

Dordt College

Gary Eriks

In the middle of the cows, pigs, corn, and manure of northwest Iowa lies the beautiful 45-acre campus of Dordt College. Dordt is located in Sioux Center, Iowa, a growing city of about 5000. Dordt has approximately 1100 students, some of whom have come from many different countries, such as Nigeria, The Netherlands, Canada, Honduras, and many other places. The more than seventy faculty members give Dordt about a 16:1 student to faculty ratio. Dordt's faculty cares for the students by making themselves available for personal help. Dordt also has more than 40 majors (not including MRS) ranging from agriculture to engineering to business. Dordt was founded to train teachers and today education is still a strong program as well as a very popular major.

As enrollment increases, Dordt continues updating and improving the campus for the students. One of the dorms has recently been renovated and a new apartment building is under construction to be ready in 1994. A sports complex is also in the plans for the future. Most of the students live on campus making Dordt a close-knit body. Walking down the sidewalk on campus, students greet each other with a friendly hello, something not seen on many other college campuses. Dordt also provides activities for students to get involved and acquainted with one another. Dordt provides intramurals, a fall retreat, Sunday night cookies and weekend concerts and activities. I will not lie and say that there are activities and things to do all the time. Sometimes the most fun is had by using your imagination to come up with something unique.

Although I like Dordt for its atmosphere, Dordt's philosophy and purpose are rooted on different principles from what is usually known as Reformed. Most of the professors at Dordt stress the "reformational worldview" of developing and caring for this earth in obedience to the creational mandate. Because we were created to be on this earth and because heaven will someday be this earth, sin excepted, they want to go out reforming this world. This philosophy has permeated all the disciplines of the school. Most of the professors do not force this philosophy on the students, but they want to challenge you to have beliefs that are rooted in Scripture. This has been a good experience for me because it has made my beliefs stronger.

I would recommend Dordt college because it challenges students in their faith, in their studies, and in their Christian walk. What impressed me about Dordt is the friendliness and caring attitude of the whole college. If you would like more information about Dordt College, the phone number is (712)722-3771, and the address is: Dordt College, 498 4th Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250.

Gary is a member of Peace Protestant Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois. He is currently taking college courses with a view to studying for the ministry.

Originally Published in:
Vol. 54 No. 4 April 1995