Hope mourns students killed in plane crash

Lindsey Bandy  
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

The first Gathering of spring semester looked very different than all of campus was expecting when the Jan. 17 service at the last minute was turned into a somber event in memory of David Otai ('10) and Emma Biagioni ('11) who died tragically in a plane crash that morning.

As students began to check their e-mails around 5 p.m. on Sunday, they found that two dearly loved classmates and friends had passed away earlier.

Authorities found the single engine plane in a cornfield miles away from Tulip City Airport after a distress call was made. The two Hope students were pronounced dead at the scene.

Trygve Johnson, dean of the chapel, along with other members of the campus ministry's office led the student body in a service of prayer. The tearful students flooded pews were packed with students seeking understanding and comfort as they grieved and processed the horrific news.

Johnson offered words of assurance on Sunday, "God has not abandoned us. When there's too much to bear, there's God, interceding for us.

In reference to the mourning across campus, Bryant Russ ('11) said "All the teary eyes are a testimony to the special place they held in so many hearts. They both lived big lives and will be missed."

Alfredo Gonzalez, associate provost and dean for international studies, told the Grand Rapids Press, "It's a great institutional and family loss. There's a lot of pain. We have to hold each other up and pray and try to make sense of something that's so difficult to understand."

To help students grieve, the Counseling Offices, Student Development, and Campus Ministries cleared all appointments to be open for the needs of students.

Members of the Hope community said that they will remember both Biagioni and Otai for their contagious smiles and friendly personalities. However, these memories are not sufficient for the lives they led.

Lindsay Alward ('11) said "David and Emma lived their life in the present and showed us the true meaning of compassion. They taught us how to appreciate each day, as it is a gift from God."

The college arranged transportation to Christ Community Church in St. Charles, Ill, for Biagioni's memorial service on Monday.

There will be a service at Hope today at 7:15 p.m. in Dimnent Chapel. On Sunday there will be a service for Otai at 8 p.m. in Dimnent Chapel.

Civil Rights week celebrates many cultures

Chris Russ  
GUEST WRITER

This year's Civil Rights Celebration at Hope College, aiming to foster a sense of togetherness, began Friday, Jan. 15, with the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon.

"MLK was not just about America, as well as reminding all in attendance of the instances of tragedy and suffering that occurred during the movement."

When asked if they felt that Hope was doing a good job of promoting cultural and racial awareness, both Gates and Josh Brubaker-Salcedo ('12), an executive board member of the Hope organization, La Raza Unida, said the college is making improvements. Gates especially noted the positive environment fostered by the Phelps Scholars Program but said she "didn't always see the same climate modeled elsewhere on campus."

Brubaker-Salcedo and Gates also agreed on the importance of working together. They said that not only is it critical that Hope reach out to the students, but the students also need to respond and take part, and the concept of collaboration is very important to the success of the celebration.

"MLK was not just about black rights," said Gates. "God doesn't call us to only fight for our own." She added that this celebration should be something that the entire campus can get behind.

In his closing words at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon, Alfredo Gonzalez, associate provost and dean for international students, said: "The quest for justice is never done. The quest for justice is never done. As long as race is a dividing line, there will be a need to continue this quest."

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CAMPUS

Study abroad deadline is Feb. 1

God's children members visit Rwandan orphanage

Gretchen Baldwin

While most Hope College students braved the bitter cold of the Midwest over Christmas break, a few lucky ones escaped to sunnier skies for two of the three weeks. Unlike some break trips, however, the warmth and tanning opportunities were not the motivation behind the plane tickets. Lindsay Allward (‘11), Luke Tubergen (‘11), Rebecca Currey (‘11) and Jake Bajema (‘11), as well as Dr. Annie Dandavati and Dr. David DeVissier, of the political science and chemistry departments, respectively, traveled to Kigali, Rwanda, as part of Hope for All God’s Children.

What was their purpose? To test the waters for a June term as well as spend time with Rwandan orphans still affected by the 1994 genocide.

Hope for All God’s Children began in January 2009, and has since attracted around 40 student members. One of the group’s main goals is to work with a number of already-established non-profits to provide for needy children around the world, with a current focus on Rwanda. 

Nkabure Children’s Village is one such non-profit. Founded in 2008 by Floriane Robins-Brown, this orphanage opens itself up to Rwandan children who seem without hope, many of whom, like the rest of the nation, are still experiencing the effects of the country’s devastating 1994 genocide.

In the last year Hope for All God’s Children has partnered with Robins-Brown and her husband to, in the words of the students’ mission statement, “directly apply (their) studies and utilize (their) resources... (and) to encourage servant leadership in a global society.”

After a full year of hard work to build a recognized Hope College student organization, it is hard to imagine anything that could have appealed more to the four members who went on the trip than actually meeting the children they had been serving.

The Hope for All God’s Children program provided new insight necessary to continue its success in the coming months. The amount of work they accomplished in a short two-week period will be invaluable when furthering projects such as study abroad expansion and orphanage aid.

Along with their visit of NCV, the four were able to visit other area orphanages, dialogue with Rwandan government officials, investigate possible connections needed for future Hope College Rwanda terms and explore the beautiful “land of a thousand hills.”

Their willingness to embrace a spirit of openness, to take promises to open up a world of new involvement and travel opportunities for other Hope students.

Information on Hope for All God’s Children and the Rwanda trip can be found at rwandatrip-rcurrey.blogspot.com.

I was able to feel the culture and differences much more personally,” said Gosses. “I was often given many opportunities to engage in open, honest, intellectual conversation that were sometimes limited at Hope due to political or religious assumptions.”

Colten said, “I think you can get a lot of perspectives at Hope. You can get a wide variety of perspectives, but until you go there, you can’t really understand what goes on there. You really have to go somewhere to have a heart for it. I have a much bigger heart for South Africa than before I went.”

While studying in South Africa, Colten also had to overcome a language barrier and learn to speak Zulu.

“It was uncomfortable learning a new language, but it was a sign of respect to their culture. It showed we wanted to learn about the culture, not just visit. Most people were happy to see Americans speaking their language,” said Colten.

Both Colten and Gosses had positive experiences off-campus and see the potential for more opportunities of approaching off-campus study with cultural interest and an open mind.

Gosses said, “In the Hope off-campus study program booklet there is a line about not expecting things to be like home because you left home to find new things. It is imperative you remember this every day. If there is no ranch dressing in London, that’s okay!”

continued from previous page

Ami Sokup

When students decide to attend college, they usually step outside their comfort zone, their “bubble,” to do so. Students must adjust, settle and then? Maybe it comes time to burst the bubble again.

With Hope College’s off-campus study program, students have access to over 200 programs in over 60 countries. To take advantage of these opportunities, however, filling out an application is a necessary first step. Feb. 1 marks the off-campus study application deadline for the fall 2011 semester.

Amy Otis-De Grau of the off-campus study office said about 50 percent of each graduating class at Hope participates in an off-campus study program of some kind, whether domestic or international.

Two students who will be part of that 50 percent are Sara Gosses (‘11) and James Colten (‘11). Gosses studied theater while participating in the IES London program in the spring of 2009 and continued off-campus study through the New York Arts Program in the fall. Colten recently returned from a semester in South Africa where he studied reconciliation and social change.

Many concerns arise for students who consider off-campus study. Before choosing to study in London, Gosses worried about the extra cost and about being able to pay back her student loans when she graduated.

“While talking with friends and family members, I was helped to realize that if I don’t do this now I might never do this,” Gosses said. “It might take me over 30 years to go to Europe, like it took my parents. My adventure spirit was biting at the bit. I had to go. I’d make it work.”

Otis-De Grau said students o f f e r

s c h o l a r s h i p s to help alleviate costs. She said the IES program alone has over $2 million to give out to its participants.

Gosses also had the concern of missing friends and family while away, but she bought a camera for her computer and was able to talk with students back home because you left home to find new things. It is imperative you remember this every day. If there is no ranch dressing in London, that’s okay!”

Tova Friedman, a holocaust survivor in the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz. The film is the 65th anniversary of the camp’s liberation. Friedman will open. Tickets are $25 for the general public and $12 for Hope students. Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 7:15 p.m.

The Savvy Graduate: a workshop for graduating seniors will be presented by Dr. Michael Edmondson and Dr. Rosina Miller. RSVP by emailing careers@hope.edu. Winants Auditorium, Graves Hall, 4 p.m.

Hope College Concert Series presents “Passages.” Judean Claiborne will open. Tickets are $25 for the general public and $12 for Hope students. Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 9 p.m.

Friday

Screening and Discussion of “Seven Passages” The departments of English, religion and theatre sponsored a free screening of the film “Seven Passages” with a panel discussion to follow. DeVitt Center main theatre, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Memorial Service for David Otal in the Maas Center Auditorium. Graves Hall, 4 p.m.

BRIEF

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR SPEAKS AT HOPE

Tova Friedman, a holocaust survivor, will speak at Hope College Wednesday, Jan. 27, which is the 65th anniversary of Friedman’s liberation from the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz. The event will include a screening of the PBS documentary, “Surviving Auschwitz: Children of the Shoah,” and a question-and-answer session with Friedman who will immediately follow the screening.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. in the Maas Center Auditorium and will end with a reception in the Maas Center conference room at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited and admission is free.

DEPARTMENTS HOST SCREENING OF “SEVEN PASSAGES”

Hope College’s English, religion and theatre departments are presenting a free screening of the film “Seven Passages” Friday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. in the DeVitt Center main theatre. The film includes seven biblical passages addressing same-sex relations along with a script taken from interviews with 127 Christians in West Michigan.

Following the screening will be a panel discussion with director/playwright Stephanie Sandberg, Jean Bahle, an actor in the film and assistant professor of theatre, Dr. David Myers, professor of psychology; and Dr. Steven Hoogerwerf, associate professor of religion. “Seven Passages” was originally commissioned as a play by Actors’ Theatre in Grand Rapids and performed in the fall of 2007.

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Haiti devastated by magnitude 7.0 earthquake

Capital of Port-au-Prince, struck by record-setting earthquake, still enduring aftershocks

Amy Alvine
Staff Writer

Just before 5 p.m. on Jan. 12, the country of Haiti was hit with a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake and over 30 aftershocks. Striking about 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, the earthquake brought a surreal level of destruction to buildings, imperative cultural landmarks and the frail Haitian government.

The realities of death are inescapable as dead bodies are found littering the streets and overflowing in mass graves. “We have already collected around 50,000 dead bodies,” said Haitian Interior Minister Paul Antoine Bien-Aime three days after the initial earthquake. “We anticipate there will be between 100,000 and 200,000 dead in total ...” That estimation has since increased to between 200,000 and 300,000 dead.

With an unimaginable death toll and much of Port-au-Prince flattened, the recent earthquake in Haiti is considered to be one of the top 10 earthquakes in history. Even though the 72-hour post-earthquake window, in which those who may still be trapped beneath the wreckage can feasibly be rescued, has passed, many continued to race against the clock, trying to uncover anyone who remains buried under the rubble.

Despite the turmoil that arose from the death and destruction, hundreds of people took to the streets of Port-au-Prince and joined in a chorus of chanting and singing. People marched down the street, exhibiting the resiliency of their collective voice.

There are 3 million people alone in Port-au-Prince, with thousands of these individuals currently inhabiting the Champs de Mars Square, who are without access to food, water, electricity and vital medical treatment.

With the most important priority currently being to get food, water and tents to the survivors, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is petitioning the international community for $550 million USD to meet the imperative needs of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

This crisis has made the need for aid in Haiti even more urgent and various organizations and countries are responding to the call. Donations to Haiti via text messages and social networking sites are raising awareness of the crisis in Haiti at a rapid speed.

Supreme Court Court lifts corporate restrictions on campaign financing

Eric Anderson
Co-National News Editor

In a decision that could have major effects on the upcoming midterm elections as well as the entire American political landscape, the Supreme Court has ruled that the government cannot regulate campaign donations by corporations.

The 5-4 decision overturns a number of significant campaign finance laws that have been passed in the recent decade, most notably the McCain-Feingold Campaign Reform Act of 2002. The dispute stems from arguments over whether or not spending by corporations were protected as free speech, just as spending by individual citizens is protected.

This spending does not include direct donations to a candidate’s campaign. It does include giving corporations more freedom when it comes to independent spending projects that, while not being directly affiliated with a candidate, would support or oppose a candidate. Those in support of the ruling contend that this spending is an extension of free speech that the federal government has no authority over. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote in support of the decision that lobbyists and corporations were “... associations of citizens...” and that the First Amendment “... prohibits Congress from fining or jailing citizens, or associations of citizens, for simply engaging in political speech.”

On the other hand, critics of the decision believe that the lack of regulation will allow corporations to pour large amounts of money into the election process. Although the vote was narrow, eight of the nine justices agreed that corporations could be required by Congress to report their spending, which would include adding disclaimers to their advertisements.

In response to the decision, President Barack Obama remarked that the ruling represented, “a major victory for big oil, Wall Street banks, health insurance companies and the other powerful interests that marshal their power every day in Washington to drown out the voices of everyday Americans.”

Obama went on to add that the lack of campaign finance legislation would be “... a green light to a new stampede of special interest money in our politics.”

The case stems from the 2008 presidential primaries, where a highly critical documentary entitled “Hillary: The Movie” was not allowed to be shown.

David Bossie, was eager to operate under the new legislation. Bossie plans to release a new documentary entitled “Generation Zero” which will be produced by the conservative nonprofit corporation Citizens United, was reportedly disallowed, because it would have been shown too close to the primary elections, and because it was not directly affiliated with a campaign or with the media.

This restriction was put in place by the McCain-Feingold Campaign Reform Act of 2002 and was intended to give special interests a window to influence elections — a window that would not run up to the actual elections.

Senators Russ Feingold, D-Wisc., and John McCain, R-Ariz., both expressed disappointment with the decision. Sen. Feingold went so far as to call the ruling, “… a terrible mistake.” However, the man who initially brought forward the case to defend the Citizens United documentary, David Bossie, was eager to operate under the new legislation. Bossie plans to release the film in time for the coming midterm elections.

This ruling is a terrible mistake.

(During Feingold's Defense)
President Obama insisted last Friday that he will continue to work with Congress on a health care overhaul plan.

"There are things that have to get done," Obama told AP reporters Friday at a town hall meeting in Elyria, Ohio. "We can't keep on perfecting it."

Democratic efforts recently took a turn with the election of Republican Sen. Scott Brown as the new senator of Massachusetts. Brown's election gives Republicans 41 votes, allowing them to filibuster Democratic bills, including the health care overhaul in the Senate.

"If Brown wins, it'll kill the health bill," Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., told AJC news reporters Friday at a town hall meeting in Elyria, Ohio. "We had a little bit of a buzz saw effect." Brown's victory "will be dropped if not scrapped on Friday, "but I have to admit, we had a little bit of a buzz saw this week."

The Washington Post reported Saturday that Democrats have drawn up other methods to pass the health care overhaul. Democrats may be able to employ a U.S. House of Representatives budget measure that only requires a majority vote to actually pass the health care bill. This process blocks any sort of Republican delay tactics.

With 236 Democrats to 178 Republicans in the House, Democrats would have little trouble passing a bill that would mirror that of the Senate, enabling them to send the bill to the White House.

While some Democratic leaders agree with the idea, several leading news sources, including the New York Times and the Washington Post, reported Friday that such a rushed decision would undoubtedly have to endure a significant amount of public scrutiny and cause huge amounts of backlash from Republicans in the future.

Even so, Democrats were still confident Saturday as they reiterated their efforts to create and pass a health care reform bill.

"This is our best chance to do it," Obama said. "I'm not going to walk away from it just because it's hard."

The expected Massachusetts Senate win has resulted in growing concern among President Obama's administration due to the importance of Brown's seat in the current health care legislation.

Despite much doubt in the Republican Party winning the Senate seat in Massachusetts, the GOP has capitalized on its momentum by tapping into frustration over the mounting deficit, taxes and big business bailouts.

The Republican Party's goal is to gain more momentum and move Republican Congressional positions and governor offices across the country following Scott Brown's victory.

According to Republican National Committee Chairman Michael S. Steele, Brown's victory in the special election for the US Senate in Massachusetts shows our party is getting back on the map in the country when we have a principled, conservative candidate.


defeated Democratic candidate Martha Coakley by sending it throughout the political landscape, as well as to dim the prospects of passing a health care reform bill.

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Senate leader apologizes for insensitive remarks

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Petar Jankovic: Classical guitarist with a classy performance

Lindsey Wolf
Asst. Arts Editor

On Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m., classical guitarist Petar Jankovic silently took a seat on a cushioned bench in the center of the stage at the Knickerbocker Theatre and began his remarkable performance in front of a crowd of eager Hope students and West Michigan residents.

For the next hour, Jankovic, dressed in a bright red silk shirt, black pants and black shoes, entertained the audience with a variety of romantic Spanish music written by composers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The first piece Jankovic played was "Cinq Preludes," a series of introductory preludes by Brazilian composer Henor Villa-Lobos. Written in 1940, "Cinq Preludes" displays the folk music of Villa-Lobos' native Brazil. For his second piece, Jankovic played Federico Moreno Torroba's "Sonatina in A mayor." The sonatina consists of three movements: "Allegretto," "Andante" and "Allegro." Moreno Torroba, a Spanish composer, was best known for his use of the zarzuela, a traditional Spanish lyric-dramatic genre.

Isaac Albéniz's well-known "Asturias" was performed next. Even though the piece was written for the piano, Jankovic proved that the lively piece can be played on the guitar just as well.

Jankovic explained his fourth piece, Roland Dyens' "Libra Sonatina," written in 1986, in the greatest detail. The three movements of the sonatine tell the story of the French composer's heart surgery.

The accents, rhythm changes, and fragmented style of the first movement, "India," demonstrate Dyens' painful heart attack. The melody gradually descends in the second movement, "Largo," which is representative of Dyens' operation itself.

The sonatine concludes with an energetic third movement, "Fuoco," which is Italian for "fire." With examples like pearls strung together, or the crystal formation of a budding flower-like sculpture in hand-carved paper, metal and natural woven elements, which explore the delicacy of nature, the beauty of light and the transition of light and space.

The style began with a class in katazome, a Japanese term that means "pattern dying." Lindsey uses hand-made paper and a razor to stencil decorative designs on her pieces. The paper is then

Jennifer Falck Linssen ‘captures light’ through contemporary paper sculptures

Annelise Belmonte
Arts Editor

The first thing that most people will probably notice when they walk into DePree Center’s regular gallery hours are Mondays through Saturday, or 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. After a round of applause from the enthusiastic audience, Jankovic played "Tango Shai" by Roland Dyens as his encore. Jankovic's performance has been described as "an amazing and extraordinary range of dynamics" and as "romance in sound" by the Herald Times in Bloomington, Ind. Seated with his guitar cradled in his lap, Linssen portrayed one of her handmade paper sculptures through curves and textures in "Soft Caress."水做的在图形。在林森的艺术家陈述部分,她说:“The plant ones are my favorite, because they’re just so perfectly textured.”(Fiber pieces) honestly have the texture of a leaf. Or say, you hold a leaf up to the light, it has that sort of see-through quality that’s surprisingly beautiful in nature.

There are many surprises in Linsen's performance that one might not even notice without looking at the list of materials used. In a few of her pieces, freshwater pearls peek out from deep beneath the layers of hand-carved paper. A common theme with Linsen's work is the hidden beauty in nature. In her plant-focused series, one budding flower-like sculpture called “Unzipped” has just barely watered in the inside of the plant, creating a healthy vibrant green color on its petals.

After a round of applause, Linssen opened Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m., with a reception in the main gallery. Linssen’s exhibit opened Jan. 15 with a reception in the main gallery.

In her artist statement, Linsen explained how she creates her unique sculptures in hand-carved paper, metal and natural woven elements, which explore the delicacy of nature, the beauty of light and the transition of light and space.

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Linsen’s at DePree Center through Friday, Feb. 12. DePree Art Center’s regular gallery hours are Mondays through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.
In loving memory...

Emma Biagioni and David Otai

“Events in time are not boom—over. They have tentacles, and they wrap around, and they swish back and forth.” —Amy Fuselknon

One cannot put 300 words to a life. This is because life is not this way. It cannot be packaged this way. It would not be accurate enough. Several years ago, I learned the two Greek words for time, Chronos and Kairos. As a Western white male, I know what chronos is. It means instantaneous time; it means being on-time time.

David and I shared many interests in guitar, media, Christian missions, and Africa (most specifically Uganda). He and I spent many hours translating and editing footage in my dorm room for a documentary film. This spawned into evening burgers, guitar jam sessions, and longer conversations. Through these experiences, I learned his most remarkable story of brokenness, betrayal, exile, love and yearning.

When we set up our meetings for editing the film or to just hang out, I would say a time and he would respond with, “Africa Time or U.S. Time?” By this he meant, can I arrive an hour late or do I need to be there on time? We would always joke about Africa and my experiences there, especially how in Africa time is different. For Da-

vid, and I will never forget this, time was distinctly different. By this I do not mean he was simply late for things— but that he viewed time less as a commodity—something to have to lose but more as a fluid or air. Amy Fuselknon in her book, titled it says,

“the nature of time itself… is plastic, and around and in the human body at all times, like air.” David understood this way. He saw life through Kairos time, he understood time in the tentacles of memory or the swish back and forth of our hearts. When time went inside of him, to his lungs, it then came out and became the medium for which his relationships existed— the give and take of the air between people or love that permeates all defenses.

It is this unique understanding of time that was so counter-cultural about David, so Christ-like, so transformative, so deeply moving, so incredibly risky, so laugh-out-loud hilarious, and so shake-you-to-your-core—bring-a-grown-man-to-tears beautiful about him.

- David Moore ’09

I miss hearing your laugh. I miss your smile and joy for life. I miss our conversations that consisted of English, Spanish and Swahili. I miss texting you ridiculous ideas and your responses that you bring—agrown-man—to-tears beautiful about him.

- Zoe Lalo ’11

More memories on page 10
Parentheticalities

Kalli Doud
Columnist

Loonette

Clowned it right

While spending somewhere around 40 percent of my day in class, I felt my inner selftalking to itself in a language I could understand. I had been following the news and I knew that the situation was serious. The heat is starting to really heat up in the office where I work. I can't imagine not getting in a nice, cool, air-conditioned environment to work in. It is just too hot to be productive. I found myself subconsciously leaning toward such an existence, but there is never any harm in spending a little while in blissful repose, at least to power up for the rest of the day. Good things come to those who relax!

Kalli would like everyone to know that nap assistance can now be obtained by means of your Snuggie for Christmas: your gift is so 2009. Great things come to those who relax!

The heat tends to be slightly above room temperature — an excellent napping space. I can't imagine not getting in a nice, cool, air-conditioned environment to work in. It is just too hot to be productive. I found myself subconsciously leaning toward such an existence, but there is never any harm in spending a little while in blissful repose, at least to power up for the rest of the day. Good things come to those who relax!

Karen Patterson and Emily West
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Two lives: a stirring testament

The Anchor is no stranger to difficult situations – controversy and tragedy have been an integral part of our relationship with the college community. However, tragedy has never hit quite so close to home as it did last week when David Otai and Emma Biagioni were taken from us so suddenly and unexpectedly. The tremendous influence these two students had on campus, if not obvious before, has become unmistakable in their absence. David and Emma were beloved friends, classmates and students.

Specifically, Emma was a bright spot on our newspaper staff, a reliable, engaging, wonderful person. Emma was a person of great presence; that is, when she was in the room, she wasn’t necessarily the focus, but she was impossible to miss. Despite having the nickname “Petite Emma,” there was nothing small about her love of life or dedication to the things important to her. As the national co-editor for The Anchor, Emma was adept and creative. At the beginning of the year when issues arose that could not have been foreseen

Two lives: a stirring testament

by the staff, Emma handled the situation with grace of a seasoned pro, not as a new editor trying to learn the ins and outs of a newspaper. Her knowledge and experience with local, national and global happenings brought an invaluable perspective to the staff. She was always able to take a step back and see the big picture. This helped the rest of us, blinded by the immediate issues in front of us, to look up and ahead with discernment and understanding. Nobody who ever spoke with Emma for more than two minutes knew that she was someone who could be trusted. In the world of journalism, where many are afraid to come out and say exactly what they are thinking, Emma was unafraid to tactfully state her position and make others feel comfortable stating theirs.

And when she saw room for improvement, she took the initiative to advocate for corrective change. When few others were willing to be critical about bias issues or deal with difficult situations, she stepped forward. While she was never afraid to put herself out there, Emma always puts others at ease with her beautiful smile and love of life. Running into her on campus or in the office was always a pleasant experience, because even when something was not perfect, she did not let it affect how she treated others. Her smile and laugh had the ability to brighten even the roughest day. Emma was not naive to the ugly injustices of this world, but she was a person of incredible hope. So while it is easy to see the injustice in her life being cut short, she inspires us to celebrate the joy, faith, hope and love she exuded and the gift her presence was for those who knew her and worked alongside her. Despite working with The Anchor for just one semester, her impact will be felt for many semesters to come as the seeds she planted come to fruition.

As each of us in the campus community at large continues to grapple with the loss of David and Emma, may we remember the activities they both were involved in, the people they loved and how they inspired and changed the lives of those they came into contact with. We will miss Emma, as an incredible member of our staff, as an incredible friend and as an incredible human being.

Emily and Karen are grateful beyond words to the editorial staff of The Anchor for their poise and continued effort through this difficult time. You all make our jobs so rewarding.

Write Letters to the Editors

If you are passionate about an issue, concerned about a problem or excited to share an idea: Email letters to anchor@hope.edu

To the Editors:

I am so saddened to read about the administration’s decision to not allow Dustin Lance Black to facilitate a discussion about homosexuality on campus. As a granddaughter, niece and cousin of many Hope alumni, I can speak confidently of the fact that many of those people would be sincerely disappointed by the decision made. This decision does not seem to be in keeping with Christian principles of tolerance and loving kindness. I am once again confused by a Christian group who preaches one thing and does another against a group who has already suffered so much discrimination.

I really encourage the students to demand an opportunity to discuss an issue that is very real and alive and will be present for many of them, either personally, in the workplace or in their neighborhoods. On the legal side, I cannot agree to this a first amendment right, the right to free speech!

I really thought Hope College was a safe haven. I guess not, especially personally, in the workplace or in their neighborhoods. On the legal side, I cannot admit to this a first amendment right, the right to free speech!

Sincerely,
Carol Wichers

Letter to the Editors

Disappointed about discrimination

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I really thought Hope College was a safe haven. I guess not, especially if you’re gay.

Sincerely,
Carol Wichers
Quote for thought
Kate Schrampfer
Columnist

Fact or fiction?
FACT: I read a lot more, in terms of “fun books,” when I’m home than at school.

Biggie Smalls? There really isn’t much time to read purely for entertainment when you have tons of textbooks waiting for you. The tempting worlds that sit behind the covers of mysteries, fantasies, romances and adventure books must be abandoned for the dry, dusty speculations of the real world of textbooks. Sure, those real-world things can be interesting and are certainly important, but the allure is not the same. Given a choice between “The Lord of the Rings” and “Where the Red Fern Grows” or “The Moral Measure of the Economy” and “Thomas’ Calculus: Early Transcendentals: Part One,” I’m pretty sure most people would choose the first two.

But the choice isn’t always up to us. As students, we have to read textbooks to learn about our own world. We’re stuck here. Now personally, I don’t mind that, but I do like to have my soju-soars in book-worlds. It seems to me that I learn as much about my life from my “fun books” as I do from the textbooks. Fiction mirrors reality.

When I was home for Christmas break, I watched “The Return of the King” with my family. I’ve read the book numerous times and the ending always gets me (Frodo sailing away with the elves). As usual, I got choked up watching the maple leaves fly high. As I watched the four hobbits saying goodbye, I started thinking about the kind of friends Frodo had. Merry and Pippin, who both fought battles way bigger than they could have imagined in order to help Frodo, and Sam, who offered everything he had to Frodo to help him. Sure, he was fat and clumsy, shy and awkward, but he loved Frodo.

How many of my relationships with my friends are deep enough, strong enough, to withstand all that Frodo and his friends went through? Would any of my friends see past my faults the way Frodo saw Sam’s? And would I be able to do the same for them? Would I offer the same sacrifices? I hope so. Frodo learned for his friend like this. I didn’t read all this in some psychology book about interpersonal relationships. These fictional, made-up creatures called “hobbits” taught me a lot about the real world. I want my friends to be like this. I want to be a friend like this.

Jessemyn West said that “Fiction reveals truth that reality obscures.” So true. Would I have paused to consider the way I related to my friends if I hadn’t read “The Lord of the Rings”? If you had asked me before break to tell you about my friends, I’d have said I loved them. They are great, and we have tons of fun together. I would have meant it. But now I’m way more committed to strengthening those relationships than I was, because I want the love and loyalty that comes with them.

FACT: “Fun books” teach too. Make time for them.

Katie would like to thank Liz and Sara for the book title suggestions she used ... and is open to any recommendations on good reads.

The foreign journey
Amanda Gernitz

Defying gravity: Preparations, waiting and “Glee”

What does it feel like to be preparing to go abroad? There is a plethora of intense emotions. Sometimes, I feel like I’m on a rollercoaster, but the preparations, overall, are very exciting. I’ve been spending my time reading guidebooks and trying to fit my life in a single suitcase, while the people I’ve spent my last five time reading guidebooks and trying to fit my life in a single suitcase, while the people I’ve spent my last five.

I admit, I was slightly embarrassed by what I saw: Kanye West steals Taylor Swift’s thunder at MTV’s VMA. Colorado’s balloon boy stung staged for selection to reality TV show. Tiger Woods alleged of affairs with nine mistresses. Enraged Serena Williams threatens to shove tennis ball down line judge’s throat.

With headlines such as these, America shall undoubtedly remain known as “The land of the free and the home of the brave.”

In several ways, I think much of our contemporary society has lost sight of its fundamental precepts. The notion of a democratic, “free” nation was first established by the Athenians two and a half millennia ago. While such a society emphasized individual freedoms and rights for all citizens, fundamental to its success was the Greek notion of sophrosuné. Sophrosuné most closely resembles the idea of self-control or discipline; it implies living by self-enforced limits and striving for social harmony. This phenomenon was key to the Athenians’ establishment of the first successful democracy and its enduring framework for future civilizations.

News headlines like the ones I saw that night really make me wonder if we have lost our sense of sophrosuné within “free” society. It seems that more and more, individual freedoms are exploited in the absence of limits and discipline. The societal repercussions of such make our country unique among the nations of today’s world.

The facts speak for themselves. We have one of the highest divorce rates in the world, nearly 45 percent. We are in the top tier of cases of economic stratification. Our homicide rate tops the charts in comparison to other industrialized nations. Though the United States only contains 5 percent of the world’s population, we make up 25 percent of the world’s incarcerated. If we were more disciplined in exercising our freedoms, could some of these U.S. idiocies or idiosyncrasies be lessened?

Allow me, then, to believe that both the individual and society as a whole would benefit from more personal exercise of sophrosuné. It may seem sacrificial upfront, but by actively restraining some of our acts of legal narcissism, perhaps we can achieve greater societal repose.

What I am trying to suggest is that perhaps we should be more introspective and conscious of our actions. While our democracy grants us many rights, we need to be careful how we use them. We should accept our freedom with a sense of humility and responsibility, rather than with a sense of empowerment and liberation. While our rights entitle us to many vehicles for fulfilling personal desires, we should be more circumspect in considering the consequences of doing so.

Blair is thankful for his democratic freedoms and will utilize them to participate in volunteer service work in Japan this summer.

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Always plan to carry everything, and I mean everything, important with you. I filled an entire binder with information from the University of Aberdeen that I was told to keep handy while traveling. The problem with this plan? It greatly decreases my freedom of movement. There has been a lot of fear involved, especially as the great unknown or something cliché like that, but I can’t. There has been a lot of fear involved, especially as the great unknown or something cliché like that, but I can’t. There has been a lot of fear involved, especially as the great unknown or something cliché like that, but I can’t.
I had the pleasure of meeting Emma Biagioni for the first time when she was a freshman at Hope College. Emma came to my office and introduced herself to me. She struck me as a self-confident, yet humble individual with a cheerful personality. The reason for her visit was to ask me if she could set up an appointment to interview me about some questions she had regarding the Dining Services department. She and another student would be producing a video for a class and they would be their subject matter. We proceeded with the project and met several times. Emma was not afraid to dig deep and ask pointed questions in order to satisfy her research. At the same time, she was always respectful, pleasant and wanted everyone to win as a result of their work. She and her friend finished the work and shared it with me for my approval before submitting it to their professor. I grew to appreciate, respect and admire Emma through this process. I know she touched many other people’s lives in a similar way. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to know her these past few years.

-Bob VanHeukelom, Director of Dining Services

Who was Emma? You cannot exactly answer that question in one short reflection. She was so loving and caring that she affected everyone she met in tremendous and diverse ways. Yet, I do know who Emma was to me. She was in every way a sister in Christ. Her faith was real, and she lived everyday of her life seeking to make the Kingdom of God a reality for all of his people and creation.

Emma was in so many ways my other little sister at Hope. As a friend to my sister Megan, Emma would always refer to me as her “big brother at Hope.”

After she returned from Japan, she was sharing her reflections and memories of a wonderful semester abroad with me. It was getting late, and she needed a ride home. It was still warm out, so I suggested that I give her a ride on my bike. She sat on the seat, and I stood and pedaled the whole way across campus. Halfway though our journey, she said I needed to stop, because she had to take a break.

However, Emma and I neglected to think through our dismount for this new way of bike riding. I definitely forgot that I was taller and able to simply step off the bike, but Emma was suspended in mid air on the seat and could not get off. In an instant, we toppled over into a massive heap of bicycle and laughter.

I was so scared that I might have hurt her and embarrassed that we were not as graceful as I anticipated. She was always so quick to set others fears at ease, and she certainly did mine in that moment. She said, “It’s OK big brother…how else would we be able to remember this great adventure?”

-Your friend and other big brother, Ryan Sweet.

-Gabrielle Underwood ’12

I remember a time when David and I were at the gym, working out and just catching up on life. I got to learn so much about him and his family and what life was like back home for him and just got to know what an amazing person he was. Afterwards we went to do abs and couldn’t stop laughing because of the jokes David was making. He was something else—such a great person with a lively spirit and a smile that just made your heart melt. I will really miss seeing him on campus and over the weekends.

-Gabrielle Underwood ’12

‘The sunshine to my days’

David was the sunshine to my days, because he would always smile whenever I saw him. We first met in the Multicultural Retreat, and my first impression of him was that he was very friendly and outgoing. My friends and I had a great time with him. After that day, David became my “Biffel,” a term we used to say good friend.

I think that I shared my best memories of Hope College with him, because he had the funniest personality I had ever met. David was a very friendly and understanding person. He was my competition, because my goal was to learn more languages than him; I was halfway to reaching my goal.

-Illiana Garcia ’13

‘A lively spirit and smile’

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‘My other little sister’

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-Your friend and other big brother, Ryan Sweet.

-Ryan Sweet ’08
Intramurals offer chance to continue athletic career

James Nichols
Winnipeg

"Thousands of high school athletes come to college dreaming of a glorious sports career. However, reality often races in like a thoroughbred horse at Churchill Downs, quickly dismissing that dream. Whether they get cut or realize they just aren't good enough to play that sport at a collegiate level, athletes' hearts break at the beginning of every sports season.

But there is one saving grace for all of those would-be Michael Jordans: intramural sports. While SportsCenter may be enough to mend some of the crushed souls, intramurals are another great alternative.

According to the intramural website, "The purpose of the intramural program is to provide an opportunity for all students, faculty and staff, regardless of skill level, to take part in a well-organized program of sporting activities. All individuals are urged to participate in as many IM sports as time, interest and knowledge allow."

With a wide variety of sports available, every hungry athlete can get their fix.

"I chose intramurals because I love playing soccer," said David Hamilton (’13). "I came to Hope late, so I did not have a chance to go out for the team here."

Every half semester offers four different sports to play; four seasons of four sports each, for a total of 16 different sports to relieve the itch. The first half of fall semester offers men's soccer, co-ed flag football, women's volleyball and men's flag football.

The second half of fall semester offers more variety with men's and co-ed tennis, co-ed basketball and the newly added women's badminton.

Spring semester offers the most diverse and possibly most unique sports in the first half with men's five-player basketball, co-ed volleyball, women's indoor soccer and the ever popular co-ed inner tube water polo.

"I decided to play intramural basketball," said Jonathan Weppler (’11), "because I wanted something fun to do with my roommates."

The final season of the school year dishes out co-ed outdoor soccer, men's softball, co-ed ultimate Frisbee and women's flag football.

Hope also offers four one-time sporting events — one per half semester. A lawn games day is the first event of the school year and takes place within the first couple of weeks at school.

During exams for fall semester, there is the cleverly named Exam Week Hoop Shoot, which is exactly what it sounds like.

Spring semester offers an indoor triathlon (swimming, biking and running), which took place this past Thursday. On May 4, the spring semester Exam Week Bowling/Pizza event will provide students with the opportunity to take a study break and relax.

Surely with so many choices, students must be able to find a sport of their liking, right?

"They should add lots of sports," said Ashley Olney (’11). "Kickball, field hockey and women's and co-ed softball come to mind."

"Men's indoor soccer would be fun," said Weppler. "I think they should add intramural paintball. If Hope could rent a place and you could have teams, that would be really cool!"

Besides a possible need for other sports, there is only one visible problem with intramurals at Hope: teams that don't come to the game, or no-shows.

"We had no-shows, like, three weeks in a row," said Hamilton. "This was very frustrating, so we emailed the coordinator of intramurals and asked if she could penalize those teams who didn't show up. It's a waste of time!"

Official intramural policy states: "One 'no-show' or two forfeits voids all IM team and individual participation points earned to date in that IM sport/ activity season ... and places that team on probation. Once on probation, one additional 'no-show' or forfeit will eliminate that team from competition in that sport."

The first half of the second semester sports has already begun. However, the sports for the second half of the semester, which include co-ed outdoor soccer, men's softball, women's flag football and coed ultimate Frisbee will not start until March 15. Sign-ups will take place online on March 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Women's Basketball Continues Home Win Streak

The women's basketball team brought their current home winning streak to 60 on Thursday as they defeated Adrian, 77-53. The Flying Dutch are the seventh team in Division III to accomplish this and have the longest current streak. The all-time leader is Rust College, Miss., who put together an 88-game home winning streak in the 1980s. Hope's women are also on top of the MIAA after defeating Calvin last week and are the only team in the conference with a perfect MIAA record. The women will look to continue their success tonight as they take on Trine in DeVos at 7:30 p.m.

Co-Athletic Director in NCAA Magazine

Co-athletic director Eva Dean Folkert (’83) is featured in the winter edition of the NCAA magazine Champion. The article, "Paths Less Traveled," tells the stories of six athletic leaders who came to sports through different paths. Folkert, a 1983 graduate of Hope, began sports writing for the Holland Sentinel while she was still a student at Hope. She began to work for Hope in 1985 in the public relations and registrar's offices, but didn't begin working in the kinesiology until 1997, when she became assistant director of intramurals. She has since worked in the ticket office and as senior women administrator for athletics, director of women's athletics, women's golf coach, and assistant professor of kinesiology. In 2009, she was named co-director of athletics at Hope.
Senior ‘sets standard for determination’

Bethany Stripp
Sports Editor

It’s no secret that hard work and dedication are the keys to success. Just ask Chris Nelis (‘10). Nelis, a psychology major from Zeeland and the lone senior captain on this year’s men’s basketball team, worked his way up from JV to starting varsity even though he didn’t begin his college education at Hope.

Nelis transferred to Hope from Grand Valley State University for the spring semester of his sophomore year. He talked to assistant coach Matt Neil and was able to begin playing with the JV team that year.

The following season he made the varsity team but didn’t see much time on the court, averaging 9.5 minutes per game. His senior season, though, has been a different story.

“I put in quite a bit of time over the summer and worked my way into the starting lineup for my last year,” Nelis said.

All that time has paid off for Nelis. So far this season, he has scored 217 points with an average of 12.8 per game. He is a force under the basket as well, where he leads the team in offensive, defensive and overall rebounds with 40, 66 and 106, respectively.

“(Nelis) is a relentless worker and (has) set the standard for determination,” men’s basketball coach Glenn VanWieren said. “Chris brings countless attributes to our team — friendship, industriousness, trust, sacrifice, passion, faith and commitment. But most important, he brings courage. He has the courage to proceed, which enables him to share all his wonderful team qualities with a definite fruition.”

His hard work has also led to recognition outside of the immediate Hope community. Nelis shined during the annual Russ DeVette Holiday Tournament, scoring 27 points and grabbing 14 rebounds over the course of two games, earning him the title of the tournament’s most valuable player. Soon after, the MIAA named him as one of the MIAA players of the week for week eight of the season.

Nelis, however, is quick to acknowledge the important role the rest of the team played.

“The individual awards are all great, but usually when that happens, it means the team is winning,” Nelis said. “I’d much rather have it that the team is winning than get a bunch of awards for myself.”

The team figures largely into Nelis’ experience as a basketball player at Hope. One thing Nelis thinks he’ll miss the most after this season comes to a close is the interaction he’s had with the other members of the team.

“A lot of them are real good friends,” Nelis said, “so that’ll be a big part about graduating.”

The team also is included in Nelis’ hopes for the rest of the season.

“I’d love for us as a team to win the MIAA Tournament so we can get back into the national tournament and try to make a run,” Nelis said.

Nelis played last year in Hope’s first round NCAA Division III Tournament loss to UW-Platteville, but despite the outcome of the game, he still considers making the tournament to be the highlight of his career thus far. However, he would be happy to replace that memory with a new one if the opportunity arises.

“Hopefully, it (the highlight of my career) hasn’t happened yet,” Nelis said. “It would be sweet if we could make the tournament for my senior year.”

Having seen the results of his hard work, Nelis advises underclassmen on Hope’s basketball teams to do the same thing.

“Put the time in,” he said. “You have to keep the right attitude and keep moving in the right direction.”

Swim team members achieve NCAA consideration times

Chris O’Brien
Assistant Sports Editor

They lean forward, all of their feet pointing toward the water below them. They stand in anticipation, the women wearing swim caps and the men sporting either the swim cap or the Bruce Willis shaved head look. Their goggles are suctioned against their eyes and their stances on the white platforms vary. They wait.

The buzzer goes off and the race begins. It is simple. Each swimmer goes around the distance and whoever reaches their hand out and touches the wall first wins.

Captain Phil Heyboer (‘10) has watched his senior season develop exactly the way he wanted it to.

“My times have improved from last year,” Heyboer said. “I have turned in a NCAA A cut in the 400 IM and B cuts in the 500 free and 1,650 free.”

Heyboer has turned in the season’s best 400 individual medley, 500 freestyle and 1,000 freestyle times.

Both men’s and women’s teams have managed to build a successful season. The women’s team has won every match with the exception of their match against Grand Valley last Friday and finished third at the Wheaton Invitational.

The women’s team has also seen impressive times so far this year. Captain Christina Vogelzang (‘10) has had NCAA consideration times in both the 100 and 200 freestyle.

Sarah Sohn (‘12) has the team’s best time in four categories and has an NCAA consideration time in the 1500 freestyle.

The men’s team only has one loss and finished in first place at the Wheaton Invitational.

“With the team as a whole is really performing very well,” Heyboer said. “We had a big win (on Jan 8) against Kalamazoo College, who is ranked second nationally in dual meets. At the meet, the whole team stepped up to out-touch their opponents in many races.”

Along with Heyboer, Aaron Welsh (‘10), Mitch Ruch (‘10), Michael Huisingh (‘12) and fellow co-captain Ryan Nelis (‘10) also have put forth NCAA consideration times.

Welsh holds the team’s best in both the 100 and 100 freestyle, with the 100 freestyle gaining NCAA consideration.

Ruch holds the team’s best 100 and 200 butterfly and has landed NCAA consideration on the 400 medley relay team.

Both teams have less than a month left in their respective seasons. The men’s and women’s teams both close with the MIAA Championships taking place at Calvin College over the Feb. 11-13 weekend.

While the swimmers anxiously await the conference meet, Heyboer said that the men’s team is looking forward to the final regular season meet on Jan 30.

“The next big meet is Jan 30,” Heyboer said. “It is senior night and also our meet in which we are supporting cancer research. What could possibly make the meet anymore exciting?”

“To top it off it is against Calvin College.”

The men’s and women’s meet against Calvin will begin at 1 p.m. in the Dow Center.