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# The Voice, Fall 2011: Volume 57, Issue 1

Dordt College

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# Voice

THE OF DORDT COLLEGE

FALL 2011  
VOLUME 57 | ISSUE 1 OF 3

## A NEW LOOK

The new clock tower will catch your eye the moment you arrive on campus, but that's not all that's new. Apartment updates, an expanded campus green, a last push for the Vision 2020 campaign, and a new presidential search: Find out about these and more inside.

# Leading Off

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WITH THE PRESIDENT

## DETERMINING THE DIFFERENCE

Before investing four years of life in a college, serious Christians should ask some serious questions. In previous issues of the *Voice*, I've suggested ways to measure variations in quality and suggested questions that can help Christian students access the value of a Christian college education.

Every Christian college or university has its own character or niche. Over the past 16 years I've come to love my colleagues in Christian higher education and respect the Christian institutions they lead. Yet we're not all the same. It takes time to discern which college is best for you or for the high school graduate whom you love.



Let me suggest four questions.

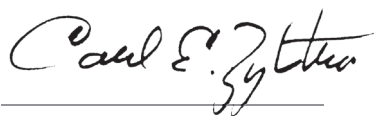
First, what is the faith commitment of the faculty? Does the college expect each of them to be a Christian? If so, are they obligated to hold to a particular faith expression (Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, Holiness, etc.)?

Second, ask for a copy of the college's mission statement and the documents that outline how it and their Christian faith perspective shape their curriculum. Look to see whether scriptural perspective is something added to the curriculum or whether it pervades it.

Third, visit with a theater director, an athletic coach, or music conductor and ask how the faith commitments of their institution make a difference in the co-curricular activities they lead. Do they emphasize group devotions? Do they talk about biblical insight into the character of their team performance? Or do they do both, and more?

Fourth, be sure to look at the college's brochures or website and gather information about the outcomes they want to cultivate in their graduates. Do they include expanded knowledge, increased skills, deepened understanding, and strengthened commitment to serving in Christ's kingdom?

Certainly not every Christian parent or student is looking for the same answers to each of these questions. But these questions can give a starting point for determining where Christ may be calling young, serious Christians looking for a college that will prepare them for a lifetime of Christian service.



DR. CARL E. ZYLSTRA, PRESIDENT

# Voice

THE OF DORDT COLLEGE

FALL 2011 | VOLUME 57 | ISSUE 1

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published three times each year to share information about the programs, activities, and people at Dordt College.

[www.dordt.edu](http://www.dordt.edu)  
712-722-6000

Send address corrections and correspondence to [voice@dordt.edu](mailto:voice@dordt.edu), or VOICE, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1606

### Contributors

Sally Jongsma, editor, [sally@dordt.edu](mailto:sally@dordt.edu)

Ellen De Young ('11), student writer

Sarah Vander Plaats ('05), staff writer  
[sarahvp@dordt.edu](mailto:sarahvp@dordt.edu)

Michael Byker ('93), sports writer  
[mbyker@dordt.edu](mailto:mbyker@dordt.edu)

Jamin Ver Velde ('99), art director/  
designer, [vervelde@dordt.edu](mailto:vervelde@dordt.edu)

Sonya Jongsma Knauss ('97), director  
of marketing and public relations  
[sjknauss@dordt.edu](mailto:sjknauss@dordt.edu)

John Baas, vice president for college  
advancement, [jbaas@dordt.edu](mailto:jbaas@dordt.edu)

### Our Mission

As an institution of higher education committed to the Reformed Christian perspective, the mission of Dordt College is to equip students, alumni, and the broader community to work effectively toward Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of contemporary life.

### On the Cover

A new clock tower sits in the center of campus. Completed this summer, it was dedicated and first lit during Parents Weekend. It is already becoming a focal point and gathering place. Photo by Doug Burg.



DOUG BURK



## LOOK! WE DID IT!

Students in Dr. Sherri Lantinga's Biopsychology class recently had to demonstrate what they knew about the structure of neurons. Each small group was given five minutes to build and label two motor neurons using candy Lantinga had selected for their shapes. The leftovers were happily consumed by everyone in the class.

### NEWS

**7** Music Professor Dr. Karen DeMol received this year's John Calvin Award for teaching from a Reformed perspective. DeMol, who has been at Dordt College since 1984, was nominated by former students and fellow staff members.

**8** Chad Hanson takes over Dordt's volleyball program from long-time coach Tom Vanden Bosch.

**9** Dordt's education department earned "full approval" by evaluators from the Iowa Department of Education this summer.

### FEATURES

**13** Soundings: Dr. Ethan Brue's devotional given on 9/12/2001 in response to the events of 9/11 is as relevant this year as it was then.

**15** Student researchers are part of a national attempt to develop perennial crops that will allow farmers to save some of the costs of replanting and caring for annual crops.

**17** Students find their summer experiences to be adventures, explorations, and much more.

### ALUMNI

**26** Alumni bits: Find out what your classmates are doing.

**28** Alumni profile: Phyllis Alberts Meijers shares the story of redemption with teenagers in her classroom who are desperate to hear some good news.

**33** Distinguished alumni Marlys Popma ('78), John Rozeboom ('62), and James Verbrugge ('60) came to campus and shared their expertise and their journeys with alumni, staff, and students during Alumni Weekend.

## NEW LOOK, SAME MISSION

**T**he Dordt College Voice has a new look and format, and we hope you like it. We haven't changed its substance—we're still here to tell you, our faithful supporters, about the exciting things that happen at Dordt College every day, every semester, every year.

And exciting is the right word. Although I've been at this job for 28 years, preparing each issue brings moments of surprise and insight as we, too, find out what and how students are learning about this amazing place we call God's good creation. We often feel thankful and blessed after talking to students and alumni and learning how they are growing as Christ's children. We think you'll share that sentiment after reading the articles on students' summer learning experiences and the alumni profiles. You'll also learn more about the work of our faculty, who continue to push themselves and our students to understand the difference that being a Christian makes in how they understand and work within their discipline.

So, grab a cup of tea and sit down to read about how God is using Dordt College to prepare young people for their callings after college. We hope our new format makes that invitation even more attractive.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jongma".

SALLY JONGSMA, EDITOR



# WRITING THEY CAN USE

Enrollment keeps growing in English 305, Business and Technical Writing, and some students think it should grow even more.

“The class is practical for any major,” says Bekah Van Maanen, a senior mathematics and computer science major. “It helps you see how you might use what you’re learning after you graduate.”

“It’s a good elective for anyone,” agrees Brittany Gritters, a business administration major.

Dr. Leah Zuidema’s students practice the kinds of writing they’ll have to do in a job after they graduate. For their main project, each student proposes a significant written piece for which they work with an outside client. The class chooses the projects they think would work best and then divides into small groups to tackle them.

Van Maanen and Gritters, along with business finance major Kyle Van Otterloo, worked with Rock Valley Christian School to create a website to help with fundraising for an addition.

“When you’re primarily working for a grade, how you do on a project really only affects you,” says Van Maanen, the team leader. “We’re representing Dordt College to the community, and we want our work to reflect well on the college and serve those we’re working with.”

“Plus, when your work is so public, you want it to be not just good enough, but great,” says Gritters.

“I was ready to start applying my knowledge in real-life situations,” says Van Otterloo. “A grade can only take you so far; it is much more motivating to work on something that will help other people.”

Van Maanen and Van Otterloo also wanted to give something back. Both attended Rock Valley Christian School.

“Business and Technical Writing is appropriate for anyone who believes that

writing well will be applicable in their professional or civil life,” says Zuidema, although she admits that most students don’t think about how good writing skills will help them be better school board members or committee chairs or parents. She points to Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

“We need to be ready to serve well,” she says.

Gritters, Van Maanen, and Van Otterloo say they learned how to be effective in a rhetorical writing situation, how to interact effectively with a client, and how to work and write collaboratively.

According to Zuidema, between 80 and 95 percent of writing in the workplace is done collaboratively. Learning to use programs like Dropbox and Google Docs gives students practical tools no matter what their major is. Last spring’s class included students majoring in engineering, computer science, music, theater, education,

nursing, and business.

The diversity of majors adds to what students can learn from the course, too. Gritters, Van Maanen, and Van Otterloo combined what they’d learned in computer science, finance, marketing, and human resources to create an effective tool for Rock Valley Christian School.

This is one of my favorite projects because students set the bar so high and always do well.

—Leah Zuidema, English professor

“We like working on projects with Dordt students,” says Principal Brad Vis (’93).

“I’m biased,” admits Vis, who taught two members of the group and is pleased with their work. “The website has been up since May, and we’re sending a link to all of our alumni as part of our Building Faith fundraising campaign. I think the best is yet to come.”

“The documents can be used for interview portfolios too,” says Van Otterloo.

SALLY JONGSMA



Dr. James C. Schaap dedicated *Still Life*, a book of short stories he wrote from Rev. B.J. Haan's chair, to Dordt's founder. The dedication reads, "For B.J. Haan—who understands," referring to his relationship as a student and later as a faculty member with then-President Haan.

## A CHAIR FULL OF GIVING

You wouldn't guess just by looking at it that this chair connects two giants of Dordt College. The chair, now sitting in the Alumni House, was once used by Dordt's first president, Dr. B.J. Haan.

Those who knew him well can picture him sitting there on what was then a leather chair. Perhaps he wrote his sermons while sitting on that chair. Maybe he crafted his commencement addresses and made major college decisions.

But when Haan retired from Dordt, he left his chair behind. It ended up on a summer auction where professor and writer Dr. James C. Schaap purchased it for \$10.

Schaap took the chair to his home where he penned at least two of his novels, including *The Secrets of Barneveld Calvary*, *In The Silence There Are Ghosts*, and perhaps even *Our Family Album: the Unfinished Story of the CRC*.

So how did it end up in the Alumni House? When Schaap opted for a new chair, he decided it was too "storied up" to toss. Giving it back to the college that first owned it seemed like the right thing to do.

SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)

## TAYLOR SERVES STATE LIBRARIES

Sheryl Sheeres Taylor loves learning and libraries. Taylor, the director of Dordt's John and Louise Hulst Library, has worked in the library since 1992 and has helped move it into the electronic age. She was recently selected to serve on the Iowa Library Services Advisory Panel.

The state advisory panel's job is to help Iowa Library Services (ILS) provide services and support for all Iowa libraries, including state and private academic libraries. State programs such as Access Plus, an interlibrary loan-sharing system, have given Iowa residents easy access to items from any library in the state.

"I'm very happy to be on the advisory panel because I feel that it's a way I can give back to the state library for all the support and benefits it has given to Dordt," said Taylor.



Sheryl Sheeres Taylor

The advisory panel recommends evidence-based best practices, suggests service priorities and programs, articulates the needs and interests of Iowa librarians, and shares research and professional development information.

Taylor has served as vice-chair and chair for the Iowa Private Academic Libraries, as a member of the planning committee for both the Association of Christian Librarians and the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities Library Directors' Institute, and as an academic mentor for the Association of College and Research Libraries.

SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)



## LIFE IS GOOD!

But it did get a little busier for three professors in the social sciences. Social work professors Erin (Dykstra, '02) Olson and Abby (Jansen, '02) Foreman and psychology professor Natalie Sandbulte all welcomed new babies into their families this summer.

DOUG BURG

NEWS



## CAMPUS GETS GREENER

Parking lots no longer dominate the center of campus. This summer the final piece of the campus green was completed, running between the Recreation Center and Covenant Hall. Parking lots around the perimeter of campus were expanded. The green, along with major changes to the college entrances and the new clocktower, was made possible through generous donations to the Vision 2020 Campaign by Henry and Helen Van Klaveren.

## Excellence recognized

In the *U.S. News and World Report's (USN&WR)* 2012 college lists, Dordt College was honored with the highest ranking of any college in Iowa, fifth on the Best Regional Colleges list. Dordt College has been ranked for the last 20 years and recently has consistently been in the top five in its category.

*Washington Monthly* listed Dordt College among the top 30 baccalaureate colleges in the country. The rankings are based on the magazine's measure of alumni social mobility and each institution's commitment to research and service.

Forbes.com has named Dordt College one of "America's Best Colleges." Ranked in the top 10 percent of all colleges in the nation, Dordt College is recognized for providing a quality education at an affordable price.

*The Princeton Review*, a trusted source for many college-bound students, named Dordt College on its 2012 "Best Colleges in the Midwest" list, citing Dordt College's vibrant community life with a student body that is "friendly," "close-knit," and "a cohesive group."



# DEFENDERS GIVE A WEEK FOR SUMMER SERVICE

The Dordt College men's basketball team took to the basketball court in Chicago this summer, with team members hosting three days of camp at Chicago Hope Academy from June 14-16. Two coaches and 10 players worked with 25 to 30 players ranging from third grade to community college athletes.



Ross Douma

The Defender basketball players concentrated on basics of the sport, leading campers through ball handling and shooting drills along with post and wing workouts.

"It was our chance to show Christian love through basketball, helping anyone who wanted to learn about basketball," wrote Shawn Keizer in a journal he kept throughout the week. "No kid in Chicago would be turned down for our camp, and the team worked hard to help in any way possible."

"The trip also gave the team the opportunity to spend time together and play basketball for a week in the summer," said Coach Ross Douma. "Team chemistry is an important component for basketball; being able to move that forward in the off-season will benefit us this season."

The service trip was funded through the Andreas Center. Players and coaches spent their final morning at the Illinois Holocaust Museum.

"The museum challenged our attitudes toward minorities and made us question life perspectives," wrote Keizer.

Douma hopes to organize similar trips for future teams.

"Many of our players look at the world through a different lens as a result of this trip," says Douma. "Perhaps as a result of this experience, some of our players will explore whether God might be leading them to serve in places such as Chicago."

MIKE BYKER ('93)

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Dordt basketball player Chris Sievers shared what he knows about the game with students at Chicago Hope Academy.

# KAREN DEMOL RECEIVES JOHN CALVIN AWARD

## DeMol wears her Reformed roots like a comfortable jacket

For more than a decade, a Dordt College professor has received the John Calvin Award each May. Even so, Dr. Karen DeMol says, she was astonished by how much receiving the award meant to her.

"It uniquely represents what we are," she says.

Karen DeMol recently announced that she will retire at the end of the academic year. She has been a vital part of Dordt's music department since 1984.

For DeMol, the award is an affirmation of an outlook that has been "bred in her bones" from childhood, through her family and Christian education.

"I'm thrilled that this perspective in my life and in my work is evident to others," she says.

DeMol told her colleagues when the award was announced, "I am deeply honored by this award. I have always considered this award to be for giants, and I consider myself to be an ordinary person. But Dordt is a place where, in community, ordinary people are expected and challenged and encouraged and nurtured to grow in our depth of understanding and expression of a Reformed approach to our discipline. So this community is the giant, and I am enormously grateful to be part of it."

Since she was a young girl, DeMol knew she would teach. She has done so, drawing on her Reformed understanding of the world.

"Giving a general description of a Reformed perspective in education is relatively easy," she says. "What is more challenging is how that perspective gets worked out in specific areas and complex situations." DeMol has summarized how she thinks about and teaches music in her book *Sound Stewardship*. In it, she lays a foundation for musical activity that is rooted in God's creation of all things, including sound. DeMol, a clarinetist, outlines a biblical platform from which musicians and music-lovers, serving as stewards, can judge excellence in music and understand the term "Christian music." Her book has been translated into Korean and Afrikaans. It is currently used in the general music course on campus.

DeMol loves interacting with other musicians, as happens at an annual meeting with 10 colleagues who are writing a book titled *Christian Voices in Musicology*. Together they are looking at music in situations of crisis. Some topics being addressed include music and the Truth and Reconciliation process in South Africa, music in World War II holocaust camps, and the relationship of hip-hop to the distancing of young people from the black urban church. DeMol is looking at the music of composers for whom

the tragic loss of sons spurred greater compositional richness.

But teaching is what DeMol really loves—especially teaching college students.

"I watch them come in not sure about who they are or what their talents are, and leave with a clear sense of both, as well as a sense of how they can serve," she says.

Her advice to teachers? Love your students and your subject and you'll be happy.

"If you only love your subject, you won't be able to communicate in a way that lights their fire," she says. "And if you only love your students, your teaching won't be inspiring and rigorous."

SALLY JONGSMA

## HIGH NOTES

An alumnus who nominated DeMol said of her, "This professor's gentle, persistent articulation of a Calvinistic view within the curriculum shapes my work as an educator and professional to this day, as I'm sure it does many others."

A colleague says that DeMol is someone to turn to when "the Dordt community seeks a thoughtful, reasoned, deliberative voice, someone whose writings have been adopted as a text in multiple Christian colleges and someone whose students, past and present, adore her—citing her kindness, her generosity in giving her time to work individually with them, and her genuine concern for their well-being."

DOUG BURG





# HANSON TAKES OVER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

## He'll build on the strong tradition set by Tom Vanden Bosch

"I love team sports," Chad Hanson says. He puts volleyball at the top because of the level of teamwork it takes to be successful. "In volleyball, a lot of team chemistry needs to happen in a small playing area. And almost every play takes three different people to execute."

In basketball or football, Hanson notes, one player can control the ball for a relatively long time. In volleyball responses need to be instantaneous

and intuitive, so players need to know and trust each other implicitly to perform at a high skill level. He believes that women can do that especially well because they communicate so effectively, and that's why he enjoys coaching women's teams.

"They bring spirit and a sense of camaraderie that is different from a men's team," he says. "Women are better at both verbal and non-verbal communication. That gives a women's team tremendous outcome potential."

Hanson coached most recently at the University of Georgia, where he began as assistant coach in 2008 and continued

through 2010. He was named interim head coach for the last weeks of the 2010 season.

Dordt's volleyball program first came to his attention while he was an assistant coach at the University of Iowa. As a recruiter, he noticed that some of Iowa's most talented players would sign with Dordt. He came to appreciate and respect the strength of the program led by long-time coach Tom Van Den Bosch. When the position of head coach opened last year, he felt it offered opportunities he didn't want to pass up. In addition to taking over an excellent volleyball program, Hanson and his wife, Karla, were drawn by the opportunity to live closer to her Iowa family and work in an environment where faith was an integral part of daily life.

"It's been a blessing to be able to express our faith in conversations and practices," he says. He's helped the women on his team set up mentoring relationships between older and younger players as well as prayer partners with whom they can develop a deeper bond. Such efforts, he hopes, will lead to greater personal growth and a team that comes to know and trust and like each other enough to form a cohesive whole.

"My time here has been spiritually refreshing," he says.

Hanson's wife, Karla, has coached volleyball for several years and is a volunteer assistant coach for the Defenders this year.

Hanson loves working with the talented women on Dordt's team, and he loves working in a community where people know each other, like working together, and help each other. He's enjoyed getting to know people across campus in a way

## GROWING UP

Hanson traces his interest in volleyball to attending his younger sister's volleyball practices in elementary school. He and another player's brother would practice drills during water breaks. It gave him the experience and motivation to join his high school boys' volleyball team. Hanson played all four years in high school, two years at the University of California Irvine, and two years on Washington State's club team. That team finished a bronze medalist at the national division championship.

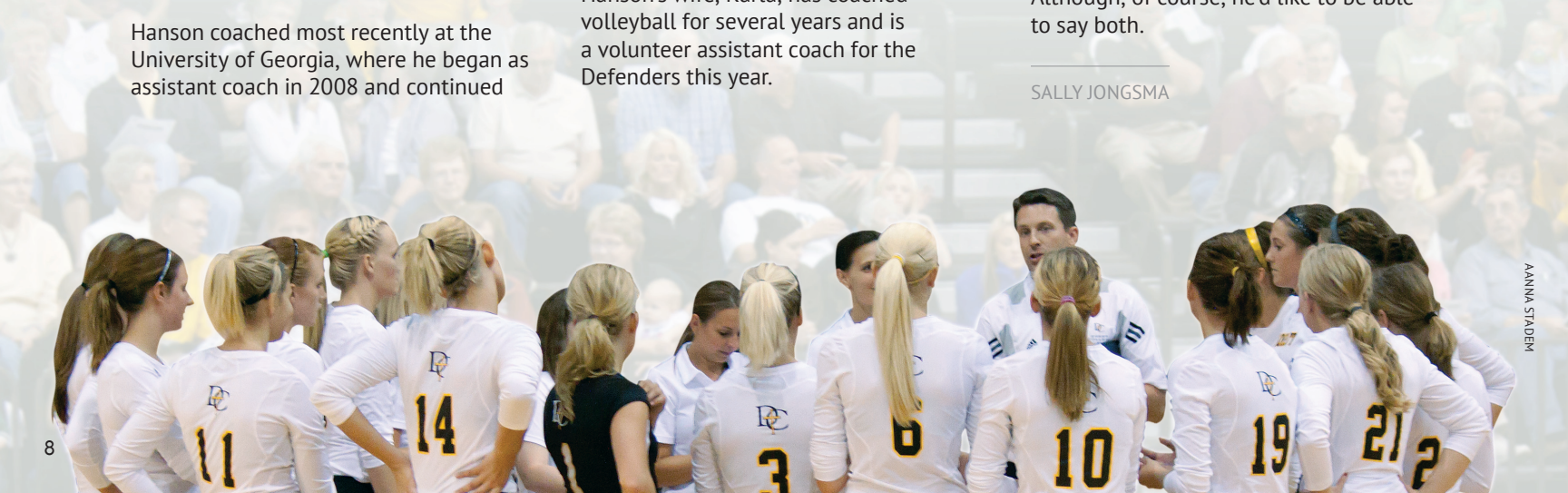
that doesn't happen at large schools. And he enjoys the greater variety of responsibilities he has as part of a group of people committed to their athletes' whole education.

Asked about his first-year dreams for the team, he says, "I hope players will come back and say that my relationship with Christ deepened through my experience on the team. That's more important than winning a national championship." Although, of course, he'd like to be able to say both.

SALLY JONGSMA



Chad Hanson says that good volleyball players are aware of how their body works and can make changes as needed.





To be prepared for accreditation evaluators, education professors today spend a great deal of time supervising student portfolios and assessing exactly what students are learning.

## DORDT'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EARNS "FULL APPROVAL" RATING FROM STATE

The education department continues to stand as a hallmark of Dordt's academic program, and its latest rating by the State of Iowa is another testament to that long-held tradition. Dordt received a "full approval" rating from the State of Iowa, with all standards being "met" or "met with strength," the highest rating available. That means that a Dordt College teacher education degree can get a Dordt graduate a license to teach in any state or Canadian province.

Of the three schools on the board's agenda for this round at the Board of Education meeting, Dordt was the only institution to earn full approval without having to "fix some things" before the final report could be issued. Evaluators said, "The campus community is extremely welcoming. Teacher candidates are willing to share their calling, gifts, and talents. A pervasive sense of joy is demonstrated through authentic passion and commitment to the institution's mission. There is a sense of community throughout the college."

The approval included summary comments of praise from classroom supervisors and Dordt education students. It noted that teachers and administrators praised both the teaching ability and the professionalism of Dordt students. It also said, "Students could not have been more appreciative for the teaching and support they have received from their professors at Dordt, particularly their education professors."

Education Department Chair Dr. Tim Van Soelen was encouraged by the rating.

"It's good to have outside eyes examine and affirm what we're doing." He says that the department also benefits from having to review what they are doing in light of their goals.

"It's great to take new ideas from recognized experts in the field and use them to further improve our program," Van Soelen says.

SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)

## Faculty Bits

Dr. James C. Schaap's short story "Son of the Prairie" was published in *Saint Katharine Review* in August. "Life, and Death: a Memoir" was published in the August/September issue of *Perspectives*.

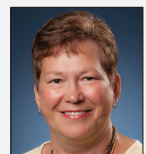
Social work professor Abby Foreman presented a paper titled "U.S. Social Welfare as Institution: Safety net or patchwork quilt?" at the Great Plains Political Science Association Conference in September.

Theology Professor Jason Lief presented a paper titled "Pedagogy of Promise: Human Becoming in the Context of the Christian Community" at the Calvin College Kuyers Institute conference in October.

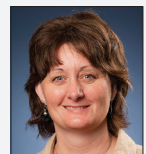


Artwork titled "Digital Gyotaku, Scanned Assumblage/ Giclée Print, 2009" by art Professor David Versluis was published in January 2011 on *The Daily Palette*, a website of the University of Iowa. This summer, Versluis was a student portfolio reviewer at a graphic design workshop at the University of South Dakota, and he presented a paper titled "Is Digital Art Upstaged by Its Own Medium?" at the Christians in the Visual Arts Conference at Biola University.

Communication Professor Kae Van Engen gave a presentation titled "Listen Up" to the Iowa Association of Bookkeepers for Cooperatives at the annual meeting in Ames, Iowa.



Psychology Professor Dr. Sherri Lantinga presented a paper titled "Aligning Mission, Curriculum, and Pedagogy: Reframing Psych Research As Service" to the annual Association of Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE) meeting in Moscow, Idaho, on September 18.



## Faculty Bits

History Professor

**David Zwart**

was elected vice president/president elect of the Association for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies at the biennial meeting held in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, in June. He presented a paper at the conference titled "Commemorating the Past: Wisconsin Style." Zwart also graded Advanced Placement U.S. history exams with 1,250 other college and high school faculty in Louisville, Kentucky, from June 2-8.



Computer Science Professor **Nick Breems** presented "Computers and Procrastination: A Philosophical Approach" at two conferences this summer, in July at the conference of the International Association for Computers and Philosophy in Aarhus, Denmark, and in August at the Christian Philosophers Conference in Amsterdam. Breems is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of Salford in England.

Philosophy Professor **Dr. Neal De Roo** presented a paper titled "Disambiguating Creation Order" at the Association for Christian Philosophy at the Free University Amsterdam in August.

Physics Professor

**Dr. John Zwart** gave

two presentations at the American Association of Physics Teachers Conference. "Laser Light Scattering from Stretched High Density Polyethylene" won third place in the apparatus competition, and "Laser Excitation of a Fluorescent Ruler" won the "low cost equipment" award. For more info, see [www.aapt.org/Programs/contests/apparatus.cfm](http://www.aapt.org/Programs/contests/apparatus.cfm).



Business Professor **Randy Smit** gave a presentation for a feasibility plan for a business concept at the John Pappajohn Center in Mason City, Iowa, in June.



# MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAM DRAWS STUDENTS FROM AS FAR AS NIGERIA

Most teachers and students are on break from school work during the summers, but for the 52 teachers in Dordt's graduate education program, this summer was no vacation. It was, however, a change of scenery for Karen Nwulu.

Students came to this summer's sessions from many states, but Nwulu came from Nigeria, just as she has for each of the last three summers. Like everyone else, she came to earn her master's degree, but her experiences as a teacher and school founder in Nigeria are unique.

Nwulu grew up as a child of Christian missionaries and has spent her life in both America and Nigeria. She has been teaching in Nigeria for 20 years in a learning environment that began with eight children studying in her home and then expanded to a large Christian academy for children from preschool through high school.

"It was like a homeschool in my home, and it just gradually took over our home and expanded into the neighboring properties. Suddenly I realized I am running a school," she says.

Diving in as a teacher and school administrator was often overwhelming for Nwulu. "I guess it's like the story of Solomon. I felt like I was a kid who was suddenly supposed to run a kingdom. I was not a teacher when I started to run the school. It forced me to rely on God one thousand percent."

As the school grew, Nwulu became more interested in furthering her own education to learn more about the science of teaching.

"Since I've enrolled, not only have I learned so much, but when I go to conferences and meetings with international directors and I say that I'm enrolled at Dordt, all they can say are wonderful things about this place," said Nwulu. "I've met two experienced educators, directors of international Christian schools for 20 years, and they both said that Dordt graduates are so well trained. I think God has really done something wonderful for me by sending me to a place that I didn't even know existed a couple of years ago."

Nwulu expects to graduate next year, but she has appreciated the unique local community, citing her experiences with the hotel clerk who offered to drive her to her classes when it was raining and the gas station attendant who willingly gave up her umbrella so Nwulu wouldn't get wet in the sudden Iowa downpour.

"Even as I'm walking people just wave, and I think 'This reminds me of home.' People care about people. That is really special about this community," said Nwulu.

SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)



Karen Nwulu's (left) experience has added spice and diversity to the graduate program for the last three summers. She is currently writing her thesis.

SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)

# HELP US FINISH STRONG

The Vision 2020 Campaign will end on December 31, 2011, bolstered, we hope, by the year-end generosity of people like you. We're grateful for the generous gifts given and committed and believe God will continue to bless your and our efforts to prepare Christian young people for their callings after college.

Opportunities are abundant. Growing enrollment in the sciences is wonderful, but it also means we need to update and expand our facilities to accommodate students' needs. Vision 2020 is helping us take the first step in this process. We ask you to consider a gift before December 31 to help us take advantage of these opportunities.



Scholarships remain increasingly critical for good students in difficult economic times. We know from experience that receiving a scholarship from a donor is a tremendous encouragement to serious students. Please consider whether this is something you'd like to be a part of.

Our endowment has helped us over the years, but it needs to grow with us. Would you think about including us in your estate plan?

Coming as it does, 55 years after our founding, Vision 2020 moves Dordt College from an institution supported primarily by its founders to one supported largely by its alumni. We hope you will join us in making this campaign the jumping off point for new ways for us to offer a quality, faith-based education.

*John Baas*

JOHN BAAS, VP FOR COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT



## FALL FIELD DAY RESEARCH

Professor Robb De Haan and local farmer Matt Schuiteman (center) presented results this fall from an ongoing research project on how different cropping systems affect Sioux Center's groundwater quality.



JORDAN EDENS (13)

## New Employees

### NEW FACULTY

**Ryan Brunner**, assistant professor of psychology; Ph.D., Ohio State University

**Gary De Vries**, instructor of agriculture; M.A., South Dakota State University

**Kayt Frisch**, assistant professor of engineering; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Donald Roth**, instructor of criminal justice and business administration; J.D. and Master of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

**Kari Sandouka**, instructor of computer science; M.A., Webster University

**Darren Stoub**, associate professor of chemistry; Ph.D., University of Rochester; post-doctoral research fellowship, Yale University

**Jeff Taylor**, associate professor of political studies; Ph.D., University of Missouri

**Nathan Tintle**, associate professor of statistics; Ph.D., State University of New York

**Jan van Vliet**, associate professor of economics; M.A., Queen's University; Ph.D., Westminster Theological Seminary

### NEW STAFF

**Andrew Brower**, computer hardware technician

**Jon De Groot**, campus ministries coordinator

**Sarah Groneck**, Andreas Center administrative assistant

**Traci Hoogland**, biology/chemistry laboratory assistant

**Mary Hulstein**, Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO) administrative assistant

**Michelle Kistler**, admissions counselor

**Jeremy Nederhoff**, lab systems engineer

**Nathan Rogers**, network administrator

**Janelle Swager**, campus health services administrative assistant

**Emily Vande Griend**, executive assistant in student services

**Ken Walvoort**, Rec Center maintenance/custodian

## Faculty Bits

### Dr. Benjamin Kornelis

participated in the Tallis Scholars Summer School, an intensive week studying and performing English Renaissance polyphony, under the direction of members of the world-renowned Tallis Scholars. The event ended in a public performance that included Tallis' 40-voice (eight five-part choirs) motet, "Spem in Alium."



Kornelis was commissioned to compose an anthem, "Great Is the Lord," in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Hope CRC in Oak Forest, Illinois. The composition premiered on Sunday, September 25, during the celebration weekend.

Organ instructor **MaryLou Wielenga** performed in a recital of organ students of Dr. Carl Staplin before the Region VI American Guild of Organists Convention in Des Moines in June. She played "Fantasy for Organ on the Genevan Psalm CL" composed by Gerhard Krapf for the dedication of the Casavant organ in 1979. Organists can contact the Dordt College music department for a free copy.

**Dr. Nathan Tintle**, statistics professor, published a paper that provides a first look at the gene regulatory network in *Staphylococcus aureus*.



The citation is *Ravcheev D, Best AA, Tintle NL, DeJongh M, Osterman AL, Noviichkov PS, Rodionov DA "Inference of transcriptional regulatory network in Staphylococcus aureus by integration of experimental and genomics-based evidence" Journal of Bacteriology. 193(13): 3228-3240. (July 2011)*

Tintle recently received two grants: a \$169,393 Department of Energy Grant and a \$26,943 National Science Foundation grant to support his research in bacterial genetics. He was elected to a committee position in the Section for Statistics Education of the American Statistical Association. He will serve from January 2012 to December 2014.



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

Students and faculty who went through the line in Dordt's Commons will long remember Donna Brink's warm and friendly smile and interest in their lives and work.

## DONNA BRINK WILL BE REMEMBERED

Hundreds of students walk through the line at the Commons, Dordt's dining hall, every lunch hour. And for nine years, Donna Brink welcomed each one by name.

Brink passed away unexpectedly this summer, just weeks before the school year began.

Brink's career with Carrie Foods, Dordt's food service, began nearly ten years ago. "Physically, there were many limitations for Donna, but being cashier at the Commons was perfect for her," explains Jim Calkhoven, owner of Carrie Foods. "She made it her personal goal to represent Christ and show love to each and every student."

Among students, Donna is remembered most for warmly greeting each of them by name. "She had such a sweet smile and was always an encouragement," says senior Emily Groen.

Brink's dedication and positive attitude continued despite many struggles throughout her life, including physical pain. She had several surgeries during the years she worked for Carrie Foods, but she went out of her way to schedule her surgeries for the summer so she wouldn't miss work. By the end of her life, she was confined to a wheelchair, but she always made it to work with a smile on her face. If no other ride was available, members of her church family from Covenant Christian Reformed Church volunteered to drive her to Dordt's campus.

"She absolutely loved her job," says Rev. Herm Van Niejenhuis, pastor of Covenant CRC.

Her church community was also blessed with her warmth and kindness. She considered herself a prayer warrior and was always willing to offer a prayer for anyone she talked to.

"She was a wonderful addition to our church," says Van Niejenhuis. "Everyone felt comfortable with her. After church on Sundays, you would see everyone from little kids to Dordt students chatting with her."

Calkhoven notes, "Even though Donna experienced a lot of hardship, she never allowed that to be in the way of her interactions. She was truly a wonderful model of love to everyone she met."

ELLEN DE YOUNG ('12)

## MEMORY BANK

Brink had an amazing memory for names and faces. Senior Emily Groen recalls, "The first time I met Donna, she mentioned my older sister, who had graduated five years earlier. The fact that Donna still remembered her and made the connection between us shows that she really cared about each student individually."

# Soundings

A FACULTY REFLECTION

## Ten years later, Brue's class response to 9/11 is as relevant today as then

**EGR 315: Machine Design class**  
**September 12, 2001**

In the noise of all that is going around us, I want us to consider again why we are here today. I admit to feeling some dissonance yesterday while teaching fluid mechanics as towers were falling in New York. I briefly asked myself why I was carrying on with the rather ordinary teaching of fluid mechanics while thousands of people are dying in our nation. Doesn't fluid mechanics pale in significance to life and death issues? Yet, for whatever reason, I resisted the inclination to delay class in order to be brought up to date by each other and the media.



Maybe all that needs to be said was said in chapel. While the television commentators keep telling us that "this changes everything," the learned teacher told us that "there is nothing new under the sun."

If the teacher is right, why don't I feel the same dissonance when I hear on the news that thousands are dying in Nigeria or Rwanda or the Middle East? And what about the abused, broken, and dying ones in our communities? In trying to sort out emotional dissonance, we often generate more questions than answers.

One such question might be to ask why we cancel events in Iowa due to this tragedy. Obviously, New Yorkers need to

allow the rescue and clean-up operation to proceed and to minister to those in grief (as some of us may be called to do). The popular notion seems to be that we need to pause and concern ourselves with "religious" matters for a while—a moment of silence before we return to normal life.

But what is normal life? For many of us, it is the comfort of living oblivious to reality, the reality of **ever-present** tragedy that is the residue of sin. Many people are saying "This really puts things in perspective." But does it? Is anyone wondering why things were "out of perspective" to begin with? Why aren't our lives silent enough to listen to the ever-present truth of tragedy? Why should it take a terrorist to guide us to truth?

Many people today, including Christians, feel that in the face of immense tragedy, continuing with our mundane activities is insensitive. But Christians more than anyone should be aware of the implications of true reality, God-saturated reality—all of it, from ever-present tragedy to ever-present hope. And perhaps an appropriate response to this tragedy for us is to be right here in machine design—or accounting or music theory or fantasy literature.

I'm convinced that if machine design should not be studied in the face of "life and death" issues, then it should not be studied at all! Redemption is a Boolean concept—either you are "in sin" and DEAD or "in Christ" and ALIVE. There is no middle ground. If accounting or machine design or music theory or fantasy

literature have nothing to do with our new life in Christ, then we should NEVER study them. Not in peace. Not in war. But the message of our flesh and blood salvation is that everyday ordinary mundane reality is a "life and death" issue!

That's why we're studying machine design today as an appropriate response to this tragedy. Our presence here testifies to the ongoing rule of God in the face of evil. We proclaim the gospel that Christ came to make all things right and invites us to join in *his* great task of reclamation. As players in the Creation-Fall-Redemption drama we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to act out as best we can the way things are supposed to be. And it is right here in this class and others like it that we learn the skills necessary to play our part as shalom bringers in all things!

So along with prayer, reflection, and the many other appropriate responses to this tragedy, I encourage you to continue with your studies, your communal worship, your celebrative play—these everyday religious activities. To do so ensures that we don't succumb to the despair that the evil one desires and that we evangelize with our lives that "though the wrong seems oft so strong, God—the God with us here in the everyday-ordinary—He is the ruler yet!"

ETHAN BRUE ('92)

## Faculty Bits

Engineering Professor **Justin Vander Werff** gave two presentations with Mike Foster from George Fox University this summer. The first was titled “Techniques from Workshops on Teaching” and given at the ASEE (American Society of Engineering Education) annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The second, given at the 2011 CEEC (Christian Engineering Education Conference) in Langley, British Columbia, was titled “Servant Leadership in Engineering Education.” It discussed how using teamwork and servant leadership among the students improves their learning and helps them be servant leaders in engineering.



**Dr. Leah Zuidema**, English professor, was invited to write a piece for the *English Journal's* September issue celebrating the 100th birthday of the National Council of Teachers of English. “Contentious Conversations” explores the place of professional debate within NCTE and the *English Journal*.

In June, Zuidema gave a presentation at the Conference on English Education titled “Drafting Teaching Practices: A Lesson ‘Writing Group’ for Preservice and New Teachers.” Zuidema also began serving on the editorial board for *Young Scholars in Writing: Undergraduate Research in Writing and Rhetoric*. She helps make decisions about publishing research manuscripts on composition that are submitted by undergraduates from across the U.S. and Canada, coaching young authors through multiple revisions after their work is accepted for publication.

Engineering Professor **Dr. Ethan Brue**'s paper “Do Engineering Programs at Christian Universities have a History?” was published in the proceedings of the Christian Engineering Educators Conference, Langley, British Columbia. “Writing our history is one way we make culture. Writing our engineering history is also the best way for an institution to stay on task,” Brue says.



SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)

Students and professors learned from each other during the summer seminars. “Some of the presentations were over my head, but I learned a lot—and the food was good,” said one student.

# SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES THRIVES

**B**iology professor Tony Jelsma can list many reasons for the Summer Seminar Series. One of the most important, he says, is to keep Dordt an active, engaging place for those who remain on Dordt's campus during summer break.

Now in its fourth year, faculty and students gathered in the Science and Technology Center every Wednesday noon to catch up with colleagues and friends over lunch before convening in S108 to listen to a presentation.

In past summers, the presentations focused on the sciences. Not so this summer: 17 faculty, employees, and summer research students presented projects and papers on topics as varied as the study of genetic diversity in butterfly milkweed and the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.

“We hope to make the Dordt community—including employees—more aware of what each other is working on,” said Jelsma, who initiated the series. “We also want to provide a venue for summer research students to present their work.”

Junior Yoseph Kigeneh and senior Ben Olthoff gave a presentation on a project in which they did mathematical modeling related to John's Disease.

Kigeneh, an engineering major, focused on the mathematical modeling, while Olthoff, an agriculture major, discussed the effects of John's disease on their dairy herd.

“This was our first research project,” says Kigeneh. “So, it was a bit intimidating to present to faculty and staff. But I'd recommend it to any student that wants to upgrade himself,” adds Kigeneh.

Kigeneh and Olthoff attended as many other seminars as they could, too.

It gives you a bigger picture of what is going on outside your own discipline.

—Yoseph Kigeneh, junior student presenter

“Often departments from one part of campus don't get to hear about what departments across campus are doing,” says mathematics professor Valorie Zonnefeld, who presented twice this summer. “People are more supportive when they learn what you are doing.”

“I think it has been a success, judging by attendance and by the number of people willing to present,” says Jelsma.

SARAH GRONECK ('10)

# STUDYING ABROAD

## Vander Zee learned more than a semester's worth this summer

Crystal Vander Zee learned and saw a few new things this summer. As a participant in the International Business Institute's study abroad program, Vander Zee took classes in Comparative Economics, International Trade and Finance, Global Marketing, and Global Business Strategy; she traveled to Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, England, India, and China; and she toured more than 40 different businesses, including Deutsche Bank, the World Trade Organization, European IKEA, and John Deere. But that's not all. She also visited the Taj

Mahal, the Great Wall of China, Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, and Red Square.

Vander Zee was gone for 10 weeks in May, June, and July,

traveling with 43 other students from Christian colleges across the country. She wanted to learn more about international business as a career path.

"I think I learned something new every five minutes," she says. She learned about other countries, about historical events, about world financial problems, about herself, about how to run a business in a way that is God-honoring, about the

hidden churches in China.

"The list could go on for pages," she says.

The highlights could create just as long a list. Vander Zee's favorite class was Comparative Economics. As they visited different countries, they learned about the history and current events of each and compared one country to another.

"I realized that I started loving a country more when I started to get to know the people," she says.

The trip wasn't without its challenges. Vander Zee knew no one when she left home. But, the students changed roommates every time they changed locations—about 20 times, so she gradually got to know people well.

"No one in the group even knew what a Reformed Christian was, and certainly no one knew what a Sunday Dinner was!" she says.

The program gave Vander Zee a deeper appreciation for world affairs, and she hopes her experience will help her find a job in international business. "It also showed me that I have too many clothes and shoes in my closet," she says about learning to live out of a suitcase for 10 weeks.

"The trip was above and beyond what I imagined it would be. God was with us the entire trip, across the entire world. His grace and love were evident many times on the trip."

SALLY JONGSMA

## Faculty Bits



**Dr. Ronald Vos**, agriculture professor, was invited to attend the Governor's reception at the China World Hotel in Beijing, as part of the governor's trade mission to Asia in June. Bill Northey, Iowa secretary of agriculture, stands beside Vos. While in China Vos gave a presentation about Dordt College to students and faculty at ShangDi Experimental School in Beijing.

Vos also gave a presentation to faculty at Northrise University in Ndola, Zambia, in May.

Assisted by former Dordt professor and interpreter Rev. Thomas Soerens, **Dr. John Kok** taught a one-week course on Christian philosophy in Jagüey Grande, Cuba. The course was offered through the Christian Education Department of the Cuban CRC in September.



In August, Kok presented a paper titled "Vollenhoven's Evolving Response to Genesis and Evolution" at a Vollenhoven symposium held prior to a conference on The Future of Creation Order in Amsterdam.

**Dr. Ryan Zonnefeld**, professor of education, led a board retreat for Central Wisconsin Christian Schools titled "Uncharted Territory: Christian School boards and student achievement." He reviewed research and best practices of effective boards, including the connection between beliefs and practices that lead to higher student achievement.

Zonnefeld and Mathematics Instructor **Valorie Zonnefeld** led the Vermeer Workshop for area educators in June in Pella. In "Showing Students God's Hand in Mathematics," the Zonnefelds gave ideas for integrating faith in mathematics teaching.





# DORDT STUDENTS HELP ADVANCE THE SEARCH FOR PERENNIAL CROPS

The Dordt College Prairie was in full bloom this summer. As students returned to campus, a thicket of Indian Grass, Big Blue Stem Switchgrass, Canada Wild Rye, and others swayed in the gentle breezes that rippled through the prairie.

**M**aximilian sunflowers, Tick Trefoil, Coneflowers, Compass Plant, and Goldenrod bloomed profusely through each other across the 20 acres of restored prairie on the south end of campus. Walkers along the paved path that winds through the area quickly come to understand what a “tall-grass” prairie is.

But then, near the soccer field on the east end, there’s a small plowed patch, carefully planted and weeded. It’s here that Dr. Jeff Ploegstra, Zack Peterson, and Michelle Alkema, environmental studies students from Minnesota and Nova Scotia, have spent many hours this summer. They are conducting research on intermediate wheatgrass, a perennial being developed as a crop plant. It is higher in protein and lower in carbohydrates than annual wheat.

“There are huge benefits to growing a perennial crop,” says Ploegstra. A field can be harvested for six to seven years without replanting. Perennials not only save farmers seed cost, but also the cost of other “inputs,” as farmers call them: fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides. Intermediate wheatgrass remains in the field all year, builds soil organic matter,

and allows the roots to grow larger and deeper to reach more nutrients, thus requiring farmers to apply less fertilizer and need less water. And because the ground is not tilled, erosion is reduced.

“I am very excited about this type of research,” says Alkema. “It is important that we learn how to feed ourselves in a way that is less taxing on our environment, and this research is a way we are starting to look into alternatives to our current agricultural systems.”

Intermediate wheatgrass has been used as forage for cattle for some time. Its development as a crop is still in the research stage, but the plant has the potential to be the first widely grown perennial grain crop. The Dordt research is part of a bigger project based at The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, and led by Dordt College alumnus Lee De Haan (\*95). It is one component of a larger effort funded by SARE (Sustainable Agriculture

Research and Education) of USDA to develop intermediate wheatgrass as a perennial grain.

In addition to reducing the need for tillage, pesticides, and fertilizers,

“We’re trying to provide alternative options for low-input farming that farmers might find attractive, especially on marginal land.”

—Dr. Jeff Ploegstra, biology professor

perennial crops improve wildlife habitat and ecosystem services,” adds De Haan.

De Haan’s collaboration with three college campuses in Kansas, New Mexico, and Iowa are designed both to expose students to the research and gain useful research results.

“We have the same genotypes (plants split into parts) growing at each of these locations. Therefore, we can see how plants that are genetically identical

respond to very different environments,” he says.

Ploegstra and his students run the Iowa part of the project. They, with the help of a few others, planted 70 varieties of the wheatgrass early in the summer, and then helped it get established by weeding and watering it throughout the summer. Each year, Ploegstra and student researchers will collect data, harvest the grain, and ship it to De Haan. He selects harvested seeds based on size, height, overall yield, shatter resistance (how easily seeds fall to the ground), and tillering (how many new shoots a plant sends up). These seeds are then replanted for further selection in following years.

De Haan expects to visit campus about

once a year, talking to the researchers and also speaking in classes.

“Having students participate in the research is important to build awareness and support for the important and transformative research of developing new perennial crops,” says De Haan. “We need young researchers to come into this field with energy, enthusiasm, and open minds.”

“This is the right thing to be doing, and we’re excited about being invited to participate,” says Ploegstra. He notes that more and more people today agree that agriculture is going to have to shift its focus from primarily high yield to sustainable.

“As Christian scientists we ask ourselves how we can have a positive impact on the structures that are in place in our society,” he says. “We’re trying to provide alternative options for low-input farming that farmers might find attractive, especially on marginal land.”

De Haan hopes that intermediate wheatgrass will be grown profitably by some farmers, at least on a small scale, within a decade.

“I’m really drawn by the possibility of working on three problems at once: feeding people, protecting the creation, and improving the economic situation for farmers,” says De Haan. “Often the solutions that are suggested for one of these areas require sacrifices from the others. This approach requires a long-term investment, but will ultimately be a triple win that is worth the wait.”

SALLY JONGSMA

## THE LAND INSTITUTE

**Lee De Haan** ('95) has been a plant breeder at the Land Institute since 2001. His work there has focused on breeding intermediate wheatgrass and domesticating Illinois bundleflower. “Raised on a farm in Minnesota, he combines practicality with an idealistic nature,” says the Institute’s website. De Haan earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in agronomy, specializing in agroecology, at the University of Minnesota. He received two awards there: an outstanding graduate student award from his department and a scholarship for meritorious graduate students from the Crop Science Society of America. His graduate research focused on development of new leguminous perennial crops. Read more about The Land Institute at [www.landinstitute.org](http://www.landinstitute.org).



# SUMMER EXPERIENCES

Student summer internships are sometimes adventures, often explorations, frequently motivating, and rarely simply a way to make money—although earning money for tuition is certainly a welcome benefit.



## Faculty members notice a change in students when they come back to class after a summer internship in their field.

**T**hey might all change in different ways, says Dr. Duane Bajema, an agriculture professor, “but they all grow in professionalism and maturity.” Bajema says students have told him they’ve learned a lot about themselves through internships, too. They learn that they’ll work with people who see the world differently than they do; they learn to be more flexible; and they often begin to better understand who they are, how they’ve been shaped, and who they want to be.

History Professor Dr. Paul Fessler finds that students who come back to school after summer internships are more focused and confident. Dr. Robb De Haan, professor of environmental studies agrees. “I can certainly see a greater sense of purpose. They also mature.”

“Students come back knowing whether or not this is an area they might want to pursue for a career,” says Business Professor Art Attema. “Most see that their college coursework is directly relevant to the work they were asked to do in the internship.”

“I see changes in their professional development, both in job skills and general communication skills,” says Psychology Professor Dr. Natalie Sandbulte. “For many, these experiences not only help shape their future career path, but also their decision about whether or not to attend graduate school.”

“I think they begin to realize that their learning is part of the ‘real world,’” says Dr. Tony Jelsma, professor of biology.

“My primary motivation for doing this internship was the education and experience that comes from seeing what I’ve learned in class used in the workplace. I have always been interested in the banking industry, and the generous pay did not hurt,” says senior business major Michael Gorter about his internship this summer with the FDIC.

Engineering senior Luke Reznecheck pursued an internship to gain professional experience and help pay his tuition.

“I did not expect to get paid as much as I did, but like most students, I knew I needed a summer job. I looked for an internship that might lead to a full-time

Students come back knowing whether or not this is an area they might want to pursue for a career.

—Art Attema, business professor

position after graduation,” he says.

Biology major Michelle Palmer says her internship was a combination of adventure, professional exploration, motivation, and financial benefit. She also saw it as an opportunity to be a Christian involved in science at a public university, interacting with people and sharing Christ’s love.



**Dr. Duane Bajema says internships and professional experiences almost always change students’ perceptions of themselves and the workplace.**

This past summer, Dordt students worked in rural businesses and major metropolitan cities. Among other places, they worked in labs and parks, for-profits and non-profits, cared for injured animals, and designed marketing materials. Here’s a closer look at a few of their stories.

I found that I prefer the argument of history to the presentation of it.

—Josina De Raadt, history major

ZECHARIAH EDENS ('12)



Josina De Raadt baked bread, ran a printing press, and even “got married” this summer—1850s style at Living History Farms.

## JOSINA DE RAADT

History major Josina De Raadt worked as a baker and a printer this summer. De Raadt wanted to explore possible careers that tie to her love of history, so she worked as a historical interpretation intern at Living History Farms in Des Moines.

“My typical day at the farm might include building a fire, baking bread over coals from the fire place, or cooking pancakes on a griddle precariously hanging over the open fire. At the print shop I composed period advertisements and even had the opportunity to print my own wedding invitations for an 1850 pioneer wedding ceremony,” says De Raadt, referring to the ceremony at which she played the part of the bride.

The goal of the internship was to help demonstrate to museum visitors what life was like on the pioneer farms and towns on the prairie in the mid-1800s.

“My job was to bring history to life.” Sometimes this meant talking about why she wore six layers of clothing on a 100-degree day; other times it meant

showing visitors how to use the proof press.

“It was an amazing experience. I learned a great deal about everyday life in 1850s and 1870s Iowa,” says De Raadt, who had to master historical skills and learn a large volume of historical information within a short period of time.

She also learned that museum work is not the career she wants to pursue. Still, she earned six hours of college credit, based on papers she wrote.

“I love history and going to museums, but I do not like putting the exhibits together. I found that I prefer the argument of history to the presentation of it,” she says. She believes the internship made her more independent and resourceful, gave her experience working with the public, and helped her better understanding history. It was also fun, and she made several good friends.

“Plus it made me into an excellent baker, much to the delight of my present roommates,” she says.



JAMIN VER VEIDE ('99)

## MICHAEL GORTER

Michael Gorter interned at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in the Risk Management division. Based in Sioux City, he had to travel to a variety of banks in the area to help conduct bank examinations that would verify the safety and soundness of a bank’s financial position.

“I was hoping to find out how what I had been learning in class translated into real life and at the same time learn about the banking industry,” says Gorter.

His goals were realized. Interns at the FDIC are treated almost like new hires. He was assigned trainers and a coach who oversaw his training. As the summer went on, his responsibilities increased.

“Time and again I saw the importance and applicability of the concepts I am learning at Dordt,” he says. “Sometimes the amount of work and material I had to absorb was challenging, but even this challenge was a highlight for me.”

Gorter found his internship helpful for thinking about his future too. Interns at the FDIC typically receive job offers a couple of months after completing the internship, but he’s chosen not to pursue this route.

“I enjoyed the internship, but I do not feel called to make bank regulation a career,” he says.

**Michael Gorter got a taste of going to work each day in a suit as he visited banks for the FDIC.**

## MICHELLE PALMER

Michelle Palmer came up with a method to measure the health and strength of cells in the body this summer. In more scientific terms she worked with a Principal Investigator (PI) in the Biochemistry Lab in the Redox Department at the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) to develop and refine an *in vitro* method for measuring levels of oxidative stress in cells. The goal of the research is to learn more about cell activity as it relates to diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's disease, and possibly some cancers.

Palmer wanted to get some lab experience to help her think about her future in science. She also hoped to learn more about graduate school.



JORDAN EDENS ('13)

Michelle Palmer learned that she loves doing research in the laboratory during her summer experience at the University of Nebraska.

Palmer and her PI developed and refined an *in vitro* method using high performance liquid chromatography to measure the chemical balance in cells so they could determine how much oxidative (toxic) stress the cell they were studying was experiencing.

"I learned more than I expected or hoped," she says. "I learned that science isn't cut-and-dried. And when my research was stalled or when things didn't go as planned, I learned to stay positive and reflect on what happened and why."

Palmer learned more about science, and she learned what to expect from and how to prepare for graduate school and a profession in research. She also established relationships with others already in the program at UNL—something she's been told is important in the science world.

"After such a meaningful, rich, and shaping experience, I am quite convinced I've found my niche," she says. She plans to attend graduate school, hoping for a career as a researcher.

"But even though plans for my future have been refined, there are still so many options and so much I don't know," she says. She'll continue to lean on God for wisdom and direction.

## LUKE RESNECHECK

Luke Resnecheck was excited when he heard that he had received an internship with Zachry Holdings, Inc. this summer. He already knows he wants to work for a company that works in the power generation industry, and Resnecheck worked with biomass conversion at Zachry.

"At the beginning of the summer I viewed this internship as a growing experience for my career portfolio. It became much more than that," he says.

Resnecheck worked with the engineering branch in the Mechanical Engineering Design Group at Zachry. Although the company is based in San Antonio, Texas, he worked out of their Minneapolis office, allowing him to live at home for the summer. Dordt graduate

Bjorn Vaagensmith ('11) had a Zachry internship in solar energy in Omaha.

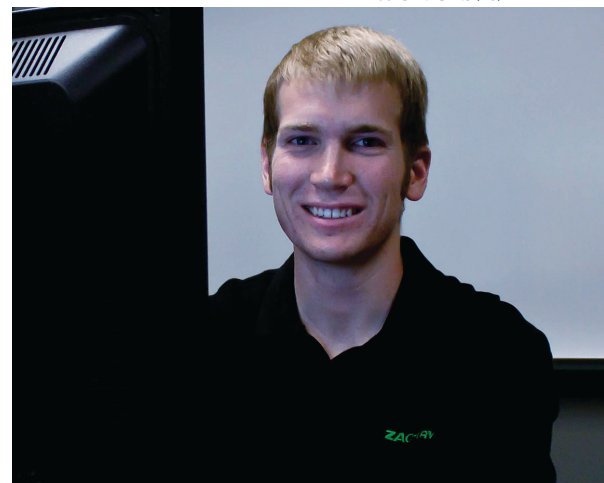
"I was very impressed by the company's policies and their treatment of their employees," says Resnecheck. "I gained a lot of technical and professional knowledge about the power industry, as I was hoping to, and I'm still very interested in that line of work."

Resnecheck also learned something about the role of a company in the life of an employee. "Choosing a job at any company is more than showing up from 8 to 5 and collecting a paycheck. Co-workers have a strong impact on your life and on how much you enjoy your work," Resnecheck says.

"I learned that finding work that gives you satisfaction not only depends on doing something you enjoy, but also working in an atmosphere that encourages growth in all areas of life," he says. He found the atmosphere at Zachry to be honest, open, and friendly and felt that they encouraged growth of the whole person: physical, financial, and spiritual.

"This experience has affected my ideas about my future," he says. He has a better idea of what he will look for in a job and understands that career paths don't always follow a predictable route. He's also decided to wait to attend graduate school, because he feels work experience will prepare him to get more out of additional schooling.

JORDAN EDENS ('13)



Luke Resnecheck found a summer internship in an area of engineering that he was already drawn to—developing alternative energy sources.

I so overprepared. But it was great because when I got there I could choose my favorite lessons.

—Liz Van Drunen, education major

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Liz Van Drunen couldn't have been happier with a summer in which she learned more about her future profession of teaching and got to travel to another part of the world.

## LIZ VAN DRUNEN

Last year, Liz Van Drunen began thinking that she'd like to go abroad during the summer between her junior and senior year. She also wanted to connect it to her education studies. So, she walked into Dr. Tim Van Soelen's office to ask where to start. Just that day he'd received an email from James and Aileen Riady looking for college students to teach in the summer program at Sekolah Pelita Harapan (SPH), a Christian school they founded in Indonesia.

"I was hoping to gain a greater understanding of education, in a broader context. And I was eager to visit a Christian school in a country that is predominately Muslim, teaching students who come from a different cultural background than mine," she says.

Van Drunen applied and, along with nine other Christian college students, was accepted. Throughout her spring semester, she thought about and prepared lessons to take with her to Indonesia, enlisting the help and advice of her education professors as needed.

"I so overprepared. But it was great because when I got there I could choose my favorite lessons—and have more free time in the evenings," she says.

Van Drunen describes her nearly six weeks in Indonesia as filled with one unforgettable experience after another. She was on Bali for one week, Nias for one week, and Java for three weeks.

"I had the time of my life visiting three different Indonesian islands, teaching at two schools, and interacting with passionate Christian teachers," she says. Indonesia is 90 percent Muslim. Yet Van Drunen was amazed to see the government allowing Christian schools to start popping up throughout the country.

On Nias, she taught English to 10th grade students for a few days, staying in a dormitory with other teachers. It was a memorable experience for many reasons, one of them being awakened by the sound of fellow teachers singing.

"We couldn't help but get excited about teaching after seeing their enthusiasm," she says.

"The teachers are so passionate about their work," she continues. Some of them received free tuition for teacher training if they committed to five years at SPH, and they've committed themselves entirely to their students and Christian education. Many of the students on Nias are poor, some are orphans, and some have never seen North American people, but all treated Van Drunen and her fellow teachers incredibly well, she says.

On Java, she taught in a three-week summer program at Lippo Village Sekolah Pelita Harapan. Students there learn in English, and Van Drunen taught mostly science classes, mimicking volcanoes, creating experiments, and exploring the outdoors.

"I am so thankful for the opportunity to spend my summer in Indonesia and will never forget it. It will forever be special to me, not only because of all the amazing times I had, but because of how much I learned about life, teaching, and God while I was there," says Van Drunen.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Nathan Rider further developed an already strong commitment to helping provide safe drinking water to people around the world.

## NATHAN RIDER

Nathan Rider knows where he wants to serve: he wants to help provide safe and clean water to the developing world. That's why he spent the last three summers working with EDGE OUTREACH, a faith-based nonprofit in Louisville, Kentucky. EDGE trains people to install low-input/high-output mini water treatment plants, to teach health and hygiene education, and to repair broken hand water pumps.

"We are trying to help raise awareness of and bring an end to the world water crisis, because of which 25,000 people died today and every day due to lack of access to pure drinking water," he says. This summer he worked on a research project with a student from Georgetown College in Kentucky and with Dordt College student Nathanael Couperus to improve systems currently used to provide pure water in disaster relief situations.

Rider is committed not only to the work he does with EDGE but also to its people and mission.

"The small staff at EDGE has adopted me into their story and culture," says Rider. He has participated in a service work program since he was in seventh grade and the staff nurtured him so that he was able to help lead the program this year.

"The executive director of EDGE saw leadership abilities in me that I hadn't yet seen," says Rider. By returning to work at EDGE, he was hoping to continue developing those abilities.

"Working at EDGE OUTREACH always changes me. The folks at EDGE love the Lord and know how to live in a way that shows it. I struggle with the idea of what it means to be a missionary, but I think after working at EDGE I am starting to get it. 'Missionary' is not a job title; it comes in a package bundle with the

title 'Christian,'" says Rider. "At EDGE, we do what we do because of our faith, but we consider ourselves like firemen entering a burning building: we will train anyone willing to combat the world water crisis with us. We will provide pure water because that is what EDGE staff and volunteers do: empower ordinary people to provide safe and clean water around the world. And our words and actions speak about the lifesaving gospel message."

Working with EDGE OUTREACH "quenches a passion" to serve for Rider. It also links to his goal to teach agriculture in developing countries.

"Why teach a man to fish if he has no pure water to drink? If he is drinking contaminated water, he is sick." Even with a healthy diet, diarrhea from impure water ravages the digestive system to the point that people are malnourished.

"My goal of working as an international agricultural community development worker cannot be carried forward without pure water," he says. "This internship is a necessary link to my success in that task."

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For more information, contact Dianne De Wit in the Dordt College Advancement Office at (712) 722-6029 or [ddewit@dordt.edu](mailto:ddewit@dordt.edu) or go to [www.dordt.edu/events/new\\_mexico/](http://www.dordt.edu/events/new_mexico/)



# CONCUSSION DISCUSSION

How Dordt coaches and athletes try to prevent and care for injuries



Senior Lexi Elgersma does not remember much about the day she received a concussion last fall. She knows she was playing her usual position as forward for the Dordt women's soccer game against Hastings; everything after that, however, is blank.

"Everyone told me afterward that I was going for a ball on the front line and got tangled up with a defender," she says.

She was also told that, as she fell, she hit her head twice against the ground. She laid motionless before standing up and falling down again.

"I started walking in circles and was not really sure where I was," she says. "Coach pulled me out of the game."

A concussion story like Elgersma's is a harsh reality of high-impact sports such as soccer and football.

"You can protect yourself however you want, but you're still going to have instances of concussions," says Fagerness. "So, it is important that you know how to recognize symptoms and manage the injury to the best of your ability."

Watching a player suffer from a concussion is not easy for a coach, says Bill Bauer, Dordt's assistant football coach. "It is sad, because I know that they might suffer for a while from headaches and that type of thing."

Bauer says he and other coaches "want to do all we can to protect our players because there is life outside of football."

Athletic trainer Chris Fagerness says that, although there is no law as to how trainers should treat concussions, Dordt's certified athletic trainers and coaches have a protocol that they follow.

For example, all soccer and football players must take the impACT test, a computerized neurocognitive assessment test that serves as a base line for normal brain activity.

"They take the test the first day they step onto campus," says Dave Schenk, head women's soccer coach at Dordt.

Dordt coaches and trainers have many ways of preventing concussions. In football, coaches teach tackling techniques that emphasize "contact



**Dordt's trainer, Chris Fagerness, evaluates all athletes, explains the results of testing, and helps students learn how to prevent injuries.**

by wrapping up and stopping instead of going all out to the ground," says Fagerness. Dordt football players also wear highly rated helmets, and soccer players work with the strength and conditioning coordinator to improve neck and upper body strength to lessen the effect of whiplash.

But, when a player takes a hard hit during a game and begins showing signs of a concussion, trainers immediately begin a recovery process.

"First, we give them a SCAT2 test," says Fagerness. The test includes symptomatic, cognitive, and physical evaluations to determine if the player has suffered from a concussion and if he or she needs to go to the emergency room. The SCAT2 test is given directly after the injury occurs, helping to determine its severity.

"We make sure they have someone who can monitor them overnight," says Fagerness. "Usually we will talk to a roommate or a parent, and sometimes they'll stay overnight at a coach's house."

Trainers continue to monitor an injured player on a day-to-day basis, asking the player's roommates and coach for regular updates on the player's condition. After a few days have passed, the player must retake the impACT test to check for brain activity changes.

"It's great because the two tests provide something measurable," says Schenk. "Even if the player is feeling better, we can show them where they were originally and where they are post-injury."

Elgersma remembers her experience. "They compared my post-injury test on the computer to my base line test," she recalls. "They could see exactly the areas of my memory that were affected."

Concussions have an impact on player's lives off the field as well. An injured player must limit brain activity to improve faster, and this can affect class time.

"We send out an email to all of the student's professors to let them know about the injury," says Fagerness.

Professors want the student to heal just as much as the coaches and trainers do; Elgersma can attest to that.

"My professors were extremely understanding and gave me plenty of time to make up work," says Elgersma.

Once the player has completed Dordt's concussion recovery process, the coaches and trainers encourage him or her to take time before returning to the field.

"We're always trying to work to the glory and honor of God, and we know that putting a guy back in when he's not well does not bring honor and glory to God," says Bauer. "We want to do the right thing."

Even if the player is feeling better, we can show them where they were originally and where they are post-injury.

—Dave Schenk, head women's soccer coach

Not all concussions are alike; some have a greater impact than others. Elgersma says that, to this day, she feels the repercussions of her injury. "I still have headaches a year later from the concussion," she says.

But, she adds, she received a lot of support from not only her coaches and trainers but from the Dordt community.

"In high school I played through concussions and toughed it out," she says. "There is no way I could have gotten away with that at Dordt."

SARAH GRONECK ('10)

## Alumni Bits

### 60s

**Tom Den Ouden** ('61) received the Sue Rollins Educator of the Year Award at Drury University's commencement in May 2011. This award celebrates 12 years of Tom Den Ouden's commitment to adult learning at Drury University in the field of criminal justice.

### 70s

**Kathleen (Emmelkamp, '73)** Pool of Riverside, California, passed away on May 2, 2011. She died six months after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She leaves behind her beloved husband of 38 years, **Cornelius Pool** ('73), her loving kids **Karianne** ('97), Janessa, Jeremy, and Kendal, and her grandkids Benjamin (9), Andy (6), Dana (3), and Karis (1), as well as her 95-year-old mother Margaret and siblings. She was a teacher for 18 years, spreading God's love and bringing joy with her smile to all who knew or learned from her.

**Lloyd** ('78) and **Vicki (Veenstra, '78) Vanderkwaak** are delighted to announce the adoption of Eddy Jean (20) on June 8, 2011, in Johnston, Iowa. She joins Kristin, Nicholas, Reuben, Kimberly, and Salome.

### 80s

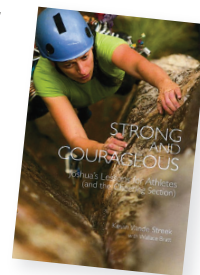
**Jeff Pastoor** ('84) received his master's degree from Iowa State University in May 2011. His article "Comparing Fed Cattle Performance in Open Lot and Bedded Confinement Feedlot Facilities," will be published in *The Professional Animal Scientist*. He was also nominated for and accepted into the Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture upon graduation. Jeff lives in Pella, Iowa, with his wife **Sue (Feenstra, '86)**. He has two sons at Dordt College.

**Nate Vander Stelt** ('86) is the new Director of Advancement for Christian Reformed Home Missions. He has spent the past four years as the director of development at The Potter's House School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

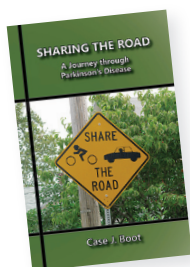
## BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY DORDT ALUMNI

### KEVIN VANDE STREEK ('81), *STRONG AND COURAGEOUS*

Calvin College men's basketball coach Kevin Vande Streek has published his second book of devotionals for athletes. Working with Calvin German professor emeritus Wally Bratt, Vande Streek took stories from the book of Joshua and used them to teach about commitment, encouragement, leadership, perseverance and teamwork.



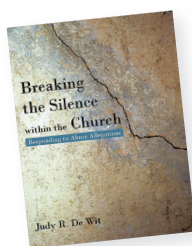
### CASE BOOT ('66), *SHARING THE ROAD: A JOURNEY THROUGH PARKINSON'S DISEASE*



Parkinson's disease became Emeritus Professor Case Boot's daily companion just as he was retiring from Dordt College. Ten years into this journey, Boot has written his memoir to encourage others. His life story is gently woven into the harsh realization that this disease is here to stay. Especially poignant are Boot's words of advice to family and friends. Not limited in its message to those dealing with Parkinson's disease, this book is an invitation to share the road as we live in community, supporting each other in all our trials and illnesses. Appendixes suggest daily exercises for the body and the voice. (Dordt College Press) Available at the Dordt bookstore.

### WARREN SWIER ('72), *VIEW FROM THE EDGE*

Swier, who farms in Minnesota, has written about life on the farm and in a small town. Included are stories of farm experiences and memories as well as family and community tales. Swier tells stories of coffee shop shenanigans, the beauty of a perfect summer day, and the ongoing dispute over ownership of the remote control. Some essays are serious, some are purely for fun. The book is available through the Dordt bookstore and [www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore](http://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore).



### JUDY DE WIT ('84), *BREAKING THE SILENCE WITHIN THE CHURCH*

Judy De Wit, a marriage and family counselor, has written two books. *Breaking the Silence within the Church* ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) discusses where abuse comes from and how councils can respond when a church leader abuses. For anyone harmed by the church, *Forgiving the Church* (release is in November) provides direction in how to forgive.

**Have you written a book or do you know of a Dordt College alumnus who has been published recently? Please send us a note at [voice@dordt.edu](mailto:voice@dordt.edu)**

# ALUMNI HELP FUND STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH

If you responded to a student caller last spring by donating to the alumni scholarship and fellowship fund, you helped provide three of the ten summer research fellowships given to Dordt College students this past summer. Students participated in research on Johnne's disease, the CUX1 gene, prairie species diversity, inflammation, and rattlesnakes.

Summer fellowships give students a great opportunity to broaden their education and help pay their tuition the following year. Funds raised from alumni are funneled through Dordt's Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service, which awards summer fellowships to students who work with a professor on research in their field. Alumni funds made possible three additional student summer research fellowships.

And thanks to alumni, Dordt College also has been able to increase the number of alumni scholarships given to incoming freshmen. Each spring, student callers contact alumni from across the country. Half of the money raised goes toward scholarships, with the other half toward student research fellowships. A percentage of what is raised is put into endowments for these two awards. The rest is given as scholarships and fellowships the following year. Twenty-three alumni scholarships were given this year; 27 will be awarded next year.

## Alumni Bits

### 80s

**Kevin De Vries** ('86), president of Exxel Pacific Construction Company, was recently featured in the online *Daily Journal of Commerce*. [www.djc.com/news/co/12029474.html](http://www.djc.com/news/co/12029474.html)

**George Eakin** ('86) has been named the new CEO of Osborne Plastics, a manufacturer of livestock and custom molded plastics. Eakin is a long-time employee of the Kansas company.

**Audrey (Kraayeveld, '87) Brouwer** has been promoted to personal lines agent at Vancouver's Davidson Insurance. Audrey has been employed at Davidson Insurance for 13 years and has a Certified Insurance Counselor designation from the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors. She has 21 years of experience in the insurance industry.

### 90s

**Michael Kooi** ('93), executive director of Florida's office of independent education and parental choice, was recently featured in a [tampabay.com](http://tampabay.com) blog. <http://bit.ly/tGHSwU>

Doug and **Alisa (Siebenga, '93) Weening** of Calgary, Alberta, were blessed with the birth of David Theodore on October 28, 2011. David joins older brother Jonathan.

**Kimberly (Staat, '93) and Michael W. Stoub** announce the birth of Logan Richard, born on October 20, 2010, in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Logan joins big sisters Kayla (8) and Courtney (5).

**David Klompfen** ('93) has accepted a call to pastor at Preakness Valley URC in Wayne, New Jersey. He, along with his wife Angela and five children—Micah (10), Elise (8), Jeremiah (6), Luke (4) and Levi (1)—settled into their new home in September.

Brent and **Dawn (Vander Meulen, '94) Witte** welcomed Jazzmyn Elizabeth on April 15, 2011. She is welcomed by Zachary (9), Jaden (7), Brayden (4), and Jesse (2). They live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Terry and **Jennifer (Meinders, '96) Thorington** of Des Moines, Iowa, welcomed Jesse James on June 1, 2011.

**Scott** ('97) and **Anne (Vogel, '03) Kooiman** of Orange City, Iowa, welcomed Abigail Barbara on May 18, 2011. She joins Samuel (3) and Joanna (2).

□ **Kevin and Christine (Hospers, '99) Rosencrans** of Zeeland, Michigan, announce the birth of Keaton Wayne on November 7, 2010. Peyton (7) and Addison (4) are his proud big sisters.

**Matt** ('99) and **Kristin (Boogerd, '00) Mellema** announce the birth of Elsie Praise on June 30, 2011. She is welcomed home by Naomi (7), Simon (5), and Owen (2).



Called to teach and to build

# PHYLLIS ALBERTS-MEIJERS

Phyllis Alberts-Meijers knew as a high school student at Unity Christian in Orange City, Iowa, that she wanted to attend Dordt College. She also knew that she wanted to teach high school students. Deciding what she wanted to teach was a little more challenging. “I remained undeclared for a few weeks until I got a super great response from Dr. Schaap on a paper I wrote on Buddhism. Ok—let’s go with English!” said Alberts-Meijers.

She majored in secondary education and English. Over her 22 years of teaching, she has taught many more subjects than English, including home economics, civics, food and nutrition, science, drama, and religion. “We call those years ‘resume builders,’” she said.

Over her years of teaching, she’s continued to work out her worldview and deepened her commitment to Christian education.

Her first teaching position was in Toronto District Christian High School, where she stayed for 12 years. After that, she began supply teaching in

the public school in Barrie, Ontario. Public school brought new challenges for Alberts-Meijers. She often grew frustrated with the disconnect between faith and life.

“My students had questions that cut to the heart of what was missing in so many of their lives, and my responses were entirely unsatisfactory,” said Alberts-Meijers. “Those years led me to understand my strength in teaching: showing my students how in Christ, all things hold together. So when the Catholic board offered me a temporary position, I went with joy.”

At St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School in Barrie, Alberts-Meijers’ theological perspective continued to be shaped. “Being forced to verbalize your faith to people who do not assume the same things as you, in fact, don’t even always speak the same religious language as you—well, it changed me. My colleagues realized I was different. They saw me integrating my faith into all aspects of my teaching, and they were intrigued. The teaching practices

Sharing the story of redemption with teenagers who are so desperate to hear some good news is powerfully invigorating.

—Phyllis Alberts-Meijers

that I witnessed in my own education and that I was taught at Dordt went from being an assumed part of my life, to being something that I could share with colleagues who had not been trained in the same way.”

Being able to discuss faith openly with students kept Alberts-Meijers motivated in her career. “Sharing the story of redemption with teenagers who are so desperate to hear some good news is powerfully invigorating. Revealing systematic philosophies to senior students who are keen and critical, but often entirely ungrounded in biblical truths, is challenging and energizing.”

She is realistic about how draining teaching and working with students can be, but she believes that what she gathered from her own education continues to help her begin the next morning with a fresh start.

“I can’t say I remember one particular lesson where Dr. John Van Dyk, Dr.



# DE SMITH NAMED LILLY FELLOW

Eugene Westra, or Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch said, 'You need to remember that each child is loved by God, and you must model forgiveness always.' But I sure learned that from them. That is the best kind of education: when you are sure of what you've experienced, but you can't really find it back in your notes. That happened often at Dordt."

Recently, she and a group of people in their community began the work of establishing Unity Christian High School in Barrie, Ontario. The founders agreed that they felt called by God to make this dream a reality. Their work continues and a building has been purchased to house the school.

But big endeavors like this one don't happen easily, as the group quickly discovered. "We have experienced over and over again that God always gives us enough to keep us on our knees. To this day the knees of the Unity folks are often bleeding, trust me. But we are confident that our task falls within God's will."

As for the future of the school and Christian education in general, Alberts-Meijers is entirely optimistic. "Like I tell my students, a philosophy will last when it makes good sense. Christian education makes sense to me."

SARAH VANDER PLAATS ('05)

Rachel De Smith ('09) is one of 16 students selected nationwide for the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program. The program supports outstanding Ph.D. students who want to explore connections within Christianity, higher education, and the vocation of teacher-scholar.

De Smith received her M.A. from Creighton University earlier this year and recently began a Ph.D. in English literature at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She plans to focus on early modern British literature—Shakespeare, Donne, Herbert, and poet Jane Barker—examining the intersection of literature with music and worship.

That interest is what made her eligible for the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

"To the extent that I've pictured my future career, I've pictured myself at a church-related institution like Dordt," says De Smith.

Lilly Graduate Fellows participate in a three-year program in which they meet regularly with a mentor, attend four conferences, participate in a long-distance colloquium, and receive three annual stipends of \$3000 (\$9000 total) to use at their discretion.

De Smith met with the other 15 Fellows and their mentors for three days in August in Indianapolis.

"We're an interdisciplinary group, so our discussions were really interesting with all of our different perspectives at work. It's refreshing to have intellectual conversations in an atmosphere where our religious convictions are not merely acknowledged but encouraged—a rare commodity, I've discovered, in graduate work. I'm very excited about future conversations and conventions with our group," she says.

The fellowship will add a significant amount of reading to De Smith's schedule in order to stay prepared for the bi-monthly webinars, but she's convinced that getting to know and pursue knowledge with her fellow Fellows is "completely worth it."

SALLY JONGSMA

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Rachel De Smith began Ph.D. studies at Baylor this fall.



For more information on the Lilly Graduate Fellows Program, visit <http://www.lillyfellows.org/>.

# Alumni Bits

## 90s

**Marja Beukema** ('99) and Todd Florence were married on June 11, 2011, in Tacoma, Washington.

□ **Michael and Danielle (Kamps)**, '99) Constant welcomed their first child, Elizabeth Anne, born on September 13, 2011. Danielle is a prosecutor in the Pima County attorney's office in Arizona.



## 00s

**Rory** ('00) and Lynette **Van Wyk** of Ankeny, Iowa, welcomed Annika Lisse on October 7, 2010.

Ben and **Carla (Geleynse)**, '00) Proctor welcomed Jacy Kate on May 27, 2010, who was welcomed home by siblings Jake (6) and Abby (4).

□ **Heidi (Hilbelink)**, '00) and David Greenwood of Madison, Wisconsin, announce the birth of Annelise Claire on June 4, 2011.



**Arlan** ('00) and Ava **Vander Woude** welcomed Devin Simon on December 3, 2010. He joins Ariel (8), Silas (6), Isaiah (4), and Wesley (2).

**Timothy** ('00) and **Jolynn (Vander Wal)**, '01) **Van Iddekinge** welcomed Kendra Marie on January 6, 2011, in Loveland, Colorado. She joins Kylie (8), Levi (6), Logan (4), and Luke (2).

**Paul Ten Haken** ('00) was recently honored as a national top 10 finalist by *Entrepreneur* magazine as an "emerging Entrepreneur of 2011." He is the founder of the online marketing firm Click Rain in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Dean and **Michelle (De Vries)**, '00) Bogda of Kalamazoo, Michigan, welcomed Kelsie Renee on July 6, 2011.

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

## You can revisit parts of it online

We celebrated Alumni Weekend on September 16 and 17. On that weekend, the Alumni Association recognized three individuals as this year's Distinguished Alumni Award winners: Marlys (De Witt) Popma ('78), John Rozeboom ('62), and James Verbrugge ('60). You can view their reflections at [www.dordt.edu/events/alumni\\_weekend/banquet.shtml](http://www.dordt.edu/events/alumni_weekend/banquet.shtml) by clicking on the video at the bottom of that page.

Dr. Carl Zylstra, president of Dordt College, interviewed all three award winners on his Conversations program on KDCR. If you'd like to hear that interview, go to [kdcr.dordt.edu/cgi-bin/programming/conversations/list.pl](http://kdcr.dordt.edu/cgi-bin/programming/conversations/list.pl).



Dr. James Verbrugge shared his view on the federal deficit at our Alumni Business Connections breakfast on Friday morning. You can view his presentation at [www.dordt.edu/events/alumni\\_weekend/business\\_breakfast.shtml](http://www.dordt.edu/events/alumni_weekend/business_breakfast.shtml) by clicking on the video at the bottom of that page.

Having these alumni on campus is an inspiration. Seeing how God is working in their lives is a blessing to faculty, staff, and students. Thanks to Technical Services Manager Todd Montsma, KDCR, and the computer services staff, you can be inspired too.

The Alumni Council met during Alumni Weekend and had the opportunity, among other things, to meet with the Presidential Search Committee and share their thoughts and ideas on characteristics and attributes they'd like to see in the next president of Dordt College.


The Alumni Council recently welcomed six new members to the council. They are Andrea (Van Wyk, '05) Kamper from Visalia, California; Scott Rhoda ('87) from Oakdale, California; Jill (Bousema, '92) Sipma from Lynden, Washington; Lisa (Klein, '93) Gross from Gilbert, Arizona; Kevin Caspersen ('96) from Edgerton, Minnesota; and Deb (Verbrugge, '83) De Jong from Lansing, Illinois.


The six new members join current council representatives Melody (Oliver, '76) De Wit, Alton, Iowa; Melissa (Van't Hul, '96) Prins, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Gale Tien ('85), Orange City, Iowa; Harry Wieringa ('93), Sioux Center; Kathy (Visser, '81) Eekhoff, Manhattan, Montana; John Brouwer ('89), Pella, Iowa; Sandy (Steenhoek, '88) Vanden Bosch, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Jeff Moore ('77), Redmond, Washington; Sandy (Geurink, '79) Roth, Escondido, California; Jim Geertsma ('77), Holland, Michigan; Deb (Weaver, '85) Haak, Zeeland, Michigan; Bonnie (Runia, '98) Jonkman, Erie, Colorado; Ryan Dooyema ('03), Brookfield, Wisconsin; Barb (Van Soelen, '82) Ahrenholz, Prinsburg, Minnesota; Lois (Van Zee, '84) Marra, Blaine, Minnesota; Brent Dieleman ('03), Washington, D.C.; Susan (De Vries, '82) Couperus, Abbotsford, British Columbia; Merl Alons ('59), Sun City, Arizona; and Dan Eekhoff ('00), Overland Park, Kansas.

WES FOPMA ('82)

## THE E-SKINNY

   Speaking of technology, you can receive Dordt updates on Twitter or become a fan on Facebook. We're also building a community of friends and alumni on LinkedIn, so please check out this group as well.

 We invite you to click through to some of our concert clips and new alumni video interviews on Dordt's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/dordtcollege](http://www.youtube.com/dordtcollege)).

 We've also started a new texting service. You can choose to receive occasional text messages from the college about upcoming events. Text DORDT to 82942 to sign up.



Kansas (second left) and Jasmyn (center) are the oldest and youngest of the Calkhoven sisters who make up the group True Emotion.

## SISTERS FORM TRUE EMOTION

Dordt graduate Kansas (Calkhoven, '07) Fergen and first-year Dordt student Jasmyn Calkhoven have spent 10 years performing together. They and their sisters Jamie, Kasandra, and Kelsie perform as the group True Emotion.

The Calkhoven sisters began singing in 1998 for a television commercial for Hy-Vee, a local grocery chain. Since then, they have written songs, recorded albums, and toured across the United States. According to True Emotion's website, the girls feel "driven to inspire, lead, and direct a new generation to a positive Christian message through music and performance."

Kansas lives in Sioux Falls with her husband, Danny, and two children. She works as an office manager at a counseling agency.

Jasmyn, a freshman volleyball player at Dordt, is still undecided about her major.

Despite busy schedules, the girls continue to perform, participate in music festivals, and even plan to travel to Haiti for a mission trip in January.



Read more about True Emotion at [www.trueemotionmusic.com](http://www.trueemotionmusic.com).

ELLEN DE YOUNG ('12)

## Alumni Bits

### 00s

**Jonathan** ('01) and **Jennifer (Hubers, '03) Bentz** announce the birth of Landon Jay, born on July 31, 2011, in Burnsville, Minnesota. Landon joins Hannah (5) and Zachariah (3).

**Fransisca (Veldhuis, '01)** and Mark Vander Meulen welcomed Jacob Mark on July 17, 2011, in Sunnyside, Washington. He joins Darrin (3) and Annalies (2).

Dan and **Crystal (Engbers, '01) Lannin** welcomed Lucy Ilse Kate on June 4, 2011. She joins Lincoln (2).

▣ **Jennifer (Wynia, '01)** and David Alexander welcomed Isabella Reese on July 13, 2011. Jennifer teaches 3rd grade at Ontario Christian School in Ontario, California.



**Laura (Groen '01)** and Pete Doornenbal of Caldwell, Idaho, were blessed with the birth of Ella Marie on January 1, 2011. She joins Kyle (4) and Kara (2).

**Ryan Kroll** ('02) was named one of 40 building industry professionals under age 40 who stand out in their academic, professional, personal, and community achievements. <http://bit.ly/vX9vuJ>

**Rick** ('02) and **Shelley (Bolkema, '01) Hoogveen** announce the birth of Alyssa Mae, born on March 13, 2011, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Her proud brothers are Blake (5) and Trevor (3).

**Michelle (Key, '02)** and Jon Drnek of Jenison, Michigan, announce the birth of Hannah Faith, born on April 4, 2011. She was welcomed home by Caleb (5), Ryan (3), and Luke (2).

**Michael** ('02) and **Carissa (Neerhof, '02) Hoium** of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, welcomed Brynley Emerson on May 10, 2011.

**Trevor** ('02) and **Margriet (Greidanus, '07) Siepman** of Sioux Center, Iowa, announce the birth of Lauren Avery on August 15, 2011.

**Chris** ('02) and **Amanda (Kubacki, '02) Postma** welcomed Grace Emily on July 22, 2010.

**Tricia Van Ee** ('02) and Chandler Molbert of Minneapolis, Minnesota, welcomed Elena Suzanne on July 6, 2011.

**Janna Van Swol** ('02) married Kelly Herold on June 18, 2011, in Winona, Minnesota.

**Dan** ('02) and **Julie (Oudman, '05) Perkins** of DeMotte, Indiana, welcomed Asher Clarence on October 3, 2010.

▣ **Luke** ('03) and **Joy (Lefever, '04) Taylor** of Delavan, Wisconsin, announce the birth of Mackenzie Joy, born on July 9, 2011. She was welcomed home by Carter (4) and Brady (2).



**Tim** ('03) and **Abby (Jansen, '02) Foreman** were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Cora Marie, on June 16, 2011.



# Alumni Bits

## 00s

□ **John** ('03) and **Brenda (Elenbaas, '02) De Jong** of Spokane, Washington, were blessed with the birth of James Patrick on May 20, 2011.



**David** ('04) and **Jenae (Vander Wal, '04) Van Ee** welcomed Arianne Beatrix, born on April 15, 2011, in Orlando, Florida.

**Kyle** ('04) and **Katie (Hoekstra, '04) Van Arendonk** announce the birth of Amira Jaye on May 4, 2011, in Baltimore, Maryland. She was welcomed home by Anika.

**Frank** ('04) and **Nancy (Vander Tuig, '07) Leyendekker** of Visalia, California, were blessed with the birth of Gerben Jay on June 6, 2011.

**Scott** ('04) and **Nicole (Vos, '03) Kallemeyn** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, welcomed Lauren Ruth, born on February 11, 2011.

**Stephanie Greydanus** ('04) and **Michael Dalrymple** were married on June 25, 2011, in Mt. Vernon, Washington.

**Rachael Eggebeen** ('04) received a master's degree in Near Eastern Studies with an emphasis in Islam from the University of Arizona in May 2011. Her thesis was titled "Human Rights or Human Wrongs? Islamist Use of Apostasy in Egypt and Sudan." She will also graduate with a master of arts in theology with an emphasis in biblical languages and theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in September 2011. Rachael and her husband, **Ed Vander Woude** ('04) live in Tucson, Arizona. Ed works as a delivery driver for Shamrock Foods.

**Steve** ('05) and **Rachel (Fikkert, '05) Daining** of Pella, Iowa, announce the birth of twin girls Eliana Marie and Natalie Grace on September 16, 2010.



D O R D T C O L L E G E

Dordt College is seeking applications for the following areas beginning August 2012

<b>Social Work / Criminal Justice</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Theatre Arts / Technical Director</b>	<b>Accounting</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Construction Management / Engineering</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Agriculture (one year position)</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>
<b>Biology</b>		

Application reviews will begin immediately. Qualified persons committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae/resume to:

Dr. Erik Hoekstra, Provost  
Dordt College  
498 4th Ave. NE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697  
Fax: (712) 722-6035  
E-mail: provost@dordt.edu  
Web: www.dordt.edu/prospective\_employees/faculty/

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



*Presidential*  
SEARCH

The Presidential Search Committee of Dordt College seeks its fourth president.

The next president of Dordt College will have an opportunity to build on the school's strong heritage and further advance its mission and vision. The president will assume leadership of a remarkably healthy school. Throughout its history, Dordt College has benefited from a loyal and committed constituency. With God's blessing, constituent support, and fiscally responsible leadership, Dordt College has been able to maintain a healthy financial position. Dordt College is governed by a 30-member Board of Trustees, which is composed of geographically selected representatives from the Christian Reformed Church and at-large representatives from the broader Reformed evangelical community.

We invite you to review the complete Presidential Opportunity Profile found online.

[www.dordt.edu/newpresident/](http://www.dordt.edu/newpresident/)

# JAMES VERBRUGGE

**Dr. James Verbrugge believes that if the American people were told the truth about the United States economy they would understand what has to be done.**

I have faith in people, but not so much in the politicians who lead us," he says. That's because much of what happens is driven by money. "News and talk shows don't tell us the truth. A president should, but neither Obama nor Bush has done so." He thinks that former president Dwight Eisenhower knew what he was talking about in his farewell speech to the country in which he warned Americans to beware of the growing military industrial complex.

Verbrugge ('60), received his A.A. Degree from Dordt College in 1960 when it was a two-year college. He is emeritus professor of finance at Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. He completed his B.A. at Calvin College and received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Kentucky.

An expert on the banking industry, Verbrugge has testified on the modernization of the Federal Home Loan Banking system before the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. His research on financial markets and institutions, banking, and bank privatization has been widely published, and his teaching interests include venture capital, management of financial institutions, entrepreneurial finance, and money and capital markets.

While Verbrugge doesn't claim to be able to solve U.S. economic problems overnight, he knows what the solution is: the country needs to create an economy that is sustainable. He thinks the past summer's focus on the debt ceiling is much ado about nothing. The market crash of 2008 was the consequence of years of unsustainable practices, policies and laws, he believes.

"It's like ignoring symptoms of poor health until a person faints," he says. He

believes that politicians haven't been willing to address deepening problems and have only looked for short-term fixes.



"Instead of focusing on the deficit, we need to find long-term solutions and create conditions that lead to economic growth over time," he says.

Verbrugge believes the U.S. needs to decide how it wants to spend its money. That means, among other things, tackling large entitlements—from defense and cotton subsidies in Georgia to ethanol subsidies in Iowa to sugar subsidies in Louisiana. He advocates a complete overhaul of the tax system.

"We need to create a system that considers the interests of U.S. citizens as a whole, not the interests of individual groups and states," he says. That is not an easy task. Every program and tax break has advocates, and the more money the organization has, the stronger its lobby. Every mortgage deduction, farm subsidy, and corporate tax break means those who don't benefit from it pay more, Verbrugge points out.

He says we need a way to generate revenue that is efficient and equitable.

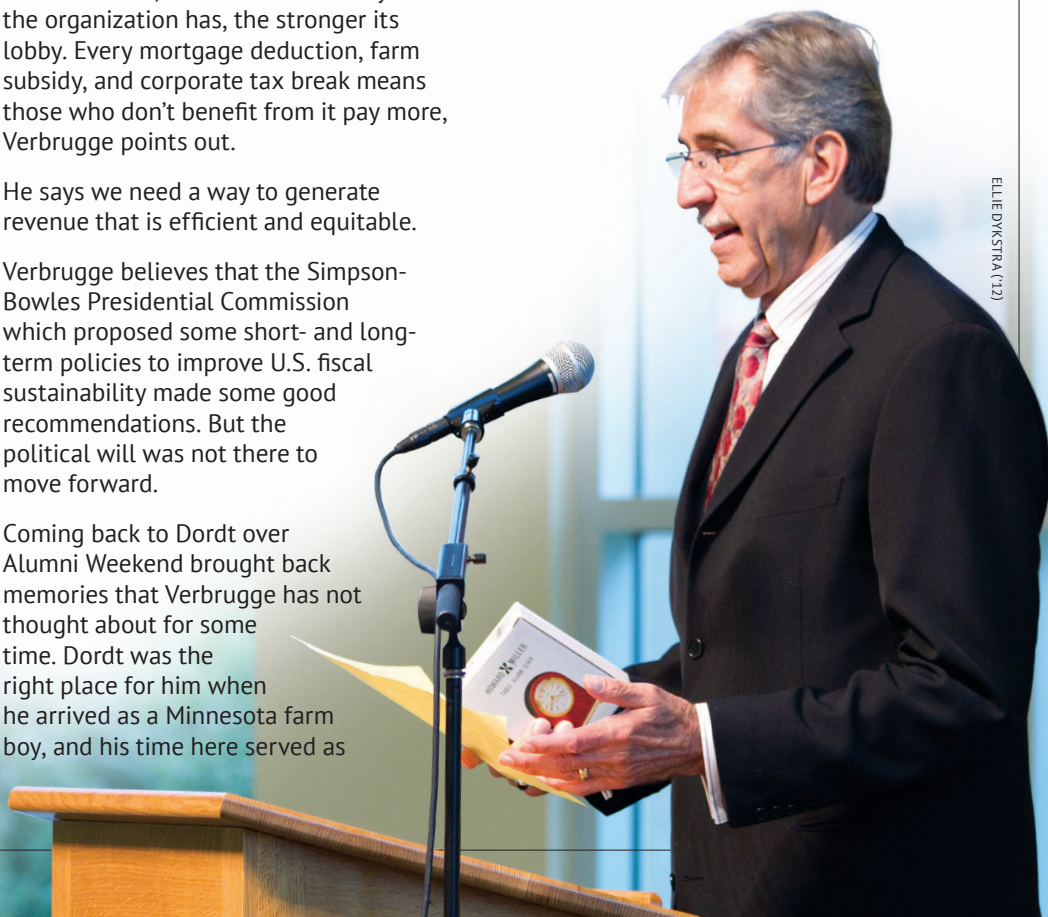
Verbrugge believes that the Simpson-Bowles Presidential Commission which proposed some short- and long-term policies to improve U.S. fiscal sustainability made some good recommendations. But the political will was not there to move forward.

Coming back to Dordt over Alumni Weekend brought back memories that Verbrugge has not thought about for some time. Dordt was the right place for him when he arrived as a Minnesota farm boy, and his time here served as

the launch pad for the rest of his life. He didn't know what he wanted to do back then, just that he wanted to do something other than farming. It was in graduate school that he realized his interests and skills were in finance. He expected to stay at the University of Georgia for two or three years. That turned into 35 years.

"Life is a journey," he said. It took him out of the Christian Reformed community of his youth to the Presbyterian community of his adult life, but for him the journey hasn't just been toward the final day of Christ's coming. It's been working as a grace-filled person who knows something about banking and finance and has been given opportunities to share what he's learned with students, government leaders, and those he worships within Athens, Georgia.

SALLY JONGSMA



# Alumni Bits

## 00s

**Tim** ('05) and **Melissa (Eekhoff,** '05) **Klein** were blessed with the birth of Brylee Ann on June 8, 2011. Brylee joins Kaden. Tim currently works as a soccer coach and instructor of business administration at Dordt College.

Ryan and **Valerie (Visser,** '05) Van Beek of Sioux Center, Iowa, welcomed Autumn Faith on February 8, 2011.

**Jeremy** ('07) and **Jennifer (Asher,** '08) **Mills** of Orange City, Iowa, welcomed Gavin Kenneth on September 16, 2010.

**Aaron De Bruin** ('07) recently accepted a position as design engineer at VacMasters/Barone located in Arvada, Colorado. Aaron had been employed at Musco Sports Lighting as an international project engineer.

□ **Jason** ('07) and **Danielle (Kelderman,** '10) **Wyenberg** were married on July 16, 2011. Jason recently earned the Professional Engineer (P.E) designation from Interstates Companies. The P.E. designation is awarded based on both work experience and the completion of a demanding course of study, culminating in an eight-hour exam. Jason has been an electrical engineer with Interstates Engineering since January 2007. Danielle is an assistant adjunct in Dordt's engineering department.



**Claire McWilliams** ('09) recently passed all four sections of the CPA exam. She works at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) in the Financial Audits division in downtown Chicago.

**Kristina De Graaf** ('10) passed all the sections of the CPA exam and received her CPA license. She works as an auditor for Ernst and Young in Des Moines.

# JOHN ROZEBOOM

**John Rozeboom prizes his Dordt student friendships, many of which continue today.**

**J**ohn Rozeboom recently retired as Director of Home Missions in the Christian Reformed Church, a position he held since 1986. He spent his entire career helping develop new churches across the United States and Canada.

In remarks at the dinner honoring this year's distinguished alumni, Rozeboom used two words to characterize Dordt College and the Dordt people he's known throughout his lifetime: audacity (spirited risk-taking) and tenacity (persistent hanging on).

Rozeboom recalls a choir tour on which he and his fellow travelers listened to founding president B.J. Haan encourage students not to be afraid of taking risks to accomplish good things. And he recalls Mrs. Deborah Haan adding, "And pray."

"I never got over Dordt College," he said, citing breathtaking risks by leaders of a fledgling institution, bold leadership through writing and speaking, godly teaching and mentoring, a scrappy basketball team that never should have done as well as it did in the early years, and 60-year friendships that encouraged and inspired him—like angels, God's messengers of grace.

"I pray your testimonies of risk-taking and hanging on keep hanging on," he concluded.



A profile of John Rozeboom appeared in the spring 2009 issue of *The Voice*: [www.dordt.edu/publications/voice/2009/spring.pdf](http://www.dordt.edu/publications/voice/2009/spring.pdf).

ELLIE DYKSTRA ('12)



# Israel

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# MARLYS (DE WITT) POPMA

The *Des Moines Register* has called Marlys Popma one of the top 50 individuals in Iowa who can make or break a GOP presidential candidate.

Popma, who has held numerous state and national political roles, is currently the Senior Projects Director at Campaign Headquarters, an organization whose website calls itself one of the country's best conservative call centers.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Popma has also served as Executive Director for the Republican Party of Iowa, founding chair of Iowa Right to Life, and executive director of the Iowa Family Policy Center. She was the spokesperson for the McCaughy septuplets born in Iowa several years ago.

In her remarks at the dinner honoring this year's distinguished alumni, however, she calls herself first of all a wife, mom, and grandma.

Popma became involved with Right to Life in the early 80s. As a young wife and mother, she became actively involved in the Agape Christian Action Council in Northwest Iowa. During those years, she recalls feeling impatient that others didn't bring the same passion to fighting abortion that she did. Today she says she's learned that not everyone is called to be an activist—although she firmly believes that everyone is called to educate themselves on issues and vote in a way that reflects their deepest convictions.

"God has work for all of us," she says, believing that each person has the responsibility to do the best they can at whatever they choose to do. "Christ expects excellence," she says. "Ardent faith and love of the Lord can take you on an amazing journey if you're not afraid

of who you are because of him," she says. Popma recalls having that thought as she and her husband walked out of a Christmas party in the East Room of the White House some years ago.

Popma spent eight months during the last presidential election working in Virginia with John McCain's campaign as the National Director of Evangelical Outreach. Even though it was one of the most difficult jobs she has had, she believes she made the right decision in joining the campaign.

"Maybe the most important thing that came from it was leading a Wednesday night Bible study faithfully attended by 35–40 young campaign workers," she says, noting that it's not as hard to stand firmly for what you believe at 55 as it is at 25.

Popma's political work is driven by a strong faith and a worldview she learned at Dordt College, where she was a physical education major. She's motivated by the belief that God is sovereign over everyone and everything and that everything she does must honor and glorify him.

"The more I mature the more I understand how important it is to be cloaked in God's grace," she says. In a conversation with another political activist who she describes as being as far away from her politically as is possible, she told her she would pray for her husband, recently diagnosed with cancer. In the often rancorous world of partisan politics, Popma's unexpected and simple statement made an impact. Popma hopes

others will see what drives her and that they will experience Christ's love even if they disagree with her.

Among conservative political activists two approaches are emerging, Popma says. One she calls the "movement conservatives"—those who are engrossed in one issue, often lacking in love as they fight for it.

The other approach emphasizes social justice and is more pragmatic about bringing change, she believes.

"Over the years, especially the last three or four, I've realized that there is only one great commission," she says. "Our task is to be faithful, not to win."

Popma remains passionately committed to working for pro-life and other family issues, but she also believes that if people cannot see Christ in her actions, she fails.

"We need to be always watching out for ways, for example, to show that abortion



The more I mature the more I understand how important it is to be cloaked in God's grace.

—Marlys Popma

is wrong, but we need to think about how we can bring needed change." Sometimes that is in small steps—steps that may even seem like compromise at the time.

"Christ calls us to be salt and light," she says. She asks herself whether some of what she's done over the years is too much of one or the other. She'll keep working at being both.

SALLY JONGSMA



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