Vespers weekend opens season
Amanda Zoratti
Senior Staff Reporter

This weekend, get ready to ring in the Christmas season with the Hope College Christmas Vespers celebration. More than 4,000 Hope alumni, students, faculty, and friends will come together to enjoy the sold-out 64-year-old tradition at 4:30 and 8 p.m. on Saturday and at 2 and 4:30 p.m on Sunday.

“This time of year is always crazy,” said Brad Richmond, professor of music. “Vespers always follows Thanksgiving, and Madrigals always follows that, so the month is some kind of chaotic fun.”

Presented by the Department of Music, the program includes the Hope College Symphonic Band, the Chapel Choir and College Chorus. There will also be a flute choir, student organists, scripture readings and smaller ensembles. According to participants, the event is a way to express their faith through both music and fellowship, and the air of togetherness really adds to the Christmas spirit.

“I’m really excited for the evening,” said Elise Mattingly (*08), a member of the chorus. “We’re doing one song called ‘A lullaby is born’ that is just incredible, with really great, moving parts, and I’m just looking forward to the whole ambiance. It’s going to be fun.”

The choir has been working on a number of songs, including traditional hymns that create the holiday atmosphere. A CD is also created of the performance, and copies can be purchased to preserve the memories of the experience and provide hours of holiday entertainment.

Every other year (not 2004), the service is broadcast on Public Television, and excerpts from the service is broadcast on public radio. Vespers is presented as a service of worship without applause or formality; the congregation is invited to sing along, and the gifts are offered as thanks to God.

Previous performances have included songs such as: “The Heavens Are Telling,” by Joseph Hayden, and “Air,” by J.S. Bach. While this year’s lineup is a mystery, one can be certain the night will present a strong musical talent and a fun worship environment.

“I’m looking forward to it,” said Karen Russell (*08). “I think it will really get everyone into the Christmas spirit.”

The first Vespers was held in 1941 and is estimated to have been about half as large as recent concerts. This year’s service will take place in Dimnent Chapel, though the typical chapel students see during the week. In an effort to further the holiday spirit, the chapel will be decorated for the season. Last year’s décor included plenty of poinsettias, red ribbons and several full-size Christmas trees.

“It’s a great tradition,” Richmond said. “It’s a lot of work, but in the end it makes for a really enjoyable experience.”

Online course evaluations debut

Amanda Zoratti
Senior Staff Reporter

Hope College Teaching Assessments, filled out by students at the end of each semester, have, in previous years, been a sheet used to evaluate the teaching methods of professors.

This term, however, the English, psychology, computer science and economics, management and accounting departments will be going about the process a new way—online.

“It’s not complicated,” said Provost Jim Boelkins. “We have been using an internal form for quite a while. Last year we put a moratorium on using it so we could study it a bit more, because students were sick of filling them out and there was question about how much good they were doing.”

Boelkins explained the dilemma and discussed the steps taken to make the evaluations more effective.

“There was also a misunderstanding about how frequently they should be used and we didn’t learn much about student learning. A subcommittee of the academic affairs board met to try to solve some of these issues, and one of the things that came out of it was to be able to do this online,” Boelkins said.

For the past year, the Faculty and Academic Affairs Board has been examining the structure, content and use of the HCTA. By moving the procedure online, the Board will be better able to provide anonymity while saving money.

“The results are not released to the faculty member until after finals,” Boelkins said.

For next semester, we have set out a schedule for how often individual courses and faculty should be using this form. That way, it won’t be every course, every semester, which gets redundant.”

“We’re working to develop some mid-term evaluations as well, so that issues can be resolved immediately, and we’re looking at new instruments that examine student learning and whether or not students are learning what they should be,” Boelkins said.

“We’re just trying to improve the process and take advantage of technology,” Boelkins said.

Students who have been instructed by professors to fill out a form can find the evaluation at http://surveys.cs.hope.edu/surveys/HCTA/index.php.

Hoestra gains $250,000 for science center

Evelyn Daniel
Shoreline Reporter

U.S. Rep. Peter Hoestra (R-Holl) has announced that Hope’s Science Center project will be included as a part of the 2005 federal appropriations package passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The new science center, which was completed this fall, was a part of the “Legacies: A Vision of Hope” campaign, along with the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication and the DeVos Fieldhouse. The $36 million project included an $8,900,000-foot addition and major renovation of the existing Peale Science Center.

The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005 that passed in the House Nov. 20 will provide $250,000 to be used toward defraying the cost of the project. The majority of funding came from the “Legacies” campaign, the largest capital campaign in Hope’s history. The funds were donated by alumni, parents, corporate sponsors and friends of the college.

Additional funding (an additional $800,000) is available from the Kress Foundation of Troy, Michigan.

Since Peale opened in 1973, the Hope science area has increased by 50 percent and science education has changed dramatically. In addition, approaches to science learning have progressed from a lecture-based style to a more hands-on approach. By 2000, when plans for the project began, the nearly 70-year-old science center was in great need of renovation. The updated facility will help Hope maintain its ranking as one of the best liberal arts schools in the nation for undergraduate research.

“Hope College has long been nationally recognized for its operational excellence in science education,” said Hoestra, a 1975 alumna of the college.

“The expansion and renovation of the Peale Science Center has allowed Hope College to improve its programs by expanding its method of collaborative mentoring research among faculty and students to its sciences,” Hoestra said.

The science center houses the departments of biology, chemistry, nursing, psychology and geologic and environmental sciences. The renovation work improved student laboratory and research space. Students and faculty now have access to updated classroom, office, and storage space, and hands-on facilities such as a fully equipped nursing laboratory.

Hoestra, who requested the funding, has recently been elected to his seventh term serving as representative for the 2nd Michigan Congressional District, which includes the Holland area.

Dimnent Chapel, here in 2003, is transformed for the annually sold-out concert.

Catholics on campus

Immanuel Lutheran Church

A student-run nonprofit publication

Serving the Hope College Community for 118 years
Catholics on campus feel misunderstood

What is it like to be a non-Protestant at Hope?

This scenario is a real life situation, involving a real life response towards Catholicism from a Protestant student. This is Hope. Things like this don’t happen here, right? Wrong. The fact is, comments like these are a normal occurrence at Hope, leaving Catholics on campus describing themselves as feeling judged, discriminated against, and misunderstood by the majority of the Hope community.

Sarah McDonald (’06) is one Hope student who said that it is hard to live out her Catholic faith on campus.

“My sophomore year I felt really confused about my identity as a Catholic at Hope. I had repeated interactions with people that made me question who I was even here. I feel like people are scared and don’t know what to say when I tell them, ‘I’m Catholic,’” said McDonald. McDonald explained that the thing people are afraid of Catholicism because they are unsure of what it truly professes. This uncertainty, she explained, causes Protestants on campus to clam up instead of ask questions.

“I just want to tell people that the universal thing between Protestants and Catholics is Jesus and prayer. There are differences between the two faiths, but what’s important is to embrace those differences. I really don’t think that those differences are embraced here. I’ve had to make a conscious effort to retain my identity as a Catholic on campus. But through my struggles in being at Hope, I realized that my reason for being here is to correct people’s misconceptions about Catholics, while I learn more about the Protestant faith.”

Daniel Vasko (’07) agreed that it is a struggle being a Catholic on a predominantly Protestant campus.

“I went to a Protestant high school and I had no trouble fitting in and in no problem that they pressured me to change my faith as a Catholic,” said Vasko. “As college students, we’re surrounded by new ideas and it seemed that many of these new ideas at Hope revolved around a Protestant religious view. This made me look deep inside and struggle with my identity as a Catholic.”

Through his experience at Hope, Vasko said he felt misunderstood, judgmental and alone because of his beliefs. Through his time here, he said that, “I’ve encountered several instances in which the Hope community has made negative comments about my faith. He said that a lot of people have scared looks when he says he’s Catholic. He said people have tried to ‘convert’ him and that Catholicism has been misrepresented in the classroom, while his teacher said that Bibles were a state made up by the author Dante.

Johanna Swanson (’06) is a Catholic student who said that she hasn’t encountered any negative experiences on campus because of her Catholic faith. She said that most people are pretty receptive to her being Catholic. Contrary to Vasko’s experience, Swanson described one of her professors as teaching her class on Catholicism in a respectful and knowledgeable way. She said that her classmates were respectful, although they seemed to have misconceptions of what Catholicism truly is in response to Protestantism.

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The next time someone mentions Catholicism, how is the Hope community going to respond? Shrug it off? Dare the issue? Or, maybe, just maybe, step into discomfort?
Giving thanks doesn't end with Thanksgiving

When I went home last week on break, heavy snow made it take twice as long as usual to get home. I grew tired and impatient and wanted badly to get out of the car. I didn’t even think about being grateful for it aren’t in a ditch like many of the other cars I saw from on the highway.

During break, I became focused on things I needed or wanted to do. In the busy ness of the holiday and spending time with family, I completely forgot what this holiday was all about: giving thanks.

And now, as we are getting back into the swing of things for the final few weeks of the semester, life, if it isn’t already, is impalpable and I wanted badly to get out of the car. I didn’t even remember to be thankful. Even though Thanksgiving is over, there are still a lot of things to be thankful for. Following are a couple of mine:

- Family: good friends, pizza delivery, dogs, guinea pigs, mountains, rain, clouds that look like animals, zoos, merry-go-rounds, my (working) eyes, ears, arms and legs, nose and mouth, hot showers, beliefs that flash, grey sweaters, hair scrunches.
- Lake Michigan, rocks, dirt, fuzzy socks, petroglyph microscopes, the opportunity for an education, being at a school where the professors actually care if you do well, summer days, sledding, snowball fights, fall colors, spring flowers, janitors, garbage collectors, birthdays, holidays, always having enough food, always having enough money, hand-aided piano lessons, all music, beautiful works of art, the smell of good food cooking, bugs, lightning bugs, smiles, photographs, memories, fun rooms, computers (even though I also hate them), chocolate, ice cream, pink gum, cereal, sheep, writing, field trips, swimming, paper airplanes, people who know how to do chemistry, air conditioning, heat, smoothies, warm blankets, Popsicles, Post-It notes, mechanical pencils, electric lights, alarm clocks, watches, smoke alarms, planes, waffles, babies, trees and other plants, periodic tables, soil color charts, cars, bikes, bunnies, talents, movies, games, contact lenses, the way the grass smells after you mow it, puns, snowflakes, the internet, unexpected events, second chances, and, of course, the Anchor staff.

These are just a few things that I’m thankful for, and there’s plenty more where that came from. What are you thankful for?
Men's basketball scores first win of season

Immink's leadership helps Hope to victory

Nick Everse
SPORTS REPORTER

Greg Immink ('05) knows he has an important job. Starting at point guard for a defending MIAA championship team is no small task. Expectations are even higher for Immink this year, because injury and suspensions have forced Hope to open the season without four starters from last year's squad.

Seniors Daane Griffith, Kyle Klessensnyder, and Travis Spaman continue to miss time due to suspension, while last year's MIAA most-valuable player, Andy Phillips, will be out a few more weeks with a finger injury.

All the injuries and suspensions have forced Immink, a Hudsonville native, into acceptance of a leadership role this season for the Dutchmen. Immink has been the only senior in the starting lineup in each of Hope's first three games.

"We have a pretty young team, as far as experience goes," Immink said. "Having played in the system for four years, I try to communicate things that need to be done on the court for us to be successful."

Whatever he's trying to communicate got through on Saturday. Facing an 0-3 start, Hope came flying out of the gates early to build a 20-2 lead en route to a 67-52 shelling of Aquinas College in the consolation game of the Select Bank Hall of Fame Classic at Van Andel Arena.

Stephen Cramer ('07) continued his terrific start to the season, dropping a team-high 15 points. Junior center Eric Voskuil pitched in with 10 points and six rebounds.

A strong defensive effort played a big role in the team's first victory, which came just one day after Hope dropped a close decision to Cornerstone (79-73).

"I thought we played really well this weekend," Immink said. "We played a close game against Cornerstone and got that important first win against Aquinas. This win was especially important, and hopefully it will get the ball rolling toward more victories."

To keep momentum in their court, the Dutchmen will have to become more consistent.

"We have a pretty young team, as far as experience goes," Immink said. "Having played in the system for four years, I try to communicate things that need to be done on the court for us to be successful."

One constant so far has been the play of sophomore Cramer. The Akron, Ohio, native has led the team in scoring in each of Hope's first three games, dropping 24, 27 and 15, respectively.

"I think I'm playing better this year because there is more responsibility on me with all the guys out," Cramer said. "Those guys are such great players I have no choice but to step it up."

Even with the increased playing time, Cramer's numbers are eye-opening. He's been scoring the net, shooting a solid 56 percent from the field, averaging 22 points per game, while pulling in over five rebounds each contest.

"My freshman year I was just getting used to the system and the style of college basketball," Cramer said. "The transition this year has been much smoother. I think because of how I've stepped up, other players will as well, which will make us even stronger in the future, when we get everyone back."

Hope will get a chance to pull to .500 this weekend at the Wheaton College Tournament. At 6 p.m. on Friday, Hope will face Carthage, and at 3 p.m. on Saturday the Dutchmen will square off against Wheaton.

The Dutchmen don't play a home game until Dec. 11, against Trinity Christian.

**Hope women off to solid start**

Bria Ebels, who scored 18 points. Freshman Stacey Warsnas contributed a career-high 13 points off the bench and senior Adelynn Vilman added 7 points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

The win helped Hope bounce back from a heartbreaking double-overtime loss to Rockford College (111.) in the College Tip-Off Tournament last weekend.

The Flying Dutch made a valiant effort, coming back on several occasions only to run out of gas in the second overtime. The women met Calvin tonight.

In Hope basketball action (here against Cornerstone), the Dutchmen won the Hall of Fame Classic's consolation game, 67-52, against Aquinas. The team is 1-4 on the season.

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**Sports Ahead**

Men's Basketball
Friday and Saturday, Wheaton Tournament
Dec. 7 at Aquinas, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 8 at Olivet, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 17-18 Holland Sentinel Community Tournament

Women's Basketball
Tonight, Hope v. Calvin, 7:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, Carthage Tournament
Dec. 8 at Olivet, 7:30 p.m.

Swimming
Friday and Saturday, Wheaton Invitational
Dec. 10 at Grand Valley State, 5 p.m.

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**Kletz December Events**

**Tuesday, December 07**
Santa visits the Kletz
From 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 08**
The Kletz Christmas Buffet
11:00-1:30 p.m.
$5.25 per plate

**Thursday, December 09**
Sing along with Big AL
9:00-11:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 10**
Hope College Orchestra Concert at Noon

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**The Kletz. Eat There.**