The real life hero of “Hotel Rwanda” shares testimony

Erik L’Hotta
features clerk

“The whole country smelled of dead bodies. There was not one live person. Only dogs were left, who barked and fought over the meat of the bodies. My mother-in-law was killed, so was her daughter and six grandkids. We found them in a pit, dead. We all sat and cried like kids,” said Paul Rusesabagina, the real life hero of the academy award winning film “Hotel Rwanda” who saved 1,265 people from genocide in the African country of Rwanda.

Rusesabagina shared his testimony of genocide to the Hope and Holland community at Dimnent Chapel on Sept. 14. During his hour and a half speech, he enlightened the crowd of more than 2,000 on the Rwanda genocide of 1994. He then called the audience to take action in preventing similar future atrocities.

Rusesabagina talked about the tension between the Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda. By 1994, a small clan of Tutsi rebels turned against the majority Hutu. Hutus set out to exterminate all those of Tutsi blood.

“The whole world unanimously decided to abandon us. I told the UN that the Hutu were going to kill us. Don’t you see those machines? But the whole world turned their backs,” Rusesabagina said.

Rusesabagina, a Hutu married to a Tutsi woman, began attempting to save his nation’s people on his own, by housing them in the Mille Collinest Hotel, which he managed. It wasn’t long until the Hutu caught on to Rusesabagina’s plan.

“I looked around and there were dead bodies on the roads. Some were rotting, cut into pieces, some had their heads removed. The Hutu put a gun to me and told me to kill all the ‘cockroaches’ on the street or else you die.”

Rusesabagina reasoned with the Hutu soldier.

“I told the solider that you are a young man with a good future,” said Rusesabagina.

“I can’t picture you living an old life with that baby’s blood on your hands. You are hungry, you are thirsty, but there are other ways to solve this.”

With Rusesabagina’s rationality, charm and persuasive ability, he managed to protect 1,265 Tutsi refugees from slaughter by housing them in the Mille Collinest Hotel.

Ten years since Rwanda’s genocide, Rusesabagina’s story continues to help the world understand the true effects of genocide. Rusesabagina encourages his audience to learn how to prevent similar atrocities in the future.

Haulin’ love

Shannon Mee
staff reporter

A 53’ semi-truck has been on campus next to Dimnent Memorial Chapel for the past two weeks. The semi, called the “Truck Load of Love” will accept relief assistance to be donated to the global organization International Aid. International Aid will then distribute the donations to Karrima victims. The goal is to fuel the truck to the brim.

“This was our way of helping students help the victims,” Student Congress president Lauren Engel (’06) said. “Our job is to provide services for the students and if we’ve done that, then we have done our job.”

“We’re saying that we’ll take anything because we want to fill that truck,” Engel said.

Items most desperately needed are new and unopened full-size bars of soap, toothpaste, shampoo, disposable diapers, baby formula, notebooks, pens, non-perishable food and money. Also, gently used clean clothes may be donated, as well as furniture.

Recently, the college opened up the opportunity to help fill the truck to the community at large, but it is still primarily for students. Volunteers have been manning the drop-off table beside the Truck Load of Love Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The last opportunity to donate before the truck departs will be on Sunday, Sept. 25 prior to The Gathering. In addition, students are encouraged to donate items prior to the Josh Schicker benefit concert Sept. 24 in conjunction with Pulling for Hope.

“Please just keep donating,” Engel said. “Pick up an extra toothbrush or hairbrush while you’re at Meijers. All the little stuff really adds up.”

Saying goodbye to breclaw

Erika English
staff reporter

Diana Breclaw, long-time assistant dean of students for student activities and residential life, will be leaving Hope College at the beginning of Fall Break. Her seven-year career with Hope started many current traditions and her work did not go unnoticed.

Her reasons for leaving are personal and after months of praying, she decided to leave Hope to return home to Glen Ellyn, Ill. to work with her family at the event planning company Executive Forums. She plans on pursuing her doctorate to become a dean, but meanwhile will enjoy some free time.

When Breclaw joined Hope in 1999, she did not know what to expect. Since then she has found a routine quite common to that of a college student. She lives on campus, eats on campus and spends her weekends planning and attending Hope activities.

“Hope students, staff and faculty have become my family for the past seven years,” Breclaw said.

Breclaw’s list of accomplishments is lengthy. She started Dance Marathon (raising more than $100,000 last year), helped create a more comfortable area in Dewitt Center with Cool Beans and created more fun Orientation activities. She is also the head of many student organizations, including the advisor for SAC and The Milestone. Last year, SAC won the “Excellence in Programming” award given to the top programming board of both private and public colleges in the Midwest.

Part of the reason Breclaw chose to live on campus is because she cares about the students and faculty. Her reputation as a great listener is well-known. She is also known for her elaborate Christmas parties, complete with homemade food and small gifts for attendees. Even during exam weeks she volunteers her time and energy with “Up All Night,” the 24-hour coffee providing program at Cool Beans.

“She’s always really busy working really well,” Breclaw said.

Rounding out — Diana Breclaw will leave her position as assistant dean of students at the start of Fall Break. Her replacement has not yet been selected.
In 1994 Rwanda was ravaged by genocide that left a tenth of its population dead in just 100 days. Eleven years later, thousands of accused still await trial and judgments. Initially, an estimated 130,000 alleged killers were jailed, but due to muddled court proceedings very few have yet to see trial. Recognizing a need for a more efficient processing system, Rwandan government issued the Gacaca tribunal laws in January 2001. The word Gacaca means “justice for the grass,” and the focus of these proceedings is to achieve reconciliation with the majority of this violence. The suspects were let out on various condition promises, and apologies. They do not have to stay in jail, but will have a trial within the next 10 years. The government believes is the only hope for their community.

The Rwandan government hopes these courts will be more beneficial than the formal justice system because they will help to process the cases faster. Also, because of their community-focused nature, they will aid the healing process and national reconciliation within Rwanda—something the government believes is the only hope for peace. Criticizers of the new system say the hearings are one-sided and only those with known affiliation to the former regime are being tried. There have also been accounts of “fake witnesses,” people who offer false testimony for a fee. Other accounts of “fake witnesses,” people who offer false testimony for a fee. Other witnesses have refused to testify out of fear for their own safety or an unwillingness to speak out against often prominent members of their community. The non-traditional courts are meant to speed up the process, however little progress has been seen since the courts were instated. Waiting for a trial, thousands of prisoners have now served more than what their sentence would have been had they been found guilty of their crimes. Another law passed in 2001 made to alleviate the strain on Rwanda’s ordinary courts. All other levels will be judged by the Gacaca courts.

Justice O'Connor indicated in her resignation notice that she would stay on the bench until her replacement was confirmed, but with the Court facing important cases regarding abortion and assisted suicide early in the fall term, the Bush administration would like to seat her replacement sooner than later. Ryden said the issue of justices arriving on the Court during a term has been handled differently historically. “If the case is important enough or controversial enough or seems to involve a closely divided court, then when they may ask for a reargument of the case,” Ryden said, noting that the case of Roe v. Wade was argued a second time in 1972. Just who will replace O'Connor, though, is uncertain. United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, a Hispanic and a close friend of the president, has been among the names rumored to be in contention for the seat. Ryden said a Gonzales nomination “would anger both left and right,” with conservatives calling him untrustworthy and liberals questioning his role in Bush administration memos on the use of torture in the interrogation of terror suspects.

The political uproar surrounding the president’s handling of the response to Hurricane Katrina, many believe the president will be forced to nominate a female or minority to replace the court’s first female justice. “A white male who’s very conservative will, I bet, not get confirmed,” Ryden said. President Bush would be wise to follow the model of his father according to Ryden. President George H.W. Bush nominated an African-American conservative, Clarence Thomas, to the court in 1991. Regardless of who replaces O'Connor, the prospective Roberts court could achieve something the Rehnquist court never achieved: the construction of a firm conservative majority. So while the destruction of Hurricane Katrina has limits and will soon be cleared within a few years, the effects of a Roberts court may reverberate for decades to come.
Opus Soup to benefit Katrina victims

Matt Oosterhouse
Stov Weeks

On Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 9 p.m., Opus, Hope College’s literary journal, will host a charity event entitled Opus Soup. The event will take place at Lemmeijelo’s and will include readings of poetry and prose, music performances, films and visual art.

The event not only marks the start of another year for Opus, but it also doubles as a benefit for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. A cover charge of either $1 or a canned good will be collected at the door and donated to the American Red Cross.

Brad Haveman (‘08) is co-editor of Opus. He was involved in coming up with the clever “Opus Soup” anagram. “Opus Soup is an event focusing on the humanity of art and the artistic community, while benefitting our fellow humanity who have fallen prey to Hurricane Katrina and now need help,” Haveman said.

Rhoda Janzen, assistant professor of English and two-time poet laureate of California, will read selections of her poetry. Janzen has been published in literary journals “Yale Review” and “Gettysburg Review.” She also won first prize in the 2001 William Butler Yeats National Poetry Competition.

“I think Opus Soup will be a great opportunity for Hope students and faculty to join in a rich, interdisciplinary conversation about the fine arts. Art is meant to be seen, heard, and shared, and I’m delighted that Opus is sponsoring the event,” Janzen said.

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Jeremy Vilpond
Stov Weeks

Starting Thursday, Sept. 22, “Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train,” a play by Stephen Adly Guirgis, will be performed by the Actor’s Theatre at the Spectrum Theatre in Grand Rapids Michigan and will run until Oct. 1. The theatre department has arranged for a shuttle to Grand Rapids for those interested in seeing the show on Thursday, Sept. 22.

In the play, Adly Guirgis, hailed as “the best playwright in America under 40,” by the “New York Times,” explores the issues of faith, justice, and innocence, in part with his character Angel Cruz (played by professional actor Sammy Publics), who finds himself enmeshed with a shady prison system after shooting a corrupt Christian cult-leader in what Angel thinks is an act of righteous anger.

“Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train” is sponsored by SAC, Hope College’s literary journal, will host a charity event entitled Opus Soup. The event will take place at Lemmeijelo’s and will include readings of poetry and prose, music performances, films and visual art.

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Matt Oosterhouse  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Sept. 24, 72 Hope College students will participate in one of the oldest college traditions in our nation, The Pull. Begun in 1898, The Pull involves members of the freshmen and sophomore classes, coached by juniors and seniors, competing in a tug-of-war battle of endurance and willpower.

"The physical and mental aspects make The Pull challenging," Kris Ramsey ('06), a morale coach for ‘08, said.

In The Pull, pullers and morailers from the freshmen and sophomore classes engage in a tug-of-war across the Black River. The event, known for its long duration, is an intense struggle by the teams to pull the opposing team into the river using many different strategies.

"We have strategies unknown to even year, as they have strategies unknown to us," said Ramsey ('07), coach of the odd year team.

One of the key elements of The Pull is the emphasis on teamwork. While the pullers do the actual physical pulling of the rope, the morailers yell instructions to the pullers in the pits and act as a lifeline, encouraging them to fight through the pain and continue pulling.

"Morailers have a tough job because the pullers are depending on them for support," said Ramsey ('09), whose mother was a morailer in 1974.

Another aspect of The Pull that makes it difficult is the time and commitment factor. Kendall Ramsey ('08) notes that the teams practice every day after classes in addition to Saturdays.

"Time is a difficult factor for everyone," she said.

"It’s not just practice a couple hours of the day. It’s total commitment to your team all the time," she said.

"It’s you, young leader," said Ryan Specht ('07), coach of the odd year team.

"We know it will be a battle."
Who is choosing Hope? Statistics profile student body

Evelyn Daniel
Features Editor

What makes a typical Hope student? According to recently released enrollment statistics, the student body is most notably female, Christian, Midwestern, and White.

The statistics, including information regarding gender, geographical distribution, and religious affiliation, profile the student body for the fall of 2005. Data regarding ethnicity and enrollment for the fourth consecutive year through 2004.

With 3,141 students, Hope has again set a record for overall enrollment for the fourth consecutive year. As in the past two years, however, the freshman class will have fewer members than the incoming class of the preceding fall.

The data has assisted the Admissions Office in identifying the areas most in need of improvement in coming years, including the gender balance, ethnic diversity and geographical diversity.

Following a trend common to liberal arts colleges across the country, men are becoming and remaining a minority on Hope’s campus. Women outnumber men 61 percent to 39 percent.

Michigan state laws prohibit the use of gender as a factor in college admissions, a practice that may be labeled as affirmative action. As a result, admissions representatives must focus their efforts to equalize the male-female balance through targeted recruitment efforts, including high school visitation and phone campaigns. Gender-based affirmative action remains legal in a number of other states.

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Although Hope students represent 32 countries and 42 states, the majority come from Michigan and the surrounding states. “It would be nice to have a richer mix, geographically,” Jim Bekkering, vice president for admissions, said. “Hope would have a much richer learning climate if we had more international cultures represented. The world community is more interdependent today than it has ever been, and we need to prepare students for the world they’re going into.”

A primary concern for admissions is the racial and ethnic homogeneity of the student body. U.S. News and World Report, in its annual “America’s Best Colleges” publication for 2006, rated Hope 0.12 in a diversity index with 1.0 being the highest score. This placed it in the bottom quarter of the 215 liberal arts colleges that were rated.

Although major recruitment efforts are directed at minority high school students, Bekkering points out that it will be difficult for the balance to change without some shift in the attitude of the Hope student body.

“It would be a good exercise for majority students at Hope to give serious thought to the advantages of having more people of color.” — Jim Bekkering, vice president for admissions

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THE THOUGHTS THAT LIE UNDER HOPE

Erin L'Hotta
Editor-in-Chief

My first night at college

My first night at college was a party. To remember the way I frantically brushed my hair, splashed my perfume and steadied my hand from trembling. I took a deep breath.

I walked six blocks in my high heels, one in a pack of giggling girls, their first night away from home. I opened the door to blasting music and sweaty dancing bodies. Then I opened a beer.

I didn’t go home with my friends that night. I stayed there with a guy named Steve. Steve was nice. He really wanted to get to know me. We started dancing and talking. It felt good to be noticed. Accepted. Wanted. When everything around me felt new, empty and out of control.

The next night I went out to another party. I went out that Thursday, Friday and Saturday too. I danced. I smiled. I had lots of friends. But when I’d come home around 2 or 3 a.m., I’d take off my high heels and feel this ache forming within my feet, and within my heart.

Looking back on my life as a freshman, I was overwhelmed by the expectations of college classes. I felt lonely because I wasn’t talking on the phone or visiting new friends. I had a panicked need to pretend that I was burying in order to look cool. And I coped with this uncertainty of college life by finding assurance in alcohol and boys.

I tell you this story, not because it’s easy for me to tell. I tell it because it is a part of my life journey—now our fourth week of school, and I wonder how many students feel the pressure of parties, alcohol and hooking up. I wonder how many girls take off their high heels and feel an ache forming within their heart. I wonder how many guys look in the mirror and hold themselves hostage for actions they wish they hadn’t done.

Trygve Johnson said last weekend at The Gathering that we have broken windows on this campus. Broken windows in each of our hearts. And these windows need mending as we are about to bleed into (what Trygve called) “the scene” of “having some fun, playing a little game,” Parties, Alcohol. Hooking up.

I don’t claim to know how many people are living this “scene” on Hope’s campus, nor am I one to judge. But I do know that if you are living this “scene,” these sharp pieces of glass are shaping the way you invest your time and conduct your relationships.

I’m a senior now. Something that I’ve noticed on this campus is that we all watch and model each other’s actions. We notice when we find the freedom to set by others. We notice when people look cool. People notice when I sit by myself in the balcony of chapel from time to time. People notice when I walk around campus barefoot and with my friends that night. Just in the same way people notice when I put on my line dancing boots and head to Grand Rapids for a boot scootin’ good time. People notice when each other dances to the music for Opus Soup. People notice when I unashamed. People notice when I sit by myself in the balcony of chapel from time to time.

Our Mission:

Stories from the Hope College News Service are a product of the Public Relations Office. Right to edit. The opinions addressed in the editorial are solely those of the editor-in-chief. Our people of Hope:

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Dylana Pinter
Graphic Design Editor

Also contributing to the event will be Eerdmans’s Prize Runner-Up Annika Carlson (’07), 2004 Artscape Prose Prize winner Kent Osborn (’07) and Opus alumni and 2004 Artscape Poetry Prize winner Henry Gould (’05). All three will be reading their own literary pieces.

Ashley DeLudu (’07) and Sam Adams (’08) will perform special music for Opus Soup.

Wait!” Adams said. “I am?? Cool.”

James Morse (’05) will show his film “Louisa and F” which received the Honor Reel recognition in the Reel Thing Film Festival for West Michigan. Peter Conte (’08), organizer of the first ever Hope College Film Festival, will also show a film.

“Tonight will be unlike any other event at Hope College before,” Haveman said. “For the first time ever, distinguished students, alumni, and faculty will come together to display the exceptional talent of Hope’s artistic community, while also benefiting a very worthy cause.”

In addition to Opus Soup, the Opus, which is contributed, edited and published by students, is putting together a Fall 2005 issue. The upcoming deadline is Oct. 1 for text submissions, Oct. 8 for visual art, and Oct. 15 for flash fiction.

Flash fiction is a contest of fiction that is limited to 300-500 words. A student is only allowed to submit five stories for the contest. The winner of that contest will be acknowledged in the upcoming issue and will receive a prize.

Those interested in submitting materials may e-mail attached files to opus@hope.edu or drop them off on a compact disc at the English department office.

This is my Anchor of Hope, I give to you.

The Anchor

The Anchor is a product of student effort and is funded through the students of Hope College. Funding which comes through the Hope College Student Congress Appropriations Committee and the income generated through the proceeds from the Anchor of Hope Design Service are a product of the Public Relations Office. The subdivision of proceeds under the name of the Anchor is available in the Hope College Student Congress Appropriations Committee.

Our Mission: The Anchor strives to be a central, relevant voice in the communications of events at Hope College and in the Holland and world communities, as well as a marketplace for the free exchange of ideas, accountable voices for the spiritual, academic and artistic forces at the campus community. To help build a greater voice of community, we employ a passionate and informed staff.

Over our 100 years, the Anchor has become the voice of a diverse student body and has provided a forum for students to develop their voices as future leaders in the community, as well as the nation.
RELAY FOR LIFE meeting on Sept. 26 at 9 p.m. at Maas Auditorium for all those who are interested in forming teams to participate in the event.

Habitat for Humanity first meeting is tonight at 9 p.m. in the Martha Miller Rotunda. We’ve got FREE PIZZA!

Amnesty International’s first official meeting is on Sept. 22 at 9:15 p.m. in the basement of Scott Hall.

Dilma at (616) 566-2076

World. 985 Butternut Dr. on north and some days. Apply at Dollar hours a week? Nights, weekends, school and to make some extra

NEED time away from Party Time:

September 21, 2005

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Mail letters/columns to the Anchor c/o Hope College, drop them off at the Anchor office (located in the Martha Miller Center), or e-mail Anchor@hope.edu

LETTER GUIDELINES

The Anchor welcomes letters or columns from anyone within the college and related communities. The staff reserves the right to edit due to space constraints or personal attacks. Letters are chosen on a first come, first served basis, or a representative sample will be taken. No anonymous letters will be printed unless discussed with Editor-in-Chief. Please limit letters to 500 words.

Party Time: Need time away from school and to make some extra money at the same time, 15-25 hours a week? Nights, weekends, and some days. Apply at Dollar World. 985 Butternut Dr. on north side Family Fun Plaza or call Arlene at (616) 566-2076

Why Guilt Doesn’t Save Lives

Last year, Hope College gave me a reason to enjoy its Critical Issues Symposium. The Brown sisters, as well as the other speakers I found time to attend, were amazing. Race became one of the central issues on our campus last year as certain events transpired. For more information, see the opinion section of the Holland Sentinel, spring 2005.

This year Hope has failed to disappoint. They brought the “Hotel Rwanda” guy. Paul what’s his-name. And of course I met his stick, Stuffed hogs and books. If you do the math well, you get the point — I sat about seven rows back for an hour of awkward anticipation as the Chapel filled like an hour glass.

After a Greek chorus of introductions, the main event took the stage. His accent was thick. His voice was piercing. Like many of the other pairs of Midwestern ears around me, I strained to understand him, praying that I wouldn’t miss some spoonful of wisdom. After all, this was the guy that lived through one of our most recent and atrocious genocides in history.

Yet Paul stuck to his story. When I expected him to break off into international political theory, he spoke a simple gospel: I don’t use guns. I wanted him to talk solutions. Approaches. Methods. He could have even told us more about the genocides. Why does the Rwanda situation still go on, as he says? Why Darfur? Why Africa? I left grumbling; I had already seen this movie, heard this story.

But I wasn’t done with Paul just yet. Like a piece of thick steak that requires more chewing than normal, he began to undergo digestion, only of the mental sort. I began to realize that there was much more to his words than I first detected.

He mentioned the scene in the film when he negotiated for the lives of his family and many others on the street. Paul told us that it took hours. Don Cheadle only needed minutes.

This is film. The character of Paul was different than the Paul we sweltered and sweat for on Wednesday night. Paul #1 was very good at his job: crafty and well-intentioned bribery.

Paul #2 (the real one) was also very good at his job: negotiating and talking. Of course scotch and wine and paper currency were persuasive, but it was his wise words that saved lives in Kigali. How do you want history to remember you? When you are fifty, do you want these people’s blood on your hands?

If Paul’s speech is supposed to set a tone for our academic year as the Brown sisters did in 2004, what kind of things can we expect at Hope in the near future? The knowledge of genocide is naturally married to the desire for its end, at least in the hearts of many well-intentioned citizens. Hopefully this week, as we take part in the Critical Issues Symposium, we can find out how to tackle such a monumental task.

While Paul’s address was seemingly simple, what it depicts is not. The solution to this global crisis is not a matter of American guilt or charity. My feeling guilty won’t do any better than you mailing an envelope with five bucks over to Sudan. Certainly denoting the problem is a fine gesture, but exploring ways to bulldoze it out of existence seems the much wiser course to me. Rather than scrabbling for pithy solutions, patiently seek out the important questions and ask them without preconceiving the right answer.

Why does genocide happen? If we take our time and honestly answer this question, what we find may horrify us into despair. However, what we discover can also motivate us to shed light on the systems of oppression that enforce poverty, ignore prejudice, and accept inequality. Next question: what can our government do to make the problem better? Or better yet: what is our government not doing? This question is for conservatives and liberals alike.

Partisanship is no excuse to turn one’s back on those suffering in our global community. Instead, it should be a rallying cry for those of common interest to invest in common strength.

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OPENING CROWN

Rigorous C.C. off-season leads to Vanderbilt sweep and an MIAA Championship outlook for upcoming meets

Nick Hinkie
Sports Editor

Both men’s and women’s cross country teams took first place at the Bill Vanderbilt Invitational held at Ridge Point Community Church on Saturday, Sept. 3.

For the first time in seven years, the trophy is in possession of both Hope teams.

On the men’s side, Tyson Warner (’06) won first place in the 8K runner-up field over the 8K course. Five Dutchmen runners finished inside the top ten to win with a team total of 23 (low score wins). MIAA rival Albion, three-time defending conference champion, finished second with 32 points and Alma fourth with 100 points.

The Dutchmen followed their win with a sixth place (158 points) in a ten-team event at Aquinas College Invitational. Grand Valley won the event followed by Aquinas.

Leading Hope was Zachary King (’07) with a first-place performance followed by Aquinas. "We wanted to start this season at a high level of intensity and increase it as the season progresses. Both teams accomplished this at the Vanderbilt Invitational," Coach Mark Northuis said.

On Thursday, the Redwings opened their season with a 5-3 win over the Lightning in their opener at the Joe Louis Arena at 7:30 p.m.

The 6K race of 72 runners came down to a tight finish; Albion’s Katie Shenson, who edged Hope freshman Lisa Peterson by two seconds.

After their win at Vanderbilt, the women squad finished an impressive second at the Aquinas College Invitational. The 6K race of 72 runners came down to a tight finish between Albion’s Katie Shenson, who edged Hope freshman Lisa Peterson by two seconds.

Hope's top five performers included Lisa Peterson (’09), 17 (19:51) and Regional (seventh) performances. "We increased the training this past summer, increased our expectations and competitive intensity, and recruited student-athletes that will help us achieve our conference and NCAA goals,” Coach Mark Northuis said.

On Friday, the men’s and women’s teams will be running in the MIAA Jamboree at Calvin at 11 a.m.

We wanted to start this season at a high level of intensity and increase it as the season progresses. Both teams accomplished this at the Vanderbilt Invitational." — Mark Northuis, Cross Country Coach

CHARGING HOME FOR THE TROPHY — Hope cross country runners left to right: Sam Baker (’09), Daniel Sultz (’08), and Paul VanderVeld (’09).

Jamboree in sight

The Hope Women’s Cross Country team has begun with first and second place finishes at their two opening invitational meets. Along with the men’s team, the lady Dutch captured the first place trophy at the Vanderbilt Invitational.

Leading Hope performances included Lisa Peterson (’09), 17 (19:51) followed by Leslie Tableman (’07), 22 (20:03); Kate Freshour (’09), 24 (20:06); Amanda Huck (’07), 25 (20:07); and Emily Vandell (’07), 32 (20:18).

"We wanted to start this season at a high level of intensity and increase it as the season progresses. Both teams accomplished this at the Vanderbilt Invitational," Northuis said. After their win at Vanderbilt, the women squad finished an impressive second at the Aquinas College Invitational.