Lecturer promotes interracial dialogue

Arryn Uhlenbrauck
Guest Writer

On Feb. 1 in the Maas Auditorium, author and co-director of the Duke University Center for Reconciliation Chris Rice gave a lecture titled “Becoming the Beloved Community: America’s New Racial Time: Lessons from 30 Years in the Trenches” for the Phelps Scholars Lecture Series.


For “More than Equals: Racial Healing for the Sake of the Gospel,” he teamed up with his African-American colleague Spencer Perkins, whom he spoke of in his lecture. He explained that when he first met Perkins in Mississippi, they did not get along. For Rice “dealing with race was optional,” but in truth he said “all of us have been destroyed by this racial history.”

But he claims that there is still hope. “In the midst of this history, the way things are is not the way it has to be,” Rice said.

His lecture was a discussion of reconciliation, which he said was not an event, not an achievement. “Instead reconciliation is both a gift and a journey. He shared that “to know God grows out of a 30-year journey.”

There are challenges to reconciliation. Rice discussed that the election of President Barack Obama is a sign of new racial times, but he also considered the continuous problems of immigration, what the church’s role is when the government wants to perform a raid, and the abandonment of margins, considering how African Americans are treated in the incarceration system.

Even Rice had difficulty reconciling with his colleague Perkins, but he explained that through time he came to see that Perkins was “not the friend (he) wanted, but the friend (he) needed.”

“Reconciliation is never bigger than loving the person nearest you who is the most difficult to love,” Rice said.

Rice wanted listeners to add the word lament to their vocabulary, saying that “we, Americans, like to fix things” but in the case of reconciliation, because “we have been destroyed by this racial history,” that would mean everyone would need to be fixed.

Rice summed up his idea with this quote from Flannery O’Connor, “All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us and the change is painful.”

Professors use innovative technology in the classroom

James Nichols
Assistant Sports Editor

Now that we are in the second decade of the new millennium, technology and innovation are becoming increasingly important in the classroom; Hope College is no exception.

For the past five years, a portion of the Campus Technology Fund has been used to help faculty improve the technology they use in their classrooms.

Hope’s Computing and Information Technology and the Academic Computing Advisory Team operate the program and allow “instructional technology innovation funds” to professors who apply for and meet the criteria.

A luncheon on Feb. 4 allowed the four professors who received funds from ACAT for the 2009 school year to present their innovative classroom ideas.

“We wanted the opportunity to see what people who got the funds have done over the past year,” said Barry Bandstra, professor of religion and chair of ACAT.

Also on the ACAT board are Hope faculty and staff including Carl Heideman, director of process and innovation; Jeff Pestun, associate director of CIT; and various faculty members representing different academic disciplines.

“My job is to encourage people to submit grants,” said Susan Cherup, education professor and representative for the social sciences. “We have to get people to try different and innovative things in the classroom.”

The funds are intended to be used for “hardware, software or support in developing computer-based teaching and learning resources,” according to the ACAT website.

However, there are two stipulations on the fund: it must be used “directly in connection with teaching and student learning,” and it is a one-time grant intended to jump start innovation, not fund it indefinitely.

Steve Nelson, associate professor of photography, received an instructional technology innovation fund for the 2009 school year. With it he created a digital photography lab in the basement of the De Pree Art Center.

“I really appreciated this fund,” said Nelson. “The arts have to step up because the world is changing a lot, and this fund allowed me to do this.”

The new digital photo lab is equipped with a high-resolution scanner that can scan old photographs into a computer. The photos can then be used in Photoshop to the artist’s liking.

“Digital photography allows a lot of flexibility,” said Nelson. “In particular, it allows you to see the meta-data of a picture right after you take it.” Meta-data of a picture are histograms of lighting, pixels, etc.

Andy Nakajima, professor of Japanese and also a recipient of the fund for 2009, presented what he called “Technology in Transition.”

His Japanese 495 class worked with a Japanese Christian TV program called “Harvest Time.” The fund provided HP touch screen computers that allowed the students to quickly translate spoken Japanese into written English.

They would write on the screen of the computer which would save notes to provide English subtitles for the program.

“This technology really increased my students’ translation skills,” said Nakajima.

English professor Bill Pannapacker used his funds to create what he calls the “New Media Studio” in the rare book room in the basement of Van Wylen Library.

Equipped with a brand new iMac, microphones, digital camcorder, and four HD flip cameras, the New Media Studio is state-of-the-art.

“The New Media Studio provides support for new media and digital humanities projects. It will allow us to foster collaboration using the internet; faculty and students working together,” said Pannapacker.

Ernest Cole, also of the English department, funded a documentary on his homeland, Sierra Leone, with the money from ACAT.

The deadline for 2010 requests is Feb. 15. The request form can be found at http://hope.edu/cit/request/instfund.html. The requests will be reviewed by ACAT in March and awarded funds will be available by April.
Promise scholarship affects students

**Chris Russ**

**Great Wall**

The entire nation has been hit hard by the recent economic collapse, but one of the states that has suffered the most as a result has been Michigan.

As part of an attempt to save the state money, the state government recently determined that it would eliminate the Michigan Promise scholarships that promised up to $4,000 to in-state students.

This may not however, be the final verdict on the fate of the program. In her State of the State address on Feb. 3, Governor Jennifer Granholm called for the restoration of the scholarships. The elimination of the scholarships has triggered an opinionated response from college students and faculty across the state, and at some universities, action has even been taken to ensure that the students who lost the scholarship will receive the money through other means. At Hope, the faculty and students are also dealing with the effects of the cancellation and how it will impact both the college and community, and the state as well.

Although Granholm is making an attempt to reinstate the program, this is no guarantee that the money will be turned back.

Phyllis K. Hooyman, the director of Financial Aid stated that “Given the state’s economic challenges, we believe it will be very challenging for either the Governor or a legislator to garner the needed votes in the Legislature to reinstate this program.”

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Hope student Leslie Vaas ’12 also expressed doubt about the future of the program. “I’m not sure why they’d change their mind now, but that would be nice.”

Lt. Governor John Cherry has already attempted to restart the scholarship with no success. Both Michigan State and Wayne State students have staged protests regarding the lost funds. At Hope, the reaction has not been as severe. Hooyman said that there have been almost no complaints directed at the Financial Aid office.

Political Science professor Dr. Paula Booke stated that although she was not in favor of the cancellation, “I don’t have anyone to blame, in this economy, people make tough decisions.”

Although there may not be the sense of outrage on Hope’s campus that may be present elsewhere, there is still student dissatisfaction.

When asked about her opinion on the current state of the scholarship, Hope student Anneliese Gortz ’12 replied, “I can understand why it was canceled, but education is not what you should be cutting.”

However, some Hope students are not impacted by the loss of the Promise scholarship. Florida resident Justin Knutter ’12 reflected that “They had to cut the budget somewhere, I guess it may be better than some alternatives.”

According to the school administration, Hope college students will lose around $2 million in financial aid in this upcoming year as a result of state education cuts.

Many hold the opinion that directing these funds away from higher education will impact that state economy in a negative way.

Booke felt that the Michigan Promise was “A good way to foster economic redevelopment,” and that providing direct financial aid to Michigan residents would result in “Creative thinkers to broaden the state’s economic base.”

Booke also mentioned that students who are educated in a state, are likely to live and work in that state once they graduate.

**Dr. Paula Booke**

**Political Science Professor**

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We are finding ways to compensate for the lost funds. Some, such as Ferris State University and Michigan State University, are using federal stimulus money to reimburse many of their students.

The University of Michigan will be covering the lost Promisefunds for a portion of their students as well and Grand Valley State boosters were able to gather enough funds to reimburse a handful of students.

When asked if Hope had any plans to reimbursing students, Hooyman replied that “While the college would have liked to replace this lost funding, it was not possible to step in and replace the loss of Michigan Promise scholarship funding resulting from the budget decisions made by the State Legislature.” She also stated that the majority of schools in the state did not replace the lost funds.
After Massachusetts election, Democrats and Republicans look to 2010 midterm contests

Eric Anderson
Go-Annals, News Editor

After Republican Scott Brown upset Democrat Edward Markey in Massachusetts, all eyes are turning to the upcoming midterm elections to see if Republicans can maintain their momentum. However, Democrats aren’t in retreat mode; they are looking to capitalize on the Republican party stemming from disagreements over whether a broad or narrow ideological base should be adopted. Here are some key races to watch.

Michigan
With the long holds of Michigan’s 2nd Congressional District, Hope alumna Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., retiring to run for governor, a wide range of candidates are looking to fill the spot. Among the Republican candidates are State Rep. Bill Huizenga; State Sen. Wayne Kuipers; and Zeeland native Jay Riemersma, a former Michigan Wolverine and professional football player. Hope College’s Fred Johnson looks to represent Democrats as he did two years ago when he challenged Hoekstra. While Michigan’s 2nd Congressional District is typically conservative, it was narrowly won by John McCain during the 2008 presidential election when McCain received 51 percent of the votes. Michigan’s 7th, 9th and 11th districts will also be competitive, setting up the east coast of the state as a battle ground.

Illinois
The Senate seat vacated by Barack Obama is up for contention, with Republican Mark Kirk leading the pack. Kirk is retiring from the House of Representatives to run for the Senate, but is facing tough tests from other right wing candidates. Among those candidates is Andy Martin, a conservative writer who garnered notoriety by being the first to claim that Barack Obama was secretly a Muslim.

Kentucky
This race features tight primaries from both Republicans and Democrats. Up for grabs is the Senate seat vacated by retiring Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky. On the Democratic side, Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway faces off against the Lieutenant Governor, Daniel Mongiardo. Are to take the uncertain initial for the Senate, but is facing tough tests from other right wing candidates. Among those candidates is Andy Martin, a conservative writer who garnered notoriety by being the first to claim that Barack Obama was secretly a Muslim.

Pennsylvania
Sen. Arlen Specter made a tough decision last year when he switched his party affiliation to Democratic in order to have a better shot at winning his primary. Specter was a moderate conservative so his new affiliation wasn’t too much of a stretch and he currently holds the support of many significant Democratic leaders. He will be challenged in the Democratic primary by Rep. Pat Toomey, R-Penn., a former U.S. Navy rear admiral and the highest ranking former military officer in Congress. If Specter makes it through the primary, he’ll face stiff competition from Pat Toomey, the man he narrowly beat in 2004 and the man he switched parties to avoid in the primaries.

New Hampshire
With a Senate seat opening up after a retirement, Democrats are making a strong push for New Hampshire Rep. Paul Rhodes, D-N.H., to face whoever emerges in a packed Republican primary. The contest features four strong candidates including an attorney general, a businessman, a lawyer and a former gubernatorial nominee.

Florida
Florida’s political landscape is highlighted by a battle in the Republican primary. Republican Gov. Charlie Crist looks to gain the party’s nomination, but faces a tough challenge from Marco Rubio, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Rubio has criticized Crist for his support of the stimulus package, accusing Crist of being too moderate.

Defense officials recommend repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’

Repeal endorsed by Obama and Joint-Chiefs chair; draws mixed reactions from Senate panel

Amy Alvin
Staff Writer

In his State of the Union address on Jan. 27 President Obama identified various goals including repealing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

“This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are. It’s the right thing to do,” Obama said.

The president’s opposition to the law, which he declared throughout his campaign and his first year in office, has fueled debate in Washington. “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is a familiar phrase for the policy that prohibits homosexual or bisexual persons serving in the United States armed forces from divulging their sexual orientation or discussing any homosexual relationships they may have.

At the forefront of this debate in Washington, along with Obama, are Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Appearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Gates and Mullen agreed to take the uncertain initial steps towards ending the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Mullen said the services offer to all Americans including gays, as long as the military requirement for the maintenance of good order and discipline is met. “There’s been a huge shift in public opinion, particularly among young people. We think there’s an opportunity to do it in this budget over the next 90 days,” said Aubrey Sarvis, the executive director of the Servicemen Legal Defense Network.

A poll by USA Today and Gallup showed 69 percent of respondents favored allowing gays to serve openly in the military. However, there is still opposition to the abolishment of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. Some believe that if this policy is lifted, the presence of openly gay or lesbian troops would undermine morale and could damage “unit cohesion.”

Tony Perkins, the President of the Conservative Family Research Council, said, “the sexual environment the president is seeking to impose upon young men and women who serve this country is the antithesis of the successful war-fighting culture, and as such should be rejected.”

Also in opposition to the removal of this policy is Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

“I am immensely proud of, and thankful for, every American who wears the uniform of our country, especially at a time of war, and I believe it would be a mistake to repeal the policy,” said Sen. McCain.

As a result of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, there have been more than 12,000 otherwise-qualified men and women, including 58 Arab linguists and roughly 1,000 individuals per year, who have been thrown out of the armed forces for being homosexual or bisexual.
President Obama unveils budget for next fiscal year

Eric Anderson
Co-National, News Editor

On Feb. 1, President Barack Obama presented his new budget proposal, which will cover spending for government operations for the next fiscal year. In his new budget, Obama outlined methods to reduce the national debt, the course of the next decade, as well as ways to revitalize the economy.

This new financial plan demonstrates a different approach compared to budget proposals in the past. For example, Obama's new budget would not renew the Bush tax cuts, which allowed for tax breaks to families earning over $200,000 a year. The proposal would also begin to privatize NASA by giving contracts to private aerospace companies.

In an attempt to curb the national deficit, the federal budget includes a three-year clean freeze on many domestic programs. This freeze would not include defense spending.

Taking efforts to reduce national debt one step further, the newly proposed federal budget would eliminate funding for a significant number of domestic programs and reduce funding for many others. This would include cuts to, among other things, National Parks programs.

Obama had indicated an interest in developing a high-speed rail system, and with his new budget there are a number of projects designed to move forward on this. The budget would provide grants on the federal and state levels, looking to implement high-speed rail systems throughout the country. Obama also asked for money to start a national infrastructure bank that would help to fund projects like the development of a high-speed rail system.

One enormous shift in Obama's new budget is the focus on clean energy programs. These new projects are among the few domestic programs that will be receiving increases in federal spending.

This focus on green power extends beyond increased funding for environmentally friendly initiatives. In addition, Obama's new budget also looks to save money by cutting tax benefits for companies who produce fuel by burning fossil fuels. The budget continues its focus on the environment by reversing the cap-and-trade bill that is currently moving through Congress. Obama's bill does not go any further than recognizing the possible passage of the bill. This suggests Obama has learned from criticism he received over last year's budget when he assumed that a cap-and-trade bill would be passed and would generate revenue.

In regard to how this budget will affect the national deficit, decreases are not expected to be realized in the short-term. In fact, the budget is expected to increase the deficit by nearly $1.6 trillion this year. This will be the highest amount of debt in the post World War II era. However, the budget is estimated to reduce the deficit in the next fiscal year, with an estimated $1.2 trillion being saved in total over the next 10 years.

The spending cuts featured in Obama's new budget were an area of special interest for Congressional Republicans. The House minority leader, Rep. John Boehner, R-O, Ohio, stated, "Meet the Press" that he would like to see the cuts taken even further.

"We should be going through this budget line by line and answering the question, 'Is this spending worth having to borrow money that our kids and grandkids are going to have to pay back?' That's the real question," Boehner said, "and if we went through the budget line by line like that, I think there's a lot more spending that we could cut."

Dan Pfeiffer, the White House communications director, agreed with Boehner, saying that they had a critical eye while reviewing the budget.

"Where there was waste, duplicative programs or programs that have outlived their usefulness, they were eliminated or reduced," Pfeiffer said.

More obstacles arise in Guantanamo Bay closing

Eric Anderson
Co-National, News Editor

During his bid for the presidency, President Barack Obama campaigned on the platform that, if elected, he would work to close the controversial Guantanamo Bay detention center.

Two days after taking office, Obama nodded to have the facility closed within the year. However, more than a year into his presidency, Obama has encountered a number of obstacles and seems far from reaching his goal.

The most recent setback came when Obama's administration gave up on efforts to try the plotters of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York City. The plan to hold the trials in Manhattan was originally supported by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. However, due to rising concerns over the feasibility of this plan, as well as many New Yorkers' concern over safety issues, Bloomberg has pulled back from supporting the proposal. Instead, the issue of where to move the current residents of Guantanamo Bay has proven to be the most difficult aspect of closing the detention center.

Efforts to repatriate detainees have drawn criticism over worries that former prisoners who seek revenge for their detainment and become security threats again.

Transferring detainees to be prosecuted in American courthouses is also problematic. No state is particularly eager to host these trials in their courts. The general belief is that any location that houses these prisoners will immediately become a terrorist target. Hosting the terror trials in Manhattan would have required a massive police presence, extensive street closings and numerous other safety precautions.

A number of other states have been identified as possible locales to house former Guantanamo inmates. Kansas is one of those states, but they are voicing a sentiment that seems to be shared by a lot of possible locations. "They should be treated with dignity and humanely, but not here" said Senator Bob Dole, R-Kan.

This "not in my backyard" way of thinking is not shared by everyone. The town of Standish, Mich., has an unemployment rate of nearly 17 percent. This town also happens to have a maximum security correctional facility that is eager to take in the inmates at Guantanamo Bay. This responsibility would certainly require a great deal of security, and the town of Standish would be eager for any new influx of employment opportunities.

The ultimate destination of these prisoners is still undecided, and the number of solutions is dwindling. Nearly half of the Guantanamo Bay prisoners are from Yemen, which is also the home of the group behind the failed terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound plane. Prisoners have been barred from being transferred back to Yemen, adding more inmates that must be moved to Guantanamo Bay.

Guantanamo Bay Timeline

Feb. 23, 1903: President Theodore Roosevelt reaches an agreement with Cuba to lease 45 square miles at the mouth of Guantanamo Bay for 2,000 gold coins a year.

1934: The United States and Cuba renegotiate the Guantanamo Bay lease, agreeing that the land would revert to Cuban control only if abandoned or by mutual consent.

Jan. 1, 1959: Communist revolutionaries led by Castro overthrow the Cuban government. The United States bans its servicemen from entering Cuban territory.

Jan. 4, 1961: Cuba and the United States formally break off their once-friendly relations, but President Eisenhower declares this "has no effect on the status of our Naval Station at Guantanamo."

Oct. 21-22, 1962: Civilians are evacuated from the base at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

November 1991: The base is used to house Haitian refugees left homeless from a flood.

Jan. 11, 2002: A U.S. military plane from Afghanistan touches down at Guantanamo Bay carrying 20 prisoners, marking the start of the current detention operation.

Source: National Public Radio
Visiting Writers Series: Melissa Delbridge shares her life with the Hope community

Melissa Delbridge, author of "Family Bible," discussed her memoir about life in the South in the 1960s during Hope College’s Visiting Writer’s Series on Feb. 4. Her writing is easy and fun while offering the reader deep insight into her life during Hope College’s Visiting Writers Series on Feb. 4.


"What initially made you want to be a writer?"

Sometimes you’re just harassed by a cosmic compulsion, as when dogs run around three times before settling down. Your book, "Mennonite in a Little Black Dress," has a strong, humorous tone. Does humor run in your family or did you develop your own humor-filled identity as you grew up?

I’d like to think that humor runs through subterranean genetic channels, like an allergy to walnuts or an enthusiasm for doing your taxes.

What is the thing you value most about your Mennonite upbringing?

Ah, how can I single out one valuable? I feel blessed to have parents who live as they believe. They have taught me by example, year after year, that following faith doesn’t just grow up thinking that there was an unbridgeable gap between the church purported and what it achieved. My folks were part of a community who demonstrated practical care.

Delbridge writes the nitty gritty of growing up: the woman was almost kidnapped by hobo, so you know it’s going to be an interesting read. Delbridge writes of a South where "words can makeshift shift from precious to obscene in the span of a sentence or two." Her readers can easily appr

Organization, has a large budget to go toward on mostly good arts, while Hope’s equivalent, Student Activities Committee, divides its budget amongst a multitude of different activities. Therefore, Hope College has fewer resources to spend on concerts. But the Concert Series is hoping that more doors will open in the future after having booked Iron & Wine. "Since we know how it’s going up, getting Iron & Wine here is the first step to doing that," says Delbridge.

But the Concert Series is hoping that more doors will open in the future after having booked Iron & Wine. "Since we know how it’s going up, getting Iron & Wine here is the first step to doing that," says Delbridge.

Because now when we’re coming up, getting Iron & Wine here is the first step to doing that," says Delbridge.

"Because now when we’re looking out, looking for an artist, we can say he’s been here... then people in the business will start talking. We can say he’s been here... then people in the business will start talking. Delbridge says."

"I’m involved in this because I’m passionate about good music," Banner continues.

"Our goal is to consistently offer such good music that Hope students will still come see a show of a band they haven’t heard of. We want to develop that kind of trust that no matter what we promote, it’ll be worth your time and money."

According to Banner, some students have asked to see artists that reach outside of the apparent folk-Christian proclivity. In other words, students would like to see more variety. "As far as family friendly," Banner explains. "I don’t think there is any way for anyone to come up with a list of taboos that could disqualify a particular artist. We have to treat each artist individually, case by case."

"The result of the Iron & Wine show will open doors for bringing in more diverse artists to Hope."
Grammy-nominated Paul Galbraith performs at the Knick

Chris Russ
Staff Writer

On Feb. 2, Grammy-nominated and internationally renowned classical guitarist Paul Galbraith performed a five-piece set that displayed his technical prowess and his distinct uniqueness as a classical musician.

Not only is Galbraith mastering the traditional skill set of his instrument, but he is also innovative in exploring new ways of working with the guitar instrument.

An audience comprised mostly of local residents, along with a number of Hope students and faculty, gathered in the Knickerbocker Theater to view the show. After a brief introduction, Galbraith silently took the stage, which was occupied by a chair, a wooden box and a microphone.

At this point, the most striking feature of the performance was seen. The guitar that was used was an eight-stringed instrument, held upright and rested on the wooden resonance box by way of a metal endpin, much like a cello.

The Scottish-born musician who currently lives in Brazil was dressed all in black. Although he began playing without comment, between pieces he would comment on the composers whose work he was now interpreting. He even joked about how the weather in North America was quite different than what he was accustomed to in Brazil.

Galbraith began the show with his version of Bach's "Cello Suite No. 1 in G." The piece was originally composed sometime between 1717 and 1723, along with Bach's five other cello suites in this series. By also composing a lute version of "Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor," Bach showed the flexibility of these suites, a flexibility explored by the modern rendering of this classic piece on not only a guitar, but on such a unique guitar.

Next, a short piece entitled "Rin" was played. It was composed in 1990 by the Italian composer Luciano Berio as the first movement of his "Six Encores for Piano." The piece was written to commemorate the composer's friend, a pianist who died at the age of 20. "An interesting blend of timbral, harmonic, and mostly unrecognized reference," Galbraith began Castelnuovo-Tedesco's, "Ommaggio a Boccherini" with the phrase "And now for something completely different!" After a lute piece from Scarlatti or a harmonics piece from Castelnuovo-Tedesco, an Italian pianist, was both assisted and encouraged to write the piece by the guitarist during the performance.

Following the intermission, Galbraith began with "Sonata for Keyboard in C-sharp minor" by Franz Joseph Haydn. While this piece was not originally intended to be played on the guitar, a distinguishing feature of Galbraith's work seems to be his ability to play, as explained after the performance by Hope College music major Joshua Williams (12), "music that's technically difficult for any instrument." Galbraith concluded the show with "Variations and Fugue on 'La Folia'" by the Mexican composer, Manuel Ponce. This 1930 work seeks to explore the great range of the guitar, a theme that is quite fitting with the aesthetic of the entire performance.

The entire display was impressive and entertaining. Galbraith carried himself as a music professional while also remaining amiable and charming. There was no question that this man was a master of his craft. Williams summarized the night nicely by saying that his music served as "motivation to perfect what I'm doing."
It was only a little over a year ago that a senator from Chicago, Ill., was elected to become the 44th president of the United States. As you know, this man is Barack Obama, the first African-American president in the United States. 2009 proved to be an eventful year in Obama's life. His first year in office was a remarkable stepping stone towards making history. Here are some of the highlights from Obama’s first year:

Obama's first bill that he signed into law was for equal-pay legislation. This law allows employees to sue employers who discriminate against them and do not grant them equal pay. The signing of this law was only the first display of power from Obama.

With the full support of Obama, Congress was urged to pass the Recovery Act on Feb. 13, 2009, while Obama signed it into law on Feb. 17, 2009. The Recovery Act, according to recovery.gov, is meant to "create new jobs as well as save existing ones, spur economic activity and invest in long-term economic growth, and foster unprecedented levels of accountability and transparency in government spending.”

On Feb. 24, 2009, Obama gave his first Congressional Address. He talked of the economic situation throughout the United States and the recession into which we have plummeted. Yet, through this address, President Obama spoke of an optimistic outcome that is very near in the future of the United States.

Obama, according to a speech given on Feb. 27, 2009, plans to have American troops out of Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010. This is the day that he set to end the Iraq War. According to Obama’s speech on whitehouse.gov, after American forces are taken out of Iraq, the “mission will change from combat to supporting the Iraqi government and its security forces as they take the absolute lead in securing their country.”

June 4, 2009. Obama raised awareness of the potential ties that could come between the United States and Muslims. This speech was given in Cairo, Egypt, and addressed the hope for peace between the United States and Muslims. Boldly, Obama spoke of how a new beginning between the two can be in the near future.

Upon receiving the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 9, 2009, Obama said that the “Nobel Peace Prize has not just been used to honor specific achievement; it’s also been used as a means to give momentum to a set of causes. And that is why I will accept this award as a call to action — a call for all nations to confront the common challenges of the 21st century.”

A back-to-school address was given by Obama on Sept. 8, 2009. This national address was accepted by some schools and prohibited by others. It sought the importance to tell America’s children to work as hard as they could in school and take responsibility for their actions. Obama mentioned the quality of an education and how important it was to stay in school. While this was a positive speech for many, others found it inappropriate because it was supposedly showing his political beliefs, which were being forced upon the children.

In a speech given on Dec. 1, 2009, President Obama announced that more United States troops will be sent to Afghanistan. The number that was planned to be sent was 30,000, which would bring the total number of United States troops in Afghanistan to approximately 100,000. Obama planned to send more troops in order to prevent future Taliban insurgencies.

While these are only some of the major events that happened in Obama’s first year in office, they are still just as important as all of the other events that occurred in 2009. It is without a doubt that Obama has impacted the world we live in, and it is within his power to change it to become a better world.

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**THE GOOD:**
On KJCT8, a news station, it was reported that a woman named Leslie Pratt stated her opinions of Obama’s first year: “He’s doing very well and he’s keeping everyone’s interest in mind.”

Another anonymous source stated on answers.com that “He’s a good man with not much experience.”

While another anonymous source stated, “Barack Obama is a brilliant American man, with promises of helping the environment, and helping America to go green. He is a man who wants to stop America from being the second worst polluter on Earth, and help it level with all the other countries that want to help stop global warming.”

**THE BAD:**
“Obama is leaning toward socialism. His government funded healthcare plan is going to be disastrous, and most of the American people are against it. Obama is misguided when he still pledges American support for the rapidly failing theory of global warming.”

Another anonymous source said that “he is not slightly left of center… that is a lie. He is as far left as you can be. Probably the fairest left presidential candidate ever to run.”

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*Those interested in learning more about President Obama’s first year in office can visit whitehouse.gov, which served as the primary source for this article.*
**Voices**

**Musings on mutual misunderstandings**

**Emily West**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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**Public outcry**

These days I cannot be in public much because I desire to do inappropriate things, like yell and dance. I desire to turn outward what is moving and ministering to my interior. I desire to see and feel and live out solutions to the problems of the universe. I desire to heal the sick, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and love unconditionally. Jesus did this, and I, housing the divine, am also created to do such things.

Annelise Belmonte
Features Co-Editor

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**The joys of mail**

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Sometimes I get the feeling that my grandparents are competitive.

The problem is that the formerly menial post, which it is sure to be a force of grace and goodness in this world.

Emily West
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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**Parentheticals**

**Kaily Doud**
Columnist

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**An outside perspective**

Spectacular Sundays

There is an ease that comes with being busy. The steady ebb and flow of a routine is comforting to our fast-paced culture. As college students, we fill entire days with things to do; we have hour-by-hour plans to get us from one day to the next. Do you ever find yourself with a free moment that is immediately ruined because you feel like you should do something else? Picture this: an entire day devoted to the people and pastimes that you love – a day of obligation and stress. Now you may be thinking that only an extreme optimist could advocate such bliss! Truth be told, it took flying halfway across the world to the country of nutella crepes and baguettes for the realist in me to realize that restful days do exist.

Every Sunday in France was rejuvenating. My host family spent hours lingering over lunch – a five-course meal that inevitably ended with a piece of chocolate and the world’s tiest cup of coffee. We remained at the table long after the last bite was consumed, allowing the conversation to wind down until the next day's hustle and bustle.

Madelyn Clark
Guest Columnist

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**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.
From the inside out

There's a world out there

I am on the brink of insanity. Why? Because somehow I decided it was a good idea to take four writing classes this semester. For one of the classes, I'm writing a 30,000 word novel during the month of February. I'm currently drowning in a sea of word counts, sentences and memoir pieces where I try to find significance in my childhood pet hamster's death (poor Squeakers).

My life as a creative writing major is especially wonderful when that horrible, terrible, no-good, very bad monster, "writer's block," rears its ugly head. Right now, the characters in my novel are being stubborn and don't want to do anything except have oh-so-exciting conversations like:

"I'm bored. What do you want to do?"

"I don't know. What do you want to do?"

That gem is sure to earn me the Pulitzer, no doubt. Where do I go if I (like any good student) when needing distraction? Facebook, of course! Oh Facebook, how I love thee. Let me count the ways.

1.) Facebook provides me with life updates from people I'd completely forget otherwise. That girl who sat next to me in ninth grade science class? She's making soup for her "hubby." Or how about that co-worker people I'd completely forget otherwise. That girl who

2.) Fads spread faster on Facebook than fire on a gas-stove. From bra colors to doppelgangers to Urban Dictionary name definitions, whether I participate or simply observe my Facebook friends succumb to peer pressure, these fads provide hours of entertainment. Remember those "25 Facts About Me" notes that people get bored with for weeks before deleting?

3.) Facebook helps bridge generation gaps. Pre-teens, college students, parents and grandparents are all jumping aboard the Facebook wagon. Facebook brings people together better than birthday cake or an unfinished 500-piece puzzle of a scenic countryside.

4.) Stalking has never been so easy. Enough said. As much as I love Facebook, however, the beloved social networking site betrayed me recently.

While I learned via Facebook about the deaths of Michael Jackson, Billy Mays and Brittany Murphy within hours (or maybe even minutes) of the information's release to the public, I didn't find out about the devastation in Haiti for two days, and when I did, it was through a professor in class. For at least 48 hours, I was the only one of my Facebook friends to comment on the tragedy.

In the weeks since, it has frightened me that the Facebook world seems to care more about a feud between late night talk show hosts than thousands of deaths. It frightens me that I seem to care more about the Conan/Leno feud (I'm with Conan) than thousands of deaths. I've realized more than ever how much Facebook can reflect our culture's messed up priorities.

So, what should we do about this? I don't think there's any need to rise up with pitchforks and abandon Facebook (though if you're compelled, pitchfork away!). I say, go ahead and indulge yourself. Look at a whole album of pictures of someone you've never met. Update your status with inspirational lyrics such as, "Rah rah ah-ah-ah, roma, roma-ma, gaga, ooh la la."

Love Facebook the way it's meant to be loved, but never forget there's a world out there — a world with tress, sunlight and real, live people who are not constricted to boxes.

Amy checked Facebook approximately 273 times while writing this column and would also like to note that blasting Lady Gaga while dancing around the room like a crazed lunatic is another excellent way to procrastinate.

Kate is looking forward to spending winter break home in WI, and hopes that wherever you go, you have a good break, too.

Kate Schrampfer
Columnist

Good Idea

I don't know what to write about. I've tried everything, looked everywhere, for ideas; I've flipped through quote book after quote book, searched online and talked to friends... but nothing has struck me as particularly inspiring. I've come across some nice poems, a few wise sayings and some great little quips about life in general.

But none of these things made me want to write. Now, I'm just standing here, staring at my computer, hoping and praying for an idea to come flying into my head and bursting into a full-fledged essay.

I love it when that happens. I don't know quite how it comes from. But something will strike a chord inside me. These reverberations travel right up to my brain and they shake loose the dust on those overworked college gears. The wheels start turning, and before I know it, my mind is buzzing with words and thoughts that I've never thought of before. As soon as I can, I get my hands on a pen and paper, or, better yet, a computer.

I type faster than I write so it's easier to get all my ideas down before they leave my head. When I do manage to turn them all into written words and I go back and read what I wrote later, it's the most thrilling experience.

Maybe you've had a similar incident. It doesn't have to be with writing. But if you play soccer or basketball for example. You get the ball and make a break for it, tearing down the field/court. Your heart is pounding and your head is racing. You feel an underlying sense of relief, because you did it. You put it where it belongs. Just imagine, your basketball or soccer ball is your basketball or scoring a goal.

What if you really don't like writing and you aren't athletically inclined? Maybe math or science is more your thing. Let me try to compare this feeling to something you might empathize with.

Let's say, for example, that you've been working on a long, complicated math problem for hours and then you finally finish it. Pages of numbers, squiggly lines and graphs — then, the right answer is finally staring up at you from the page. Or, for you science people, you just made this thrilling, exciting observation in the lab, and you want to tell everyone about it. That euphoric feeling is what I get when I get an idea and put it down, in just the right words.

"There are few experiences quite so satisfactory as getting a good idea... you're pleased with it and feel good. It may not be right, but at least you can try it out." (Lancelot L. White)

I guess I did know what to write about after all.
Press release courtesy of Hope PR

Dr. Fred L. Johnson III, associate professor of history at Hope College, will present the address "Let it not be in vain" on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Maas Center auditorium.

The public is invited. Admission is free.

In the talk, Johnson will be reflecting on implications of Christ’s life and death for the choices people make. “We can never adequately repay the gift Christ gave us, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try,” he said.

Johnson will be speaking through the “Last Lecture Series” organized by the college’s Alcor chapter of the national Mortar Board honorary society to feature members of the faculty, which the chapter initiated during the 2008-09 school year, is rhetorical.

The lectures are not literally presented as the last that the speakers will deliver at Hope, but are meant to highlight the advice that they would most want to share if the event was indeed the final opportunity for them to address the college’s students.

The professors are being asked to reflect on their careers and lives, and to think deeply about what matters to them and about what wisdom they would like to impart.

The concept was inspired by the “Last Lecture” delivered at Carnegie Mellon University by Dr. Randy Pausch on Sept. 18, 2007. Pausch, a member of the Carnegie Mellon faculty who had terminal pancreatic cancer — a fact known at the time that he spoke — presented “Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams.” He died on July 25, 2008, at age 47.

Johnson joined the Hope faculty in the fall of 2000. His primary field is 19th century U.S. history, specifically the Confederacy during the Civil War. His other areas of study include the U.S. in the 20th century, the U.S. military and Africa.

His most recent publication, which he co-wrote with Tayannah Lee McQuillar, is the book “Tupaç Shaka! The Life and Times of an American Icon,” published in January by Da Capo Press of Cambridge, Mass.

His 2004 documentary “The Klan in Michigan, Part I: Reconstruction,” which he created with former Hope communication professor Dr. David Slock, won a State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2005.

His current scholarship includes working on a book project, “America’s Blind Spot: U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa from 1945 to Present,” from which he wrote a chapter (“The Chaos is Wide: Unspoken Antagonisms between African Americans and West Africans”) for the 2008 book “The United States and West Africa.”


During the college’s Homecoming Weekend in 2002, Hope’s students elected him recipient of that year’s “Faculty Appreciation Award.” The graduating class chose him to deliver the Commencement address in May of 2003, and in May 2005 the graduating Class of 2005 presented him with the 41st annual “Hope Outstanding Professor Educator” (HOPE) Award.

The late Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra, professor of philosophy, delivered the first “last chance talk” during the 1960s. The idea back then was to invite a faculty member to express his/her ideas under the hypothetical assumption that this would be the last opportunity to address the student body.


The Mortar Board honorary society is a national organization to make a presentation for its “Last Lecture Series.”

Johnson received his bachelor’s degree from Bowie State College in Maryland, and his master’s and doctorate from Kent State University in Ohio.

His past career experiences include serving as a corporate trainer and as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service, and provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to college and universities, and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community.

Since its founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 227 collegiate chapters with nearly 250,000 initiated members across the nation.

The Alcor chapter has existed at Hope since the 1936-37 academic year, although it did not become part of the national Mortar Board organization until 1961.

The chapter also sponsored a “last chance talk” during the 1960s. The idea back then was to invite a faculty member to express his/her ideas under the hypothetical assumption that this would be the last opportunity to address the student body.


April

7 *at Calvin, 11:30 a.m.
13 *KALAMAZOO, 4 p.m.
17 *at Calvin, 2 p.m.
21 *ALBION, 4 p.m.
24 COE, IOWA, 9 a.m.
24 *at Adrian, 2 p.m.
27 *ALMA, 4 p.m.
April 30-May 1 MIAA tour. at Kalamazoo

Spring sports teams announce 2010 schedules

Softball

March
30  at Carthage, Wisc., 4 p.m. (DH)

April
3 *ALMA, 1 p.m. (DH)
7  *at Calvin, 3:30 p.m. (DH)
9  vs. Fontbonne, Mo., 4 p.m. CT
10 *at Illinois Wesleyan Tourn.
10 vs. Fontbonne, Mo., 10 a.m. CT
10 vs. Washington-St. Louis, noon CT
13 *ALBION, 3:30 p.m. (DH)
15 at Chicago, Ill., 4 p.m. (DH)
16 FINLANDIA, 3:30 p.m. (DH)
17  *at Trine, 1 p.m. (DH)
21  *SAINT MARY’S, 3:30 p.m.
24  *at Adrian, 1 p.m. (DH)
28  at Kalamazoo, 3:30 p.m. (DH)
May
4  *OLIVET, 1 p.m. (DH)

Baseball

March
27  at Olivet, 1 p.m.
29 OLIVET, 2 p.m.

April
1  *at Calvin, 2 p.m.
3  *CALVIN, 1 p.m.
9  *at Alma, 2 p.m.
10 *ALMA, 1 p.m.
13 *AUQUINAS, 2 p.m.
15  *TRINE, 2 p.m.
17  *at Trine, 1 p.m.
23  *ADRIAN, 2 p.m.
24  *at Adrian, 1 p.m.
29  at Kalamazoo, 2 p.m.

May
1 *KALAMAZOO, 1 p.m.
7  *at Albion, 2 p.m.
10 *ALBION, 2 p.m.

Men’s Tennis

March
30  *at Calvin, 4 p.m.

April
2-3  GLCA tournament at Oberlin, Ohio
5  *ALMA, 4 p.m.
9  *at Kalamazoo, 1 p.m.
10  *ALBION, 4 p.m.
16 INDIANA WESTLEYAN, 4 p.m.
19 *ADRIAN, 4 p.m.
21  *at Saint Mary’s, 4 p.m.
28 COE, IOWA, 9 a.m.
26  *at Trine, 4 p.m.

April 30-May 1 HOST MIAA Tournament

Women’s Tennis

March
30  *at Calvin, 4 p.m.

April
2-3 GLCA tournament at Oberlin, Ohio
5  *ALMA, 4 p.m.
9  *at Kalamazoo, 1 p.m.
10  *ALBION, 4 p.m.
16 INDIANA WESTLEYAN, 4 p.m.
19 *ADRIAN, 4 p.m.
21  *at Saint Mary’s, 4 p.m.
28 COE, IOWA, 9 a.m.
26  *at Trine, 4 p.m.

April 30-May 1 HOST MIAA Tournament

Men’s and Women’s Track & Field - OUTDOOR

April
3 Grand Rapids Open at Aquinas (Housman Field), 10 a.m.
17 *MIAA invitational at Olivet, 11 a.m.
22-24 at Hillsdale Relays, 10 a.m.

May
1 Jack Shaw Invitational at WMU, 10 a.m.
6-7 *MIAA Field Day at Alma
12 at Aquinas Twilight Meet, 4 p.m.
13-14 at Dr. Keeler Invitational, North Central, Ill., 3 p.m.
20-21 at North Central, Ill. Invitational
Track teams gain experience during indoor meets

Men have strong performance at Grand Valley State University Open

James Nicholas

As expected every sport had a two-month time period for athletes to train and improve their technique. Luckily for the men’s indoor track team, this is a reality.

From the moment they get back from winter break until they travel to Florida for spring break, the men’s indoor track team has two months and four meets to sharpen their running skills.

“We just do a couple indoor meets to get us ready for spring break, which is the start of the outdoor meets,” Dezmon Fulton (‘11) said. Fulton, along with roommates Charles Gamble (‘11), Cameron Lampkin (‘11) and the rest of the men’s track team, have three indoor meets at Grand Valley State University and an MIAA Invitational at Trine in Angola, Ind.

“We have a lot of really good sprinters,” coach Kevin Cole said. “A lot of them are going to be fighting for the top four spots. It’s nice to have that many.”

But what is the big difference between indoor and outdoor track? According to Cole, it is the tightness of the turns.

The track at GVUSU is only 300 meters, 100 less than a normal outdoor track. Most of the other indoor tracks are even smaller at only 200 meters. As a result, any events over 100 meters is not run at indoor track meets.

“This means the 100-meter sprint and 4x100 meterrelay are delayed until the outdoor season begins.”

“I can’t run the 100 because it’s indoor season right now,” Lampkin said, “so I just run the 60, 200 and four by 400.”

Without the 100, Gamble is also forced to run one less event, settling with just the 60 and 200. Fulton, by his own accord, “too slow to run any events,” so he only competes in the high jump. Limitations if every event over 100 meters is not run at indoor track meets. This means the 100-meter sprint and 4x100 meter relay are delayed until the outdoor season begins.

“The indoor pole vaulters don’t have to worry about wind direction, wind speed or anything associated with the wind.”

Similar to the running events, some field events are put on hold for the indoor track meets. Logically, javelin is missing since there is no real earth for the huge, sharp pole to stick in the ground. Discus and the hammer throw are also lacking from the meets.

Indoor meets are technically outdoor meets for Hope College though. The NCAA defines indoor and outdoor track as two separate sports, but for a school to participate in indoor track they have to begin by the season in many ways.

“We really use the indoor portion to get ready for the outdoor season,” coach Kevin Cole said. “We don’t have league meets during the pre-season, in that we don’t race as often. Indoor tracks are also smaller, with tighter turns, so most people run faster outside, especially in the shorter events.

“Last week’s meet wasn’t team scored, but I think that most athletes felt that it was a strong performance, especially for the first meet.”

Cole agreed with the good feeling from the first meet saying, “A great first meet. Some impressive newcomers and the returning runners looked to be in very good shape.”

Mostly, we had a chance to compete and not count towards nationals, but Fischer said that there are 10 to 14 differences between indoor and outdoor meets other than the differences related to whether the meets count towards something or not.

“Indoor meets are also much more chaotic,” Fisher said. “Everyone’s smashed into a much smaller space, so there are events going on everywhere.”

The indoor pre-season has already begun, and the team now has points to start their improvement over the course of the season working towards a personal best. The Grand Valley open gives a starting off point for the rest of the spring track season.

The indoor portion of the women’s track season will continue this weekend as the women’s outdoor track season begins.

The impressive newcomers and the returning runners looked to be in very good shape.

INDOOR SEASON

Beginning of November and are committed to compete in a certain number of events by the end of February.

“Indoor meets are training meets more than anything else,” said Cole. “They are also a way for us to assess where people are and see what we need to work on.”

Thus, the men’s indoor track team at Hope is not really an indoor team at all. They are, in fact, an outdoor team masking as an indoor team because the chilly weather of Michigan winters prevents them from running outside.

“40-150 pound weight is thrown,” coach Haleigh Gokey (‘10) said. Not all events are included, but various events in addition to sprinting events are altered to accommodate the smaller size of the venue. The throwing events are also changed. Neither javelin nor discus takes place, and instead of the hammer “the 20/35 pound weight is thrown,” coach Carrie Snikkers (‘11) led the Flying Dutch to their 11th straight win with a 13 point, 11 rebound double-double double Saturday afternoon at Alma. The victory improved Hope’s record to 20-1 marking the 12th straight season the Flying Dutch have won 20 or more games. They also have an undefeated 12-0 record in the MIAA, two full games ahead of rival Calvin College with four regular season games left before the conference tournament.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL WINS 11TH STRAIGHT

Carrie Snikkers (‘11) led the Flying Dutch to their 11th straight win with a 13 point, 11 rebound double-double Saturday afternoon at Alma. The victory improved Hope’s record to 20-1 marking the 12th straight season the Flying Dutch have won 20 or more games. They also have an undefeated 12-0 record in the MIAA, two full games ahead of rival Calvin College with four regular season games left before the conference tournament.
Hope teams raise funds and awareness for cancer

Bethany Strip
Sewn Ears
Jake Bajema
Sent West

Cancer. It’s a word no one wants to hear in relation to someone they love. Sadly, cancer is not just a word to millions of people but a harsh reality.

According to the American Cancer Society, over 53,000 new cases of cancer were reported during 2009 in Michigan alone, and nearly 1.5 million new cases were reported nationwide in the same time frame.

Additionally, about 560,000 people are expected to die of cancer this year, which makes cancer second only to heart disease as the leading cause of death in the United States.

Statistics like these quite possibly incite people to act. Various types of fundraising events are held throughout the country and world during the year.

At Hope College, several athletic teams have joined the fight against cancer by dedicating one game per season to cancer awareness and fundraising.

Pink zone game tonight

Tonight, the women’s basketball game will join the list of Hope teams fighting cancer as they take on Kalamazoo College in their fourth annual Pink Zone Game, previously called the Think Pink Game. The Pink Zone game tips off at 7:30 p.m. in DeVos Fieldhouse.

“It’s something that touches every person and family,” said women’s basketball head coach Brian Morehouse. “People feel connected to the cause.”

The event, which began as simply a pink game, has since evolved to include pink uniforms, warm-up T-shirts and the sale of pink T-shirts at the game.

Co-captain Jenny Cowen (’10), who has been participating in the pink game since its beginning in her freshman year, likes the sense of doing something for others that comes from the game.

“It brings enjoyment to know what you’re doing is helping others,” Cowen said. “It helps remind you of the things that are important in life.”

Co-captain Carrie Snikkers (’11) agrees with Cowen.

“It’s exciting,” Snikkers said. “It’s for a good cause, and it’s fun to do something different.”

Hope Connection

To date, the women’s soccer team, volleyball team, football team and both swimming teams have all hosted cancer awareness events during the present school year. In lieu of blue, orange and white uniforms, these teams have donated pink or purple jerseys or swim caps to show their support for cancer research.

They have also sold items such as T-shirts and bracelets to raise money for various organizations dedicated to fighting cancer.

The various cancer awareness games have taken on more significance to the Hope athletic community this year after women’s tennis coach Karen Page passed away last July after a long battle with the disease.

Two years ago, Page was acknowledged during the women’s Pink Zone game.

“With basketball we often do a small halftime announcement about cancer stats and for whom we are fundraising,” co-athletic director Eva Dean Folkert said.

In 2008, we recognized Coach Karen Page who was battling the disease at the time. All funds that year were donated in her name to the organization of her choice.

“With Coach Page’s passing this summer, this makes these events that much more meaningful.”

Assistant women’s soccer coach Lindsey Engelsman says that the team’s “Pink” game was one of the most significant for the team last season.

"It’s a game that has quickly become one of the highlights of our season — for players, parents, coaches and fans alike," Engelsman said.

The volleyball team also enjoyed getting in on the “pink” game. According to Sara DeWeerdt (’11), Dig for the Cure, held on Oct. 23, was a great way for the volleyball team to demonstrate their concern for those in the community.

“We wanted to do something for the community, to reach out and show that we have hope for those suffering," DeWeerdt said.

“It was a neat way of bringing cancer patients and survivors together.”

Dedicated Jerseys

Another fundraising aspect of these games happens after the sporting event has finished. Players will often sell their unique pink or purple uniform in order to raise even more money for cancer research.

Some teams, including the women’s soccer and volleyball teams, also allow donors to dedicate a jersey to someone they know who has had cancer.

“Both years, we have been able to find a sponsor for each player and have even sold a complete extra set of jerseys — totaling over 75 jerseys and close to $2,000 raised,” Engelsman said. “The players have done most of the legwork in finding the donors and are so honored to be supporting such an important cause.”

The volleyball team also wore dedicated jerseys during their Dig for the Cure game.

“We all found people to support that had cancer or something related, and they bought our pink jerseys,” DeWeerdt said. “We wore them during the game, and then they got to keep them afterwards. We also wore pink headbands in our hair and highlighted a piece of our hair hot pink.”

Participating in a game dedicated to raising awareness and funds for cancer research has also been a personally rewarding experience for DeWeerdt.

“I think (the cancer awareness games) are a great opportunity to bring athletics and reality together," DeWeerdt said. “Sometimes we forget about things as simple as cancer, and this way, we are able to support these people and make it a special day about them.

“Personally, it was an amazing feeling when the mother I supported had tears of joy and happiness brought to her eyes after the game.

“She was so honored to be a part of this special day and loved all the ways in which we made this event solely about them. I was glad to be a part of all the love, support, hope and positive energy that night.”

“With Coach Page’s passing this summer, this makes these events that much more meaningful.”

Assistant women’s soccer coach Lindsey Engelsman says that the team’s “Pink” game was one of the most significant for the team last season.

“With Coach Page’s passing this summer, this makes these events that much more meaningful.”