Gretchen Baldwin

"To serve as a mediator between the administration and the Student Body of Hope College."

Taken directly from their website, this statement commissions the organizational student voice that is Student Congress.

Hope's Student Congress has quite the hierarchical melange. The executive board consisting of a president, vice-president and controller, as well as class representatives, is intermingled with cottage, apartment, dorm and off-campus representatives in addition to a secretary, webmaster and parliamentary. Currently Student Congress has every position accounted for, but all seats are not full as some spots, like Kollen Hall representative, have multiple seats available.

Within these representative and executive positions are committees and boards. Every member of congress is required to be on some sort of academic or faculty committee or board in order to promote discussion with Hope's administration with as many student perspectives as possible.

Also within these positions are more action-based committees created for specific projects that Student Congress decides to work toward. Rachel Syens (’11), one of the two senior class representatives, has been working toward a number of campus-wide sustainability projects in her going-on three years on Congress. "It's one of our main commissions to make Hope more sustainable," said Syens. Syens' most successful venture has been working as part of the committee that got recycling bins placed in every Hope dorm. She and the rest of Congress also work with RAs across campus through recycling seminars in hopes that eco-awareness and conscious sustainability will increase as more people become informed.

Congress members have also worked in recent years to change visitation hours during long school breaks, add a second guest pass to student meal plans and organize a Battle of the Bands benefit event for Haiti. They also hold an annual spring,"said Syens. "It is particularly difficult to get information about yourself out to the students. Once the group became official, it established a working constitution and elected an executive board, which contains the standard club positions of secretary, treasurer, president and so on. In addition, the club appointed a head of public relations to help them gain exposure. While they were still unofficial, the group began a tradition they now call "The Last Day of Summer," a day in which participants bring in and share with other club members their favorite video games and board games. This year, the event drew more than 50 students and rooms were reserved in the science center to accommodate the event. The organization's larger events typically draw between 30 and 50 students. Pillsbury said and take place roughly once a month. In addition to these larger events, the club also organizes more specialized events like "Lord of the Rings Move Night!" These more specific events attract fewer students. "My freshman roommate, Nate Snyder, was one of the very early participants in Geek Life and I'm kind of a nerdy kid. I enjoy playing video games and hanging out with friends, and all of that stuff so I like it, it's fun," Geek Life member Josh Brubaker-Salcedo said, describing how he came to join the club.

As the club has grown, it has taken on new responsibilities. "We have public meetings once a month to throw out ideas to the general public and get votes on them." At our last public meeting, we had a merger with the Nerf group of Hope College. They were unusual, and after an incident where they weren't able to organize themselves, we were asked to organize them. They are now a subset of Geek Life," Pillsbury said.

"When we were trying to become a club, the head of Greek Life at the time felt that the term Geek like was offensive and was too close to Greek Life. —NicoLas PilLSbury (’12)"

Photo by Holly Everson

Greek Life? Nope! It's Geek Life!

Chris Russ
ASSistant Sports Edit0r

Everyone at Hope College knows about Greek Life, the organization of fraternities and sororities that has been a staple of Hope's extracurricular activities for years. But comparatively few people are familiar with Geek Life, a new member on Hope's list of clubs and organizations that are quickly making a name for themselves.

President of the organization Nicolas Pillsbury (’12) explained that early into his freshman year at Hope, he and a few of his friends began meeting to play board games and role-playing games. He said this group now forms the majority of the executive board of the club. The group became an official Hope organization at the end of the 2009-10 school year after facing a small amount of difficulty. "When we were trying to become a club, the head of Greek Life at the time felt that the term Geek Life was offensive and was too close to Greek Life so I said I would think about changing it. But when I brought the idea back to our members, everyone said it needed to be Geek Life. In fact when people hear about Geek Life and I'm kind of a nerdy friend so I like it, it's fun," Geek Life member Josh Brubaker-Salcedo said, describing how he came to join the club.

As the club has grown, it has taken on new responsibilities. "We have public meetings once a month to throw out ideas to the general public and get votes on them." At our last public meeting, we had a merger with the Nerf group of Hope College. They were unusual, and after an incident where they weren't able to organize themselves, we were asked to organize them. They are now a subset of Geek Life," Pillsbury said.

"When we were trying to become a club, the head of Greek Life at the time felt that the term Geek like was offensive and was too close to Greek Life. — NicoLas PilLSbury (’12)"

Photo by Holly Everson
Who doesn’t love food?: CIS wrap-up

Meagan Dodge
Staff Writer

For some students a day without classes was supposed to mean rest and relaxation. Oct. 6 quickly went into reverse when students were assigned to attend the Critical Issues Symposium.

For 30 years CIS has been a part of Hope College’s academic layout. A committee of faculty, staff and students decides on a topic worthy of taking a full day from classes. Hope College takes the issue seriously and provides a day of events and speakers to get students informed. This year CIS topic was “Good Food for the Common Good.”

To prepare students for the upcoming CIS events, several film screenings and speakers came to better educate Hope’s campus before the official Oct. 5 kickoff. Film screenings of “Food, Inc.” and “King Corn” showed students the underbelly of our nation’s food and fast food industries. A dietician, Jennifer Hineline, spoke with freshness about ways to fight the famous “Freshman 15.”

Tuesday evening the event was underway as Bryant Terry, an eco-chef and food justice activist, gave the keynote address. He is a strong activist for healthy living and uses cooking as a tool to illuminate the intersections among poverty, structural racism and food insecurity.

While talking to students he gave examples of the good food that should be added into our every day diet.

Karlen Annette (‘10) said, “It helped me realize that healthy food doesn’t have to be disgusting like carrots and broccoli. Healthy food is a well-balanced meal.”

Wednesday morning the day started off with another keynote address from Joel Salatin. The farmer and author raises livestock using holistic methods which are free from potentially harmful chemicals. He has received many awards for his achievements toward alternative farming, including a Heinz Award, and his family farm has been featured in well-known magazines.

The rest of the day was followed up by speakers discussing how to make cuisine creative, why Christians should care about eating, our nutritional intake, and transforming the food and fitness environment in Chicago schools.

The afternoon segments were sponsored by departments within Hope College. The exercise science department sponsored a speaker who discussed good eating habits for performers, athletes and movers. The religion department’s speaker discussed how first century Christians remembered Jesus talking about departments such as sociology, nursing and philosophy had speakers whose topics solely focused on how healthy food reflects a person’s life.

Tania Habbouche (‘12) attended “The Effect of Nutrition on Health and Learning” for her exercise science major. “I learned more about what our country is going through and how we can make an effort to reverse it through daily exercise and a healthy diet.”

A day off for students was not in the cards. Hope’s campus was no different than any other day. But instead of being educated in their everyday classrooms, students were unified while learning about an issue that is strongly reflected upon our society. Students learned ways in which they can reverse their lives and make healthy choices in the future.
As elections approach, parties scramble

As this year’s Nov. 2 elections draw near, both Republicans and Democrats scramble to gain an edge over the other party. Every two years one-third of the 100 U.S. Senate seats come up for re-election, which means that at least 36 Senate seats are being contested this November.

According to Gallup’s analysis of key indicators relating to the elections, Republicans are projected to make significant seat gains.

Frank Newport wrote for Gallup.com that, “President Barack Obama’s job approval rating is below 50 percent, and both congressional job approval and satisfaction with the way things are going in the U.S. are well below 40 percent – all levels that generally predict large seat losses for the party of the sitting president.”

Currently the Democrats hold a majority in the Senate, with 58 seats to the Republicans’ 40 seats. However, if the Democrats lose 10 or more seats this fall then they will lose Senate control. Several seats that they currently hold – seats in Arkansas, Indiana, and North Dakota – are expected to turn Republican.

Several other Senate races remain toss-ups. Democrat Roland Burris of Illinois, who was appointed to replace Barack Obama when Obama became President, will not be running for re-election. The race comes down between state Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, a Democrat, and Rep. Mark Kirk, a Republican. According to polling by RealClearPolitics.com, undecided voters are beginning to break along party lines, though Kirk retains a minuscule lead. A Republican win in such a predominantly Democratic area would be an historic upset.

The other toss-up race comes from Nevada, where Democratic Senator – and Senate majority leader – Harry Reid faces Republican challenger Sharron Angle. Angle, a conservative and self-avowed Tea Partier, is a former member of Nevada state legislature.

Six other Senate races remain close and could change from Democrat to Republican: California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Democrats Barbara Boxer of California and Patty Murray of Washington lead the current polls in their respective states.

Gallup’s generic Congressional ballot for the week of Sept. 20-26 showed the national race tied among all registered voters. This generic candidate, and 46 percent in favor of a Republican candidate – a perfect tie. However, Gallup also notes that the GOP’s typical higher voter turnout could tip the scales in favor of Republicans.

Congressional ratings mean less turnover. The magic number appears to be around a 40 percent approval rating. If the approval rating climbs higher than 40 percent. This number, as well as the Gallup poll mentioned above, all suggest that the Republicans may make significant seat gains this November.

As a result of conflicts occurring in Afghanistan and Africa, a new “global” refugee burden is being created with an alarmingly large refugee population. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is an UN agency whose mission is to protect and support these refugees.

Antonis Guterres, UNHCR chief, said to the UNHCR’s governing executive committee on Oct. 4, “As a result of never-ending conflicts we are witnessing the creation of a number of quasi-permanent, global refugee populations.”

In 2009, the UNHCR was responsible for 15 million refugees. Out of the 800,000 refugees who need somewhere to go (annually), only 10 percent of them have a possibility of finding a stable living environment. Guterres requested that developed countries need to take more action to deal with the increase in demand for refugee resettlement. “We need to increase international solidarity and burden sharing. A better understanding and recognition by the international community of the efforts of host countries is absolutely necessary,” he said.

Unfortunately, many of the host countries – countries like Pakistan, Syria, Jordan, Iran, and Guinea, are only willing to take a fraction of the individuals who have been forced to flee their home state due to crisis and warfare. More than half are fleeing conflict in Somalia, with the majority living in developing countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq and Sierra Leone. Some of the most urgent refugee crises come from Afghanistan and Somalia.

The Afghan refugees are scattered over 63 countries (one-third of all the countries in the world) where they are pleading for asylum. Many others live in refugee camps located in Pakistan and Iran. Currently, 17 million Afghans have sought asylum in Pakistan and 1 million in Iran.

For the Somalis, the anticipation of a future peace that could allow their return home is far from realistic. Last year, only 61 Somalis were able to return to their home country.

Discussing these refugees from Afghanistan and Somalia, Guterres said, “I do not believe there is any group of refugees as systematically undesired, stigmatized and discriminated against.”

Elizabeth Campbell, senior advocate at the United States nongovernmental organization Refugees International, believes that the highest number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world are likely to be in the Middle East. Campbell and many others believe it is time to address this crisis.

As a result of conflicts occurring in Afghanistan and Africa, a new “global” refugee burden is being created with an alarmingly large refugee population. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is an UN agency whose mission is to protect and support these refugees. As a result of conflicts occurring in Afghanistan and Africa, a new “global” refugee burden is being created with an alarmingly large refugee population.
Hope for miners

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP) — After more than two months trapped deep in a Chilean mine, 33 miners are tantalizingly close to rescue. Drillers have completed an escape shaft, and Chile’s mining minister says a video image taken of the hole’s walls is firm enough to allow the men to be hoisted out by early as Wednesday.

Officials said late Saturday that workers first must reinforce the top few hundred feet (almost 100 meters) of the tunnel and had begun welding steel pipes for that purpose.

The completion of the 28-inch diameter escape shaft Saturday morning caused bedlam in the tent city known as “Camp Hope,” where the miners’ relatives had held vigil for an agonizing 66 days since a cave-in sealed off the gold and copper mine Aug. 5. Miners videotaped the piston-powered hammer drill’s breakthrough at 2,041 feet underground and could be seen cheering and embracing the drillers said. On the surface, the rescuers chanted, danced and sprayed champagne so excitedly that some of their hardhats tumbled off.

Later, a video inspection of the shaft gave rescuers enough confidence in the tunnel’s stability that they decided they would excavate only its first 315 feet.

The plan is to insert 16 sections of half-inch thick steel pipe into the top of the hole, which curves like a waterfall at first before becoming nearly vertical for most of its descent into a chamber deep in the mine. That work would begin immediately, Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said.

Then an escape capsule built by their namesake mining engineers, its spring-loaded wheels pressing against the hole’s walls, can be lowered into it via a winch and the trapped miners brought up one by one.

“All rescues have their risks,” Golborne said. “You can never say that an accident couldn’t happen.”

While the possibility of an accident can never be ruled out, the hole “is in very good condition, and doesn’t need to be cased completely,” Golborne said.

Chile’s success story would evaporate if a miner should get stuck on the way up for reasons that might have been avoided.

Contractor Jeff Hart of Denver operated the drill that created the exit route, pounding through solid rock and the detritus of the collapsed mine, which corkscrews deep below a remote hill in Chile’s Atacama desert.

There is nothing more important than saving — possibly saving 33 lives. There’s nothing more important job than that,” Hart said. “We’ve done our part, now it’s up to them to get the rest of the way out.”

Matthew Lee
Co-National Editor

The Washington Post reported Oct. 5 that Taliban representatives and the Afghan government “have begun to secretly meet to discuss ending war in Afghanistan.”

Afghan and Arab sources cited by the Post claim that for the first time Taliban representatives are authorized to speak for the Quetta Shura, the Afghan Taliban organization, based in Pakistan.

The Post reported that the Taliban, according to the Post.

Karzai has always claimed that he will work with the Taliban if they end the violence, cut off all ties with terrorists and abide by the Afghan constitution.

The Post reported that the withdrawal of US and NATO forces.

“They are very, very serious about finding a way out,” one source close to the talks said of the general consensus among Arab and Afghan sources is that the talks are preliminary and there is still much more to be done. They also expressed concern that any press coverage or talks about the secret discussion could have a drastic effect on the outcome.

Taliban leadership knows “that they are going to be sidelined,” the Post quoted a source as saying. “They know that more radical elements are being promoted within their rank and file outside their control. All these things are making them absolutely sure that, regardless of [their success in the war], they are not in a winning position.”

The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus said the Taliban officials have made new efforts to save the government.

There are 40,000 high-level Taliban leaders who have sought to reach out to the highest levels of the Afghan government and indeed have done that, Petraeus told reporters in Afghanistan.

Last week the Afghan government set up a peace council of 70 members in an effort to reconcile the government and lure Taliban foot soldiers off the battlefield.

A spokesman for Karzai, Wahab Omar, told Fox News that President Barack Obama’s goal of withdrawing troops from Afghanistan by July 2011 had little effect in beginning this effort.

Working toward peace with Taliban leaders is being pursued by the Afghan leadership at the very highest levels,” Petraeus said.

Matthew Lee
Co-National Editor

A new White House report severely criticizes Pakistan’s efforts toward militants stating that the government and military have been unwilling to deal with al-Qaeda and other terrorists.

The harsh language in the report — which also addresses the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari — could have a serious impact on the United States’ relationship with a vital ally and diminish support in Congress for providing billions of dollars in aid to Islamabad.

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Novelist brings Cuban variety to VWS

Katie Schewe
Arts Co-Editor

The next writer for Hope’s Visiting Writers Series has arrived from Cuba. American novelist Cristina Garcia will be at the Knepperbocker Theater Thursday, Oct. 14.


Garcia was born in Havana, Cuba. At the age of 2, her family fled to America after Fidel Castro came into power. Garcia and her family settled in New York City, where she was raised most of her life. Although her family moved to America, their Cuban roots stayed strong within their home. Garcia was constantly surrounded by her native language, and stories from Cuba. This Cuban influence spread into her writing as she matured.

Garcia attended Barnard College where she studied political science. She then worked on a master’s degree at John Hopkins University in international relations. After graduating, she spent a short period in Europe for work and then returned to the United States.

Garcia began her career in writing through journalism. Garcia worked at the New York Times and interned at the Boston Globe, before landing a reporter/researcher position at Time magazine. After seven years with Time magazine, Garcia’s life took a turn and she took a leap into the world of fiction.

Garcia was a finalist for the National Book Award after her first book “Dreaming in Cuban” was published. Garcia also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers’ Award, a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University and an NEA grant. Currently, Garcia is a visiting professor at the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas-Austin. Garcia has also accepted a position as a professor of creative writing at Texas Tech University.

Critic’s Corner
A critique of the latest indie music

Joel Hoffman
Staff Writer

After 2008’s double album “Microcastle/Wizard Era Continues” brought them to the forefront of the noise-pop genre, Atlanta-based Deerhunter had quite a reputation to live up to with their most recent release, “Halcyon Digest.”

Since they arrived on the scene in 2005, Deerhunter has been known for noisy, cluttered pop songs that force the listener to dig out the melody amidst the distortion and feedback present on the track.

Though their earlier records are more akin to ‘90s shoegaze like My Bloody Valentine, “Halcyon Digest” makes the progression to clearer and more accessible songs that could likely expand their pop-punk base and make them a household name outside of the indie world.

Upon first listen, “Halcyon Digest” seems like a slow, woozy dream in which the listener is stuck in a lull for the full 45 minutes of the album. The opening track “Earthquake” is anything but a typical album starter, with its creeping drum machine and slow rolling guitar pattern that make the listener feel as if they are slowly slipping into a dreamy trance.

The rest of the album contains many subtle sonic moments within each song that make the record far more musically varied than one might initially presume. Whether it is the saxophone solo on “Coronado” or the cricket chirps that provide the ambiance to the minimalist “Sailing,” Deerhunter knows how to make a record that becomes more satisfying with repeated listenings.

The way they evolve and become more accessible with the progression of each track makes this album a first-rate addition to their already impressive repertory. The band has stretched out their sound to a near ideal, with each album revealing more of the band’s unique talent.

First Place
“Cavalry,” Chris LaPorte

Second Place
“Svelata,” Mia Tavonatti

Third Place
“Lure/Wave,” Beili Liu

Fourth Place
“A Matter Of Time,” Paul Baliker

Five Place
Vision, David Spriggs

Photos and standing courtesy of www.artprize.org

2010 Art Prize winners

First Place
“Cavalry,” Chris LaPorte

Second Place
“Svelata,” Mia Tavonatti

Third Place
“Lure/Wave,” Beili Liu

Fourth Place
“A Matter Of Time,” Paul Baliker

Fifth Place
Vision, David Spriggs

Photos and standing courtesy of www.artprize.org

Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas-Austin. Garcia has also accepted a position as a professor of creative writing at Texas Tech University.
WTHS reviews albums

Our music director friends at 89.9 WTHS have meticulously listened to the following six albums. Some are “poppy,” some are “slinky,” some are “contemplative,” and others are just “sporadic and energetic.” All are worthy of a listen or two. Check them out!

by Paul Rice  
Laura Heldrop  
and Aaron Martin

Hear the reviewers’ radio shows!  
Paul Rice - Mondays at 10 p.m.  
Laura Heldrop - Thursdays at 8 p.m.  
Aaron Martin - Wednesdays 7 p.m.

Mavis Staples - “You Are Not Alone”
The Staples Singers were a big deal for a long time in the last half of the last century. What that means is that lead singer Mavis Staples is now really super old. Luckily for her, her voice is still as forceful, flexible and distinct as ever. Jeff Tweedy of Wilco recorded “You Are Not Alone” and wrote the title track. On the tracks where singers of TV On The Radio or the Yeah Yeah Yeahs contribute, the music resembles their respective bands’ poppier, more danceable tracks. But it always sounds like David Sitek - even when singers from hip-hop and electronic scenes participate.

Maximum Balloon - “Maximum Balloon”
Maximum Balloon is David Sitek, a member and producer of TV On The Radio who has recently made a name for himself by putting a direct, futuristic sheen on records by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Foals and other New York indie acts. This is his first solo album, and it’s very different from his other projects, but parallels can be seen. Every track on Maximum Balloon has a different guest vocalist. On the tracks where singers of TV On The Radio or the Yeah Yeah Yeahs contribute, the music resembles their respective bands’ poppier, more danceable tracks. But it always sounds like David Sitek - even when singers from hip-hop and electronic scenes participate.

Shad - “TSOL”
Like any other genre of music, the most creative rap acts are usually a little hard to find - since they’re a bit more challenging, a little less like what the average person expects, they don’t tend to show up on pop charts or radio stations. Shad’s third album, “TSOL,” is the first Shad album to be promoted and distributed outside of his native Canada. His lyrics demand full attention, intertwining humor and startling spiritual depth in his skilled flow. The music ranges from triumphant, soul-sampling triumph to slinky, quiet bass jams to a capella verses. With guest appearances from other Canadian rappers and members of Toronto’s Broken Social Scene, Shad is solidifying himself as a name to be taken seriously outside of his local scene.

Of Montreal - “False Priest”
Though it fits in especially well with next to 2008’s particularly groovy Skeletal Limbing, Of Montreal’s new album, “False Priest,” has all the typical characteristics of Of Montreal’s older music. It is sporadic and energetic and pop-influenced, full of slick, glam-rock guitar riffs and flashy synth hooks. Each track is unpredictably structured, spontaneous, and loud. Frontman Kevin Barnes has a Bowie-esque image that he makes his own with his high pitched, raw yelps.

Superchunk - “Majesty Shredding”
Superchunk have been around for a couple decades now. In that time, they’ve recorded 15 albums, started a successful record label (Merge), and defined a city’s music scene (Chapel Hill, N.C.). Their first album since 2004, “Majesty Shredding” is a blast of energy that sounds like it should be coming from a band several years younger, but is tempered with a maturity that keeps the album vital - they’ve been around too long to leave any dead weight on these tracks. If you like upbeat rock but you’ve grown out of your pop-punk phase, this is where you might go next.

Junip - “Fields”
Junip is a Swedish band featuring Jose Gonzalez, a talented acoustic folk musician of Argentine decent. The music on this album reflects a fine balance between the rhythms and sounds of both Junip’s propulsive energy and Jose Gonzalez’s contemplative hush. It is rhythmic, folky, and impactful. There is frustration and patience, love and hate, peace and chaos.

Breathe Owl Breathe - “Magic Central”
If you saw them at the Knick, you know what this band is capable of. With diverse instrumentation, lyrics that are silly but inexplicably entralling and two singers whose voices could not be more different (imagine Bill Callahan and Feist), Breathe Owl Breathe present a completely unique take on indie folk. This album takes their style and twists it in new ways as they try out haunting chants, soft electronic textures and jazzy world music, all successfully.
What are you doing for fall break?
By John Rebhan and Alyssa Barigian

Fall break is finally here! Many students are taking time to catch up on some much-needed rest, while others are seizing the opportunity to travel around the world. We asked a few students to share what they will be doing this weekend.

“I’m going home for fall break to spend some time with my family and spend some time relaxing. I want to go to the local apple orchard which has prize-winning cider and really good apple cider doughnuts. I’m going to make a stew.”
- Ella Vandervlugt (’11)

“My mom is meeting me in Chicago from Denver so we’re going to hang out. There is a kid who went to my youth group who goes to school there so we’re going to see him. We’re going to get some good food and see “Billy Elliot’. It should be fun!”
- Cara Green (’13)

“Over fall break, my mom and I are going to decorate the house for fall and then hopefully get a chance to do a little hiking.”
- Emilee Anderson (’12)

“I shall be going to Chippewann, Ind., with my family for the day and doing my homework on the side.”
- Daniel DeVries (’12)

“I’ll be going back to my hometown in Sandusky, Ohio. There I will be playing three shows with my band. I play bass, banjo and guitar. Between shows I will probably get the best grilled cheese on the planet from Melt Bar & Grill (sorry, Mom). And as my housemates used to say, I will be chilling unreasonably hard.”
- Andrew Fleck (’11)

“I am going to Chicago via train to visit my boyfriend. I’m probably going to go downtown and maybe go to a museum. I know he has a concert so I’m going to go to that because he’s a musician.”
- Katie Wilkie (’13)

What about The Anchor staff?
We asked the staff what they were up to this October. The results were mixed: a lot of “Chicago!” and “Nothing.” We appreciate the energy, Anchor staff.

“Well, I’m not doing anything cool, but my housemate Lia Holwerda is going camping at Sleeping Bear Dunes!”
- Brittany Lapham (’12)

“I will be traveling to Minneapolis with my roommate and her boyfriend to visit one of our good friends who graduated last spring and currently attends St. Thomas for grad school. We plan to turn the city on its head, be raucous, cause lots of trouble, and be exemplary representatives of the college… but really, we’re just looking forward to getting to hang out again and get away from classes for a little bit.”
- Karen Patterson (’11)

“I will be raking all the leaves in the Pine Grove into a huge pile to jump in.”
- Aftan Snyder (’11)

“I am going backpacking at Pictured Rocks in the UP.”
- Lindsey Bandy (’12)

“My best friend and I are going to take a road trip to the Upper Peninsula. We have no idea what we’re doing up there yet. All we have planned is the hotel and when we’re coming back to Hope. It’s going to be a blast!”
- Alyssa Barigian (’12)

“I will be up in Traverse City, but no matter how nice the weather is, I’ll be sleeping in. No doubt about it.”
- John Rebhan (’11)
Fall for nature and me

I really like the way the words “apple pie” look together. Maybe it’s all the “p’s” in it: apple Pie. I don’t know, but I sure think it looks good. I first noticed this when I was boasting proudly of my own creation over my Facebook status. It was the first apple pie I’d made without parental guidance, and I figured the world ought to know about it.

I also really like the way apple pies go with fall. They fit, somehow, the way all the “p’s” fit in “apple pie.” And now that it’s October, I’m starting to think of all the other lovely things that go with this season.

Trees that burst into flaming gold and red, and then drop leaves for me to crunch through on my way to class. Frost gilding the grass. Mittens, or another warm hand, to tuck your own into to keep your fingers warm. Sweaters, scarves, coats.

Halloween candy. Squirrels that act just a bit crazier than usual because they’re busy gathering in their winter supply of food. Bonfires in the backyard. Hot drinks steaming in yellow Lemonjello’s mugs.

But what I like best about fall is the drowsiness that it brings. I can just lounge down and relax; no rush, no pressure to be out and about. I have a routine, and while it may be busy, it’s kind of cozy. I’m familiar with. “For man, autumn is a season.”

I love Hope College so much. My first three years have brought some of the greatest challenges and joys I may ever experience. This year has been overwhelming, but filled with wonderful moments of friendship and love. Which is why I feel the need to challenge this college to stop just talking about our faith and begin applying it here on campus as well as elsewhere.

Instead of asking the person you’ve been friends with since freshman year to coffee to discuss the same old thing, ask someone you don’t know as well. Take a risk and be spiritually vulnerable with them; hopefully they’ll be the same with you. My prayer would be that students are heard saying, “I’m having a hard time right now, but I feel so uplifted” rather than, “My friends don’t seem to understand why I can’t just be happy.”

This is a slow and sometimes painful process, and change doesn’t happen overnight. But that doesn’t mean that change is impossible. Often, it starts with a simple “Hi, my name is…” When we truly take the time to look beyond the surface and invest in one another, the brokenness can be healed one piece at a time.

Karen thinks that the people who have already stepped out of their comfort zone and been vulnerable are amazing and is encouraged by them. I also think that the Counseling Center is an awesome place and more students should check it out!

What’s a letter to the editors supposed to look like?

Well, it’s your thoughts: what made you stop and think while walking to chapel, or class or in a conversation over coffee? Maybe you disagree with something, maybe you’re ecstatic about something. That’s the stuff of letters.

Mail letters (no more than 500 words) to anchor@hope.edu.
The other October rule

Like most stories, the column for this week just came to me randomly. One night I was on my way to Martha for a late night of studying; I walked across the train tracks by DePree. And it was there that I was startled by a girl sitting alone in the dark, talking on her phone.

Now I thought to myself, there is only one reason you come to an area like this to talk on your phone. It was right. Let me be clear that I was not intentionally eavesdropping on this conversation; it was right. Let me be clear that I was not intentionally eavesdropping on this conversation; it was just one of those moments when you are so close you can’t help but overhear.

I walked away smiling not because someone was being dumped, but because I was thinking about a rule a wise professor once shared with me. (For his protection, so that he is not blamed for any break ups, I will use his alias, Max Steel.) As October begins we are entering what can be known as “the break-up month.”

Sure, the season of fall can be seen as a beautiful and romantic time with all the changing colors and occasional perfect weather that make going for an evening’s walk with your significant other very pleasant.

But let’s face it: fall, in all of its glory, is a season of death. The leaves are changing colors because they are dead, and though it has been beautiful this past week, most of fall’s weather is filled with downpouring rain and sleet. The leaves do nothing but collect mud and kill the grass once they fall to the ground. This, simply combined with where October falls on the calendar, makes it a notorious break-up month. As Max Steel once explained to me, people break up in October because well, if you wait too long it’s Thanksgiving, and next thing you know your significant other is going home with you to meet the family. Then once you go home for Thanksgiving, it’s only a couple weeks to finals, and no one wants to be dumped the night before their chemistry final. Then once you make it past finals, Christmas and New Year’s are right around the corner and once again you are celebrating with each other’s families.

After returning from winter break, Valentine’s Day is approaching; before you know it, it’s spring, and if you are a senior we all know what pressures come with spring. If you are in a happy committed relationship, good for you. I don’t mean to cause you harm and I apologize for wasting your time. If your relationship is on the rocks, I simply am giving you food for thought. Take it or leave it. If you end up falling through to spring don’t say I didn’t warn you.

Matt cannot be blamed for any break-ups that occur after reading this. October is the reason, not this column.

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Graves Hall adaptive restoration honored by architects group

Courtesy of Hope PR

The recent adaptive restoration of Graves Hall at Hope College has earned honorable mention in the Grand Valley American Institute of Architects 2010 Honor Awards program.

The award was presented during a ceremony on Sept. 25, held in conjunction with a reception at the 38 Commerce building in Grand Rapids that recognized projects by area architects in several categories. Graves Hall was recognized for Historic Preservation/Adaptive Reuse.

Dedicated in 1894, Graves Hall reopened in August 2009 after a year-long, $5.7 million, adaptive restoration that has emphasized a return to the building’s original character while updating the 19th-century landmark for use in the 21st century. Building leaders selected Carr & Huber Inc. of Grand Rapids as Hope’s architectural firm for the project. Under the direction of Lakewood Construction Inc. of Holland, Graves Hall was constructed as the college’s chapel and library, but ceased serving as first one and then the other when Davenport Memorial Chapel and Van Zooren Library opened in 1929 and 1961 respectively. Renovations in 1962 and 1980 reconfigured the building for new use but at the expense of much of its beauty.

In both updating and restoring the historic structure, the latest work was informed by original blueprints as well as photographs and even living memory. Remade were the distinctive art-glass windows that were once a fixture in Winants Auditorium, a connection to the space’s original use as Hope’s chapel but removed in 1980 due to their deterioration. As when the building opened in 1894, the second floor features four large classrooms, the varnished wooden doors and wainscoting without suggesting the classical elegance of a bygone era.

The main staircase, isolated behind metal doors in the 1960s, was again greets visitors to the main lobby. As prior to the restoration, the ground floor of the building continues to house the Upward Bound and CASA programs, as well as the Schoon Mediation Chapel, all in improved space.

A major new addition - built of stone to match the rest of the building and facing the Pine Grove - includes an elevator that provides access for the first time to the top and ground floors for those with mobility impairments. Other features where the library stacks once stood include an additional classroom and the “Presidents’ Room” conference room featuring portraits of all of Hope’s presidents.

Additional amenities unheard of when the structure was built include wireless Internet service and wiring throughout for access to the complete array of technologies that exist in support of education and air conditioning.

Graves Hall Resoration Project Website: http://www.hope.edu/pr/campus/gravesthes.html

Memoir reflects on face blindness, family and forgiveness

Courtesy of Hope PR

In her newly published memoir “You Don’t Look Like Anyone I Know: A True Story of Family, Face Blindness, and Forgiveness,” Dr. Heather Sellers of the Hope College English faculty explores how an apparent handicap turned out to be a remarkable gift that allowed her to “see” people as they truly were and gave her unexpected insights into the nature of family, forgiveness and love.

The book is being released on Thursday, Oct. 14, by Riverhead Books. The publication will be celebrated locally with a book launch party on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Washington Square Bistro Gallery, 453 Washington Ave., in Holland. Hosted by Literary Life Books of Grand Rapids and Peredidess Restaurant, the event will feature musical entertainment by Three Five Four, a duo of Hope students Charlie Walter and Colin Hoogerwerf.

The public is invited to the reception. Admission is free.

Sellers has a highly unusual neurological condition known as face blindness, or prosopagnosia. The disorder, which is believed to affect about 2 percent of the population, prevents the brain from interpreting the information that it receives from the eyes, with the effect specific to the section or process that deals with face recognition. The eyes function correctly, but the brain can’t make sense of what it is being shown.

“I have failed to recognize my step kids, my best friends, even my then-husband,” said Sellers, who has taught at Hope since 1995. “I can’t even recognize myself in a photo or video unless I remember what I was wearing that day, although my huge hair helps.”

The book is about her experiences coming to terms with the disorder, which was undiagnosed until about five years ago. In the memoir, she describes her childhood in Florida, and how the strange circumstances of that upbringing made it impossible for anyone to realize she had the bizarre, troubling condition.

She was working about a memoir about her family when she discovered she had the condition after coming across the term “face recognition” in an article.

She eventually connected with the Prospagnosia Research Center at Harvard University, where researchers confirmed that she had a severe degree of face blindness. Simply having a diagnosis was an enormous relief that profoundly affected her life. But as the researchers also confirmed, to her disappoint-ment, there is no cure for face blindness.

To help others who suffer with the condition in silence, Sellers has appeared on NBC’s “Today” show and on ABC’s “Primetime.” In 2007, she gave a presentation about face blindness during the Winter Happening event coor- dinated by the college’s office of public and community relations. Every time Sellers speaks on the topic, at least one person in the audience approaches her and tells her they believe they are also face-blind.

As she has reflected on her condition, she has found, unexpectedly, that face blindness has provided her with a perspective that she might otherwise have missed — a way of looking at people, and life, which she hopes will help others.

“I’m isolated by this condi- tion,” she said. “And at the same time, it’s what connects me so deeply to other people: we all have this experience of trying to love others and that is basically a process of attempting to ‘see’ someone, know which person they are.”

“Love is recognition,” she said. “My whole life - while it was a very odd childhood - turned out to be this kind of school in vi- sual literacy, in some other kind of recognition. A deeper kind of knowing.”

She hopes that others who read about her journ-ey may find help in their own.

“In some ways, we all are keeping part of ourself even from ourselves,” she said. “I hope that it helps someone who is struggling to fit together parts that maybe don’t all fit. That’s my hope, that it’s a positive story.”

Sellers is the author of several other books, includ- ing three volumes of poetry, a collect- ion of short fiction, three books on the writing process and a children’s book. She has had poems, short fiction, memoir and cre- ative nonfiction appear in jour- nals, anthologies and magazines around the country. In 2000, she was one of only 41 writers nationally to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant for 2000-02 to create original work or translate work; the re- sulting volume, “Georgia Under Water,” was named a finalist in the 2002 “Paterson Fiction Prize” competition and in 2001 was recognized in the “Discover Great New Writers” program of Barnes & Noble bookstores.

Copies of “You Don’t Look Like Anyone I Know: A True Story of Family, Face Blindness, and Forgiveness” will be available through the college’s Hope- Geneva Bookstore as well as through other area book sellers and online.
Both golf teams finish season in third

Hope College’s men’s golf team came in second at Saturday’s MIAA jamboree in Alma. The second place finish puts the Flying Dutchmen in third place overall in the MIAA and ended the team’s chances of making a second appearance in as many years at the NCAA tournament in the spring.

The race for the MIAA men’s golf title has been tight all season between several teams. Though Trine led for much of the season, they were not able to establish a large enough lead to retain the title after Saturday’s jamboree, which Calvin won with a score of 296. That score moved Calvin into first place with a season-long total of 2,411, giving the Knights its first MIAA title. Trine finished just two strokes behind Calvin at 2413, while Hope finished nine strokes away from the title with a final season score of 2420.

“I’m happy with the way the season turned out,” head coach Bob Ebels said prior to Saturday’s jamboree. “I’m happy with the season yet I also disappointed because we lost one of our best players to Bowling Green, which means we have to make up the spring season. The second place team is given a final season score of 2420.

Though the focus of the fall season is MIAA jamborees, the golf team does play in non-conference tournaments as well. On Oct. 7, the team traveled to Dearborn where they placed second in the Red Poling Classic with a score of 320.

Ansel said the Flying Dutchmen at that tournament were second, as well, shooting a 73 on the day. Campbell and Thomson were second and third with scores of 79 and 82 respectively. Sean La Douce (’13) and Austin Farah (’13) rounded out Hope’s score for the day, each shooting 86.

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The team’s future heading into the off-season.

For next season I think we need to keep playing our own game and the rest will fall into place. We are a strong team,” Blodgett (’11) said.

A highlight for the Dutch as their fall season came to a close was the announcement that two of their players, Lauren Zandstra (’12) and Megan Scholten (’12), had achieved All-MIAA second team honors. They ended the season with 85.4 and 86.0 stroke averages respectively. The All-MIAA first team was occupied solely by members of the St. Mary’s and Olivet teams.

Scholten, who co-captains the team with fellow junior Emily Atsma (’12), spoke on the struggles the team faced and also examined their ability to compete in the upcoming season.

“We have an immense amount of potential on our team and I know that we have the ability to do better. However, we are right where we want to be going into our spring season. We have a spring season in which the main focus is qualifying for nationals. Coming from a very tough conference in which there are two teams that are ranked in the top 10 in the nation, it has been difficult for us to qualify the past two years,” Atsma said.

“We really want to make it to nationals and we have the talent and potential to do so if we can put three good rounds together this spring. We are planning on working hard in the off-season individually to prepare us to meet the goal of qualifying for nationals in the spring.”

The Hope College women’s golf squad was staggeringly consistent this fall season. They competed in four Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association jamborees and each time they finished in third place. In each competition, rivals Olivet College and St. Mary’s College in Indiana finished either first or second.

In the two-day, 36-hole final tournament of the season, on Oct. 9, the Flying Dutch once again took third and ended the season 78 strokes behind the Rivals College, 215 strokes separating their lowest scores.

One of the team’s biggest accomplishments this season turned out to be the team’s overall season with a 74.1 average.

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E-mail us at anchor@hope.edu or just stop by the Anchor office in Martha Miller at 6 any Sunday night for more information.

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Bulthuis sees hard work pay off

Bethany Stripp
Sports Editor

Cassidy Bulthuis ('11) has quite literally grown up around the sport of volleyball. Born to a volleyball coach in December when volleyball was played in the winter at the Michigan high school level, Bulthuis had her first exposure to volleyball before she could even walk.

"As soon as I was born I was in the gym," Bulthuis said. "My mom used to put my car seat in the ball rack so I would just sit there during practice and watch." Given her family’s history, it's not a surprise that volleyball has come to play such a large role in Bulthuis’ life. Her parents met playing together on a co-ed volleyball team, and her sister and cousin both played at the collegiate level.

"Volleyball’s just a huge thing in my family so I didn’t really have a choice, but I love it," Bulthuis said.

After playing volleyball for four years at Spring Lake High School, Bulthuis received offers from multiple schools to continue playing at the collegiate level. She knew she wanted to play Division III volleyball coach Steven Smith said. "The guys are training hard and we’re hoping the results will follow."

The team’s captains, Logan Neil ('12) and John Turner ('11) had similar feelings but remain optimistic about the rest of the season. "Every team experiences a slump at some point in the season," Neil said. "The true test is how you respond to the adversity. Despite our fall, we worked hard and continued to believe we will win the MIAA championship."

"We can bounce back," Turner said. "We need some help from other teams in the conference but we will do our part."

The Flying Dutchmen are 3-3 in the MIAA and 6-4-2 overall. With nine points in conference play (three points for a win, one for a tie) Hope is only four points behind first place Calvin so far this season.

Unfortunately, Adrian, Kalamazoo, Trine and Olivet are also between the Dutchmen and Kingsmen. In fact, there are only two teams, Albion and Alma, behind Hope in the MIAA standings.

"Right now I feel like we are improving every time we step on the field whether that be a training session or a game," Neil said. "We are starting to get back to full strength with guys returning from injuries and our league is still very wide open."

With a roster that’s getting stronger and stronger each day, the Flying Dutchmen should have much to look forward to. They have already outscored their opponents 22-10 this season, averaging a goal more per game.

Shaun Groetsema ('12) and Andrew Nichols ('11) have made large contributions to the Dutchmen’s scoring. Groetsema has six goals this season and Nichols has tallied four.

Neil added that David Whittaker ('12) and Luke Dishnow ('13) have played "very well" on defense.

Although the freshman class has only supplied the Dutchmen with a few goals this season, their presence on the field is still felt by the upperclassmen. Also important to the team are the seniors coming off the bench and producing.

"The incoming freshmen are playing significant minutes and players like Brayden West ('14) and Nick Heyboer ('14) have even started for us at times this year," Smith said.

"Matt VanZytveld ('14) is really settling into his own," Neil said. "I think what makes our team so dynamic is that we are able to play against the best teams in the league day in and day out."

"We may have a starting group and a ‘second group,’ but our ‘second group’ could give any starting group in the league a run for their money," Turner said. "I think Hope has a slew of MIAA games remaining before a season finale at Olivet on Nov. 6. It’s looking like that far ahead however."

"Our cancer fundraiser game [Tuesday] is very important to us," Turner said. "Our next Calvin game is another." Neil echoed Turner’s thoughts saying, "It’s definitely a season where we have no choice but to take our season one game at a time. The league is a slugfest and it is really up for grabs right now."