Students spend Saturday serving community

Caitlan Klask
Guest Writer

On Saturday more than 400 students lined up to serve the Holland community in the annual Time to Serve event. Among the hundreds of students who participated, most were freshmen who were given the opportunity to join the project during small group sessions during orientation weekend.

“I got overwhelmed to see so many students want to serve,” said Wilma Hart, coordinator of volunteer services. “The send-off is just packed with students ready to help out.” Hart has been involved with Time to Serve since its inception 10 years ago.

She says the beneficial outcome of Time to Serve makes it one of her favorite things about Hope College.

Volunteers were fed a light breakfast at 9 a.m. Saturday. Each student was assigned to one of 24 different venues including Park Theatre, Goodwill, and the Critter Barn. The locations spread throughout Holland and Zeeland, giving a wide area for the amount of work to be done.

The work ranged from spending time with the disabled to landscaping to painting houses. At the end of the day, the students were served well earned ice cream as dessert for their work.

The event took months of careful planning. Hart’s setup process was set in motion in July when she began calling places around Holland that needed the community service. Much organization was necessary to make sure enough venues were available for the program. Added to the lineup this year were six new local locations.

Professor Stewart begins Last Lecture Series

Abbie Lindberg
Guest Writer

The Last Lecture Series is a time for professors to share important concepts with students and other listeners alike. Speakers present provocative ideas about what is truly important in life and use their wisdom gained from years of study and research to drive their points home.

These speeches inspire listeners to live more meaningfully, while allowing the speaker to achieve a sort of catharsis.

During the first lecture of the series this fall, which was held on Sept. 3, Dr. Joanne Stewart, chemistry professor, spoke on “Growing into a Life of Service: Putting Together the Pieces at Hope.” This lecture was directed specifically to first-year students.

“Last lecture” about a topic important to the speaker. In 2007, Pausch, a professor at Carnegie Mellon, delivered “The Last Lecture: Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams” before dying of pancreatic cancer. Pausch is also known for writing a best-seller’s book on the same topic as Stewart’s concept to deliver a poignant
Res Life hires three fresh RDs

The role of the RLC/RD is to cultivate community, to challenge students to think critically, to appreciate and embrace every kind of diversity, to use resources responsibly, and most importantly to live love. I am too a student of these ideas and values, while my job is to teach... I constantly find myself learning.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Hanging out with my husband Buddy. We enjoy running, hiking, biking, going to the beach, backpacking and the occasional rock climb. I also enjoy yoga, making music and geo-caching!

Lindsey Bandy
CAMPUS Co-Editor

The freshmen are not the only ones who are new to the Hope College community. This summer, residential life hired two new residential directors, Matt Richardson in College East and Yadira Martinez in Scott Hall, along with a new residential life coordinator, Emily Whitmer in Dykstra Hall.

The anchor interviewed the three new residential directors to find out a bit more about them.

Emily Whitmer
RLC Dykstra Hall

What brought you to Hope?

Dr. John Jobson was a professor of mine at Michigan State (where I did my graduate work). The idea of working for such a great boss was my initial draw. However, upon coming to campus I quickly realized that when people said they put students first, they really meant it! Plus, I've got mad passion for the library arts.

Where did you graduate?

I went to Alma College for undergrad and Michigan State university for graduate school.

What are your first thoughts on campus?

Ah, so this was the plan. God... I get it. This is exactly where I'm supposed to be. Cool.

What do you feel the role of the RD/RLC is?

JP's or Lemonjelloes?

I am a lover of all things coffee. With that being said, I believe that a good cup of coffee can have more than one home.

Matt Richardson
RD College East

What brought you to Hope?

I was actually a student here from '05 to '09. I just graduated last year. I was an RA for three years as well as my last year also being a neighborhood coordinator for one of Hope's cottage communities. So I have been in residential life for a while now. I wanted to stick around Hope because I enjoy the excitement of campus.

What are your first thoughts on campus?

Hope is always taking another step towards being better. Now seeing the other side with being a staff member I can really see that the college works for the students in the best way possible.

What do you feel the role of the RD/RLC is?

The role of an RD is to support the RAs and enhance what they can do in the residence halls. Another role is to be present, to be seen and build relationships. You never know what is going on in someone's life, maybe that relationship will help them through.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time, as of late, I really like it. I think we have many resources that the students can use, plus the offices/departments are really close to each other. It definitely looks a lot better when all the students are here; it gets kind of lonely when everybody leaves.

What do you feel the role of the RD/RLC is?

One of my biggest goals for this academic year is to be able to build life-long relationships with the students. I am working with. I see that as one of the main roles of the RD as well as making sure the students are safe and providing them with different resources that they will need throughout their college career.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

We, lately, I haven't had too much free time, but I like watching movies, going for walks, reading, and sometimes shopping.
In August Michigan saw a decrease in unemployment, but after changes in the economy, including a recession that began in December 2007, the unemployment rate jumped.

In August the point unemployment rate increased to 9.7 percent, the highest rate unemployment has been in 26 years. The unemployment rate in Michigan is at 15 percent.

Labor leader Mark Graffey, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO, is once again asking Congress to extend the nation's unemployment benefits. By the end of 2009, it is estimated that 100,000 unemployed Michigan workers are to lose their unemployment benefits received from the government.

In October 2008, the unemployment rate under the Bush administration was at 6.5 percent. But after changes in the economy, including a recession that began in December 2007, the unemployment rate jumped.

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Despite the unemployment rate inching up, Michigan's number of job losses per month is slowly recovering. In August Michigan saw a decrease of 216,000 jobs while the month July observed a decrease of 276,000 jobs. Because of the number of job losses, the state's unemployment rate and the state's crippling economy, Michigan currently takes the top ranking for unemployment in the United States.

According to The Associated Press Economic Street Index, the people most affected by the recession are those in their 20s or those nearing retirement age. This is because those would-be retirees have observed their savings diminish and the cost of health care rise, while those in their 20s tend to be recent college graduates paying off loans while trying to advance in careers that no longer have room for them.

According to Tay Mc Namara, the director of research at the Center on Aging and Work at Boston College, "Young adults are more at risk for losing their jobs and homes in a recession, while people later in life are more likely to declare bankruptcy in order to protect their assets... Last hired, first fired. Generally, that is very true."

Goals of Health Care Reform

-Making health care more affordable for the recently unemployed

-Increasing health care coverage for children

-Computerizing health care records within five years

-Investing in prevention and wellness

Recent talk in Washington has revolved around the comprehensive new health care bill that the Obama administration has been attempting to push through. National health care has always been a hot topic, with debates sparking all over the country on how to go about providing the American people with the best medical care possible.

Now, however, President Obama has called for a comprehensive new health care bill that everyone will be able to afford and will have the same access to health care. This is a complicated process that leaves many citizens both excited and nervous.

Supporters of the initiative hope that the reform will help bring equality into medicine, allowing every citizen to have the same access to health care.

Arguably the biggest supporter of the bill was late Sen. Ted Kennedy; many say that without his strong voice, the bill's ability to pass has been significantly lowered. Those in favor of the health plan hope that someone will be able to step up to take Kennedy's spot as champion of the proposal.

Opponents of the overhaul stress that too much bureaucracy will lead to a complicated structure, with lower quality of care. They want to make sure that they will still be able to receive both the doctor and medication of their choice.

Many also fear that major spending has become rampant in America, and some doubt the government's ability to monitor the money being put into the system.

So where is the middle ground? How do we locate the compromise that will take health care where America needs it to be? These are the tough questions that are being debated fervently on Capitol Hill, and within households throughout America.

**The Michigan Budget**
**What You Need to Know**

-Our current deficit stands at $2.8 billion

-The budget must be completed by Oct. 1, the beginning of our fiscal year

-Michigan will be receiving around $2.1 million from the Federal Stimulus Plan

-The scheduled $500 million Michigan Promise Scholarship payment won't be guaranteed until lawmakers approve funding

The Obama administration looks to gain support for health care reform

President Obama speaks to crowds nationwide as his administration makes a push for health care reform.

**The Anchor**

Photo courtesy of Associated Press

**OBAMA GARNERS SUPPORT** — President Obama speaks to crowds nationwide as his administration makes a push for health care reform.
A look back at turmoil in North Korea
North Korea's threat of nuclear weapons increases as a report of their uranium enrichment surfaces

Samuel Tsou
Guest Writer

North Korean news sources said Sept. 4, that they were entering their final days in a successfully enriching uranium. The Washington Post reported later that day that if the process were complete, North Korea would have a second method for creating nuclear weapons. After the anchor officials reacted immediately by holding political conferences early Saturday to discuss the situation, Choson Sinbo, a pro-North Korean newspaper stated Monday that the U.S. must decide quickly whether to impose sanctions immediately or hold talks with North Korean officials. Aside from the special envoy that are being sent from the US, the State Department has also responded to the situation. "We are very concerned by these claims that they are moving closer to the weaponization of nuclear materials," State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Saturday. "But I can't really comment on the veracity, how true these claims are." North Korea's development threats come nearly six months after it first started test launching its nuclear weapons earlier this year. "We would be open to bilateral engagement as well but only within the context of the six-party process," U.S. special envoy Stephen Bosworth told reporters Friday. "(It's) an effort to help rejuvenate and restart the six-party process." The six-party process Bosworth referred to is a negotiations program created in 2003 when North Korea first threatened nuclear proliferation. These talks involved China, Japan, North Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States and South Korea. North Korean weapons testing earlier this year caused the United Nations Security Council to enforce sanctions this summer. The country stated in April that it was withdrawing from the six-party disarmament talks.

"We confirm the necessity to maintain a coordinated position and the need for a complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Stephen Bosworth
U.S. Special Envoy

Elections in Afghanistan are marked by violence and uncertainty
The Taliban's presence during the presidential election brought about much of the violence

Sierra Hansen
Guest Writer

Despite unpopularity, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has apparently gained the majority in one of the most democratic elections in the country's history. The result of the Aug. 20 election itself seemed unlikely, but the width of the victory margin was significant. Karzai reportedly received 77 percent of the votes. His closest rival, Abdulah Abdullah, finished second with 23 percent. The result is in question considering that Karzai did not seem to find favor with the vast majority of the Afghan population, especially recently. But an inordinate number of complaints and evidence have surfaced that ballots were maimed, many voters had been killed, and votes were fraudulently handled, ballot boxes stuffed everywhere. Talibin intimidation was rampant and immediate. Blasts at and in the surrounding areas of voting locations in South Korea killed and severely injured would-be voters. A few people were slaughtered after indelible ink stained their hands, inevitably leaving their voting action visible even after they left the voting place. Safety, suspected to be an at-large issue for this election, ended up being a major concern. Many brave voters bled for nothing. The reaction to this violence has been an unpredictable one. There are even rumors that the vice president Joseph Biden suggested, in a meeting with Karzai, to stay out of it, with Karzai reportedly exiting the session haughtily. There was even a serene and hopeful calm before the political storm lashed out, though there was the sense of possibility of extreme violence in reaction to a potentially fraudulent election. Far back as late May, Sardar Roshan, a former ambassador to Pakistan who also served as Karzai's campaign manager in 2004, reportedly said, "There are rumors, right or wrong, that Karzai is spending money, appointing his own men in the provinces, who will be working for him during the elections. This would cast serious doubt on the possibility of transparency." It was also taken for granted that there would be a solid voter base of ethnically Pashtun people for some of the other all-star candidates, such as Abdulah Abdullah. Now, the general sentiment among diplomatic figures from different countries is that Karzai should nurse his wounded credibility by appointing a reformist government, bringing relief to communities now further charged with ethnic and political tensions. Despite the shower of blood much initiated by Talibin suicide bombers and aggressors in various parts of the Middle Eastern, religiously conservative country by Bernard Kouchner, the French foreign minister, said in a Paris meeting recently that the election had been successful "at a time of serious danger for each of the men and women who dipped their fingers in ink to vote." The ink became not an instrument for the signified expression of freedom, but a mark of death for the people.
Caitlin Seay

‘Aunt Tena, Called to Serve:’ New book published by A.C. Van Raalte Institute

Originally from the Dutch Reformed area of West Chicago, Huizenga left for Nigeria in 1937. The book “Aunt Tena, Called to Serve” chronicles her 17 years of service through her own journaling and also through letters exchanged between her friends and family.

Dr. Jack Nyenhuis, managing editor on the book, said “the level of intimacy in the letters and diaries make it a special kind of book.” Because Huizenga did not consider the possibility of publication when she wrote them, her letters and journal entries give honest insight into authentic missionary life at the time.

Huizenga is a perfect example of the hard work and dedication necessary for missions. Sacrifice was required—great sacrifice,” emphasized Dr. Robert Swierenga, co-editor on the book.

Although many more advanced medicines, techniques and transportation methods exist today, missionary work still requires both physical and mental stamina.

Trained simply as a nurse and a Bible-study leader, Huizenga found she would sometimes need to act as dentist, midwife and preacher when no one else was available.

She worked without electricity for many years, without convenient forms of transportation and sometimes with the contraction of diseases, such as malaria.

Missionary work was her calling, and she “gave herself whole heartedly to it,” according to Nyenhuis.

It was with her legacy in mind that Peter Huizenga, nephew of Aunt Tena, first presented Nyenhuis with the commission for the book in Feb. 2008. They met again in late April to discuss what kind of the book the A.C. Van Raalte Institute would produce. Peter Huizenga, long-time friend and benefactor of the Van Raalte Institute, was in possession of hundreds of letters and journal entries of his aunt’s. This is a “rare and marvelous collection of materials,” stated Nyenhuis.

Two other team members were necessary to make the book a success. Swierenga and Lauren Berka, a Hope College graduate, collaborated with Nyenhuis to create the 976-page book. Also included are essays by Harry Boonstra and a forward by Peter Huizenga.

For Swierenga, working on the book was very personal, as he grew up in the same area of Chicago as Tena Huizenga and had close ties to her family.

The book centers around two predominant aspects of Huizenga’s life: her life as a missionary and her Dutch-Christian Reformed background. Through letters to and from Nigeria, readers get an accurate picture of both the joys and hardships of missionary life, as well as a history of the Chicago life for the Dutch-Reformed.

“Aunt Tena, Called to Serve: Journals and Letters of Tena A. Huizenga, Missionary Nurse to Nigeria” is now available for purchase in the Hope-Geneva Bookstore or in the VanWylen Library. Copies will also be made available to nursing students and anyone seeking to enter this line of work.

Hope professor’s art in the spotlight

Work by Bruce McCombs, professor of art at Hope College, has been added to three collections and featured in six exhibitions. His paintings have been included in the collections of the Kalamazoo Institute of Art and Cleveland State University in Ohio among others. McCombs actively displays his art throughout the U.S. and around the world. He has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1969. McCombs has his B.F.A. from the Cleveland Institute of Art and his M.F.A. from Tulane University in New Orleans, La.
Music for Life: African Children’s Choir tour comes to Hope Sept. 18

The performance will be in Dimnent Memorial Chapel at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18. The event is free, with an opportunity to donate. For those unable to make the Dimnent performance, the choir will also be singing on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Park Christian Reformed Church at 6 p.m.

The African Children’s Choir, spreading hope through song and dance.

While “Pan’s Labyrinth” might be the only Spanish movie with English subtitles that most people have seen, this weekend presents a chance to expand that background. At Tulipanes, a Latino art and film festival, various movies and panels will be devoted exclusively to Hispanic culture both for educational and entertainment purposes.

The Tulipanes event page states, “We strive to promote a positive image of Latino youth, families, senior citizens and professionals.” This goal is achieved through highlighting success stories in a fun, educational setting. We also show interesting documentaries and host panels dealing with cultural issues.

On Sept. 12, Matthew Quintero, 15-year-old martial artist, will have a martial arts exhibition on the Centennial Park stage at 2 p.m. Quintero is a six-time national champion and a three-time world champion whose specialties vary from tables to double knives. Featured artist Oswaldo Garces will be reading poetry on the same stage on Sept. 12 at 4:45 p.m.

The festival is open to everyone, and at present, most events are free of charge. For more information complete with dates, movie posters, et cetera, visit tulipanes.org. For an application to volunteer at Tulipanes, check out the website under “Volunteer” and get a volunteer form. Shifts range from 2-4 hours but there is no requirement.

The Joy of Dance—The African Children’s Choir spread smiles and hope through song and dance.

Gretchen Baldwin
Guest Writer

On Friday, Sept. 18, Hope College will welcome the 32nd touring group of the African Children’s Choir, hosted by Hope’s International Relations Club, International Education Office and Multicultural Education.

The children in this branch of the choir hail solely from Uganda, but other factions have included participants from Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana.

The African Children’s Choir, founded in 1984, is an endeavor of the Music for Life Institute, an organization working to provide better educational and living circumstances for children across Africa. Children who have lost one or both parents to poverty-related diseases like AIDS are typically the targets for new membership, although not all fall under this category.

The first step in becoming a part of the choir is to attend a Music for Life camp, open to children ages 7-11. The camps are joyful, Christian environments where the kids can enjoy crafts, games and music as an escape from the rough environment of parentless poverty. From these camps, children are selected to join a tour with the African Children’s Choir, spreading awareness through more privileged countries.

The choir tours perform a variety of songs, most of them accompanied by dancing. Basic children’s songs are transformed into upbeat rhythmic dance beats, contemporary songs given a tray-eyed twist and traditional hymns put into the mouths of children.

These children are pulled out of potentially hopeless situations and invited to tour countries more powerful than their own, like the United States, Ireland and Canada. They carry a message of hope, and are given an opportunity to transcend place that has already been transformed into a place that might have been previously unimagined.

Some of the choirs tours have been blessed to perform with music moguls like Josh Groban, Mariah Carey, Wyckoff Jean and Paul McCartney.

The money earned from these performances is forwarded to the parent institution, Music for Life, and used to better the lives of more vulnerable African children. Music for Life’s main focus for these kids is providing education, and to date, it has helped over 7,000 lives. The children

Tulipanes: Latino art, dance and film festival Sept. 12-13

Annelise Belmonte
Arts Editor

While “Pan’s Labyrinth” might be the only Spanish movie with English subtitles that most people have seen, this weekend presents a chance to expand that background. At Tulipanes, a Latino art and film festival, various movies and panels will be devoted exclusively to Hispanic culture both for educational and entertainment purposes.

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At Centennial Park Stage there will be various art celebrations throughout the day. People can admire or purchase pieces of work from Ginner Castillo or Raymond Trujillo and experience a painting workshop with Rolando (Roli) Mancera.

There will be dance performances varying from traditional folk dancing to salsa and tango to a Caribbean mix. Salsa Night is Sept. 12 at 9 p.m. at the Holland Armory, featuring a live orchestra.

There will be a presentation of the Latin Americans United for Progress 2009 king and jockey. Participants return home with renewed lives and a sense of refreshment and ability. This joy and excitement can spread like wildfire, bettering lives both in the homes of the children who participate and in the homes of the performance viewers.

“Years later, when my brother died unexpectedly, this tiny object became more important to me than ever. “La tuerca” is about memories, magic and the significance of small things that we sometimes forget when we grow up.” Runtime is 10 minutes.

The performance will be in Dimnent Memorial Chapel at 7 p.m. on Sept. 18. The event is free, with an opportunity to donate. For those unable to make the Dimnent performance, the choir will also be singing on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Park Christian Reformed Church at 6 p.m.

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I know what you did last summer...

“This summer was a very busy summer for me as I was involved with nine weeks of summer chemistry research at Hope. I also spent May 8-20 in South Africa with the Chapel Choir. Both experiences impacted my life greatly; I got to see a part of the world that is currently dealing with a rigorous change, and I was an active participant in furthering scientific research. Needless to say, my summer was intellectually, emotionally and spiritually rich!”

- Trevor Coeling ('11)

“I traveled to Japan for Technos College’s International Week. I made new friends from Japan, Taiwan, New Zealand, the U.K., and from all over the U.S. I then spent a week in Hawaii before returning to Hope to continue working on an engineering research project to design an autonomous bicycle stability control system. I also spent several weeks beginning to learn the Japanese language with Rosetta Stone and some of my friends from Japan came over to Michigan to visit with me for a week!”

- Blair Williams ('10)

“‘I was on a team of pre-med and computer science students who traveled to Uganda. We worked in the clinics, stood in on surgeries, set up computer systems at a school, spoke on a radio show and educated Ugandans on important health issues. Our regular menu included goat, whole fish (head included) and some grasshoppers.’

- Staci Pessetti ('10)

But Summer isn’t over yet!

~ hike up the bowl dunes & have a bonfire!
~ play a round of volleyball at Tunnel Park!
~ take a blanket & star-gaze in the Pine Grove.
~ bike to the beach.
~ jog to the Farmers Market
~ have a picnic at Kollen Park.
~ window shop on 8th Street.

why not go out and enjoy the warmth while it lasts?!
Musings on mutual misunderstandings

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Blame it on...

Even though the school year has just begun, feelings of mild procrastination have already set in. While Jamie Fuxx may choose to blame it on something else, I'm going to blame it on the weather and the craziness of classes beginning. Also, seeing friends whom I haven't seen in three months, I've even managed to blame my procrastination on my other classes. The sad but true fact remains, though, that while it takes some of us longer than others to fall into our old habits, all college students procrastinate at some point or another in their lives.

Perhaps you're thinking to yourself, "I'm only a freshman. I got straight A's in high school and never put off any assignments. I won't procrastinate at all!" I can all but guarantee that as soon as you figure out that the sun sets over Lake Michigan at approximately 8:30 p.m. every night now until the end of September, doing your homework each evening is going to be a lot more difficult.

Maybe there's a senior reading this who says, "It's my last year at Hope, and I need to make sure that I work extra hard to get really good grades and impress all my potential employers." Something tells me that staying in on a Saturday afternoon is going to be a lot harder than you imagine when you hear that all your friends are driving up to someone's cabin for the day.

Perhaps I'm being too critical of the student body. After all, it is a well-known fact that Hope students are a cut above the rest (especially those at Calvin), and in all honesty, most of us were some of the smartest kids at our high schools. Obviously, some work has gone in to getting here and then managing to stay at Hope. However, being smart and hard working doesn't make us perfect.

I don't want to sound like I'm promoting procrastination, but I do want to encourage people to remember that while you are here to be a student, you're also here to grow as a person. That includes things like going to the beach for the sunset with your cluster or taking a weekend trip up to someone's cabin.

Obviously, doing your homework, papers and group projects is important. Just don't allow it to be your entire life. Hope is one place where you almost have too many opportunities to get involved, so take advantage and pick one or two (or five if you're really ambitious) and discover something new about yourself.

Though I'm far from the perfect student and often overwhelm myself, I just really want to encourage people to find a balance. When you have 10 minutes before you have to be somewhere, read a few pages from that philosophy book rather than getting on Facebook to see what the latest relationship scandal is. That way you can feel good about going to the Kletz to hear the SAC musician instead of locking yourself to your desk chair to finish the reading you waited too long to do.

Procrastination happens to the best of us. At some point we are all going to wait too long to start a paper or not study enough for an exam. This year, though, set out to find a middle ground. And when all else fails, just sing that charming little ditty and find something to blame it on.

Karen thought she had all of her homework for Tuesday done on Sunday... and then she found out she had three other assignments to do. Also, thanks to Kristen for the Monday night laughs.

Beautiful feet

Bryant Russi
Columnist

The way God loves

This summer, while I was working as a camp counselor, I met a kid named Matt. I found him sitting on the soccer field crying and asked him what was wrong. Through tears, he told me that he was sick of always feeling angry and unhappy. He said that he’d been praying for God to change the way he felt ever since he was a little kid, but God never listened. He said, “The only way I can think of stopping this feeling is to just not exist anymore.” I noticed cuts on his wrists and my heart broke for this 14-year-old camper.

I prayed like crazy as I walked him back to his cabin, “God, let Matt know that you’re with him and you love him. Please!” Throughout the day I continued to beg God until I sensed a reply: “Give Matt your ring.” (I’d gotten a ring this summer in Israel and worn it everyday since as a reminder of my relationship with God—essentially, a wedding ring.)

Immediately, a series of “no ways!” burst from my heart, like machine-gun fire. Nope. Not happening. I had quite a nice wrestling match with the Holy Spirit as the day went on. It went something like this:

Me: My ring is a symbol of my commitment to you, God. You wouldn’t want me to give that away, would you?

God: Yeah, I know what you mean. My son meant everything to me, and you guys still don’t get the half of it. Yet I still gave him to you.

Me: But, what if I give Matt the ring and he doesn’t understand how much it means to me? I’ll probably give it to him, and he won’t even care about it half as much as I do. It will be a waste.

God: You’re the person I want to talk to. I want you to talk to Matt about the significance behind it. I said, “This ring is my most precious possession. And you want to know something cool? The most precious thing to God was his son, Jesus, and he gave him for you so that you would know for sure that he loves you and he is with you.”

Me: “To remind you that God is with you no matter what and he loves you.”

Matt froze while his eyes got huge in disbelief. He said, “Wait, are you serious?” I nodded and without another word he wrapped his arms around me (this was the first of five huge hugs he gave me in just a few minutes). He teared up and thanked me nearly a hundred times.

Later in the week another camper asked me, “Are you the guy who gave Matt the ring?” I said yes and asked how he knew about it, to which he replied, “He talks about it all the time.”

For me, this was God impressing upon me the image of his cut wrists, and I understood that though my gift might not mean anything to Matt, I had to try. I found him in his cabin and asked if we could talk on the porch.

I told him that I’d been thinking about what he said and how he feels like God isn’t with him and doesn’t care about him. Then I showed him my ring and told him all about the significance behind it. I said, “This ring is my most precious possession. And you want to know something cool? The most precious thing to God was his son, Jesus, and he gave him for you so that you would know for sure that he loves you and he is with you.” I took my ring off my finger and said, “So I want to give this to you. To remind you that God is with you no matter what and he loves you.”

Matt froze while his eyes got huge in disbelief. He said, “Wait, are you serious?” I nodded and without another word he wrapped his arms around me (this was the first of five huge hugs he gave me in just a few minutes). He teared up and thanked me nearly a hundred times.

Later in the week another camper asked me, “Are you the guy who gave Matt the ring?” I said yes and asked how he knew about it, to which he replied, “He talks about it all the time.”

Here is what I learned: God loves through us. He’s chosen us to be his to the world. Before I gave Matt the ring I felt sick to my stomach at the thought of losing it. After I gave it to him I felt way sicker thinking of how resistant I’d been in giving it up. If we are going to be God to the world, we can’t afford to love in moderation, to love casually or to love half-heartedly. How have I been living so cautiously while the God I represent risked everything in giving his son to earth? To really be like God we must be merciless, extravagant, sacrificial in our love, and we must take great risks to show it. So please, Hope College, look around, there are so many places and situations where God’s love is needed. Let’s be him.

P.S. It’s going to cost us.

Bryant wants you to know that the ring fit on Matt’s finger perfectly, as though God had it planned all along.

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A friend Greg had a friend named Richard who had a kidney stone. Richard told this story to Greg who told me. True story.

Richard said, “Doc, why’d I get this kidney stone.”

The doctor said, “Well son, it’s all very complicated. But I’ll tell you if you want to know.” From my understanding, this conversation happened pre-kidney stone surgery. Richard had valuation, and during this entire dialogue the doctor was injecting numbing jelly directly into Richard’s person.

The doctor said, “Son, it all starts with the usage of power. We use too much of it. Mother nature can’t handle that business. We’ll start at the coal plants. They burn all that black stuff into the sky. Coal ex-haust contains carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, arsenic, and God knows what else, jelly doughnuts, prophylactics, David Hasselhoff ballads.”

“The birds are up there breathing those toxins first hand. They get sick, you know, arsenic poisoning and diabetes and what not. This effect, of course, spreads to the bees because the birds and the bees are intricately linked. The bees, all jacked up with Knight-rider-showtunes disease or whatever, can’t function enough to pollinate. Bad news for us right? Bad news for the banana-fruit. They don’t have the nourishment they need without any pollinated banana trees so they start eating all theoose-tailed snails. That leaves the wet-backed jungle whale without its main source of nutrients. Yes, the very same jungle whale whose droppings farmers have used to fertilize corn fields for centuries.”

“The farmers, now focusing on their failing nutrient deprived corn crops must now pay less attention to the cows. The cows, of course, fall into a deep depression. They seek medical help, but without insurance they can’t afford good doctors.”

Richard swings a little to the left so he may have added that last part to push for some action in Congress.

The doctor said, “The cows have to use cheap depression medicine which is, of course, (I can’t re-member the name of the medicine). And that taints their milk. The very milk you, I, and your grand-mother drink. The emo milk hyper-stimulates one’s calciumcarbonate cells which of course do nothing but zoom around the membrane like John Candy in a Raiders jacket?” Rich said his brain went a little limp after this and doesn’t remember anything sensible enough to relate, but he’s sure the John Candy cells have a direct correlation to calcium deposits such as kidney stones.

I guess Rich spent the next two weeks lying in bed without any lights on his room to save energy. Whenever he’d wake up he’d have such a horribly painful morning stiffness, post surgery and all, that he didn’t want to do much anyway but moan a little and try to focus on smelly gym socks.

Electricity to kidney stones, it’s the circle of life. Shut your computers down at night.

Rob does not want these italics notes to detract from the seriousness of the piece.
Volunteers swarm the Community

Each different venue had many volunteer workers to satisfy the needs of the community. With such a wide following, the work went smoothly and according to plan. However, Time to Serve was not always the large event it was on Saturday.

In the beginning, students were encouraged to sign up after placing their handprints on the Orientation banner. With this form of recruit, nearly 100 students enrolled to serve in the program, directed by Diana Breclaw at the time. The recent expansion demonstrates to the incoming freshmen and the Holland community difference each student can make when joined by classmates. By creating such a following, Time to Serve has created a substantial volunteer program that is likely to encourage the participation of future students for years to come.

Many students have found that the most rewarding part of Time to Serve is examining the community afterward and realizing what a significant thing has been done. These students gain a sense of belonging in the community.

For them, it is a powerful event brought together through the efforts of the program coordinators, such as Hart, and the students who volunteer.

Participating professors’ knowledgeable words and encouraging messages inspire all who listen. The lectures also allow a time of reflection to remind the speaker what he or she must keep close to heart.

The Last Lecture series is held this fall in the Dimnent Memorial Chapel. Admission is free and anyone may attend.

Stewart kicks off Last Lecture Series

They’re also composting wasted food and paper products, and are donating leftover food to the Community Kitchen at Western Seminary.

Among other things, they hope to cut back on paper usage by consolidating table-tent advertising into one single paper to be displayed in plastic casing.

Phelps becomes completely trayless

“We’re just trying to be good stewards of the college’s resources,” VanHeukelom said.

Change is often a struggle, especially when it means sacrificing a drink-and-plate-loaded tray. But all grumblings aside, going trayless is a helpful step toward a more environmentally-friendly campus.

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Welcome back students!

Phelps becomes completely trayless

Stewart kicks off Last Lecture Series

Volunteers swarm the Community
**Golf works hard to reclaim conference crown**

**James Nicholas**

**Wiersum**

Finishing last season without the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association title in hand for only the second time in nine seasons, the Hope College men’s golf team is entering the 2009 season with a positive outlook and a strong desire to recapture the conference crown.

Over the past decade, Hope’s men’s golf team has become synonymous with excellence and conference domination. Bob Ebels, entering his 19th season as the men’s golf coach, expects not only an NCAA title out of his team, but individual success in the form of five Flying Dutchmen golfers in the top ten of the conference.

Consistency could become a problem, but coach Ebels has faith in his players. “This is a very young team, but full of talent,” said Ebels. “He is also looking to his veteran players to act as role models for the other players.”

“The expectation for the entire team is to win the MIAA and earn the automatic bid to the National Championship,” Strock said. “How are the Flying Dutch planning on accomplishing these tasks?”

“We want to get the season off to a better start than last year,” said Strock. “Secondly, we are looking to become more consistent.”

“This will require harder practices and more intensity at tournaments, but it will pay off in the end if we gain that consistency we lacked last year.”

With a young team, consistency could become a problem, but coach Ebels has faith in his players. “This is a very young team, but full of talent,” said Ebels.

“We are the Flying Dutch planning on accomplishing these tasks?”

“Steve Strock (’11) and Chris Amel (’11) will lead the team,” Ebels said, “but Nick Campbell (’12) will also play a major role in winning the MIAA.”

Having only five returning letter-winners is tough, but Strock has his eye on a few players whom he thinks could become an integral part of a successful men’s golf team.

“Other players that will make significant contributions this year include Andy Thomson (’12), Chris Harwood (’12) and Caleb Nykamp (’12),” Strock said. “Also hitting the links for Hope this season is Scott Webster (’12) and freshmen John Cannon, Aushin Farah, Charles Olson and Adam Peplinski.”

“We have a great team, and any given player can step up at any given tournament and lead the team to victory,” said Strock.

The last three times the Flying Dutchmen won the NCAA—thus earning an automatic bid to play in the National Championship—they finished in 18th place twice (2006 and 2007) and 17th place once (2005). Adding another 17th place finish in 1999 brings the total of National Championship placements under Coach Ebels to four.

The golf team began its quest for another NCAA title Sept. 8 at a jamboree hosted by Olivet. A MIAA jamboree is a conference event where all of the teams from the MIAA are present and compete against each other.

They will then continue on to jamborees at Alma, Adrian, Kalamazoo and Trine.

Hope hosts a MIAA jamboree on Sept. 28 at Wuskowhan Players’ Club in West Olive.

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MIAA competition will conclude the following week with two jamborees, one hosted by Calvin on Oct. 5 and the final jamboree that Allbon will host on Oct. 8. The team will be back in action in the spring when they participate in jamborees that will determine which team qualifies for the NCAA tournament.
SPORTS

Men’s soccer spends 10 days in Ireland

Bethany Stripp
Sports Editor

While many Hope College students spent their summer working or taking summer classes, members of the men’s soccer team were able to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: the chance to travel to Ireland for 10 days to play soccer, do community service, and sightsee.

Every four years, the NCAA allows teams to take international trips, so from July 29 to Aug. 8, more than 60 returning players, graduated seniors and families of the men’s soccer team toured the Emerald Isle. While on the trip, the team played against four teams from Ireland. Soccer is the fourth most popular sport in Ireland, and because of that Flying Dutchmen noticed some cultural differences between American teams and Irish teams.

“The other teams played hard,” Chris Harrison (‘10), another captain, said. “It was a wake-up call to a lot of us.”

“It’s a lot more social,” John Herbert (‘10), one of the four men’s soccer captains, said. “It was a wake-up call to a lot of us.”

The team also spent a lot of time seeing unique aspects of Ireland, from museums to cathedrals.

“We saw the Wicklow Mountains, which was one of my favorite parts,” co-captain Saah Schwiebert (‘10) said. “We also saw a monastic city and played cards a lot.”

“We had a crazy bus driver,” co-captain John Turner (‘10) said. “He was an overly confident driver, so there was never a dull moment.”

One major benefit of the trip was the extra pre-season preparation for the team. In 2005, the men’s soccer team won the MIAA championship after spending time in Europe over the summer. The team hopes this summer’s trip will have the same effect.

“It gave us 10 extra days of preseason training,” Harrison said. “Everyone played and tried different positions, so we were able to see new abilities. The team also benefited from coaching received in Ireland.”

“We had a coach who had played professionally that ran our training sessions, and we learned a lot from him,” Turner said.

One of the most important results of the trip, is a sense of unity among the players.

“We all saw different sides of other players because we were together so much,” Herbert said. “The trip helped us bond as a team.”

The trip really helped us springboard the season,” Schwiebert said. “While you don’t have to be friends to play together, being friends helps you play better.”

Their next home game is Friday, Sept. 11 against Kenyon College at 4 p.m. at Buys Athletic Fields.

Women’s soccer team travels to Scotland

Bethany Stripp
Sports Editor

The men’s soccer team wasn’t the only team from Hope College that had the opportunity to travel to Europe this summer. The women’s soccer team also spent ten days in the British Isles, including the Highland Games, places and events in Scotland, and the Celtic stadium and the Highland Games, places and events in Scotland.

“Scotland is one of the nations where soccer is very popular,” Kirsten Kaufmann (‘10), one of the 2009 captains, said. “The fans are insane and most everyone there loves the game.”

This was not the first time Hope’s women’s soccer team has gone to Scotland. The team traveled to the United Kingdom in 2005.

“Four years ago the team did a London and Scotland trip and really enjoyed Scotland,” co-captain Kristen Schwenk (‘11) said. “We worked with the same trainer that the previous group used.”

While in Scotland, the women’s soccer team played against three Scottish teams and one Canadian team in friendly matches. One of the games against a Scottish team proved to be a great experience for the Flying Dutch.

“We played a club team that had seven national Scottish women’s team players on it,” Kara Marsman (‘11), the third captain this year, said. “It was an intense and exhausting but rewarding experience.”

The team also had the opportunity to see many famous places and events in Scotland, including the Highland Games, the Celtic stadium and the Military Tattoo Festival, a performance of military bands in Edinburgh. For Schwiebert, one of the best places to visit was St. Andrews, the birthplace of golf.

“St. Andrews is a gorgeous little town on the water with lots of history,” Schwiebert said.

In addition to the cultural experience, the trip also helped the team begin the 2009 season on a strong note. For the first time since 2005, the women’s team opened their season with a win on Sept. 2 against Cornerstone University.

“Typically, coming into preseason tryouts, we haven’t played together since the spring,” Schwiebert said. “I think that (our) playing together has given us an edge this season that we don’t usually have.”

Having spent time in a foreign country also allowed the team to bond, which they consider to be just as important as physical preparation.

“The trip helped us come together as not only a team but a family,” Kaufmann said. “We’ve become closer, and I believe this will translate onto the field to help us work together and achieve great things.”

The extra preseason training has already begun to pay off for the Flying Dutch. In addition to defeating Cornerstone, the women also beat UM-Dearborn 8-0 last Friday and Elmhurst College 4-3 on Saturday. The women will also take on Kenyon College on Friday, Sept. 11, at Buys Athletic Fields at 2 p.m.