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Dordt College

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THE VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

FALL 2006

VOLUME 52

NUMBER 1

“
The lab
makes possible
a new video
production
program and
the teaching of
animation.”
”



Graphic design students Elbert Bakker and Heather Link confer with alums Randy Groen and Kevin Wassenaar, employees at Central Minnesota Christian School, about a website the students are developing for the school as part of a service-learning project.



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as a Christian
working in
foreign policy

New digital studio benefits several departments

Sally Jongsma

Even after fall classes had started, the tweaking continued in the new digital media studio in the lower level of the computer center. Equipped with both Macs and PCs, loaded with AVID video editing software, After Effects animation software, and Sibelius music composition software, the facility will host classes in video production, graphic design, digital sound, and technology for educators. The lab makes possible a new video production program in the communication department and the teaching of animation in the art department.

Sitting in the new studio, Art Professor David Versluis explains, “It is fairly unique to have a cross-platform lab. Normally Macs and PCs are in separate areas.” But this arrangement is ideal for his classes. Since all computers run the same software, his students learn to work on both types of computers, better preparing them for diverse work environments when they graduate.

“It might make more headaches for Rich, though,” Versluis says with a grin and a glance at Rich Haan from computer services, who is working on a glitch in the projection system.

See page 2 for a look at how the lab will help launch new career opportunities.

Haan smiles a slow warm smile and replies, “It’s fun.”

That kind of cooperation and spirit of service are a big part of the story behind the studio, says Communication Professor Mark Volkers. Volkers, a faculty member who will use the studio, credits the maintenance and computer services departments with helping make this lab into what he believes is one of the top college and university digital multi-media labs in the nation. Volkers and Versluis worked closely with staff cabinet maker Paul Kroese in designing a custom-made teaching podium that feeds all of the media through a finely-crafted wood structure, putting control at the instructor’s fingertips with the flip of a few switches.

Staff electrician Brian Mellema customized the wiring to allow the instructors to set up the stations based on what they believe works best for teaching, not where it was easiest to plug things in. He also installed a new lighting system that gives instructors control

over the amount and type of light that is most appropriate for computer-focused work.

Computer services staff pulled miles of Ethernet cable, ordered and installed the computers and software, and hooked up all of the pieces that will make the studio an efficient, practical, and state-of-the-art space for learning.

The thing that puts the studio in the “one of the top in the country” category is the new multi-media server that connects all of the technology in the room.

“There are schools with more media stations than we have, but most don’t have them networked,” says Volkers. Networking makes a huge difference. Students in video production or graphic design or composition class do not have to store their work on a computer and use only that computer—when it is available—when they need to work. Instead they can access their file from any of the stations at any time. What is more, Versluis and Volkers can bring up samples of any student’s work and put it on the screen at the front of the room for class interaction and discussion. Or Volkers can load an hour’s worth of film footage for classroom instruction in one hour instead of ten hours—one hour for each machine plus one for the instructor’s station. And all work is backed-up on daily.

Some things never change

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

The aim of our college is to give young people an education that is Christian, not merely in the sense that devotional exercises are appended to the ordinary work of the college, but in the larger and deeper sense that all the class work, all the students' intellectual, emotional, and imaginative activities shall be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity."

Those words were first written seventy years ago by a group of Christians who set out to establish a Christian college in Iowa. Twenty years later that effort finally took root with the establishment of Dordt College. Yet those words from almost three quarters of a century ago reveal both insight and foresight. In the midst of the bleakest aftermath of the Great Depression those folks articulated the broad vision of a comprehensive biblically-informed higher education that is still valid today. I think that's astounding.

What is even more amazing to me is the realization that you wouldn't have to change a word of that statement to describe the ongoing mission of Dordt College today. Some things never change. And in this case, I think that's good.

The comprehensive mission articulated

at Dordt's founding still sets us apart from all but a relative handful of the more than 3000 institutions of higher education in North America today. Among those institutions, you would be hard pressed to find ten percent who would even want to be known as explicitly Christ-centered institutions. Bold statements about having the "spirit and teaching of Christianity" infuse our institution may be an old-fashioned way of saying it. In fact, it may make Dordt College (and others who share this same commitment) seem rather odd.

Yet at Dordt College we believe it is still relevant, and we take that mandate seriously. We ask the questions: How can we shape both coursework and dorm life by Christian principles? How should our plays, musical performances, art displays, and athletic contests be filled with the "spirit and teaching of Christianity"?

Obviously the way we talk about things has changed somewhat in the past seven decades. Our newest mission statement says it like this. As a college our aim is to become the kind of place where "discipleship

becomes a practiced way of life both on and off the campus."

And we mean that comprehensively. "Discipleship" doesn't just mean a solid devotional life, great as that may be. True biblically shaped "discipleship" means conforming every aspect of our lives to the word of the Lord—and to do so both in our curriculum and in every co-curricular aspect of college life as well.

Sometimes people wonder whether a residential college is just a high priced summer camp. My answer is that, if it is, it's probably not worth the investment of time and money that it requires. A Christian campus experience, as it

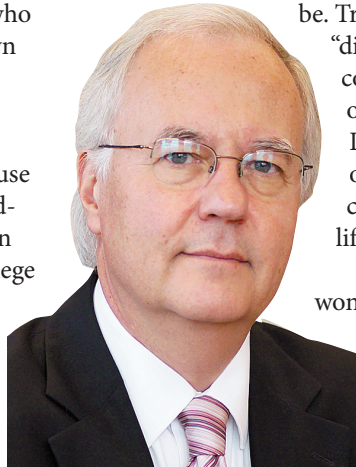
comes to expression at Dordt College, can better be compared to a four-year intensive training camp designed to prepare you for a lifetime of serving God's kingdom in every aspect of your lives. If so, then as the MasterCard ad says, that's "priceless."

Has Dordt College changed over the past half century? Obviously it has—and it should. The way in which we carry out our mission needs to change with the times

and the challenges. Our vision for the way a biblically Reformed college takes shape will be as different today from the mid-twentieth century as our homes, cars, businesses, music, entertainment, communication media, and all the rest of our culture in the 21st century differ from the 1950s.

At the same time, some things never change—and they shouldn't. At Dordt College, our purpose, our goal, and our mission remain the same: that all students who enter our college will confront an environment where not only each of their classes but also every aspect of their intellectual, emotional, and imaginative life on campus will be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity. Building a college that expresses that commitment has taken a lot of time, prayer, and money. But it's also been worth everything we have put into it if, in the end, the mission is maintained and our students leave here committed to discipleship that has become for them a practiced way of life, both while they were on our campus and in Christ's broader kingdom for years to come once they leave.

Indeed, some things never change. And when it's our pursuit of our biblical mission that hasn't changed, then surely at Dordt College we have to be sure that God alone gets all the glory.



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

Studio serves as tool for launching new careers

The new digital multi-media studio on Dordt's campus not only sets the stage for new teaching and learning opportunities for Dordt College students but also for new career opportunities for Dordt College graduates.

The lab makes it possible for the communication department to begin offering its new emphasis in film and video production. Communication Professor Mark Volkers, an experienced filmmaker, was hired last year to begin such an emphasis. The first courses in production are currently being offered in the new lab.

The studio/lab has nine networked stations loaded with AVID software, the industry standard for professional film editing. Although Volkers admits that there is a fairly steep learning curve to become proficient in the program, he says it is well worth it. The software allows the user to quickly and easily grab sections of film and place them on a timeline to build a video. Screens show the raw footage at the same time as the selected pieces on the timeline. Multiple video and audio tracks allow the user to cut from one clip to another, dissolve to a new scene, add music, background sound, special effect sounds, and more.

AVID is available in several different packages, but all build on the same operating process. The version Volkers will use is about mid-range. "But students could be hired at a professional studio with a top of the line version and be able to work with it immediately," he says.

The move to introduce animation into Dordt's graphic design program is closely tied to the introduction of the video production

On the Web

To read about and watch the projects from the first annual Prairie Grass Productions 48 Hour Film Challenge, go to www.dordt.edu/filmchallenge

program. Volkers wanted his students to use moving type, morphed images, and animated sequences, so he talked with Art Professor David Versluis about what it would take to introduce students to animation.

"The growth areas in graphic design are in web design and animation," says Versluis. The new studio gives him the technology to pursue these emphases, which likely will also draw students to his major.

"Students are smart. They know where things are going; they are very attuned to digital media," Versluis adds. His students will work with animation on a beginning level, learning how to create moving type and type that will transform into something new.

Digital technology opens up a powerful medium through which to communicate and influence people, says Versluis. Students often enroll in these programs because they are enamored with the "cool" things they can do. It sometimes takes a little time to help them see the challenge it presents to them as Christians—to see the impact they can have for good and bad depending on how they use it.

"Graphics and film have great impact on

most people, whether they admit it or not," says Versluis.

"What I'm excited about is the opportunity to teach students who are also taking a broad range of other courses so they see how complex and interconnected the world is," he says. He believes that a broad general education humanizes the study of digital medium by giving students content and a context in which to say something important as they work in graphic design and film.

"I'm excited about creating a marriage of marketable skills and reformational perspective," adds Volkers. "I want to put out technically-trained graduates who know how to think." He believes that Dordt College is a good place to do that. He, too, admits that what often draws is the "cool" factor, but he believes that by taking the range of core courses Dordt students do, they can learn how to make a difference in the world of film and be able to contribute something valuable.

One of the ways he gets his students to approach their work in this way is through reading and discussion of books such as *Behind the Screen*, a book about Christians involved in the entertainment industry. He wants students to think about how they can use film and video to do and say something worthwhile—to create films that grow out of their Christian understanding of the world and their place in it.

"Anyone can go to a trade school

Students in the communication, art, and music departments will use the networked multi-media lab located in the lower level of the computer center.

and learn to push buttons," he says. But good filmmakers need more. He believes Dordt can provide that something more.

The communication department's introduction to video course is just beginning, and conversations are already happening about what it would take to offer a digital media production major. Volkers sees it involving majors from across campus: communication, art, theatre arts, English, and business. Students with such a major could create documentaries or work for television; they could set up their own shop producing ads or corporate training videos; they could look for jobs in Hollywood or in advertising agencies; they could become directors, cameramen, writers or grips in the film industry and, through it all, make an impact on culture.

"In a time when so much of the media we consume is full of empty calories, it's time to start training people who can produce content worth consuming. Dordt is ready for the challenge."





St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest was just one of many amazingly beautiful, large, and old churches the band members visited.

Band ends its year in Europe

Rachel De Smith ('09)

For members of the Dordt College Concert Band, the dictionary definition of the word "hospitality" came to life this summer. "The act or practice of being hospitable; the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers, with **liberality and goodwill**" was exactly what forty-two members of the Concert Band experienced on our amazing trip to the countries of Hungary, Romania, and Austria. Throughout the sixteen-day trip we were shown many striking instances of people who followed Peter's injunction to "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" and "use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of **God's grace** in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:9-10)

Our trip began with long flights and lines. By the time we got to Budapest, we were exhausted. As we trudged through the airport, dragging suitcases and instruments, we were met by a short woman with curly red hair and a huge smile—and we were welcomed. Marta was an excellent—and hilarious—tour guide. She made us laugh even as we were groggy from the time-change and our teeth needed brushing, as we headed in the opposite direction from our hotel to see the sights before we ate or slept. Marta was our first hospitable Hungarian, welcoming us with pride and humor to her country.

Another welcome awaited us. Gáspár, our bus driver, had a smile equally as large as Marta's and a nature just as welcoming. He loved to have fun and spend time with us, and as the trip went on, he became our most valuable asset. (A man who can parallel park a bus and trailer in the narrow streets of European cities is *not* to be taken lightly.) His calm assurance in the face of whatever happened—bus breakdowns, accidents, lost people, forgotten instruments, long bathroom lines, rain—made us feel safe and accepted. Hospitality, "liberality and goodwill," has no better true expression.

Our band played six concerts in various



 On the Web

Go to www.dordt.edu/bandtour for the tour in pictures

parts of Hungary and Romania, interspersed with days of sightseeing. In many places we were definitely tourists; however, in the places where we gave concerts, especially those where we stayed in host homes (the cities of Gyula, Magyarlona, and Papa), the welcome was overwhelming.

In a little town called Magyarlona, we were the first band ever to visit, and the people didn't know what to expect from us. But music did there what it does everywhere: brought us together in appreciation of it and one another. Nowhere was our audience's appreciation (and ours of them) clearer than in the Hungarian national anthem, a moving hymn which speaks of the suffering of their people. When we played this song at the end of our concert, everyone stood up to sing with such reverence that I found tears in my eyes. They cried too—grown men and women weeping because of a foreign band playing the slow chords of a song they loved; that

moment, recurring at each concert, was a hallmark of our experience.

After our concerts, the churches and host families fed us well and toasted us with strong drink. The families found places for two, four, or more college kids to sleep in their small homes and gave us chocolate and trinkets in addition to the enormous lunches they packed for us. They talked to us—whether we could understand or not—and when we left, they hugged and kissed us as if we were their own children. One church even called us a week later to make sure we were doing well.

The time came, after all those concerts and two "relaxing" days in Vienna, to say farewell to Europe, to Marta and Gáspár, and to each other—and it was difficult to do. Had we made such a trip elsewhere, we would surely have been welcomed, but the openness and giving of our Christian brothers and sisters in Hungary and Romania were unique in my experience. Though the people we stayed with were not wealthy, we were given the best of everything. We were loved unconditionally; to borrow a phrase from 1 Peter, we were shown grace.

Looking at photos from the trip, I find that some of the best pictures are from our home stays. They inevitably contain some American college kids and a Hungarian family of various ages and sizes, sitting on a couch or around a table, sometimes standing by a wall or bus. The best part is that, try as I might, I can't tell which smiles are bigger—the ones on the faces of the receivers or the hospitable givers.



Jason Wyenberg, Ashley Kasper, Marcel Visser, and photographer Rachel De Smith enjoyed a hearty breakfast with their hostess (second left), as is evident in this photo taken in Magyarlona, Romania.

Dordt College enrollment up this year

Four hundred new students joined returning students for opening day at Dordt College, raising the college's enrollment to 1330 undergraduate and graduate students for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Opening day enrollment figures showed a twelve-student increase over last year's class for a total of 348 first-year students. In addition to the new class, fifty-two upperclass students transferred to or restarted classes at Dordt College this fall.

A record high first-year-to-sophomore retention rate was recorded this year, with over eighty-nine percent of last year's first-year students returning to Dordt College for the 2006-2007 academic year.

"Each year we add special degree options, and each year more students discover that this college is the one that is best equipped to meet and exceed their specific educational and career needs," said Dr. Carl E. Zylstra, president of Dordt College. Currently over fifty programs of study are offered at the college, including a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree, and a new two-year engineering technology degree option. New emphases have also been added in the area of biotechnology.

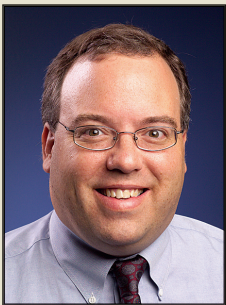
De Stigter awarded ASME Scholarship

Jason De Stigter, a senior engineering and business administration major at Dordt College, has been selected to receive an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Foundation Scholarship.

"The scholarship selection committee of ASME's Center for Education considered many outstanding applicants and selected Jason on the basis of his excellent academic record, financial need, and potential contribution to the field of engineering," said Thomas J. Perry, ASME Director of Education and Professional Development.

Psychology department makes changes to its major

Five years ago the psychology department moved from a one-track to a two-track major, one for those interested in going to graduate school and one for those who want to immediately work in human services. This year, following their five-year program review, they are moving back to a one-track major.



Hitchcock

“We found that those who had taken the graduate school track were doing well in the workplace even if they decided to do that instead, while those who went into human services positions and later decided they wanted to go back to school wished they had taken some other courses,” says Dr. Danny Hitchcock, chair of the department. “We feel this change offers the best education to our students.”

The change comes as a result of what is known on campus as program review, a periodic assessment of each department’s program to make sure that it offers the best education it can to its students.

“It forced us to look back at what we were doing and why, as well as what we should be doing and how we could do things better,” says Hitchcock.

Although three new courses were added, they will not significantly increase the size of the major, says Hitchcock. After some credit adjustments to other courses, the new major will be three hours larger: an additional one-credit lab to accompany the statistics course which will focus on the specialized SPSS software program used for social science research; a one-credit ethics seminar that will look specifically on how Christian responsibility relates to accepted secular ethical standards; and a two-credit tests and measurement course that will help students be better able to administer and use psychological tests.

Dordt women start club lacrosse team

Heather S. Riblet

Dordt’s “unofficial” women’s lacrosse team plans to go “official” this year. Student coaches Kyla Jameson and Jackie Miedema say the team would like to soon join the Central Plains Women’s Lacrosse League (CPWLL).

While the girls are eager to show off their game, they’ve been practicing for only one year.

Last fall when Jameson arrived on campus, she was “determined to make lacrosse happen for girls.” Having three years of high school lacrosse experience, she says, “I wanted to play in college very badly.” After putting up flyers, she was able to obtain club status and draw partial financial support from the Student Activities Committee (SAC).

The team has used the fall and spring seasons for practicing, spending six hours a week on the field. Many of the team members are new to the sport, and special attention is given to practicing footwork and cradling skills, improving hand-eye coordination, developing finesse, and learning the game.

“Practices are going strong,” Miedema says. “The girls are very excited and alive. They love this sport, and they love learning new concepts and skills, too.”

Compared to traditional college athletics, club sports are not easy to keep alive. The women’s lacrosse team is entirely student



Lacrosse has gained an avid following at Dordt College in the past several years. Most students have never played before college, but they soon develop a passion for the game.

run, and the majority of financial support comes from outside the college. Throughout the semester, the team will be holding “tip nights” at the Pizza Ranch, raising money for travel, league dues, jerseys, team equipment, referee fees, and games.

Once adequate funding is met, the team plans to sign up with CPWLL. “When—hopefully—we join the league this fall, we will be scheduled for games in the spring,” says Megan Moore, the team’s secretary. League status will allow the girls a chance

Men’s lacrosse

The men’s lacrosse team has also begun practice, even though their official season does not begin until the spring semester. Team spokesperson, Josh Harmelink, says the team plays twice during the fall semester, at a weekend of exhibition games in St. Louis, where lacrosse teams and clubs from across the country meet, and at Parents’ Weekend.

The men’s team, which is also a club sport at Dordt, includes twenty-eight players who pay \$120 per year to play, in addition to supplying their own stick. Most have never played lacrosse before coming to college.

“It’s pretty physical and challenging, but we’ve been pretty competitive,” says Harmelink. Each year they’ve played, the team has advanced to the playoffs before being eliminated.

to play against college teams like Creighton, Nebraska, Cornell, and Kansas State.

“At least two of the other teams in the league are also club teams,” Jameson says. Many clubs teams are able to match their skills with college teams.

For this fall, the women’s team will continue to hone its skills and practice maneuvers, hoping their fast-paced game and fancy footwork will draw the crowds once games start.

Moore says, “We hope that as the sport and our team develop we will be able to receive more support and become fully integrated into the club-sport scene.”

Programs in Christian Vocation project awarded grant

Jane Ver Steeg

Dordt College’s Program in Christian Vocation, which was funded five years ago with a \$2 million Lilly Endowment Inc. grant, has now been awarded a \$500,000 matching funds renewal grant from the same organization. The program challenges students to integrate their faith with their vocational calling.

Dordt College is one of only thirty colleges awarded Lilly Endowment renewal grants this year, funded through Lilly’s Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV) initiative.

At Dordt College, a key component of the “Programs in Christian Vocation” project inaugurated in 2002 has been an introductory course called “Kingdom, Identity, and Calling.” This general education course places the entire freshman class into groups of about fourteen, each mentored during their first semester of college by a

faculty member or staff person. In the small group setting, students have the opportunity to discuss, role-play, problem-solve, write journals, and reflect on how to become what God has called them to be. Each student also meets one-on-one with their mentor at least five times during their first semester of college.

“The PTEV grant has helped our college to work out innovative and improved ways of helping our students discover their calling,” said Dr. John Kok, Dordt’s Programs in Christian Vocation project director. In addition to the first year seminar, other programs funded by the grant include:

- An enhanced youth ministries program (five new courses and expanded ministry practicums) yielding an increase in theology majors, youth ministry emphases, and pre-seminary majors since 2002;
- The Kuyper Scholars Program, which goes beyond the traditional Grade

Point Average (GPA) honors list to identify students who exhibit a passion for learning and leadership and provide them with additional independent learning opportunities and scholarship funding;

- Student assistance for seminary and graduate school visits, career exploration, and summer ministry. Since 2003, Lilly funding has allowed more than 100 students to visit seminaries, graduate schools, or career seminars;
 - An alumni online community, which allows alumni to network with other alumni regarding changes in careers, addresses, or families. Since becoming operational three years ago the online community is utilized by nearly eighteen percent of Dordt alumni.
- The grant and matching funds contributed by Dordt College will be used to cover costs of these programs through 2010.

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Dordt's engineering program re-accredited by ABET

Jane Ver Steeg

Following an extensive on-campus program review and evaluation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the engineering program at Dordt College has been granted continued accreditation status by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. Dordt College is one of only a handful of Christian colleges that has been granted accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.

Accreditation is a voluntary process of peer review which verifies that a program meets specific educational standards. Graduates from ABET accredited programs are able to immediately begin the process of certification as a licensed professional engineer by taking the nationally administered Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam. Since initial accreditation, all of Dordt's engineering students who have taken the FE Exam in their senior year have passed the certification exam on their first try. This is well above the national average pass rate for ABET accredited engineering institutions.

"The process of ABET review is a great deal of work, but the results are encouraging. Achieving continued accreditation tells us that students in our program are receiving an excellent engineering education," said Dr. Ethan Brue, engineering professor and department chair. "While I believe it is also valuable for prospective students and parents



Dr. Ethan Brue is grateful for the ABET accreditation, but he is particularly passionate about preparing engineers to develop a Christian perspective that will help them set priorities as they enter their careers.

On the Web

For more information about the engineering program at Dordt College, see <http://www.dordt.edu/academics/departments/engineering/>

to have a national engineering accreditation body review our program and reaffirm that the program is achieving its goals and

outcomes, our best assessment is when we hear back from alumni who appreciate not only the engineering preparation they received at Dordt, but also the Christian perspective that was developed during their years in the program."

Dordt College has offered an ABET accredited Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.S.E.) degree since 1991. Students pursuing this degree are able to choose a mechanical, electrical, civil-environmental, computer, or biomedical area of concentration.

STAFF PROFILE

Barb Mellema heads annual fund

Barb Mellema graduated from Dordt as a non-traditional student in 2003 and went on with her life in Sioux Center, but she missed the energy and intensity of the students she'd been sharing classes with for years. As a businessperson and longtime supporter of Dordt College, she's seen how the college benefits both the local and the broader community. When the position of Director of the Annual Fund came open last year, she was open to a change.

As the new director, Mellema is responsible for the annual phonathon, which raises money for the college's Annual Fund, for alumni scholarships, and for debt reduction. She also calls on local businesses to raise the financial support needed for an institution like Dordt College to survive and thrive. It's easy for her to do, because her experience and longtime relationship with the institution has convinced her that Dordt College has something valuable to offer.

As the supervisor of student callers for the phonathon, Mellema sets three goals before her student callers. She tells them their job is

- to stay in contact with people,
- to answer questions and talk with them about the institution, and
- to raise the funds needed to keep Dordt College a financially healthy institution.

She tells them, "Raising the funds is



Barb Mellema

absolutely crucial, but it is number three on the priority list."

While Mellema's work is essential for the college, she also sees it as contributing to the education of the students who work for her.

"I ask myself, 'What does Dordt's mission look like for what we do with this phonathon,'" she says. "How does what we do help prepare them for a life of serving God in all areas of their lives?"

One of the ways Mellema believes

her callers grow is in their personal communication skills.

"The kids need to have a smile in their voice," she says. She encourages them to treat people warmly and respectfully but unashamedly because they believe in the cause they're working for.

They also learn something else that may be even more important.

"They develop a sense of history and commitment by talking to people who sat in some of the same classes and desks as they are doing now, learning how they have benefited from their Dordt education," she says. "Students love talking to alumni."

The callers also see how people give back, and how concretely they are benefiting from the gifts of those who have gone before them.

"It helps them see a bigger picture—that college is not just about taking classes and fulfilling requirements to get a good job, but also about preparing for living after college." They learn what it is to be generous and stewardly.

Mellema hopes that the alumni, parents, and friends who receive calls consider not only how they can financially support the college, but also how they are contributing to that student's education—since they do, whether they are aware of it or not. She hopes you'll take the time to talk with them and let them tell you about the education they are receiving as well.

Athletic Awards

Athletic Awards for the 2005-06 school year

Athletic awards are announced during the summer, after our summer issue of the Voice goes to print. Following are the awards for the 2005-2006 year.

Men's Soccer

Ryan Coon 1st Team All-GPAC, 1st Team All-NAIA Region III, All-American Honorable Mention

Mike Oppeneer 2nd Team All-GPAC

Andrew Dunham 2nd Team All-GPAC

Bryan Burgers NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Aaron Faber NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Women's Soccer

Bill Elgersma GPAC Coach of the Year

Suzanne Clark 1st Team All-GPAC, 1st Team All-NAIA Region III, NAIA 3rd Team All-American, NAIA Region III player of the year.

Callie Christensen 1st Team All-GPAC, 1st Team All-NAIA Region III, All-American Honorable Mention

Nicki De Blaey 1st Team All-GPAC

Heather Otten NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Karissa Phelps NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Abbie Soodma NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Volleyball

Tom Van Den Bosch GPAC Coach of the Year

Tara De Boer 1st Team All-GPAC, 1st Team All-NAIA Region III, NAIA 2nd Team All-American, GPAC player of the year, NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Emily Van Voorst 1st Team All-GPAC, 1st Team All-NAIA Region III, All-American Honorable Mention

Jill Haan 1st Team All-GPAC, 2nd Team All-NAIA Region III

Lindsey Van Wyk 2nd Team All-GPAC, NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Cross-Country

Chelsea Gerdes 1st Team All-GPAC

Tim Eisenga 1st Team All-GPAC

Men's Basketball

Luke Ruter 1st Team All-GPAC, NAIA 3rd Team All-American

Brandon Haan 2nd Team All-GPAC

Women's Basketball

Tara De Boer NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Lindsey Van Wyk NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Kathryn Ferrie NAIA Scholar-Athlete

Jill Haan 2nd Team All-GPAC

Dordt College makes U.S. News 2007 Best College list

For the 14th year running, Dordt College was named as a top Midwest College in *U.S. News and World Report's* annual list of "America's Best Colleges."

This year Dordt College was number eleven in a listing of seventy-three comprehensive colleges awarded the "best" designation. The Comprehensive Colleges category consists of institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in both the liberal arts and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education.

The president of Dordt College, Dr. Carl E. Zylstra, noted two key factors that affected the ranking: a student to faculty ratio of 13 to 1 and nearly half (forty-five percent) of alumni annually making a donation to the college. Because of these gifts Dordt is able to provide ninety-eight percent of students with financial aid.

"The alumni support received at Dordt College is a strong affirmation that our graduates were blessed by their years spent here. Their annual gifts to the college help to pass that blessing on to future generations," said Zylstra.

U.S. News annually gathers data from each college for up to fifteen indicators of academic excellence. Each factor is assigned a weight that reflects their judgment about how much a measure matters. Finally, the colleges in each category are ranked against their peers, based on their composite weighted score. Key factors include student retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance, and alumni giving rate.



Undergrads work with grad student teachers

Sally Jongsma

Professor Pat Kornelis is always looking for ways to help her students see that assignments aren't empty exercises but practical tools for teaching. So she decided to have students in her middle school educational psychology class collaborate with practicing teachers to plan lessons that use "differentiated instruction" as a way to better teach children with different readiness levels, learning styles, and interests.

The idea for the collaboration came to Kornelis after teaching a graduate level educational psychology class in which her students were also planning differentiated instructional activities. Since three of the graduate students taught middle school at Sioux Center Christian School, she asked if they would be willing to collaborate with her undergraduate students so they could create units for a real class, using lessons currently being taught. The teachers agreed.

Differentiated instruction is not a new concept and may be seen by some as simply another fad in the profession. But Kornelis believes that the concept upon which it is based—recognizing that students don't follow the same "road map" to learning and therefore allowing some differing of content, some differing ways of learning the content, and accepting differing products to illustrate the learning to assure that all students do learn—helps teachers do what they say they believe: teach to the needs of children who are unique image bearers of God.

"I believe strongly that this approach is so compatible with what we believe but don't always practice," says Kornelis. "In our schools we say that children are unique image bearers of God, but we often teach them all the same way."

In her educational psychology course for middle school teachers, Kornelis shares current brain and motivation research with her students to help them understand who middle school children are and what makes them different from elementary or high school students. But no two students are exactly alike. Treating and teaching them differently requires teachers to be more aware of their students' gifts and needs, and it requires flexibility.

The differentiated instruction model assumes that material taught is important, inviting, and thoughtful and that all students should be able to do meaningful and interesting work, regardless of the assignment, the approach, or their skill level.

To meet the needs of different types of learners who are at different points in their learning, Kornelis says, teachers need to vary the way they group students and be continually assessing their progress—which is why Kornelis was so eager to have her students working with real classroom curricula and teachers who were also trying to implement such strategies.

Dave Mulder ('98) the middle school science teacher at Sioux Center Christian School and a member of her graduate class, became Kornelis's primary contact, coordinating the effort from the teachers' side.

"The undergraduate students were able to gain some practical insight into the workings



Dave Mulder ('98), a science teacher at Sioux Center Christian School, was paired with future science teachers to give them a real classroom and curriculum to begin with as they planned activities.

of a junior high classroom," he says, adding that they also were able to experience some of the "team" aspect of teaching in the middle grades they learn about in their classes.

His enthusiasm for and commitment to developing learning activities was helpful to both Kornelis and her students. The undergraduates were paired with a teacher in their area of specialty. They met with the teacher to choose a specific unit that would be taught that year. In that way Kornelis hoped that the time teachers spent working with her students would be partially offset by concrete lessons plans that they could use or adapt from her students. And she wanted her students to learn from classroom teachers what they wanted their students to know and do for that particular unit.

"In the past when I asked them to create such units, there was no sense of real buy-in," says Kornelis.

The undergrads met with their partner teachers to talk not only about possible units, but also to get a sense of what the students needed to know and do as a result of the unit. Building on that discussion, they crafted a plan that was then shared with the whole class, who asked questions, offered critique, and gleaned ideas from each other. They then reworked the units and passed them on to the teachers at Sioux Center Christian.

"I found that it was helpful to make something for a real class, because we

didn't have to come up with a hypothetical situation. The possibility of my project being used made it real," said Elizabeth Van Maanen. "I found meeting with a teacher helpful. She gave us hints and helped guide us."

"This type of teaching is hard work," Kornelis says. "It is much easier to assign students to read a chapter and answer questions." The teacher needs to be constantly thinking about individual students' needs and how she can help them learn most effectively. That is why Kornelis also wants to encourage collaboration between teachers who can share units and ideas with each other.

The first time through any project exposes ways it could be done better the next time, and this was no exception, says Kornelis. But she is convinced that this kind of collaboration would be beneficial in other courses as well. Her undergraduate students found the experience overwhelmingly worthwhile, and when they presented their final projects, all of the teachers were willing to do it again.

"The cooperating teachers benefited by explaining *why* we do what we do to the future teachers," says Mulder. It was also valuable for cooperating teachers to see a fresh approach to the content we are teaching. It was really an excellent project."

Using what they've all learned, Kornelis plans to repeat the collaboration the next time she teaches the course.

Ed department launches early childhood program

Sally Jongsma

Across the country, increasing numbers of Christian schools are adding pre-kindergarten programs. Over the past several years the Dordt College education department has received requests for graduates with backgrounds in early childhood education—people to teach in day care centers, pre-schools, and kindergartens. As a result, the department is now adding an early childhood endorsement to its program.

The endorsement began last spring with the first offering of the class, Introduction to Early Childhood Education. This semester, Organization and Administration of Early Childhood Programs is being offered.

Gwen Marra, the early childhood instructor in the department expects the need for early childhood teachers and the demand for graduates in this area to continue to grow. Marra, a 1990 graduate and a 2004 graduate of the master's program, has owned and operated her own pre-school for eleven years and currently teaches kindergarten at Sioux Center Christian School. She says that moves by states like Iowa, Georgia, Illinois, and

Indiana, to name a few, to offer assistance to families with child care costs will drive this need. In Iowa for example, a family of six making under \$60,000 receives free pre-school tuition and a family making up to \$80,000 gets half of their tuition reimbursed.



Gwen Marra

At the same time, states are requiring more of early childhood care providers. The list of requirements has grown and annual inspections are now routine. The demand for trained teachers and caregivers is growing.

There are, perhaps, even more pressing reasons why the department is offering the early childhood endorsement.

Dordt College has always stressed the importance of training teachers from out of a Christian worldview. But those who work in early childhood organizations have had to get their specific training at non-Christian institutions.

"Your leadership philosophy as well as

the teaching strategies you use are shaped by your worldview," says Marra. She emphasizes a servant leader model as she gives her students the knowledge they need to set up and operate a pre-school. In fact, one of the projects her students will work on this semester is simulating the setting up of a pre-school, working with budgets, design of the facility, assessment and evaluation of the program, staff job descriptions, and orientation plans

The early childhood endorsement will also be valuable for elementary teachers, the department believes.

"It gives students a better understanding of how children develop and how to meet the needs of very young children," says Marra. And it gives elementary teachers more job options. The endorsement allows graduates who want to work with very young children a broader range of "grade" levels to consider.

Marra is excited about continuing to develop the courses and the endorsement. Her goal is to make the learning her students do as real and relevant as she can. Her years of experience and the work she did in her master's program give her the tools to do just that.

Dordt grads in ISU veterinary program

Dordt College's 2006 pre-veterinary science graduates beat the odds this year, with a perfect four-for-four acceptance rate into the veterinary medicine program at Iowa State University.

Six hundred applied to the veterinary medicine program at I.S.U., from which only 120 students were accepted. Receiving acceptance letters from Dordt College were Micah Schouten, Sioux Center; Leah Fedders, Sioux Center; Scott Beeman, West Des Moines; and Rachel Davelaar, Fulton, Illinois. Schouten, Fedders and Davelaar all hope to pursue a large animal emphasis, while Beeman prefers small animal work.

"Dordt College has a very positive reputation at the vet school, with a track record of excellent students," says Micah Schouten. "The pre-vet program at Dordt did a very good job in preparing us so far in this juncture of our lives."

There is currently a strong demand regionally for large animal veterinary medicine graduates. At Iowa State nearly eighty percent of veterinary students are women, which is a dramatic demographic shift from thirty years ago, when only men were trained to become veterinarians.

Van Kooten awarded HAM Radio Scholarship

Johnathon Van Kooten, a first-year engineering major, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), an organization of amateur radio operators who have had their HAM license for twenty-five years or more.

Van Kooten is a certified emergency communicator who raised funds for and installed a HAM radio tower at the Pella Regional Health Center, which earned him a Hoover Foundation award. This summer he installed a HAM radio tower at Knoxville Hospital and Clinics, the second part of a project for emergency communications within the county. Another tower is planned for a new law enforcement center in the future.

U.S. Ag subcommittee conducts hearing on Dordt College campus

Jane Ver Steeg

The U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Livestock and Horticulture conducted a field hearing at Dordt College in July to receive input from Iowans in formulating the federal 2007 Farm Bill.

Iowa Representative Steve King and North Carolina Representative Robin Hayes chaired the hearing. Formal testimony was received from ten farmers and agriculture industry promoters who shared their thoughts on how the 2007 Farm Bill might best promote American agriculture.

Some of the topics covered during the field hearing included removing unfair trade barriers; decoupling farm production from subsidies; development of an animal identification database with trace-back capabilities for diseased animals; environmental and conservation issues; development of

alternative renewable energy sources from agricultural products; funding of agricultural research; marketing ag products internationally; use of CRP land for controlled grazing; and helping family farms survive for future generations.

Iowa's Fifth District is in the top five Congressional Districts for corn production, is the top producing district for soybeans and has ten producing ethanol and bio-diesel plants, with seven more plants in various stages of planning. This district is also a major producer of pork and eggs.

About a dozen field hearings are being conducted this year across the U.S., after which a farm bill debate will be conducted early in 2007. The current farm bill (Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) expires Sept. 20, 2007.

"Members of the Dordt agriculture department were pleased that Dordt could host one of the field hearings," said Dordt Professor of Agriculture Dr. Chris Goedhart. "The testimony was a reminder of the complexity of the Farm

Bill and of the process needed to gain the support of a majority of congressmen for the bill in the

coming year."

Dordt College's agriculture faculty provided commentary on the hearing for the college radio station's live broadcast of the hearings and for an audio feed to the Associated Press.

In a second national agricultural event this past summer, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and Under-Secretary Tom Dorr spoke at a luncheon at Dordt College while participating in a three-day tour of conservation and economic development initiatives in the Midwest.

Farm Foundation hosted the tour to stimulate discussion about the issues and challenges of conservation and economic development in rural America. Dordt College President Carl E. Zylstra welcomed the group, noting that Dordt College has the second largest agriculture program in the state of Iowa. Zylstra said the college is committed to providing graduates who make a real difference by taking Christian responsibility for the care of our world.

The busload of tour participants included USDA and Natural Resources Conservation Service officials (who collaborated in offering the tour); state and regional business and community leaders; representatives of non-governmental organizations working on agricultural, food system or rural community issues; and past/present members of Congress.

Iowa Representative Steve King co-chaired a field hearing at Dordt College to obtain information for preparing the 2007 Farm Bill.



Bees, Bugs, and Beyond

Six science students are selected for summer research



Sally Jongsma

This summer I learned how research is conducted," says sophomore Sara Hanenburg from Milaca, Minnesota. Like every science student, Hanenburg has been exposed to laboratory work through classroom labs, but "performing a lab for eight weeks is very different," she says.

"I learned how important every microgram of evidence can be," says her research partner Amanda Korver from Maurice, Iowa. "To do research you must be accurate. I learned that you can never be too careful."

Hanenburg and Korver were two of four underclass students who benefited from a grant from the National Science Foundation-funded Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Center. The Center offers research opportunities for students early in their college careers. Upperclass students also had opportunities to do on-campus research this summer, in cooperation with Iowa State University and NASA.

The Bees

It would be hard to find people more excited about their summer research than Dr. Ed Geels and his student research assistants Hanenburg and Korver. Geels, who began beekeeping as a hobby three years ago, has been painfully aware of the growing bee mite infestation crisis worldwide. The mites, which suck blood from the bees, spread viruses and make them susceptible to bacterial diseases, are wiping out bees across the world. And they are becoming resistant to most chemical pesticides. Beekeepers resort to stronger and stronger chemicals, most of which are not safe or legal. Current laws require beekeepers to put the chemical in the hive in the fall and remove it in the spring before the bees begin to bring pollen and nectar to the hive. Chemicals still accumulate in the wax of the hive and the honey itself. Ironically, increasing amounts of honey today come from China where they use even more dangerous

chemicals, according to Geels.

Geels wants to find ways to raise bees without using harmful chemicals. He was intrigued by reports that smaller bees do not seem to have the same problem with mites that the modern larger hybridized bees do. He learned that mites do not seem to penetrate between the joints of small bees—there doesn't seem to be room for them to get in. He also read that small bees groom themselves better, and they have been observed attacking the mites and killing them. In addition, small bees cap the cells in the hive after seven or eight days in contrast to nine days for the larger bees. This interferes with the mites reproductive schedule and holds down their numbers.

"Essentially we're going back to using bees more like those used eighty years ago," says Geels.

You can't simply put small bees in a typical modern hive, however. The cell size needed for small bees is 4.9 millimeters in contrast to the more standard 5.4 mm for larger bees. Hanenburg and Korver spent a good deal of time already early last spring, setting up the twenty-four hives needed for their research.

Geels had also read that some beekeepers believe that copper might help suppress mites. Since copper is one of the least toxic chemicals to use, he decided to set up two types of hives, some with copper in them and some without, but all stocked with small bees. Geels and his

student found early on that the hives with copper were not thriving like the other ones were, so they discontinued that part of their research. "Usually by August in non-chemically treated large cell hives one would find at least 400 fallen dead mites per day on the bottom of the hive, with 1000s more in the bees themselves. But the small cell bees were thriving, growing from around 10,000 in late April to 80,000 bees per hive by the end of the summer.

And the numbers of mites were miniscule. Throughout the summer Hanenburg and Korver counted the number of mites they found in each hive in a forty-eight-hour period and kept meticulous journals of what they did and observed. Geels, Hanenburg, and Korver are excited about their results and eager to share them with others. They did just that at a conference this summer, presenting their research along with that of eleven other teams from seven colleges in the region.

The Bugs

While Hanenburg and Korver were counting mites this summer, Sara Top was counting beetles—corn rootworm beetles at Dordt's Agriculture Stewardship Center.

Corn rootworms have become an increasing problem for area farmers. They can no longer be controlled by traditional rotation methods, and the use of insecticides to control them has had limited success. According to Top, the beetles seem to be adapting their life cycle to fit the way crops are now being raised.

In the past, corn rootworm beetle (*Diabrotica barberi*) was controlled by rotating crops. The adult beetle laid its eggs in the soil and the larva died if it didn't have corn roots to feed on shortly after it hatched. Modern intensive farming practices, with tighter rotation or no rotation of crops, has led farmers to rely on insecticides or genetically modified plants to control the rootworm. It was already known that the northern corn rootworm beetle (*Diabrotica barberi*) has been living in the region, and that they were laying eggs that did not hatch for two years until corn was again planted, following soybeans. Now new variants of corn rootworm beetles are also being found. The purpose of Top's research was to determine if the western corn rootworm beetle (*Diabrotica viginifera*) variant that had been a problem in eastern Iowa was also now living in Siouxland.

The research Top did with agriculture professors Drs. Ron Vos and Chris Goedhart



Sara Top's research opportunities have gone beyond summer projects. She has assisted Dr. Chris Goedhart with research and testing of laboratory techniques and with setting up protocols for his plant science labs.

Soybean Population Study

Dordt's ag department is also participating in a soybean population study with Northwest Iowa On-Farm Research, planting soybeans at 125,000, 150,000, and 175,000 plants per acre, replicated five times, to track how these seed populations translate into crop yields.

"There is some indication that we are planting more seed than we need to for optimum yield," says Vos. If that is the case farmers can cut costs by simply planting fewer seeds per acre.

In addition to the two Northwest Iowa On-Farm Research studies, Dordt College has four independent crop studies being conducted by students and faculty this summer. These trials at the ASC are for the benefit of students in agriculture department courses, says Dr. Chris Goedhart, professor of agriculture at Dordt. "Students help sample, harvest, and analyze data collected in these replicated, randomized on-farm research trials." Goedhart said students also make suggestions for research in future years. This year the following trials are being conducted:

In a soybean cyst nematode trial, a Dordt biology student is sampling soybean fields for the presence of soybean cyst nematodes, with the trial replicated on five varieties.

Three varieties of New Vistive™ soybeans have been planted for another comparison trial. Regular soybeans contain about eight percent linolenic acid, which is unstable in the presence of oxygen and develops a rancid smell and taste. Hydrogenating soybean oil prevents oxidation, but results in the production of trans-fatty acids. New Vistive™ varieties contain less than three percent linolenic fatty acid, reducing or eliminating the need to hydrogenate oils.

A Liberty-link corn trial is examining the yield differences of five varieties that possess the Liberty-link trait (Liberty™ herbicide tolerant) when a non-selective herbicide is used. This study is a look at one means of preventing the buildup of herbicide resistant weed populations.

An organic corn trial is an ongoing project on a certified organic field the college has managed for several years. Students and faculty are examining three hybrid varieties to determine which will yield best in this organic management system, and to understand the challenges and opportunities of the organic farming systems.

Results from the research will be posted on the Dordt ag department's web page after the data has been analyzed by students and faculty.

involved installing twelve beetle traps and monitoring them weekly to find out how many and what species of corn rootworm beetles had laid eggs last season in a field that was planted with organic corn this season and that had not grown corn for over six years.

The research was done in cooperation with Iowa State University (ISU) Extension, ISU Research Farms, and the Northwest Iowa Experimental Association as part of its on-farm research to benefit local farmers. Top, whose work was funded by the Dordt agriculture department, says the summer research, though not in her primary area of interest, confirmed her decision to go to graduate school to study human cell biology.

"ISU has faced a shrinking research budget, and the ISU extension is excited to collaborate on studies such as this," says Vos. The ASC has done on-farm research for many years, recognizing its value for obtaining good results for local farmers. "Soil and conditions on experimental farms in other parts of the state may be different than in this area," says Vos. Local farmers also participate in various on-farm research projects and then share information with each other.

Unfortunately, from Vos's point of view, the research Top did on corn rootworm beetles this summer has no happy ending. To continue farming as they do today, farmers may be forced to regularly use seed genetically modified with *Bacillus Thuringiensis* (so that the larva will die upon biting into the plant) as well as use additional insecticides. By sharing their findings with other researchers and producers, they hope to help raise awareness of the present corn rootworm situation.

The Sky

Senior Shannon (Doty) Wright, a physics and environmental studies major from Chula Vista, California, spent part of her summer looking at ozone in the stratosphere. Wright helped analyze data collected by Aura, a satellite launched in 2005, about an unusual meteorological event that occurred last January in the Arctic region of the Northern Hemisphere. The airflow

patterns in the stratosphere changed in unusual ways, almost like the jet stream splitting apart into two pieces.

"To meteorologists this was like having weather patterns turned upside down," says Dr. Doug Allen, a professor of physics and astronomy and the faculty advisor for Wright. Scientists are now studying the airflow patterns to try to understand what happened in the stratosphere.

The research opportunity came about through a research partner of Allen's, Dr. Gloria Manney, who is the lead investigator for this project sponsored by the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Grant funds paid for Wright's salary and computer software for her to use.

Wright spent most of the summer "getting up to speed." She had to learn to program in a new language, IDL, and learn to use the LINUX operating system; she had to learn how to read wind and temperature data and how to plot and animate data; and she had to learn how to read the satellite data.

Wright says she learned how atmospheric models are made. "It's not cut and dried. It's mostly trial and error, and then making sure your results are physically possible," she says. She was happy to learn how to work in the non-Windows UNIX environment.

Allen expects that the paid research opportunity will continue, and says that Wright's work will give her a focus for the senior research project she is required to do for her environmental studies major. As she gets into more analysis of data, Wright's work will contribute to scientists' understanding of air motion in the stratosphere.

"I find atmospheric dynamics incredibly amazing. So much is going on right above our heads!" says Wright, who hopes to go to graduate school for environmental modeling and someday teach students like herself.

The Fuel

One of the things Jessica De Boer enjoyed most about the research she did this summer was "the feeling that they were coming up with something new." De Boer and Erin Magnuson worked with Dr. Carl Fictorie to study the effectiveness of certain catalysts for making biodiesel fuel from soybean oil and ethanol. "You can begin making biodiesel with any vegetable oil or animal

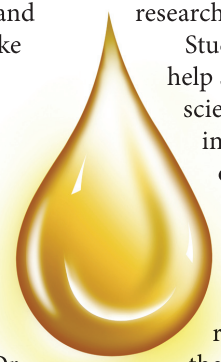
fat," says Fictorie, "but these fats are too viscous—too thick—to use in a standard engine." The fats and oils, which consist of one core molecule of glycerin and three long fatty acid chains, need a catalyst to make the oil and ethanol react if it is to show properties similar to diesel fuel.

Historically biodiesel fuel has been made with petroleum and methanol using sodium hydroxide (lye) as a catalyst. Fictorie and his students are trying to find good ways to use the renewable vegetable oils and find a catalyst that is solid so that it could be filtered out and reused, eliminating a waste product.

Partly based on reading and research done by others working in this area, Fictorie and his students tried several solid acids, but had little success until the end of the summer when they found some indications that working with acidified charcoal had some possibilities. On the final day they were conducting research, they were able to produce biodiesel with acidified charcoal about as well as when they had used sulfuric acid at the outset. Although there was not time to reproduce the experiments, Fictorie hopes to get back to the research later in the fall.

While Fictorie and his students were excited about their results, the benefit to the students was much greater than the results. In fact, because the first real encouraging results came weeks into the research, the real value was in the process. Ten weeks of full-time research, doing dozens of exacting experiments and not knowing how they would turn out, helped De Boer and Magnuson get a better idea of what scientific research entails. Like Hanenburg and Korver, they had an opportunity to present their research at a symposium of all NPURC student researchers this summer.

Student research opportunities help students learn how science really works, say the instructors. They learn about one part of the creation in a very concrete way; they spend an extended period of time on a very focused task; they learn about research record keeping; they learn to be flexible and patient when things don't go the way they hope or expect; they learn how to present their research and results to others; and they confirm future career directions.



Part of Hanenburg and Korver's work this summer involved learning how to analyze the composition of chemicals in honey, wax, and even the bees themselves.

Dennis Vander Plaats receives John Calvin Award

Heather S. Riblet

Dr. Dennis Vander Plaats, recipient of the 2006 John Calvin Award at Dordt College, was overwhelmed by God's power during the end-of-year faculty dinner, where he was presented with the award.

"The award just confirmed my calling to teach," he says. "It told me that this is what I was supposed to do—God called me to be a teacher." Vander Plaats is certain of this now, but forty years ago he would never have made that statement.

Asked when he'd first decided to teach, he says, "I didn't. I actually hated school. I didn't even want to go to college."

The '70s were approaching, however, and he was left with a choice: stay eligible for the Vietnam draft or head to college.

Four years later, after receiving his education degree from nearby Dordt College, he still doubted the career choice. It wasn't until he took a position at Sioux Falls Calvin Christian School that he warmed up to teaching.

"I fell in love with it," he says, still amazed by God's calling. "Once I became the decision-maker in my classroom, I could make school engaging for my students—and for myself."

Throughout the years, Vander Plaats has taught in Christian schools at every grade level, K-12, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Orange City, Iowa; McBain, Michigan; and now at Dordt College. He credits his commitment to Christian education to his childhood upbringing.

"I was given this perspective that all life is



Dennis Vander Plaats

claimed by Christ. Therefore, education also is claimed by Christ. It just made sense to me that Christian schools were the place I could go to teach that truth. In order for me to tell it like it is, I thought Christian schools were the place I needed to teach."

Vander Plaats says the education department places a strong emphasis on teaching with a Christian perspective. Professors challenge their students to view their future careers as opportunities to work towards shalom in God's kingdom.

Dordt's education professors, he says, are highly dedicated to this standard of teaching. They're enthusiastic; they interact with students; and they "have a zest for living and learning."

He also feels that all teachers need to "have unconditional love for the students. For me, I disliked school," he says. "So, I identified with my students who disliked school, too. If you don't have that unconditional love, the 'burnouts' fade away and can be lost."

Since coming to Dordt in 1992, Vander Plaats has enjoyed watching his students grow as future leaders. He looks forward to classes, and he's learned that his gifts are not from himself—he is the tool, he says, and God is the master.

That is one reason that the John Calvin Award holds deep meaning for Vander Plaats. The second reason is closely related.

In the summer of 2005, his four-year-old grandson was swept down Willow Creek, three miles east of Alton, Iowa. "We never found him," he says, pausing. "That really hit me hard. Life is a whole lot more than just working. My focus changed from teaching to spending time with my family and making sure that we did what we could to support each other. Teaching took a low place on my list of priorities."

The death of his grandson shook his world, and, he admits, he was reluctant to begin teaching that fall—but he did.

"Going back into the classroom was great therapy for me, because it made me focus on the needs of others rather than on my own," he says. "Getting The John Calvin Award at the end of last year was so meaningful because it told me that teaching is what I am supposed to do. God called me to be a teacher."

Through his thirty-eight years of teaching experience, Vander Plaats has watched

About the Award

The John Calvin Award, which comes with a privately funded \$500 honorarium, is presented annually to a Dordt College faculty member who displays ability and commitment to articulate a Calvinistic perspective in their teaching and scholarship. Recipients are selected based on nominations from graduating classes and faculty. Three selected graduating classes were asked which Dordt professor inspired and instructed them most in the development of a Calvinistic world and life view and in applying those views to issues of contemporary society.

Vander Plaats teaches elementary mathematics courses and middle school curriculum and instruction at the graduate and undergraduate levels. He also serves as chair of the education department and as director of teacher education. He received his B.A. in secondary education from Dordt College, his B.A. in elementary education from Sioux Falls College, his M.A. from Augustana College, and his Ed.D. from the University of South Dakota.

his students grow into successful teachers, in turn affecting the lives of younger generations. "What I want them to take with them most is a vision for being change-agents in schools—a vision for expecting the best that can be achieved," he says. Paraphrasing a comment by his pastor, he adds, "God isn't finished with teaching and learning yet. His Spirit provides us with a spirit of renewal so that we will not be satisfied until the process of education is re-created as God intended it to be."

FACULTY NEWS

James Calvin Schaap's book *Startling Joy: Seven Magical Stories of Christmas*

was presented an Award of Merit in *Christianity Today's* 2006 book awards, featured in the magazine's June issue.

A short story by Schaap, *Exodus*, has been published in *The Best Christian Short Stories*, released by West Bow Press.

Speaking of Pastors: Parishioners Tell Their Stories, edited by Schaap and published by the Christian Reformed Church, is a collection of essays by ten writers who share experiences they and others have had with pastors along life's journey. Schaap wrote the preface and also his own essay contribution.

Schaap's third publication this summer, published by Dordt College Press, is titled *In His Feathers*. (See the review on page 14.) Several former and current Dordt College students assisted Schaap in the production of the book: Andrew De Young, Liz McPherson, Melissa Drake, Heather Riblet, and



Schaap

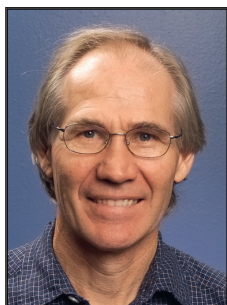
graphic designers Sarah Franken and Rob Haan.

All of these books are available at the Dordt College Bookstore, <http://bookstore.dordt.edu> or 712-722-6420 and from other area book outlets and on-line book outlets (ISBN 978-0-932914-68-2).

Art professors **Jake Van Wyk** and **David Versluis** were two of eleven printmakers

whose work was accepted for the Calvin College Alumni Print Competition. The juried exhibition was on display during April 2006. Work selected for recognition included Van Wyk's print, a lithograph titled "Amstelveen Walkway" and Versluis's woodcut "Brush Pile 3" and two-color linocut "Brush Pile."

Dutch Immigrants on the Plains, edited by Dordt College history professors, **Dr. Paul Fessler** and **Dr. Hubert R. Krygsman**, along with Robert Swierenga, was published this summer by the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies



Van Wyk

(AADAS) following its fifteenth biennial conference held at Dordt College in 2005. It contains thirteen chapters that relate to Dutch settlement on the North American Plains and includes topics on the rigors of pioneering on the frontier, the planting of Reformed churches in the West, economic development, and struggles about ethnic identity and social bonding. The book is available through the Dordt College Bookstore and from AADAS.

Dr. Robert Horton was awarded two prizes for his performance in the final round of an organ competition held at the American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Convention in Chicago July 2-6. Horton was awarded third prize in AGO's Young Artist Competition, and was also awarded The Reger Prize for the best performance of music by composer Max Reger.

Horton, assistant professor of music, was selected as a national finalist at a regional competition held in Des Moines last May.



Versluis

Seven faculty members and two students attended the 61st Meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation held at Calvin College from July 28-31. The conference addressed Christian responses and approaches to biotechnology, embryonic stem cells, evolution, development and environmental stewardship, among other things.

Biology professor **Dr. James Mahaffy**, presented a paper done in collaboration with student Amy Groenenboom Herdegen titled "Antimalarial Activity of Two Varieties of Papaya (*Carica papaya*) Extracts." **Dr. Tony Jelsma's** presentation was titled "Transgenic Biotechnology and the Shalom of Creation." **Dr. Carl Fictorie** spoke on "What is Chemistry: The impact of Science and Technology on Culture and the Environment." **Dr. Charles Adams'** address was titled "Galileo, Biotechnology and Epistemological Humility: Moving stewardship beyond the development-conservation debate."

The students gave poster presentations: Heather Kooiman on "Polysialylated-Neural Cell Adhesion Molecule in the Hippocampus in Major Depressive Disorder and Alcoholism" and Engela Viss on "Histological Analysis of Cux-1 Expression During the Development of Postnatal

NEW FACULTY

Rev. Rod Gorter is Dordt's new Dean of Chapel. He comes from the Ukraine, where he was dean of students and a theology professor at Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine, and was also involved in church and leadership development in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine. Gorter has a B.A. in psychology from Dordt College, an M.A. in Religion and M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary, and a Master of Theology (Th. M.) from Calvin Theological Seminary.



Gorter

Randy Baxter has been hired as an instructor of social work and director of the social work program at Dordt. Baxter earned his B.A. (history and sociology), M.A. (sociology and social work), M.S.W. (Master of Social Work with a concentration in policy, planning and administration) and is a Ph.D. candidate (Public Administration) at Western Michigan University. Baxter is also a licensed Master Social Worker in the state of Michigan. Baxter was previously a family preservation specialist at the Michigan Family Independence Agency and an adjunct faculty professor at Kellogg Community College. He has also worked



Baxter

as a volunteer services supervisor, welfare services specialist, and child welfare service specialist.

Dr. Gary De Young has been hired as an associate professor of math. De Young earned his B.S. in mathematics at Calvin College, his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Utah, and completed postdoctoral studies at the University of California Davis. He is known for development of the De Young-Keizer model for Cellular Calcium oscillations. De Young has been teaching for fourteen years, most recently at The King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta.



De Young

John Heavner is Dordt College's first head football coach. Heavner earned a B.S. in political science and a M.S. in education from East Central University. Heavner was the quarterback coach at Missouri State University (NCAA Division IAA) in Springfield, Missouri, and before that was an assistant coach at East Central University (NCAA Division II) in Ada, OK. Dordt College will field a junior varsity team in 2007 with a full varsity schedule in 2008.



Heavner

Jason Lief has been hired as an instructor of theology. He earned a B.A. in history (with a secondary education

endorsement) at Northwestern College, and a M.A. in theology from Wheaton College Graduate School, with a focus on Biblical Studies and Historical Theology. Lief most recently taught Bible and history courses at Pella Christian High School.



Lief

Matt Mathias is teaching in the business administration department. Mathias has both a B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering (magna cum laude) and a M.B.A. (with distinction) from the University of Michigan, and comes to Dordt College with extensive international business experience, as well as teaching experience at Spring Arbor University in Michigan. Most recently, Mathias was a senior consultant and trainer at Meta HR and Communication in Singapore, where he also conducted leadership research in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. His previous professional experience includes managing global strategic planning and human resources as a senior manager for ETAS, GmbH; serving as a manufacturing operations manager for Procter and Gamble; and participating in an engineering co-op program with Delphi



Mathias

Chassis Systems, General Motors.

Natalie Sandbulte is an instructor of psychology and will direct that department's student field experience program for an interim year. Sandbulte earned a B.A. in psychology from Northwestern College (Orange City) and her M.A. in clinical psychology from Wheaton College, where she is also currently a candidate for a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. She also has clinical experience from a position at the Heartland Counseling Center, Elburn, IL.



Sandbulte

Kathryn (Kate) Fuller Vander Veen is a nursing instructor for the B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree) program. Vander Veen earned a B.S.N. at the University of Utah, followed by a M.S.N. at Uniformed Services University. Vander Veen has twenty-two years of nursing experience with the United States Air Force, where she served as a staff nurse, nursing manager and supervisor, operating room nurse, flight nurse, nursing quality assurance officer, hyperbaric nurse, family nurse practitioner, and medical information systems consultant. She was a Lieutenant Colonel at Falls Church, Virginia, prior to her recent retirement from the Air Force.



Vander Veen

FACULTY NEWS

Mouse Testis."

Dr. Charles Adams, professor of engineering and dean of the natural sciences, gave a paper at the 2006 Christian Engineering Education Conference held at Olivet Nazarene University from June 22-23. Its title was "Teaching Technical Engineering Courses from a Christian Perspective: Two Examples."



Adams

Debra Vogel, a faculty adjunct at Dordt College, was among twenty-three music professionals who performed in a Sounds of South Dakota Vocal Showcase titled "Mozart and More," in September at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux Falls. The concert provided an opportunity for faculty from seven regional colleges and universities to work collaboratively in presenting some of opera's most memorable music. The program highlighted the operas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in honor of the composer's 250th birthday. Vogel sang in scenes from



Vogel

three operas: Mozart's "Don Giovanni," Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music," and Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado."

Dr. John Zwart, physics professor, gave two presentations at the 2006 American Association of Physics Teachers Summer Meeting in Syracuse, New York. The titles for the presentations were: "Between Cookbook and Open-ended Research: Bridging the Gap" and "An Inexpensive Demonstration of Light Ray Focusing." The abstracts of these presentations are now published in the Summer 2006 issue of the *AAPT Announcer* Vol. 36, No. 2, p 122. They are also available in the online archive at <http://www.aapt.org/AbstractSearch/>.

In addition to offering two poster presentations, Zwart won an award in the "Low Cost Apparatus" category for the apparatus described in the "An Inexpensive Demonstration..." poster in the apparatus competition, where it was on display for three days of the conference.

English Professor **David Schelhaas's** article "Does the Writing Workshop Work?" appeared in the *Christian Educators Journal*, October, 2006. His review of *A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan* by Michael Kazin titled "William Jennings Bryan and the Christian Left" appeared in the August/September *Perspectives*, 2006.

Dr. Ron Vos gave a presentation at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) annual conference held at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. June 7-9. His presentation

was titled "A General Education Course in Hungary/Ukraine" and described the successful components of the General Education 272 course that he teaches during the summer in Hungary and Ukraine.

Emeritus Art Professor **Joanne Alberda** gave a presentation titled "Contemporary Textiles: Beyond Banners" at the 2006 CIVA (Christians in the Visual Arts) annual conference held at Gordon College in July.

Dr. Jonathon Warner was invited to present a paper at a conference on Monetary Regionalisation (local currency systems as catalysts for endogenous regional development) in Weimar, Germany, in September. His presentation was titled *Money, Community and Community Money* and drew on his research into the Iowa scrip schemes of the 1930s.

Leah Zuidema, adjunct professor in English, was part of a plenary session panel on "Culture, Language, and Bias" held in San Diego for the California Statewide Conference on Language Access to the Courts.

Zuidema was also a co-author of "Understanding the Relationship between Research and Teaching," which appeared in the July 2006 special issue of *English Education*. The article emerged



Zuidema

from the work of the Conference on English Education (CEE) Leadership and Policy Summit, a working meeting held in Atlanta in 2005 for over seventy-five invited English language arts professionals from across the U.S. Zuidema was an invited participant and one of ten doctoral students recognized as Outstanding Doctoral Students in the field. Summit participants were organized into thematic inquiry groups to create a vision for 21st-century English education. Zuidema is a doctoral candidate in English at Michigan State University.

Dr. Pat Kornelis, education professor, led a three-day workshop in August with Annapolis Area Christian Middle School. The title of the workshop was "From Mapping to Integration: Navigating Toward a Connected Program."

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra, president of Dordt College, was recently inducted into the Carl F. H. Henry Society of Fellows, an honor given to three other people since the organization was established six years ago. The induction ceremony took place on August 5 in Jackson, Tennessee, where Dr. Zylstra was also the keynote speaker for the summer commencement at Union University.

Education Professor **Cella Bosma** presented workshops for several teacher's conventions and conferences. The workshops were titled "What if all the Kids are White?" "Spiritual Formation in Elementary Children," "Moralism: How Does it Show up in Bible Class," and "Is it OK that I ask for a Bike?"

Alumni council aims to serve

The Dordt College Alumni Council serves as a link between the college and her alumni. Its role is to foster and nurture the tradition of community that binds alumni to the college and one another; to facilitate communication among alumni and with the college; and to spur the community of alumni and friends to support and promote Dordt College.

Rodney Lamfers Alumni Council President

Dordt College is growing up. Fifty-one years may not quite be “middle-age” for North American colleges and universities, but in that time Dordt has established itself as a place noted for excellence in academics and for a passionate commitment to a Reformed world-and-life view that infuses everything the college does.

The college’s alumni association,

now over 14,000 strong, is also growing up. As we grow, our opportunities and capabilities become greater than ever. With that in mind, the twenty-three members of the Alumni Council have spent considerable time and effort over the last year reflecting on our role and responsibility as a council. The mission statement above was adopted this past spring. Our primary role is to promote service—service to our fellow alumni and service to Dordt College.

For the ten past years Judy Hagey has worked with the Alumni Council as the Director of Alumni and Church Relations. In August she left her position at Dordt when her family moved to pursue other career opportunities. The Alumni Council



Rodney Lamfers

would like to thank Judy for her eighteen years of service to the college and wish her the best in this new phase of her life. We look forward to working with a new person in the coming months and trust that God will lead the correct person to Dordt to help us continue to work out this mission.

During our Alumni Council meetings this fall, we’ll work together on specific manifestations of our mission. We will discuss the alumni role in recruitment/admission of new students to Dordt College. We will identify regional events and programming that will bring alumni together in ways that are meaningful socially and educationally. We’ll collaborate on planning for Alumni Weekend (Feb. 16 and 17—mark your

calendars) and for Dordt’s first ever 50th class reunion.

And in keeping with our primary role of service, we’ll select the first recipient of the college’s new Distinguished Service Award as well as the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The mission statement also mentions communication. We want to hear from you! How can we serve each other? How can we help Dordt College serve you? How can we together better support and promote the college? Most importantly, how can we collectively better serve God’s kingdom? We’d be glad to receive your thoughts via email: alumni@dordt.edu or you can phone the alumni office at 712-722-6022.

I am excited about what we can accomplish together. We have been blessed to receive a Dordt College education; let’s each use that education to glorify our God in everything that we do.

ALUMNI

60s

Del Groen ('69) is the new executive director at Dayspring Christian School in Greeley, Colorado. Groen founded and, for the last nine years managed, Redeemer Ranch, a Christian boarding school for at-risk boys.

George ('69) and **Antonia (Toni Verhey)**, '72) **Fernhout** have been working in Sri Lanka for CRWRC on a tsunami relief project.

70s

Lois (Gerritsma, ex '72, '87) Sinnema passed away at home after a long struggle with cancer. She slipped away peacefully with her family present. It was twenty-five months since she was first diagnosed with bile duct cancer.

Timothy Serr ('76) writes, “I have owned my own business since graduating from Dordt. We initially purchased Northwest Sporting Goods in Sioux Center. In 1980 we moved back to Eureka, South Dakota, to take over the family business, Art’s Body Shop, which we still own and operate. I have been a substitute rural mail carrier for Eureka since 1981. I also am the fire chief since 1988, having been a firefighter for thirty years in Sioux Center and Eureka.”

90s

Jeff ('92) and **Tami (Smeenk, '93) Cleveringa** announce the birth of Karissa Nicole on March 27, 2006. She joins brothers Kenton and Caleb.

Dan ('92) and **Laura (Vander Zee, '94) Landstra** have a new daughter, Katie Grace, born May 13, 2006.

Kristin McCarthy-Kollbaum ('93), the director of marketing and alumni at Northwest Iowa Community College, was presented the Bronze Award for Outstanding Annual Report at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations National Paragon Awards competition held March 21st in Austin, Texas.

Sienna Grace was born to Scott and **Lanelle (Postma, '93) McCarty** on January 9, 2006.

Tammy Hoppe ('93) was selected as the 2006 Outstanding K-12 art educator by the Art Educators of Iowa (AEI). Hoppe was honored at an award ceremony held during the state AEI Conference in Des Moines on October 14.

Travis ('93) and **Christine Van De Berg** welcomed Grace Christine on May 3, 2006.

Scott ('93) and **Melanie (Van De Berg, '95)**



A group of Dordt alumni met July 4-7, 2006, for a reunion at Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado. The group started their reunions in 1988 and have been meeting every three years at different locations. Eleven couples (and some of their younger children) attended this summer's reunion. Doug and Gail (Tinklenberg, '81) Achterhof, Rachel, Nathan, Highland, Indiana; Cal ('81) and Barb (Van Soelen, '82) Ahrenholz, Stephanie, Prinsburg, Minnesota; Curt ('81) and Pat (Kreykes, '79) Ahrenholz, Abby, Bekah, Orange City, Iowa; Rich ('82) and Sue (Atkinson, '81) De Vries, Kirkland, Washington; Hank ('82) and Kathy (Visser, '81) Eekhoff, Brian, Mark, Manhattan, Montana; Len ('81) and June (Orange, '82) Fakkema, Chino, California; Bruce ('81) and Lisa (Vander Wal, '80) Groenendyk, Nathan, Leighton, Iowa; Elroy ('81) and Mary (Jongsma, '81) Houtsma, Rosa, Marcus, April, South Holland, Illinois; Arlyn ('81) and Cindy (Swart, '79) Slagter, Kaitlyn, Caralyn, Elizabeth, Michael, Omaha, Nebraska; Tim ('82) and Jana (La Brenz, '81) Van Dam, Bethany, Rebecca, Manhattan, Montana; Curt ('81) and Pam (Kreykes, '81) Voss, Stephenville, Texas;

Wynja welcomed Keana Ley on March 28, 2006.

Julie (Eckart, '94) and Kent Houtsma had a baby girl, Lillianna Kate, on April 30, 2006.

Tim ('94) and **Sonya (Hoekman, '94) Natelborg** announce the birth of Ryan Gray on November 15, 2005.

Matt ('94) and **Bev (Doppenberg, '94) Beimers** welcomed Madelyn Elise Marina on Christmas Day 2005. Matt is the assistant principal for staff support at Fraser Valley Christian High School in British Columbia.

Lee ('94) and **Tracey (Van Voorst, '95) Roose** announce the birth of Danielle Nicole, born on December 5, 2005, in Webster City, Iowa.

Rob ('95) and **Christina (Bultsma, '95) Antonides** announce the birth of Paige Lucia born April 7, 2006.

Kirk ('95) and **Christina (Breems, '95) Vander Pol** announce the birth of Elijah Christian, born February 21, 2006.

Curtis and Mary (Fields, '95) Berkenpas have a new son, Victor Alexander, born May 17, 2006.

Larry and Ellen (Beukema, '95) Webb have a new son, Caleb Michael, born January 3, 2006.

Susan (DeKoter, '96) and Mark (ex '90) Dieleman welcomed Camryn Marie on September 26, 2005.

Melanie (Koolhaas, '96) and Jay Lumkes welcomed Jennifer Anne on May 17, 2006. Margaret Anne was born to Dan and **Sarah (Elenbaas, '96) Bollock** on January 21, 2006.

Scott ('96) and **Rebekah (Sanford, '96) Hazeu** have been blessed with the birth of a daughter, Maddie Rose, born May 14, 2006. The Hazeus live in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Julie (Lodewyk, '98) and Hendrik ('98) de Gier's daughter, Katie Emily, was born on May 26, 2006, in Ponoka, Alberta.

Kevin ('97) and **Janelle (Van Voorst, '94) Hoogendoorn** have a new son, Weston Jay, born April 11, 2006.

Paul ('97) and **Monique Verhoef** have a new daughter, Aaliyah Cherie, born May 27, 2006.

Sonya (Jongsma, '97) and Dan Knauss have a new daughter, Katharine (Kate) Jane, born on July 20, 2006, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was welcomed by her three sisters: Anneke (8), Claire (5), and Maddie, (22 mos.).

Tamara (Klein, '97) and Chad Rauk announce the birth of a baby girl, Brynn Olivia, born on May 17, 2006, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She joins sister Taryn Noelle, age three.

Emily Schaap ('97) married James Hilleman on May 12, 2006. They live in Ames, Iowa, and Emily teaches piano lessons.

Brian Vos ('97) married Brenda Ritsema on August 12, 2006.

Sean and **Stephanie (Bouma, '97) Baccam** welcome Braden Sean, born May 4, 2006. He joins Tyron (9), Lucas (6), and Logan (2).

Tim and **Michelle (Van Wyhe, '97) Juffer** welcome Madison Lynn, born April 10, 2006.

Eric ('97) and **Cara (DeWit, '99) De Haan** announce the birth of Luke Verlyn on August 8, 2005.

Amy (Brouwer, '98) and Brian Barley announce the birth of their second daughter, Ashley Marie, born March 22, 2006.

Benjamin David was born on April 6, 2006, to **Jason** ('98) and **Yvonne (Vaags, '98) Kimm**.

Josh ('98) and **Alecia (Link, '98) Van Hulzen** welcomed Eli James to their family on August 28, 2005.

Nathaniel ('98) and **Kari (Van Meeteren, '98) Zylstra** announce the birth of John Carl, born May 7, 2006, He joins Sam (2).

Dean ('98) and **Jill Kooima** welcome Jaiden Rae, born on May 9, 2006.

Mindy (Buys, '98) and Tom Bergman announce the birth of Samuel Thomas on July 19, 2005, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Brian Bolkema ('98) and **Katherine Everett** were married on December 12, 2005 in Prospect Park, New Jersey, where they now live.

Esther Grace was born to Corey and **Nichol (Feeken, '98) Roskamp** on January 17, 2006. The Roskamps live in Hutchinson, Minnesota, with children Elida and Esther. Nichol teaches in an at-risk program at Dassel-Cokato High School.

Jessica (Hahn, '99) and André Kok ('98) welcomed Anneke Ruth, born on July 22, 2006, in San Diego, California.

Jason ('99) and **Tami (Kooiman, '99) Koelewyn** welcomed Dylan Robert on May 15, 2006.

Dave Dykshoorn ('99) and **Tracy Butterfield** were married on March 4, 2006.

Matt and Melissa (Hoksbergen, '99) Regnerus announce the birth of Drew Nathan,

New alumni and employer service unveiled

Career Services at Dordt College is changing for both current students and alumni. The college is pleased to offer a new resumé and job searching service called College Central Network.

College Central Network (CCN) is an organization that serves smaller colleges, many of them private. CCN provides a secure environment in which alumni can publish a resumé for view by approved employers who are registered with the college. In addition, registered alumni can find job postings in their fields by searching for an employer, job target, or a key word. The search capacity can be broadened to include all employers who are registered with any of the 250 colleges served by CCN. CCN also provides regular information updates about trends in resumé writing, how to formulate an e-resumé, interview tips, and a wealth of other information.

Alumni can also register as an employer and search resúmes of upcoming Dordt graduates to fill staffing positions in their company or business. These services are free of charge to alumni, students, and

employers, compliments of Dordt College. We encourage you to take full advantage of everything CCN has to offer.

In response to shifting employer expectations and new technology, Career Services is also working with students, teaching them resumé writing and job acquisition skills, and encouraging them to make use of CCN's self-maintained credential files while they have access to seminars and tutoring. Ron Rynders, the director of Career Services, believes the new service will prepare students for a lifetime of independent job search. Self-maintained files will also speed the job application process since there will be no closed office hours online.

Eventually, the Career Services Office hopes to post entire portfolios on the site so that in addition to resúmes, employers can view video clips, lesson plans, artwork, senior projects, and other information that graduates wish to share with prospective employers. That capability, he believes, would give Dordt graduates an edge in the job market.

To alumni with credential files in the placement office

Adopting the new CCN service means that the credential file collected and maintained for each student by the former placement office will no longer be available. CCN will allow you to maintain and access your credential files yourself if you register and set up a file. Career Services is offering each alum the opportunity to request that your credential file be sent directly to you so that you can conduct your own job searches. In some cases, where files are "closed," letters of recommendation might be withdrawn according to the wishes of the letters' authors. In all cases, the old resumé and unofficial transcripts will be included. All files unclaimed by December 2007 will be destroyed.

Note to Education Majors: due to the sensitive nature of certain

evaluations kept in the education files, only files older than five years will be released to education alums. We will not shred the newer files, but will keep them for five years after the graduation date, after which time each class of graduates may request ownership of their files. Unclaimed files older than seven years will be destroyed. During the interim years, we will continue to send your credentials to employers upon request, as we have done in the past.

To claim your file, please contact us either by letter or e-mail at emouw@dordt.edu. Include your full name, maiden name if applicable, major, and year of graduation, along with your complete mailing address. If you wish to register with CCN, log on to this url: <http://collegcentral.com/Dordt>. We hope to hear from you soon.

ALUMNI

born December 7, 2005.

John Mark and **Heidi (Reyneveld, '99)** Byl have a new son, John Cole, born April 23, 2006. He joins sisters Johannah (6), Karolynn (5), and Annaka (2).

Mike ('99) and **Tara (Van Wyk, '00)** Fransman announce the birth of Landon Wesley, born May 11, 2006.

Angela (Larson, '99) and **Kevin Tuininga ('00)** announce the birth of Benjamin Shane, born on May 26, 2006, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Matt ('99) and **Kristin (Boogerd, '00)** Mellema, and big sister Naomi, welcomed Simon Christian on March 31, 2006. They live in Pella.

00s

Karen (Van Kuiken, '00) and **Louis van Belle ('99)** announce the birth of Janna Hendrika, born on June 18, 2006 in Hammond, Indiana. She was welcomed home by brother Thijs.

Debra Tol ('00) graduated from the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in North York, Ontario, in May 2004. She married Wooje Jo, M.D. and in April she opened an office in Burlington, Ontario, as Debra Jo, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine.

Jonathan Dean was born to **Lora (Haveman, '00)** and Chad Pettit on September 6, 2005.

Tricia (De Kok, '00) and Peter Cisneros were married on August 12, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois, where they currently live.

Chris Archer ('00) and Kari Collier were married on March 11, 2006. Chris is a lieutenant in the Navy, stationed in Japan.

Darwyn ('00) and **Andrea (Feenstra, '00)** Sprik announce the birth of Jenna Grace on February 1, 2006.

Darin ('00) and **Jonna Fey** announce the birth of Jorin DiAnn, born on June 18, 2006, in Zeeland, Michigan. She was welcomed home by two-year-old brother, Tyson.

Wendy (Clousing, '00) and Jeff Teusink welcomed Caleb on May 25, 2006

Matt ('00) and **Becky (De Vries, '00)** Dekkers were blessed with a baby girl, Ada Grace, born March 27, 2006.

Channon ('00) and **Jodi (Link, '00)** Visscher announce the birth of Jackson Dean born on April 20, 2006. He was welcomed

home by his two-year-old brother Connor. Channon recently received a Ph.D. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from Washington University in St. Louis, where he will continue research in planetary chemistry.

Ryan ('00) and **Erin (Bakker, '00)** Vander Top announce the birth of Isaiah Samuel, born on November 17, 2005, in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Michelle (De Vries, '00) and Dean Bogda welcomed their third child, Jeffery Joel (J.J.) on July 18, 2005.

Jeff (ex '00) and **Susan (Vandermeer, '00)** Dykshoorn announce the birth of Elijah Jeffrey on May 16, 2006.

Lauren Grace was born to **Ben ('01)** and **Megan (Swart, '00)** Taatjes on September 7, 2005.

Nick ('01) and **Shawna (Prins, '00)** Sjaarda announce the birth of Jonathon Nicholas, born February 25, 2006.

Tim ('00) and **Jolynn (VanderWal, '01)** Van Iddekinge welcomed Levi on May 26, 2005.

Janelle (van Leeuwen, '01) and **Dale Swager ('00)** announce the birth of Bennett Dale born on May 7, 2006, in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Doug ('00) and **Mindy (Kooiman, '02)**

A study conducted by Joel Feekes ('00) was selected as the cover story for the prestigious neurology journal *Brain*, published by Oxford University Press. *Brain* is a professional journal of original contributions in neurological science studies and practical clinical trials.

Feekes completed his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Iowa in 2005. He is currently a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. The paper in *Brain* was part of his thesis work on the microvascular supply of specific regions of the human brain and how these territories of supply relate to stroke and stroke symptoms. Currently, he is doing neuroanatomy research on the organization of inputs to dopaminergic centers of the brain, important for movement and implicated in

Holesinger welcomed Luke Robert on April 26, 2006.

Colton Charles was born to Micah and **Heidi (Broekhuis, '01)** Brown on April 3, 2006.

Dan ('01) and **Laura (Vander Pol, '01)** Beckering announce the birth of Kylie Dee on February 27, 2006.

Heather Johnson ('01) and Mark Miron were married on August 12, 2006 in Clara City, Minnesota. They currently live in Minneapolis. Heather received her Masters in Social Work from University of Minnesota on May 15, 2006.

Crystal Engbers ('01) and Dan Lannin were married on July 15, 2006. They live in Colorado.

Jaden Kade was born to **Amy (Gesch, '01)** and Brad Mariner on April 13, 2006.

Leslie (Cowherd, '01) and **Michael Pastoor ('01)** proudly announce the birth of Gavin Sebe, born on May 21, 2006 in Minneapolis.

Angela (Vander Schel, '01) and **Nate Kuperus ('01)** announce the birth of Haley May on May 16, 2006 in Belleville, Ontario. Haley joins her sixteen-month-old brother Cory.

Sarah (Eekhoff, '01) and **Adam Zylstra ('01)** announce the birth of Noah Adam, born on April 18, 2006 in Oak Park, Illinois.

Kevin ('01) and **Lyndsay (Van Essen, '01)**

Parkinson's Disease.

His publication in the August 2006 issue of *Brain* (vol. 129, no. 8) was titled "The vascular supply of the functional compartments of the human striatum." The cover was an enhanced image of barium-sulfate-injected arteries, illustrating part of his thesis work. Contributing to the publication was Feekes' mentor at the University of Iowa, Dr. Martin Cassell.

In the past year, Feekes has also been published in the March issue of *Biochemistry* (Vol. 45 (10)), the May issue of *American Journal of Neuroradiology* (Vol. 27 (5)), and last July's issue of *Annals of Neurology* (Vol. 58 (1)). His work will also be included in the next edition of Dr. John Nolte's neuroanatomy textbook coming out in spring of 2007.

Schenk welcomed Ethan John on July 28, 2006.

Kent ('01) and **Sandee (Alsum, '01)**

Hoksbergen have a new son, Cole Douglas, born May 20, 2006.

Kimberly (Punt, '01) and **Charles De Berg ('01)** announce the birth of Kara Joy, born on May 25, 2006, in Willmar, Minnesota.

Denise (van der Lee, '02) and **Franklin Guillaume ('01)** announce the birth of Rhys Francois, born at home on December 6, 2005, in Red Deer, Alberta.

Willem Jude was born to Shane and **Lisa (Bleyenbergh, '02)** Lems on March 10, 2006.

Karen Vreeman ('02) received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine on May 6, 2006. She will be doing an internship in large animal medicine with an equine focus at Tufts-Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

Braeden Michael was born to **Beau ('02)** and **Erin (Noteboom, '02)** Bosma on April 6, 2006 in Ames, Iowa. He joins his brother Clayton (2).

John ('02) and Jennifer Hansel were married on January 28, 2006. John is teaching at Pella Christian High School.

Jeff ('02) and **Abby (Dekker, '02)** De Weerd welcomed Kylan Jeffrey on May 23, 2006.

Jamie (Sybesma, '02) and **Kurt Eskes ('02)** joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Katherine (Kate) Renae, born on July 2, 2006, in Modesto, California.

Lori Philipson ('03) and Christopher Fraker were married on June 17, 2006.

Anna Elizabeth was born to **William ('02)** and **Rachel (De Bruin, '04)** Grant on July 10, 2005 in Glenrock, Wyoming.

Bill ('03) and Erin Whalen welcomed Rowan Grace on August 8, 2006. She joins brother Isaiah Jay, (3).

Brian Kuyper ('03) and **Brenda Janssen ('04)** announce their marriage on July 15, 2006. They currently live in Jarvis, Ontario.

Joe Vander Jagt and **Molli Vander Klook ('04)** were married on August 6, 2005.

Elizabeth (Vander Schaaf, '03) and **Brett Danzeisen ('03)** announce the birth of Brookelyn Rose on April 8, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona, a brother to Case (15 mo.).

Taeda Marshall was born to **Arlo ('03)** and **Heidi (Karges, '03)** Bakker on May 25, 2006.

Concert Choir Tour

- January 9:** Grand Forks, ND
(location to be announced)
January 10: Winnipeg, MB—
Covenant CRC
January 11: Emo, ON—Emo
CRC
January 12: Thunder Bay, ON—
Hope CRC
January 13: Minneapolis, MN
(location to be announced)
January 14: Prinsburg, MN—
First CRC
January 15: Sioux Falls, SD—
First CRC

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alumni@dordt.edu

New Named Scholarships

The Oostra, Bierma, & Van Engen P.L.C. Prelaw Scholarship provides \$2000 for a full-time Dordt College student who plans to attend law school. Applicants must have sophomore or junior status and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00. They must be registered in the Dordt College Prelegal Program.

The Viss Mathematics and Science Scholarship has been established to encourage students majoring in math and science. Applicants must have sophomore or junior status and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00.

The William and Milada (Lottie) De Witt Scholarships will be significant annual scholarships to financially needy and deserving students who sincerely desire a Dordt College education. These scholarships are provided to make a Dordt College education possible for students who would otherwise find it difficult to consider Christian higher education. The selection process will give preference to students from the state of Michigan.

Carol (Hiner, '03) Yates writes, "After completing my classes in June, I will graduate on July 28, 2006 with my master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Azusa Pacific University. I have also been awarded a stipend from the MFT Consortium of Los Angeles County to provide 'multiculturally competent' therapy for one year in a Dept. of Mental Health agency after graduation."

Matthew ('03) and **Alexis (Smith, ex'04)** **Hilbelink** announce the birth of a healthy boy, Aiden Matthew, on May 7, 2006. The Hilbelinks live in Crestwood, Illinois.

Tom Koolhaas ('03) married Laura Bylsma on December 30, 2005.

Nicole (Vos, '03) Kallemyn has been awarded a Presidential Graduate Fellowship at

the University of Iowa Graduate College, where she is studying biomedical engineering. The Presidential Graduate Fellowship Program offers substantial financial support for 20-25 of the most promising doctoral students, usually for five years if they maintain their performance.

Karla (Hofman, '04) and **Aaron Klein ('04)** were married on July 29, 2006, in Sanborn, Iowa. They live in Mount Vernon, Washington. Aaron is a weight engineer at Boeing in Everett, Washington, and Karla teaches fourth and fifth grades at Viewcrest Christian School.

Jessica (Van Smeerdyk, '04) and **Kevin ('04)** **Baas's** baby girl, Katrina Grace, was born on April 4, 2006.

Brian ('04) and **Melody Dengler** had a baby girl, Addiline Faith, on July 12, 2006.

Hannah Renae was born to **Jason ('04)** and **Emily (Hoogendoorn, '04)** **Mulder** on July 23, 2006.

Kristin (Kuipers, '04) and **Kurtis Dykstra** announce the birth of Drew William Peter on June 4, 2006.

Denise VerBeek ('04) and **Wilbert Talen ('06)** were married on July 7, 2006.

Kearsen Boman ('05) and **Joshua Nyenhuis ('05)** were married on July 22, 2006. They currently live in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Erik ('05) and **Brenda (Henderson, '05)** **Fritsch** welcomed Anika, on July 29, 2005.

Lee Christians ('05) and **Dawn Koops ('08)** were married on June 10, 2006.

Elizabeth Van Haften ('06) is working as a civil engineer in Monroe, Washington.

BOOK REVIEW

Celebrating a Christian life truly lived to the fullest

In His Feathers
Edited By James Calvin Schaap

Jenni Parker

The opening of Erich Segal's novel *Love Story* asks the question, "What do you say about a girl who died?"—a question that came back to me as I tried to come up with a way to describe a very different kind of love story I recently read. Instead of some fictional soap opera of lost love and remembrance, *In His Feathers: The Letters and Journals of Sharon Bomgaars* (Dordt College Press), tells a story of how one Christian wife and mother dying of cancer confronts her fate, not with "rage against the dying of the light," but with thankful celebration of the glory of God's creation, His gifts of life and love, and every bit of light His grace affords until her final sunset.

In His Feathers, edited and introduced by Christian author and Dordt College professor James Calvin Schaap, paints a poignant picture drawn from the journal pages of a Jackson, Mississippi, woman of faith, of how her own faith and the love of God and family helped sustain her during the tumultuous journey from a diagnosis of ovarian cancer in 1999 to her death three years later. This important compilation details, in Bomgaars's own words, her thoughts, fears, and hopes; her pain, sorrows and joys, as well as her prayers and praises.

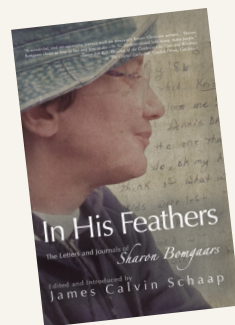
Sharon (Wagenaar) grew up in Iowa, where she married Dennis Bomgaars, and where the two attended Dordt College

However, Sharon gave up her studies to become a mother; and after her husband graduated, they and their two children moved to Mississippi, where he attended Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, and she gave birth to two more children.

A devoted mom and homemaker, Sharon home-schooled all four of her kids through high school. She enjoyed her family, tending their healthy growth and development. As an avid birdwatcher and nature enthusiast, Sharon loved the outdoors and was almost fanatical about proper nutrition and a healthy lifestyle, which was one of the reasons her cancer diagnosis at age forty-three struck her as such an ironic surprise.

Not one to indulge in self-pity, Sharon faced her doctors' ominous prognosis with realism and determination. While not ruling out the possibility of a miracle, she saw the importance of teaching her kids how to accept whatever the Lord decides with humility, grace, and a thankful spirit. "When God's will seems so clear," she observed in her journals at one point, "I cannot dig in my heels and drag my feet. It seems best to me to talk with my children of my death, to prepare for it."

During her three-year battle with the disease, Sharon experienced the highs and lows of life with terminal cancer



and chronicled those highs and lows with unstinting honesty. Through her journal, she posthumously allows others to accompany her through it all, from the moments of remission and well-being to the agonizing experience of fighting the painful regrowth of tumors with what were often equally painful surgical and chemotherapy treatments, and her increasing weariness and debilitation as the deadly cancer advanced inexorably upon her waning life.

Although Sharon's faith never failed, at times her upbeat disposition and cheerful outlook did. Yet, throughout her story, Sharon's journals reveal a heart neither bitter nor filled with regrets. She repeatedly expressed gratitude that God allowed her to live to raise her children to adulthood and even to see two sons marry before she died; and at one point she noted that she had received plenty of "little treats" from God. "I can't have the big prize (life)," she said, "but He sure gives me lots of little ones."

At the end of *In His Feathers*, Sharon's own final remark—typical of her—ascribes goodness and faithfulness to her maker. "God is gracious," she wrote. "He has sustained me through cancer." And although I confess I was weeping as I closed the book, I do not think of this account of her life, ultimately, as a sad story.

What can you say about the woman whose story is told in the pages of *In His Feathers*? I would say she was someone

who lived a beautiful life of faith and selflessness. And she is someone who, faced with imminent death, delighted in the Lord and His gifts in a way that made her death beautiful as well. She didn't live like she was dying, so much as she died the way she had lived—gratefully, graciously, all the while giving honor to God and thought for how to make every moment of the journey meaningful.

Sharon's life and death are a challenge to those of us whose lives may or may not be threatened by anything so relentless as cancer, but who are nevertheless compelled by circumstance, as she was, to answer some of life's hardest questions. Among those questions are how will we accept the path God has ordained for us, and what will we do with the time we have left. How now shall we live, always ready to die but without ever ceasing to live the abundant, full life to which we have been called?

The answers Sharon Bomgaars offers us through her journals will undoubtedly inspire and challenge many to celebrate life with all its vagaries, tragedies and triumphs alike. Her story will also remind many, as it did me, to be grateful for the lives we are given and the fact that we live each day in the shadow of God's wings—or, as Sharon would have put it, "in his feathers."

Jenni Parker is an associate editor for *AgapePress*, a Christian news service based in Tupelo, Mississippi, and a contributing writer for *The Banner*.

Finding my role as a Christian working in foreign policy

Michelle Bekkering

In March 2006, I found myself in a Volkswagen van bouncing along a narrow road in the western Ukraine. Along with another delegate, I was leading an election observation mission to the oblast of Ternopil on behalf of the International Republican Institute (IRI). Our mission was to observe the voting in as many precincts as possible throughout the region, so we decided to leave the main city and start visiting the villages. Our guide seemed surprised that two “city girls” would choose to visit the countryside rather than remain in the city. I smiled and told him that I wasn’t originally from the city; in fact, I grew up on a farm in Iowa, and that my husband and I had lived for several years on a farm in Canada. He paused for a moment and asked me “then how did you ever get *here*?” I laughed. That was a good question.

I was born and raised on a farm near Sanborn, Iowa. Since junior high, I’ve been interested in politics. My grandmother and aunt were actively involved in local politics, and since I was young, I had accompanied them as they assisted in campaigns, attended caucuses and party conventions, and made trips to the state capital in Des Moines to lobby on behalf of the pro-life cause. These events had a monumental impact on me and helped shape my worldview early on. I felt strongly that God’s people had a responsibility to stand up for their Christian beliefs and values. What better arena for this than politics?

So in 1994, I enrolled in Dordt College, as a political studies major. I spent the second semester of my junior year in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on the Dordt N-SPICE semester abroad program. Being there opened my eyes in so many ways; it was the first time I had traveled outside of North America, and I was fascinated. I was intrigued by the differences in culture and political system and yearned to see an even broader picture of the world. By my senior year, I knew that I wanted to focus on international relations. I took as many comparative politics and other internationally focused classes as I could. My worldview was being shaped, and I found myself contemplating what the role of a Christian in foreign policy should be.



Michelle Bekkering and her husband, Mark, live in Washington, D.C., so that Michelle can live her desire to be involved in politics and international relations.

My path to a career in foreign policy took several years. I married fellow Dordt student Mark Bekkering in 1998, and we moved to Taber, Alberta, Canada, where Mark joined his family’s farming business. I kept thinking about how best to turn my love for politics and international relations into a career, and four years later Mark and I decided to move to Washington, D.C.—to me the natural center of things political. Mark started his own business and is now a general contractor. My first job was on “the Hill” working for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher from California. It was a great opportunity to see how Congress functions and how the three branches of government relate.

Then in 2003, I was offered an extraordinary opportunity to obtain security clearance and work for the White House in the National Security Council. I worked in the European and Eurasian Directorate, and assisted with the portfolios of Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe. The National Security Council advises and assists the President on national security and foreign policies. I learned so much in this job, and it was a pleasure to serve both the President and Dr. Condoleezza Rice. During this time, I also became increasingly interested in not only helping to shape our foreign policy, but in implementing these policy objectives.

So, in 2005, I accepted a job with the International Republican Institute (IRI). IRI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide by developing political parties, civic institutions, open elections, good governance and the rule of law. I work in the Eurasia division, and my portfolio is Belarus, the last dictatorship in Europe. We work with the emerging democratic coalition which is seeking to remove the shackles of dictatorial oppression and bring about true democratic change and a free and open society. We offer trainings like “Democracy Schools” which teach about the institutions, values, and principles of a democracy. We also work to cultivate active

women and youth leaders. As a Christian, a unique opportunity for me has been working with a group of evangelicals in Belarus who want to strengthen the alliance and activism of the religious sector and form a Christian Democratic Party. We seek to introduce them to similar religious organizations in the United States and Europe and expose them to various models for faith-based activism.

The courage of these activists in Belarus inspires me. While in America we often take our political liberties for granted—the ability to protest, speak out against injustice, demand change—the citizens of Belarus are routinely jailed and beaten for criticizing their government or simply for attending pro-democratic rallies or meetings. As Christians, we often ask ourselves how God can use us in the careers that we have chosen. I hope that one way in which I can serve God is by working with these victims of political repression to make sure that their voice is heard and that their rights are acknowledged.

IRI also hosts election observation missions to fulfill its mission to promote open and honest elections — which is how I found myself traveling through Ukraine in March of this year. I was observing Ukraine’s first parliamentary and local elections since the Orange Revolution in 2004.

In Ternopil, my fellow delegate and I met with local election officials and campaign and political leaders before election day to ascertain whether or not electoral regulations were being followed. On election day, we traveled around the oblast and observed the voting process. We were not to interfere in any way, but to observe whether regulations were being followed and to document causes for concern—such as whether people were being coerced to vote for a specific candidate or whether we observed voter fraud or ballot box tampering. Finally, at the close of voting on Election Day, we observed the counting of votes and tabulation of results at a local precinct. We also documented the results so that we could later compare them to official results released from the Central Election Commission and make sure that the results had not been changed during transmission from the local polling station. Our team chose to observe the counting process in the village of Gayi Shevchenkivski. I had expected some resentment from the Ukrainians to our presence, but they welcomed us with open arms. They were so proud of their country and the democratic changes that had been made since the Orange Revolution, and they were specifically proud that they had the opportunity to conduct free and fair elections. So, in a small building without indoor plumbing or centralized heat, we sat up all night and watched ballots being counted. We finally left the next morning at sunrise. As the van drove away, I turned around and saw that a small crowd was standing on the front stoop watching us leave. They were waving and shouting “thank you.” It was an experience I won’t soon forget.



Working to advance freedom and democracy took Michelle Bekkering to Belarus to monitor elections in what she calls the last dictatorship in Europe.

Named Scholarship Recipients

Al Mennega Honors Scholarship
Jeriel Melgares

Alice De Graaf Memorial Scholarship
Alexander Powell

Alumni Association Regional Scholarship
Justin Carruthers
Nathaniel Cordel
Abigail Dykstra
Emily Greenfield
Kendra Groen
Dana Haak
Rebecca Love
Rachel Vos

Alumni Association Scholarship
Jessica Braunschweig
Heather Kooiman
Justin Van Zee

American State Bank Business Scholarship
Trisha Fynaardt
Joanna Van Velzen
Micah Vant Hoff
Jamie Wiersma

Anne Heyns DeBeer Music Education Scholarship
Elizabeth Van Maanen

B.J. & Deborah Haan Teacher Education Scholarship
Sara Achterhof

Ben & Matilda Vos Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship
Jami Smith Hoekstra

Bloemendaal Organ Scholarship
Sarah Schaap

Bomgaars Scholarship
Daniel Poel

Boot Family Study Abroad Scholarship
Nicole Vandenberg

Carol Lee Zylstra Church Music Scholarship
Neil Elgersma

Carrie Foods Special Effort Business Scholarship
James Dykstra
Leah Radde

Chris E. Haan Memorial Preseminary Scholarship
George Den Oudsten
Bradley Redeker
Kevin Riemersma
Merrick Van Otterloo
Brent Van Schepen
Justin Van Zee

Dallas Apol Foreign Language Scholarship
Alicia Hines

Daniel Oosterman Memorial Scholarship
Sara Hanenburg

Dick & Hilda Addink Scholarship
Kenny Yang

Dordt College Foreign Language Department Study Abroad Scholarship
Ann Andree

Dordt College Social Work Scholarship
Beth Ochsner

Dordt Development Foundation Activities Grant
Dawn Wieringa

EDA, Inc. Engineering Scholarship
Roy Duinick
Richard Scholtens

(continued in next issue)

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and needs of the college. Send address corrections and correspondence to VOICE, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1606 or e-mail to voice@dordt.edu.

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E V E N T S

Activities

Nov. 2	4:00 p.m.	Guest Lecture, "The Myth of Progress," John Hiemstra, (CL160)
Nov. 17	7:30 p.m.	Travelogue (BJ Haan Auditorium)
Dec. 6	3:30 p.m.	Psychology Student Research Conference (Campus Center)

Theater

Nov. 30	7:30 p.m.	Student Show <i>Little Women</i> , New World Theater (CL181)
Dec. 1, 2	7:30 p.m.	<i>Little Women</i>
Dec. 7, 9	7:30 p.m.	<i>Little Women</i>

Art

Campus Center Gallery

November		<i>Sioux County Folks</i> , photographs, stories, and book layouts by Doug Burg, James Schaap, and David Versluis
November 1-15		"Pictures Through an Open Window," alumni Erika Hyde and Matt Kunnari (<i>Classroom Gallery</i>)
December		Dordt/Northwestern Student Show

Sports

Nov. 2	7:30 p.m.	Volleyball vs. Northwestern
Nov. 3	5:30 p.m.	WBB vs. Jamestown
	7:30 p.m.	MBB vs. Jamestown
Nov. 4	10:30 a.m.	Cross-Country NAIA Region III Championship, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
	2:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Valley City State
	4:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Valley City State
Nov. 10	7:00 p.m.	Dordt Blades Hockey vs. UNI, All Seasons Center
Nov. 11	7:00 p.m.	Dordt Blades Hockey vs. UNI, All Seasons Center
Nov. 14	7:30 p.m.	MBB vs. Grace
Nov. 21	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Northwestern, @ Orange City, Iowa
	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Northwestern, @ Orange City, Iowa
Dec. 2	2:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Midland Lutheran
Dec. 6	5:30 p.m.	MBB vs. Midland Lutheran
	7:30 p.m.	WBB vs. Buena Vista
Dec. 9	2:00 p.m.	MBB vs Buena Vista
	4:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Briar Cliff
	4:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Briar Cliff
Dec. 12	7:00 p.m.	Hockey Charity game
Dec. 12	7:30 p.m.	MBB vs. Dakota State

Music

BJ Haan Auditorium

Nov. 3	7:30 p.m.	Amy Vander Kamp Senior Recital
Nov. 4	7:30 p.m.	Mark Schultz Concert
Nov. 7	1:30 p.m.	NISO Children's Concert
	7:30 p.m.	NISO Fall Concert
Nov. 8	7:30 p.m.	David Burgess Guitar Recital
Nov. 10	7:30 p.m.	Lisa De Vries Senior Recital
Dec. 8	7:30 p.m.	Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra Concert
Dec. 12	7:30 p.m.	Campus, Community, Jazz Bands Concert
Dec. 15	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Choral Concert



8

Students learn through summer research



1

New digital studio opens



5

Engineering is re-accredited



7

New program in early childhood education begins