and Tom was a senior.

Tom had no interest in dating during his senior year. Motorcycle rides, time with friends, schoolwork and a 40-hour work week allowed for little down time.

“That way when graduation comes, I can walk across the stage, take my diploma and go...”

“Either do it or quit talking about it.”

“Um, Mr. Lefers,” he began. “Karla and I have shop. Upon entering, he immediately spotted Karla’s dad.

“Um, Mr. Lefers,” he began. “Karla and I have been talking a lot about our future and we would really like to spend the future together. I guess what I’m asking for is her hand in marriage.”

Hawley brand of Midwest rock by following Caleb on “all the social medias” (including calebhawley.com) and attending The Ruralists’ concert on Oct. 15 in the Fruited Plain Cafe.

Continued on page 2

**Photo by Mary Van Wyk**
The Yets and The Basics promise show at the Fruited Plain

Allison Wordes – Staff Writer

The start of harvest season is usually a time of optimism and celebration for farmers. But this year, things are different. According to the latest reading of the DTN/Progressive Farmer Agricultural Confidence Index, this year, ag producers’ confidence dropped to a record low in its seven-year existence.

The index, based on an annual survey of 500 crop and livestock producers, gathers opinions on the strength of the farm economy. Scores below 100 on the index indicate pessimism, while scores above 100 indicate optimism. The more the number deviates from 100, the stronger the feeling. The 2016 confidence index indicated that, as of August, producers’ confidence had dropped to 71.9. A year ago, it was 98.2.

In the DTN/Progressive Farmer’s September 19 publication, Editor-In-Chief Greg Horstmeier said, “Our previous index research indicated that producers’ attitudes trended neutral-to-optimistic for their present situation and pessimistic for the future. That’s now flipped with farmers who are more pessimistic for the current situation and optimistic for the future.”

After experiencing several years of high yields coupled with high market prices (2011-2014), producers struggled to readjust their spending habits. When land values and market prices plummeted, the cost of inputs, such as seed and fertilizer, lagged in reducing their price as well. Now that corn, soybean, hog, dairy and cattle prices have remained exceptionally low for more than a year, producers are setting into the mindset that “bad” is the new norm.

“Harvest time is usually a season of optimism for ag producers, but not this year,” Horstmeier said. “Many producers will need record crops just to break even given today’s rising production costs.”

USDA predictions of record production for corn and soybeans, 15.1 billion bushels and 4.2 billion bushels, respectively, drive prices even lower. The economic principle of supply and demand makes it difficult for farmers to come out on top. If Northwest Iowa experiences high yields, it’s likely the whole Midwest also reaps above-average yields, creating lower market prices because of the surplus.

When producers are still paying the same amount or more for cash rent, seed, chemical and fertilizer as they did when corn was $7.00/bushel and soybeans were $14.00 per bushel, it can be nearly impossible to break even. According to the DTN survey, 39 percent of producers surveyed rate input prices as bad, with 57 percent saying that input prices will not improve in the next 12 months.

The ag economy is notorious for its boom and bust cycles, and this is certainly not the first time producers have been in a pinch. Still, as attitudes and outlooks slump along with prices, it is important for farmers to receive encouragement from families and friends and producers. Many students on campus are friends with or related to a farmer. Thanking a farmer for what they do may seem insignificant, but these individuals need encouragement right now.

As always, the ag economy will improve. But for now, margins are slim.

No substitute for human blood

Allison Wordes – Staff Writer

LifeServe Blood Center will be hosting a blood drive in the Eckhardt Lounge of the Campus Center on Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. LifeServe is a blood donation center out of Des Moines, Iowa, that has set up mobile blood donation centers in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. According to the website, lifeservebloodcenter.org, the center is “one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country.”

There is a constant demand for donations; for example, a patient of a car accident may use up to 50 units of blood. The basic donation consists of a “pint” or 450 mL of blood. The blood units collected during blood drives are divided into the components of red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

There are benefits to having a blood drive on campus, such as the fact that the proximity and availability of this drive is accommodating to students and allows them to become involved without even leaving the campus. Students can even fit a donation in between classes. The attendance, further highlighting a fact we should all be getting excited about here on campus: Dordt has lots of young and talented musicians actively seeking chances to use their skills. Is there a greater amount of skilled musicians on campus than ever before? Probably not. Are more students looking to share their musical talents in live performances? Possibly. Would we all benefit from an increase in musical events? Absolutely. Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters who possess musical talent, USE IT! There can never be too many musicians in town, and this town needs you! As for the rest of us with no apparent musical abilities, let us all hoist our (hypothetical) Heinekens high to salute those who will rock Sioux Center in the weeks and years to come.

The Basics will be performing next on Oct. 4 along with other students at the 55th Cafe. The Yets did not provide a date for their next performance.
Depression or fatigue: advice for overcoming in college

Lia Käppel – Staff Writer

Depression is a genuine burden, and trying to suppress it is equivalent to driving a car with the parking brake on. The car still runs, but it’s slower and it’s being damaged by the unseen issue.

The effects of depression are profound, and can worsen even with a sound faith. The pain, the suffering, and the baggage that constitute depression are weighed down with a sense of guilt; a temptation to believe that you’re not a good Christian.

Though there’s the same name, not every case of depression is equal. It may be periods of feeling out of it, it might be feeling far from God, it may be days of calling in sick because it feels impossible to get out and live life. In any case, depression can feel like it is taking over by its impact on every facet of life.

The American Psychological Association found that depression is the second leading medical disorder at 36.4 percent among college students, with it’s run-up-ner being anxiety at 41.6 percent. It’s a colossal problem, and yet so few reach out for help.

Aaron Haardt, Dean of Chapel at Dordt, advises students to get help, even if they’re questioning the actuality of depression.

“There’s a good number that have not gotten help. They really don’t need to carry this struggle,” Haardt said. “A lot don’t want to reach out, they don’t want it to seem real.”

He advises students to communicate, to voice their concerns, even in the case that they don’t feel like they have a support system. Depression is not an embarrassment, it is real. It can take control of your life and if you or someone you know might be suffering from it, start talking about it, find solutions that might work, and take the first steps in the fight to unload this burden.

Basics of the EpiPen debate

Lia Marcus – Staff Writer

So… what is an EpiPen and how does it work?

Nasal allergies may be obnoxious, but they’re seldom fatal. So…what is an EpiPen and how does it work?

Epinephrine, otherwise known as Adrenaline, is commonly administered via epinephrine auto injectors, more commonly known by the brand name EpiPen, a syringe that can be used to inject a pre-set amount of epinephrine into the body suffering from anaphylaxis. The “Epi” in EpiPen stands for Epinephrine.

Why is the news suddenly full of people upset about EpiPens?

The EpiPen is somewhat unique—it has a monopoly on the market. Many of its competitors have failed, and Mylan, the pharmaceutical company that currently owns the rights to EpiPens, lobbied to pass the “EpiPen Law” in 2013. This law encouraged schools to stock epinephrine auto injectors and to mandate that school personnel be trained to use them. Mylan initiated a program called EpiPenSchool, providing schools nationwide with more than 700,000 free EpiPens. As a result, EpiPen has steadily become the most familiar and, consequently, the most trusted brand of epinephrine auto injectors.

Because it has a monopoly on the epinephrine auto injector market, Mylan’s decision to raise the price of EpiPens continuously since 2009 impacts a lot of people with serious allergies. In 2009, two EpiPens cost about $100 wholesale; in 2016, two EpiPens cost more than $600. Obviously, this has significant ethical implications, and Mylan has received criticism from various fronts, including Congress. Is this scheme new?

Mylan isn’t the first pharmaceutical company that has sold its medicines at inflated prices. In 2015, it was revealed that Turing Pharmaceuticals had increased the price of Daraprim, a drug commonly used to treat and prevent malaria, by 5,000 percent; customers pay $750 per pill, about $70,000 a month. Rather than lowering the price to something more reasonable, Turing provided programs that helped patients afford the drug, but insured companies to pick up the slack.

The CEO of Turing, the suddenly infamous Martin Shkreli, justified the price increase, explaining that very few people actually use the drug, and the extra profit would be used to develop better treatments. Both Mylan and Turing followed a similar pattern, one that has been used by a number of pharmaceutical companies in recent years: buy the rights to an old, infrequently used drug and remarket it as a specialty drug, raising the price accordingly. Apparently few people are impacted by the price increase, and pharmaceutical companies claim that the profit made will be used to benefit the people.

What should we do about it?

It depends. Do you think it is ethical for pharmaceutical companies to make money for “specialty drugs” if they claim they’ll use the extra money to develop better drugs? Is it the role of the government to prevent companies from having monopolies on a market? Should people with allergies or parents whose children have allergies “vote with their wallet” by purchasing the epinephrine auto injectors sold by smaller companies, such as Adrenaclick, which costs about one-quarter of the price of EpiPen? Should insurance companies and/or taxpayers be expected to foot the bill for expensive medications? Should schools continue to buy the Mylan brand of epinephrine auto injectors?

You’ve got the basics of the situation, now. What are you going to do?

Photography information taken from Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Bloomberg, and The New York Times

New club asks hard questions and eats good food

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

On Oct. 20, the Science and Faith Club is hosting a movie night for “Blade Runner” with a following discussion on the essence of what it means to be human. Snacks will be provided. They hope to host an event once a month during the upcoming school year, including book clubs, small group discussions and breakfast meetings.

Marcus appreciates her fellow club-members and how they approach the hard questions of life.

“The club deals with sensitive areas of life,” said Marcus. “These questions define us. It takes love and graciousness to talk about them.”

She also appreciates the variety of questions they are willing to ask.

In the near future, the club hopes to have breakfast meetings every other week in the Commons where anyone can come and talk about issues that interest them, but the club leaders are still working out issues with reserving the dining area. They also hope to produce a calendar of events so the student body can participate in events when convenient for them.

If students have questions about the club, they can talk to or email Lydia Marcus.

“I don’t bite,” she said, smiling. “And maybe I can even answer their questions.”

She hopes that the campus can get involved in these discussions and enjoy the food and friendship the club has to offer.

Depressions or fatigue: advice for overcoming in college

Nancy Warren – Staff Writer

Dozens of students attend debate viewing party

Steve Kelly – Staff Writer

After getting a front row seat to the Presidential primaries during the Iowa caucuses, the Dordt College Republicans are staying engaged in the race for the White House. Over 50 students came to the Science Building to watch the first of three debates between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

Some came to learn more about the candidates and their plans for our country. Others came for some food and entertainment. By the end of the debate, everyone was able to experience a little bit of both.

Seeking to educate students about politics, the College Republicans club hosted the event to start discussions about the candidates and their policies. For some students, this was their first time attending a College Republicans event. A few in attendance were interviewed by the local newspaper about their thoughts on the debate.

In attendance Monday night was Skylar Wheeler, a local Republican candidate for the Iowa State House. “It was a phenomenal event,” said Wheeler. “The younger generation has to be politically involved, and for the right reasons.” He was delighted to see so many students showing an interest in the Presidential race.

The College Republicans club will host debate viewing parties for the Vice Presidential debate on October 4 and the next two Presidential debates on October 9 and 19. The viewing parties are open to members and non-members of the club.

“The group is open to anyone, and Marcus can talk to or email Lydia Marcus. If you don’t know that other people are asking the same questions,” Marcus said, “you can feel isolated and maybe even alone - which, if you want answers, are not the most helpful things to feel.”

In order to solve this issue, she started the Science and Faith Club, where students can feel free to discuss their questions with peers and mentors who are concerned with similar issues.

“Everyone comes from different perspectives, so you get well-rounded [answers and discussion],” Marcus said.

The group is open to anyone, and Marcus notes that the issues are often applicable to the whole student body.

“Science has implications for everyone,” she said. “It’s important to be informed and think about how we react and interact Christians.”

The club has no regular meeting schedule yet, but it has hosted a few events. Last year, this included inviting geniesticus Dennis Venema to campus. Club members discussed evolution and ate pizza.

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Students jockeying for professors during registration

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

At the starting gate. The doors open. Clang! Hooves thrum as riders strive to maneuver into the most successful situation possible. Students jockeying for position in the class of their choosing with their preferred professor is nothing new. Discussions with peers of who’s the best to take for which class influence many students, for better or worse.

“l am sure it happens,” said history professor Mark McCarthy. “Sometimes you overhear those conversations. I remember doing it myself.”

For senior education major Gracie De Boer, the conversation is irrelevant as she primarily schedules her classes based on the class meeting times. The one exception is when she avoids classes that require her to “rejuvenate the professor’s opinion.”

Sophomore Ben Tiemersma chose his core professors through conversations with uppersclassmen last year because he did not have any experience with different teacher’s styles. After taking CORE 110 and 140, he is now equipped to give his list of pros and cons of professors when other students ask. An open discussion of professors’ strengths and weaknesses can allow students to choose a strong fit, but it can also lead people astray.

Freshman Alisha Giesselmann does not put too much trust in the experiences that fellow students report because they come from individuals. “Everyone learns in different styles,” Giesselmann said. “What’s good for one person isn’t necessarily good for you.”

Sophomore Nate Pryor sees these learning differences as a reason why sharing experiences is important. “I always make recommendations,” Pryor said. “You should talk to different people to get different perspectives.”

As one of the five professors teaching seven sections of CORE 110 this semester, Bruce Kuiper is at the center of one of the most intimate all-campus retreat in spite of conflicts

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

“It just took a chunk of my skin off,” senior Luke Venhuizen said as he pointed to the scar on the outside of his right knee. You can still see the remains of the injury he sustained playing on the outside of his right knee. You can still see the remains of the injury he sustained playing on the outside of his right knee. You can still see the remains of the injury he sustained playing on the outside of his right knee.

Venhuizen can trace the beginning of most of his close friendships now back to that All-Campus Retreat weekend. Despite conflicts this year with other campus events and a low attendance of 50 students, the Campus Retreat weekend.

“I won camper of the weekend for putting my body on the line,” Venhuizen said.

Venhuizen can trace the beginning of most of his close friendships now back to that All-Campus Retreat weekend. Despite conflicts this year with other campus events and a low attendance of 50 students, the annual All-Campus Retreat to Lake Okoboji was deemed a success by Venhuizen and fellow student coordinator Payth Ponsen.

Because the traditional date of the third weekend of school coincided with Camp Okoboji’s 50th anniversary celebration, the retreat was pushed back a week.

It was only just before school started that planners realized the schedule’s conflict with a concert choir retreat, four different varsity sports games and the Pops Concert.

Ponsen pointed out that the attendance of fewer people made it easier to learn names and get to know those who were able to attend.

The special activities at this year’s retreat, speed dating and an inflatable movie screen, turned out to work better with fewer people.

Although the coordinators try to add new elements every year, there are some staples of the All-Campus Retreat such as the ice cream social, worship at the fire pit and the belly flop and freshman toss competitions.

The winning freshman tomes, Hannah Veldhuisen, was pitched into the lake after being swung from her wrists and ankles by two throwers who jumped with her and let her go in mid-air. Veldhuisen’s favorite part of the weekend, she said, was when the campers were around the fire.

“There was a full moon,” Veldhuisen said. “Very beautiful.”

After three years of planning the retreat together, Ponsen and Venhuizen decided to compete in the traditional belly flop competition, the last event of the weekend.

“Fayth finished out the girls and I finished out the guys,” Venhuizen said. “You could say we ended on a flop, but it didn’t. It ended on a bang!...”

“Cause it hurt.”

No substitute for human blood (cont.)

Continued from page 2

number of blood donors on campus per year prove that Dordt students on campus really care about blood donation. Three freshmen who have never donated on campus before seem willing to go and donate in October. Many other Dordt students are frequent donors and make it a priority to fit a donation into their busy schedules between classes.

Student Services also encourages students to participate by providing free items to donors - this year, most likely T-shirts.

Those wishing to donate are required to be 16 years or older and must weigh at least 120 pounds.

At the end of the day, this drive is more than a social event. Giving blood is about life.

The Dordt prairie: then and now

Elizabeth Helmkamp – Staff Writer

It is a sunny September day in the Prairie, and the flute-like trills of crickets rise and fall in the grass. As the wind brushes through the grass and the purples and yellows of the flowers show through the natural greens and golds, a butterfly flies by and lands gently on a flower. It’s another normal day in the Dordt Prairie.

Dordt College students and Sioux Center residents enjoy the Prairie as a place to spend time in nature. How did this place come to be?

Professor Robert De Haan says that on one Earth Day in the 1970s, Dr. Del Vander Zee had the idea to start a small prairie in the area where the Campus Center and parking lot are now. Many people enjoyed the prairie until the administration built the Campus Center in 2002. However, the administration promised they would find a new place for the prairie.

In 2003, the college purchased the Kuhl farm, an ideal place to start a prairie.

The project proposed calls it a “sage meadow prairie,” which thrives in wet areas and filters rainwater runoff. At the time the project was proposed, the toxin levels in the runoff from Dordt’s campus were above limits set by Sioux Center.

No progress was made until 2006 due to financial reasons. That year, De Haan attended a conference where an unnamed donor, wanting to support prairies in northwest Iowa, approached him and offered to help fund the prairie.

The process of sending the prairie began in 2007 and ended a year later. First, a crop of soybeans helped prepare the land and get rid of weeds. After tilling the land in the fall, a group of students and professors planted the seeds so everything could bloom in the spring. For the first year and a half, the prairie was mowed every few weeks to keep weeds from choking out the perennial plants.

What is the future of this iconic piece of Dordt?

Howard Wilson, Vice President and Chief Admin Officer of Dordt, said that the master plan showed a strong possibility of a road cutting through that area, but the plans are not concrete. He stressed that he project would be in the far future.

There are three possibilities for the location of the road: across the east side of the Prairie by the soccer fence, through the middle of the Prairie, or up the west side.

“We found that the community opinion, both the campus and community, was somewhat anxious about a middle way across the Prairie,” said Wilson. “At a certain point it may become necessary in the development of the campus, but our goal would be to make it as unobtrusive as possible.”

Rene Ewald, Sustainability Committee chair, said: “Honestly, I am a little disappointed [by plans to cut through the area]. The reason the Prairie holds so much value is because it is untouched and it is a place you can go to get away.”
Talking shop: Laremy De Vries of The Fruited Plain

Jonathan Jansen – Staff Writer

The Fruited Plain Café, owned and operated by local businessman and Dordt College alum Laremy De Vries, is a community center for many residents of Sioux Center. Opened in 2009, The Fruited Plain is approaching its 7th year of operation.

Last Thursday, an owner-cooked soups, baked croissants, and the famous paninis in The Fruited Plain’s kitchen, he opened up in conversation spanning a broad, eclectic range: from his Great Gatsby life, to trying to carve his Dordt’s Grille with Eric Van Wyk, Jake Van Wyk’s son. It was a cool gig – Dordt took 12% of our income in return for rent – but it’s not like any other gig you could get.

Along the ride, he revealed his thoughts on being an entrepreneur living in the world, and dealing with scam artists.

Can you give a quick summary of your post-grad journey?

Laremy De Vries: I graduated from Dordt in 2002 and started the Humble Bean coffee shop. That was the much “Frisbee Room” off of Dordt’s Grille with Eric Van Wyk, Jake Van Wyk’s son. It was a cool gig – Dordt took 12% of our income in return for rent – but it’s not like any other gig you could get.

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**World Cup of Hockey approaches**

**Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer**

Hockey is back! The World Cup of Hockey is here and ready to explode. This tournament may be the NHL’s own substitute for an event the size of the Olympics. However, unlike in the ancient games, NHL owners will make a profit off the tournament. This world tournament will also consist of only eight teams, as opposed to the many countries involved in the Olympics. World Cup teams include the USA, Canada, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Team North America and Team Europe.

Some may ask, “Who are Team North America and Team Europe?”

The two are made up of multiple countries. Team North America consists of North American players under the age of 23 who did not make their own country’s team due to their age. Team Europe tells a different story, as its bench is made up of multiple countries spread across Europe. These countries’ teams are usually beaten out by Europe’s other powerhouse teams.

Even as you read these words, the World Cup is coming down to its final days. Canada and Team Europe are the two teams still remaining, and they will soon play a best-of-three series. The tournament was a bust for Team USA - they couldn’t even win a game. The biggest surprise came from Team North America, who almost made it into the next round.

“Team North America really have been a great team to watch and I jumped on their band wagon as soon as the tournament started,” junior Adrian Visser said.

Unlike the surprises in the tournament, there is one continuing dominant factor - Team Canada, who pushed its way right into the final without breaking a sweat.

“I can’t believe for our women, we didn’t probably get our position quite as well as we did last year at the start of the race,” Head Coach Nate Wolf said. “I think we moved really well through the middle of the race, but we just had so much ground to make up.”

Freshman Erin Bandstra moved exceptionally well through the 6,000-meter race. Bandstra passed 53 women from the first thousand meters to the last thousand meters, finishing third for the Defenders.

“Erin Bandstra ran phenomenally,” Wolf said. “She ran incredibly, incredibly well.”

Lori Wolf, the team’s assistant coach and the wife of Nate Wolf, expressed her excitement through the middle of the race, but we just had so much ground to make up.”

“Am I excited?” said senior Levi Minderhoud. “Of course, but was I surprised that we made the finals? Not at all.”

The rest of the World Cup will conclude this week with games starting on Tuesday.

**Nonconference schedule preps Women’s Soccer for conference play**

**Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer**

Though Dordt College women’s soccer team has been playing matches for a month, the real season is now.

After a 4-3-1 run through the nonconference portion of the schedule, women’s soccer now hits the crucial portion of its schedule: the GPAC playoffs.

While the nonconference games count for the team’s overall record, the team’s conference record carries all the weight. This does not mean, however, that the nonconference schedule is insignificant.

“The record in [nonconference] does not mean much,” said Dordt women’s soccer coach Bill Egerstrom. “All of us are trying to figure out what we’ve done so far, and get ready for what we need to do to get to conference.”

For a team unlikely to make the NAIA national tournament, making the GPAC playoffs is an ultimate goal.

“I think people will underestimate us as we are young and inexperienced, but everyone has been doing their part to step up as well as they can,” said Dordt forward Natalie Sakuma. “I think playoffs are definitely realistic.”

With several new freshman inserted into the Dordt roster due to graduated seniors or injuries suffered, the nonconference schedule helps the team gain experience and work up to peak performance.

“We’ve had to learn how to work in more new players and freshmen than expected,” said Dordt forward Raquelle Mouw. “Progressively, we are getting better at working together as a unit, though, and I think our success is really evident.”

Learning to play a certain style of soccer collectively is priority number two.

“Learning to play high-pressure soccer for 90 minutes is an essential part of our success when we are on and our failure when we forget to concentrate,” Egerstrom said.

Dordt’s style of play includes high pressure and a high back line, both of which take energy and practice. The nonconference schedule gives Dordt the opportunity to smooth out the kinks so the team can head into conference play with confidence.

As conference games get underway, Dordt will soon find out if its preseason preparation will pay off.

**Bandstra and Drake impress at the Griak**

**Allison Young – Staff Writer**

The Dordt cross country squad battled masses of runners and a soggy, hilly golf course at their biggest meet of the year: The Roy Griak Invitational.

In spite of poor running conditions, the Defenders women placed 25th out of 40 teams in the NCAA Division II race, beating every NAIA school except for Morningside College.

The men’s team placed 26th out of 40 teams, finishing fourth to other teams in the GPAC conference.

“I think that for our women, we didn’t probably get our position quite as well as we did last year at the start of the race,” Head Coach Nate Wolf said. “I think we moved really well through the middle of the race, but we just had so much ground to make up.”

Caleb Drake, a senior transfer, competed for Dordt for the first time this season after running unattached at Grinnell and overcoming an injury prior to that.

“I told Coach before the start of the race, ’No going back here,’” Drake said. “ ’I felt good.’”

Drake didn’t waste any time moving to the front of the pack in the 8,000-meter race, jockeying for a top-ten position at several points in the race. He crossed the line 31st out of 453 finishers in the Division II race. Drake led the Dordt men, with Sam Wensink and Nick VanderKooi scoring in the second and third positions.

Even though Drake is new to Dordt, he’s a rookie to cross country. Ninth-place finisher in the 8,000-meter race, Drake is already using his experience to help lead and motivate the men’s team as they head into the final stretch of the season.

“I think we’re in a few different spots [mentally] on the guys’ team, so if we get a collective mindset going, I think we can go forward with the season a little better, and try to get ranked, and see what we can do,” Drake said.

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

After missing the GPAC playoffs last season, Dordt College men’s soccer is trying to return to the postseason, this time with plenty of new faces.

With anywhere from five to eight new starters in the lineup, Dordt will have to face new challenges before reaching the Promised Land. These new challenges include developing team chemistry, something that has not been easy in the past. But with concentrated efforts working on the field during practice and the nonconference schedule, the Defenders are moving in the right direction.

“Working out the kinks is something that is very important through these first few games,” said Dordt forward Alex Durbin. “It’s being able to find the right personnel and getting the right mix out there for the team, finding the best 11 to put out there that works together, works the hardest and is able to communicate well.”

Many of the players understand that their best shot at returning to the GPAC playoffs will come with teamwork and effort.

“We aren’t the most technically-sound team, but I think we make up for that in our work ethic and going out and giving 110 percent every game,” Durbin said. “Even then, it’s something we need to continue to work on and continue to improve.”

But don’t mistake Durbin’s comments for stating Dordt lacks talent. On Sept. 6, Durbin was named the NAIA Player of the Week and GPAC Men’s Soccer Offensive Player of the Week.

“It was definitely a cool experience, one you don’t get too often,” Durbin said. “So it was cool to have my name thrown out there with some of the best players in the nation. It’s an honor.”

Dordt’s senior performance and leadership is key this year. After losing several players to graduation, a handful of seniors have stepped up and filled those leadership roles within the team.

“Cody Van Holland has been a leader for us in that he is a coach on the field,” said Dordt men’s soccer coach Craig Stiemsma. “Alex Durbin also has contributed with creativity up front. A lot of guys have really contributed in a lot of different ways, most notably in practice work ethic.”

All the talent, effort and work ethic seems to be paying off.

Dordt traveled to NAIA No. 5 ranked Hastings on Sept. 24 and punched its ticket to the NAIA national tournament with a 2-1 win in overtime.

“We battled them hard and competed for a full 90 minutes,” said Dordt center back Nathan Van Peursem. “We compiled a collective effort offensively as a defensive and battling really well.”

If the Defenders continue to apply similar efforts through the full slate of GPAC matches, they will have more on their mind than making the GPAC playoffs.
Music in nature: Dordt hosts second “Arts in the Prairie” event
Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Imagine this: you’re walking through the Dordt Prairie, admiring the beautiful scenery. As the towering grasses and flowers sway in the breeze, something else catches your attention. It comes and goes with the varying force of the wind. Music.

Why would this be? Have the butterflies and birds suddenly learned how to play windwonds and sing? No, instead you’ve stumbled into Dordt’s 2nd annual “Arts in the Prairie” event, scheduled to be held on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The event began last year after a discussion between environmental studies professor Robert De Haan and Assistant Professor of Music John MacInnis. The two suggested hosting an event that combined the natural music of the Prairie with instrumental music. MacInnis is hopeful that this event will soon be a tradition.

This year, students, faculty, and community members alike can enjoy musicians, a poetry reading, a Prairie scavenger hunt, face painting and more. Refreshments will be provided. The event kicks off at 3 P.M. behind the BJ Haan Auditorium this Saturday, Oct. 1.

Ellen Dongah – Staff Writer

Me Before You is a controversial 2016 British movie based on a novel with the same title by Jojo Moyes. The controversy is caused by how this story handles death and physical disability. Most people - myself included - are bothered by the fact that (spoiler alert) the main disabled character dies so that his love interest can “live happily ever after.”

To be honest, most parts of the story are easy to follow up until when Lou reads a letter from Will saying that he has decided to end his life. The supposedly heartbreaking scene by the lake where Lou doesn’t address the real problem that this guy has. Will has a hard time accepting himself and does not want to cast the major roles in the play, and that made it possible for those individuals to get a leg up to it.

When school started in August, the group finally came together in one place and presented theater to each other. Rehearsals began the second week of school with a read-through, then blocking, character analysis, and more. One person can spend well over 200 hours on the show before opening night begins. The group now meets every Monday at 11am to prepare for a variety of shows and to receive professional feedback.

A final production is not pulled together in one night, but instead over many late nights and long days. In order to fully appreciate the experience, audience members should be aware that time on stage is the culmination of hours of creative work off-stage.

Luke Vodanovich – Staff Writer

An audience walks into a theater with the expectation of being entertained for a couple hours. More than that, though, dozens of hours were orchestrated overnight. They are instead a result of almost half-years’ worth of designing, creating and rehearsing.

Preparations for Dordt’s fall mainstage production Much Ado About Nothing, opening Oct. 1 at the BJ Haan Theater, started last April. The show was not announced until after design roles were distributed and sign-ups for auditions were posted towards the end of April. Josiah Wallace, director of Dordt’s Much Ado, said, “I actually had people audition last spring to cast the major roles in the play, and that made it possible for those individuals to get a leg up on their lines because they have a lot.”

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Q&A with featured athlete Jill Schouten

Clarissa Kraayenbrink – Staff Writer

Jill Schouten is a senior communications major from Sioux Center, IA. Schouten wears number “7” on the Dordt women’s volleyball team and plays libero/defensive specialist. After setting for two years and playing backrow last year, 2016 is her first year of playing libero.

Q: Why did you choose to attend Dordt?
JS: I chose Dordt because I’ve grown up around volleyball in middle school. When I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball when I started because I have a lot of opportunity to get to know people well and you recognize most people that you see. It’s not weird to say hi to people on your way to class because you know or recognize most of them. Just the opportunity to have a Christian education too is really a blessing and to have this Christian community for support and encouragement is a real blessing.

Q: What do you like about the Dordt community?
JS: I switched to being a back-row player because my older sisters played. I can’t really remember exactly when I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball in middle school.

Q: What is your leadership role on the team?
JS: I started playing volleyball because my older sisters played. I can’t really remember exactly when I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball in middle school.

Q: Why did you choose to attend Dordt?
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Q: If you could give advice to freshmen, what advice would you give?
JS: I started playing volleyball because my older sisters played. I can’t really remember exactly when I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball in middle school.

Q: What do you want to do with your major when you graduate?
JS: I started playing volleyball because my older sisters played. I can’t really remember exactly when I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball in middle school.

Q: What transitions do you think are the most challenging in your role on the team?
JS: I started playing volleyball because my older sisters played. I can’t really remember exactly when I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball in middle school.

Q: When I graduate, I hope to just apply for some jobs in a variety of places. But eventually I would hope to go to grad school, maybe take classes online and get my Master’s while I’m working. And then possibly teach at a college level or coach at a college level.

Q: Why did you choose Dordt because I’ve grown up around volleyball in middle school. When I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball when I started because I have a lot of opportunity to get to know people well and you recognize most people that you see. It’s not weird to say hi to people on your way to class because you know or recognize most of them. Just the opportunity to have a Christian education too is really a blessing and to have this Christian community for support and encouragement is a real blessing.

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