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Dordt College

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# THE VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 54

NUMBER 3

“  
*I have to risk if they are to risk ... you can't push a rope—students need to be willing to learn.*  
”



## English 100

**Giving students the chance to succeed in college**

Students who complete Dr. Bill Elgersma's English 100 class feel confident that they'll be able to do the writing needed on the job.

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Tass Ibrahim writes about experiencing history

#### Sally Jongsma

If you take the time during a graduation ceremony to look at people in the audience, you'll find that it's not just the parents who have looks of pride on their faces. In fact, Dr. Bill Elgersma thinks he sometimes feels that pride as poignantly as the parents do.

Elgersma teaches English 100, Developmental English, a class required of all students who are allowed to enroll with grade point averages or ACT scores that put them at risk in college. Those students usually fall into one of four categories: those who haven't applied themselves in high school, those who are underprepared, those with learning difficulties, and a few who may have difficulty doing college-level work but are granted provisional admission.

Elgersma expects his students to be successful even though he knows that the statistics say only thirty percent of them will graduate. His students beat those percentages. Fifty-two percent of them will go on to graduate. But it is not without hard work by students and a program from Elgersma that some find too tough at first and some are never able or willing to complete.

“If I had known it would be this much

#### Developmental Courses

Eighty percent of colleges and universities have introduced developmental programs for students in the past two decades. Developmental writing courses are designed to teach students basic writing competence, something that a generation ago was assumed when students enrolled.

work, I would have worked harder in high school,” said one student who admitted he hadn't worked much before college. For such students, the willingness to develop habits and strategies necessary for learning are enough to get them out of provisional status. Other students need more than just applying themselves.

Elgersma's students don't get graded on how hard they try but on how well they can write.

“They need to have the competence to do the writing that will be required of them in their job and the confidence that they can do it,” he says, adding that students leave the course with a fairly clear idea of what they do

well and what they don't do as well.

Working with these students becomes very personal for Elgersma, yet some of his students would probably confess to a love-hate relationship with their professor. Known locally as a jack-of-all-trades, Elgersma is as quick to help them fix their cars as he is to help them fix their writing. Some are deeply appreciative; some never get to that point. On his bulletin board, Elgersma keeps posted a sample of a harsh e-mail that keeps him grounded in reality.

“These aren't bad or dumb responses; some students just aren't in the right place now to make the extra effort it takes to catch up,” says Elgersma philosophically, yet caringly.

He speaks from experience, having left college twice before earning his B.A. and getting a job teaching in high school. Later, he finished a Ph.D. and now teaches in college.

“Sometimes you have to fail before you realize that you are limiting your possibilities,” he says. He believes that persistence is the greatest determiner of whether a student will be successful, and he's convinced that English 100 gives students the opportunity to succeed if they want to and are able.

English 100 students meet with Elgersma

(Continued on page 2)

# But is it worth the cost?

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

Perhaps it's the economic stress of the moment that gives added urgency, but more and more people seem to be asking about their prospective college experience, "How do I know whether I'm getting my money's worth?" I gave one answer to that question in last winter's edition of *The Voice*, but I think this issue's articles on students' educational experiences illustrate my point even more concretely.

The "am I getting my money's worth" question takes several forms. Some ask, "Can I get a good job once I graduate from the college?" To that question Dordt College can respond, "Everyone's experience varies, but we know that on average more than ninety-five percent of our graduates are employed or in graduate school within six months following graduation." And when you recognize that even in our present economic crisis the national unemployment rate among college graduates is only half that of the population as a whole, that seems to be a pretty good reason, in itself, to believe that Dordt College may be a place where you'll get your money's worth.

Another way of asking the question is, "If I enroll at Dordt College, how sure

can I be that I will graduate from college and that it won't take me forever to get through?"

A national statistical survey showed that Dordt's graduation rate is about fifty percent better than that at other comparable colleges. More to the point, ninety-four percent of our graduates complete their course of study in four years or less, saving themselves the added cost of additional years of paying college tuition and forgoing regular income. Again, it seems that Dordt College is a place where you have a good chance of getting your money's worth for what you invest.

The articles in this issue highlight even more significant answers to the question of value. From the student experience point of view the answer is: You'll get your money's worth here. Dordt College has invested significantly in providing a top-flight residential college experience that combines both classroom and life activities into a full-orbed growth experience. I think it adds up to a comprehensive educational environment that seems hard to beat—and at a price that is more



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

accessible than many comparable colleges and universities.

Yet there's still another point. According to a recent nationally-administered survey, over fifty percent of our graduating students responded that their Dordt College education had "challenged me to critically evaluate and reconsider values that I have always held." At the same time more than seventy-five of our graduates indicated that "as a result of my experience at [Dordt], my

values are more consistent with a Christian world and life view." In other words, Dordt College provides an environment in which fundamental beliefs and values can be examined—but then also reaffirmed with a newfound maturity that can last for a lifetime of service in God's kingdom.

It's been a long time since I was a student, so I'm not certain whether all incoming students would share my assessment. But I do know that in the survey I mentioned earlier, almost nine out of ten graduates said that if they had to start college over, they would choose Dordt College all over again. Clearly our

graduates also believe such an experience was worth the cost.

In today's economic environment, we as a college have to try to make this education possible for as many as we can. We certainly are thrilled that the U.S. government has agreed to increase dramatically the amount of federal aid available to our students as well as providing more generous tax credits to offset some of their educational costs. And thanks largely to generous supporters, we are allocating even greater levels of financial aid for prospective students than before. And, maybe most important, during this coming year Dordt College students will see one of the lowest increases in tuition and fees in recent memory.

As a college president, I know better than to duck the question of cost. These are difficult times. Yet as long as Dordt College continues to provide the comprehensive, biblically-based education that the student stories in this issue of *The Voice* describe, I am confident that our graduates will continue to find their educational experience worth the cost—and that the Christ-centered perspective they form here will continue to benefit God's kingdom for decades to come in whatever niche and calling Christ may lead them.

## Student TAs help make the class successful

(Continued from page 1)

three times per week and write eight different papers over the course of the semester. He always has them write in styles and on topics that will help their work in their major. Topics need to be worthwhile, giving them new knowledge, helping them answer "so what?" questions, and helping them think critically. He has no patience for busywork.

The class is highly structured—because it has to be, Elgersma believes.

"Some students have manipulated their way through school without doing the work that is needed to really learn," he says. Others have difficulty setting priorities or thinking through ideas or going through the process needed to complete an assignment. Here they read books and novels and respond to them in ways that force them to think about what they've read and articulate their thoughts in writing.

Much of the course is run as a workshop, although Elgersma hits grammar hard, too. Students not only write their own papers, but they read and give comments on their fellow students' papers. This is a good opportunity for students to learn by having to explain what they find, and it is a way for them to realize that they have something valuable to contribute.

But students have much more help than what Elgersma can give by himself. One student tutor is provided for every three students in the class, and each student meets one-on-one with a tutor each week. Tutors attend classes, they go over writing assignments for the class, and they have their students turn in at least two pages of writing per week.

"The TAs (teaching assistants) are almost on call for their students," says Elgersma. They provide support and encouragement as well as writing assistance. They reinforce what happened in class that week, and in some cases do their own research to find better ways to help a fellow student become a better writer.

"TAs are the English 100 students' greatest advocate," says Elgersma, who frequently has tutors point out



Laurissa Boman and Emily Stam say that their work as writing assistants has given them experience they will certainly carry into their classrooms.

individual needs they've discovered. Some of these ten to fifteen TAs are secondary education majors, others are students he and his colleagues identify as both good writers and good tutors.

"However challenging this job may be, I enjoy meeting with the students, grading papers with fewer errors by the end of the semester, and above all seeing my students understand the value of writing," says education major Laurissa Boman. She worked with students on such things as word recognition, correct and incorrect grammar, comprehension, writing craft, academic documentation, analysis, paper formatting, organization, accountability, and participation. "This could make the course seem an impossible task, but the students walk away with an ability and a confidence to write," she says.

Having their own personal tutor doesn't cost them anything extra, but it is a privilege, Elgersma reminds his students—and one that they will lose if they don't meet the work requirements of the course. They can complete the course without a tutor, but Elgersma is so convinced of

the importance of this part of their learning that he bases thirty percent of the grade on students' work with their tutor.

"It takes way too much of a tutor's time, but at the same time it is the best experience in perseverance for any future teacher, and it can be immensely rewarding," he says. He looks for students who care about others and who are disciplined themselves.

"It was a joy to see the students improve over the semester, especially when they recognized their own improvement and began to find some pleasure in writing," says English secondary education major Emily Stam. As an aspiring English teacher, this position provided me with experiences I would not otherwise receive. They say teaching is the best way to learn and...this workstudy position has had an impact on the way I view writing, collaboration, and most importantly, teaching—knowledge that I will certainly carry into my own English classroom someday."

The fact that students required to take English 100 must pass it in order to graduate puts pressure on all of those involved. Students must want to do the work to succeed, and tutors need to do their best to help. Elgersma and his tutors feel a personal sense of satisfaction or failure for almost all of them. Yet that pressure also makes teaching the class exciting for Elgersma.

"It's a challenge to motivate students who have no desire to be in your class," he says. He is always thinking of new—sometimes extreme—tactics to get them engaged and thinking, to push them from what's comfortable, to apply things they hear to their lives. He'll hear something on the radio and ask a student to explain what it means; he'll make an outrageous statement and expect students to give a counter argument.

"I have to risk if they are to risk," Elgersma says, in the next breath acknowledging that "you can't push a rope—students need to be willing to learn." Yet, in order to sleep at night, he needs to know that he's done all he can to help his students succeed and get their tuition's worth if they really want to.

# Students begin new year in slum

Jane Ver Steeg

Ten digital media students and Professor Mark Volkers began 2009 somewhere over the International Date Line, flying toward an adventure that can only be described as life-changing. Though the travel portion of their experience has been completed, the real work has just begun. Raw video gathered on a trip to the Philippines is now being crafted into a documentary film and other video projects by Volkers and an advanced digital media editing class. The completed projects will inform people everywhere about the desperate needs of slum dwellers of the world, as well as mission programs that are attempting to address issues of poverty.

The Dordt digital media students spent a week in Manila, capital of the Philippines, gathering video for a documentary film about slums. They also recorded footage for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) on its programs for Filipinos suffering from poverty, hunger, and injustice.

A documentary film may not change the world, says Volkers, but he believes in the power of digital media. “With our documentary we hope to shine a light on a huge global issue,” says Volkers, who has been in more than twenty countries as a photojournalist and documentary filmmaker while accumulating national and international awards for his work. In his travels he’s befriended many slum dwellers, and their plight is close to his heart.

“According to the United Nations, one in six of us now lives in a slum. That’s one billion people without access to what many of us consider normal sanitation, security, or rights,” says Volkers. U.N. projections indicate that by 2030, the number of slum dwellers may swell to two billion.

“This is a global issue that must be addressed,” says Volkers. He intends to do his part with the Slum Documentary Film Project. The work in progress will eventually contain footage of slums in three continents: Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Dordt digital media students are partners in the project, helping to create *pro bono* videos while getting practical experience as camera crews, writers, photographers, and video editors. For the documentary project, Volkers has set up a twelve-person board of advisors, whose wide breadth of knowledge and experience will ensure quality, accuracy, and integrity of the finished product.

“We’ll look to experts—the academics, the economists, and more,” says Volkers. “But we’re also spending time with the real experts of this story—those who live in the slums.”



Professor Mark Volkers helps with positioning cameras under a Las Piñas bridge, where many families have built makeshift homes constructed of bamboo and discarded tarps they’ve found.

## The Traveling Team

The digital media student team traveling with Mark Volkers to Manila consisted of Evan Gulstine from St. Charles, Illinois; Peter Hessels from Dunnville, Ontario; Andrew Hornor from Houston, Texas; Luke Kreykes from Sheldon, Iowa; Piper Kucera from Traer, Iowa; Danielle Roos, Alvin Shim, and Philip Van Maanen of Sioux Center, Iowa; Dale Vande Griend from Hull, Iowa; and Hani Yang from Merida, Mexico.

Partial funding for the slum documentary project has been awarded by Dordt College’s Andreas Center, and students participating in the Manila trip raised personal funds for their travel expenses. Christian Reformed Church contacts in the Philippines were helpful in identifying two additional film topics, locations, and participants, which allowed Dordt students to break into three film teams upon their arrival. One team worked on the slum documentary; a second filmed at Grace Community Christian School for promotional purposes; and the third taped interviews about Micro Finance Cooperative development among poor rural communities in Southern Luzon.

Regardless of their video assignment, each Dordt participant had an opportunity to experience firsthand the squalid living conditions of the slums of Cavite and Las Piñas garbage dump, bordering the bay on the southern end of Manila.

They watched malnourished children scramble through muck and garbage to retrieve trash that might earn them approximately \$1 or \$2 a day.

They viewed cardboard and iron-sheet structures under bridges that families called home.

They saw the individual faces of just a few of the one billion slum dwellers in our

world and recognized the fact that each one has hopes and aspirations, dreams, and wishes.

“I think there was a cost for us as Westerners to gain this empathy and understanding,” says Volkers in his slumdoc blog. “The cost was some of the dignity of the people living in that slum. They knew what was going on. They knew rich people were coming to look at poor people. That’s a definite cost.”

He adds, “Was it worth it? Time will tell. These students are on their way to becoming leaders in many different arenas of life. This experience won’t leave them. Perhaps they won’t leave the experience. Perhaps one, or two, or all of them, will use their considerable gifts and talents in the years to come to make a difference.”

For an entire week, Volkers, Kucera and Hessels filmed a family that lives under a bridge and tries to make a living at the city dump. Jose and Elvie Alquino Jr. and their six children, agreed to be filmed by the Dordt College crew. They sort through garbage, looking for recyclable plastic, aluminum, tin, and copper. Arriving garbage trucks are swarmed by residents equipped with short, curved metal hooks to help them snag recyclables. On a good day, the family can make about 200 pesos, or about \$4.25. They can afford to send only one of their

## On the Web

The Slum Documentary Film Project is an ongoing effort posted online at [www.slumdoc.com](http://www.slumdoc.com). Visitors to the site can view a video and photo gallery of slums in Nicaragua filmed by Volkers a few years ago, find additional facts about world poverty, and read Volkers’ blog. Photos from the Philippines have been added, and film clips will be added as editing and production work continues.

six children to school. The family sleeps on bamboo slats strung between bridge girders, just inches below traffic rolling over the top of the bridge.

“The river serves as the community’s laundry, bath tub, cooking water, trash can, toilet, and food source. But the people are so happy; they always smile and are willing to lend a helping hand. They loved to show us everything about the way they live.” Kucera said hundreds of children greeted them each day, following the film team around and calling them by name.

“As a missionary kid, I thought I had seen enough poverty, but this was still astonishing,” adds Hani Yang, a junior digital media production major with a journalism minor. “As soon as I stepped out of the van, stinky smell surrounded me.” But despite garbage literally everywhere, she remembers distinctly the giggling and smiling children.

Andrew Horner, a digital media production and graphic design major, has been to Honduras and had lived in Papua New Guinea in a missionary family for the first few years of his life, but he still found the poverty shocking. “It didn’t seem right that people would have to live such a miserable life.”

The team visit to the slums is also the most vivid memory for Alvin Shim, a junior English writing major. “Seeing piles of garbage as big as dorm halls, and entire families rooting through them, and children smiling and naked and bruised ... it’s difficult to say that we didn’t expect it, but I don’t think there is any way we could be prepared to experience this glimpse of their lives.”

Shim was particularly struck by the joy and thankfulness exhibited in the lives of a family living under a bridge and digging through garbage every day. “It angers us that they’re struggling to feed their children and can only afford to send one kid to school. That’s injustice.”



## Getting published

If you're teaching children to read and write, you must write yourself. That's one of the things Rebecca (Schelhaas) Van Schepen learned from Dr. Leah Zuidema. Because of Zuidema's encouragement, Van Schepen, a junior education major, had her first article published this year.

Last semester, Van Schepen took Zuidema's course "Writing Workshop for Teachers." For one of her assignments, she wrote a paper on a strategy on fresh approaches to teaching Bible stories to young students that she had developed for another course. Zuidema always encourages her students to find ways to share what they've learned with others, so Van Schepen looked for a publication that might be interested in her paper. After a little digging, she found that the *Christian School Teacher's* December issue would focus on teaching Bible in the classroom. She pushed to finish by the magazine's deadline.



Van Schepen

Word of her article's acceptance reached campus, though, before she heard the news herself. She was congratulated by two of her professors before she even received her own letter. The editor had called Professor Tim Van Soelen, a friend, for more information about Van Schepen. Not realizing that she did not know, he congratulated her, as did other education professors. She smiles as she tells the story, but says that the most important part of the incident and all that led up to it is how it changed her perceptions of herself.

"I never thought of myself as a writer, but now I might think about submitting something again," she says. "A lot of education is using what others have tried and found successful."

Van Schepen plans to teach in an elementary school, and her emphasis is in special education, early childhood education, and reading.

# Zevenbergen shares his lean enterprise expertise with several local businesses

Sally Jongsma

In lean times it makes sense that businesses would want to know more about lean enterprise. First-year business professor Dale Zevenbergen is a strong advocate and experienced resource person for the business model known as lean enterprise. He teaches its concepts in his Operations Management class, but he also works with local companies that want to learn more about how the approach can help them do what they are doing better.

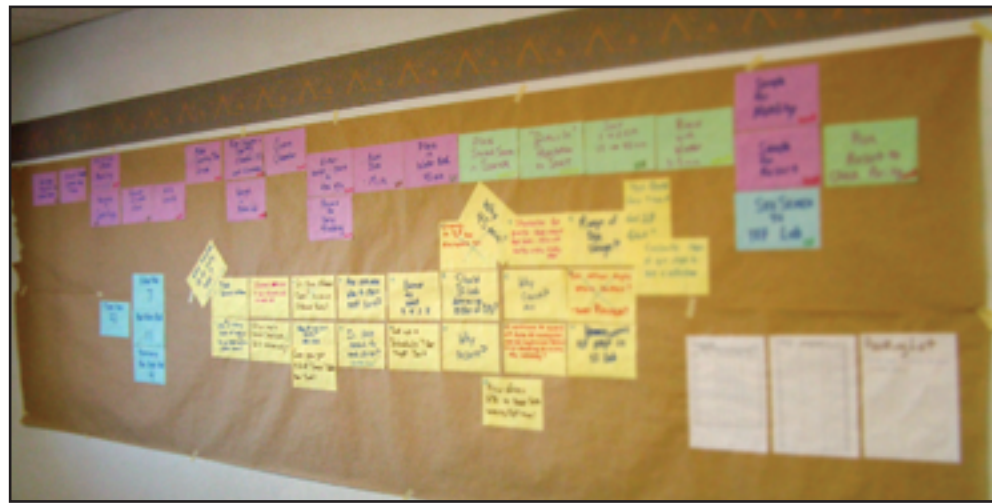
Lean enterprise is a system for organizing and managing product development, operations, suppliers, and customer relations, says Zevenbergen. It also helps a company serve its customers better, produce better-quality products, and use less human effort, less space, less time, and less capital.

Zevenbergen has recently been working with a couple of local companies to help them assess their work flow and figure out how they could improve it. For Zevenbergen, who regularly participated in Continuous Improvement events at Pella Corporation before coming to Dordt, leading people through the process is something he can almost do in his sleep. But for his students, it is an invaluable learning opportunity. Although they get no special credit for their participation, Zevenbergen's students learn more and learn it more quickly than if they studied it only in class.

"Plus it's a good way for Dordt to assist businesses who support the college," says Zevenbergen.

Lean proponents say that in most companies only a small number of the steps in their processes are crucial to creating the product the customer is paying for. The key is meeting customer needs, according to this model. Anything that doesn't improve the value or quality of the product for the customer should be re-examined or eliminated—to create a "leaner" operation.

To get lean, companies ask people involved in a particular process to sit down together, diagram every step they go through, from concept to delivery, and identify waste and inefficiencies. This



When Dale Zevenbergen leads a continuous improvement event, he helps employees visualize the entire production process to give them a better sense of how things fit together and where the extra steps come in.

highlights small details that can be corrected quickly and allows them to make immediate and significant improvements, says Zevenbergen. In the meantime, the company can work on longer term changes it wants to make. Other pieces of the process involve keeping inventory low by producing only when there is demand and by continually reassessing efforts to reduce effort, space needed, time, cost, resources, and mistakes.

"One 'event' helps them determine whether this is something that will be helpful for them," says Zevenbergen.

In his recent work with Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, Zevenbergen worked with Dordt Alumnus Harry Groenendyk. Together they mapped the process (under study), identified where there was wasted time/effort/space, and came up with ideas for improvement. The company and its employees can now set priorities for how to act and begin making changes.

"It's a pretty simple concept but can be difficult to implement and maintain unless the company embraces it as part of their culture," says Zevenbergen, who estimates that while at Pella Corporation he was part of more than seventy Continuous Improvement events. But he is convinced that the benefits of cost savings, improved products, and employee ownership for their work makes it worth the effort.

People who do the work have the best sense of how things are working. They need to be valued and heard, says Zevenbergen. When they are, they feel much better about their work. That benefits the company and empowers people to come up with good ideas that will improve their work. Although some decisions still need to be made by company executives, in a continuous improvement event, titles need to be left at the door, says Zevenbergen. "It flattens an organization—and makes it work better."

Zevenbergen acknowledges that it is easier to implement lean enterprise efforts in a company that is growing. It's obviously easier for employees to take an honest look at eliminating waste in a process if it means they will go on to another assignment rather than lose their job.

"But lean enterprise can be and has been successful even in companies that are not growing and in union settings, says Zevenbergen, acknowledging that it builds in other challenges and requires another level of communication and participation.

Zevenbergen looks forward to working with more businesses, taking with him more students, and maybe opening the door for more internships for his students. And, just maybe, he says, colleges could think about this model of assessment in the future.

# Graphics students redesign library signs

Sarah Groneck

The signs in the John and Louise Hulst Library are getting an aesthetic overhaul, thanks to the Advanced Graphic Design III students. The library staff commissioned the thirty graphic design students to create an array of sign designs for them to consider.

"We thought it was time to update the language and make it more user-friendly," said Sheryl Taylor, director of library services.

Taylor also asked the graphic design students to think of better descriptors for the different signs. For example, many students do not know what the sign "Bound Journals" means. A sign marked "Magazines, Journals, and Newspapers" will give them a better idea of what they can find in that section.

The whole class met with Taylor in the



library, who gave each of them blue, maroon, and gold-colored carpet and paint samples so the designs they created would go with the décor.

After three weeks of work, the students presented their designs to the library staff.

"There was a lot of creativity in the projects," said graphic design professor David Versluis. "I am very pleased that the students were disciplined, dedicated, and serious about the work."

Taylor found it difficult to choose only one design because there were so many good options. In the end, the library staff chose junior Amanda Brouwer's design, which

features the silhouette of an open book in the background. A sign company in Sheldon, Iowa, is currently creating a test sign from the selected design. Versluis expects the new signs to be installed by this summer.

Taylor and her staff are grateful for the work done by the graphic design students and look forward to the installation of the new signs.

"They had never done a sign project before, but it caused them to stretch their abilities," said Taylor. "It was a win-win for both groups."

# Book culling benefits literacy programs

Sarah Groneck

When the John and Louise Hulst Library staff installed moving bookshelves this summer, they faced a quandary: what to do with a surplus of outdated and unused books.

"We had to physically move each book in the library to install the shelves," said Jennifer Breems, reference and services librarian at the Hulst Library. "So, we decided to start getting rid of books that were outdated."

The library staff set aside nearly 15,000 books and records that had not been checked out in the last ten years.

"It was mainly a space issue," said Breems. "We're not a research university. We're concerned with helping better our Dordt curriculum, and this was a good opportunity for that." Library staff began putting outdated books into the dumpster, until the Justice Matters Club decided that



Jennifer Breems

there must be a better way of disposing of the old literature. At first, they salvaged the books and worked to recycle them.

"They cut the bindings off and recycled the pages for a while," said Breems. But after some further checking, the library staff came across Better World Books, a global bookstore that takes unwanted books and sells them to support literacy programs in third-world

countries.

"We saw a review of [Better World Books] in a magazine, and saw that they would ship the books for us," said Breems. "We also appreciated their literacy efforts."

The organization offered a good solution for getting rid of the book surplus, but it did mean that one library tradition had to fall by the wayside: the library's fifty-cent book sale.

"Better World Books doesn't want the books that we donate to them to be picked over," said Breems. "Some students and faculty were sad to see the sale go, and we



Several shelves of old textbooks still line the perimeter of the library staff's workroom, books that are outdated and that don't fit the literacy needs of Better World Books.

were too."

She noted that the organization is considering holding an on-campus book sale in April or May. Dordt has already donated 3,000 volumes to Better World Books, and Breems encourages people to purchase books through that organization.

Breems is pleased that the culling allows the library's collection to better fit the needs of the Dordt educational community.

"Now we're better able to take donations to make our library even better," said Breems.

## Campus Capsules

### Music majors get early start on teaching

Sarah Groneck

Instrumental Music Education gives upper-level music education majors a glimpse at teaching before they venture into the "real world" of their own classroom.

Last semester, future music teachers taught fourth- and fifth-grade students at Sioux Center Christian School and a fifth-grade band at Hull Christian School.

Professor Bradley Miedema lectures to his students in the first part of the course, but as the semester goes on, they begin to spend time in the classroom.

"The environment is more like a lab setting," said Miedema. "I'm there watching while they teach, and I'm also doing a video-recording so we can critique later."

Senior Susan LeMahieu took the course last fall.

"We began by observing and helping out with small things," she said. "However, by the end we were responsible for creating our own lesson plans and teaching the assigned material."

It wasn't a "sink or swim" situation for Dordt students in the classroom, though.

"The students plan and teach the lesson, but I'm still there for them if they need help," said Miedema.

After each assisted teaching module, Miedema and the Dordt students watch the video recordings to get a better sense of how the middle school students reacted to the teaching styles they used. They also keep a journal of their progress in the course.

"The journal helps them realize what they have been doing in front of the classroom," said Miedema. "It's a chance for them to reflect."

LeMahieu says that the class helped give her a better sense of teaching as an art.

"I came out of this class with not only factual knowledge, resources, and materials, but also the hands-on experience of working in two different music classrooms," she said.

The course also increased LeMahieu's passion for teaching.

"After these sessions I definitely feel called to be a teacher," she said. "I thoroughly enjoyed not only working with the students, but also creating authentic lesson plans that the students were able to understand and relate to."



Jennifer Case is the new adjunct instructor in guitar. Growing numbers of elementary school teachers look to the guitar as a good way to accompany group singing in their classrooms.

## Guitar lessons grow in popularity

Sarah Groneck

Jennifer Case, Dordt's guitar teacher, gets her love for music from childhood memories of boisterous summertime parades.

"From the first time I felt the rumble of the drums reverberating off the street as the band marched along," said Case, "I've been inexplicably drawn to music."

Her love for music took her to the Air Force, where she participated in the U.S. Air Force Band program and met her husband, Charles Case. In 2001, they moved to Tea, South Dakota, and opened a private studio

to teach guitar, percussion, bass, fiddle, and other instruments.

How did Case come to be Dordt's first guitar teacher since the mid-1990s?

"I just happened to call the Dordt music department last year," said Jennifer Case.

"The music professors found out that I was a guitar teacher, and then Dr. De Mol contacted me."

Case's initial visit to Dordt's campus was a positive one. "I was very impressed with the facilities," said Case. "The expertise of the music department's faculty... and, of course, the commitment of students stood out."

Case makes the one-hour commute from

Tea, South Dakota, to Sioux Center every Friday. She currently has six students, all of whom are at different skill levels.

"There are also a lot of beginners, people who wanted to start guitar from scratch," said music professor Karen De Mol. "Some are elementary school teachers who wish to include singing in the classroom."

Case enjoys the variety of skill levels and says that all of her Dordt students are doing well.

Besides teaching, Case and her husband have authored two drumset solo books for beginning and intermediate level students. They plan to create a third book as well.

## Biotechnology program is awarded grant

The Dordt College Biotechnology Program recently received an award of \$60,538.80 from LI-COR® Biosciences to be used toward the purchase of a Sequencing, Microsatellite, and AFLP® Package.

The LI-COR Genomics Education Enhanced Matching Funds Program supports hands-on under-



Tony Jelsma

graduate education in genomics, providing sixty percent of the funding to qualified institutions for biotechnology equipment and programs that will allow students to be trained in DNA sequencing and in sophisticated analysis of genetic variation in populations.

According to Dr. Tony Jelsma, the new equipment will allow Dordt faculty and students to engage in research that previously could be done only at large research facilities. The system complements and broadens Dordt's present research capabilities and can be used in many areas of biological study and research.

"Students who have hands-on experience using the LI-COR® system have a distinct advantage when they seek jobs and admission to post-graduate programs," says Jackie Potts, LI-COR GEMF coordinator. "GEMF-partner schools tell us that integrating the analyzer into their curriculum allows students to be knowledge producers, not just knowledge consumers." These DNA analysis systems are used in academic labs worldwide for a variety of research applications.

Dordt's biotechnology program is interdisciplinary, working cooperatively between several majors to allow students to pursue emphases in one of four areas: agriculture biotechnology; biology/molecular biology and biotechnology; business biotechnology; and computer science: bioinformatics. An engineering: biomedical emphasis option is also offered by Dordt's engineering department.

# Experiencing history through writing

Tasneem Ibrahim

What was so special about Highland, Iowa? Sitting on a tombstone in a cemetery in the old Sioux County ghost town one morning, I let my thoughts wander—who was it, in the grave below me? What struggles had this person faced? What was the cause of his death? What was his story?

As I sat there it felt as though history was talking to me, as if the bones of the corpse somewhere beneath me were trying to tell me something of what they had endured, something of great magnitude. History was crying out to me as it had once done before, about two and a half years ago on another continent, in another country far from here. Strangely enough, sitting on a grave at Highland, Iowa, reminded me of the time I visited Elmina Castle in Ghana in January 2006.

It was over 110 degrees fahrenheit that day, and my body was drenched in sweat. I was on a high school class trip, so it was mandatory that I go on all these "site seeing" tours. One of them happened to be a visit to the historic Elmina Castle.

On the hour-long, hot, rickety bus ride to the castle, we were told Elmina was built by the Portuguese in 1482, the oldest European building in existence below the Sahara desert. As I listened to my iPod, joked with my friends, and tried to soak up the little breeze that went my way, I couldn't have cared less about ancient European buildings.

We got out of the bus and were practically blinded by the brilliant sun. A guide began rattling off historical facts. "The slaves, often captured in the African interior by the slave-catchers of coastal tribes, were sold to Portuguese traders in exchange for goods such as textiles and horses. The slaves were held captive in the castle ..." Blah, blah, blah. I was a kid, a high school kid.

And then our tour began.

Our guide informed us that a building situated right in front of the courtyard was a Portuguese Catholic church. When the Dutch took over the castle, they divided that church into two floors, the top floor being used as a mess hall and the bottom as a trade hall.

Slowly, I began to take the tour seriously. I wondered how could it have been Christians who owned the castle? They dared



Tasneem Ibrahim

to have a church right in the midst of a slave trade?

A skull was built into the wall over a door in a room called the "Death Cell." The guide shut the door, and all I could see was a tiny hole of light. It was pitch black and humid, and the cell had absolutely no ventilation. We stayed in there for less than a minute; I couldn't begin to imagine what it was like to be left to die in a place like that. I could practically taste

the blood and feces from the people who had died in this room.

Africans were placed in this cell and kept there until they died of starvation. Sometimes the cell was packed with so many people that they could only stand shoulder to shoulder. I began to look around at the tourists. Some were white. For a brief second a rush of hatred ran through me. I wanted these tourists to suffer for the sins of their fathers.

The "Door of No Return" was a space purposely built so small that only one person at a time could pass through. From the time it was built in 1452, until the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade almost 400 years later, more than 30 million people of African descent passed through it or similar spaces to board ships that took them mainly to the Americas, where they were subdued into slavery and used to build the new world.

We had to bend low to enter. One by one we got in, until all twenty-four of us were cramped in this little room. "Silence," the guide said, "let us honor the memory of those who walked down this road before."

The silence was deafening. I could hear the cries, screams, curses, and anguish of a continent being systematically stripped of its human resources. No African who exited through the Door of No Return ever came back to Africa.

\*

So what did Highland, Iowa, an abandoned white town in rural Iowa, offer me that morning? Before I walked away, I turned around, and for a split second I could see a little town with a few white people living simply—people going to church, dressed up in their best outfits. I could hear dogs barking and kids chasing each other and running around. I could feel history and I felt a part of it. I felt as though I had touched the lives of people who once inhabited the place just by being there and taking the time to observe and let my mind wonder.

It was a whole different sort of feeling than what I felt at Elmina Castle, but it was triggered by history, history I felt just by visiting a place once inhabited by people I never knew.

*Tasneem Ibrahim was born in Jos, Nigeria, to an Iraqi mother and Nigerian father. Raised in Nigeria by her mother, she attended Hillcrest High School in Jos. As a digital media major and communication minor, she hopes eventually to go back to Nigeria to work in the film/movie/media industry. She says, "I believe that God has equipped human beings with specific talents and gifts. It is almost impossible to touch and reach the masses without the use of media. Nigerians have so much to offer, and with the right tools and mediums they can be heard."*



Elmina Castle in Ghana

## Dordt ag scholarship awarded by Growmark

A new scholarship award for agriculture majors attending Dordt College was recently announced by GROWMARK, a regional cooperative providing agriculture-related products and services and grain marketing in the Midwest and Canada.

The annually-awarded \$1,000 scholarship will be presented to a junior or senior who is majoring in agriculture, agri-

business, ag education, or plant science. The scholarship award is made possible through the Glenn Webb Education Fund/GROWMARK Foundation.

"We are very proud of the relationship we have developed with Dordt College agriculture faculty, students, and organizations," states GROWMARK spokesperson Mike

Mitchell in an announcement regarding the new scholarship. "Dordt College is an excellent talent educator for the GROWMARK System in Iowa, and we wish to give back to the agriculture program and to assist agriculture students in their pursuit of excellence."

Agriculture is among the top enrollment programs at Dordt College, with seven B.A. degree emphases (agri-business, agriculture education, animal science, plant science, ag missions, biotechnology, and general agriculture), a two-year associate degree program, and a pre-veterinary program.



Dr. Chris Goedhart (left), chair of the agriculture department with Mike Mitchell (right), University Relations and Member Employment Specialist at GROWMARK.

## Engineering offers civil emphasis

Sarah Gronbeck

The Dordt engineering department is seeing the fruit of its labor in its civil and environmental emphasis. In the late 1990s “we visited high school students looking into engineering, and many expressed interest in the civil area,” says Engineering Professor Kevin Timmer. Dordt began offering civil and environmental engineering courses to the freshman class of 2004.

The new emphasis has grown smoothly. Timmer focused on civil-environmental engineering while earning his Ph.D. a few years ago, and Justin Vander Werff worked as a civil structural engineering prior to coming to teach at Dordt.

“We continually look at our emphases and try to improve them,” says Timmer. “Particularly, we’re trying to incorporate more of Prof. Vander Werff’s structural engineering background.” The first class of civil and environmental engineering students graduated in May of 2008.

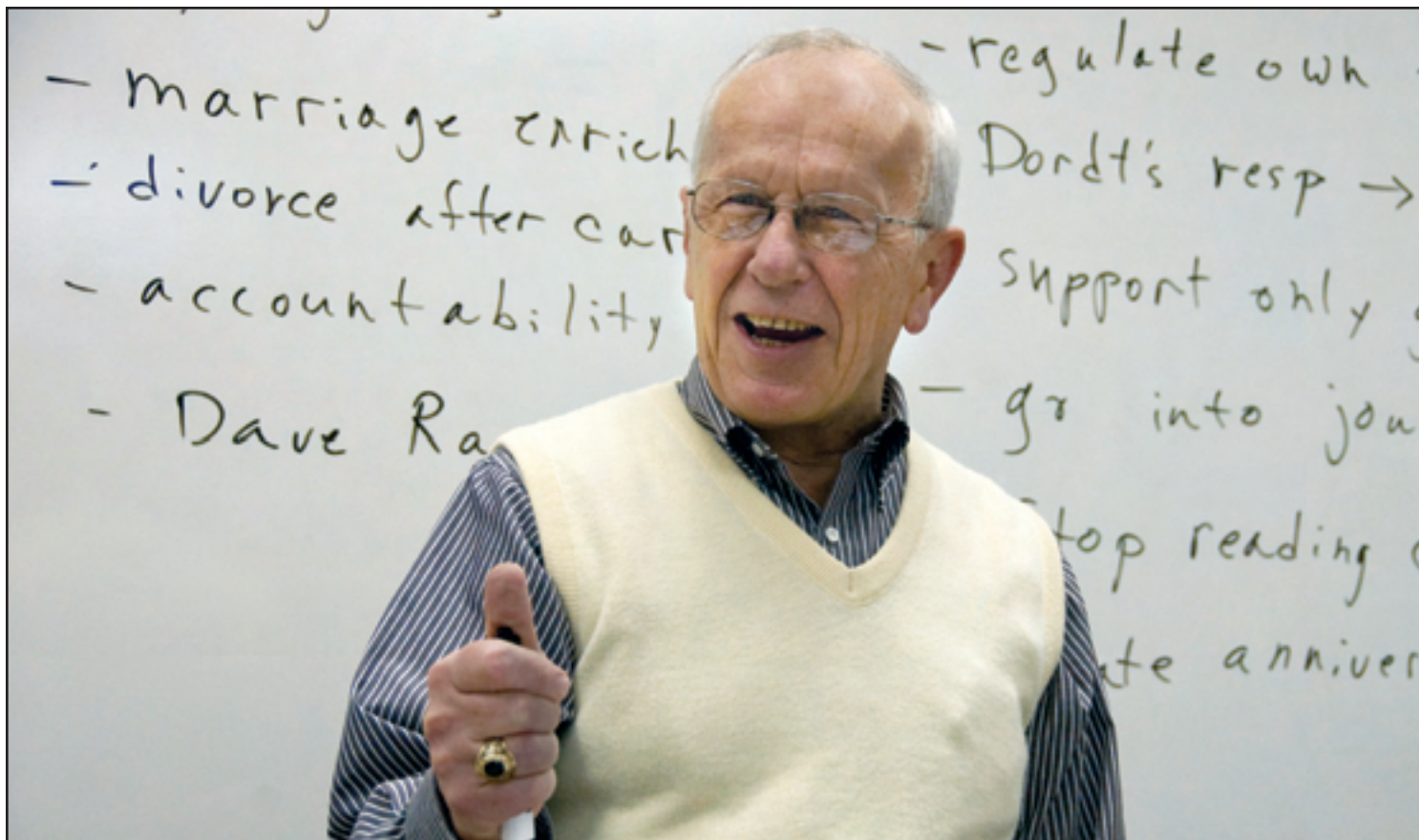
Environmental engineering, according to Timmer, focuses mainly on providing clean air and water.

“At Dordt, we try to put that in the context of the Christian’s call to care for creation,” he says. “Providing clean water for people does not require sophisticated technology but can improve quality of life.”

Civil engineering is “one of the broadest and most diverse” of engineering fields, says Vander Werff. Civil engineering focuses on the structural (building, bridge, and road design) and on hydraulics (water movement and control).

The only liberal arts college in Iowa to offer an accredited engineering program, Dordt has been praised for the diversity of its engineering program.

“An engineering degree has to be broad, and we try to emphasize breadth and the liberal arts context,” says Timmer. “Our students find that they are very prepared for graduate work after they leave.”



Dr. Charles Veenstra hopes that his students will form their families of the future purposefully—or in his words “with their heads on straight.”

# Family communication course gets students thinking about their families

Sally Jongsma

It’s not just because the volume of research on family communication has grown exponentially in the past decade, or the fact that only twenty-five percent of nuclear families remain intact in the United States, or even that the four major predictors of divorce relate to how families communicate that Dr. Charles Veenstra has begun offering a course in family communication. It’s all of those things, and it’s more.

“I believe we should prepare students for more than their career,” says Veenstra. “Family life has become more complex than it was a generation ago.”

During the communication department’s last program review in 2006, the faculty agreed that students could benefit from learning tools to help them maintain healthy relationships in the families and marriages they might be about to begin.

“I have recently gotten married and thought it would get me thinking about things that my husband and I have not yet encountered. We have talked about the importance of building family traditions and coming up with a family theme. This course got me thinking about what I want for my own family,” says Senior Jana Postma.

Veenstra acknowledges that his generation could have used the same tools. Physical attraction and having fun get relationships started, but soon couples and then families have to plow through the joys and challenges of living and loving together. Veenstra hopes that what his students learn will help them through the stages of their lives in the years ahead.

Veenstra points out that Communication 322 is not a psychology course and, in fact, he warns his students against trying to fix others’ relationships. But armed with what scholars have learned about how families relate in good and bad ways, he believes young people can learn communication habits that will benefit their future marriages and families.

“Part of the fun of teaching this course is that everyone has experience,” Veenstra says. He draws on that experience, both his and theirs, as he teaches. Instead of laying out all of the information he wants to cover by lecturing, he asks students to think with him about the topics of the course. For example, early in the course, after leading devotions related to the topic, he asks his students what some biblical norms for the family might be. Based on their backgrounds, students come up with many topics, among them headship, equality, forgiveness, honoring parents, devotional life, respect for one another, and even eating meals together.

As they look at the different stages of family development, Veenstra and the class focus on the particular needs and challenges common to those times. For example, Veenstra points out that research shows that families are often strongest and have the most opportunities for growth and nurture during their children’s school-age years.

It’s the time when members are usually most happy to be part of the family and the time when the family has the best opportunity to do the things that it does best: care for one another, play with each other, teach and learn the basics of faith, ingrain values, establish a work ethic, nurture respect for one another, develop habits of cleanliness, and exercise creativity.

“That crucial stage is the best time to build for the future and has implications for family interaction and involvement,” emphasizes Veenstra, noting that the stage is relatively short before the cohesiveness of the family unit becomes less so.

Another interesting time is after the children leave the home. Veenstra says couples can prepare for it by remembering that careers and children should not take up all of a couple’s time and energy. Divorce rates are high for couples after their children leave the home. Communicating caringly and effectively through all stages can help them move from one stage to the next in a healthy way.

Dealing with conflict is an important

part of family communication too.

“Conflict is not bad in itself and, in fact, can show you care,” says Veenstra. But he cites research that lists criticism, contempt for one another, defensiveness, and withdrawal as corrosive and constituting some of the major predictors of divorce.

The list of communication-related topics that could be discussed in a class on family communication is long. Some of them come up in student journal entries and others get addressed in individual student presentations on topics such as in-laws, death in a family, differences between communicating with boys and girls, and living with denominational differences.

Although Veenstra knows that even within a smaller, Christian college like Dordt, not all people have the same views of how marriage and family relationships should work, he keeps pushing his students to think about how they live together with their families and how their values should shape how they communicate with one another.

“I really enjoy the course because we address such a wide variety of issues and joys that affect families. We also get to see the way in which relationships formed within families extend to the way cultures operate,” says Senior Bridget Smith.

“Professor Veenstra allows flexibility in our discussions,” she adds. “The other day we were discussing roles within dual career families, and I asked if we were going to address the topic of daycare. Even though daycare wasn’t up for discussion in the syllabus, Professor Veenstra set aside the agenda so that we could address the issue. I very much appreciate being able to branch off the main topic of conversation to deal with side issues.”

“By the grace of God, I hope that the things we study can help students go into their families of the future with clear, purposeful thinking. Falling out of love is as easy as falling into love,” Veenstra says. “They need resources when things don’t go as planned or dreamed.” And challenges will come, he adds.



# LIVING IN A Beehive

Life in East Campus apartment B5—otherwise known as the B5 Beehive—is never dull. Six men, three Canadians and three Americans, tuck all thirty-eight feet of themselves into the smallest apartment on campus. They're fun-loving, energetic, and involved. They are as committed to their studies as they are to their play. Business and biology, music and criminal justice majors, they aspire to teach music, serve as veterinarians, doctors, policy makers, and businessmen. And they're enjoying almost everything about life on campus.

Sally Jongsma

There's never a dull moment in our room," says Tim Boomsma from South Holland, Illinois. "We're a group of guys that likes to have a lot of fun, and we make sure we do."

"The best part about living with five other guys is that the excite-O-meter never falls below 'outlandish fun' or 'fanatical frenzy' (and if you're not familiar with the excite-O-meter, 'outlandish fun' and 'fanatical frenzy' are right below 'off the wall' and seventeen stages higher than 'happier than a dead squirrel')." says Theo Mobach from Edmonton, Alberta, adding, "But we also have very meaningful conversations. We talk about our faith, struggles in life, relationships, and many other topics. I feel incredibly blessed to have such strong Christian friends and roommates."

Trying to find out how these six people who grew up thousands of miles from each other got together is a challenge in itself. The stories get taller the more people you ask. They run from squirrel hunting with blow darts ending up in wrong places to Walmart-special-pink-helmet-rollerblading excursions to a dinner filled with laughter that's never stopped. The short version is that Jander Talen from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and Theo, and their North Hall neighbors Troy Ellens from Lacombe, Alberta, and Nathaniel Cordel from Cawker City, Kansas, needed two more guys to join them in an East Campus apartment for their junior year. As a freshman, Nathaniel lived near Tim and Marcus Houtsma, also from South Holland, and hadn't forgotten their "free spirits." He suggested them as roommates. The rest is history, as they say.

"Little did we know that we would be the closest roommates ever after Jander picked the highest number, putting us at the back of the line in choosing an apartment," quips Troy. Hence the smallest apartment after the annual drawing for rooms last spring.

There are downsides to living with six guys in a small apartment of course—like trying to fit six gallons of milk in fairly small refrigerator, keeping the bodily smells produced by six young men under control, and dealing with each other's little quirks. But despite the fact that space is at a premium and they don't have much of it to stake out for themselves, none of them would leave given the opportunity.

"We are usually in each other's way," says Jander. "We're used to it—although it's a little annoying if you want to phone home or talk to someone and there are people in every room."

"Some of our finest moments occur in the bathroom when one person is in the shower, one person is on the loo, and three people are trying to brush their teeth," adds Tim.

"Let's just say that one person's so called space is also the space of the person next to you," says Troy, who adds that living in tight quarters teaches an invaluable lesson in learning how to live with the little things that annoy you most about a person. "Even if you are good friends with them, there are some quirks you may not be able to get over, but you just have to put up with. I imagine it's kinda like having a wife."

"Most of us do not study in the room. We go to the library or other places on campus. We get in each other's space once in a while, but we are pretty good buds here, and we don't make a big deal about it," says Marcus.

And they do study. Most of them go to the library, the science building, or the music building for a good study environment. They prefer to have their apartment as a retreat to return to.

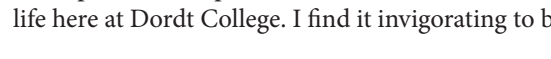
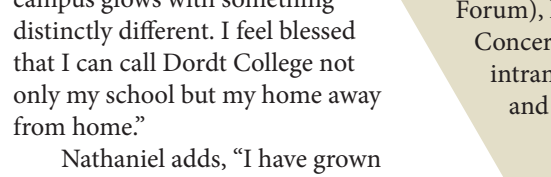
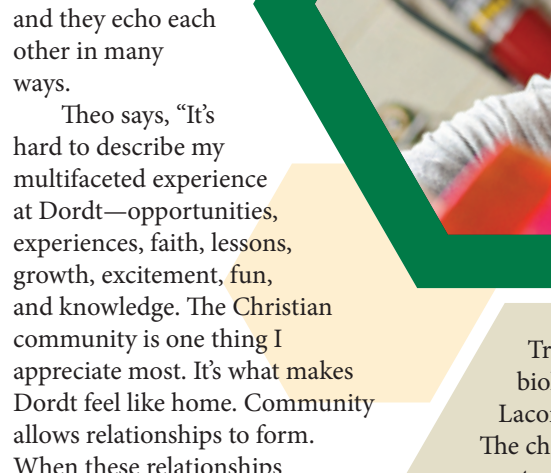
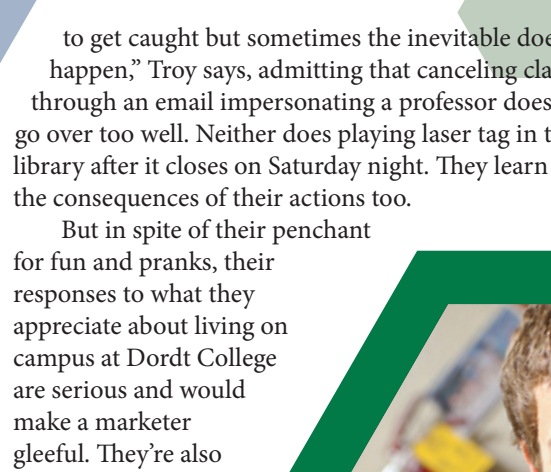
"The party usually begins again at midnight when we quit doing homework and congregate back at the apartment to eat, drink, and be merry," says Nathaniel.

"I love coming back to our B5 kingdom after the library closes. It trumps most things on campus, just chilling with my roommates. It never gets dull," adds Jander.

It's probably when the pranks get hatched that they all speak of fondly. Nathaniel even says that stories of noteworthy pranks passed on by friends and relatives were one factor in his choosing to come to Dordt.

"We do our best not to hurt anyone and try not

Nathaniel Cordel is a pre-veterinary biology major from Cawker City, Kansas. He serves on the Parking Appeals Committee, assists Prof. James Mahaffy with rattlesnake research, runs track and cross country, plays football, has gone on PLIA, and has worked as an admissions caller.



Jander Talen is a music education major from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. A member of the Concert Choir, he also leads the Canons of Dordt (a male choral group), plays guitar, and loves rock climbing and snowboarding.

Photos by Doug Burg



Theo Mobach, from Edmonton, Alberta, is a pre-med biology major who also serves as an EMT in the Sioux Center community. A pole vaulter, he also loves rock climbing and snowboarding.



Marcus Houtsma from South Holland, Illinois, is the fourth of his siblings to attend Dordt College. A business administration major, he is member of the FBE Club. He is always ready to play pick-up or intramural volleyball and basketball.

## GETTING ALONG

The six men in apartment B5 enjoy cooking and eating together when they can—which is usually four evenings a week. The afternoon of the photo shoot, Jander was cooking up a storm. He'd had *Spicy Chicken Romano* at a restaurant the week before and decided to try to replicate it. The smells from the wok were heavenly. Tim sauntered over to ask if he needed any help. Chopping the mushrooms, he noted with interest that he'd never had artichokes before. Marcus began setting the table.

As one after another of the others wandered in after lab and working out, the busyness and laughter increased. They each went to the refrigerator for their favorite beverage—milk, juice, or water—taken from a container with one of their names on it. After Jander dished up six plates heaped with pasta and *Spicy Chicken Romano*, they join hands while Tim led in prayer. And then the laughter and conversation began.

A few minutes later they offer to give a concert in their "sitting room," one of the three small bedrooms with a TV on one side facing two couches stacked in a tier. Photos of their good times are scattered around the rooms—which, today anyway, are surprisingly navigable for the amount of stuff, the number of people, and the habits of many young men.

When asked who does the cleaning and cooking, they say "Mostly whoever notices that something needs doing" for the cleaning and point to a schedule for the cooking. But all say that Troy usually cleans the bathroom and doing the dishes is the weak spot for everyone.

As they head back to the table someone says, "These artichokes are good." Someone else answers the phone, "B5 Beehive. How may I help you?" And they're off to an evening of studying and, later, more play.

Troy Ellens is a biology major from Lacombe, Alberta. The child of alumni parents, he serves on Student Symposium (the former Student Forum), loves singing in the Concert Choir, and enjoys intramural basketball and soccer.

surrounded by people who are not perfect in their walk with Christ but are constantly searching to draw closer to him. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to learn and grow from a Christian perspective. Having science classes that are taught by instructors who realize the design of the universe points to God has shaped my education and thinking in many ways. It has taught me how to incorporate Christian thinking into every area and facet of life.

Jander sums it up for all of them, "I have been working on a thesis: Living in the middle of a corn field in Iowa takes a unique personality, and when these personalities come together from all over the continent, something wonderful takes place.

Nathaniel adds, "I have grown immensely from the Christian atmosphere that is present in all areas of life here at Dordt College. I find it invigorating to be

We don't need the convenience of a city to keep us

entertained, we just need each other; the community that is produced out of this is an incredible mix. We hold each other up and build each other up. That is what I appreciate about this college experience—the chance to live in a Christ-centered community where most of us love to be here and realize how blessed we are to be here."



Tim Boomsma, from South Holland, Illinois, is working on criminal justice and political studies majors. He is president of the Criminal Justice Club and vice president of the Non-partisan Politics Club. He enjoys playing intramural volleyball and skiing.

### Students "Drop in the Bucket" for wells

Dordt College students launched a project this spring to raise funds to dig wells in developing countries through the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC). The goal of the "Drop in the Bucket" well project was to raise funding for five wells—\$1,250—between February 18 and March 11.

Students and faculty members were encouraged to skip one snack and instead pledge that dollar to the well-sponsoring campaign. Each resident hall was challenged to raise enough funds for one well, as were the Southview and East Campus apartments.

"If everyone on Dordt's campus just gave a dollar, we would be able to surpass this goal," said Gabe Licht, the senior communication major who coordinated the effort. "That's equivalent to a pop or a bag of chips." Because of the affordability of the project, Licht believed that five wells was an attainable goal.

"The great thing about CRWRC is that they are so efficient with the funds they receive," Licht said. "This is also a familiar organization that the Dordt College community has partnered with before." Through CRWRC, wells can be dug for \$250 a piece because all the materials, equipment, and labor come directly from the country in which the wells are being dug.

More than one billion people in developing countries lack access to safe drinking water, according to the United Nations' World Health Organization. These numbers are intensified by natural disasters in countries like Haiti and Burma.

"We don't know for sure which countries will be the recipients of the wells we fund, but Haiti and Burma are likely candidates due to the natural disasters they have encountered there," said Licht. He encourages everyone to consider donating to the cause through the CRWRC website.

Education Professor **Ed Starkenburg** has been working with a group of educators from the Northwest Area Education Agency to train teachers from across northwest Iowa to effectively use inquiry as a way to teach science. The statewide program called "Every Learner Inquires" is funded by a federal grant.



**Ed Starkenburg**

The Northwest AEA team has met with other teams from across the state for training during the last two years. The final stage of the grant is to help teachers use the inquiry method to make their science teaching more effective, emphasizing ways to involve students cognitively and physically in science instruction to build understanding rather than temporary knowledge.

Starkenburg is also a member of a state evaluation team for a review of the teacher education program at Cornell College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and he is writing the Institutional Report for Dordt's teacher education program review in November.

Dr. **Doug Allen** is the co-author of a paper that has been accepted for publication in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*.



**Doug Allen**

"Mesosphere-Stratosphere Transport during the Southern Hemisphere Autumn Deduced from MIPAS Observations" is authored by William Lahoz, Yvan Orsolini, Alan Geer, Wookap Choi, and Douglas Allen.

History Professor **David Zwart** presented a paper titled "Remembering the Kalamazoo Case of 1874: Law and the History of Education" at the annual meeting of the History of Education Society held in St. Petersburg, Florida, on November 6-9, 2008. The paper discusses an important Michigan Supreme Court decision from 1874 that set a legal precedent for tax-supported high schools.



**David Zwart**

Dr. **Duane Bajema** served as a reviewer for the conference of the Western Region of the American Association of Agriculture Education. Bajema was one of fourteen professors, most of them from land grant universities, to serve as a reviewer for conference posters, presentations, and submissions for the *Journal of Agricultural Education*.



**Duane Bajema**

An essay and photographs by Dr. **James Calvin Schaap**, professor of English at Dordt College, was the cover story for two consecutive issues of *Books and Culture* magazine, a bimonthly publication of *Christianity Today International*.



**James Schaap**

"Rehoboth: Righteous acts, filthy rags, and a mission cemetery," began in the January/February issue and continued in the March/April issue of the magazine. The essay (without photos) may be seen online at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/bc/2009/janfeb/5.31.html>. Schaap's essay delves into the mission's history to expose not only the good intent of mission founders, but also the sometimes misguided processes used in an attempt to convert Navahos and Zunis to the Christian faith. "Good people—good Christian people, my own grandfather among them—were among those who carried out destruction, often with prayerful intentionality and the conviction that what they were doing was what the Lord wanted," says Schaap. "How faithful believers could be so wrong is the story I'm trying to understand."

Schaap is currently in the process of writing a book featuring the memories and stories of New Mexico families whose associations with the Rehoboth mission and school go back for decades. The projected release date for the book is December 2009.

Schaap has previously published a story about Rehoboth in the June 2008 issue of the CRC publication, *The Banner*, [http://www.thebanner.org/magazine/article.cfm?article\\_id=1552](http://www.thebanner.org/magazine/article.cfm?article_id=1552), as well as several essays in the Rehoboth newsletter. His interests in

Native life go back to an earlier novel he has published, *Touches the Sky*.

Psychology Professors **Mark Christians** and **Natalie Sandbulte** gave a poster

presentation at the Midwest Institute for Student and Teachers of Psychology (MISTOP) held at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

The poster topic was "Engaging Students Outside of the Classroom: Graduate School Tour." The poster described how the psychology department identified a need/desire of students to receive more directed information about graduate schools, and then planned trips to Omaha, Nebraska, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, to visit graduate schools in an effort to educate and motivate students to consider going on to graduate school.



**Mark Christians**



**Natalie Sandbulte**

Dr. **Sherri Lantinga** gave a presentation titled "To the coffee shop: building student engagement outside the classroom" at the same conference. She described the coffee time that she has with each of her students to get to know them better. Her data shows much higher motivation, confidence in the psychology program/faculty, and stronger relationships as a result.

Theology Professor **Tom Wolhuis** has been working as a ministry advisor for Living Water Community Church, a new church plant in Orange City. Wolhuis has been leading in worship, advising them on setting up ministries, and helping them organize as a Christian Reformed congregation. The group became a congregation on February 1.



**Tom Wolhuis**

Dordt's Dean of the Chapel **Rod Gorter** spoke at the Cottage Grove CRC for their Mission Emphasis Week on March 15.

### In Memory of Norman Matheis

**N**orman Matheis, emeritus professor of Art, died on February 6, 2009, following an extended illness. Matheis taught art at Dordt College from 1977 until his retirement in 1989.

"Norm loved the Lord, and he loved the 'gift' he had been given," says long-time colleague and professor emerita Joanne Alberda. "Quiet and reserved among his peers, he shouted with his brush!"

Two of Dordt's current art professors were students of Matheis's at Calvin College. Over the past months Professor Jake Van Wyk showed Norm computer images of current gallery shows. Matheis would often offer artistic insight that reflected his depth and wisdom as an artist.

"My last professional contact with Norm happened in 2003 while on I was on sabbatical leave. I asked him to demonstrate his painting technique and evaluate my painting attempts. He promptly removed his oxygen tube and in just a few minutes produced a painting that captured the landscape as a response to treeness and space as opposed to reproducing a scene. I refer to that painting often in my classes."

"To my way of thinking, Norm was a



**Norman Matheis**

master artist, and I greatly admired his work," says Professor David Versluis. "But what I'll miss most about him was his friendship and his kind words of encouragement."

Matheis's obituary captures much about him: "Supremely gifted and confident as an artist, yet uncommonly modest and unassuming in manner, Norm in his quiet way influenced the lives of many. Norm was a very private man with a wry sense of humor, a man of few words whose work and actions spoke for him. Personally frugal, he shared his work generously. A man of strong faith, Norm's overarching concern was that every part of his life—especially his artwork—would please the Lord and reflect His glory."

# Winter sports wrap up their seasons

**Michael Byker**  
Sports Information Director

The winter athletics season is officially complete at Dordt College, the final events of the season played and run on Saturday, March 7.

## Track and Field

The Dordt track and field team sent a pair of relays to the national meet in Johnson City, Tennessee, and also qualified a trio of individuals for events, although just one of those runners competed in the three-day NAIA event.

The Dordt men's 4 x 800 meter relay team of Josiah Luttjeboer (sophomore; Belleville, Ontario), David Christensen (junior; Waconia, Minnesota), Mark Eekhoff (junior; Manhattan, Montana) and Brent Van Schepen (junior; Edgerton, Minnesota) placed fourth in the finals of the event and won NAIA All-American honors in the process. The quartet earned a spot in the finals with a second-place finish in their heat in the prelims in a time of 7:49.93. The foursome then cut over three seconds off that time one day later to take fourth place with a time of 7:46.88. The relay team was one of two GPAC-member relay squads to earn NAIA All-American honors.

Eekhoff also ran in the 600 meters and placed ninth. The 4 x 800 women's team of Janice Brouwer (junior; Cadillac, Michigan), Michelle Steiger (freshman; Lynden, Washington), Tami Wierenga (senior; Lombard, Illinois) and Sierra Zomer (junior; Corsica, South Dakota) ran in the prelims of the event and finished thirteenth.

Luttjeboer also qualified in the 1000 meters but the timing of that event in relation to the 4 x 800 race didn't allow him to compete. Laurel Ochsner (senior; Saronville, Nebraska) qualified in the 55-meter hurdles and long jump but was unable to compete due to a season-ending injury in practice leading up to the national meet.

## Blades Hockey

The Dordt Blades hockey team qualified for the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division III national tournament for the second year in a row. As in 2008, the Blades lost their opening round game in a shoot-out. The team then rebounded for three straight wins and placed fifth in the 16-team field.

The Blades played in two shoot-outs at the national tournament and won another game on a goal in the final minute of regulation.

Coach Nate van Niejenhuis was named the ACHA Division III National Coach-of-the-Year at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 season. He led the Blades to the ACHA Division III National Tournament two



Mark Eekhoff, Josiah Luttjeboer, Brent Van Schepen, and David Christensen took fourth place in the 4 x 800 at the NAIA national indoor track meet in Johnson City, Tennessee.

years in a row and coached the Blades to their number two ranking in the Pacific Region. That ranking gave the Blades an automatic berth in the 16-team field. Van Niejenhuis has coached the Blades to two consecutive 20-plus



**van Niejenhuis**

win seasons and has been instrumental in bringing Showcase and Regional tournaments to the Vernon Arena in Sioux Center, Iowa. He was named the Pacific Region Coach of the Year, which put him in the running for the national award. The 2007-2008 team finished 13th at the National Tournament in Rochester, Minnesota with a 2-2 record at the event.

◀ **Jared Rempel** (senior; Chilliwack, British Columbia) earned ACHA Division III First-Team All-American honors for the second year in a row. The defenseman scored 12 goals and had 31 assists in play leading up to the National Tournament. Rempel was also accorded All-Region First-Team honors for his play this season, and he was picked as the Pacific Region Player of the Year.

Joining Rempel on the All-Region First-Team are Todd Bakker (junior; Littleton, Colorado) and Ted Gibbons (sophomore; Sioux Center, Iowa). Bakker scored 30 goals during the regular season with 42 assists, while Gibbons spent 1360 minutes in goal for the Blades and allowed 63 goals—a 2.78 per game average.

Nate Woudstra (junior; Littleton, Colorado) earned Second-Team All-Pacific honors after scoring a team-high 40 goals

while also getting credit for 31 assists. Jake Esselink (junior; Emo, Ontario) made the second team as a defenseman and scored 12 goals with 37 assists. Claiming third-team honors was Kevin Prins (senior; Foremost, Alberta). Prins scored 24 goals and assisted on 35 this season for the Blades as they built a 24-4-1-2 season record.

## Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team finished the season with a 15-14 record and marked the tenth straight season the Defenders had a non-losing record. The Defenders' season came to an end on the road in the Great Plains Athletic Conference quarterfinals where they lost a 67-65 decision to Dakota Wesleyan at the Corn Palace.

Michael Eekhoff (junior; Ankeny, Iowa) and **Logan Kingma** (junior; Hawarden, Iowa) took All-GPAC First-Team honors, after claiming Second-Team honors last year. Kingma scored 16.3 points per game and grabbed 5.4 rebounds per game while making 36 percent of his three-point field goals. Kingma joined the Dordt College 1000-point club earlier in the season and currently ranks 13th all-time in scoring at Dordt.

Eekhoff led the Defenders with a 16.8-points-per-game average. He also dished 109 assists, with a team-high 45 steals, and he nabbed 4.1 rebounds per game. Eekhoff made slightly better than fifty percent of his field goal attempts, and he converted 83.2 percent of his free throws attempted.

Brandon Oldenkamp and Mark Rowenhorst also earned notice from the GPAC coaches with honorable mention accolades. Oldenkamp, a 6-4 sophomore from Sanborn, Iowa, scored 10.9 points per game and averaged 4.4 rebounds with 53 three-pointers. The wing player

also had 40 steals. Rowenhorst (senior; Orange City, Iowa) averaged 9.1 points per game, with 2.5 rebounds per game in 17 appearances.

Rowenhorst missed 12 games while recovering from a back injury that surfaced in mid-December.

The 2008-2009 season also marked the conclusion of Greg Van Soelen's tenure as men's basketball coach.

Van Soelen had a 230-171 record in 14 seasons of varsity coaching and coached the Defenders to a NAIA Division II National Tournament in 2005-2006.



**Greg Van Soelen**

## Women's Basketball

The Dordt women's basketball team finished the year 13-17 and finished 7-11 in the competitive Great Plains Athletic Conference. The GPAC ended up sending five teams to the NAIA Division II National Tournament. Of Dordt's 11 conference losses, eight were to those teams.

Amber Soodsma (sophomore; Hudsonville, Michigan) earned second-team honors for the second year in a row, after averaging a team-high 15.8 points per game and grabbing 5.9 rebounds. The 2008 GPAC Freshman of the Year also had 28 blocked shots and 44 steals and made 43 percent of her field goal attempts and 44 percent of her three-point shots.

Kate Du Mez (junior; Brookfield, Wisconsin) earned second-team honors, one year after earning honorable mention. Du Mez averaged 13.5 points and 4.9 rebounds while dishing out a team-high 132 assists and grabbing 53 steals. Du Mez ranks second all-time in career assists at Dordt, playing only 23 games after leading the Defender soccer team to the 2008 NAIA National Tournament. Du Mez was the GPAC Offensive Player of the Year in women's soccer in 2008.

McKinzie Schmidt claimed honorable mention honors for the second year in a row. The junior post player from Gordon, Nebraska, scored 9.6 points per game and grabbed a team-high 8.6 rebounds per contest. Schmidt ranks in the top-10 in career rebounds at Dordt and set a new season record for defensive rebounds when she snared 176.

Kelsie De Nooy (senior; Denver, Colorado) was the fourth player to earn post-season recognition by the GPAC coaches. De Nooy scored 13.7 points per game and grabbed 6.1 rebounds per contest while leading the team in field goal shooting percentage with 48.3 percent. De Nooy, like Du Mez, joined the team at the conclusion of the women's soccer season, appearing in 23 games. De Nooy was the 2008 GPAC Defensive Player of the Year in women's soccer.



# The global recession and Dordt College

**John Baas**  
Vice President for College Advancement

As members of our advancement staff have met with alumni and friends around the country the last several months, talk of the economy has overtaken talk of the weather as a common discussion starter. We've seen some of the effects of the worldwide economic downturn at Dordt, but our experience may be different from many of the stories of institutions you read about in the national media. Here are some of the common questions we answer.

**How has the stock market decline affected Dordt's endowment?**  
For many larger and older colleges, the income from endowments makes up a big part of the budget. Dordt's endowment, by contrast, is smaller than that of many institutions so while the market value of the endowment has fallen, the impact on Dordt's operating budget has been less. Ideally, I'd prefer the college to have a larger endowment—and we continue to work to build it. But for today, the fact that Dordt's main revenue source is tuition and fees is a positive factor.

**Speaking of tuition, has the economy affected enrollment?**

Predicting enrollment at this point in the year is an inexact science. Measures that we can track from year to year such as applications, admissions, and deposits are comparable to the last couple of years—both of which saw large freshman classes. Historically, college enrollments have risen during down cycles in the economy, and our experience this year indicates that there is strong interest in the residential, biblically-based education that Dordt College offers. We are also working hard and with the help of our donors to make sure that we're able to meet the financial need of any student who desires a Dordt education. We regularly see expressions, from both our internal and external constituencies, of kindness and generosity toward students who face unexpected financial challenges. Based on those factors we're optimistic about our enrollment for next year and beyond.

**Has the economic downturn affected dona-**



**John Baas**

**tions to Dordt?**

Remarkably, overall giving to Dordt is on a pace to be near that of last year, which was one of our best years ever. We have seen a slight decline in gifts to the Dordt College fund, and we do encounter alumni and friends who are feeling the impact of the downturn in various ways. But support for students, through gifts to scholarships and to other programs, remains a priority with our donors. Our constituents have always been people who give of their "first fruits" rather than their "leftovers." We feel blessed that they continue to be very generous with their annual giving.

**We've read about colleges cutting positions and/or cancelling capital projects because of the economy. Anything like that at Dordt?**

Dordt has worked hard over the years to keep our student/faculty ratio at sustainable levels as directed by our board of trustees. Because of this and because enrollment has been stable, our faculty numbers also remain stable.

We are currently undertaking a major addition and renovation to our main classroom building, funded mostly by donations and supplemented by reserves that were previously set aside for the project. The addition is on schedule to be completed in time for the beginning of classes in the fall of 2009. Planning and fundraising for the next phases of our master plan continue.

We continue to monitor the economic environment for developments that could change Dordt's situation for better or for worse. We aim to be diligent in stewarding the resources with which God has entrusted us. But overall, we see evidence of his providing hand all around us, and we're grateful.

It's easy to become discouraged in today's economy, and we know this is especially true for people whose livelihoods have been negatively affected. But we're reminded regularly, often in conversation with alumni and friends, that our changeless God is in control and that he is working out his plan. With God's help, Dordt College is in a position to weather the economy difficulties and continue to provide an outstanding education and college experience for Christian young people who will be tomorrow's leaders.

## KSP students help a business

Four Kuyper Scholars students conducted a project for Enterprise Management Solutions, a Kansas City company looking for help analyzing and recommending community service opportunities that would be appropriate and beneficial for their employees.

Alumnus Jason De Stigter, an employee of the company, contacted Dr. John Visser about having his students work with them on the project. Business major Grant Dykstra, Engineering majors Rob Kangas and Katiegrace Youngsma, and English major Luke Schut took on the challenge, researching what other companies do and which organizations might be good candidates for an EMS volunteer project.

The Dordt students presented their report in Kansas City in December.

"It was great experience," says Dykstra. Working together as a team made up of different majors and presenting a report were valuable learning opportunities. "It does make a difference that it is not just for a grade or even just a case study," he says.

## Zylstra is new chair of CCCU

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra has accepted leadership roles in two associations for the advancement of private colleges: the CCCU (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) and the NAICU (National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities).

Zylstra was named the new chair of the CCCU Board of Directors at the thirty-third Annual Presidents Conference, held at Washington, D.C., in late January.

The CCCU is a higher education association of 181 Christ-centered institutions located throughout the world. Dordt College is among 111 qualifying member colleges in North America who adhere to CCCU's mission: "To advance the cause of Christ-centered higher education and to help our institutions transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to biblical truth."

Zylstra said it is a great time to serve. "Membership is growing. Student programs are expanding. Overall, the council provides an incomparable package of institutional and presidential support, leadership training, faculty development,



**Dr. Carl E. Zylstra**

student programming, and public policy advocacy," said Zylstra. He added that the CCCU is "a movement that can strengthen all of us involved in Christ-centered higher education. Chairing the board is both humbling and exciting."

Zylstra was also named the NAICU Tax Policy Chair and was elected to serve

on the executive committee.

NAICU is a national association serving as the unified voice for nearly 1,000 independent colleges and universities. NAICU member institutions enroll nine of every ten students who attend a private college or university in the United States.

Zylstra was selected to serve on the NAICU board of directors in 2007. Members of the NAICU board of directors set the association's agenda on federal higher education policy; actively encourage support of NAICU priorities and initiatives; and oversee the association's financial administration.

As chair of the Tax Policy Committee, Zylstra will help develop and advocate for the association's position on tax policy as it relates to independent higher education.

"Dr. Carl E. Zylstra was selected by his peers because of his expertise in the field, proven leadership, and commitment to America's college students," said NAICU President David L. Warren. "He assumes his responsibilities at a time of great challenge and transformation for American higher education."

## Position Openings

Applications will be received until positions are filled. To learn more about a potential opening and receive application materials, e-mail a letter of interest and curriculum vita/resume to:

Dr. Erik Hoekstra, Provost  
Facsimile: 712-722-6035  
E-mail: provost@dordt.edu  
Website: www.dordt.edu/offices/academic\_affairs



DORDT COLLEGE

Dordt College is seeking applications in the following areas:

### Faculty Positions (summer/fall 2009)

**Agriculture/Ag Business** - Opportunities for both teaching and departmental outreach in agricultural economics, agri-business, and/or contemporary agricultural practices.

**Engineering** - Electrical, mechanical, structural, and/or general engineering courses.

**Physics** - Responsibilities include teaching introductory courses and labs for majors and non-majors and upper level physics courses. Preference will be given to candidates with the ability to teach introductory astronomy courses that serve the Core program.

**Sociology/Criminal Justice** - Teach introductory and advanced courses in sociology and criminal justice, political science, or social work.

*Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.*

# Alumni events keep coming

**Wes Fopma**  
Director of Alumni Relations

When I began as Director of Alumni and Church Relations a little over two years ago, I set a goal, along with the Alumni Council, to try to host at least one alumni event a month in various areas of the Dordt College community. With the help of the Alumni Council members, we have been doing well in accomplishing this goal.

Last September we celebrated our first fall Alumni Weekend. Throughout the fall we also held four football tailgate parties around the country at local Christian high school football games. The alumni that attended had a great time. In November, faculty from the agriculture department hosted a forum in Edgerton, Minnesota, on issues in agriculture that our alumni and friends face in a changing world economy. In January President Carl Zylstra had dinner with twenty-five to thirty alumni in the Washington, D. C. area.



**Wes Fopma**

This spring our office is sponsoring more events. Hubert Krygsman from the history department was in Ripon, California, making a presentation on Islam and Christianity and how Christians are to respond. At the end of March, Professor John Visser and two Dordt College alumni, Darrel Raih and Kevin Gesink, made a presentation on campus, answering questions on where they see our economy headed in the next year or two and reflecting

on the effect this will have on investing. Professor Dale Zevenbergen heads to Sioux Falls in April to make a presentation on Continuous Improvement in the workplace. His presentation is appropriate not only for business people but also those involved in education and nonprofit organizations.

Summer will be here soon. In early June the class of 1959 will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation, and summer events at various locations around North

## On the Web

At [www.dordt.edu/main/alumni/resources/faculty\\_resources.shtml](http://www.dordt.edu/main/alumni/resources/faculty_resources.shtml) you'll find the various presentations that faculty have developed for alumni.

America are in the planning stages. We hope to have alumni gather at a few major league baseball games, as we have in years past. And plans are coming together for Alumni Weekend on September 11 and 12. Ken Davis, a popular Christian comedian, will be here on Saturday night, and tailgate parties are again in the planning stages.

I hope you will plan to join us at these events, some educational and some social. I try to get to as many as I can, and I look forward to seeing many of you. If you would like to host an event or a member of the faculty please let me know. I'd love to try to work something out.

See you soon at an event near you!

## Students present their research

Seven Dordt College students will present the results of their research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) to be held from April 16 through 18 at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse ([www.uwlax.edu/ncur2009](http://www.uwlax.edu/ncur2009)). Six of seven abstracts submitted were accepted, representing the work of seven students. They include:

David Christensen and Rachel Antvelink: Biodiesel Synthesis via Transesterification Using Sulfonated Charcoal Catalysis (Dr. Carl Fictorie)

Adrian deLange: Revelation Revealed (Professor Jason Lief)

Siam Grobler: Shoaling Behavior Determined by Olfactory Cues Based on Different Diets in Juvenile Guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*) (Dr. Tony Jelsma)

Melissa Kroll: The Cyclic Expression of Cux-1 in the Mouse Testes (Dr. Tony Jelsma)

Justin Krosschell: Solar Occultation and Limb Sounding Satellite Data Analysis of Trace Gases in the Stratosphere during the Arctic Winter (Dr. Doug Allen)

Michael Olthoff: Reduction of Parasites and Diseases in Honeybees (Dr. Ed Geels)

The students submitted abstracts on original research they had done or will complete prior to the conference. The abstracts were reviewed by a panel of faculty from the NCUR, who then decided which submissions to accept based on a common set of criteria.

Geels took two students to the conference two years ago, and one of Fictorie's students was accepted last year.

"I was impressed with the breadth and quality of the work presented there," says Fictorie. As KSP co-director, he encouraged Kuyper Scholars Program students to participate.

**Senior psychology major Lynn Price** was also invited to give a poster presentation of a research experiment she conducted last fall on the "Influence of Sociocultural Eating Norms and Age on Food Selection in Girls." Price, who gave her presentation at the annual Midwest Institute for Students and Teachers of Psychology (MISTOP) on February 28 at the College of DuPage in Chicago, Illinois, received the \$100 scholarship awarded to one of the eleven students selected to participate at the conference.

## ALUMNI NOTES

**Marilyn (Schneider, '75)** Peeders is an associate organist, choir accompanist, and piano teacher in the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (Minneapolis, Minnesota) School of Music. She is also the administrative assistant to the director of music.

► **Rick Marcus ('76)** is a senior broker in the Carlsbad office of Lee and Associates in San Diego county. Marcus has 25 years of experience in commercial real estate. He previously worked in product management



for General Foods Corporation's Mexico City location. In addition, he owned a San Diego-based printing company and also served as a financial planner for Kansas-based financial advisory agency Waddell & Reed. He is a Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM), as well as a member of the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

**Lloyd ('78) VanderKwaak** was awarded the Doctorate of Education in organizational development from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis on December 19, 2008. His dissertation topic was titled "The Governance Partnership in Nonprofit Organizations: The board chair and the chief executive." Lloyd has served as the president of ChildServe in Johnston, Iowa, since 1992. He is married to **Vicki (Veenstra, '78) VanderKwaak**, a Pine Rest Clinic therapist in Des Moines.



► **Richard ('89) and Marianne De Vries** announce the birth of twin girls, Jenna Anne and Sara Belle. They were born on October 6, 2008, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

After serving the Phoenix United Reformed Church for the past twelve years, Rev. **Bradd L. Nymeyer ('89)** became the first minister of the Sioux Center United Reformed Church ([siouxcenterURC.org](http://siouxcenterURC.org)) in September of 2008. They are a newly formed congregation of about 25 families.

**Greg ('92) and Janell Pennings** of Sioux Center welcomed Mikiah Christian on September 12, 2008. He joins Regan (9), Parker (7), and Meysi (3).

**Alisa (Siebenga, '93) and Doug Weening** of Calgary, Alberta, welcomed their first child, Jonathan Andrew, on October 7, 2008.

**Carol Slomp ('93) and Jim Hummel ('89)** announce the birth of Kaitlyn Geneva on July 19, 2007, in Edmonton, Alberta.

**Brian Conley ('95)** accepted a part-time position as a flight paramedic with Emergency Airlift, a critical air transport company in Coquille, Oregon. He is part of a three-person team (nurse/paramedic/pilot) that flies critically ill patients to care facilities.

**Tim ('95) and Nikki Roetman** announce the birth of Sophia Nicole on May 11, 2008. She became part of their family through adoption, which was finalized in November. Tim works at Princor Financial Services Corporation in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Wilf ('95) and Natalie (Hultink, '96) Wikkerink** announce the arrival of Nadine Faith, born on February 3, 2009. She was warmly welcomed by her excited siblings Andrew, Emma, Thomas, Kathryn, and Charlotte.

**David ('96) and Joanne Peterson** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, announce the birth of Willa Kathryn on December 27, 2008.

**Travis ('96) and Alecia (Koerner, '97) Rayhons** announce the birth of Nathan Mark, born on December 31, 2008. Travis is assistant director of computer services at Dordt; Alecia is a homemaker. He joins Carolyn (8) and Nicole (4).

**Laura (Holesinger, '96) Ritterbush** and her family recently moved to Kearney, Nebraska. Her husband, Jon, is an electronic resources librarian at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Laura stays home with their boys Kyle (5) and Justin (2).

**Jack ('96) and Kristin (Kobes, '97) Du Mez** welcomed Eva Lucia, born on October 30, 2008. Eva has an older brother, Zachary (2). Kristin and Jack are both professors at Calvin College, where Jack teaches writing, and Kristin teaches courses in history and gender studies.

**Todd and Lisa (Barry, '96) Pierson** announce the birth of Gabriel Patrick, born on July 24, 2008. He was welcomed home by big sister Gracie (2). They live in Orland Park, Illinois.

► **John ('97) and Kristin (Pierik, '97) Markus** welcomed Jaron Christopher into their family on December 3, 2008. Brendan, Kailyn, and Lauryn are thrilled with their new baby brother.



**Jennifer (Gutierrez, '97) and Darrick Hays** announce the addition of their newly-adopted daughter to their family. Naomi Purity joins big brothers Micah (7) and Jacob (5). Naomi was born September 22, 2006, and joined their family on November 14, 2008. The Hays family is one of the first two American families who do not live in Swaziland to adopt from this small African country. Swaziland is located within South Africa and the percentage of its residents who have AIDS is the highest in the world.

► **Kristopher ('97) and Beth Tukker** announce the birth of Alyssa Diane, born on February 10, 2009, in Naperville, Illinois. Alyssa narrowly avoided being delivered in the car as mom and dad arrived at the hospital less than ten minutes before she was born. Both mom and baby were fine after the exciting drive and delivery. Brothers Jacob, Kyle, and Zachary were excited to meet Alyssa the next day.



**Heather (Draayer, '97) and Doug Vander Weide** announce the birth of Alexa Kay on December 27, 2008. She was welcomed home by big brother Blake (5).

## Alumni come through for stranded students

Sarah Groneck

During Christmas break, Dordt employees and alumni tag-teamed to help students make a smooth return to campus during a wintry blizzard.

It all started about 4:00 p.m. on Monday afternoon as the weather turned increasingly severe. Michael Ten Haken, marketing and public relations coordinator at Dordt, called Student Services.

"I knew that students were going to run into issues with a potential blizzard and a lot of snow," said Ten Haken. Together he and Student Services decided to get Dordt alumni involved, specifically those living near the Omaha and Sioux Falls airports. They began contacting alumni to see if they could pick up and house stranded students for one night.

"It was most important to get alumni involved at the Sioux Falls airport because people would be kicked out when the airport closed at 12," said Ten Haken.

More than enough alums took Ten Haken up on the request.

"One family took four or five kids," said Ten Haken. "I think we had two other families who went to the Sioux Falls airport to help us arrange for transportation and other things."

Grant and Lisa Vande Kamp of Sioux Falls let a group of students spend the night at their home. Grant drove the students to Dordt's campus before turning around and driving back to Sioux Falls.

At the Omaha airport, alumni arranged for pizza and soda pop to be delivered to stranded students.

"There were several people on call for taking students if they were needed," said Ten Haken, who was impressed by the willing efforts of the alumni.

One mother later called Student Services to ask for the addresses of those who had helped out her child.

"Students were very appreciative of people looking out for them," said Ten Haken, noting that there were a lot of people looking out for Dordt travelers.

Lance and **Barbara (Sjoerdsma, '97)** Ford announce the birth of Judith Kay on August 2, 2008, in Sacramento, California

**Jonathan deHaan ('97)** received his Ph.D. in education communication and technology from New York University in June of 2008. De Haan has been an assistant professor at the University of Aizu in Japan for the past two years and will move to the University of Shikoku in March 2009 to become an associate professor in its Language and Communication Research Center. He and his wife, Yuka, hope to become first-time parents in May 2009.

**Marne (Grotenhuis, '98)** and Mark Dekkers of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, welcomed Carter Henry on April 10, 2008. He joined Sophie (6) and Hailey (4).

**Jim ('98)** and Sarah **DeLeeuw** announce the birth of Katie Irene on January 6, 2009, in Willmar, Minnesota. She was welcomed home by Ellie Mae (21 months).

**John Den Boer ('98)** recently passed the LEED Professional Accreditation exam. Den Boer is an architect with HBA Architecture & Interior Design, Inc. in Virginia and has been involved in a variety of projects, including renovations to the award-winning Oceanfront Dentistry, the Children's Museum of Virginia, the new Churchland Library, and YMCA in Portsmouth.

**Michael ('98)** and **Jessica (Radsma, '98) Ten Haken's** son, Alex Jay, was born on February 24, 2009, a brother to Zachary (9) and Bethany (6). Michael is the coordinator of public relations at Dordt; Jessica is a teacher's aide at Sioux Center Christian School.

**Jill (Schemper, '99)** and Kevin Bute of Bozeman, Montana, announce the birth of Isla Noelle on May 14, 2008. She was welcomed home by sister Kylie.

**Tristen (DeYong, '99)** and Scott Thompson were married on October 11, 2008, in Luverne, Minnesota. They live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Kevin ('99)** and **Janna (Bouma, '99) Van Donge** had another little boy, Thyce Ryan, born on October 23, 2008. He was welcomed home by Austin (7) and Jacob (4).

**Charlotte Wang ('00)** of Olympia, Washington, was selected to work for the U.S. Olympic Committee, translating during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She was later invited to the White House for recognition of her volunteer efforts.



▲ **Colleen (Evenhouse, '00)** and Scott Platt announce their marriage on January 10, 2009, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. They live in University Park, Iowa.

**Adam ('00)** and Krista **Van Meeteren** of Sheldon, Iowa, announce the birth of Jacob Allen, born on September 23, 2008. He joins Brayden (5) and Carson (3).

**Evan ('00)** and Mandy **Jasper**, of Carol Stream, Illinois, announce the birth of Jenna Grace, born September 4, 2008. Evan teaches history at Wheaton Academy in West Chicago.

**Shelley (Bolkema, '01)** and **Rick ('02) Hoogeveen** announce the birth of Trevor James, born on June 14, 2008, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He joins big brother Blake (2).

Randy and **Linda (Johnson, '01)** Berends of Parkersburg, Iowa, announce the birth of Sophie Joy on September 16, 2008. She joins Abby (5) and Cora (2).

### Huygen spends two weeks in Kenya

**Kim (Weeks, '98) Huygen** recently returned from a two and a half week Contact Tour in Kenya, spending time in Eldoret, Turkana and Nairobi. Kim and her husband, **Israel ('98)**, have been members of the Kenya Committee since 2005, a committee that supports development projects through the Northern Alberta Diaconal Conference, CRWRC Burlington, and CRWRC Nairobi. Israel went on a Discovery Tour to the same areas in the spring of 2007. The goal of the committee is to support people and projects that help communities develop. The Kenya Committee gives

prayer, financial, and emotional support, and they visit Kenya to learn more about their circumstances. The committee also raises awareness about the struggles of the people in these communities including widows, orphans and vulnerable children, farmers looking for a fair market, business people, students, the sick, those struggling with HIV/AIDS, etc. "One of the most memorable days was touring the areas that have been affected by post-election violence in 2008," says Kim. "The trip was exciting, heart-breaking, and definitely life-changing. I know that I will return."

**Jason De Bruin ('01)** completed his Ph.D. in Crop Production and Plant Physiology at Iowa State University in May of 2007 and continues to work for the soybean extension program as a program manager. Jason and **Karen (Netz, '01)** were blessed with the birth of their first child, Madelyn Lee, on June 22, 2008, in Ames, Iowa.

**Daniel ('01)** and Carol **Bruxvoort** announce the birth of Adrianna Danielle, born on December 8, 2008, in Des Moines, Iowa. Daniel works for De Lage Landen, Incorporated in its food and agriculture finance division as a litigation representative handling legal requests and remarketing repossessed equipment.

**Jennifer (Myers, '01)** Grady and Kristopher Grady announce the birth of Abigail Faith, born on September 1, 2008. Jennifer currently works as a youth director in Howell, Michigan.

Peter and **Laura (Groen, '01)** Doornenbal of Caldwell, Idaho, announce the birth of Kara Jean on November 11, 2008. Big brother Kyle (2) welcomed her home.

**Steve Runner ('01)**, who works at Pine Rest in Pella, Iowa, graduated from Wheaton College with a Psy. D. in clinical psychology and a master's degree in theology in August of 2008. He and **Sara (Andringa, '02)**, who stays home with their children, had a baby girl, Brynn Abigail, on January 29, 2009. She joins Devan (2).

**Jillian Dengerink ('02)** was married to Martin A. De Hoog in Chino, California, on September 9, 2006. Their daughter, Olivia Joyce, was born on November 7, 2008. They live in Ontario, California.

**Howard Gorter ('02)** received a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Sioux Falls in August 2007. He also passed the Professional Engineering exam in October, 2008, and is now a licensed professional engineer in the state of South Dakota.

**Thomas ('02)** and **Amber (Hoogland, '02) De Jong** of Orange City, Iowa, announce the birth of Isaac Thomas on November 20, 2008.

**William ('02)** and **Rachel (De Bruin, '02) Grant** of Glenrock, Wyoming, announce the birth of Cora Ruth on May 9, 2007.

**Rebecca (Schelhaas, '02)** and **Laremy De Vries ('02)** had a baby, Cornelia "Corrie" Ann, on June 6, 2008. Laremy is teaching philosophy this year at Dordt College. Rebecca is the interim Minority Student Coordinator.

**Laura (Schippers, '02)** and **Steve Kleinheksel ('01)** announce the birth of Lindy Joy on January 20, 2009, in Holland, Michigan. She joins big brother Bennett (2).

**Adriana (De Boer, '03)** and **Kevin ('05) VanderSpek** announce the birth of Jacob Benjamin, born on July 22, 2008, in Welland, Ontario.

**Greg ('03)** and Sandra **LeMahieu** announce the birth of a son, Caden James, on October 18, 2008, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

**Eric ('04)** and **Amy (Buys, '04) Haan** of Luverne, Minnesota, announce the birth of Brooklyn Marie, born on December 22, 2008.

**Aaron ('04)** and Tracy **Terpstra** of Grandville, Michigan, announce the birth of Mercedes Mae, born on June 24, 2008.

**Julie Vanden Heuvel ('04)** and Steve Bussis were married on December 30, 2009. They live in Ontario, California, where Julie is the assistant dean of student life at Providence Christian College. Steve awaits candidacy for ministry in the Christian Reformed Church.

Shannon and **Bethany (Hoksbergen, '04)** Schuller had a baby girl, Haley Elizabeth, born on July 28, 2008, in Orange City, Iowa.

**B.J. ('05)** and **Sarah (Van Egdome, '03) Mowery** of Hull, Iowa, announce the birth of Marie Eve on August 13, 2008. She joins Leah (4) and Willem (2). B.J. teaches at Trinity Christian High School in Hull, while Sarah keeps busy as a wife and mother.

**Ross ('04)** and **Rebecca (Groenendyk, '05) Slagter** of Maple Grove, Minnesota, welcomed Sophia Mae on January 16, 2009.

**Valerie (Visser, '05)** and Ryan Van Beek of Sioux Center, Iowa, announce the birth of Payton Joy on September 5, 2008.

**Daren ('05) Dieleman** and Kara Van De Berg were married in Sioux Center, Iowa, on July 12, 2008. Daren is employed at Pella Corporation in Sioux Center, and Kara works at Premier Communications.

**Mandy (Phelps, '05)** and Dan Aardsma announce the birth of Claire Patricia. She was born on January 16, 2009 in Munster, Indiana.

**Ethan J. Huizenga ('05)** graduated from Saint Louis University School of Law in May of 2008. He passed the Missouri Bar Exam in July of 2008 and is now working as a partner at Bowman Huizenga, LLC, a new law firm specializing in elder law.

**Sara Gerritsma ('06)** and Justin DeMoor were married on December 20, 2008, in St. Catharines, Ontario. They live in Toronto, Ontario, where Sara is an assistant chaplain at the CRC campus ministry at the University of Toronto. Justin is a vice-principal at Toronto District Christian High School.

**Andrea Van Groningen ('05)** married Jonathan Meeks on August 2, 2008. Andrea teaches first grade at Ontario Christian School in Ripon, California.

**Roshelle (Hazeu, '07)** and **Calvin ('07) Doornbos** announce the birth of Ezra Jacob on November 29, 2008, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Matthias (18 months) welcomed him home.

**Jennifer McCreery ('08)** recently joined Noonan and Lamfers. She will provide tax and accounting services to clients.

**Joel Westra ('08)** recently passed the CPA exam. He works with Cain Ellsworth and Co, LLP in Sheldon, Iowa.

# Looking Back

## An interview with John Rozeboom

John Rozeboom attended Dordt College from 1960 to 1962 when Dordt was still a junior college. He went on to receive a B.A. from Calvin College, a M.Th. degree from Calvin Seminary, and another from Fuller Theological Seminary. He served as a Home Missionary in Riverside, California, for seven years, as the CRC Home Missions Western Regional leader for ten years, and as the director of CRC Home Missions for twenty-two years. He recently retired from his position at CRCHM. Emeritus Dordt English Professor David Schelhaas, a former classmate of John, talked with him about his Dordt experience and his life devoted to missions.

### What are some particularly good memories you have of Dordt?

My good memories gather around inspiring Christian teachers, lasting friendships, the maturing, satisfying qualities of hard schoolwork and rigorous choir practice and performance, and quality goofing off with schoolmates, in no particular order.

Dordt, when you and I were students there, had fewer than 200 souls on campus. Small potatoes as colleges go. Upon graduating, we received a postcard-sized diploma, associate of arts. Nevertheless, I picked up a sense of being part of a Christ-honoring thing that was on the move and important.

I prize Dordt student friendships; many keep on today. Last summer, for the first time in decades, I ran into Wayne Graves—at Synod. Wayne was and is from north-central Iowa and at Dordt played a mean rock 'n roll trombone, my instrument. I could cite scores of Dordt friends like Wayne and conversations that jump back decades, instantly.

I met Linda VanderVeen of Ripon, California, at Dordt in my second year, Linda's first. She was an accomplished pianist, accompanist to the Dordt choir, and I liked to listen when she played. Sometimes I was an audience of one when Linda practiced. I came to love the pianist more than the music and, thank God, she loved me. We have had a blessed, happy married life for forty-two years.

A beloved goofing off memory is this: In the days when the whole campus was one sprawling building standing pretty much by itself out in the cornfields on the northeast corner of Sioux Center, we were able to plunge the whole outfit into darkness at night by shining a little light on one photoelectric cell in back that turned off every Dordt yard and building light. Imagine the possibilities! Creative, opportunity-seizing students who had hoisted and secured a piano up under the rafters of the Dordt assembly room/gym and placed a Renault car up on center stage at chapel one morning did not let this important knowledge go unapplied.



Linda (Vander Veen) and John Rozeboom, attended Dordt when it was a two-year college, in the early sixties. John, recently retired, remains active in the Christian Reformed denomination. Linda teaches piano

### Do any of your good memories include profs?

As a two-year school, Dordt kept a sharp eye out for the requirements of the four-year colleges where we were headed, and in the case of pre-theological seminary students like me, John Zinkand's thorough instruction in classical languages paid off: When our Dordt pre-sem group hit Calvin College as juniors we had slogged through Xenophon's *Anabasis* and into Plato. We were ahead of the game. Moreover, through his person and the content of coursework, John opened the door to a different, distant culture that gave up its enticing secrets to our hard work and his teaching. The educational gift of John Zinkand well-launched me in ministry, which is at center being a trustworthy and tireless witness to the Gospel. Gospel witness entails having a clear sense of what people heard and found good in the Good News back when first spoken by prophets, by the Lord, by apostles, and Bible authors. Dordt profs got me going on that road.

Pete DeBoer, our English teacher of those days, remains a friend. He has read things I write and has given them back with detailed grammatical, stylistic improvements. Can you beat that? And Nick Van Til, our Dordt history and philosophy teacher, was a worldview guy who introduced me to Christian perspectives on both of those.

Dale Grotenhuis's gift to me and many of us was the discipline of applying one's self to learning, practicing, and performing choral music; of letting one's soul be stirred by beautiful music; of being accountable to a choir of friends and the director and to God who looks for praise as a return on his gift of music to us.

I received two years of fine Christian liberal arts education in the Dordt community, useful to faith and work, and I have tried not to forget or waste them.

### When did you know you were going to be a home missionary? Why that particular kind of ministry?

The event that first nailed home missions for me was the part-summer in 1961 that you and I and other Minnesota friends spent in Portland, Oregon, with Home Missionary Howard Spaan and Calvin Christian Reformed Church working as college student volunteers in SWIM (Summer Workshop in Missions).

In college and especially seminary, more of the folks I wanted to emulate were in Home

Missions. Granted, in the sixties these folks stood out as front-line, social activists, even fringe to the mainstream of the church, and that appealed to me. None were dull. Some were wild and unrestrained in speaking out against passive and active racism in the church. All were actively attuned to God's intent for hurting, wandering, faith-neglecting people, and for church and society.

Later, when I finished Fuller and we needed a place to go, Wes Smedes, a persuasive guy, called from Home Missions and said, "Why not move to Riverside (California)? It's a great and needy city. We have a young leaderless ministry group that needs a lot of help. It's time to put all your schooling to work." So we did.

### On the Web

For the full interview with John Rozeboom see [www.dordt.edu/main/alumni/profiles/](http://www.dordt.edu/main/alumni/profiles/)

### Was it a difficult decision to move from local ministry into Home Missions agency leadership?

No. I strongly admired my Home Missions colleagues and the leaders I worked with before and now. With prayers and encouragement of pastors and Home Missions persons who knew us, it seemed the natural thing to do. My particular strengths are vision, strategy, learning, encouragement, and getting things moving.

In the ten years after Riverside, working as Home Missions western regional leader, I assisted western U.S. CRC classes and congregations to plant new churches, more than thirty from 1976 to 1986, and encourage outreach in established churches. You see, to get a movement of mission interest going in an area of need where there are CRC people, a lot depends on casting a vision of kingdom life and growth that churches and God's people grasp as urgent and compelling. And then we organize leadership and financial support, always *with* local churches, not *for* them, to enact vision. So I did those things, with a lot of help, in the western U.S., and in 1986 the Home Missions board was looking for someone to drive the bus of CRC Home Missions, and that turned out to be me.

Linda and our children paid the heaviest price of the shared demands of the work in

our new church years, especially when I was western regional home missionary and on the road about half the time. My approach to the job(s) wasn't the wisest, and I would not ask as much from Linda and our children again. I have regrets.

Home Missions agency leadership over the last twenty-two years is much the same in essentials as the regional leadership role I've just described. Except in bi-national leadership the mission is projected on a bigger, Canada-U.S. screen, and responsibility for a nine million-dollar budget is thrown in for good measure. So, sure it was a switch to go into regional and bi-national leadership but, by grace, I was passionately interested, well-prepared by education and experience, and Linda and our children supported me fully.

### What are some of the high points of your years at Home Missions?

I could list a dozen. Here are just two:

We changed the focus of the agency from ministry *for* the CRC congregations—doing the church's mission in its place—to ministry *with* congregations and members. The CRC became a *missional* denomination, congregations devoted to acting in the mission of God in their way in their places. That's rather more than a denomination having or sponsoring a mission agency.

The CRC congregations, especially newer churches, are growing in effectiveness in evangelizing. 29,700 people were added by God's grace in the last ten years, and 56,000 in the last twenty. New churches lead our growth: about twelve newer mature churches show 800 to 1200 worshippers each Sunday. From about 2,000 people added through evangelizing in 1990, now about 3,500 people are reported added each year.

### John, since you and I left Dordt in 1962, Dordt has become much more intentionally Reformed in a Kuyperian sense. Is a Reformed perspective, particularly following the ideas of theologian-statesman Abraham Kuyper, important to Home Missions?

My take is that Dordt's core value for Reformed thought, perspective and action has been helpful and faithful for its own mission and for the church. But, though Kuyperian thought and practice is really compelling stuff, I think there ought to be a waiting period with a disciple "learner's permit" requiring some hours of applied kingdom work, sacrifice, written reports, heartfelt confession, and a test of suffering before undergraduates get to take that car on the road.

Where Home Missions is concerned, the lordship of Christ is central in mission theology and practice as the final, large-picture outworking of the love, mission and telos of the triune God. Missionary discipleship requires biblical piety to root and motivate it and kingdom (Kuyperian) activism in order for anyone, let alone God who desires to be praised in our works, to get any benefit from it. What I know, having seen it in my life and work, is that the Holy Gospel, the Word, is indeed sharp and effective. I know personally hundreds of people changed by the Gospel and am acquainted with hundreds more who have found new life.

# THE VOICE

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## 8 The Beehive: An inside look at campus life



15  
One-on-one  
with John  
Rozeboom

## 3 Students expose Philippine slum



## 1 Beating the percentages



## EVENTS

### Art

*Campus Center Gallery*

March 5 - 30	Senior show #1: P. Schiebout, D. Slager, L. Nieuwsma, A. Hilbelink, N. Wojcik
March 30 - April 15	Senior Show #2: L. Davis, B. Havinga, L. Dykstra, S. Hooyer, R. Clemens
April 16 - April 30	Senior Show #3: C. Nydam, M. De Graaf, D. Wright, D. Lammers, J. Vonk
May 2 - 8	Senior Supershow: the best of the seniors' work

### Campus Activities

April 13 - 17	Justice Week
April 24	Ag Day
April 29 5:30 p.m.	Biology Research Presentations (S108)
April 30 3-5:30 p.m.	Ideafest (Campus Center)
May 6 7:30 p.m.	Engineering Senior Design Presentations (S101)
May 8 10 a.m.	Commencement (B.J. Haan Auditorium)
June 22-26	Discovery Days

### Music

*B.J. Haan Auditorium unless otherwise noted*

March 27 7:30 p.m.	Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra home tour concert
April 7 7:30 p.m.	Senior Recital: Heather Hooyer, piano
April 14 7:30 p.m.	Senior Recital: Elizabeth Walters, violin
April 17 7:00 p.m.	High School Band Festival
April 18 3:00 p.m.	Northwest Iowa Symphony Youth Orchestra
April 18 7:30 p.m.	Senior Recital: Andrew Friend, organ; Helen van Beek, piano
April 19 3:00 p.m.	Easter Hymn Festival with Dr. Robert Horton (Sioux Center First CRC)
April 21 7:30 p.m.	Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert (tickets are required)
April 24 3:00 p.m.	Junior Recital: Susan LeMahieu, clarinet
April 28 7:30 p.m.	Choral Ensemble Concert
May 1 7:30 p.m.	Concert and Campus Bands concert
9:30 p.m.	Jazz Band "Soiree" (Campus Center)
May 2 7:30 p.m.	Sioux County Oratorio Concert
May 9 7:30 p.m.	Concert Choir Pre-European Tour Concert

For more information about these events and for **athletic schedules** please go to [www.dordt.edu/events](http://www.dordt.edu/events)

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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 people 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](mailto:voice@dordt.edu).

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