

Silver Maple Safely Removed

Joya Breems

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FACULTY NOTES

This summer, Professor of Music **Dr. Onsby Rose** presented "David Maslanka's Symphony No. 10: Commissioning, Completion, Performance, and Analysis" at the International Conference for the Research and Promotion of Wind Music in Bolzano, Italy, at the Claudio Monteverdi Conservatorium of Music. He also conducted clinics in Germany with three bands: Musikanten Vollmaringen, Bläserphilharmonie Zollernalb, and Stadtkapelle Rottenburg am Neckar.

Instructor of Business **Jesse Veenstra** was featured in Wallethub's article "Cheap Care Insurance in Iowa." It can be found at wallethub.com/cheap-car-insurance/iowa#experts=Jesse_Veenstra.



This summer, Professor of Nursing **Dr. Kate Vander Veen** worked at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon assisting in the physical therapy department, working with nursing staff, and accompanying program staff on outings. "It was one of the most fun, challenging summer jobs I have ever had," she says. "The experiences at the Village gave me a tremendous sense of serving my Lord as he asks us."

Professor of Biology **Dr. Tony Jelsma** published an article entitled "An Attempt to Understand the Biology of Gender and Gender Dysphoria: A Christian Approach" in the *Journal Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. He also gave a talk on the same subject at the annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation.



Professor of Engineering **Dr. Jonathan Gingrich** successfully defended his dissertation in September. The title of his completed dissertation is "Utilization of Low-Cost Monitors and Satellite Remote Sensing to Better Understand the Spatiotemporal Variations of PM2.5."

Breems: Silver Maple Safely Removed

SILVER MAPLE SAFELY REMOVED

The leaves of a large silver maple tree west of the Ribbens Academic Complex are just starting to turn. The tree is large; the trunk measures 25 feet in circumference. Caution tape and orange cones surround the tree. Craig Van Otterloo prepares for the tree's removal. When measuring the tree, he inserts a tape measure 11 feet into the crack. It's hollow inside. The tree must go.

"The tree poses a significant threat to life and limb, as well as vehicles, and will need to be removed soon," says Howard Wilson, vice president for university operations, in an email to Dordt employees.

The tree is a landmark on campus. Emeritus Professor of Biology Dr. Delmar Vander Zee thinks the tree must be at least 100 years old.

"If it must go, we might wring our hands about it, but it's clearly going to fall," says Vander Zee. "A good storm will take it down."

When Dordt first purchased the land the tree lives on, the tree was slated to become part of a parking lot. Ron Rynders, an administrative staff member at the time, organized a faculty objection to having the tree removed.

"I bemoaned the fact that the tree that had watched our entire community develop over the years would disappear," Rynders says.

His arguments were convincing; several staff and faculty, especially those with office windows facing the tree, wrote emails that "sprouted like weeds."

Eventually, Dordt incorporated the tree into the parking plan. It would live on.

"The effort was based in wanting to preserve our history, plus a large dose of environmental agreement that the tree would be able to serve us well," says Rynders.

Around 15 years ago, Dordt's maintenance



JAMIN VERVELDE (99)

The tree was one of the oldest in Sioux County and took several days to remove.

department put a metal stint into some of the tree's upper branches and sealed several small cracks with foam, hoping to preserve the tree for as long as possible.

"We did everything we could," Van Otterloo says. "The cycle of life has run its course."

The tree rotted from water seeping through the cracks, leaving every branch hollow. Van Otterloo says that taking down a tree like this is a "huge safety risk." Cutting off one branch could unbalance the rest of the tree, causing it to topple uncontrollably.

Vander Zee has a history of preserving trees. When maintenance took down several elm trees on campus because of the invasive emerald ash borer beetle, Vander Zee collected seeds to preserve the elms. The Science and Technology Center is home to a slab table that Vander Zee made from a removed ash tree.

Although he hoped the maple would have an undamaged section large enough to construct something, the tree was entirely rotten inside.

Van Otterloo plans to plant new trees in its place.

JOYA BREEMS ('24)

This article has been modified from the original published in the September 30 edition of the Diamond, Dordt's student newspaper.