Phelps is forever trayless

Lindsey Sisson  
Guest Writer

As students returned to Phelps for their first meal back at Hope, eager and excited to indulge in a good, old Phelps dinner, whose smells had been wafting through campus for hours, they were shocked to find that something—something crucial—was missing.

Everyone greeted Rosemary, handed over their ID cards, headed in, turned to grab their trays and were shocked to find only an empty brick wall where the big, blue tray stacks had once been. Hope College has gone trayless.

Last year, the Environmental Issues Group and the Hope Sustainability Task Force presented the idea for “Trayless Tuesdays” through the spring semester. Despite some grumblings among students about the inconvenience, 70-80 percent participated each week.

Wasted food, energy and water decreased significantly every Tuesday that Phelps went without trays. Because of the success of Trayless Tuesdays, Hope dining services decided to make going trayless a full-time effort.

The predictions for this year’s savings are impressive. It is expected that going trayless will cut back water usage by 600,000 gallons, reduce the use of chemicals, detergents and rinse agents by 1,500 pounds; reduce food waste in landfills by 38 tons; and conserve 532 hours of energy used by the dish washing machine.

Students have mixed feelings about going trayless.

“It’s saving the school money, but it’s inconvenient for me, and the cost of my meal plan hasn’t changed,” said Matt Herm (12).

Phelps is forever trayless.
CAMPUS

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 too am 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!

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

The role of an RD to is support the RA's 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 have been rockin' on the Wii! My wife will come home to me sweating in front of the TV because it is so intense! My favorite sport would have to be baseball. I like to sweat in front of the TV because it is so intense! My favorite sport would have to be baseball. I like to sweat in front of the TV because it is so intense! My favorite sport would have to be baseball. I like to sweat in front of the TV because it is so intense!
Michigan faces budget crisis

State experiences a $2.9 billion budget deficit; fiscal years starts Oct. 1

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

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

A closer look at the health care debate

The Obama administration looks to gain support for health care reform

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 bureaucratic red tape will lead to a complicated process, 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 in America the right direction?
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 his many 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 supposedly received 72 percent of the votes.

His closest rival, Abdullah 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 votes were cast by fraudulent hands, ballot boxes stuffed everywhere.

Taliban 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 slain 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 result to this violence has been an unpredictable one. There are even rumors that then vice presidential select Joseph Biden suggested, in a meeting with Karzai, that he step down, 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 Abdullah Abdullah.

Now, the general sentiment among diplomatic figures from different countries is that Karzai should nurse his wounded credibility, further charged with ethnic and political tensions. Despite the shower of blood much initiated by Taliban suicide bombers and aggressors in various parts of the Middle Eastern, religiously conservative country, 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.

Samuel Tzou
Guest Writer

North Korean news sources said Sept. 4, that they were entering their final days in unceasingly 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.

In early August, North Korean officials reacted immediately by holding political conferences early Saturday to discuss the situation.

Choson Sinbo, a pro-North Korean newspaper stated today that the U.S. must decide quickly whether it should 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."

Stephen Bosworth
U.S. Special Envoy

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

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.

North Korea’s nuclear arms report comes in a time of uncertainty for the country’s leadership. While reports about Kim Jong Il’s health haven’t been entirely confirmed, the ink became not an expressed of freedom, but a mark of death for the people.

The ink became not an instrument for the signified expression of freedom, but a mark of death for the people.
‘Aunt Tena, Called to Serve:’ New book published by A.C. Van Raalte Institute

Caitlin Seay
Guest Writer

SepTember 9, 2009

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 sacrifices,” 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 wholeheartedly 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 to write the 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.

IN BRIEF

ALUM RETURNS WITH WORDS OF WISDOM

Hope Alum Reagan Chesnut received her Masters at Trinity University in Dublin, Ireland, and is returning to Hope to begin working on her Ph.D. in the spring. Along with Daina Robins of the theatre department, Chesnut has created a list of plays that all college students should be familiar with before they graduate. If you are interested in hearing more about this list as well as Reagan’s experience in Ireland, there will be a meeting on Thursday at noon in the Otte Room in Phelps. A group will be meeting in the hallway of the theater department and then walking over to the Otte Room at 11:55 a.m.

THEATER PIZZA MEETING IN DEWITT

Calling all theater enthusiasts! Every second Thursday of the month, there will be pizza and discussion in the lounge above the Kletz. This Thursday, Sept. 10, the discussion will focus on students’ summer work experiences, how to do a resume, and how to prepare a portfolio.

FIELD TRIP SEPT. 25 TO GRAND RAPIDS PLAY

Sign up by Thursday, Sept. 10, to attend TopDog/Underdog, a play by Suzan Lori-Parks and winner of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize. “TopDog/Underdog” is about two brothers, who love the misfortune of being named Lincoln and Booth. Themes of sibling rivalry and family identity resonate throughout the play. The performance takes place on Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 each. Sign up in Michelle Bombe’s office.
Music for Life: African Children’s Choir tour comes to Hope Sept. 18

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 international 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 teary-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 imageable way to experience life.

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

The money earned from these performances is forwarded to the parent institution, Music for Life, and used to benefit the lives of more vulnerable African children.

Music for Life’s main focus for these kids is providing education, and to date, has raised over 7,000 lives.

The children contribute to this education process as well. Once they finish their tour with the choir, 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.

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.

MUSIC FOR LIFE—Members of the African Children’s Choir dance to upbeat contemporary rhythms to spread hope and awareness.

Amellise 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.

The Tulipanes event page states, “We strive to promote a positive image of Latino youth, families, senior citizens and professionals.

“Music is achieved through highlighting success stories in a fun, educational setting. We also show interesting documentaries and host panels dealing with cultural issues.”

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 queen court, made up of various youths from local high schools. Members create individual and group acts to present, including the dance group Cumbia.

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 spears to double knives. Featured artist Oswaldo Garezes will be reading poetry on the same stage on Sept. 12 at 4:45 p.m.

On Sept. 13, the festival will also host a faith and worship celebration entitled “Building God’s Diverse House” at 3 p.m.

The kickoff of the festival on Sept. 12 is “Heroes.” The film is about a man born without arms who became a popular disc jockey.

Director Ángel Loza said, “I believe that all of us are disabled; all of us have at least a handicap— psychological, physical, emotional, economical.” Three years after its beginning, the film was finally finished. The movie promotes the overlying message that “wings are not necessary to fly” and has a runtime of 25 minutes.

The second film in the festival, “La Tuerca,” resonates with personal memoirs from the director, who based the story on her own life. “La tuerca” translates to “nut” in English.

Director Anel Martinez was inspired by “a small nut which belonged to my older brother, (which) was a very powerful and magical object in our childhood games.”

“Years later, when my brother died unexpectedly, this tiny object became more important for 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 feature film, however, is Ricardo Martinez’s documentary “The Wall.” The longest of the movies at 77 minutes, “The Wall” is an exploration of illegal immigration in the South. Martinez has been traveling the Southwest for two years interviewing immigration lawyers, organized labor officials, the Social Security Administration, mayors, congressmen, clergymen, anti-immigration activists and illegal immigrants themselves. The film will show both Sept. 12 at 6:45 p.m. and Sept. 13 at 1 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.
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)

"When working on Mackinac Island a person must learn at least the basics of its main product. Fudge. Basically fudge comes in two types. One: The mouth-watering, sugary-sweet confection that causes tourists to go into a Fudge Trance. And two: The type that makes you cover your nose, step lightly and comes from the island's main form of transportation, horses."

- Caitlin Seay ('12)

"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!

- Play a round of volleyball at Tunnel Park!
- Take a blanket & star-gaze in the Pine Grove.
- Have a picnic at Kollen Park.
- Bike to the beach.
- Jog to the Farmers Market.
- Window shop on 8th Street.
- Hike up the bowl dunes & have a bonfire!

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

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Putting off 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 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.

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. No. Not happenin'. 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: Well, I want you to know that your 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 really be like God we all need to do."

Matt froze while his eyes got huge in disbelief. He said, "Wait, are you serious?" I nodded without another word and 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.

Matt was 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 overwhelmed by all the work, 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 wanted 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.
The foreign journey
Aftan Snyder Columnist

I write to you all today from Amman, Jordan – the first stop in my study abroad experience! The plane rides were okay, only because I listened to podcasts, read a good book and slept a lot. Although, there were times where I got lonely and sad whenever I left my brain unoccupied. You have to understand, leaving home two years ago to go to college five states away was the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do in my life, so as I sat in my chair soaring over the Parisian countryside, I thought, “Aftan, are you absolutely insane? You had a miserable time adjusting to college, and now you’re going to put yourself through the same situation, only adding a foreign culture and a very difficult foreign language on top of that! Once again, why are you throwing yourself wildly outside your comfort zone?”

I interrupt my somewhat hysterical train of thought with a reminder: It is good to stretch comfort zones. It makes one a more well-rounded person, and it is a difficult adjustment to college, and now you’re going to put yourself through the same situation, only adding a foreign culture and a very difficult foreign language on top of that! Once again, why are you throwing yourself wildly outside your comfort zone?”

I discover that if I repeat this same, rational reasoning to myself over and over, I am somewhat comforted. Things improve further when I finally land in Amman and meet up with the other students in the program. Truly, making friends with the other students has salvaged my sanity. Today, our first official day of orientation, we actually did very few orientation activities at all and instead went to Aqaba to swim in the Dead Sea. Did you know, the Dead Sea is so salty that you can float with virtually no effort at all? I heard one local warn us jokingly to keep our wits about us, otherwise we’ll fall asleep on top of the water and float over to Israel.

Unlike today, the rest of the week promises to be hectic: we have an Arabic placement exam tomorrow, both written and oral, as well as class sign-ups, tours of the University of Jordan, interviews for host family placement and more. My nerves are steadily stretching out once again. Despite this, I know I can succeed here. In the past I had a difficult adjustment to college, but I did adjust and once I adjusted, I relaxed. Only then did I have a fantastic time enjoying all the various experiences college has to offer. Jordan will be no different. It will take time, but I will adapt. And once I do, this country promises to offer me the experience of a lifetime.
Volunteers swarm the Community

• SERVE, from page 1

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 established 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.

LENDING A HELPING HAND—Hope students performed a variety of service acts. (Below) Travis Reith ('10) painted park benches while (pictured above right and below right) Daniel DeVries ('12) and Laura Morningstar ('09) cleaned goats at the Critter Barn. (Far right) Courtney Demberger ('12) and Jack Constant ('10) helped out by doing gardening and mulching at locations in the Holland area.

Phelps becomes completely trayless

• TRAYLESS, from page 1

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.

Stewart kicks off Last Lecture Series

• LECTURE, from page 1

a means to leave wisdom for his children.

Many colleges and universities around the nation have adopted Pausch’s idea and developed their own version of the Last Lecture Series. Here at Hope College, the series is sponsored by the local Alcor Chapter.
Daniel Owens
GMCC

Legendary American track star Steve Prefontaine once said that “to give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.” Cross Country Captain Matt Wiersum (’10) discovered his gift for long distance running while in middle school and has devoted much of his life to the grueling sport.

“I ran cross in middle school, and sophomore year of high school I gave up playing hockey—a sport I loved—in order to devote myself to running,” Wiersum said.

Though a poorly timed illness limited his success in high school, the Minnetonka, Minn., native has reaped the benefits of his dedication while at Hope College.

“I was Second Team All-MIAA my sophomore and junior years, and I’m the fourth returning guy in the conference, so I’m hoping to move up this season,” Wiersum said.

Success has not come without a price, as Wiersum acknowledges the high level of discipline cross-country requires.

“This summer I tried to get my runs in before I went to work as a lifeguard. High mileage has been the key to my improvement over the years, but it can be tough in the summer when you don’t have the team to train with or a routine. I built up to three weeks of running in the mid-80s for my weekly mileage,” Wiersum said.

When he’s not out running, Wiersum spends much of his time following Minnesota sports, especially the Wild and the Twins. He does have one allegiance that disappoints many in his hometown, though.

“I am an avid Packers fan. My Dad grew up in Green Bay so he bred me to be a ‘cheese head’ from the day I was born,” Wiersum said.

Wiersum also enjoys boating with his friends on Lake Minnetonka, though he has no plans of ever owning a vessel.

“I would say never own a boat, just have friends who do, and everything works out well,” Wiersum said.

While at Hope, Wiersum has been active in the Centurion fraternity and has furthered his interest in Psychology and Political Science as well, but is not sure of his plans for next year.

“I’m not too sure what I’ll do next year, but I know running-wise I’ll probably train on my own and hopefully find some road races where I can win some money,” Wiersum said.

With regards to the 2009 season, Wiersum is optimistic about the team’s prospects.

“We have a strong class of incoming freshmen. It seems like there are a lot of guys pushing each other for spots. Despite losing four of our top seven from last year, I think we’re going to surprise some people this season,” Wiersum said.

You can catch Wiersum in action when Hope hosts the MIAA Jamboree on Sept. 26.

PRACTICING HARD— Wiersum returns this year as the men’s lone all-MIAA honoree.

James Nichols
WMCC

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 MIAA title out of his team, but individual success in the form of five Flying Dutchmen golfers in the top ten of the conference.

Captain Steven Strock, the lone senior on the squad, has a similar vision for this season.

“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. He is also looking to his veteran players to act as role models for the other players.

“Steve Strock (’11) and Chris Ansel (’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, Austin 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 MIAA—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 MIAA 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.

MIAA competition will conclude the following week with two jamborees, one hosted by Calvin on Oct. 5 and the final jamboree that Albion 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.
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 cultural difference 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), another captain, said. “It’s a focal point in the town.”

The team didn’t spend all of their time training and playing. When Hope teams go abroad, they participate in a community service project in the country they are visiting. The men’s soccer team completed two projects while on the trip. Part of the team worked at the Irish Wheelchair Association, while the rest of the team cleared invasive species in a rain forest for the Irish Wildlife Trust Organization.

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 Saab 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 a 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 pre-season training,” Harrison said. “Everyone played and tried different positions, so we were able to see new abilities. The team also benefited from coaching they 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.”

“It was a wake-up call to a lot of us.”

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 and because of that cultural differences between American teams and Irish teams.

“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.”

While training 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.”

For the Flying Dutch, the trip 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.