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Dordt College

5 April 2012

Issue 20

Thanking Donors through GRACE Days

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Many students, faculty, and staff of Dordt College came to the Rec Center on Wednesday, March 28 to celebrate the donations given by alumni and friends.

This celebration was called GRACE days, which refers to the number of days each year that are fully supported by donors. The GRACE days event was held for students to give thanks to these donors and friends of Dordt who support their education.

“The idea of GRACE days is to help students understand (in a fun way) the impact of donors on campus and on their educations, and to give donors a chance to hear messages of gratitude from students,” said John Baas, Vice President for College Advancement at Dordt.

Students who came were encouraged to write a note of thanks to a donor and sign a large “thank you” banner. They also received a free meal and had the chance to run through a 100-foot inflatable obstacle course.

“I’ve heard from a number of students and employees who really appreciated the event. The turnout was higher than what we hoped for and we were pleasantly surprised,” said Barb Mellem, Director of Annual Giving at Dordt College.

Because of all the donations that are received, students’ tuition for the last twenty-three days of the school year is covered.

“Without all our donors, it would not be possible for some of us to attend Dordt. And I don’t think that students realized that we are basically going to school for free right now because



Photo by Anna Stadem

of our generous donors,” said Kristen Tiel.

“This was a concept we’ve considered in the past but didn’t actually implement until this year. We partnered with Student Services and many volunteers

(students and faculty/staff) which helped tremendously in making it successful,” said Baas.

“We will be assessing over the summer what future plans will be for the future of GRACE Days but

it will involve a significant celebration. We were delighted with the turn out and the student response has been fantastic,” said Bethany Schuttinga, Associate Provost for Co-Curricular Programs.

Rebirth at the Agricultural Stewardship Center



Photos by Kristina Heflin

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again. It’s springtime, and life is being reborn, literally, out at the Dordt College Agricultural Stewardship Center.

Every spring the Agriculture 101 class, made up mostly of ag freshmen, gets an “animal experience” project. Pregnant ewes (that’s sheep for the laymen) and calves are deliv-

ered out to the school farm, then divided among groups of students. The students are responsible for the animals’ daily care for nearly two months, lasting until almost the end of the spring semester.

The purpose of this project is to give students experience in multiple, hands-on, facets of animal agriculture. Students who have sheep experience must

work with calves, and those who have worked with cattle have responsibility for the sheep.

No matter what project the students end up with, a good time seems to be had by all. At nearly all hours of the day, students can be found at the farm feeding, cleaning, or just playing with their animals.

Even non-ag majors seem to anticipate this time of

year. Students from every grade and major tag along with their friends, hoping to get a chance to hold and maybe even take pictures with the baby animals.

Not everything is so rosy at the farm, however. Part of the lesson to be learned through this experience is to deal with the realities of an agricultural lifestyle, which can be disappointing at times.

Not every lamb is born alive, and not all make it

through their first week. It can be heartbreaking, but comfort can be taken in the promise of new life contained in every lamb that does make it and lives to jump, run, and play with his brothers and sisters.

The lambs and calves do seem to have something in common with their freshmen caretakers, however. They seem to be constantly reminded that never before has Iowa seen such a beautiful spring.



Poverty Simulation Raises Student Awareness

Anna Stadem
Staff Writer

Last week, junior social work majors spent hours preparing and orchestrating a poverty simulation available to all students.

The goal of the simulation was to aid students in awareness and understanding regarding individuals and families who are struggling financially. The result was just that: the simulation was an organized, chaotic event involving students of many different backgrounds determined to understand and succeed in a foreign way of life.

All participants were given a role to play. The roles varied across the board, ranging from newly unemployed, to single parent, to social security senior citizen. The majority of the roles were people constantly fighting to stay above the poverty line; still working yet struggling.

The simulation was broken into four twelve-minute weeks. Each week was full of responsibilities for each

person to earn basic needs regarding food, shelter, money, and work. At the end of each week a whistle would blow and the week's necessities and responsibilities would begin all over again.

Junior social work students were in charge of various stations and character roles such as bank tellers, mortgage companies, and food agencies. Mary Du Mez, a junior social work major, manned the food stamp agency table and was surprised with how much stress a life on the brink of poverty has.

"We don't think of the barriers that people face—like a single parent getting his or her kids to daycare everyday. It's a struggle to balance everything and takes a toll on the emotions."

When asked what the purpose of the simulation was Du Mez said, "we want to raise awareness of what poverty is like and create empathy for those that are poor enough but not in extreme poverty."

Kevin Novotny, a junior participant, said, "The first week was eye-opening to



Photo by Anna Stadem

see." Novotny was given the role of a nine-year-old and was shocked within the first week that as a young kid he was affected by the stress and fear of his unstable life. "I know people who live like this every day," Novotny continued, "so it's neat to see what it's like."

Elizabeth Slagter, a sophomore social work major, was flustered in her role and

shocked with the helplessness in such financial crises situations. "I have no money and only one more place to go to for help; there's no way I can pay my rent."

In short, the social work students succeeded in what they set out to do-- raise awareness and understanding in an all too common issue. Megan Tinklenberg, a junior social work major,

summed it up saying, "There are a lot of different reasons for poverty, not just the lazy stereotype. It depends on the situation and resources."

First Monday Speaker: What are we Afraid of?



Kelsey Sederstrom
Staff Writer

"It's so beautiful here," said Beatrice De Graaf as she stepped on the stage Monday morning. "Dutch people have never had a reason to come to the center of the United States, but it's quite beautiful!"

Speaking with a thick Dutch accent, De Graaf addressed the topic of security, presenting the audience with the question, "What are we afraid of?"

De Graaf's speech began with a history of security, starting with Charlemagne protecting his people from drought and ending with modern times when the United Nations seeks to prevent another world war.

She defined security as both a feeling and an absence of harm. Most especially, she correlated security with protection from future events.

According to De Graaf, security is not just a pres-

ent state. It is most importantly what we want our future to be.

The core of De Graaf's speech addressed how man fails to control the future. National security is virtually useless, because as individual opportunity grows, so also uncertainty increases.

De Graaf says that American culture and media are geared towards looking at destruction because they know it is what concerns us the most. Man knows his fatality. De Graaf sparks the question, where do we turn in our search for hope of protection? Ourselves? The government?

As Reformed Christians, De Graaf says we know that our security is not physical, but spiritual and moral. We find spiritual peace in Christ, our shepherd, LORD, and king. Whom then shall we fear? Nothing can stand against Christ; our sole comfort in life and death.

"Christ is our security," seemed to be the constant theme throughout De Graaf's speech.

Symposium Update

Hello again fellow students and welcome to another student symposium update. Since I am unsure how many students actually read this article, I have an idea to catch your eye.

DO YOU NOTICE BOLD PRINT?

Hopefully I have your attention now. However, it must be said that we at symposium do keep a professional attitude (though it may not be exemplified by bold print or recent election posters).

Our main purpose in these measures is to remind you that Student Symposium is here on Dordt to help students. We fund clubs, we listen to your concerns, and we welcome your ideas. Let us get to know you.

We have recently elected members for next year, so be sure you are familiarizing yourself with the faces that will represent you as a student body. We look forward to another year of operation, and we thank all of you who showed your support by voting.

This year in Symposium, great leaps have been taken. We have rewritten our constitution to improve our operation. We have accepted new clubs and allotted funds for them. We have communicated with the administration on your behalf. Thank you for your support.

But enough about us, tell us about you! We want to get to know you, and we want to know what Dordt means to you.

Want to learn more about symposium? You have many options!

Email us at: symposium@dordt.edu
Check our Website at: homepages.dordt.edu/symposium (We are hoping to put this on DENIS)

Or talk to a member!

In Christ,
Steve Olson
Officer of the Press

National Library Week: A Time of Excitement and Free Food



Photo by Anna Stadem

Shanna Braunschweig Staff Writer

April 8-14 is National Library Week and the Dordt College library will be holding some entertaining and tasty activities that you won't want to miss!

Kicking off the week, there is an edible book con-

test on Monday, April 9. Students are asked to bring their entries to the library by 10:30 a.m. so the judges can begin scoring the cakes/desserts.

Who are the judges you may ask? Cindy Nederhof from KDCR, Professor Jim Schaap, one of Dordt's students, and a member of the community will be in charge

of tasting and critiquing the entries.

However, the decisions are not left entirely to the judges. Students, faculty, and staff are all encouraged to come to the library and vote for the cake they think should win the prize for viewer's choice award.

There will be four categories: judge's choice,

viewer's choice, best tasting, and best pun. The prizes consist of \$40 for 1st place and \$20 for 2nd place in each of the four categories, so try out your culinary skills and win some cash.

"Last year was the first year we did this and we were absolutely amazed at how many people we got," said librarian Kathy Fictorie. There were 24 submissions last year and they are hoping to surpass that this year.

In addition, on Wednesday, April 11, the "read celebrity" poster will be unveiled, and chocolate chip cookies will be served while supplies last.

A paper airplane contest will be held on Friday, April 13, beginning at 11:00 a.m. So for all you engineers out there, or for those of you who think you have what it takes to construct a winning airplane, come to the library and participate. Let's be honest, when is the next time you will be encouraged to fly airplanes across the library? Probably not until

next year at this time, so take advantage of the situation. There will be a gift certificate for the winner.

As if all of this isn't enough to bring students to the library, there will also be daily drawings for \$10 gift certificates to local businesses such as the Pizza Ranch, Casey's Bakery, and the Fruited Plain. Make sure to place your name in the drawing already on Monday morning.

Last, but certainly not least, there will be mints all week long! Who doesn't love a winter mint lifesaver, or two, or four, to get you through the week of classes?

"It's really one of the most fun weeks we have at the library," said Kathy Fictorie, "so come join the fun!"

Become a Counselor for Dordt Discovery Days

Kelly Zatlin Editor

Every summer Dordt faculty, local educators, and artists host a week-long camp on campus for junior high students called Dordt Discovery Days. Classes take place in the morning and afternoon each day, and throughout the rest of the day students participate in activities like swimming, devotions, games, and a Sioux Center-wide group scavenger hunt.

When registering, the kids choose two of these classes and activities from a list of 40. Some of these include Crazy Olympics, Golf, Racquetball, a CSI Investigation, Guitar Lessons, Cartooning, Pottery,

Stain Glass, Digital Scrapbooking, and even Photography.

This five-day camp, at the end of June, gives kids who have completed sixth, seventh, or eight grade the opportunity to see what it's like to live on a college campus.

Current Dordt students sticking around this summer will have the opportunity to be camp counselors for Dordt Discovery Days.

Counselors get a chance to help with a variety of fun evening activities led by Student Services. The counselors will chaperone the young campers and live with them in the dorms. In the past, volunteers have called it a fun learning experience for both the camp-

ers and the counselors.

Cady Millage, a camp counselor during the summer of 2011, said, "I really enjoyed the opportunity to be a positive influence in the girls' lives that I was a counselor for. I also really enjoyed the high level of energy and excitement from the kids. I did activities with them, went swimming, ate, did devotions, and then stayed in Covenant with the girls."

The camp begins on June 25 and runs until June 29, 2012. Dordt students can get involved by contacting Sita Riblet or Dustin Hamm in student services. Sita is currently taking all applications for counselors.



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Features

Putting Love Into Action 2012

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer



Team Atlanta

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” This verse, found in 1 John 3:18, served as the key theme for the PLIA teams that served across the United States and Canada during Spring Break. Over 150 students put love into action on twelve different teams. Some of the teams spent their break together as far away as Salt Lake City, Atlanta, Camden, Las Vegas, and Toronto, while others stayed closer in cities like Cincinnati, Denver, and Argentine, Kansas.

Caleb Wubben, a junior co-leader with Elise Wedel, spent his Spring Break in Inez, Kentucky. One week before PLIA teams departed for service across the country, the community of Inez was hit by a devastating tornado, so the team served through tornado relief and tutoring. The team worked alongside 200 community members, helping clean up an entire hillside in a section that was completely wiped out by the storm.

“Seeing the devastation and the terrible homes some of the children were raised in made me appreciative of the way I was raised,” said Wubben. “I was also reminded not to put too much stock in earthly possessions because they can be gone in a second. Instead, I need to store up treasures in Heaven.”

Salt Lake City is a site that PLIA teams started heading

to only last year. This year, the team helped out a small Christian Reformed church in the city populated by a great majority of Mormons. Dordt students painted buildings, cooked for a homeless shelter, and helped out in a group home. In addition to the love they shared through actions, the team also learned about Mormonism.

Stephanie Geertsma, a junior member of the Utah team, shared, “Being the religious minority for the first time was a challenge for my faith.” She reflected that her team definitely learned the importance of living out their faith all of the time. In the midst of such widespread Mormonism in Salt Lake City, Geertsma said it was “extra important” to actively live out her faith.

On the other side of the country, senior Ellen La Bouef learned a similar lesson in Atlanta. In the city, La Bouef’s group worked with elementary and middle school students, helped on a farm at a summer camp, and traveled to many different shelters where they were about to learn about the cycle of poverty.

She said L. Baker, the team’s contact and service organizer in Atlanta challenged the team to see themselves as “the only Bible a person will read in a day,” meaning that living out love and care instead of judgment and arrogance is important at all times.

“We learned about service

as an everyday approach, representing Christ to everyone around me, whether I’m on PLIA, in another state, or simply at home,” La Bouef shared as a summary of her team’s reflections on the trip.

Dordt students who spent their Spring Break as a part of the Shiprock, New Mexico team deepened their understanding of what it means to live a life of complete and passionate service. Junior Rachel Dotinga, who co-led the Shiprock team with senior Kurt Franje, said the team’s role was simply to help an over-worked pastor in any way possible.

Dotinga said the community expected much more work from the team than expected, which gave them the opportunity to have true servant hearts, regardless of how much work still needed to be done. Personally, Dotinga said, the high expectations “challenged me to keep the attitude of wanting to serve as much as I possibly can.” As a whole, Dotinga believes the team developed a strong “passion to give up their time to simply serve.”

Another nine Dordt students had the opportunity to travel 23 hours to Camden, New Jersey, and work with Urban Promise, an organization serving the broken Camden community by equipping Camden’s kids with a passion to love and hope to help one of the most dangerous cities in America improve.

The Camden PLIA team spent the week in the midst of the city filled with sadness, poverty, and drugs and had the chance to clean after-school program sites, visit and serve at the Francis House, a shelter for people with HIV/AIDS, and work with middle school kids at Urban Promise’s week of Olympics.

Freshman Renee Buikema confessed, “I didn’t have hope for Camden until I saw how many people in Camden had such a strong hope for their own community.”

Buikema’s freshman teammate Jerusha Pimentel said visiting the Francis House was one of her favorite experiences of the trip. “We try to detach ourselves and remove ourselves from people in drastic situations,” she said, “but in Camden—where today’s lepers and forgotten people live—that’s where I think Jesus would be if He were here. It was honoring to be in the same place Jesus would have walked.”

Ryan Brumfield, a senior co-leader to Neon, Kentucky, had the unique opportunity to travel back to the same community where he led a PLIA team two years ago. In Neon, his team poured concrete for the foundation of a house, dug a trench along the home’s walls, and organized the workshop



Team Camden

at the place the team stayed. Brumfield enjoyed building new relationships and meeting up with people he had kept in contact with. Although he will not have another opportunity to go to Neon on PLIA, Brumfield is planning on going back there once again.

Amidst the variety of lessons and knowledge Dordt students learned during the Spring Break of service in impoverished, broken communities, junior Toronto co-leader

Becca Van Dam summarized one of a lesson all of the PLIA teams seemed to echo. “We learned how much not only inner city kids and homeless need our love, but also how much our team needs to love each other and continue sharing the love Christ has given us back home.” Clearly, putting love into action also means being blessed with truth about God’s love and service as well.

Several PLIA members were asked to explain what PLIA means to them:

David Miedema, Senior, Team Las Vegas

“You think some people have it all good, but everyone has their own struggles and needs love and encouragement.”

Derek Lourens, Junior, Team Carmel, NY

“Putting love into action can come in many forms. Most of the work I had to do was talking to people about Jesus and letting God make all of the difference.”

Abby Helder, Junior, Team Argentine, KS Co-Leader

“Everything that we do while on PLIA (or in life in general) should be done with LOVE—a willing heart, a generous heart, a patient heart, a kind heart, and a heart that truly wants to bring Heaven down to Earth.”

Derek Brumfield, Senior, Team Carmel, NY Co-Leader

“Loving is not judging people before you get to know them”

Amber Vander Veen, Junior, Team New Orleans Co-Leader

“There’s more to it than you initially think... It’s about sacrificing your time and energy, really putting the needs of others before your own, and not taking the easy way out.”

Leah Werkhoven, Sophomore, Team Shiprock, NM

“Putting love into action is just waking up each day with a smile on your face.”

Drew Johnson, Sophomore, Team Salt Lake City

“It [putting love into action] shows us that we are doing God’s work and that there are many different ways for us to do it.”



Team New Orleans

Opinion

Stupidity Contest

My Grandfather's Country...

Hank Houtman
Columnist



Who are you? Is that a question you take time to ask of yourself? Often, we get caught up in the chaos of life and we forget to take time to look in the mirror and ask “Who am I?” I looked in the mirror and asked myself this question and was not proud of the answer I received. This shocked me awake and led me down a journey I did not expect to be on. While this pathway has been hurtful, in more ways than I could have imagined, it has also taught me much and showed me that there truly is still good in such a fallen world.

Now, you might be saying “why does this matter to me?” Well here is the answer: while everything may be going bad, there is always a comfort. There is always comfort in knowing that if you take the step, God will be there to catch you. As we have seen through history, men did not simply take the easy solution, but rather they took that step of faith trusting that God was there to help them.

So I challenge you as this last month of the school begins, to not simply wade through the waters and slide by. It's time to rise and be who you were born to be. Its time to be who your grandfathers fought to protect. Stand up and become leaders, stewards, and disciples. Stand up with courage and walk humbly in the fear of our Father. Do not turn out of fear and flee, rather take that step of faith. Trust in the Father and trust that he will recede the waters of turmoil.

If you give up on looking for answers, and rather listen, you will discover the true beauty that is all around us. Searching for God will only make you more lost; rather give it all up and listen. It is in these silent moments that you will hear his voice like a soft whisper in your ear.

I just finished watching a video by Francis Chan. Check it out on YouTube.com by typing in “Francis Chan's What Am I Living For?”

For those of you not by a computer here's a brief summary: He has a rope and tells us to imagine this rope going around the world a couple billion times. AKA: it's eternal. Then at the very beginning of the rope is a tiny little section that is colored red and represents our time on earth right now.

We think stuff like: “I'm going to work really hard and save, save, save so I can really enjoy this part right...here.” (He moves his finger about a half inch down the red part of the rope.) That's stupid.

Then Francis Chan asks, “What about this? (Grabs a section of the rope in “eternity” a couple feet down) Or what about this? (Grabs another section a couple more feet down)...you get the idea. Thinking about those sections...that's not stupid. That's logical; that's wisdom.

The Bible teaches what we do during that little red part determines how we are going to live for millions and billions and zillions of years. In the Parable of the Talents, the Master comes back and takes away the talents that the wicked servant did not use.



Danae Geels
Columnist

Then He gives the servant who doubled His talents even more talents!

Eternity is not just sitting around on clouds—we're going to be doing stuff, really awesome stuff. I know that I want to be doing as much as possible. Why wouldn't I?—I have all eternity! Don't think that we're all going to be doing the exact same things during eternity; I think the Parable of the Talents proves that. God is going to administer duties to us in eternity based on how we've handled our duties during this life. So why in the world would we spend this little red part trying to make ourselves as comfortable as possible and enjoy

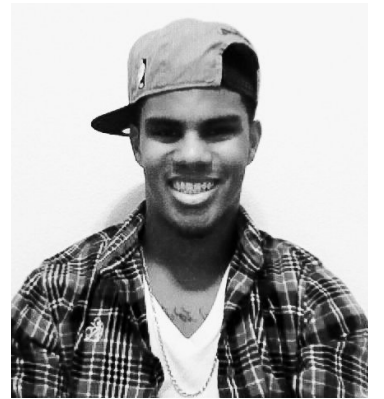
ourselves as much as we can? That's stupid.

If we live with eternity in mind, worldly people are going to call us stupid. I say “Bring it on!” We don't get to try this life over again. We get one race and one race only. No do-overs. No false starts. Hebrews 12 talks about this race. The chapter before gives example after example of Heroes of Faith who kept their eyes on the prize. They didn't get caught up with this worldly life, and Hebrews tells us that since we have all these other witnesses before us, we can also run that race of endurance and throw off the sin that hinders our race. Verse two tells us the only way that we can run this race: we fix our eyes on Jesus and rely on Him to author and perfect our faith.

Fixing your eyes on Jesus means spending time with Him. Talk with Him. Dig into His Word and get to know, with your heart, not just your mind, what He would do in every situation and then do it yourself.

Accept the fact that you're going to look stupid in the world's eyes. It's okay because you know that really you're doing the most un-stupid thing possible.

The Hendy Show



Alex Henderson
Columnist

I hope you enjoyed spring break and are continuing to enjoy the little time we have left in the semester soaking up the sun.

This may be the most sporadic article I have ever written.

I blame the after effects of spring break in Hawaii, Nicki Minaj's “Roman Reloaded”, finally getting a chance to see The Hunger Games, and the last month of school knocking on the door.

Paradise (Hawaii) is hard to walk away from and I plan to go back.

I am finding it hard to stay motivated to attack home work with urgency. Each assignment seems to become more difficult as they come, and they have started to pile up.

As I try to re-master time management, I want to encourage you all to get ahead and stay ahead as we near the end.

To those who are graduating this year, I am glad that we were able to cross paths and grow together, directly or indirectly.

These past four years have been the best years of my life.

I have learned to accept the struggle of adjusting to small-town life, coming from the city limiting my complaints.

I wish you all nothing less than the best in your upcoming ventures; light it up!

Real quick.. Who's ready for summer? (raises hand)

Any big plans? I'm planning to dye my hair silver.

E-mail me your plans. I really want to know; distractions from homework are always welcome.

I'll write back I promise.

It's been real, it's been fun; but I can't say it's been real fun. Oh, but I can. Enjoy!

Senioritis: Cover Letter Edition



To whom it may concern,

Hi, my name's Adrian Hielema, and I'm a senior at Dordt College. Don't worry, nobody else has heard of it either. I am inquiring about the glorified slave labor position that you advertised; you know, the one you didn't think anyone would be desperate enough to apply for? Joke's on you.

I'd usually take this time to tell you about my relevant work experience using words I had to look up in a thesaurus, but quite frankly, the longest job I ever had was a paper-route in high-school and I'm guessing that means nothing to you. Oh sure, I had a few odd jobs during my summers away, but they only taught me a.) how to deal with boredom and b.) the customer is always an idiot. Then again, seeing as you requested applicants who “are self-motivated” and “have people skills,” maybe that does count as relevant experience.

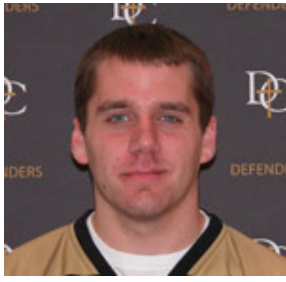
Here's the deal. My resume isn't the greatest, I know. By the end of writing it, I basically started throwing out anything I could, hoping something would stick. So no, I don't honestly think the fact I know basic Arabic will put me at the top of your hiring list. But look, I've spent the majority of the last four years attempting to keep my GPA at a level that's supposed to impress future employers like you. Or something like that. I'm not really sure anymore, to be honest. But to really understand why I'm the best person for this job, I think you'd need to meet me. And barring the unlikely chance you'll give me an interview, that's probably not going to happen. So let me try one final thing to change your mind:

Please, please, please give me a job. I'll work nights! And weekends! For goodness sake, I'm a recently graduated humanities major. I'll basically do anything you ask in return for money (within legal boundaries – actually forget that, I need to keep my options open). With your help, we can stop the “So what are you doing after graduation” questions right now. Also, I'm awesome.

Sincerely,
Adrian Hielema

Sports

Harmy's Army (of thoughts)



Jordan Harmelink
Sports Editor

I don't know about the rest of you, but for me, SportsCenter is becoming hard to watch. Some of you may know what I'm hinting at, but here's an example to give you a clearer picture:

Last week was very eventful in sports. Major League Baseball's season began with a series between the Mariners and Athletics in Japan; the men's college basketball "Final-Four" took place; the NBA season was heating up with the playoffs approaching in less than a month, and the women's college basketball tournament was actually interesting with the dominating play by Baylor's Britney Griner.

Even with all of these great sporting events and intriguing stories taking place, on a few occasions last week SportsCenter still began their 8:00 am shows with stories about Tim Tebow who was on his way to New York to be introduced as the New York Jet's backup quarterback, or about Peyton Manning's new home in Denver, or the New Orleans Saints and the repercussions they are enduring over their bounty program. I see something wrong here. Don't you?

The fact is that

SportsCenter is so in tune with the NFL and every little story that goes along with it that they are neglecting and pushing aside some of the more interesting stories that are happening in other sports right now. Baseball, for example, is almost becoming a lost sport because of football. Baseball's regular season starts today (April 5), but I bet you will hear more about something NFL related rather than hearing about baseball.

I am as big of a football fan as anyone, but football, especially the NFL, is becoming a cult in our culture today and SportsCenter is pouring the punch that everyone is drinking. It's becoming annoying how SportsCenter is giving so much attention to the NFL when the regular season doesn't even start for another six months. Football is what people want, I get that, but there are bigger and better stories taking place right now outside of football; whether it's college basketball, professional basketball, MLB, or the NHL. Also, can I get a little college lacrosse?

Lacrosse Preview

Jordan Harmelink
Sports Editor

The 2012 Dordt lacrosse season is off to a bit of a rough start. The season started back on March 27 in Ames, IA with the Sowers taking on St. Cloud State University and the University of Minnesota in a pair of scrimmages. The Sowers were unable to match the level of play that both teams brought and lost both contests. Last weekend (March 31) the Sowers took on Carleton and Bethel, dropping both of those contests as well. With four games left of the schedule, the Sowers are eager to put some tallies in the win column.

Last Season:

After winning the opener last season, the Sowers suffered two key conference games in a row that kept them out of the playoffs for only the second year in the program's short history. The Sowers ended the year winning their last four games, highlighted by a 20-0 dominating performance over Cornell, and 14-3 unyielding win against Bethel at home to round out the season.

This Season:

This year's squad features only three seniors: Tyler Buys, Eric Spoelstra, and Jordan Harmelink. The rest of the team is made up of seven juniors, four sophomores, and five freshmen.

"All these guys are working really hard on their own and at practice," said Coach Paul Hoogendoorn. "I'm excited to see how this season pans out."

On offense, Mark Opp returns as last year's leading scorer. Opp scored 10 goals



and tacked on four assists during the 2011 season. Other offensive contributors expect to be Alex Soundy, Nate Weigel, Spoelstra and Buys.

Defense starts with goalie Jordan Yntema. Jordan Shaffer and Harmelink return as the only long pole defensemen with experience. Harmelink was fourth on the team in ground balls last season, and Shaffer looks to carry the momentum he gained during the fall exhibition games where he scored his first career goal. Landon Tillema, Dylan Hoekstra, and Alex Geleynse will also sport the long pole and help out defensively.

"Dordt College lacrosse has a long history of being a physical team," Shaffer said. "Most teams don't like playing us because they know they are going

to get hit."

While most of the games are on the road, Dordt will host two home games against conference foes on April 28 on the Dordt soccer fields against Creighton and Palmer. So if you are looking to check out the 2012 Dordt College lacrosse team, April 28 is your chance!

Remaining Schedule:

April 14: @ Missouri S & T in Kansas City, KS

April 21: @ MSU-Mankato in Mankato, MN

April 28: Home vs Creighton (11:00 am) & Palmer (3:30 pm)

Track Team Earns All-American Honors



Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

A week before spring break, on March 1-3, Dordt College had 22 individuals from 13 different events participate in the indoor NAIA National Track and Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio. Out of the 22 students and 13 events,

four Dordt Athletes earned All-American honors in individual events, and three other relay teams earned honors as well.

Katie Bonnema was one of two Defenders earning second place throughout the meet. Bonnema placed in 600 meter run with a time of 1:32.88, less than two seconds off of the first

place finish. Briana Vander Woude had a runner up finish in the women's pentathlon. She finished with 3789 points overall, 72 points behind first place. Vander Woude added a 6th place finish in the 60 meter hurdles in a time of :08.91 as well as competing in the high jump finishing twelfth, and the long jump finishing thirteenth.

Nic Pfeifle placed 5th in the 400 meters with a time of :47.79, six-tenths off first place. Ryan Tholen also ended up with a 5th place finish in the 800 meter run running a 1:52:59.

The three relay teams were the women's 4x800 meter relay, and both the men's and the women's 4x400 meter relay teams.

The women's 4x800 team placed 8th overall, running a time of 9:20:71. The team consisted of Merissa Harkema, Whitney Wilgenburg, Lillie Koerner and Nichole Duncan. The women's 4x400 team, made up of Kaitlin Troost, Tara Postma, Kari Van Beek and Bonnema ran a 3:58.27, which was also good for 8th. The men's 4x400 placed 5th. Alex Henderson, Joe Lammers, Aaron Floen and Pfeifle placed 5th, running 3:14.96.

"The opportunity to perform on a national stage is always a blessing, I just try to soak it all in while I'm there and walk away from the meet with a solid performance," said senior Alex Henderson. "There's

really no difference other than not knowing the other teams. You can always count on everyone to perform at a high level from the start, everyone gets the same chance and some make it to the last day and some don't."

"Once you reach the National stage and you run exceptionally well it becomes a mentality that you do the same repeatedly and one thing about it is that it takes a lot of time and hard work," said junior Nic Pfeifle. "It's really a huge honor to know that you are running with some of the best athletes in the nation."

Arts and Entertainment

Choir Tour: From Iowa to California



Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

Dordt's very own Concert Choir traveled across the U.S. during Spring Break, successfully showing off their skill in performances to a wide range of audiences and venues.

Fifty upperclassmen make up the Concert Choir and their ability to perform a variety of styles and genres is what makes them stand out from other Dordt choirs. Each tour is different, and this year the choir traveled and performed in Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

The choir traveled west, giving 15 performances, nine of which were full concerts, five were at school assemblies, and one of which was at a church service. From the beginning of the trip to the end they traveled a to-

tal of 5,140 miles.

Having conducted the choir since 1994, Dr. Benjamin Kornelis once again led the choir across the Southwest.

"The tours present an opportunity to hone and perfect our performances to a very high level of precision, as well as instruct our students what it takes to present the same program repeatedly to different audiences in different venues with (sometimes very!) different acoustics," Kornelis said.

Alena Schuessler, an English Writing major, is one of the talented fifty who performed across the Southwest. "I was thrilled to go on the trip," she said. "I got to know so many people I just hadn't known very well before the tour...[and] what I discovered [along the way] was a beautiful landscape and hugely hospitable people."

The pieces performed by the choir were as diverse as the locations they were performed in. At their Tour Homecoming Concert on March 23, the choir's performance pieces ranged from Charles Hubert Hastings Parry's "I Was Glad," Ralph Vaughan Williams' "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune," and Beethoven's "Hallelujah" from The Mount of Olives.

"These tours are [also] great when we get into high schools and show prospective students the high level of quality performance that Dordt is able to present," Kornelis said. "They see that we do good stuff and do it very well."

"It was a great experience," Schuessler added. "The kind that I feel like everyone needs at least once in their college career."

Women of Lockerbie Cleans Clothes... and Heals Hearts

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

"There is no grief like the grief of losing a child," an odd theme for a play performed in front of a mostly college-aged audience to be centered on. How can one connect to a play centered on an ideal that simply does not relate to us? The answer lies, as many of us have come to learn through our time in college, on a deeper level of meaning. What if, instead of being centered on a physical idea of losing a child, the play was focused on the deeper idea of cleansing ourselves of grief? What if the idea of the Women of Lockerbie was to turn our attention to our own dirty laundry, our own "shelves of sorrow?"

On the surface, the Women of Lockerbie has a simple plot line: a mother and father unexpectedly lose their child, Adam Livingston, in a horrific plane crash and return to the site years later to attend a memorial. Upon their return, Mrs. Livingston never having received even a fragment of her son's remains, relentlessly searches the local hills for any shred of memory linked to her only child. Eventually, she learns of a warehouse filled with the victims' remaining clothes. After a plot conflict involving a potential burning of all those remains, she is granted permission to search the warehouse for anything belonging to Adam; anything that could bring her a semblance of closure. After failing to find even a shred of clothing, Mrs. Livingston is distraught, clawing at herself in a fit of emotion, only to have the very man who so vehemently tried to burn all evidence, return Adam's suitcase to her and her

husband. The play ends with Adam's father finally feeling the emotion of his son's death while the women of the town quietly wash the victim's clothes in the local stream.

It really is a touching play all on its own, but the acting and directing is what brought out the play's deeper meaning and really made the Women of Lockerbie stick with the audience. Throughout the play, deeper issues of God's involvement in tragedy, how to handle tragedy from a male versus female perspective, what love is compared to hate, and each individual's ability to move on from their own "dirty laundry" were all explored.

By the end of the play, the audience realizes that not only is Mrs. Livingston mourning a loss, but so is Olive, the leader of the local women, who lost both her daughter and husband when the flight crashed into the town. Two women must come to grips with their horrifying pasts in order to move on to a future not controlled by the hate which had gripped them. By the end of the play, both are able to wash the victim's clothes in the local stream, an obvious metaphor for the cleansing of their souls.

Overall, the play was very well done. The acting was solid and the play spoke on a level beyond what the actors were physically portraying on the surface, both which speak volumes of senior director Clare Laverman. Through a simple hour and a half on a floor in a theater, an audience was able to take a deeper look at grief, forgiveness, sorrow, and what it truly takes to wash our dirty clothes clean.

Prairie Grass Productions Wins Two Telly Awards

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

Professor Mark Volkers' documentary "The Fourth World" displayed the quality of Dordt's Prairie Grass Productions (PGP) by winning two Telly awards.

Professor Volkers explained that the Telly Awards are mainly recognized in the film industry as a show of quality acknowledged by peers in the industry.

"A lot of film companies, if their budget only allows them to enter one competition, will choose to enter their film in the Telly Awards," Volkers said.

The student-assisted production earned a bronze award for cinematography and a silver award for its quality as a documentary. A Silver Telly Award is the highest award offered.

"It gives recognition and in some ways it validates the product. Others within this industry who know what they're looking for say 'Yeah, this is worthy of our highest award,'" Volkers said.

The students that helped in the production of the film have

already graduated. However, some students in the digital media department expressed their thoughts on the awards.

"There were students that shot for it, and so it really reflects well on our program here," sophomore Andrew Miller said.

"Seeing Professor Volkers win awards like the Telly is not only encouraging because we have a professor who can do these things but it's also that we as students have hope that we can do work that well as well," sophomore David Mahlum said.

Volkers has occasionally commented in some of his classes that Christian productions are often seen as low quality. The two Telly Awards say otherwise.

"I think it helps validate what we're doing because students were heavily involved in this film," Volkers said. "It lends a lot of weight and credence to PGP, which is a big part of Dordt College. It honors PGP and in so doing it honors what Dordt College is doing in the world of media."

"It shows that we can win

awards even though we're a small Christian college. It shows that Christians can still make a good production," Miller said.

Despite the fact that the documentary has already been finished, presented at film festival, and judged at the Telly Awards,

the production is not yet available for public viewing.

"I can't do public screenings or presentations, and I can't be selling DVD's on the internet or in stores yet. That would disqualify me from a lot of the festivals that I'm trying to get into. I would love to show

this on campus. I want the premier screening to be right here at Dordt College but I can't. I have to wait," Volkers said.

Volkers explained that those wishing to view the film will likely have to wait until sometime this fall.

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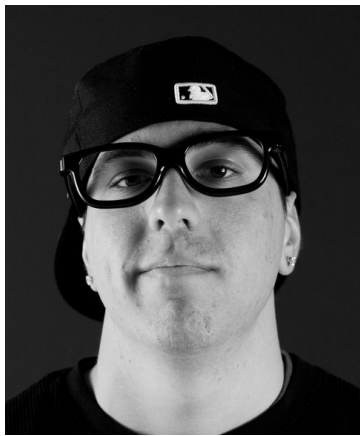
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Amusements

What if...

A humorous look at the many "what ifs" that could drastically affect your life



By Alex Updike

Cell phones have proven to be one of the most significant and widely used Western-world inventions in the history of mankind. I'm man enough to admit that I used mine to call my mommy, I mean, mother, this very morning. Others of you have probably called your parents within the last couple of days as well. And if you haven't, shame on you for being horrible children. Still others of you have probably called or texted your significant other today . . . and yesterday . . . and the day before . . . and the day before that. Seriously, they aren't going anywhere, so put the phone away and stop making the rest of us feel bad. The point is, we probably don't realize how hooked we are on cellular communication and how much we depend on it on a day-to-day basis. But what if cell phones had never been invented? OMG, like that's totes not LOL :(!!!! Well I'm NOT lol'ing, so give your thumbs some time to relax and read on.

On April 3, 1973, Martin Cooper placed the first ever call on a portable cellular phone. That has nothing to do with my article, but now next time your parents ask you what you're learning in college, you can recite this bad boy to them. Anyway, so what does the world come to if cell phones were never invented? For starters, my mom can't interrupt my writing with phone calls about whether I picked up the package from her or not. Seriously, I just got off the phone with her and that's ALL she wanted. Now, whether or not I would have remembered if she hadn't called or if I'm actually quite thankful she reminded me is beside the point. The point is, without cell phones, I'm not accessible 24/7; and

sometimes that sounds awfully nice.

But then again, who uses a cell phone that often to actually call people? It's all about texting these days; it's what all the cool kids are doing. Can we even imagine a world without texting, though? Well, seeing as I'm not an engineering major who stares at numbers all day and still has a chunk of non-analytical brain left, I'd say yes, yes I can. I'll just tell you right now, without texting, there's absolutely no economic recession. How's that, you wonder?

Let's begin where all good stories do – high school girls. High school girls are the undisputed queens of texting; at least, nobody else in the room I'm in is disputing it. Of course, none of them know I'm writing it either, but I digress. Those young'uns will stare at a little screen filled with black letters, cheesy emoticons, and constantly evolving acronyms all day. And that "all day" includes school, too. See where I'm going with this? If you don't PDTPASPA (put down the phone and start paying attention; trust me, it's going to catch on). If cell phones are never invented, these girls (and guys too I suppose), have to pay attention in class because they have nothing better to do. This sudden spike in attention leads to better grades and a greater appreciation for knowledge. Armed with a new thirst for the unknown, high school grads send in college applications at a record percentage. Greedy schools, eager for money, accept these "fresh, young minds" and begin to mold and shape them into the future bankers, farmers, engineers, teachers, doctors, and lawyers of the world. With a record number of the U.S. population having college degrees and higher education, we see an influx of skilled workers, brilliant minds, and new inventions into the economy. Since I know absolutely nothing about economics, this solves everything.

So, as you can see, I am in fact indirectly blaming girls for one of the worst economic recessions in the history of America. But then again, they're probably too busy texting somebody to read this anyway, so I'm golden . . . no wonder I'm single.

Feature Photo



Many students went on PLIA this past spring break and experienced cultures and sites in new places. Anna Stadem was able to capture this moment at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

Top 10 Things to do with your Boyfriend or Girlfriend

Adam McDonald
Editor

Hey everybody! It's good to be writing for my favorite paper again. Well it's spring time, which means time to go outside. No more stuffy rooms or long sleeve shirts! That means no more excuses not to go on Dordt walks! Here is my top ten list of "Things to do with your Boyfriend or Girlfriend:"

Men:

1. It's spring, which means time to cut back on Call of Duty and Madden. Why not plan a picnic with your special lady? There are great spots near Sandy Hallow.
2. Go swimming! While at Sandy Hallow bring a swimsuit and swing on the tree rope; cool off on those hot days together.
3. Campus Golf! On a sunny afternoon, there is nothing better than playing a few rounds of campus golf. Show your girl those mad golf skills you acquired this winter while playing Tiger Woods PGA Tour.
4. Take a walk to Children's Park and bring a camera. Take pictures of each other on the playground while playing tag. There is nothing more fun than reliving your childhood with someone you love.
5. Go look at stars! Girls love stars! Bring a blanket and lay on the grass together, making your own constellations.

Women:

1. Although it is spring time, that doesn't mean your boyfriend will be willing to give up video games completely. Go over to his apartment to watch him play Mass Effect 3. Although it sounds boring, there is nothing like playing a video game for an audience, especially if the audience is the girl he loves.
2. Surprise him by making him dinner one night (men love food). There is something magical about walking into your apartment and seeing dinner already made for you.
3. Go to Wal-Mart and buy two water guns. Fill his with water and leave it on the table with a note that says, "I've been stalking you. You have thirty seconds to get outside."
4. Challenge his skills to bean bag toss. Tell him the loser has to buy dinner and you get a five point head start. He will love the challenge.
5. Suggest going for a walk even if he is busy. Hold hands while you stroll down the streets and talk about more fun things to do together



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