

Ag Stewardship Center Expands

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Recommended Citation

Frisbee, Liz () "Ag Stewardship Center Expands," *The Voice*: Vol. 67 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/voice/vol67/iss1/9>

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FACULTY NOTES

Professor of Music **Dr. Carrie Groenewold ('06)** performed

Howard Hanson's "Concerto for Organ, Harp, and Strings" at the Orpheum Theatre with the Sioux City Orchestra in March. She also presented "The Life and Music of Louis Vierne (1870-1937), in Celebration of 150 Years" in a virtual lecture-recital in collaboration with the South Dakota American Guild of Organists back in November.



This summer, Professor of Biology **Dr. Tony Jelsma** presented a talk titled "Understanding the Neurobiology of Gender and Sexuality" at the American Scientific Affiliation annual meeting.

In May, Professor of Worship Arts **Dr. Jeremy Perigo**

traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, to serve as a visiting lecturer at Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary. He was also featured at the Music in Worship Conference, an interdenominational worship conference that gathered churches across Ukraine and other Ukrainian-speaking pastors, musicians, and worship leaders from around the world.



Since last fall, Professor of Education **Dr. David Mulder ('98)** has presented 21 professional development webinars and virtual workshops for K-12 educators on the topic of promising practices for online teaching and learning. He worked with schools in Colorado, Kansas, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Iowa, and he held a series of webinars in conjunction with the Association for Christian Schools International that were attended by over 400 educators from around the world. Also, he and collaborators published an article titled "Assessing Digital Nativeness in Pre-Service Teachers: Analysis of the Digital Natives Assessment Scale and Implications for Practice," in the *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*, a top journal in the field of educational technology.

Frisbee: Ag Stewardship Center Expands



JAMIN VER VELDE ('99)

Construction is proceeding on new livestock and greenhouse facilities at Dordt's Agriculture Stewardship Center.

AG STEWARDSHIP CENTER EXPANDS

A new monoslope building will give students a large lab space to work with live animals, says Dr. Holly De Vries, assistant professor of agriculture. The building has only one slope to its roof, with a roof truss that is higher on the front side giving an open end facing south. A cattle working room with chutes will be located in the center of the facility, as well as a footbath for teaching bovine hoof care.



H. De Vries

And there will be plenty of live animals. In addition to the existing livestock at the facility, the Agriculture Department will collaborate with local dairy farmers to raise replacement heifers to between 10 and 16 months of age at the Agriculture Stewardship Center. In total, the facility will provide space for up to 200 dairy and beef cattle.

"This is going to give us state-of-the-art facilities for livestock and allow us to increase the livestock that are here year-round," says Gary De Vries, professor of agriculture and department chair.

"It will not only provide extensive hands-on work opportunities, but also bolster interdisciplinary and professional connections," says Dr. Holly De Vries. "Students will get to work alongside nutritionists, breeding companies, veterinarians, and other professionals to formulate and apply a care plan for the heifers."

Agriculture majors will also benefit from a new three-season greenhouse, starting plants from seed early in the spring

and maintaining them later into the fall semester than they are currently able to do. Professor of Agriculture Dr. Jeremy Hummel hopes to use the greenhouse to research stone fruit trees, like peach and apple trees, which will be part of the permanent collection and can be used for labs.

"Stone fruit trees do not grow well in Iowa, but they are a staple in places like California, so we want to be able to conduct research on them so our students can learn about this aspect of agriculture as well," says Gary De Vries.

The current construction also includes an 8,000 square foot commodity shed for feed storage.

There are also plans for a "flex" building, which can be used for a variety of purposes—a space where agriculture students might raise chickens for the Foods Connecting to Life. There will also be space in the building for lambs, giving Dordt students the opportunity to care for, feed, and breed these animals.

Dr. Holly De Vries hopes the renovations will also make Dordt feel more like home to students who come from farming families.

"One of the hardest parts about coming to college is leaving the home farm, because that's what they know and that's what they enjoy. We hope that these updates to the Agriculture Stewardship Center help it to feel more like home for students," she says.

LIZ FRISBEE ('23)