Remembering David and Emma: A Year Later

Chris Russ

Jan. 17 was the one-year anniversary of the tragic plane crash that took the lives of Hope College students David Otai and Emma Biagioni. In a service in the Martha Miller Center chaplaincy, Paul Boersma and Kate Dave lar led students in honoring Biagioni and Otai’s memory.

Following a religious tradition, students wrote words on stones that described qualities they admired in Biagioni and Otai. By night’s end dozens of stones with words such as “Joy,” “Light,” “Faith,” and “Passion” filled the space in front of photos of the two.

Earlier this month, the National Transportation Safety Board published its probable-cause report that documented findings following the crash investigation. The report cited the presence of heavy fog and a lack of experience flying in difficult weather conditions as the causes of the crash.

After last year’s accident, Alfredo Gonzales, associate provost and dean of international and multicultural education, volunteered to accompany Otai’s body back to his hometown of Nairobi, Kenya.

Gonzales recalled conversations he shared with Otai during his time at Hope in which they discussed his plans for the future. Coming into the college, he had just finished flight school. In addition to being a pilot, he wanted to graduate with a deep level of theological understanding. He wished to use the knowledge and edge he acquired at Hope to help him in a career as a missionary.

Gonzales described his experience traveling to Kenya as being both difficult and fulfilling. “It was perhaps one of the hardest things I have ever done, certainly one of the most difficult moments or experiences of my own life, and yet perhaps the most rewarding one, because you have an opportunity to meet people and make a connection.” The trip from Holland to Otai’s hometown was a disjointed one. The body was initially transported to Lansing and then to Detroit. From there, the next flight traveled to Amsterdam, and from Amsterdam to the final destination of Nairobi, Kenya. There, Gonzales met Otai’s mother, sister and brother-in-law after a late arrival at Nairobi International Airport.

“I took a bag full of sympathy cards and expressions of love and condolences from our students, faculty and staff. There were many people not only inside but also outside of the Hope community who had taken time to write. I also took a journal-like book, in which students who knew David had written memories of meeting him, of being with him or of ‘being classmates,’” Gonzales said.

“So I delivered all those things to the family, and I can’t imagine what this was for his mother to be able to read what other students had to say about her son. She didn’t know Hope students but through the expressions of love by Hope students, I am encouraged.”

Husbands of the Hope College faculty of professional life, the “Ruth Husbands’ Awards” were presented to Annie Dandavati, professor of political science and director of women’s studies, and Chuck Green, professor of psychology and director of the Phelps Scholars Program.

Dandavati has been highly involved in study-abroad programs in Mexico, Chile and Rwanda, and does research in comparative politics, Latin American politics and gender. This past fall, she was named director of the international studies major.

“I am both humbled and thrilled with this award. I am thoroughly enjoying the experience of being a professor and working with students, colleagues and others at Hope College,” said Dandavati of her award.

The “Provost’s Awards for Service to the Academic Program” presented to individuals who have provided special contributions to the academic program outside of formal teaching, were given to David Klooster, professor of English, and Mary Linn, professor of psychology.

“Suesan Cherup, professor of education and dean of intercultural life at Hope College, was named provost of the international studies major. She is also a faculty member of the international studies major and director of the Phelps Scholars Program.”

Veritas: Finding True Community

Madalyn Muncy

Campus Co-Editor

Hope College celebrated Veritas Forum Jan. 13-16 with lectures, round-table discussions, chapel services and concerts. Hundreds of students participated in the forum, with a theme entitled “True Community, True Selves.”

The mission of Veritas 2011 was to provoke questions on desires for true friendship and community in light of ever-changing technologies that connect. How do we continue to experience authentic friendship and identity in a world where impersonal branding and the virtual world are overtaking reality?

The Veritas Forum began at Harvard University in 1992. Veritas, which means “truth” in Latin, was a way for students to think about what the school was founded on. Dozens of campuses across the US and abroad have taken on Harvard’s Veritas model, having their own conversations about the truth of Jesus Christ in the world today.

Opening the forum on Jan. 13, keynote speaker Prof. Mark Husbands of the Hope College Religion Department, gave an address entitled “Friendship, Knowledge and Love: What Emerging Adults Should Learn from Gandalf, Augustine, and Milosz?” where he challenged students to ponder the “responsibility to live well within history while inhabiting a disenchanted world where walking away from faith is an option.”

Husbands’ address centered on the faith challenges facing emerging adults (18-29 year-olds) who are not financially independent (independently) and what we can learn from Gandalf, Augustine and Milosz in terms of true community, friendship and faith.

“According to Augustine, you may only come to know who you are in community,” said Husbands.

Continuing the theme of community and identity, Felicia Song, a social sociologist and professor at Louisiana State University, spoke at chapel on Jan. 14. Her message was similar to Husbands’.

“Dr. Song’s lesson was a great reminder of how we should treat all people with respect and see the presence of God in all of their lives,” said Husbands.

JAM SESSION—Andrew Fleck (’11) and David Clapan (’11) were one of the eight student groups opening for The Welcome Wagon, part of Veritas activities on Saturday.

College Recognizes Hope Faculty for Excellence

Madalyn Muncy

Campus Co-Editor

Hope College’s spring 2011 semester began with recognition of faculty who have gone beyond their jobs in teaching, service and scholarship during the annual recognition luncheon on Jan. 10.

Eight members of the faculty were presented with awards. Ernest Cole, assistant professor of English was named a “Towsley Research Scholar,” which garners him support for his project on post-civil war Sierra Leone. Cole hopes to complete a book with his four-year grant.

“Janet L. Andersson Excellelce in Teaching Awards” were presented to Tom Smith, professor of management, and Jeff Tyler, professor of religion. These awards are presented to faculty members who have taught at Hope for at least seven years and have demonstrated excellence in aspects of teaching.

Recognizing members of the Hope faculty who are superior teachers and who have also contributed to some other aspect of professional life, the “Ruth and John Reed Faculty Achievement Awards” were presented to Annie Dandavati, professor of political science and director of women’s studies, and Chuck Green, professor of psychology and director of the Phelps Scholars Program.

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SEER RECOGNITION, PAGE 2
Veritas provokes dialogue through words, art, music

- Veritas, from page 1

people. If we do this, we’ll be- come a stronger community,” said Mindy Carlson (’13) of Song’s impact.

Ken Myers, host and pro- ducer of the Mars Hill Audio Journal spoke to students and faculty Friday evening with an address entitled “In the Image of Our Devices: How Technol- ogies Shape Our Picture of Hu- man Identity?” Myers focused on how the digital world we live in shapes our definitions of iden- tity and community.

Following Myers’ address was a student coffeehouse, com- plete with poetry, song and free coffee. While listening to their talented colleagues, students had the opportunity to add their own dialogue to the forum in the form of art on canvas or words on a discussion board.

Veritas activities opened on Saturday, Jan. 15 with a final keynote address by Song. En- titled “Web 2.0 and the Ironies of Being Connected,” Song fo- cused on what sociological data reveals about how our digital culture affects community and friendship.

A panel discussion followed Song’s address, with Husbands, Myers, Song and Dr. Edward Song, assistant professor of philosophy at Louisiana State University, participating and Dr. James Herrick, professor of communication at Hope fa- cilitating. The panel members offered their reflections on the theme of the forum and how it related to their field of study, as well as answered questions.

Students also participated in the Veritas Forum in a for- mer presentation. Divided into three separate sessions, nine Hope Students offered their own interpretation of the Veri- tas theme. From topics strictly on the church to how Facebook impacts community, Hope stu- dents added their own research and viewpoints to the discus- sion.

Hope’s student-run literary magazine, Opus, also published a special edition in which stu- dent writers were encouraged to submit creative work to be presented along with the Veritas theme.

Veritas continued in song, with The Wienie Wagon headlining opening groups of Hope Students. Eight student groups were allotted eight min- utes each to explore the forum theme in the form of song, dance and short film.

Closing the forum was Sunday’s Gathering, with re- flections by Trygve Johnson, dean of the chapel.

Gonzales shares story of trip to Kenya, meeting Otai family

- Gonzales, from page 1

faculty and others, I think I was able to at least represent in some small way, that which I think is Hope College.”

Gonzales spent five days in Kenya, meeting with and spend- ing time with Otai’s family. He said the remarkable generosity and hospitality shown to him even while Otai’s family was in pain was striking. Gonzales also attended a visitation, a memori- al church service and the intern- ment at a local cemetery.

“I had never met anyone from his family, so for me it was new. The host family had the opportunity of meeting people for the first time, but it took a short time before I got to know the family and I must say, that they were very grateful, extremely hospitable and very grateful to Hope College. I think they un- derstood why David Otai loved Hope the way he did.”

The trip cemented for Gonzales the importance of cultivating a diverse and close knit commu- nity at Hope.

“I would say to the Hope com- munity that I am grateful that they not only opened the doors to welcoming an academic stu- dent, but certainly also by open- ing their hearts,” Gonzales said.

“There is unimaginable chal- lenge for international students, and it is important for us to be hospitable and to be gracious. I think it is those things for those we do not know, I think we represent that which our Lord is calling us to do, to love our neighbor in the same way that we love ourselves,” Gonzales stated.

Gonzales continued, praising the mission of Hope: “I think that in having a presence of in- ternational students coming to Hope, we are living the mission of the college, which is to edu- cate students for lives of leader- ship and service in a global so- ciety.”
Gifford’s condition upgraded to ‘serious’

Matt Lee

TUCSON, Ariz. — Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ condition improved to serious and Sunday she was breathing without a ventilator, said a hospital spokesman. A gunman Jan. 8 wounded Giffords was shot in the head by a gunman who opened fire Jan. 8 in Tucson, killing a federal judge and five others and wounding 19.

Giffords has been able to sit up and dangle her legs on the edge of the hospital bed while moving limbs in response to commands. Her recovery continues as planned,” the hospital said in an issued statement. Giffords is at the University Medical Center in Tucson. One of the victims of the shooting was released from the hospital earlier this week while two others remain in good condition.

On Friday, neurosurgeon Dr. Michael Lemole told MSNBC that Giffords’ recovery is “on schedule. “She is progressing normally without any complications or setbacks. She’s progressing at a good speed for this time period. Even overnight, she’s made significant progress,” Rhee said.

But moving forward, Rhee expects changes to be less dramatic than they’ve been this week. “We’ll see a lot of things in the next two months,” the surgeon said on MSNBC cable Friday. “Then the changes will be more subtle for the next year and after that.”

Doctors believe the bullet fired by gunman Jared Loughner pierced the front of Giffords’ head and exited the back, slicing the left side of the brain which controls speech abilities and muscles on the right side of the body.

MSNBC reports that had he bullet damaged both sides of the brain or struck the brain stem, which connects to the spinal cord, the outcome would likely be worse — extensive permanent damage, vegetative state or death.

“it’s still too early to tell the extent of damage Giffords suffered, but experts say it’s rare for people with gunshot wounds to the head to regain all of their abilities. Damage to the left side of the brain can result in memory loss, difficulty reading and hand-eye coordination problems,” MSNBC reported in a recent article.

The path which the bullet struck Giffords’ brain and the quick and immediate medical response meant the difference between life and death according to her doctors and brain experts.

Health care update in brief

WASHINGTON (AP) — As lawmakers shaken by the shooting of a colleague return to the health care debate, an Associated Press-GfK poll finds raw feelings over President Barack Obama’s overhaul have subsided.

Ahead of a vote on repeal in the GOP-led House this week, strong opposition to the law stands at 30 percent, close to the lowest level registered in AP-GfK surveys dating to September 2009.

The nation is divided over the law, but the strength and intensity of the opposition appear diminished. The law expands coverage to more than 30 million uninsured, and would require, for the first time, that most people in the United States carry health insurance.

The poll finds that 40 percent of those surveyed said they support the law, while 41 percent oppose it. Just after the November congressional elections, opposition stood at 47 percent and support was 38 percent.

As for repeal, only about one in four say they want to do away with the law completely. Among Republicans support for repeal has dropped sharply, from 64 percent after the elections to 49 percent now.

Judge rules AIG bailout OK

PORT HURON, Mich. (AP) — A federal judge in Michigan has dismissed a lawsuit challenging the bailout of American International Group on religious grounds.

An Ypsilanti man claimed in a lawsuit filed on behalf of Christian or religious institution. The judge said it’s not comparable to tax dollars going directly to a church or religious institution. "He represents just a fraction of AIG’s revenue. U.S. District Judge Lawrence Zatkoff in Port Huron says the bailout is not an “excessive entanglement with religion.”

He says it’s not comparable to tax dollars going directly to a church or religious institution. An Ann Arbor law group that takes cases on behalf of Christian causes says it will appeal.

Tunisia overthrows president

Aftan Snyder

"Citizens, sons and daughters of our country of Tunisia... I appeal to all of you... to fight for the national interest and to respect the army’s command and the national security in security matters, and to preserve private property and to bring the return of peace and security in the hearts of the citizens," Fouad Mebazza, Tunisia’s former parliamentary speaker and now acting president, made this statement at a conference on Saturday. Mebazza was sworn in as acting president after the country’s longtime authoritarian leader, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dissolved the government and declared a state of emergency.

Then, in accordance with the Tunisian constitution, Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi announced that he had taken over as president because Ben Ali couldn’t perform his duties. Further rioting protested this move, but Ghannouchi appealed for calm and said that the president’s return to Tunisia was “impossible.”

Under constitutional law Mebazza, as parliament speaker, assumed interim presidency as Ghannouchi was named the prime minister in what is now a temporary government.

Official elections to determine a presidency will be held within 60 days, although opposition leaders are meeting with Ghannouchi to determine the possibility of the formation of a unity government.

Ben Ali and his family sought refuge in Saudi Arabia, where they have been welcomed by the Saudi Arabian King. “The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announces that it stands fully by the Tunisian people, wishing, by God’s will, its people will stand solid to overcome this difficult phase in its history,” the Saudi royal court said in a statement.


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Clashes in Tunisia began as early as last December, when a young man set fire to himself because officials barred him from selling vegetables without permission. This sparked widespread rioting and an escalation of what had been a grass-roots organization frustrated over poor living conditions, high unemployment and government corruption and repression.

Marchers called for Ben Ali’s removal, but violence continued on Friday when police fired tear gas into a crowd in the capital of Tunis. Ben Ali dissolved the government and declared a state of emergency.

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Expression is key for [undefined]movers

Looking ahead: Knickerbocker Spring Film Series lineup

“Another Year”
This indie dramedy follows medical counselor Gerri and her geologist husband Tom, a typically happy couple. The film shows a year of birth, death, tragedy, unhappiness and more. Jim Broadbent, Lesley Manville, and Ruth Sheen star, and Mike Leigh writes/directs (“Happy-Go-Lucky,” “Vera Drake,” “Secrets & Lies”).
March 14-19
Showings every night at 7:30 p.m.

“Waste Land”
The only documentary this spring, “Waste Land” follows Vik Muniz from Brooklyn to Rio de Janeiro and the world’s biggest garbage dump. He visits the garbage pickers there— who call themselves “catadores” and plans to paint them. But while he creates his art, he realizes just how lively, compassionate and often gloomy the catadores become.
Feb. 4-5
Showings every night at 7:30 p.m.

Expression is key for [undefined]movers

Broaden your horizons! The Knickerbocker Theatre offers a well-selected slew of independent films this season, just for you. If you did watch the Golden Globes, you saw that “The Illusionist” was nominated for best animated feature film. The other films have received their own share of recognition, too. With a modest student price of only $5, these films have plenty to offer. Take a walk downtown to the Knickerbocker Theatre and see for yourself.

The Illusionist
A victim of recent times, Tatischeff the magician is finding his magic acts overshadowed by rock bands and other more popular shows. Alice, a girl he meets along the way, starts sympathizing with the illusionist. Without Tatischeff wanting to impress the young girl who supports him, he finds himself short of the funds necessary to put on a “good show.” Sylvian Chomet directs this enthralling animated tale.
April 4-9
Showings every night at 7:30 p.m.

Another piece had an interesting wordplay concept. The dancers wore bandeaus with sheer attachments tied around their waists. As the dance went on, the emotion became deeper, and the attachments fell like curtains, draping the dancers’ midsections and provoking a flowing feel for the rest of the piece. The performers of [undefined]movers attack to create a different style of dance company at Hope College. Whereas other companies are directed by faculty and affiliated specifically with the dance department, [undefined]movers seems to be just that—undefined.

Their free-spirited attitudes and student choreographed routines give the [undefined]movers means for direct expression of their creative abilities. While students cannot perform for both InSync Dance Theatre and DANCEPROJECT throughout one year, they can still perform with [undefined]movers to their hearts’ content. The [undefined]movers’ mission statement expresses that the dancers simply could not wait until after graduation to create such a company. After Friday night’s show, audiences must agree: [undefined]movers came just in time.
Billions of people all over the world stayed awake to watch the year 2011 roll in as the last moments of 2010 ticked by. With the blink of an eye, the clock struck midnight and the year of “twenty-ten” slipped away. As always, Kiribati, an island nation located in the Pacific Ocean, was the first country to welcome in the New Year.

Shortly after, over 1 million people watched the “Make Your Mark” fireworks show go off in the Sydney Harbor when the New Year reached Australian coasts. Eleven hours later, the French celebrated la Saint-Sylvestre and snacked on foie gras at le Réveillon de la Saint-Sylvestre feasts. In Chile, families prepared food and celebrated the day with each other. Later, as the skies darkened for the final time in 2010, thousands gather in the capital city, Santiago, to watch the countdown to midnight.

When the New Year finally hit the U.S. east coast, over a million people were gathered in New York’s Times square to watch the iconic, glittering ball drop to the ground at midnight. They were joined by millions of viewers who tuned in to watch America’s most famous New Year’s Eve Celebration. Not far from the heart of the Big Apple, a much smaller crowd, though no less excited, gathered in Seaside Heights, N.J. to see the “Jersey Shore” star, Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi, lowered in her own New Year’s Eve ball.

Finally the New Year hit the Independent State of Samoa and 2011 had officially swept over the entire world.

Here in the snow globe of southwest Michigan, the New Year carried with it a chance for a more prosperous year, one dearly needed in a state afflicted by economic and social woes.

The mark of a new year holds a different meaning to each person. For some, it is a fresh start at life, a chance to wipe the slate clean and forget the previous year. For others it is a way to reflect on the past year and move into the new one with resolutions to make it even better.

By the time Sunday, Jan. 9, had rolled around, and students flooded quickly back into the residence halls of Hope College, many of those New Year’s resolutions had already been broken. Nevertheless, with 2011 underway, anticipation of a better, brighter, safe, prosperous and extremely fun year still hold strong. The new year, whether in the distant hills of Kiribati or right here in the halls of Hope College, promises another 12 months of fresh starts and new opportunities.

It’s a New Year. It’s a new you. Welcome to 2011.
Lest we forget
James Nichols
Co-Editor-in-Chief

When I was in elementary school I regularly attended a youth group at my local church. I vividly remember a couple of the group leaders taking me off to the side one time and asking me, "Have you ever been saved?"

My initial reaction was panic. What does being saved mean? If I say no will they kick me out? Am I in trouble? Luckily, they saw the confusion on my face and explained what they meant.

Quickly I scrambled possible salvation situations through my mind. I had it! A few months earlier I was delivering papers and a mean looking German Shepherd was staring me down from a few houses ahead. He had no leash, no collar and I'd never seen him before.

I froze. He looked like he wanted to eat me. The first thing that came to mind was to pray. "Please God, don't let this dog attack me," I thought. As if by miracle, the dog suddenly turned around and walked away.

This was the first time I truly believed in God. Over the next decade I wrestled with the idea of God's existence. I had plenty of evidence supporting both sides. Eventually the issue fell into the shadows of my mind.

A year ago it came back full force. A year ago Hope College lost two great people. A year ago hundreds of students were robbed of a close friend.

David Otai and Emma Biagiioni were amazing people. There are no words that can describe the magnitude of grief their passing a year ago brought to so many people.

I didn't know Emma very well. We were both part of the Anchor staff last year but that amount of interaction was all I had with her. Even in that short amount of time, I could tell she was a kind, passionate person who loved every day of her life.

Sadly, I didn't spend enough time with her to truly get to know her. Guessing as to what she was like on a daily basis would not do her justice. Those who did truly know her will do her justice.

David, on the other hand, quickly became a friend of mine. In the short time span of one semester David and I went from not knowing each other to visiting each other's houses, bonding over video games and sharing countless stories.

My favorite memory of David is walking with him to class one day. We started at the Multicultural Lounge on the first floor of Martha Miller. Our Communication 101 class was in one of the upstairs classrooms in Martha Miller. It took us 10 minutes.

Nearly everybody that walked past us either said "Hi," hugged David, high-fired him, told him something real quick or simply shook his hand. Reflecting back on it after his passing, I realize that David was much more than himself. An aspiring missionary pilot in Africa, David had everybody but himself in mind. This was why, a year ago, my years of turmoil with God's existence was abruptly solved: Without a shadow of a doubt, God must exist, if not, why would two honorable people perish? He obviously has a plan for them much more important than anything they could accomplish on Earth.

Lest we forget Emma and David a year later.
The hourglass is a product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the Anchor are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Anchor. One-year subscriptions to the Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising. Daily deadlines for advertising and classified requests must be submitted to the Anchor. All ad and classified requests must be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, prior to Wednesday distribution.

Contact Information: To submit an ad or a classified, or to request a brochure or other information, contact our Ad Representative at anchorads@hope.edu. To contact our office, call our office at (616) 394-7787.

John Donkersloot Guest Columnist

Every once in a while, a person receives a perfectly unexpected perfect gift. Mine came from Pottery Barn—this Christmas my older brother gave me an hourglass. It’s a product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the Anchor are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Anchor. One-year subscriptions to the Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising. Daily deadlines for advertising and classified requests must be submitted to the Anchor. All ad and classified requests must be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, prior to Wednesday distribution.

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**Sports**

**January 19, 2011**

**Hope students travel to Park City, Utah**

**Charlotte Park**
Ass’t, Sports Editor

In an annual trip organized by members of the Cosmopolitan fraternity, more than 40 Hope students traveled to Park City, Utah during Christmas break for a week of skiing and hanging out with friends.

“Overall, I would say the trip was a huge success,” said Austin Jule (’11).

Each year the trip has been held at a different ski resort. Past destinations have been Winter Park, Steamboat, and Keystone, all of which are in Colorado. This year, Park City seemed to perfectly suit the needs of everyone.

“Everything was in walking distance from our resort, including the lifts, lockers, ski rentals, and lots of cool restaurants,” Jule said.

Students stayed at the Park Station resort, in which each condo fit six people. Each condo included a living room with a fireplace, a kitchen, and three separate bedrooms.

The trip was offered to students at $425, which included six days and five nights of lodging and skiing.

“Money wise, the trip was an excellent deal,” said Cristi Ellen Zarvas (’13).

It was “college week” in Park City, so there were a variety of different activities open for students to attend at night, including concerts and dance parties.

“One of my favorite parts of the trip was going to the Ying Yang Twins concert,” said Allie Getz (’13).

Also available to students was a 24-hour shuttle, which took people around the town.

Overall, the skiing, variety of night activities, and prime location made the trip to Park City an unforgettable experience for everyone who attended.

“I would definitely consider traveling there again next year,” said Zarvas.

“Park City was beautiful, easy to get around, and very college friendly, with great shopping, dining and nightlife. I had an absolute blast.”

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**Star player steps off court and focuses on school**

**Jolene Jeske**
Sports Editor

One cannot measure the importance each individual makes to a team, but one certainly can measure the success of a team from one season to the next.

Men’s Hope basketball last season was booming, and star player Peter Bunn (’12) was a key reason.

With hopes of last season’s success for the 2010-11 season, the team took a big hit. In the first game of the season against Davenport University, Hope’s starting line up took the court and fans noticed. All Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association pick and starting guard, Peter Bunn was missing from the line up.

Bunn apparently played last basketball season with an undiagnosed concussion and a dislocated wrist. The struggle Bunn faced this season has no definite explanation, but lingering effects from the concussion seem to be the answer.

“I noticed focus changes in Peter, especially in the classroom,” says Coach Matt Neil.

According to Bunn, after the concussion from the previous season he endured headaches that made reading course material hard to focus on. Faculty and academic personal stepped in for Bunn, offering him guidance and support. What seemed to be the solution at the time didn’t solve much.

After weeks of medical tests and no answers Bunn, his family, doctors and the coaching staff sat down for a meeting after the team trip to Florida.

Neil said, “It was in [Bunn’s] best interest and Hope basketball’s to not let him play. After making the decision with everyone who was involved, it was much easier for the team to move on. We had closure.”

After the decision was made, Coach Neil focused on filling a void: finding players that could contribute the same leadership as Bunn had. “We moved around guys, divided minutes and forced the men to step up their play,” says Neil about the remaining players.

After the team’s trip to Florida, players Will Bowser (’11) and David Krombeen (’12) stepped up their game leading the Dutchmen in scoring and opening the team’s record to 10 wins and 5 losses. With new leaders established and players elevated their game, the team is moving forward.

As Bunn steps off the court and into the classroom, many are probably wondering if his Hope basketball career is over. Rest assured, number 44 will be back on the court next season, and Bunn will be in that jersey, suiting up for the game he loves.

In the meantime, Bunn will stay involved with men’s basketball by serving as a student assistant to the men’s junior varsity.

“We definitely wanted to keep Peter involved and help him become more of a vocal leader. This time off will get him back on track with class work and allow him to bring his accomplishments back on the court,” said Neil.

Demonstrated by the team itself, the loss of a player like Bunn has the men to move in a despair and hopelessness, but in a state of rebuilding and re-characterizing. Hope men’s basketball didn’t lose a team member, but gained a student assistant with passion for the game of basketball.

“As the season makes midway, Neil will help prepare the team for their game against Adrian College on Jan. 19 and against Calvin in the coming Jan. 29 game.