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 ('12) 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 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 national 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 appointment 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.

Lindsey Altheard ('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, and concluded Saturday, Jan. 23, with the showing of the film “The Stoning of Soraya M.”

In the past, Civil Rights week celebrated the progress made and the hardships endured by many groups of people in their efforts to obtain basic human rights.

When asked if they felt that the entire campus can get behind this, 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.

Brubaker-Salcedo said, “We aren’t all the same, and we should embrace our differences.”

Gates also emphasized that interest in these events and others like them is important not only for members of a minority group. She said the promotion of civil rights is a universal concern that should transcend political, religious and ethnic divisions.

“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. As long as race is a dividing line, there will be a need to continue this quest.”
CAMPUS

Study abroad deadline is Feb. 1

Gretchen Baldwin
GIDY Writer

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 DeVisser, 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 participants. 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.

Nibakure Children’s Village is one such non-profit. Founded in 2008 by Floriane Rohins-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 Rohins-Braun 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 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 give came 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-rturey.blogspot.com.
Haiti devastated by magnitude 7.0 earthquake

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

Amy Alvine
Staff Writer

January 27, 2010

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."

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.

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The case stems from the 2008 presidential primaries, where a highly critical documentary entitled "Hillary: The Movie" was not allowed to be shown. The documentary 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 news 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 a new documentary entitled "Generation Zero" which will focus on the economic collapse. Hosted by Lou Dobbs, Bossie plans to release the film in time for the coming midterm elections.

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 Finance 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 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."

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 resilience 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.
New obstacles arise for health care reform

Samuel Taou
Staff Writer

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 Ellyria, Ohio. “We can’t keep on perpetuating the same tactics against health care reform in this Congress,” vowed Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. “We will have health care reform in this Congress," vowed Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. This sort of confidence and concept of health care reform, however, may not sit well with all of the American public, as the election of Brown in the Massachusetts special election would suggest.

Brown has pledged to vote against the current health care overhaul reform that will allow Republicans to employ delay tactics against health care passage in the Senate.

“Here’s the good news. We’ve gotten pretty far down the road,” Obama told the New York Times 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. One considered 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 256 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.”

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has become caught up in a controversy over comments he made during President Barack Obama’s election campaign. In their book “Game Change,” Mark Halperin and John Heilemann revealed several comments the senator made privately in 2008.

“Reid, D-Nev., is quoted saying that Obama’s chances of achieving the presidency would be helped by his “light-skinned features,” as well as the absence in his speech of a “Negro dialect,” unless he wanted to have one.”

Reid told CNN that he regretted his “poor choice of words” and emphasized his ongoing support for the president.

“I sincerely apologize for offending any and all Americans, especially African Americans, for my improper comments,” he said. “I was a proud and enthusiastic supporter of Barack Obama during the campaign and have worked as hard as I can to advance President Obama’s legislative agenda.”

Obama himself commented on the telephoned apology he received from Reid. “I accepted Harry’s apology without question, because I’ve known him for years; I’ve seen the passionate leadership he’s shown on issues of special justice, and I know what’s in his heart,” he said. “As far as I am concerned, this is clearly over.”

The disclosure of the comments has come as other calls for Reid to step down as Senate majority leader and may even put him in jeopardy of losing the 2010 midterm for the Democratic Party.

According to Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, 52 percent of Nevadans have a negative opinion of the senator, who has held his seat for four terms.

University of Dayton researchers Joseph S. Noguera and Leslie Picca, authors of “Two Faced Racism,” claim that it is not uncommon for whites to engage in racist behaviors when in private.

“Most whites have sharply reduced the blatantly racist stuff they do in public, while they still do huge amounts in private,” said Feagin.

Perspectives on race relations in the U.S. are hardly uniform. The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press reports that African-Americans believe that Obama’s election to the presidency improved race relations, while the percentage that say that the “situation of black people in this country is better than it was five years ago” was almost doubled since 2007.

Uganda passes anti-homosexuality laws

Kelsey Coburn
Staff Writer

The country of Uganda has recently made homosexuality an issue of life and death. Homosexuality is already illegal in Uganda and is punishable by up to 14 years in prison, although it is estimated that there are half a million gay people out of the current population of 31 million.

However, in October, a government official proposed a bill that would sentence members of the gay community to life in prison and the death penalty for “serial offenders.” Furthermore, the legislation would penalize anyone who “helps, counsels, or encourages another person to engage in a homosexual act” and be thrown into prison for up to seven years in prison.

The legislation was said to have been drafted partly due to pressures built in Uganda by three American Christian evangelists. Dr. Scott Lively detailed these sanctions in an April 15 post on the “gay agenda” in his weblog, “Defend the Family.”

At least one of the evangelists has been quick to condemn the legislation, expressing his disappointment over the harsh nature of the bill.

Uganda Ethics Minister James Nsaba Buturo has repeatedly stated that homosexuality will never be embraced in Uganda and refuses to acknowledge it as a human rights issue.

Many countries are lobbying Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to block the bill, and Sweden has threatened to cut off aid to Uganda, identifying it as a human rights violation.

The president has had little comment since the bill was presented, but has recently spoken of the legislation warily, alerting his government that it is now a foreign policy issue due to international pressure to discard the bill.

The legislation has been put before Parliament, but is still in draft form; it is yet to be debated. Many think that the more objectionable stipulations will be dropped if not scrapped altogether.
Petr Jankovic: Classical guitarist with a classy performance

Lindsey Wolf
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 20th century.

The first piece Jankovic played was “Cinq Preludes,” a series of introductory preludes by Brazilian composer Hector 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 major.” 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.


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.”

The final piece of Jankovic’s performance was light and classical music. “Three Tangos,” which has been used in many movies, demonstrates the national musical style of Argentina.

After a round of applause from the enthusiastic audience, Jankovic played “Tango de Sal” by Roland Dyens as his encore. Jankovic’s performance has been described as “an amazing and emotional range of dynamics” and as “romance in sound” by the Herald Times in Bloomington, Ind. Seated with his guitar cradled in his lap, Jankovic often closed his eyes during his skillful performance, which mesmerized the audience. His hands moved quickly, gracefully and effortlessly up and down his guitar.

Jankovic has studied the guitar since he was 8 years old. Jankovic’s years of practice have resulted in his flawless performance on Thursday. In addition to being a distinguished performer, Jankovic is a music teacher at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The music played in Jankovic’s music can sample his CD “Leyenda” on his website, www.petarjankovic.net, where it is available for purchase.

ALBUMS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN 2009

Come O Spirit!” by Various Artists (Bifrost Arts)

Labelled as an “Anthology of Hymns and Spiritual Songs,” this album is a compilation of covers and original works by Christian artists approaching Christian music from a more humble and diverse perspective than that of the Christian pop music industry. Artists such as Denision Wittmer, Rosie Thomas, My Brightest Diamond and The Welcome Wagon make appearances, often in duets and chorale arrangements.

Sigh No More” by Mumford and Sons

Noteworthy newcomers in the recent trend of harmony-heavy folk-influenced indie bands (Fleet Foxes), Mumford and Sons present a robust blend of bluegrass and rock that is just as effectivedark and spiritual, long as in upbeat folk romps with singalong choruses. The album has been circulating quietly by word of mouth outside of the UK, but will be released in this hemisphere this February.

Curse Your Branches” by David Bazan

A progression of Bazan’s previous work, his latest release continues to explore his relationship with God. The lyrics are poignant and desperate, encouraging his audience to join him in contemplation. Although his focus is on the lyrics, the music is crisp and precise, with more variety than Bazan’s past offerings.

The Old Prince” by Shad

A member of Canada’s unique and quirky hip-hop scene, Shad released his sophomore effort, the loose concept album “The Old Prince,” in Canada in 2007. This summer it was re-released in America as he toured the states, expanding his fan base exponentially with highly creative and clever rhymes and devotion to supporting his rapping with solid, unique instrumentation, ranging from trip-hop to snaky guitar parts to Kayo-like 70’s soul throwbacks.

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 Art Center is the amazing amount of blue. It’s not just any blue, either. It’s a beautiful, touching indigo, with depth and shade. The first piece Linssen portrays one of her handmade paper sculptures through curves and textures in ‘Soft Caress.’

FLUID MOTION— Linssen portrays one of her handmade paper sculptures through curves and textures in ‘Soft Caress.’

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January 27, 2010
One of my fondest memories of Emma was at the Homecoming dance this past October. While dancing, I am notorious amongst my close friends for making the most ridiculous faces while performing some of my goofy dance moves known as “the limonero,” “sheopping cart” or “the microwave.” Usually, when my friends-first we are doing this, they kind of laugh at me, and then just look at me strangely later. At this year’s homecoming dance, Emma joined our dance circle and soon after discovered my ridiculous moves. Much to my surprise, Emma then proceeded to dance these same addittives with me, bubbling her head up-and-down in approval (and of course with her big smile on her face). Emma had such a warm heart, and she will be dearly missed.

- Blake Williams ’10

The question “Who was Emma?” is one that many of us are now asking. For those of us who knew her well, there are infinite wonderful memories we can still remember although she is gone. For those who did not know Emma, most would agree that she could be described by one word: “Joy.”

Imagine a small ball of light, bouncing around a room, filling the room with happiness. It would be impossible to completely describe Emma to anyone who did not have the privilege to know her, but one trait that was especially incredible was her drive to always overcome her greatest fears, even at the end. This is a goal that many of us would hope to be able to achieve, but Emma actually could and often did.

Although I knew Emma very well, I was lucky to be able to teach Emma how to sail and to help her conquer that fear. She came to college and joined just about every club that she possibly could, quickly realizing she was overwhelmed. I was glad she decided to stick with sailing. In my opinion, there is no better way to connect to life and God than through sailing. The skills involved, including patience and awareness, almost force a person to contemplate life and can offer a certain perspective on how to live life. Emma realized this shortly after beginning to sail. My greatest memories and some of my greatest conversations were on the boat, and even as Emma was learning to sail, I was forced to learn as well. We raced together at many regattas (weekend-long sailing race events), and to be with her, we did not need to “go through much struggle and discussion and learning of each other (apparent-ly I had both a ‘normal’ and ‘racing’ tone of voice and personality, the latter of which was completely unacceptable),” by the end of our sailing career together, we were frequently finishing races top 5 of 15 to 20 boats.

Often, I convinced her it would be a good idea to do more and more daring things in sailing (including putting herself out on the “trap” a device which is a harness connected to the top of the mast. In order to keep the boat from tipping over, the person in the harness puts only their feet on the side of the boat; the rest of her body is suspended in the air. She promptly slipped and tumbled into the water, was dragging through the water, and laughing in between gulps of water and cursing at me for making her “trap”! The brilliant thing about Emma was, of course, even after that experience, whenever there were high waves, she would beg me to let her use the trapeze.

Emma’s ability to use her fears to her advantage, and to instead of living within her strengths, find new and unique ways to grow outside of her zone of comfort, is an ability that I hope one day to be able to achieve and a goal for which everyone should strive. Within this ability, through her learning, she was also forever teaching others, even without words, about how to live life, love life and love God. What is most amazing is that Emma was so much more than this one ability, and although I was often yelled at in the best of ways, I will never forget her laugh, her smile and the joy that she shared with so many just from the seemingly simple act of conquering her fear of sailing.

On January 24, 2010 fifteen students and alumni stayed for the weekend just to be together. We all had a common thread: “I’ll Em had impacted our lives, each in a different way. Emma cannot be described by a few adjectives. A few memories may give a glimpse into Emma — but no article will ever articulate correctly who Emma Biagioni was as a person. Emma lived in a house of 7 girls. That quickly became home, called “7 in1 Home.” The 7 of us came in as friends and bonded into a family away from our hometowns. One memory I have with her is with me cooking Rice-A-Roni. She cooked the rice for twelve minutes without putting enough water with the rice. Emma was sitting with Maria, a housemate, when black smoke started to fill the living room. Emma froze not sure of what to do. We got out of the house and called campus safety. Emma was convinced that Rice-A-Roni had the wrong directions on the back of box. Emma could not cook, but we loved her questions about cooking. Emma could make an English tea. She had it down to science and generously made tea for the house at night while we were “studying” upstairs. She greeted our house with “Hi Honnney” or “Hey hubs” or “Hey, Hey.” Emma danced and we loved to watch her dance. She also loved love. Jaci VanGroningen, one of the housemates, is engaged to Ryan Sweet who was a brother to her at Hope College. She asked Ryan once, “What’s it like to be in love?”

Love, 7 in 1 Home

Emma Porter (’11), Megan Sweet (’10), Meghan Fere (’10), Jaci VanGroningen (’10), Erin VanDorfe (’10), Maria Kotman (’11)

Photo Credits: Ethan Morrisal, Alison Garza, Iliana Garcia, Zoe Lalo

Layout Credit: Brennigan Gibson and Karen Patterson

In loving memory...

Emma Biagioni and David Otai

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 knew 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 David, and I will never forget this time, this 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 or to lose but more as a fluid or air. Amy Fusselman in her book, titled it says, “the nature of time itself is plastic, and around in the human body at all times, like air.” David understood time 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 back 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 ’10

I miss 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 response being, “I’ll pray for you.” I miss seeing you in Martha Miller. Thank you for all the fun times and laughter we shared. Thank you for always encouraging me and reminding me of my identity in Christ. Thank you for making Fall Semester 2009 memorable. I know you are no longer to have a fiesta in Heaven right now and looking down on us and smiling. You were one of my favorite people.

Zoe Lalo ’11
Musings on mutual misunderstandings
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 of attention, but 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. “Petite” was a misnomer. Emma’s presence 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. “Petite” was a misnomer.

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 adept and creative. At the beginning of the year when issues arose that could not have been foreseen.

The heat tends to be slightly above room temperature — an excellent napping space. Certainly, we mustn’t forget the library, where I have both witnessed and been a victim of spontaneous napping. It is of similar temperature and crushiness, but the experience includes fewer panicked awakenings due to someone’s desire for a very loud bottle of Mountain Dew (thank you, Cup & Chaucer).

Just as a side note, I cannot admit to never taking an accidental nap in Phelps before a Wednesday morning breakfast. Sometimes Latin conjugations can get the better of you. Truly, however, a nap needs calculation of available time to be genuine. I was awoken by only the kindest demand for an SWP-swipe, and I did not accomplish my Latin. Therefore, nap successful!

Of course, nothing beats the soft confines of your own bed, but in some situations we simply must make-do and let our fatigued minds win us over. If only we had appreciated our time in kindergarten a little more acutely.

If you haven’t already, I highly recommend taking the time to appreciate a nice, voluntary siesta in your nap site of choice. Naturally, I cannot condone sleeping life away (although I often find 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
Emily West
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Letters to the Editors

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 think we need to find a way to respect the beliefs of everyone who works on this campus, and also to protect the rights of students to be who they are. Again, it is a complex issue that I really feel needs to be addressed in a way that is respectful of everyone involved.

Sincerely,
Carol Wichers

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

Janetta Johnson
Assistant Copy Editor

Karen Patterson
Campus News Co-Editor

Emily West
Campus News Co-Editor

Amy Sonkup
Campus News Co-Editor

Lindsey Bandy
Campus News Co-Editor

Annelise Belmonte
Campus News Co-Editor

Brennigan Gilson
Campus News Co-Editor

Ayanné Omolade
Features Co-Editor

Jolene Jeske
Features Co-Editor

Sara B. Kolsick
Features Co-Editor

Kara Moll
Features Co-Editor

Kristen Mulder
Features Co-Editor

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Columnist
EVERYTHING matters with you. I filled an enor-
mous hole in my life. In reality, I had read the
book numerously times and the ending always gets me
(Frodo sailing away with the elves). As usual, I got
emotional and cried. 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 greater 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? And
would I be able to do the same for them? Would I offer
to help them carry their heaviest, real-world burdens
the way Sam offered to carry the ring for Frodo? If I had to leave them forever would they bug
me like they never wanted to let me go, like Merry and
Pippin? 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.
Jesymann 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
“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.
Kate would like to thank Liz and Sara for the
textbook title suggestions she used ... and is open to
any recommendations on good reads.

Fact or fiction?
Kate Schrampfer
Columnist
FACT: I read a lot more, in terms of “fun books,”
when I’m home than at school.
Big surprise! 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 sojourns in book-worlds. It seems to
me that I learn as much about life from “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” for the first time. With my family. I’ve read the book numerously times and the ending always gets me
(Frodo sailing away with the elves). As usual, I got
galloped-up with excitement and tears. As I watched the four
hobbits saying goodbye, I started thinking about the
kind of friends Frodo had. Merry and Pippin, who
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the way Sam offered to carry the ring

Pondering our contemporary freedom and its roots
While sitting in my dad’s condo over Christmas
break, a news headline on the television caught my eye:
dad and I tuned in attentively, as we ruminated on the
popular U.S. media accounts of the decade’s closing
year.
I must admit, I was slightly embarrassed by what I
saw: Kanye West steals Taylor Swift’s thunder at
MTV’s VMA. Colorado’s balloon boy stunt staged for
pranksters. I saw: Kanye West steals Taylor Swift’s thunder at
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an outside perspective
Blair Williams
Guest columnist
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Blair Williams
Guest columnist
FACT: Our democratic freedoms and rights for all citizens, fundamental
to its success was the Greek notion of sophrones. Sophrones most closely resembles the idea of
self-control or discipline; it implies living by self-
straified society and the home of the brave.”
In several ways, 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 for 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
sophrones 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 the 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.
sideways be lessened?
I am convinced of the benefits of a discipline-oriented society, I believe that both the individual and society as a whole would benefit from
more personal exercise of sophrones. 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 entail 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.
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
semesters with have been starting classes. I’ve had
to talk to the bank, go to the doctor, apply for a visa
to enter the United Kingdom and, lastly, just wait. I have
a done a lot of waiting. I have learned some important
tings about traveling — and about myself.
Always plan to carry everything, and I mean
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
carry-on space for the flight.
- The state of Minnesota (as in other states, I’m
sure) refuses to send out driver’s licenses earlier than
your birthday. Since I turn 21 in a foreign country, it
could be interesting going through airport security.
- Unrelated: the state of Minnesota also believes that
people between the ages of 18 and 25 are particularly
vulnerable to drug use, so they require additional
state-wide I.D. tests are now required. Gee, discriminate much?
- It’s hard to be alone. I’ve always thought I was a
free and independent spirit, but it’s not that simple.
I dream big, but the reality for me is that the newness of
another country and continent is terrifying. Don’t
give me wrong, I’m incredibly excited. I’ve been dreaming
of studying abroad since I first thought about college.
But until I take my first steps on Scottish soil, my nerves are
going to continue to pester me. I’ll work on that one.
I wish I could say that I’m fearlessly setting out into
the great unknown or something cliché like that, but I
can’t. There has been a lot of fear involved, especially as
my departure date draws ever nearer. My enthusiasm is
building, but it is more out of restlessness than anything
else. I’ll just say it: I’m scared, but I know it will be
worth the worry, worth the anticipation and worth
the fear in the end.
To borrow from “Glee” (who borrowed from
“journey”): “I’m just a small-town girl living in a lonely
world. I’m taking a midnight train going anywhere.”
Well … it’s actually a plan ... and it won’t be at
midnight ... but you get my drift.
Amanda will remain in her small Minnesota
hometown until she leaves for Aberdeen, Scotland, (not
South Dakota, although that could be considered a
foreign country as well) on Jan. 26.
In Loving Memory...
Emma Biagioni & David Otai

'She touched many people’s lives'

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 the 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

'In loving Memory...'

Emma Biagioni & David Otai

'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.

I miss seeing him in Martha Miller or at Chapel, because we would always hug and then talk about the weirdest things ever. I have attached some pictures of David and those wonderful days we shared.

-Iliana Garcia ’13

'A lively spirit and smile'

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

'Emmanuel & David'

Photos courtesy of Ethan Morrical and Brenda Cuellar

My other little sister’

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.

-Ryan Sweet ’08

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Intramurals offer chance to continue athletic career

James Nichols

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.

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 the 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 the 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 Obley (11). “Kickball, field hockey and women’s and co-ed softball come to mind.”

“Men’s indoor soccer would be fun,” said Weppler. “I also think they should add intramural basketball. 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 did not 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 co-ed ultimate Frisbee will not start until March 15. Sign-ups will take place online on March 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In Brief

RIVALRY MATCHUPS THIS WEEKEND

Three of Hope College’s varsity sports teams will face off against Calvin College on Hope’s campus on Saturday. At 12:15 p.m., the men’s JV basketball team will begin the day by taking on Calvin’s JV basketball team in the DeVos Fieldhouse. At 1 p.m., the men’s and women’s swim and dive teams will compete against Calvin in the Dow Center. Then at 3 p.m., the varsity men’s basketball team will conclude the day with the highly anticipated match-up against the Knights in DeVos. Student tickets are sold out.

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 in NCAA magazine 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 sportswriting 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 office, 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 woman 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.

“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 has started every game this season compared to one last year. Nelis holds the team’s best 100 and 200 freestyle.

His hard work has also led to recognition outside of the immediate Hope community. Nelis shined during the annual Ross 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.

His senior season, though, has been a difficult one. 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 final 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 his distance, and whoever reaches the wall first wins.

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

“So far my times have improved from last year,” Heyboer said. “I have turned in a NCAA A cut in the 400 IM and 8 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 set the standard for determination,” men’s head 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 Ross 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 holds the team’s best time in four categories and has an NCAA consideration time in the 1,650 freestyle.

“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 Welsch (’10), Mitch Ruch (’10), Michael Huisingh (’12) and fellow co-captain Ryan Nelis (’10) also have put forth NCAA consideration times.

Welsch holds the team’s best in both the 50 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 year and also our meet in which we are supporting cancer research. What could possibly make the meet anymore exciting?”

“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.