Campus climate survey intended to create cultural diversity change

Carolyn Wermuth
Guest Writer

How can Hope create a more welcoming and caring community for all? One step towards that question is a goal of the college’s first comprehensive survey of campus climate.

The Office of International and Multicultural Education conducted the survey last year and asked respondents to evaluate the atmosphere of Hope’s overall cultural diversity, as well as explain their personal perceptions of cultural diversity.

The survey, taken by 491 Hope students, 117 faculty and 91 staff members, provided information for developing a more culturally diverse and welcoming climate.

Although professor Charles Green made a presentation about the survey at a faculty conference in August, results from the survey have had limited release. The President’s Advisory Council, made up of faculty, staff, and students, has reviewed the study and was asked to develop action strategies.

The study found that diversity is valued at Hope, and respondents said everyone at Hope is responsible for creating a welcoming environment.

Respondents said racial and ethnic diversity is easier to discuss than sexual and religious identity and is being best addressed by Hope’s programs and messages about diversity.

A majority said that while Hope should continue its mission to be ecumenical in character it should also visibly embrace a wider definition of cultural diversity.

Alfredo Gonzales, dean of International and Multicultural Education, directed the survey. Gonzales said the inspiration for the survey came from a "number of conversations from students, faculty and staff that often point to an incident or a particular situation" where they felt diversity was not represented or even felt threatened at times.

"There was not enough data that with some degree of confidence someone could say (incidents) were taking place. I thought it would be important to have a take a survey to have an accurate record of issues that affect the campus climate,” Gonzales said.

The committee enlisted the help of the Frost Research Center to conduct the survey; committee members then interpreted the results. Respondents said they felt better prepared to assist with issues they were not aware of, as they were more aware of their day to day interactions.

"We live in a multicultural environment and we have to be aware of how our community interacts. Gonzales wondered, “How might those differences (in opinion) play out in the academic and residential life of the college?”

Although few students have actually reported harassment based on diversity issues (such as race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation), Gonzales said that even if a small number of people have felt intimidated, it should be of concern to the college. The ultimate goal of the survey is for the campus to become a more welcoming and open community, as well as see what areas the administration can improve upon.

Two Facebook pages were created Tuesday to pay tribute to Boerigter. One of his former teachers, Jeanne Burnham writes, “I had JP in 9th grade and I enjoyed our time together. He was quiet, but witty and so smart…What a terrible tragedy! You have to ask, ‘why? I don’t understand’.”

"The death of JP is a significant and terrible loss. It rips through us all,” said Tryste Johnson, of Campus Ministries. "When someone dies so young, and so unexpectedly, we want to have answers. We just don’t have those answers to give.”

Johnson added, “In the days ahead we will continue to pray for JP’s family, and continue to comfort each other by standing firmly on the promises of (God’s) Word.”

“We grieve together and especially with his family,” agreed President James Bullman. "I was very pleased with the way our campus community surrounded each other during this time.”

Visitation with the Boerigter family took place at the Kalamazoo Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 27. The funeral was led in Dimnent Memorial Chapel by Tryste Johnson. Hundreds of students and faculty crowded into the building, where it was standing-room only.

The audience gathered to pray and mourn together and also to support Boerigter’s parents who were in attendance.

Since the accident occurred, Campus Ministries, Student Development, and the Counseling and Psychological Services staff have been available to serve students.

The residents and residence assistants of Boerigter’s hall, Wyckoff, have also set aside special time to pray together and support each other.

Two Facebook pages were created Tuesday to pay tribute to Boerigter. One of his former teachers, Jeanne Burnham writes, “I had JP in 9th grade and I enjoyed our time together. He was quiet, but witty and so smart…What a terrible tragedy! You have to ask, ‘why? I don’t understand’.”

"The death of JP is a significant and terrible loss. It rips through us all,” said Tryste Johnson, of Campus Ministries. "When someone dies so young, and so unexpectedly, we want to have answers. We just don’t have those answers to give.”

Johnson added, “In the days ahead we will continue to pray for JP’s family, and continue to comfort each other by standing firmly on the promises of (God’s) Word.”

“We grieve together and especially with his family,” agreed President James Bullman. "I was very pleased with the way our campus community surrounded each other during this time.”

Visitation with the Boerigter family took place at the Kalamazoo Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 27. The funeral was led in Dimnent Memorial Chapel by Tryste Johnson. Hundreds of students and faculty crowded into the building, where it was standing-room only.

The audience gathered to pray and mourn together and also to support Boerigter’s parents who were in attendance.

Since the accident occurred, Campus Ministries, Student Development, and the Counseling and Psychological Services staff have been available to serve students.

The residents and residence assistants of Boerigter’s hall, Wyckoff, have also set aside special time to pray together and support each other.

The study found that diversity is valued at Hope, and respondents said everyone at Hope is responsible for creating a welcoming environment.

Respondents said racial and ethnic diversity is easier to discuss than sexual and religious identity and is being best addressed by Hope’s programs and messages about diversity.

A majority said that while Hope should continue its mission to be ecumenical in character it should also visibly embrace a wider definition of cultural diversity.

Alfredo Gonzales, dean of International and Multicultural Education, directed the survey. Gonzales said the inspiration for the survey came from "a number of conversations from students, faculty and staff that often point to an incident or a particular situation" where they felt diversity was not represented or even felt threatened at times.

"There was not enough data that with some degree of confidence someone could say (incidents) were taking place. I thought it would be important to have a take a survey to have an accurate record of issues that affect the campus climate," Gonzales said.

The committee enlisted the help of the Frost Research Center to conduct the survey; committee members then interpreted the results. Respondents had a wide range of impressions of how culturally diverse Hope’s campus, is as well as definitions of cultural diversity itself.

Gonzales wonders, “How might those differences (in opinion) play out in the academic and residential life of the college?”

Although few students have actually reported harassment based on diversity issues (such as race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation), Gonzales said that even if a small number of people have felt intimidated, it should be of concern to the college. The ultimate goal of the survey is for the campus to become a more welcoming and open community, as well as see what areas the administration can improve upon.

This fall, Hope goes green with cottage energy competition

Claire Call
Guest Writer

In an effort to reduce Hope College’s environmental footprint, the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee has organized a Cottage Energy Competition for the 2011-2012 academic year. “From Oct. until Thanksgiving break, cottages will work to reduce their use of electricity,” said Isolde Anderson, chair of the department of communication and member of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Seven cottages have volunteered to enter the competition which includes a kick-off event to explain the project and provide tips on energy reduction as well as a celebration dinner to thank all the participants and learn from them about ‘best practices’ and how to educate the rest of the campus on energy reduction,” Anderson said.

After the competition is over, the cottage that reduced electric usage the most will win a prize which will be decided upon by the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee.

To make the competition fair, the cottages are competing against their own previous use of electricity.

"Eoffs will be compared to each cottage’s previous three year record of electricity usage (averaged over the three years),” Anderson said. This way, a cottage with 14 residents can compete against a cottage with only four residents.

“The aim of the Cottage Energy Competition is to motivate students to be more conscious of their daily energy use and its ultimate effects on the environment," said Lauren Madison (’14), a Sustainability Outreach intern. This consciousness will hopefully last even after the competition is over.

“We hope to educate the students involved, not only about how to limit their energy use, but also why it is a good idea; in order to care in the long run, there has to be a base knowledge of the benefits of energy conservation,” said Madison. This competition is only one sustainability project of many in the last four years since the Campus Sustainability Committee.
Hope studies concerns behind grade inflation

Does Hope make the grade?

Katherine Maguire
Guest Writer

is an A really outstanding if most students are getting the same grade? The concerns behind grade inflation are numerous, and Hope is studying the issue closely.

"Grade inflation is the steady increase in the mean GPA of students over time," Provost Richard Ray said. According to KnowledgeHope, Hope's mean GPA has risen from 2.96 in 1980 to 3.32 in 2010. However, grade inflation has hit other American colleges and universities as well.

Gradeinflation.com, a website designed by Stuart Rojstaczer, a former professor at Duke University, measures the national prevalence of grade inflation. According to the website, the average GPA of American colleges and universities has risen from a 2.93 in 1991 to a 3.11 in 2006. Specifically, private schools have jumped from a 3.09 in 1991 to a 3.30 in 2006.

What is the big deal about grade inflation?

Some argue "grade inflation robs students in a certain way of honest feedback on what they have learned," Ray said. If students are getting A's for substandard work, then grade inflation has a negative impact on their learning. High performing students are not truly recognized for superior performance, and students overall are not challenged in their academic work.

The Academic Affairs Board has discussed the issue regularly each subsequent decade. The discussion has grown more intense recently resulting in extensive data analysis and lengthy dialogue. The board hosted two faculty forums on the topic in September and is continuing to search for ways to counteract the negative impact of grade inflation on student learning.

"Grade inflation is an issue that is so complex it cannot be solved in simple ways," Ray said. The process will take a long time.

One challenge to finding a solution is that there is no clear cause of grade inflation. "Generally people assume that grade inflation is bad just like inflation in the economy," David Cunningham, professor of religion and administrator of the Crossroads Project and The Writing Center, said. However, there might be positive and negative reasons for grade inflation at Hope.

Positive reasons could include that students are more dedicated to their studies and that faculty are providing more varied assignments and specific grading guidelines. A rise of competency-based disciplines and increased student-faculty interaction about assignments and grades may have also contributed.

Negative reasons could include professors wanting to decrease their own and their students' workloads, easier courses, a consumer culture among students and the role of student evaluations in tenure and promotion decisions. "We know there are a lot of causes but we don't know which ones are making the biggest difference right now," Cunningham said.

Hope, along with other colleges and universities, is determined to find a solution to managing grade inflation. The Academic Affairs Board is looking into trying to develop ways to address the impact that grade inflation has on student learning. Some proposed solutions are to include information on grade distributions and percentiles for students in their courses. These percentile averages would show up on students' grade reports, but not official transcripts. Some board members are concerned this could turn Hope's collaborative environment into a competitive one.

Another concern is the hefty estimated price tag of $250,000 to implement the changes. "We have an idea of what faculty think," Brent Krueger, chair of the Academic Affairs Board and professor of chemistry said. "We would like to get an idea of what students think." The Academic Affairs Board hopes to solicit student concerns about grade inflation and its solutions at some point this year.

"It is not a solution to just say to everybody, 'don't give so many A's,'" Cunningham said. Students do not need to be concerned their A's will suddenly disappear or become obsolete. "Reducing everybody's grades will have a negative impact," Krueger said. "This is not something we want to do."

"Perhaps the most important lesson for me is that if there is any time of hurt in our community where someone or a group of people feel that they were marginalized in some way or another, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are a part of the fabric of Hope, and we should do whatever is within our responsibilities to make Hope a much more welcoming institution," Gonzales said.

Asked what Hope students can do to make the campus a more welcoming place, Gonzales said simply avoiding behavior that might be construed as offensive or insensitive toward a certain group and making faculty of the most tried-and-true rules for living: treat others the way you would like to be treated. With applied effort and understanding, Hope's students, faculty and staff can make the campus an even more welcoming place for people of all cultural ideals.

HOPE COLLEGE A 'BEST VALUE'

Hope was one of three private colleges in Michigan to be listed as a best value by Kiplinger's Personal Finance this year. Hope was ranked 68th in the country, nine places higher than last year's ranking of 77th. Hope was chosen because of high four-year graduation rates, low student debt, a good faculty to student ratio and abundance of off-campus resources available to students.

"CLIMATE, from page 1"

"Perhaps the most important lesson for me is that if there is any time of hurt in our community where someone or a group of people feel that they were marginalized in some way or another, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are a part of the fabric of Hope, and we should do whatever is within our responsibilities to make Hope a much more welcoming institution," Gonzales said.

Asked what Hope students can do to make the campus a more welcoming place, Gonzales said simply avoiding behavior that might be construed as offensive or insensitive toward a certain group and making faculty of the most tried-and-true rules for living: treat others the way you would like to be treated. With applied effort and understanding, Hope's students, faculty and staff can make the campus an even more welcoming place for people of all cultural ideals.

TRICK-OR-TREAT— Safe Halloween, trick-or-treating for the kids of Holland, was hosted on Monday night in Maas cen- ter.
On Oct. 18, authorities were called to a home in Zanesville, Ohio, sometime in the evening. The owner of the home, Terry Thompson, had released the exotic animals on his preserve and then committed suicide by shooting himself.

According to CNN, although the state troopers did not have authority to track exotic and dangerous animals that are not native to Ohio, officials nonetheless pursued the 56 exotic animals that Thompson had released to protect public safety.

The Associated Press reports that at the time of the release, Thompson had two wolves, six black bears, three grizzly bears, nine male lions, eight lionesses, one baboon, three mountain lions, three monkeys, three leopards, and 18 Bengal tigers.

Officials did not have immediate access to tranquilizers and feared that the animals would escape before the drugs could take effect, then awake later. General response to this incident has been positive, and no one is questioning the force in such a situation. “The aim is deepening our economic convergence and strengthening economic discipline,” he said. According to Van Rompuy, “limited change” to the Treaty of Lisbon would mean “not a general overhaul of the institutional architecture.”

“Eliane had two wolves, six exotic animals that Eliane is not native to Ohio, officials had no legal rights to the animals but knew they should be quarantined. Her attorneys were not available for comment.

The Humane Society declared that “tighter regulations” were needed. The Humane Society did, however, criticize Ohio’s lax laws regarding exotic pets, which are among the nation’s weakest. They especially criticized the governor’s response to this incident.

On Oct. 21, Gov. John Kasich signed an order concerning the ownership of dangerous wild animals which is meant to put some backbone into already existing laws. He also promised to push for “tighter regulations.”

President Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society declared that, “the legislation should enact a statute that addresses the problem, but in the interim, we need an executive order that bans the sale and acquisition of dangerous wild animals as pets or roadside attractions.”

He said the governor’s step was “inadequate and sidesteps the central problems created by the exotic animal trade in Ohio.”

Previously, Ohio had banned the buying and selling of exotic animals, but Kasich, who recently came into office, let those laws expire earlier in the year. His reasoning for this was that the laws were not enforceable.

He has since enacted temporary measures to “crack down” on private ownership. Permanent legislation on the issue will not be determined until Nov. 30.

Not all of the animals were killed. One grizzly bear, two monkeys, and three leopards were taken into custody and cared for by Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. One of the monkeys was unaccounted for but there is speculation that it was eaten by one of the big cats.

According to the Associated Press, Thompson’s wife wants to return the six remaining animals to her late husband’s preserve. The zoo acknowledges that it has no legal rights to the animals but authorities are trying to prevent Marian Thompson from taking possession of them.

Rob Nichols, a spokesman for Kasich, said that a private veterinarian from the Agriculture Department examined the animals and declared that they should be quarantined.

Thompson has the right to a hearing before his step is taken, but he had not requested it by the time of the report.

The Anchor
Korean nuclear negotiations resume

Shubham Sapkota
Staff Writer

The months-long revolt started in Benghazi has now ended. Libya has declared national liberation after several months of revolution against the Gadhafi regime. Libya was finally able to declare liberation after the deposed dictator Moammar Gadhafi was killed brutally during the fight for Sirte, the leader's own hometown, Oct. 21. The bloodiest battles of the uprising took place in Sirte and it is thought to be where the revolution officially ended. Videos of that day show Gadhafi asking for mercy while he was dragged through the streets of Sirte. The brutal content of the video shows absolutely no mercy for Gadhafi. Even though he was put in an ambulance after a brutal beating, he did not live long. The exact cause of his death is still a matter of controversy.

While there are people who have argued that there should have been a fair trial even for the cruelest of dictators, prime minister of the interim government, Mahmoud Jibril, declared that the death of Gadhafi had been eagerly anticipated by everyone in Libya. Actions taken at this meeting. However, distrust still runs high on both sides. North Korea has a history of dragging its feet in negotiations. In another meeting in October 2006, their delegation walked out of talks during a deadlock and did not return. The U.N. issued sanctions freeing the equivalent of $25 million of North Korean money in a Muncans bank, but North Korea refused to return until after the sanction was removed. Prospects began to improve in 2007 when the nation began to show foreign representatives its nuclear facilities and began to dismantle the Pyongyang site. The cooling tower was actually blown up, but the improvements did not last. Talks again deadlocked over the issue of actually proving that this dismantling was taking place. In 2009, North Korea pulled out of talks once again. This latest

TENSIONS OVER NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES— Students in South Korea observe replicas of North and South Korean missiles at the Korea War Memorial Museum on Oct. 25.

Megan Stevens
Gazette Writer

Diplomats from six key countries met from Oct. 24-25 in Switzerland to discuss North Korea's Pyongyang nuclear program. This is the first time the diplomats, who hail from China, Japan, Russia, the United States, and both North and South Korea, have met since 2009. Following a delay of several hours, the talks centered in a 2005 agreement which required North Korea to abandon its nuclear program in exchange for economic incentives from the other countries. Although no formal agreement to resume talks has been made, American diplomat Stephen Bosworth was optimistic when he addressed the press outside the U.S. mission to the United Nations. “I am confident that with a continued effort on both sides, we can reach a reasonable basis of departure for the six-party process,” he said. If this agreement is reached, however, Bosworth will not be present. If and when future negotiating takes place, the American representatives will be led by his soon-to-be successor, Glyn Davies of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Bosworth’s optimism appears to be shared by North Korea’s first vice minister, Kim Kye Gwan, who led his nation’s delegation. He told the press that he wished to continue the talks before the end of the year, thanks to the “confidence building measures” that comprised the majority of discussions taken at this meeting. However, distrust still runs high on both sides. North Korea has a history of dragging its feet in negotiations. In another meeting in October 2006, their delegation walked out of talks during a deadlock and did not return. The U.N. issued sanctions freeing the equivalent of $25 million of North Korean money in a Muncans bank, but North Korea refused to return until after the sanction was removed. Prospects began to improve in 2007 when the nation began to show foreign representatives its nuclear facilities and began to dismantle the Pyongyang site. The cooling tower was actually blown up, but the improvements did not last. Talks again deadlocked over the issue of actually proving that this dismantling was taking place. In 2009, North Korea pulled out of talks once again. This late-
Art gives us a way to express ourselves. Art influences, inspires and stimulates our emotions. Art comes in various modes of expression. This year’s DANCEpROjECTION combined a variety of methods: music, literature, sculpture and paintings.

Directed by dance professor Steven Lamacone, dANCEpROjECTION ran for four nights last week in the Knickerbocker Theatre. The goal was “to entertain, educate and challenge audiences of all ages with a diverse contemporary movement experience.”

Broken into three acts, dANCEpROjECTION consisted of six pieces with a total of 19 dancers. The night opened with “He-lix” featuring six dancers inside white cocoons of stretch fabric. During rehearsals, the dancers learned to adapt to moving inside the pillow-like fabric. “The music is not countable, but there are cues that we as a cast have learned over time to know when to change to a different move. The piece relies heavily on using our other senses—to feel one another and stay in sync,” dancer Jennifer Muisenga (‘12) said.

“ Hodler Night Life,” inspired by the work of Swiss painter Ferdinand Hodler, was the night’s second piece. The cast of three dancers wore flesh-colored costumes and posed as if they were sculptures come to life.

“Garden,” a three-part piece with a cast of 10, blended nature and people all inspired by the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch and Islamic calls to prayer, the dance featured the cast dressed in earthy colors.

“Garden” is another piece that requires all 10 dancers to feel one another during both movement and many lifts,” Muisenga said.

The second act opened with “Unwritten Letter,” a solo dance by Michael Parmelee (‘12). Blank sheets of paper covered the stage as Parmelee, dressed in black pants and a white collared shirt, depicted one man’s struggle with regret.

“...Sur la Table...” integrated poetry into the program. After a recording of the poem was played, six dancers took the stage and performed on, around, and under a table in the middle of the stage. Dressed in simple house dresses, the six dancers expressed the emotions correlated with everyday household duties.

“The poem, “Sur la Table,” written by Jacqueline Bartley of Hope’s English department, conveys the relationship between a woman and life’s happenings around a common object: ‘She sits at the table, sleeps at it, dreams inside its borders, grows old in its presence.”

A DANCEpROjECTION ended with the collaborative “Art and Scholarship” project featuring a reading by Dr. Barry Bandstra, professor of religion, followed by a performance of “Jericho” with 19 dancers.

Bandstra told the story of Hebrew spies and the woman who lived in a wall before the dancers took the stage. Rahab, a Canaanite, hides the Israelite spies in her city, knowing they have only come to destroy, Bandstra said.

Even though Israel’s freedom will be the demise of her people, Rahab agrees to save the spies. “Israel found a savior in Rahab. She becomes one of them, a believer in Yahweh,” Bandstra said.

“Jericho” depicts the biblical battle over the city. The large cast of dancers dressed in black and interacted with a 12-foot wall on stage.

“Getting 19 people to move as one has been a long, tiring process, but extremely rewarding,” Muisenga said.

The six diverse works featured in this year’s project combined mixed media with religion, nature and social issues. The audience had plenty to think about at the end of the show.

“The dancers had great stage presence. The performance included different types of modern dance with a variety of ideas. The lighting and staging were terrific. Overall, it was a beautiful show,” Helen Gay (‘12) said.

**Holland celebrates 200th birthday of founder**

Annealise Belmonte
Arts Co-Editor

Balloons and cake, a play and puppet show, exhibits and even a wooden shoe car race were all part of last week’s Founder’s Fest celebrating the life of Hope College and Holland founder Albertus Van Raalte, born 200 years ago.

The festival’s focus was to have family fun, celebrate and educate people about Van Raalte’s accomplishments.

The Van Raalte institute and Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council planned most of the events with the goal to “celebrate a visionary leader who had a major impact upon and left an enduring legacy for the area” and also to promote and preserve Dutch heritage.

The educate kicked off as all birthdays should: with cake!

The Holland Area Arts Council hosted the “birthday party” with balloons and arts and crafts for the whole family.

At a “Klompem Derby” a wooden shoe car race, kids decorated their own clog-cars before sending them shooting off ramps. Graves Hall featured multiple showings of films about and from the Netherlands and lectures about Van Raalte’s life.

For younger children, an interactive puppet show simplified the importance of Van Raalte’s influence on the community. Tours of downtown Holland coincided with gallery exhibits, a sort of “then and now” of Van Raalte’s Holland vs. today’s. The Holland Museum’s exhibit holds mementos of Van Raalte in the Focus Gallery through November.

A short play about Van Raalte’s life entitled “Vision of a New Life” had a few Hope College students in the cast. The play depicted Van Raalte’s cooperation with Native Americans in the area to learn how to live off the land.

Van Raalte led a full life, paving the way for others to do so as well. Van Raalte was a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church in the Netherlands. The government’s attempt to reconcile the new Separatist church and the original one led leaders like Van Raalte being imprisoned. Seeking a better economy as well as religious freedom, many emigrated.

In 1846 Van Raalte set off for America with his family and 53 others. Headed for Wisconsin, they got as far as Detroit before having to wait out bad weather. Van Raalte was one of the key players in deciding to stay in West Michigan. The land’s beauty, which Holland residents enjoy today, is probably what drew the settlers to the area.

Within three years, Holland’s population had grown to 5,000. Van Raalte founded schools, churches and a theological seminary that eventually become Hope College. Dr. Chas Scott, a close friend of Van Raalte and later president of Hope College said, “I can almost repeat his (Van Raalte’s) very words: ‘Our deepest anxiety was for ecclesiastical connections and the educational needs of these immigrants. Oh, it was upon my heart as a leader, for so I felt my responsibility before God.”

Van Raalte also contributed to Dutch/English newspapers and wrote multiple novels pertaining to the Dutch language. In 1876 he passed on, but his legacy remains.

**Annelise Belmonte**
Arts Co-Editor

*The Anchor* November 2, 2011

**Lindsey Wolf**
Arts Co-Editor
The doorway to the Fried Interna- tional Center on the first floor of the Martha Miller Cen- ter is not just a threshold to a room full of cubicles; it is the grand entrance to the world. Going through that doorway is the first step into a room over- flowing with endless opportuni- ties and life-changing experiences. Hope College is proud of its study abroad program. More than 280 programs in 60-plus countries are avail- able to those who wish to ex- tend their education beyond the dimensions of campus. Approximately one-third of students in a typical Hope Col- lapse graduating class have studied abroad, either through sem- ester or yearlong programs. Fifty percent of students have studied abroad if the popular May and June terms are included. Sarah Klooster (12), a com- munications and art history double major, spent last fall in Florence, Italy. “Studying abroad in Florence was one of the most profound ex- periences of my life,” Klooster said. “It was like a litmus test; it taught me so much about who I am and what I want to be. The Italians taught me how to appreciate and live in the beauty of life. I was able to experience a new lifestyle, one filled with art and food and language (three of the best things in life) and I have brought back so much of that lifestyle back with me.” “It was truly an incredible op- portunity and I encourage any- one who is given that opportu- nity to act on it,” Klooster said. “Your life will make a dramatic change for the better as you live in another culture and see the world through the eyes of another human being in a totally different part of this big world.” Crystal Hooper (13), a Span- ish and management double major, studied in Santo Do- mingo, Dominican Republic. Some of her favorite experi- ences abroad (which she called “earning college credit simply by taking an extended vacation”) included evenings “on the malecón (walkway along the Caribbean Sea) at night to dance and meet new peo- ple, and staying there until morning.” Hooper said of her semi- ter abroad, “Me encanta el cal- or, sabor, y color del Caribe!” To learn more about the study abroad program, visit the friendly people in the in- ternational education office in- cluding director Amy Otis-De Grau and special programs co-ordinator Kendra Williams or email studyabroad@hope.edu. Hope’s international edu- cation website provides links to all of the programs offered and other helpful information.

Off-campus programs open doors to new opportunities

Mary Kelso

A whole new world—whether she was seeing local sights, such as the Duomo (right) for the first time or spending Thanksgiving with her roommate and their host mom (below), studying abroad in Florence, Italy was a life changing ex- perience for Sarah Klooster (12).

Photos Courtesy of sarah Klooster

To learn more about the study abroad program, visit the friendly people in the international education office including director Amy Otis-De Grau and special programs co-ordinator Kendra Williams or email studyabroad@hope.edu. Hope's international education website provides links to all of the programs offered and other helpful information.

So where do you see yourself in a year or two? Studying Jane Austen near the place she was born? Scuba diving off the coast of New Zealand in your biology class? Mastering piano at the International Academy of Music in Milan? The possibilities are end- less and there is no better time than now. So why wait?
Qualifying friendships

Christopher Russ
Co Editor-in-Chief

When the Internet tries to connect people, whether it’s through mutual friends or through dating sites, it tries to do it by assessing similarities. If two people have similar tastes in music or movies, or if cross-referencing your lists of friends results in mutual acquaintances, the software will decide that you are compatible and that you should be friends.

I disagree with the software. I don’t think that forming a good friendship is about enjoying identical passions. I think that the main ingredient in a great relationship, is the shared ability to tolerate abnormally in the world. I started thinking about this idea when I saw an interview with the Cool Kids online (I guess the Internet isn’t all bad). The Cool Kids are a hip-hop duo that consists of buddies Milky Rocks and Chuck Inglish. In that interview, English starts talking about their taste in hip-hop music and concludes that, “Everyone has their own opinion on what’s good, but if you agree on what sucks, then you can’t suck together.”

It’s an honest way to put it, but it’s entirely true. Shared recognition of what is bad displays a deeper understanding of the world than shared recognition of what is good. In fact, common interests can actually help cover-up terrible relationships.

The clearest example of this that I can think of is an interaction I had with a co-worker at one of my summer jobs. Like a lot of summer jobs, this particular one required you to be in very close contact with other people for long and drawn-out periods of time. Fairly regularly, I would find myself paired with one particular co-worker who somehow was unable to make any kind of social interaction viable. We had different philosophies on life, we had different sets of beliefs and values. I liked washing my hands after I took out the trash and before I started making food for the customers. He didn’t think that was terribly important. But after working a few shifts together, we discovered that we both enjoyed dumb action movies, superhero movies with cheesy soundtracks, action movies with almost no plot and even less dialogue. While we were talking about this stuff, we got along great and our shifts went by a lot faster, but a shared love for dumb movies does not change the fact that we were totally different people.

This is not such a big deal when it comes to making pleasant conversation with a co-worker. This surface level kind of friendship is probably a good thing in this situation, but when it comes to dating or long-term friendships, common interests can temporarily hide awful relationships.

In “500 Days of Summer,” there is a scene where the main character is trying to talk some sense into him about his deep friendship with a co-worker. This surface level kind of friendship is probably a good thing in this situation, but when it comes to dating or long-term friendships, common interests can temporarily hide awful relationships.

Qualifying friendships doesn’t mean that you’re ready for marriage. When I have felt alone in my life, it’s when I don’t like or understand something that’s going on around me, and everyone else seems to be really into it. But as soon as one other person shares with me that they also don’t understand or enjoy what’s going on, I feel a sense of loneliness goes away. I think it’s a testament to the power of a good friendship, that one person who agrees with you can outweigh a whole society that thinks differently.

This is not to say that having common interests is a bad thing. I love talking about music and television and movies with my friends. It’s just not the only thing that’s important. It’s also important to let the process of sharing opinions become a feeling of loneliness go away. I think it’s a testament to the power of a good friendship, that one person who agrees with you can outweigh a whole society that thinks differently.

Chris is also a DJ on WTHS listen in on Tuesday’s from 10-Midnight to hear “Get to the Chopper!”

Professor reflects on historic Christian faith

Dr. Kim Hatwery
Department of Religion

The historic Christian faith is not grounded in philosophy or good intentions, but it is a pivotal event in real-time history: the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. The physical resurrection of Jesus is an objective “truth claim.” It says Christianity is centered on eye-witness facts.

Such claims are unpopular in today’s intellectual climate, yet the grounds for believing in the bodily resurrection remain compelling.

First, there is the nature of the Bible. Ultimately, our assessment of the resurrection will turn on our assessment of this book. It’s not that no other book has, as the very word of God, and through its pages, God speaks today. The gospel writers who relate the accounts of the resurrection can be shown to be profoundly trustworthy from their accurate references to first century politics and geographic locations. I believe in the resurrection because I believe the Bible.

Second, there is God’s almighty ability. His prior track record of remarkable interventions in human history, like the flood and the walls of Jericho, show that God is capable of opening the tomb to the God who performs miraculous historical acts. I believe in the resurrection because I believe in the God who can part the Red Sea and pause the sun in the sky.

Third, there is the purposeful background to the event. Jesus had predicted the events that would occur after his death. He then began to teach them that the Son of Man...must be killed and after three days rise again’ (Mark 8:31). The planned nature of the resurrection reminds us it happened for a reason and it happened specifically to Jesus, Gods chosen one. I believe in the resurrection because I believe in the plan of God.

Fourth, consider the compelling cases of the fact. If the Jews stole the body, why didn’t they simply display it publicly and put an end to the rumors? If the disciples stole the body, why would they go on to martyr themselves for a lie? If the women went to the wrong tomb, why didn’t Joseph of Arimathea correct their error by pointing out the right location? I believe in the resurrection because it is the best explanation of the facts.

Fifth, we have the repeated public post-resurrection appearances. On the first day he appeared to the women returning from the empty tomb (Mark 28:9-10), to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14) and to Peter (Luke 24:34).

He then appeared on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24), and to the 11(Mark 16:14-20). Jesus appeared to Saul (Acts 9:3-6) and to John (Revelation 1:10-19). And he also appeared to more than 500 people at one time in Galilee (1 Corinthians 15:3). I believe in the resurrection because of the comprehensive testimony of such a mix of eye witnesses.

Sixth, we must factor in the changed lives of the apostles. After depying Christ just prior to the crucifixion, Peter a short time later in Jerusalem was preaching boldly in public. James, Jesus’ brother, had not believed before Jesus died (John 7:5) yet afterwards became a leader of the church, hav- ing seen the risen Lord (1 Corinthians 15:7). Paul had been a fierce persecutor of the Christians but was completely turned around after Jesus appeared to him on the Damascus road. I believe in the resurrection because the disciples were transformed.

Seventh, there is the birth of the Christian church. Christianity spread faster than any other religion or phi- losophy, overtaking the Roman empire by the fourth century. Today it is the largest religion in the world and mil- lions know the living Christ as Savior. I believe in the resurrection because such church growth momentum is dificult to explain without the reality of the resurrection.

And finally, there is the testimony of the Holy Spirit in the believer. ‘And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us’ (1 John 3:24). I believe in the resurrection because of the witness of the Spirit of God.

Ultimately, our final estimate of the miracle claims in the gospels, including the chief miracle of the resurrection, depends upon our estimate of Christ. The biographical data in the gospels are entirely consistent with his being the Son of God.

It is entirely reasonable, in summa- ry, for educated and scholarly people – yes, even this professor – to accept the historical claim of the resurrection as actual fact. And accordingly, to be- lieve in the One who was raised.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

I have read your below-the-fold cover story about Hope demographics (Oct. 5). Has any one involved in such research from the faculty commented on why the average GPA of Hope’s first-year class is 3.32, and over half the student body is on the Dean’s List? An average GPA of 3.32 means one in the administration or from the faculty commented on why the average GPA at Hope is so high.

Cory Lakatos
Campus News Co-Editor

Caitlin Klubert
Campus News Co-Editor

Madalynn Muncy
Campus News Co-Editor

Sarah Puskar
Copy Editor

Katherine Forrester
Copy Editor

Dr. Hatwery is the advisor for Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship on Hope’s campus. For more information on Inter-Varsity, please e-mail crvfholope.edu.
What a novel idea

Alex Brennan
Columnist

I have heard about this for a couple years and this year I have decided to jump into the fray. This year yous truly is going to write 50,000 in four short weeks and I am going to finish (I hope).

Don’t think you can handle this on your own? No worries, I’ve put together a list of tips that might help any aspiring NaNo-nov-elists.

1) Preplan- ing is key! Think of a plot-line and characters before the beginning of November. Just something simple you can work off, it doesn’t have to be fancy. You technically don’t have to do this, but I find it easier than winging it.

2) Set up a support group. Whether they are people from campus or from the friendly NaNoWriMo web-site, find people that are going through the same agony you are about to start. Most likely other participants want the same companionship as you. They can be your cheerleaders or your competitors, either way they will help you get through this month.

3) Write. You just got to jump headfirst and start writing. Write and write every day. The count boils down to 1,667 words a day. This may mean you have to give up some other wonderful time wasters in your life (cough StumbleUpon or Tumblr cough), but it will be worth it in the end. Think of it this way, you are fasting from a distraction for a month in order to create some- thing that is completely your own.

4) Don’t think of this as an opportunity to write something of great quality, because you’ll be disappointed. NaNoWriMo is all about quantity. You are not creating something that will immediately be turned over to a publisher, what you are creating is the opportunity to brag about your accomplishment, and an opportunity to bask in the glory of noveldom with other writers.

So who’s with me? Ready or not I’m going to jump in and experience the thrill, the anxiety, the commit- ment of NaNoWriMo. I’m going to tackle it head on and come November 30, I will be victorious.

Alex is currently hanging her head against the nearest surface, trying with all her might to come up with a decent plot.

Sweet Dreams

Wait, was that real?

Erik Durham
Columnist

Do you ever have a dream that is so vivid, you wake up the next morning and you think it is reality?

Those dreams where for a good five minutes after you wipe away the goobers from your eyes, you believe are real. Those dreams where you are able to get back with your ex-girlfriend or boyfriend, those dreams where you are living out your ideal career, and even those dreams where you somehow managed to pull off all A’s on your finals. We all have them. I often have at least one of those every week. It is one of the most bittersweet feelings a person can experience in their lifetime.

It’s one of those rare things that bring you from an all time high where a smile engulfs your face and contentment fills your heart to an all time low where sorrow, fear and anxiety possess your whole body – all within a matter of five minutes.

For some of us, these dreams represent ideas and objects we may never actually get our hands on. For others, these dreams represent a prophecy into their future. And for the remain- der, these dreams are just dreams – and that’s it. For me, these dreams represent a new sense of hope and confidence. These dreams make me question everything. They force me to reprioritize my goals in life, and they push me to strive for the absolute best scenario possible.

For example, I often have a dream where my ex-girlfriend and I are really good friends. This is incredibly satisfying for me because my ex and I ended on very poor terms and haven’t spoken to each other in three years. So, for me this dream allows me to fill that void in my life that has been missing for a few years. It allows me to keep my head high and to find the silver lining in what used to be a horrendous mess.

I like to look at these dreams as blessings from God. He is showing me that He knows my plan for me and that even in our darkest hour, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. And although these dreams may never be reality, how can one not take comfort in knowing that simple fact?

So, close your eyes, drift off to sleep and begin to have sweet dreams.

Erik loves Winnie the Pooh and can’t afford to admit it.
Six social justice groups combine
Hope United for Justice takes action on campus

Ann Marie Paparelli
Photo Editor

Looking to change the world and make a difference on the social justice platform? At Hope, there’s a group ready to take action in a rapidly changing world.

Hope United for Justice formed last year by combining six different social justice organizations: Acting on AIDS, Amnesty International, Environmental Issues Group, Justice League, Taking Education Abroad and Human Trafficking. The former groups’ similar goals created too much competition when it came to member count. “The former groups’ similar goals created too much competition when it came to member count, so they joined forces.”

HUJ explores social justice issues through education of self and others, advocacy and action. Their mission statement stresses that action can occur “on Hope’s campus, in the community of Holland and in the global community.” It also includes the idea of understanding “the interconnectedness of faith and justice.”

“Whether it’s coming to our weekly meetings, spreading the word, or coming to our events, we want everyone to know they’re welcome,” club Secretary Rachel Mazzaro (’14) said. To encourage more campus involvement, the group plans on raising awareness of consumer consciousness by hosting its second annual Just Green Christmas on Dec. 7. The event involves local eco-friendly or fair trade businesses selling their products on campus. “We encourage people to buy Christmas presents for (family and friends) at this event,” president Blair Riddle (’12) said.

This year, HUJ is hoping to expand and include more businesses, as well as offering a newspaper gift-wrapping area, live music and snacks throughout the event. HUJ is also sponsoring an event in November to educate students on a lesser-known issue. “In an effort to expose the campus to human trafficking in certain products we are showing the documentary ‘The Dark Side of Chocolate’ on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. at Winants Auditorium,” Riddle said. “A discussion will follow about how we can make a change in our lives to positively impact those being trafficked in the chocolate business.”

For vice president Kelsey Herbert (’14), HUJ is more than a club. “HUJ is a great place to come if you have an idea, but are not sure how to pursue it,” Herbert said. “I want to help those who know they care about social justice, but do not have a specific focus, to become truly passionate. I would like to see all of Hope’s community become more aware of the social injustices and want to see genuine change.”

Students who have an idea for an event, or would like to learn more about social justice issues in general, are encouraged to attend HUJ meetings on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in Lubbers 122, or email madison@hope.edu. Other campus organizations interested in collaborative projects are also invited.

Correction:
In the Oct. 19 edition of The Anchor the “Greater Hope” story on page ten incorrectly attributes the engineering addition gift to Paul & Carol Schaap. Haworth Inc were the actual donors.

Green initiative makes progress
• Green, from page 1

Advisory Committee has been established.
“Sustainability has come a long way in the past four years at Hope… but much still has to be done in terms of changing our campus’s culture and general attitude towards such environmental issues,” said Madison. Once the right attitude towards environmental change is established on campus, the actions taken to preserve the environment will be much easier to put into motion.

Students at Hope have an opportunity to act as leaders in environmental conservation. “As a Christian college, we have the power to effect such positive change [in the environment], and now we have a responsibility to act as leaders in the earthkeeping movement,” said Madison. This competition is a step in the right direction, but committees can only go so far. It is up to the students to take the initiative and make some lifestyle changes that will benefit the earth. The ultimate goal of this competition is for the participants to ‘carry their newfound awareness forward and live accordingly,’” said Madison.

Photo editoR
Ann Marie Paparelli
Hope United for Justice takes action on campus
Six social justice groups combine
Hope United for Justice takes action on campus
Head Coach Dean Kreps and other members of the football team are looking forward to the weekly Quarterback Club banquet on Monday, Oct. 24, as they discussed their important victory over the reigning MIAA champion Trine Thunder. Going into the game, Kreps knew the team was prepared and it showed on the field.

"Guys got off the bus ready to play, and we played about as well as we would play at times," Kreps said. The Flying Dutchmen had a balanced offensive attack behind quarterback Michael Atwell ('14) and running backs Shawn Jackson ('14), Fluary Jackson ('15), and Reggie Duncan ('14). Atwell completed 12 of his 24 passes for 244 yards and two touchdowns. Meanwhile, Shawn Jackson, Fluary Jackson, and Duncan combined for 121 yards and two touchdowns. Kreps was impressed with the performance of his offense, especially his running backs.

"When all three of our running backs play, we can all be good, but good in different ways," Kreps said.

Wide receiver Chris Schmelz ('12) was particularly impressive as he had two catches for 42 yards, including a 56-yard catch that set up a touchdown early in the fourth quarter. The ensuing one-yard touchdown by Fluary Jackson put the Flying Dutchmen up 21-17.

At that point, it was the defense's turn to step-up. Behind a strong run-stopping effort from the defensive ends Jared Kimben ('12) and Mark Karam ('12), the defense was able to hold Trine to only 3 points in regulation. With the total team effort, the defense was able to escape with a 28-23 victory, one that was special for seniors on the team.

"This game was a big deal for us," offensive lineman Josh Droppers ('12) said. "It definitely felt great to go home to beat them on their home turf!"

Coming off a devastating loss to the first place Albion Britons earlier in the week before McCormack and Nelson were able to witness the Southwestern Michigan Thunder take the top spot in the conference. Fullback Brian Lynn ('12) said, "I knew we had to fight our way out. It was as much of a challenge as any other race we've run this season."

All of this talk and optimism delighted the rest of the people in attendance at the Quarterback Club. While the Quarterback Club is not only a time when friends and family of the football team can come together but it also has about past and future games, it is also a weekly tradition that has been around for a long time. In fact, John Tysee, a long-time Sports editor, added to the excitement.

"We knew that it would be very fast, and we knew we would have to run very fast to stay with them," said Tysee. "I also knew that I couldn't have bronchitis now, I'd have to be up to par."

"Sparks Off" Sheri McCormack ('14) rounded out Hope's top five with a time of 22:16.7 in the 6K run. McCormack and Nelson were named to the All-MIAA first team, while Borst, McCardel, Emanuel, Meredith Busman ('14) and Kelly Luikin ('12) were named to the All-MIAA second team.

"We knew that it would be a challenge to beat Calvin this season because we were beat at the conference jam before," co-captain Karly Sikma ('12) said. "We knew that we had to come down to win and we did what we needed to do."

"We worked back into the corner after the Albion Lynn said. "We knew that we had to fight our way out. It was as much of a challenge as any other race we've run this season."" Sikh said.

"You don't ever feel that the conference championship will (be won)." Sikma said. "You don't ever feel that the conference championship will (be won)."

"The conference championship is a real big thing," Sikma said. "It's a big deal for us, and we're really happy about how the team did. We had some guys step up and run well so that's a plus." Once all of the game was over, Kreps knew that the game was over.

"We want Adrian to win that game," Droppers said. "If Adrian wins, then we have a chance to win the conference title. That's the most important thing to us."
SPORTS

Calvin spikes Hope in volleyball showdown

The Flying Dutch women’s volleyball team with flashes of why they team with flashes of why they are the number one ranked team in the nation.

Schmidt said mishaps and a few instances of miscommunication plagued the Dutch. The Dutch would clinch the conference tournament.

The top four squads advance to the conference tournament.

With a win against Saint Mary’s in their final game so the season, The Dutch would clinch a spot in the tournament.

Coach Leigh Sears spoke after the loss about their final game. "We’re exactly where we wanted to be, and I don’t think it’s pressure, but if we win Tuesday, we’re in the tournament. All we have to do is win one game and we’re in.

Hope scored first, with freshman Lindsey Bieri’s fourth goal of the season coming after less than seven minutes of play.

The lead didn’t last long, as Calvin scored in both the 10th and 11th minute, and then once more in the 30th minute of play.

The first Knight’s goal was scored by freshman forward Samantha Osterhaven, it was her 10th of the season.

Calvin’s roster is reliant on number of young players. Its 32-woman offensive consists of 10 freshmen, nine sophomores, two juniors, and only one senior. Their starting gauntlet, Megan Alteri is one of those 10 freshmen.

The loss about their final game. "We’re exactly where we wanted to be, and I don’t think it’s pressure, but if we win Tuesday, we’re in the tournament. All we have to do is win one game and we’re in.

Hope scored first, with freshman Lindsey Bieri’s fourth goal of the season coming after less than seven minutes of play.

The lead didn’t last long, as Calvin scored in both the 10th and 11th minute, and then once more in the 30th minute of play.

The first Knight’s goal was scored by freshman forward Samantha Osterhaven, it was her 10th of the season.

Calvin’s roster is reliant on number of young players. Its 32-woman offensive consists of 10 freshmen, nine sophomores, two juniors, and only one senior. Their starting gauntlet, Megan Alteri is one of those 10 freshmen.

Calvin head coach Mark Recker explained their first half offensive surge. "Our offense has been becoming more potent. Real offense is predicated on being able to build with a number of people and have off-the-ball movement, and I think by the end of this season we’ve been able to have more of that quality give-go, give-go.

There were no goals scored in the final 55 minutes of play, despite a number of scoring opportunities, most of which involved Hope pressuring the Calvin defense. Calvin’s offense did not have too many opportunities after its early scoring burst.

"You hope to still be able to play the same style, but when you’re coming from behind on your home field, you start throwing more people forward, the pressure becomes more prominent that an opposing team can put on you as you’re defending," Recker said. "So it wasn’t necessarily that we wanted to be just defensive, but Hope was really pushing to get the equalizer, and then we played to protect and counter.

Hope played aggressively, but nothing fell into place for the Dutch. "We just made a couple of mistakes, and I think when we played at Calvin and beat them, we capitalized on their mistakes, and it was kind of the reverse today. We didn’t do anything wrong; we stepped hard and missed the ball and they just finished," Sears said.

"It’s frustrating but that’s how soccer is sometimes you know; you could get a million shots and one goes in or ten go in."