Faculty petitions NME policy changes

SARA E LAMERS
campus beat editor

The proposal to review Greek Life's recently accepted New Member Education policy was passed by a vote of 42-34 at a faculty meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 23. The action came as a result of a petition drafted by James Allis of the philosophy department and Janet Anderson of the mathematics department, who felt that the potential existed for Campus Life to relinquish their policy-making power with this proposal.

"I believe that the decision made was a good one," Allis said. "I'm hopeful that Campus Life Board and Greek Life can work together to develop a strong policy."

The new policy states that regulations for New Member Education will stay in place for four years, but allows for review of the policy if the need arises.

"At the meeting I felt there was a lot of confusion about what the policy meant," said Kate MacDonald ('99) who drafted the NME policy. "One of the concerns of the faculty was that the Campus Life Board was giving up its power to make decisions and policies. I feel that these concerns were addressed by our policy."

Andersen expressed concerns for the evaluation process, which requires the consent of two of three representatives from the Pan-Hellenic Council, Interfraternal Council and Campus Life in order to initiate change.

"I felt that this policy was damaging to Greeks because the earlier policy had a variety of groups that offered input," she said. "I think the original policy has worked well. I felt that it was a good, healthy policy that I would like to see continued. I feel the evaluation policy is weaker than the former one."

While this earlier policy required outside groups to be involved in the review process, the Greek Life stressed that the new policy does not prevent them from doing so.

more POLICY on 5

Helping hands

Hope community reaches out to assist Hurricane Mitch victims through relief project.

SARA E LAMERS
campus beat editor

In response to the recent destruction done by Hurricane Mitch, a number of organizations are encouraging students to join them in various relief efforts.

"The idea surfaced all over campus and people came together to collaborate," said Robin Klay, Professor of Business. "It became clear that there were many groups interested in helping the storm victims and it was also clear that Hope had a personal interest and personal connection."

Klay states the idea for the project came from her First Year Seminar, "Hope in the world and the world at Hope." Throughout the semester, the class has been required to keep in touch with either a Hope alumna currently involved in international work, or an international student who has studied at Hope.

"We learned that one of these students is from Honduras and has been affected by the hurricane, so we wanted to help," Klay said.

As Klay began to plan the project, she realized that many other groups on campus were also organizing efforts to assist victims. She learned that Professor Peter Gonthier of the Physics Department had family members living in Honduras and wanted to help those impacted by the storm.

"We have visited Honduras and know what the country is like," Gonthier said. "I can only imagine what it is like with the damage that has been done and hope to encourage people at Hope to help those in need. I hope that students will express a willingness to help out and that they will find many ways to participate in this event."

From these concerns, the decision was made to collaborate.

"The problem didn't touch me until I listened to stories of the victims and was struck by the reality of dealing with the hurricane," said Robyn Disselkoen ('99). "This event gives us a chance to reach out with hearts of compassion."

more RELIEF on 5
Campus Beat

Hope prepares for next presidential era

Campusbeat Editor Sara E. Lammers had the opportunity to speak with presidential candidate Dr. James Bultman during his recent visit to campus. He shared some of his thoughts about the Hope environment, college life, and what he would contribute if chosen president.

What are some of the characteristics of Hope that drew you to it? How has Hope changed since you were a member of the campus?

Both my wife and I really appreciate college students and feel that they are the biggest reason for the campus. We find it enjoyable to interact with students at this crucial time in their lives. As far as Hope College is concerned, I have a deep affection for the spiritual dimension of a college is a very important interest of mine. It is great to see students doing so well and becoming successful.

We have some of the important issues that Hope College faces today, or that should concern college students in general, that you would focus upon if chosen president?

I feel college is a time for students to develop intellectually - to grow, stretch and wrestle with ideas. It is an important time to interact with individuals of different backgrounds and I see Hope doing that now more than ever before. I feel very strongly that there is a desire to develop in other areas as well. For example, the spiritual dimension of a college is a very important interest of mine. I hope that solutions will be developed in both spiritual and physical realms while in college. The real challenge is finding a balance between these two. Hope, however, has many models of how this has been done. At Hope you see faculty and staff who are involved in the institution, but are also active in their churches, communities, and families. It is often difficult for young people to prioritize their life and I feel Hope prepares them to do this.

Many students are concerned with how their viewpoints and ideas affect the decision-making process at the administrative level. How do you hope to include students in this process?

At Hope we would continue to interact with students on a regular basis. At Northwestern I wrote my wife and I eat lunch in the campus with students about three times a week. We also invite students and faculty to our home whenever we have guest speakers or presences on campus. I deeply believe college is for the students and that every decision that I make I try to think of the students will be affected and how I can work in their best interest. I take student input seriously and am interested in hearing their concerns and challenges. I am also anxious to applaud their successes.

What skills or qualities would you encourage students to develop in order to be better prepared for their futures?

It is my hope that students would be able to experience a depth of understanding in at least one aspect of the college, most likely their major. But it is also important to experience other venues. I've always been impressed with the breadth of a liberal arts education and the interconnectedness of the various areas. At a place like Hope, students can formulate a Christian perspective and develop interpersonal and social skills, as well as life long physical habits. When students are able to focus on all of these, they have the best opportunity to live life to its fullest.

Are there any final thoughts that you would like to share?

We are honored and humbled to be here at Hope. We realize that this has been a time-consuming process for the college and we deeply appreciate the hospitality of the campus.

Dykstra keeps tradition alive

Meredith Carey, Staff Reporter

For residents of Dykstra Hall, tradition continues.

The annual Dykstra Formal was held Saturday, Nov. 21.

"Every year the formal gets modified a little," said Dykstra Hall Resident Director Jennifer Krneta.

"Every R.D. that comes in knows that no matter what other activities they want to plan, they have to do the Dykstra Formal. It's a tradition.

The formal gave students an opportunity to dress up, and many went out to dinner before attending the dance. The theme for this year's event was "Under the Stars," and over 200 tickets were sold for the dance. Dykstra Hall residents could bring a date, come with friends, or come alone. Tickets were $5 per person, or $9 per couple.

"We had a great time planning the dance," said Ronette Blank ('02), Social Chair of the Dykstra Council. "Overall, it was a very fun and elegant evening.

"It was fun, and excellenty put together," Matt Kalajainen ('02) said. "There aren't a lot of other events like it, and it's nice to have a formal evening once in a while."

SIBS collect goods for holidays

H. Wadaneke, Staff Reporter

While many students wander around campus counting the hours until they leave Hope for Thanksgiving, the members of the SIBS sorority took the time to consider the less fortunate.

They delivered canned goods and other non-perishable items those in the Holland community.

"I think that students, sometimes forget what's going on outside of Hope's campus," said SIBS president and organizer of the event, Sury Velazquez ('99). "Sometimes it seems like we're all in a bubble and loose touch with the world. This event made me appreciate all that I have."

The members of the sorority went door to door in the Holland Heights area for two and a half hours, asking for donated canned goods such as soup and Spaghetti O's and other non-perishable items to their cause on Saturday, Nov. 21.

"People were very receptive to the idea and for the most part were very willing to donate," Velazquez said.

The food was then organized and delivered to seven different families on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

"Each family ended up with several boxes of food and a turkey," Velazquez said.

In previous years, the sorority has participated in a canned food drive for the Holland City Mission, but this is the first year they have worked with Inter-Care Health Clinic.

"I'm an intern at the Clinic which treats a lot of migrant workers and less fortunate people," Velazquez said. "Many of them are in such dire need of help. They aren't even able to give us a home phone number because they don't have a phone. In some cases, they can't fill in an address because they don't have a home. I thought we could do something to help them this holiday."

Velazquez feels the event has made her more aware of the needs of many less fortunate community members.

"I think this has made me more conscious and more thankful for all that I have," she said. "Since we actually got to see the people that we're helping and personally deliver the food to their homes, it makes me appreciate what I have even more. I hope this something that our sorority continues and makes an annual event.
As Daylight Breaks

by Dana Lamers

College can often be glamorized by its reputation of non-stop excitement, social activities, and traditional all-nighters. But hang around a college campus, and you're likely to see a series of alarms, fire drills, and other alarms.

"Sleep is the easiest thing to lose," said Jodi Kurtze ('01). "I don't always demand so much from you and demand so much from yourself that you say, 'I just won't sleep.'"

Recent studies have shown that 24 to 36 percent of Americans are suffering from severe sleeping problems that require specialized treatment, most people experience insomnia due to anxiety, stress, overwork, expectations or a demanding so much from you and demand so much from yourself that you say, 'I just won't sleep.'"

But I know it will soon be my turn, and I'll sit up in bed, with sheets on all three sides, and curling your hair become shut-eye. Showering, shaving, and frequent naps can scramble your body's clock. Specialists advise, "Keep a pattern for yourself, get up at the same time each morning with the rooster, and I'm not going to get up earlier in the morning for a semester."

I'm not going to get up earlier in the morning for a semester. There are a variety of practices that people use to wind down before they hit the sack. "If I relax by reading that helps me to sleep," said Kristen Gray, director of the Counseling Center.

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The way to vote

Those in power at Hope College often have a tough time discerning students as children or adults.

In classes and in decisions, the faculty and staff at Hope expect the students to act as adults. Yet when it comes down to making major decisions for a larger whole the administration cracks down and makes the decisions for us.

A prime example resides in the current situation revolving around the New Member Education Policy, the Campus Life Board, and Greek Life.

To put the situation in simple terms, Greek Life is pushing a proposal that would prevent any major changes occurring in New Member Education for four years. This policy was effectively passed a few months ago, but now a petition has been passed to review this policy.

Some of the faculty fear that if this proposal was completely passed, the Campus Life Board would be stripped of its right to review and change things. Effectively the students would have complete power of the Greek system, free to do what they please.

Everyone knows that a situation like this at Hope would never fly. Those in the power positions would never relinquish total control of something to students. Because, it seems, the student body is not mature enough to handle such a load of responsibility. Especially when it comes to Greek Life.

The stereotypes that are associated with Greek Life, massive alcohol consumption and rampant disregard for authority, are definitely present at Hope College. And not just from the student body.

The idea that Greek organizations will revert to Animal House drunkenness and deathly hazings are ridiculous. But it seems that there are those among the administration, faculty, and staff who fear the possibility that a student organization might actually be run by students, that they do everything in their power to prevent this.

The NME policy that the Greeks hoped to pass would have never stripped the Campus Life Board of their power. It seems as though some members of the Board feel that the students are gaining too much power within their student organizations.

What those in power need to decide is whether they want to treat the students of Hope College like adults or like children.

A state of the Congress address

Once upon a time, there was a short girl who was elected to a position, a very powerful position, to change the lives of citizens of a land far, far (actually not that far away) called Hope. The girl’s name was Dana Lamers and she had a big problem. None of the citizens of Hope told her how they wanted their lives changed or what they wanted her to do.

You see Dana was the Student Congress President and that, along with 35 cents, could get you a three minute local phone call. With nothing to do, she began to think that the citizens really didn’t care about anything at all. She worked along with 34 other people, let’s call them the Congress, to address current issues and investigate what is on the minds of the students. I mean citizens.

But with half a year under her belt, Dana feels like they haven’t made much progress and time is running out.

There is a significant misconception about Student Congress’s role in the governance system at Hope College. I have to say, without a doubt, that Student Congress is the most underemployed and unappreciated student organization on campus.

Student Congress has the potential to play a powerful and influential role at this institution. It doesn’t have to be hugely controversial campus wide issues like the evaluation of the chapel staff or the presidential search.

Maybe it is the little things we can do to make your four or five years at Hope more comfortable such as soap dispensers, hand dryers, recycling bins, parking options, Holland Police harassment, andatter machines.

Apathy is a disease that is quickly spreading throughout the campus. It just might be that there aren’t any big concerns you have about the way this campus is run. Maybe the Phelps meals you pay for, but don’t eat each week, are ok. Or maybe the fact that the school can offer you community service hours for offenscess that don’t even happen in this state are fine. And maybe the obvious disregard for student opinion and initiative held by a majority of faculty (exemplified at Tuesday’s faculty meeting) doesn’t piss you off. This would mean that my position is obsolete.

As great as Hope College might be, there has to be some aspect of this institution that ticks you off a little. Tell me about it. I’ll talk to the administration about it, I’ll fight to have it changed. This could not be any simpler. Call me, email me, stop by and see me. For Greeks, every thing is up for discussion and nothing is too small.

Here is a simple math problem. This is a college. Take away the students and there would be no college. It is my job to ensure your concerns are being heard and it is your job to tell me what you want to happen.

Did you know that you pay my salary? If the students of Hope College want to get their money’s worth out of the congress officers, then they should quit holding their tongues, and speak up. We’re not mind readers, if you don’t tell us your concerns then there’s nothing we can do.

The Anchor is accepting guest columns from student organizations. Any student organization that wishes to run a guest column should contact the Anchor at 7877 or ANCHOR@hope.edu

Legitimacy of Greek complaints questioned by senior

To the Editor:

I know that it wasn’t intended to have this effect, but when I read “Stop the Insanity,” the guest column that appeared in the last issue, I felt a real need to respond.

There’s just not a whole lot of respect, and I think that people have a problem with a lack of respect from the community, they should clean up their act before calling it an injustice.

How about a different perspective? Has anybody’s mother ever told them, “It’s all fun and games until somebody gets hurt?” I would argue that the same holds here.

Innocent fun, taken a bit too far. There’s certainly no reason to violently lash out against this type of behavior, just a need to recognize that it can sometimes cause real damage to real people. We’re certainly not talking about any action of a “supposedly” lowest wants of the ‘earth’ here, just a few people with poor judgment - possibly your neighbors.

A lesson is to be learned here, and it doesn’t need a militant trade to get it across: people need to learn how to have fun all over again. For Greeks, this could possibly mean engaging in more respectable activities to convince a dredged heart of a new purpose.

The squirrel would like to remind everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and to not substitute squirrel for turkey.

Nathan Dorellig (’99)

And remember: the Anchor will not come out until Dec. 9, stay tuned.
**POLICY from L**

"The policy does not limit who can give input into the policy," MacDoniels said. "Our sidesources may still give input."

Sentiments concerning the petition were divided among faculty. It's "my understanding that the concern of faculty who voted against the policy was that Campus Life Board relinquished its policy making power for the next four years," said Dr. Joseph MacDoniels of the communication department. "I feel this was misinterpreted."

Many members of Greek Life also shared these feelings and stressed the fact that the policy does allow for evaluation.

"With this policy, we still need the approval of Campus Life to make any policy changes so they still have a great deal of input," said Pan-Hellenic President Sara Van House ('99).""

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**RELI F from L**

On Monday, Nov. 23, "$5 for Life" envelopes were distributed asking students, faculty and Holland community members to consider making a donation.

After Thanksgiving, collection sites for canned goods and other food items will be available at the Keppel House, the Economics and Business Office, the International Education Office, the Black Coalition, SRO and HAP offices and at the Student Union Desk in the DeWitt Center.

Wednesday, Nov. 25 is "Sunshine Day" and event organizers encourage everyone to wear yellow as a visible sign of their support.

Dykstra, Glorene, and VanVleck Halls will be collecting soft drink cans in order to raise funds, while the Pan Hellenic and Interfraternity Councils will collect medical supplies in order to assemble health kits.

Chapel ministries and FCS will also be accepting donations, while Opus will sponsor an international poetry reading on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Organizers of the event hope to make this an on-going project that lasts beyond the holiday season.

"We realize profoundly that the need won't go away," Klay said. "We want to build awareness among the campus and hope to continue relief efforts over the course of the year."

VEGAS from L

The night began with mocktails at 7:00, then progressed to gambling with a dance with music provided by WTHS. Games included bingo, blackjack, roulette, and others. As the gambling came to a close around 11:00 p.m., there was a mad rush for the prize table. Several students were disappointed to find that the prizes had run out and they were left with only play money to show for their gambling efforts.

"We can only do so much with the prizes," Trask said. "We had more this year than any other."

One Hope student not disappointed with her prize was Gwen Veldhoff ('99). Veldhoff was the "Queen of Complexes" and said she would use the funds for her room and board.

The night was hosted by WTHS. Games included bingo, blackjack, roulette, and others. As the gambling came to a close, the final VEGAS Night tally's showed between 750-800 Hope students in attendance. "It was one of the best turnouts ever for the event," Trask said.

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Recycle the Anchor
It’s time to VOTE!
Please let us
(the friendly Student Congress Special Events Task Force)
know which speaker you would like to set foot on our campus!

The candidates are...

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Yep, he’s a real Kennedy. As an environmental lawyer, he speaks of the obligation we have to protect/preserve the environment for future generations.

Edward James Olmos
An Emmy Award-winning actor whose credits include Miami Vice and the movie Stand and Deliver. He is involved in humanitarian work and believes obstacles can be overcome with self-discipline.

Jane Elliot
She is best known for her discrimination experiment following the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination where she divided an all-white classroom into inferior and superior based on eye color.

Alan C. Page
After a career as a defensive lineman for the Minnesota Vikings, he completed law school, becoming a Minnesota Supreme Court Justice where he is a leader in the fields of education and civil rights.

Alan Hobson
He reached the summit of Mt. Everest on his third attempt, and has authored five books about his experience. He is also an All-American gymnast and a risk-taker. He speaks on his journey, and climbing your own Everests.

How do you vote?
It’s easy. Just e-mail BM218201 and quickly state your preference. We appreciate your comments and your vote. If you have any other concerns or comments, please e-mail the Student Congress office at STUDCONG. Thank you!

The 1998/1999 Student Congress Special Events Task Force

The Student Congress Annual Speakers Series originated 10 years ago, bringing Alex Haley, Felix Justice, Danny Glover and others to campus. It was reinstated in 1997 with James Malinchak. Joe Clark was 1998’s speaker. This year, we are pleased to be working with an expanded budget and we are very excited to see who will be Hope’s next speaker. Make sure to vote, it’s for your 1999 speaker. It’s all in your hands.
Thanksgiving Family Fued

Anchor staffers Julie Green and Andrew Lotz square off on the traditions of turkey time.

Thankful thoughts

Julie Green

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. I can hear the jingle floating down the hall. I go to Phelps to eat dinner, and there I spot two small Christmas trees decorated with tinsel and lights. I take a trip to Old Navy just to look around the newly-opened store, and I find crowds searching through piles, trying to discover the deals of the day.

The essence of Christmas has already penetrated our minds, and there has only been one day of wet sleet. Already Thanksgiving has been forgotten. The holiday of stopping, looking at where we are and taking it easy for one day of the year has been forgotten in the overload of Christmas. Many times we hear that Christmas is so special because it is only once a year.

Then again, Thanksgiving is only once a year. It's like that favorite movie that we call Christmas. Many times we hear that Christmas is so special because it is only a holiday. There are only a few of us out there who can celebrate Thanksgiving and take the holiday for all its worth.

In this day, there are so many possibilities. The best of both worlds come shining through in this one day of greatness. Family surrounds us with eternal and unconditional love. Relaxation becomes an hour in which we will glut ourselves full of food. As we wake up, we plan the day. We don't need these foods, they aren't in our diets. The best of both worlds come shining through in this one day of greatness.

At holidays go, Thanksgiving for me ranks right down there with Labor Day and Presidents Day and all those other piddly little holidays created simply to advertise sales on mattresses and give postal employees yet another day off. What really gets my goat is the traditionality we have a goose. Thanksgiving is just one big slew of arbitrary traditions that have now entered the public mind as well as the Hallmark greeting card scene. I'd like to know who thought this up. Sure, I was force-fed the grade school story that always ended with the pilgrims and indians sharing some special moment over corn and giving thanks. But is that how it really happened?

Ever read the sentence that followed the happily-ever-after Indian-Pilgrim-love-in ending? It says something like, "In the December days following the first Thanksgiving, eighty percent of the pilgrims perished, from exposure to the elements, Indian raids, horseback ride-by shootings, and typhoid fever." That's one tradition I plan on not continuing. You can keep your strange new-world fevers thank you very much.

So how did all the stupid little traditions get started? Why do we eat turkey? Why do we watch football? Why does Uncle Ed eat the contents of the organ bag? Picture if you will, the second Thanksgiving.

We open on the pilgrims' weekly town meeting. This specific meeting just happens to be week before the first anniversary of Thanksgiving.

John, a pilgrim: "Anything else?" He hands Ed a napkin.

Mary, a female pilgrim: "We have all kinds goot tab meh."

Uncle Ed: "Cramming down that stupid bag? Freeh shopperth."

Typhoid traditions

Andrew Lotz

For Thanksgiving, for me marks goot tab meh. I'm "Freeh Fan" speech. Envoiting most precious moments, they bring about memories that we forgot, things that happened in the rush of our life. Then the stuffing revolution comes to us, the one that always takes us back when we first think of it. We are still alive, things did work out and life never came anywhere close to ending in those moments that we were convinced would kill us.

From there, the thankful thoughts just keep on flowing. Because as much how much we could be thankful for, how much good really there is in our life.

But this day ends much too quickly, and before we know it, it is the day after Thanksgiving, the busiest shopping day of the year. No more time to waste on what has been good in our life, it is again time to make the good happen in our life, to rush around and complete as much as possible.

After all, there is only one month left in the year, and come the new year, we will be forced to take assessments of our life, how much we have accomplished in the last year.

We rush too much. Even our gratitude on Thanksgiving is rushed when we have to announce what it is that we are thankful for. It is guaranteed that beginning the day after Thanksgiving, we will have way too much to do. But why should we begin this mad rush before Thanksgiving? Why can't we enjoy the day for what it is, for its peacefulness, and not as the "ready, set, go!" flag of Christmas?

Thanksgiving is a treasure we are all searching for, but we miss it because we give it as many pretenses. We all have a place in our heart set aside for this treasure, for Thanksgiving. The hard part is to not let it get pushed out by the commercialized overflow of the glorious, once a year event we call Christmas.

So, thanksgiving. For me marks goot tab meh. I'm "Freeh Fan" speech. Envoiting most precious moments, they bring about memories that we forgot, things that happened in the rush of our life. Then the stuffing revolution comes to us, the one that always takes us back when we first think of it. We are still alive, things did work out and life never came anywhere close to ending in those moments that we were convinced would kill us.

From there, the thankful thoughts just keep on flowing. Because as much how much we could be thankful for, how much good really there is in our life.

But this day ends much too quickly, and before we know it, it is the day after Thanksgiving, the busiest shopping day of the year. No more time to waste on what has been good in our life, it is again time to make the good happen in our life, to rush around and complete as much as possible.

After all, there is only one month left in the year, and come the new year, we will be forced to take assessments of our life, how much we have accomplished in the last year.

We rush too much. Even our gratitude on Thanksgiving is rushed when we have to announce what it is that we are thankful for. It is guaranteed that beginning the day after Thanksgiving, we will have way too much to do. But why should we begin this mad rush before Thanksgiving? Why can't we enjoy the day for what it is, for its peacefulness, and not as the "ready, set, go!" flag of Christmas?

Thanksgiving is a treasure we are all searching for, but we miss it because we give it as many pretenses. We all have a place in our heart set aside for this treasure, for Thanksgiving. The hard part is to not let it get pushed out by the commercialized overflow of the glorious, once a year event we call Christmas.
Hope basketball: a study in contrasts

MIKE ZUIDEMA editor-in-chief

"The Hope College men’s basketball team was a study in contrast this past weekend at the Corner Classic.

The Flying Dutchmen advanced to the championship game with an impressive 98-77 win over Grace, Ind. I think that surprised Van Wieren, said. “(Cornerstone) did us, what we did to (Grace, Ind.). They earned it, they beat us.”

Cornerstone built a double digit lead using their quickness and converting Dutch turnovers into easy baskets. Cornerstone was able to put together runs of seven, eleven, and eight points off 18 first half turnovers, to lead 42-23 heading into the second half.

"They had great effort, and they performed with that effort. That put a lot of pressure on us,” said Van Wieren. “It’s their defense that really caused us to crumble."

For the game, Hope committed 27 turnovers, and Cornerstone turned that into 27 points.

The Golden Eagles faced a 13-3 lead in the opening minutes and never looked back in claiming the tournament championship game.

"We just have to take care of the ball better as a team. Everyone has to,” said Van Wieren.

Every player scored against Grace, Ind., with Brady leading with 22 points. Craig Veldman (’01) finished with 15, Chad Zagar (’01) had 13, and Kyle Vandersall (’01) had 10.

Kloinger, a transfer from Grand Rapids Community College, was named to the All-Tournament team.

The Flying Dutchmen next go to the Van Andel Arena this weekend for the Old Kent Classic. Hope will play Grand Valley State University at 7 p.m., in a tournament which could have the team facing rival Calvin.

The Knights were picked to win the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association by the coaches, and the game could serve as a precursor for the conference season.

"The Alma meet went well,” said Lippert (’99), “Coach has been working us hard in practice, so it was good to see a couple of guys with good times.

Last year, the men’s team finished second in the MIAC, while Kalamazoo finished first. However, the Dutchmen are looking to change that this year.

"This is the best team I’ve been on in my four years here,” said Mike Porter (’99). "We have confidence in our abilities and we have a positive outlook.

"We definitely have the potential to finish first," said Josh Ben (’02), "I haven’t been around long enough to see all the other teams, but I know we’re good.”

Head coach John Patnott, who started the Hope swimming program 20 years ago, also thinks the team will fair well.

"I think the men’s team this year is a little stronger than last year’s team,” Patnott said.

The Dutchmen have been swimming and lifting twice a day since late October in preparation for this year’s season. Both the men and women swimmers make up every morning for a 5:45 a.m. practice and then go back for another practice later in the evening.

“Everyone’s tired right now because the practices have been very demanding,” said Liana Durante (’00). “But I’ll pay off as the season progresses.”

Lippert feels the same way.

“Even though everyone’s tired now, it really only matters how we swim at the end of the year. And coach has been around long enough to know what he’s doing and how to train us, so we’ll be alright,” Lippert said.

Indeed, everyone seems to have confidence in Patnott.

"He’s awesome," said Chris Daniel (’01). “He has complete faith in what he’s doing.”

"He’s the best coach I’ve ever had,” said Durante. “He knows his swimming and he keeps our heads in the right place.”

Last year, the women’s team finished first in the MIAC. This year, they’re looking to stay on top.

"We’re young, but we’re swimming well. It’s one of our goals to win the MIAC, and I think we’re definitely capable," said Durante.

"The women’s team has a very different balance this year than last year," said Patnott. "But they work hard, and that will pay off by February.”

On December 4-5, both teams will continue their seasons at the Wheaton Invitational.