
Pro Rege

Volume 11 | Number 2

Article 10

December 1982

Presidential Inaugural

James Koldenhoven

Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Koldenhoven, James (1982) "Presidential Inaugural," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 11:

No. 2, 32 - 33.

Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol11/iss2/10

This Incidentally is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

Philosophy Department and member of the Study Center. Van Dyk presented a lecture which attempted to answer an earlier question raised: "What kinds of relationships can the Arts Division and the English Department foster with the other academic disciplines?" This lecture, as well as the work of the entire seminar, reflected a cherished (but often neglected) aspect of academics at Dordt College: communal scholarship.

On the final day, then president-elect, Dr. John B. Hulst presented a lecture on the relationships that the arts can have with college supporters. The idea of the seminar was initiated by Hulst earlier in the year as the first in a series of six such seminars, one for each division. The Natural Sciences Division will hold a similar seminar in May

1983.

A number of resolutions were adopted by members of the seminar. Several resolutions affirm the importance of interaction between and among departments, and the importance to artists on campus to examine critically and to support each other in their work. Other resolutions seek to extend the work of the artists to their supporting public and to solicit the public's support in a mutual acknowledgement of the place of the arts in the human, Christian context.

This reporter found the seminar a very stimulating, exhausting, helpful experience directly applicable to his work in the arts and in arts education.

Mike Stair

Presidential Inaugural

On October 23, 1982, Dr. John B. Hulst was invested as the second president of Dordt College. His predecessor, now emeritus, was The Reverend Bernard J. Haan, who was instrumental in the founding of Dordt College in 1955.

Dr. Hulst came to the presidency by way of Instructor in Biblical Theology, Dean of Students, Vice-President of Student Affairs, and, most recently, as Director of the Studies Institute at Dordt College. Earlier, while pastor of local congregations, Hulst had also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Dordt College. Except for three years, 1965-1968, Hulst has been a resident of Sioux County since 1954 when he became pastor of the Ireton Christian Reformed Church. Dr. Hulst also came to the presidency by way of a lengthy presidential search process conducted during the past year and a half. His duties as president began in June of this year.

The Inaugural Ceremony included a procession of the Dordt faculty and administration, the Dordt Student Forum, the Board of Trustees, a contingency of

representatives from learned societies and educational associations, delegates of churches and related organizations, representatives of thirty-five colleges and universities, and representatives of government. Greetings were given by various spokespersons. Gregg Vande Kieft, speaking for the student body, cited Hulst's willingness to give the forum direction and asked that President Hulst continue to demonstrate his keen interest in the life of the student body. Mr. John Kooiman, an alumnus of 1970 and now guidance counselor at Unity Christian High School, praised Rev. Haan for his leadership in Christian education and invested Hulst with a similar dedication. The Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Douglas Ribbens, sounded the note of progression, that the new president did not mean a change in direction or the beginning of a new era, but a progressive extension of Dordt's stated purpose. Rev. Edward J. Knott invested Hulst with the responsibility of being "a bridge between the church and school." And speaking last, Dr. Friedhelm Radandt of Northwestern

College, Orange City, Iowa, represented the academic community. His call was for Hulst's leadership among peers dedicated to quality Christian higher education.

The ceremony of investiture was led by Dr. Arnold J. Boeve, the President of the Board of Trustees. To his question, "Dr. Hulst, do you accept this office and all that it entails, and do you promise to do all in your power to execute its responsibilities faithfully?" Dr. Hulst responded: "I do, before God and these witnesses." The formal investiture completed, President Hulst addressed the audience of about one thousand. His address, "A Place for Dordt College?" appears in this issue of *Pro Rege*.

Other features of this festive occasion included a litany of inauguration and a new choral work, "Song of Hope," by Dale Grotenhuis, commissioned for the occasion. The choral work, based on Lamentations

3:20-26, was sung by the Dordt Concert Choir under the direction of Grotenhuis.

After a public reception, guests and friends of the Hulst family were invited to a banquet where those present were entertained with music by the Music Department and a short fiction piece, "Prophet with a Cane," read by its author, James C. Schaap, of the Dordt English Department. Mike Vanden Bosch, of the same department, read "The Road We Travel," a sonnet written for the occasion and appearing with this report in *Incidentally*. After the banquet all were invited to attend a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*, an American musical produced by the Theatre Arts Department of Dordt College. "Tradition," the theme of *Fiddler*, seemed appropriate to the occasion, and the musical a fitting way to end a day of celebration.

James Koldenhoven

This is the inaugural poem written in honor of Dr. John B. Hulst for his inauguration on October 23, 1982.

The Road We Travel

Let me not on this highway high and dry
Scream, "Slippery path! The road's as soft as chalk."
Let me not kill merriment by cry-
-ing Joshua-like, "Choose now which way you'll walk!"
But on this road of gold let's sing for John
The Baptist on desert paths eating bugs.
Let's blow a horn for Paul on foot, in storm-
tossed ship, and whipped by cruel pagan thugs.
While all the peals of present joys fulfill
The ache to celebrate, let's not forget
What cross on shoulders bare was lugged uphill,
What stakes made firm our road that's seldom wet.
We sing, "Thanks be to God," and surely should:
We ride on roads the saints have built with blood.

Mike Vanden Bosch
October, 1982