The investiture

Autumn trees weren't the only things dressed in bright colors outside Dimnent Memorial Chapel before the inauguration of the tenth Hope College president. The pageantry and grace of college professors and representatives donned in colorful academic regalia also surrounded the investiture of Hope's new president on a sunny but brisk day, Friday, Oct. 9.

Ceremonies for the inauguration of Dr. John H. Jacobson took place before approximately 1,300 people in the Chapel and another 100 watching from remote television in Winants Auditorium of Graves Hall.

When the academic procession began, with approximately 160 delegates from educational institutions in 30 states, it was truly a family affair. Since the order of the procession at an inauguration is determined on the basis of age of the institution with the oldest marching first, four Jacobson family members led the delegation. Dr. Jacobson's brother, Dr. Carl Whitney Jacobson of Oberlin, Ohio was the delegate from Harvard (founded in 1630) while his father, Dr. John H. Jacobson, Sr. of New Paltz, N.Y. represented Yale (1701). The new president's son, John E. Jacobson of Swarthmore, Penn., and daughter-in-law, Gail Grubelich Jacobson, were the delegates from the University of Pennsylvania (1740).

After the invocation given by the Rev. Dr. Wilbur Washington, the vice president of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, greetings to Dr. Jacobson were brought by Marvin Baldwin, president of Student Congress; Dr. Jane Dickie, associate professor of psychology; and Dr. James W. Hall, president of Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Upon receiving an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the presenter Provost Jacob E. Nyenhuis and the Board of Trustees, Dr. Jacobson was given the Charge to the President by Max O. DePree, chairman of the Board.

Coincidentally, it was 15 years ago that Mr. DePree's brother, Hugh DePree, delivered the charge to the president at the inauguration of then Hope president Gordon J. Van Wylen. Hugh DePree was chairman of the Board at that time.

After receiving the presidential medallion, a bronze medal struck for the first time in honor of the occasion, Dr. Jacobson delivered his inaugural address, commending Hope for its historical and present loving, joyful, and accepting community as well as its dedication to academic excellence. Hope's first non-Dutch president also lauded the college's founders for their dedication to higher education and thanked the Presidential Search Committee for "not particularly caring whether I had a Dutch name, which I do not, but rather what my ideas and values are."

Music for the ceremony was provided by organist Roger Davis, professor of music, the Hope College Chapel Choir, directed by Prof. Roger Rietberg, and a 12-member Brass Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Robert Risema.

Dr. Gordon J. Van Wylen, president emeritus, closed the inauguration with prayer.

As the ceremony ended and the recessional hymn began, an atmosphere of deep concern filled Dimnent Memorial Chapel when Dr. Jacobson's father collapsed. The elder Jacobson, 83, suffers from heart problems and was transported to Holland Community Hospital by paramedics. Later transferred to Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids to prevent any complications, Dr. Jacobson Sr. returned to New York in good condition.

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Need a Hope sweater from the bookstore? special inside section
RECORD ENROLLMENT: With its largest freshman class ever, enrollment at Hope for the 1987-88 school year has risen substantially from a year ago, according to Registrar Jon Huisken. The number of students studying at Hope this year equals 2,710, of which 2,503 are degree-seeking. Last year's student body totaled 2,545 with 2,302 degree-seeking students.

College officials attribute the increase to a higher student retention rate and a 100-student increase in the freshman class. (See page 5 for additional enrollment story.)

The number of students attending college for the first time totals 629, as compared to 583 a year ago, while students transferring to Hope from other colleges or universities is 96.

The enrollment by class, with last year's in parentheses, is: freshmen, 768 (777); sophomores, 632 (604); juniors, 549 (517); seniors, 524 (444); and special students, 207 (243).

The student body is comprised of 1,171 men and 1,539 women from 42 states and 28 foreign countries.

CONVOCATION CONFERRALS:

The 126th Hope College Fall Convocation, opening the 1987-88 school year on Tuesday, Sept. 1, marked the first formal college event led by Hope's new president, Dr. John H. Jacobson. The Rev. Marchiene Rienstra, senior pastor at Hope Reformed Church in Holland, Mich., and the first woman senior pastor in the Reformed Church in America, gave this year's address entitled "Learn to Grow." Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees were conferred upon Max O. DePree and Dr. Victor Eimicke at the convocation. DePree is the newly-elected chairman of the Board of Trustees while Eimicke led the Board as chairman from 1978-1987.

MATHEMATICS AUTHOR: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers of San Diego, Calif. has announced the publication of two books by Dr. Elliott Davis '56, professor of mathematics.

The volumes, entitled "Statistics I: Descriptive Statistics and Probability" and "Statistics II: Estimation and Tests of Hypotheses," are part of the publisher's College Outline Series, a set of books which takes students through elementary explanations to more difficult problems in several different subjects. Together, Tandom two volumes cover most of the topics which are taught in an introductory statistics course that has algebra as its only mathematics prerequisite. Each chapter covers a topic of fundamental principles broken down into outline form for easy reference. The two books contain 1,362 examples and exercises with complete solutions given for 950 of them. Interspersed within the volumes are examples which have an international dimension. These examples were developed with the aid of a grant to Hope College from the Exxon Educational Foundation for the purpose of internationalizing Hope's curriculum.

A REAL FLYING DUTCHMAN: Four parachutists landed in the Holland Municipal Stadium prior to the kickoff of Hope's homecoming game against Albion College. The Flying Dutchmen, the football kind, avoided another tie with the Britons and won 31-28. If the last-minute field goal by Albion had been good, it would have meant the third consecutive year the two teams played to a tie.

HOPE COLLEGE VIENNA SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS REUNITE ON CAMPUS: Approximately 180 Hope alumni from 20 states returned to campus to participate in a reunion for former Vienna Summer School students. Held in conjunction with the opening of a major art exhibit in the DePree Center Art Gallery entitled "Pre-Modern Art of Vienna: 1848-1898," the event also honored three long-time Vienna Summer School professors, two of whom travelled to Holland for the gathering.

For a combined total of 69 years, Dr. Anna Spitzmueller, Prof. Felix Molzer, and Dr. Willibald Kubicek have contributed their talents to the Hope program. Molzer, a music professor, and Spitzmueller, a art history professor, were on campus to receive Distinguished Service Awards from President John Jacobson, which were presented by Provost Jacob Nyenhuis. Kubicek, a literature professor, was honored in absentia.

The Consul General of Austria at Chicago, the Hon. Clemens A. Coreth, was also present at the reunion and for the opening of the art show. "He was full of enthusiasm" for the extraordinary exhibit and the alumni gathering, said Dr. Paul Fried, professor emeritus of history.

Alumni from all but two years of the 31-year-old program were present. Several families, some of whom representing two generations of Vienna Summer School alumni, also displayed the vitality and longevity of the Hope program. Among those in attendance were David Kemper '57 and sons, Dave '83 and Dan '84, and Tom Bos '61 and daughter-in-law, Lori Lynn Bos '86. A sibling contingent was also represented - Claire Campbell '75 Boersma, Nancy Campbell '78 Post and Mary Sue Campbell '82 Beuker.

Since Dr. Fried founded the Vienna Summer School in 1956, more than one hundred students from numerous colleges and universities have studied in the Austrian capital. Dr. Stephen Hemenway, the current
NORTHWESTERN HONORS: Dr. David Myers, the John Dirk Werkman professor of psychology at Hope, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Northwestern College of Orange City, Iowa in August. Northwestern, one of Hope's sister schools in the Reformed Church in America, conferred the degree at its 105th Fall Convocation. Dr. Myers also gave the address entitled "Day by Day."

A member of the Hope faculty since 1967, Dr. Myers is a fellow with four divisions of the American Psychological Association, one of which awarded him the Gordon Allport Prize of social psychological research. A noted textbook author of two widely used psychology volumes, Dr. Myers has recently published another book by Harper and Row entitled "Psychology Through the Eyes of Faith," which he co-authored with cognitive neuroscientist Malcolm Jeeves of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

A HOPE OLYMPIAN?; Rob Peel, a 1987 Hope grad, has begun to make a long-time dream come true. Peel, an NCAA Division III national champion in the 50-yard freestyle last year, has qualified to compete in the 50-meter freestyle at the Olympic Trials next August in Austin, Tex.

Since the conclusion of his outstanding collegiate career — he earned All-America honors 10 times in four years — Peel continued to diligently train for the U.S. Long Course National Meet in Clovis, Calif. At the meet, which was also the trials for the Pan Am Games, Peel was seeded 7th out of 84 swimmers. But the 22-year-old surprised the bracket-makers by finishing 24th with a 23.67 seconds in the 50-meter freestyle. The Olympic cut-off for try-outs is 23.79 seconds.

"Realistically, making the Olympic team is a long shot since only the top two swimmers qualify for each event," said Peel's coach, John Paton. "But just qualifying to try out for the Olympics is an absolutely great thing. Any amateur athlete's dream is an opportunity to get a shot at making the Olympic team. Rob has the discipline and drive to continue his training. After all, we're not going to let a good - not even a great — high school swimmer to an outstanding college swimmer now competing at the world-class level."

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO HOPE GRAD:
Steve Stroesser, a 1987 Hope grad, has been awarded a prestigious Jacob K. Javits Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Education.

A magna cum laude graduate, Stroesser majored in psychology. A native of Whitewater, Wis., he is currently a social psychologist Ph.D. program at the University of California — Santa Barbara.

Only 116 graduate students were designated Javits Fellows this year. Now in its third year, the Jacob K. Javits Fellows Program is one of the most lucrative fellowships in the country. It will provide for Stroesser's full tuition and a yearly stipend for the next four years.

FIRST PETROVICH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED: Junior Sue Koch of Carson City, Mich., has been named the first recipient of a full Michael N. Petrovich Memorial Scholarship, an endowed fund created by friends, colleagues, and students of the late member of the department of history.

Created to aid students who plan to spend a semester a year studying abroad, the scholarship is a memorial to long-time history professor Michael Petrovich who died unexpectedly in 1986.

Koch, a business administration major, is spending this fall semester studying on the European Urban Term, a program organized through the Great Lakes Colleges Association and led this year by Dr. James Heisler, associate professor of economics at Hope.

90th PULL ALMOST AT THE END OF ITS ROPE: This year's Pull, a sophisticated tug-of-war between men of the freshmen and sophomore classes, almost left the two teams hanging on Friday, Sept. 25. Just a few hours before the college's traditional event, the Pull coaches discovered the rope was fastened to a pole that had been placed too short after it was fastened to the Black River in preparation for the event.

It seems that some prankster had cut the $3,000 rope after last year's Pull.

But that wasn't considered a problem at the time. College officials took the rope to the Coast Guard for a few hours over the summer. When the rope was laid out in time for the Pull, it was fastened to the Black River once again.

So, a frantic search began to find a replacement. The Coast Guard couldn't help out, and Pull coaches quickly dismissed the thought of getting another rope from Chicago since that would postpone the event for a day.

Finally, when all seemed to be hanging, pulling punishment for three hours, and when the judges made their measurements, the sophomores, the class of 1990, were declared the victors. They tugged 19-feet, 7-inches of rope away from the freshmen.
EVENTS

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

This year, alumni and friends across the country will have the opportunity to meet the 10th president of Hope College, Dr. John H. Jacobson, and his wife, Dr. Jeanne Jacobson, at dinner events in an area near you. The dates for the first semester of the 1987-88 academic year appear below. Dates for second semester events will be published in a future News from Hope College. For further information, please call the Office of Public Relations at (616) 394-7800.

Thursday, Nov. 5: Omni Hotel - Detroit, Mich.
Thursday, Nov. 19: Drake Hotel - Oak Brook, Ill.

Regional Dinners

Alumni Tours
ISRAEL AND JORDAN - Dr. Barry Bandstra, assistant professor of religion, will lead a study tour to Israel and Jordan from June 13-25, 1988. The focus will be on Old and New Testament history. The trip is designed especially for Hope alumni and friends. The cost, which will cover all transportation, touring, meals and lodging, will be approximately $1,400. The group will leave from and return to Chicago. For more information on this alumni tour, please contact Dr. Bandstra, c/o Department of Religion, Hope College, Holland, MI 49423 or call (616) 394-7755.

GREECE AND GREEK ISLANDS - See page 23.

THE ARTS

Music

Faculty Chamber Music Concert - Sunday, Oct. 25: Featuring violinist John Gilbert and pianist Joan Conway, Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 4 p.m.
Student Recital - Thursday, Oct. 29: Wichers Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Faculty Chamber Music Concert - Sunday, Nov. 1: Featuring “Music from Vienna”; Wichers Auditorium, 4 p.m.
An Ecumenical Hymn Festival - Sunday, Nov. 1: Hope College Chapel Choir and Calvin College Chapel Choir; Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 3 p.m.
*Glenn-Lund Dance Company - Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5-6: A Great Performance Series production; DeVitt Center Theatre, 8 p.m.
Arthur Honegger's KING DAVID - Saturday, Nov. 8: A Oratorio featuring the Hope College Symphony and Choral Union; Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
**Michigan Pianists Series - Friday, Nov. 13: Featuring Louis Nagel; Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
*Pianist Jaime Bolgata - Tuesday, Nov. 17: A Great Performance Series production; Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
Student Recital - Thursday, Nov. 19: Wichers Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Faculty Chamber Music Concert - Sunday, Nov. 22: Wichers Auditorium, 4 p.m.
Hope College Wind Ensemble Concert - Tuesday, Nov. 24: Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
*Hope College Jazz Ensemble Concert - Monday, Nov. 30: DeVitt Center Kleiz, 8 p.m.
**Christmas Vespers - Saturday, Dec. 5 - 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 6 - 2-4-30; Dimnent Memorial Chapel

Great Performance Series ticket information is available by calling the Hope College Public Relations Office at (616) 394-7860.

Theatre

As You Like It by William Shakespeare - Oct. 28-31: Jon Rosalind, Jaques, Touchstone and a mixed cast of characters in the Forest of Arden pursuing happiness and love. La Ronde by Arthur Schnitzler - Nov. 13-14
This two-day production will be presented in the Studio Theatre on the lower level of the DeVitt Theatre at 8 p.m. All performances will be in conjunction with the DeVitt Art Center Gallery's current show, "Pre-Modern Art of Vienna, 1848-1898." Tickets are $1.

The Dining Room by A.R. Gurney, Jr. - Dec. 4, 5, 9, 12
A touching modern comedy which delineates the drying life-style of the "White Protestant gentility" and the neglected room which was once a vital center of family life.

All performances begin at 8 p.m. in the DeVitt Center Main Theatre. Tickets are available by calling (616) 392-4460. Adults: $5; senior citizens: $4; students: $3. The ticket office is located in the DeVitt Center foyer. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sundays. The only open two weeks prior to and during a theatre production.

DePree Art Gallery Exhibits

Pre-Modern Art of Vienna: 1848-1898 - through Sunday, Nov. 29
A major show of Austrian art from the last half of the 19th century. Over four years in the making, many of the 80 pieces from 30 lenders have never been displayed in the United States before.

Juried Student Show - Dec. 1-15
A show of Hope students' work - art majors and non-art majors alike.
Gallery hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 9 p.m.

ADMISSIONS

Visitation Days
For prospective Hope students, including transfers, high school juniors and seniors. Visitation is intended to show students their potential a typical day in the life of Hope College. Ample opportunities to meet students, faculty and staff.
Friday, Nov. 6
Friday, Nov. 20
Friday, Dec. 4
Science Day - Thursday, Oct. 29
A day of special activities designed for high school students interested in pursuing college study in the natural sciences. A chance to meet with faculty students and tour the Peake Science Center.
New Jersey Plane Trip - Thursday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 8: An opportunity for New Jersey high school juniors and seniors to visit Hope College. Cost includes round-trip transportation, housing, and a current Hope student, meals and activity pass. (The Wisconsin bus trip previously scheduled for this same date has been temporarily postponed.)

Chicago Area Reception - Tuesday, Dec. 1
Talk with Hope faculty, students, and staff near your hometown. The reception will be held at the Oak Brook Marriott.
For further information about any Admission program, call (616) 394-7850.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Friday, Oct. 23-25: Parents' Weekend
Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Recess Begins, 8 a.m.
Monday, Nov. 30: Thanksgiving Recess Ends, 8 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 11 - Last Day of Classes
Monday - Fri., Dec. 14-18: Semester Examinations
Friday, Dec. 18: Residence Halls Close, 7 p.m.

SPORTS

Men's Basketball
Friday, Nov. 20 - at G.R. Baptist Tournament at Aquinas, 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 27 - at Central Iowa Tournament at Concordia, Ill., 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 9 - Grand Valley, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12 - Rockford, Ill., 8 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 15 - at Heidelberg, Ohio Tournament.

Tuesday - Wed., Dec. 29-30 - Home Tournament at Calvin, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 9 - Alma, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 13 - at Adrian, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 16 - at Kalamazoo, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20 - at Albion, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 23 - at Calvin, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 26 - at Alma, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 5 - at Olivet, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 10 - at Albion, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 17 - at Kalamazoo, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 20 - at Albion, 8 p.m.
March 5, 6 - NCAA Regionals
March 12 - NCAA Quarterfinals
March 18-19 - NCAA Finals

All home games are played at the Holland Civic Center.

Women's Basketball

Friday, Nov. 20 - at Wheaton, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 21 - Taylor, played at Calvin, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 28 - Concordia, 12:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4 - at Calvin, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 8 - at Trinity Christian, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 15 - Holiday Tournament at Baldwin-Wallace
Saturday, Jan. 9 - at Calvin, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13 - at Alma, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16 - at Olivet, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19 - at Adrian, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 23 - at Kalamazoo, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 26 - at Albion, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 30 - at Aquinas, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 3 - at Winn, 13:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 10 - at Albion, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 13 - at St. Mary's, Ind., 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 17 - at Kalamazoo, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 20 - at Albion, 1 p.m.

All home games are played at the Dow Center unless otherwise noted.

Hope Sports Hotline - Get up-to-the-minute sports reports by calling (616) 394-7888.
Class of 1991 measures up as the largest ever

by Eva D. Folkert

Those silly demographers. They've been telling college admissions officials for the past few years that the number of high school graduates will continually decrease until the late 1990s. And they were right; the number of potential college students has been declining. . . up to now.

Last winter and spring, when applications started hitting admissions offices across America, and specifically at Hope, college officials began to rightfully ask the puzzling question, "Where are all these kids coming from?"

Applications were up everywhere—at state universities and private colleges alike. At Hope, applications for the 1987-88 school year increased by 18 percent from a year ago; there were 35 percent more applications a year ago during the months of December and January.

The end result: the class of 1991 is the largest freshman contingent to ever enroll at Hope. "I anticipated early on last year that enrollment would be down," said Dr. James Bekkering, dean of admissions. "I'm glad I was wrong." So, where did all these college freshmen come from? All 675 of them. Were the demographers wrong or right? It was, after all, a most unusual year in the college admissions game.

Based on inquiries Bekkering's staff was picking up from interested students in the hinterlands a year ago, freshman enrollment was projected to come in around 590 for 1987-88. When applications started to trail off and the applications began to thin, Bekkering started to raise his eyebrows.

"My immediate reaction was obvious—"Oh joy because we were really up in applications," he says. "Well, then I started checking around, and I discovered we weren't alone. A majority of the fine colleges and universities in the state, and across the country, for that matter, were up and some more than we were. So that took some puff out of my sash."

While the increase first became cause for celebration, it almost immediately turned into a questioning free-for-all. One answer found when Bekkering's staff got wind of the fact that 18-year-olds have started to become smart consumers. This past year, high school seniors—today's freshman—did some shopping around by applying to 10 or 11 colleges instead of five or six, the historical norm. That threw a nasty monkey-wrench into those analytical projections.

"We didn't know where we stood in some cases," says Bekkering. "That overlap was making application numbers misleading. For instance, we overlap considerably with The University of Michigan. We just weren't sure how many students were seriously considering another college and how many weren't seriously considering Hope."

But multiple applications alone does not explain the remarkable increase, says Bekkering. Those demographics, after witnessing the contradiction of their tales of course, reneged on their original projections and are now indicating that there will be a slight upward trend in the number of high school seniors for a two-year period. A precipitous drop in the population of 18-year-olds will then occur in 1989 and remain until the late 1990s.

In retrospect, "expects Bekkering, "we've found that an increased percentage of high school graduates are going onto college."

And so, for the first time in Hope's history, a waiting list was implemented. (The small number of wanties were all finally admitted, by the way.) Two more cottages and one apartment building were purchased by the college, along with leasing one-third of another apartment building and changing the utilization of a third cottage. It was all done to accommodate 116 upperclassmen students who agreed to give their residence hall rooms to incoming freshmen. The upperclassmen students, moved to the apartments and cottages.

After such a successful year in admissions, when pointing a finger at external reasons for increases is expected, much of the credit must also go to Bekkering's admissions staff, too. From the 1226 acceptances this year, Hope had a 52 percent yield rate, the highest of the twelve schools in the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA). There are more generation students than ever before (see pages 17 and 22) and freshman minority students, which last year totaled 11, have increased to 34.

"No matter how you cut it, though, it's a matter of teamwork," the dean of admissions said. "Our admissions staff plays a significant role in helping students who are considering their college choice. They are instrumental in the degree to which those students look at Hope seriously. That helps them make an informed decision. In the end, though, the excellence of this institution does the selling itself."

Steve Spencer's psychology success story

Hope College senior Steven J. Spencer pulled a fast one on his research participating and won a national award for it.

Spencer, from Gladwin, Mich., has received the highest honor awarded to an undergraduate researcher in psychology. He was named the 1987 first-place winner in the national undergraduate research competition for psychology students sponsored by Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society affiliated with the American Psychological Association (APA).

Spencer's research paper, entitled "Emotional and Cognitive Effects of Choice and False Feedback of Success and Failure," was ranked the number one entry by all three judges of this year's competition. He is also one of the few students ever to be honored by APA...prior to their senior year. (Spencer conducted the project during his junior year.) Typically, the award goes to graduates for their senior research projects, such as conducted by this year's runners-up from universities in Kansas and Virginia.

Spencer's award is another boon in a long list of honors earned by Hope psychology students. Hope's psychology department leads all American colleges and universities in producing psychology majors, and Spencer's award brings to eight the number of Hope psychology students who have won first, second, or third-place prizes in the annual competition, five of whom have been recognized since 1980.

Under the direction of Dr. Charles Stump, past psychology majors Spencer studied in his course called "Social Psychology," which was taught by Dr. Green. After presenting his concept to the professor at the conclusion of his sophomore year, Spencer conducted the research during his junior year, with Stump serving as his research advisor.

"Steve is very bright and very quick," said Green, a specialist in social psychology. "He is also very well-read so he was able to sift out important points very quickly during this complicated research.

Spencer plans to enter graduate school after graduation next May. A young man with a wide variety of interests, he also has another major in biology, is intrigued by philosophy and ethics, works for Holland Community Hospital as a mental health aide, and served as the sports director for WTHS, Hope's FM student radio station.

National psychology research award winner Steven Spencer
Faculty research goes South of the Border

Field research is, by no stretch of the imagination, a fill in scientific study. It is instead a mainstay for scientists who need to take their research showing on the road.

Three Hope biology professors left the friendly confines of the Peale Science Center this past summer to do research way south of the U.S. border. Dr. Harvey Blankespoor investigated on a disease plaguing Ecuador, while Dr. Greg Murray and Dr. Kathy Winnett-Murray followed some exotic birds to Costa Rica. Here are some of their experiences with the environment and culture of our neighbors to the south.

by Sue Christian '88

Worldwide traveller Harvey Blankespoor made an Ecuadorian excursion this past summer, and it could very well serve as the basis for the adventures in the next Indiana Jones script.

Dr. Blankespoor's research of an Ecuadorian health problem called paragonimiasis — a parasite-induced disease acquired by eating raw or improperly cooked crayfish — may broaden his already established national reputation as a parasitologist, a status he earned for his scientific findings regarding swimmer's itch.

Humanitarian Harvey Blankespoor displayed his strong commitment toward mission work by solidifying friendly relations between scientists in the United States and abroad; by understanding the language of philanthropy regardless of dialect or culture.

Actually, Hope College Professor Harvey Blankespoor is a combination of all three persons, a unique blend of scientific, respectful, Christian caring for people from different lands.

Hearing of paragonimiasis while researching Third World diseases in the Sudan in 1983, Dr. Blankespoor was able to consider travelling to Ecuador this summer when a generous anonymous donor agreed to fund the project. After a brief visit to Ecuador in March of 1986 to assess the needs and worth of the research, Blankespoor returned 14 months later to begin intensive work.

Specifically, the Hope prof concentrated on making contacts with fellow researchers and government officials as well as obtaining adequate research facilities and sufficient literature on the disease. For the most part, Blankespoor was interested in gathering enough samples of the parasite in order to develop a skin test which will efficiently determine if an individual is infected.

Often misdiagnosed as tuberculosis, paragonimiasis causes harsh coughing spasms and pneumonia. Paragonimus, the parasite's name, has a cycle of three hosts — first in a freshwater snail, then to a crayfish or crab, and finally to a human or other crayfish-eating vertebrate such as a pig, opossum, raccoon, or cat. The parasite, which resides as a cyst in the lung, infects an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Ecuadorians plus many other South and Central America citizens.

"The disease is quite common in Ecuador because many people like to catch crayfish and eat them on the spot," he says.

Blankespoor accidentally made an invaluable acquaintance which resulted in a fast friendship with the Director of Health for Ecuador, Dr. Jose Rumbea. After Blankespoor had missed a flight to attend a three-day meeting of 40 medical doctors from an Ecuador province, it turned out that Rumbea was making the trip by land cruiser, so the good doctor hitched a ride. The conference, where medical officials discuss the latest on diseases affecting the inhabitants of their regions, was held in Es Meraledes, a five-hour drive from Quito, Blankespoor's home.

"Blankespoor, the potential inconveniences," he turned out to be a blessing in disguise because the Director was working with the same parasite as I was. We had hours of round trip — talk about research and how to set it up.

The shared interest in paragonimiasis between the two men has led to many open doors for Blankespoor, not the least of which is the title of adjunct professor at the University of Guayas and contact with medical doctors who treat patients suffering from paragonimiasis. It's a connection that allows the biologist, who is already returning to the country in November, lower air fares, library access, and a hassle-free visa — a particularly critical rite of passage considering that a few unsatisfactory words from a high-ranking official could end the American's research altogether.

The unsavory atmosphere of some of Blankespoor's research sites is a bit akin to adventure-seeking Indiana Jones movies. Many of his Licencias in various villages would not even receive a one-star hotel rating. On one trip, a chicken continually tried to be the professor's bunk-mate. He eats the native food — three square meals consisting of bananas, bananas, and bananas. And working in cooperation with the scientists of the country and adapting to research material available, his Spanish is improving rapidly with the aid of a Hope Spanish 101 course he is currently taking.

The biology prof's stories of his Ecuadorian experiences range from dangerous to hospitable accounts. One trip to the Gualaceo coast was necessarily cancelled because two Catholic missionaries were spearred by some Aucas tribesmen. Another trip, an all-night dugout canoe ride down the Rio Hojo Blanco River to collect host mammals, proved successful. This achievement was largely due to Frankel, the skilled navigator, who could so deftly maneuver the boat through channels and rocks that he even recovered a pair of glasses that had fallen from Blankespoor's shirt pocket further up river.

"Frankel (a Cayapas Indian) told Pascua, the hunter, to call the bow of the canoe at a specific place, and there at the bottom of the river island was my pair of glasses. This is just one example of how they observe and use their sense of sight. The same can be said of their hearing."

Ecuador, by F. Scott Petersen '86

It is four o'clock in the morning. Stumbling through the early morning darkness, you grab a cold shower, hoping to avoid any poison snakes on the faucet. If the weather holds, you load 50 pounds of gear on your back and trudge through the mud up into the tangled, rain-soaked cloud forest of Monteverde, Costa Rica. Once up the mountain, you assemble the mats that will catch the birds you need to study. And if you're lucky, this will all occur before the daily three inches of torrential rains ends every outdoor activity at noon.

If the sounds like an enjoyable summer vacation, then you have a lot in common with Greg Murray and Kathy Winnett-Murray, two of Hope's more peripatetic biology professors. This past summer, the Murray's returned to Costa Rica to continue their research in ornithology and ecology. They had lived there previously for two years, so when they were awarded a faculty grant from the Towley Fund, the ornithologists-ecologists naturally jumped at the chance to visit again.

With these funds, plus junior Tammy Long, senior Mark Kuhlman, and three-year-old son Dylan, the Murrays set off to increase their knowledge of the ecological relationships between plants and animals. Monteverde is a teeming tropical rain forest that offers the adventurous biologist the chance to study a beautiful, abundant, and yet rapidly diminishing habitat.

Though accustomed to the Hope bio staff they arrived in 1986 — the Murrays are no strangers to exotic field study. They are...
apply familiar with the normal operating standards of dodging mountain lions and tarantulas as well as scorpions in the toilet paper—all with no supplemental hazard pay. Kathy pursued her study of how certain webs colonize areas that had previously been disturbed by man, while Greg observed the relationships between birds and plants with regards to seed displacement. It was all done with still more dodging and wondering about falling trees and the monkeys who found great delight in throwing sticks at their strange visitors.

Another thought in the back of these biologists’ minds is the increasing awareness that the rain forest may not survive the next century. Thousands of acres are lost each day to farmland and other economic developments. It is a vanishing frontier that contains a huge amount of the world’s species of plants and animals. At Monteverde, for instance, there is a toad called the Golden Toad that exists nowhere else on earth.

So the Murrays see themselves as possibly being part of the last generation of biologists who study the rain forest. They subsequently have an important mission: to increase the total scientific knowledge of this area and to bring back to Hope College some of the excitement and freshness that comes from this research.

“Going to Monteverde benefits not only the biologist but the students and college as well,” says Greg. Hope is able to provide its students with up-to-the-minute biological information on ecology, and it gets its name thrown around in biological seminars and grid schools. Our research students also receive a rich multicultural experience and firsthand knowledge of what it’s like doing field work in the toughest conditions.

Field work has been a major component of the Murrays’ lives. They met while attending California State University at Northridge and fell in love studying sea birds on barren islands off the Pacific coast. Sharing their work gives them a unique relationship. Not many couples have their honeymoon on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. Researching together also mean there are no long separations, and it even allows for them to challenge one another professionally.

As Kathy puts it, “We both applied for the same position at Hope and ended up splitting the job.”

Being ecologists and also bird-lovers, the Murrays are naturally expanding the ecology curriculum and are even giving bird-watching tours around campus. And they conduct the biology in Costa Rica applies in the States as well. The biodiversity of Costa Rica is amazing in its color and number. Some of the same birds we see around Holland in the spring are wading in the tropics,” Kathy says. “As the rains forests diminish so do the number of birds, we want here. So naturally, they both feel the need to spread the word about conservation.

“It’s not just one remote part of the world that is threatened, but it’s everywhere,” Greg explains. “Each ecosystem affects others, and we will pay a high price if some of them disappear.”

For the Murray duo, biology is not some dry dissertation or boring lab work in an ivory tower. Going to Costa Rica only proves their point that excitement is waiting for those willing to venture beyond the walls of academia.

In Costa Rica, they were almost completely isolated from the comforts of western civilization. The Hope team had to confront a variety of unusual and challenging experiences. Food was unreliable since vegetables were available only once a week. The electricity was very poor, and of course, there was no hot water. Entertainment was usually self-generated, consisting of local theatre, reading and sleeping. (Four a.m. is still awfully early no matter where you are.)

“We ate a lot of glop,” grumbles Kathy. “Glop is a sort of pasta and cheese combination that quickly becomes a staple at Monteverde. We also depended a lot on dinner guests and talking with other scientists visiting the area.”

Monteverde itself was once founded by Quakers who liked the Costa Rican stand on war— they have no army, an unusual circumstance in Central America these days. The exotic bird life was an added attraction for the settlers. Species like the Resplendent Quetzal and the Emerald Toucanet serve as “tools for answering questions on nature” as Greg puts it.

There is no doubt that the Murrays will return to Monteverde and continue their relevant research, but for the time being it is enough to share their experiences with the Hope community. The interest and excitement they generate from their stories should carry them over until the next great sends them back to the tropics and home with more tales of the rain forest’s beauty, monkeys, toads, tarantulas, inconveniences, birds, mountain lions.

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**Stretchin’ a Snake**

Hope students get a chance to get acquainted with the biology department’s pet boa constrictor, Dexter, on Stretch-A-Snake Day, a special event held for the first-ever Biology Week. The bio department hosted a week’s worth of interesting activities in early September to introduce new students to the department while also reintroducing other already-established activities. Various events included a botanical tour of campus conducted by Dr. Paul Van Fassen, a bird-watching contest judged by Drs. Kathy Winter-Murray and Dr. Greg Murray, and a chapel service led by other biology faculty. Dr. Don Cronkite, organizer of Biology Week, instituted the events as a lead-in to the week-ending Biology Summer Student Research Symposium, a poster session presented by 17 biology majors who spent their summers in the Peale Science Center or in the field.

Oh, by the way, Dexter, the non-poisonous six-year-old snake, turned out to be 10-foot, five-inches after he was uncoiled and measured. If he could only stand up, old Dex could dunk a basketball!
The faces of change on this

by Marij Lindner ‘87

They say you can’t teach old dogs new tricks but maybe, just maybe you can send ANTS back to school.

ANTS is a pet name — if you will — for the Association of Non-Traditional Students. A support group for any student over the age of 25 who has had at least a two-year interruption in his or her education. Over the past decade, the number of ANT members has been on the rise at American colleges and universities. The National Center for Education Statistics estimates that over 40 percent of the people enrolled on college campuses today are 25 or older and by the early 1990s nearly half of all college students will be non-traditional.

At Hope, approximately 250 non-traditional students — 10 percent of the student body — have been on the Registrar’s rolls consistently for the past three years. Though their numbers at Hope haven’t substantially fluctuated over that time, college officials felt a need to help these students become reacquainted with the college scene for some of the same reasons the U.S. House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education devoted two full days of hearings to non-traditional students in 1985 at the time of the renewal of the Higher Education Act. Their concern was prompted in part by the dramatic changes in the nation’s work places and in the lifestyles of many Americans.

So, for the past two years, Fonda Green, Hope’s coordinator of special programs, has been working with non-traditional students to make their transition back to academics a little bit easier.

“We don’t give more support to non-traditional students,” says Green, “we just give it in different ways. Many non-traditional students have been out of high school for several years, and it’s difficult for them to come back to a campus where almost every student seems to be accustomed to taking notes and tests. We work to make the traditional student body aware of the different needs and unique contributions of non-traditional students. We also make the non-traditional student aware of each other.”

Each month the Association of Non-Traditional Students on Hope’s campus meets to provide necessary peer support. Each non-traditional student profile is a little different from the next — about half are female, some are part-time, others are degree-seeking, many have full-time jobs, several are full-time parents, and others plan to enter the work force for the first time. But most non-traditional students agree that it’s not really the academics that make it tough, but their other previously established priorities — work, church, community, and especially family. Time management is an essential and often specialty item for these students.

“I think about my studies a lot differently now than when I was a student,” says non-traditional student Tim Laird. “I never think, ‘I should spend some time with my books’ without also thinking, ‘Yes, but I should also spend some time with Michael.’” I am always juggling, and family usually wins out.”

ALL IN THE FAMILY: Carol Johnson, top left, studies at home with her sons, Bernard and Lamont. A devoted mother, community worker and student, Johnson is always on the go. She even began playing soccer with women half her age on the Hope College Soccer Club. “After a month, though, I asked if I could be the watergirl instead,” she laughs.
American college campus

Laird is a full-time employee at Prince Corporation, an automotive parts manufacturer in Holland. His wife, Linda, works part-time at Holland Community Hospital. His two-year-old Michael demands as much attention as any two-year-old. And somehow, somewhere, Laird finds the time to be a student majoring in business administration. When Laird gave up college to get married four years ago, he did so with no plans of returning.

"But I guess I'm just a person who will always want to further myself," he says. "And Linda would certainly rather have me working and in school instead of just working and constantly complaining that I should be in school!"

This past summer, Laird found a way to integrate work and school by developing an independent Hope internship at Prince where he worked to balance parts inventories for phased products.

"I really feel like my supervisors are pulling for me. I couldn't have asked for a better situation," said Laird. "I gained visibility with the first-shift executives, was paid to learn, had more time with my family, and I'm still on schedule for graduation."

Laird is presently a junior. If he takes six credit hours (two classes) a semester and three credits a summer, he will graduate in the spring of 1990—four years after he first entered Hope. (Laird had two previous years at Pensacola Christian College.)

But since many of the upperclassmen he entered college with are gone now, Laird still participate in the graduation ceremony?

Oh, yes.

"It will be different for me," says the thoughtful, 25-year-old, "because I don't know very many of the other students who are walking across the stage, but I really want Linda to see me march. My professors and supervisors have been very helpful, the monthly meetings with other non-traditional are nice, but it's mostly being Linda helping through all this."

Family members, as in Laird's case, may be the prime motivators for non-traditional students; but self-improvement often plays a key role.

"Many come to college for self-enhancement, just because an education is something they've always wanted," says Greven. "They bring a dimension of life's experiences that a traditional student wouldn't thrive. They also bring a need to learn for the sake of learning. Professors constantly comment about how they appreciate that type of learner. It's refreshing for them."

"Non-traditional students actually provide a reality test for my other students because they have experienced first-hand much of what I am teaching in class," confirmed Dr. Don Luidens, associate professor of sociology. "They counterbalance the other students' assumptions."

Non-traditional students like Carol Johnson do that. Her's is quite a different story than Laird's. At 48, she has three grown children and two boys, Lamont, 14, and Bernard, 13, still at home. She's a full-time student working on a double major in psychology and religion with a minor in pre-law. And after her six years at Hope, she plans to enroll in the counseling program for Western Theological Seminary.

"I'll go as far as I can go," she says.

One of the reasons Johnson will go far is because she tries to learn something from everyone. She credits her two youngest sons with teaching her that she could do anything she decided to do.

"I remember the first time they wanted to go camping, just the three of us. I told them I couldn't take them and they insisted I could. Now we camp all the time," she says of the family's close-knit relationship. "You know, they also taught me how to study when I went back to school. They said, 'Mom, when you study for a test, go over and study the things you're unsure of, not the things you already know. We all help each other out in this family."

Johnson also credits her mother for teaching her self-love.

"I was the oldest of 11, and I always admired my mother. She taught me that everyone has got to love themselves. You know how some mothers sacrifice so much for their children that their children are embarrassed by them?" she asks. "Well, my mother was never like that. When it was her turn to get the new shoes, Mom took her turn."

Johnson feels that her turn has now come to get an education. "I've always had the dream to go to college," she says, "but I was a homemaker first. With five children and a husband in the military, moving from base to base, I had pretty much given up on my education."

Then, Johnson reconsidered college shortly after her divorce. "I realized quickly that knowledge is power and drew up my own legal papers," she says. "When my lawyer saw them he suggested I counsel and inform other women in the same situation."

Which is exactly what the dedicated woman does, along with being a full-time student, teaching two classes of Project Charlie — an elementary school program which promotes self-esteem — singing in church choir, teaching Sunday School, and working as a health care aid 25-50 hours a week. Last year she also wrote a column in the anchor, sat on various student commit-tees, and claims to have danced every dance at the Winter Fantasia.

"I really get my energy from being with people," she explains. "And Hope students are some of my favorites. You should see the ones in my Greek class. Sometimes I'll be having trouble understanding something and one of them in pass me a note that says, 'Carol, this is what he means. They're just great.'"

Like Laird, some of those students will not graduate with her in 1989. And like Laird, Johnson wouldn't dream of missing the ceremonies. She's just that kind of person. And she's a member of ANTS. Carrying a heavy load for long periods of time and marching two-by-two are some traits ANTS do best.

Marji Lindner was a psychology major at Hope. She entered the Ph.D. program in psychology at the University of Virginia this fall.
Freshman Duy Dang: A survivor’s story

by Bob Becker

I was born in 1960. Life was not easy in the tiny village of Halan in northern Vietnam. Halan was a farming community, and everyone — young and old, male and female — worked the soil.

Sunday was just another work day, and there were few holidays. You worked so you could eat, but even for the hardest workers there were no guarantees.

Duy Dang, now 19 years old and a freshman football player at Hope, was 11 years old then. Years before, when the Americans had control of the area, his father had been a teacher.

“There was a lot of fighting in our area,” he said.

“I remember one time when the VC (Viet Cong) bombed our church,” he recalled. “Usually, when fighting broke out, villagers went to the church. But this time there was nobody here, so nobody got killed. I was hiding in an area where the women and children had to go. And my father was out of the village, because the VC didn’t like teachers.”

Eventually, the U.S. soldiers withdrew, and the Viet Cong moved in. Things changed quickly.

Halan had no more teachers, no more craftsmen, no more traders. Halan did, however, have an abundance of farmers.

“Nobody owned the land, but everybody worked it,” he said. “I then the end of the year they split everything that had been grown.

“My father wanted something better for me. He was an educated man, he knew about America, about the life over here. He wanted me to go to America, get a good education and have a future.

“When he asked me about it, I said I’d go is a story of perseverance.

“When we decided I would go, my father and I went into the village to borrow some gold,” he said. “That’s the only way you could get out of the country then. You had to have gold to buy your way out.

“He sent me to Saigon with the gold. I was with a group of people, and the plan was that we would be in Saigon one week, then get out by boat the next.

“But in Saigon there was total confusion. And there were a lot of people there trying to trick each other out of your money. One time I actually got on a boat and paid my gold, but the boat didn’t go anywhere.”

Dang was arrested twice, but escaped from police custody when his jailers fell asleep.

“I’ll never forget working my way through the barbed wire at night, all the time worrying that I was making too much noise and the guards would wake up,” he said.

After 12 attempts to leave the country, he made it on No. 16. Sort of.

“The boat was supposed to hold about 55 people, but 100 more crowded on. And none of them paid. We couldn’t send them back, because they’d have told the police and we would have been caught again.

“With all the extra people, we didn’t have room for food and water. But we left anyway.”

About six hours out, with the mountains of Vietnam still in sight, the boat’s engine went dead. For seven days, the craft drifted.

“Two people died, many of the rest of us were in pretty bad shape,” he said.

But luck was with the group. On the seventh day, the tides brought the boat to the Philippine island of Pagasa, a military installation.

The refugees were all sent to a camp, and nine months later Dang found himself living with a foster family in Ann Arbor. He then moved in with a Vietnamese family in

“Tecumseh.

But as more and more Vietnamese came over here, the family grew too large and I had to move out.”

He spent the summer with a friend, then in the fall, was invited to live with the Wayne Nix family. Nix was a teacher at Tecumseh HS, and also the football coach.

“They said they’d always wanted a son,” he said.

Football practice had already begun, but the team hadn’t played any games. Dang mentioned to Nix that he had played soccer in Vietnam, and the coach invited him to try kicking the football.

“My dad (Nix) said if I liked it, he’d buy me a pair of football shoes and let me on the team. I didn’t know anything about the game, I didn’t understand it at all, but I did like to kick.”

Said Nix: “He turned out to be a very skilled athlete. He’s also an excellent tennis player, a great soccer player, a good volleyball player and a skilled artist. And he became an honor student in high school.

“He’s a wonderful young man. When he sets his mind to something, he has complete faith in him that he will accomplish it.”

Dang is a survivor. He didn’t speak any English before he came to this country, but now you wouldn’t know he wasn’t born here.

He insisted on living with American families to learn as much as he could about this country.

“Sometimes I almost laugh when he tells me the things he wants to accomplish. But in light of what he has already overcome, I know that he can do whatever he says he will.”

A business administration major, Dang wants to get into international trade. “That way, there may be a day when I can do something for both of my countries,” he said.

There was a time when I thought I’d be going back, but I’m not sure anymore. I miss my family, but I’m realistic to know that there might not be a life there for me.”

Dang has already handled the kicking chores quite well for Hope. And despite all the things he’s already conquered, he says he still feels the pressure.

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“Duy Dang has been successfully adding points to Hope’s side of the scoreboard. At five-foot-eight and 130 pounds, placekicking is probably the best position for him.

Though he has only been in this country for six years, Dang has picked up the American game and language quite well. He has not seen his family since leaving Vietnam.

TEN

NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE, OCTOBER 1987
Speeches, events, more speeches: School begins

by Eva D. Folkert

When Hope's presidential office got its new resident early July, the festive fanfare welcomed the chief executive officer. Dr. John H. Jacobson began his work, just like any other person with a new job.

By Friday, Oct. 9, though, the inaugural ceremony changed that low-keyed atmosphere. Steeped in its traditions of grandeur and ’70s, the high splendor of the inauguration proved that Jacobson isn't just any other person, and his new post isn't just any other job. The position he takes is special to Hope, special to higher education. Leaders in academia are looked upon with much expectation and respect since it is their judgments that will affect the schooling of many young minds.

As a philosophical Robert Maynard Hutchins, the famous American educator, once said: "The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives."

That's a big job.

As Dr. James W. Hall, the president of Empire State College, said at the inauguration: "This event today symbolizes part of that great historic tradition that began on the shores of this country so many years ago. A tradition that has brought us the richness of pluralism in education; that has brought us treasures of liberal learning. We are known throughout the world for these two characteristics. Each of us (in a leadership position in education) bears a special responsibility for carrying forward that great tradition."

"But the president carries a special responsibility yet beyond this because the president symbolizes for the college within this larger academic community, all that we stand for and must carry forward. The president carries the vision; he carries the torch for all of us."

That's an even bigger job.

And so a big job deserves a big introduction. Which is exactly what Dr. Jacobson got. (See pages 12-14 for more inauguration coverage.) The formal ceremony on Friday, Oct. 9 marked the end of Dr. Jacobson's appointment and introduction to the Hope community. "It created a wonderful and symbolic opportunity to reflect on what this college is and has been. It was a high point in the affirmation of Hope College," the new president stated.

For the past four months, Hopeites have come to know their new president as a sincere listener, a self-assured leader, and a team player. These are roles he feels are best for him to assume at this point in time. He plans to become more familiar with his new place of employment by keeping an attentive ear and an open mind.

"Over the next few months, I hope to be learning very rapidly, learning names and faces, learning facts about the College and learning those subtle patterns of doing and talking that distinguish this institution from any other," Dr. Jacobson said in his State of the College address. "Other people will also be doing a lot of learning about me, my values, my strengths, my weaknesses, my ideas, my vision for Hope College. We will instruct each other; we will influence each other; we will change each other."

On several occasions, Dr. Jacobson has made it clear that he feels Hope is on the right track, and he's not about to throw the switch that puts Hope's educational train on a different path. "Hope's current direction is very solid and fitting," he has said. And so he listens more, dialogues often, and relates well his knowledge of higher education administration.

"Some may wonder whether it is important for an institution to build upon what it is and what it has, rather than bringing in the bulldozers; to imagine what it might be, but to base that imagination on the reality of what is."

I have always believed that it is important for an institution to build upon what it is and what it has, rather than bringing in the bulldozers; to imagine what it might be, but to base that imagination on the reality of what is.

I believe that the College is well regarded by those who know of it," he said. "But it deserves to be known more widely." Especially to graduate schools, prospective employers of Hope graduates and other specialized publics, he added.

As for the endowment, currently its value is slightly under $2 million. "In comparison with American colleges generally that is a good amount, but it is small for a college of our aspirations. The endowment has increased ten-fold over the last 15 years, but as a percentage of the annual operating budget, it has declined slightly."

"Last year when I was considering the possibility of coming to Hope, I discussed the situation with a close friend who is one of the other GLCA (Great Lakes College Association) schools. He asked me the size of Hope's endowment. When I told him it was about $2 million, he looked in disbelief and said, 'You don't have a college with an endowment of only $2 million.' My friend is a sensible person, and he is not often wrong. But of course, the fact is that we have a college with an endowment of $20 million, and a very good college it is. The reason that is possible is the commitment to excellence of so many people of Hope. When a large number of people decide to do the very best with what they have, the results can be astonishing."

After meeting hundreds of people, shaking as many hands, and giving at least a couple dozen speeches, Dr. Jacobson already knows that he is highly accessible to Hope's constituencies — especially the students. He has been the guest at an issues forum where students were invited to venture up to Lubbers' Left to ask him questions. The Pull — "a surprisingly stirring event with tremendous spirit and support" was his assessment — intrigued him, so he and his wife, Jeanne, stood on the lawn of the college's president. "I am available for gifts of new students during a difficult and emotional time when a high school student, Erik Exum, died of an acute asthma seizure in Holland Community Hospital."

Aside from that one low point, Dr. Jacobson has experienced several highlights since the beginning of this academic year. The opening convocation, his first official college function, was "wonderful and moving"; the annual alumni dinners have helped him and Jeanne get to know more of the Hope family; his first meeting with the faculty was a great success; and orientation week was also special for him as he talked with students over hot dogs and soda pop at a school-opening picnic on Phelps lawn. It was during that orientation week where Dr. Jacobson got a chance to give another speech, this time addressing "my fellow freshmen."

"Are you glad they don't make us wear beanie any more?" he began with a laugh, deep dimples punctuating the crests of his wide smile.

Relating some of his experiences of college, Dr. Jacobson remembered the questions he once asked himself, questions he felt his fellow freshmen were also asking:

"You're all probably wondering: Will I be accepted? Will I be admitted? Will I be accepted? Do I belong?"

For Dr. Jacobson, the answers to these questions are quite simple:

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.
Dr. John Jacobson and his wife, Dr. Jeanne Jacobson (front row, middle and right), were joined by 18 family members for the day's events. Four members of the Jacobson family also led the academic procession. Dr. Jacobson's father, Dr. John H. Jacobson, Sr. (front row, left), represented Yale; his brother, Dr. Carl Whitney Jacobson (second row, right), was the delegate from Harvard; and his son and daughter-in-law, John E. and Gail Grubelich Jacobson (second row, middle and left), represented the University of Pennsylvania.
Musical fanfare was provided by a 12-piece brass ensemble and the Chapel Choir.

An honorary degree was conferred upon Dr. Jacobson by the Board of Trustees, represented by Chairman Max O. DePree (right), and Provost Jacob Nynius (left).

Dr. James Hall, president of Empire State College, brought greetings from the academic community as a board member of the Association of American Colleges. Dimnent Memorial Chapel appeared to be at its ceremonial best as usual.

The new president chats with Mrs. Margaret Lubbers '22, the wife of the late Irwin Lubbers — the eighth Hope president, and her son, Don Lubbers '53, president of Grand Valley State College.

photos by
Andy Loree '78
The Charge to the President

"John Howard Jacobson, it is with great joy and high expectation that we charge you today with the duties and responsibilities of the presidency of Hope College.

"Leadership begins by defining reality and it ends when the leader says thank you. Leadership is a condition of indebtedness. It is a condition of indebtedness to an esteem of those who choose to follow. Consequently, leaders are in debt in the sense of what they owe to the institution and to our institutional entities. In a particular way, the leader owes to the institution a clear expression of its mission, a clear expression of its vision, its identity, its purpose, the direction of the college, and an unambiguous commitment to the well-being and to the potential of those he wishes to lead.

"And so, John, today in this place, before all these people, we charge you today specifically with high expectations, with the presidency of this college, of this body of people. We understand, of course, that you cannot do this alone. We, therefore, offer and commit to you our prayers, our trust, our energy, and, we are ashamed to admit, our love. May God be with you.

—Max O. DePrez, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Inaugural Address

On the State of Hope College

"I purpose to say a little to the president, the faculty, the students, the alumni, the friends, and the parents, as well as to those who are not present. It is, however, not my intention to make a speech, but rather to ask you a question.

"What is the state of Hope College? What are the current conditions of our institution? What are our strengths and weaknesses? What are our hopes and aspirations? What are our challenges and obstacles?

"I believe that the answer to these questions lies not in a top-down or centralized approach, but rather in a bottom-up or community-driven approach. It is in the hands of the faculty, the students, the alumni, and the friends of the college to determine its future.

"And so, John, I leave you with these thoughts, and I wish you well in your new role as the president of Hope College.

—Rev. Dr. Walter T. Washington, Vice President of the General Synod of the RCA

Greetings from Near and Far

"I would like to begin by thanking everyone who has come to this ceremony. It is truly an honor to have you here today. I want to express my gratitude to the faculty, the students, the alumni, and the friends of the college for their support and dedication.

"I would also like to thank the Rev. Dr. Jacobson for his many years of service to the college. He has been a true leader and a inspiration to us all.

"I wish you well in your new role as the president of Hope College. May God bless you and guide you in your new endeavors.

—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College

Students at Near and Far

"I am pleased to be here today to share my thoughts with you. I want to begin by thanking everyone who has come to this ceremony. It is truly an honor to have you here today. I wish you well in your new role as the president of Hope College.

"I want to express my gratitude to the faculty, the students, the alumni, and the friends of the college for their support and dedication.

"I wish you well in your new role as the president of Hope College. May God bless you and guide you in your new endeavors.

—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College

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—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College

The following are excerpts of tributes paid to long-time professors and coaches Russ DeVette and Gordon Brewer, who are retiring in May, 1988. The occasion was a faculty gathering at which over 100 people were in attendance.

"Russ and Gordon should be proud. As it turns out, they have been the best of friends.

—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College

"They have had good years, but it is not to say that they did not work hard. They are truly the best of friends.

—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College

"They have had good years, but it is not to say that they did not work hard. They are truly the best of friends.

—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College

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—Rev. Dr. James E. Balder, President of Northwestern College
This corporate exec runs, bikes, but doesn't swim

by Eva D. Folkert

Ten years ago, on a surprisingly warm Homecoming Day when sun was a welcome commodity in the erratic weather trends of Michigan Octobers, an ambitious Larry Mulder dusted off his running shoes and decided to compete in the first-ever Hope College Run-Bike-Swim. He didn’t win his five-kilometer race, but he didn’t care. So he’s been back to run just about every Run-Bike-Swim ever since.

Actually, Mulder’s yearly role in Hope’s new quite popular Homecoming event is more substantial than his mere involvement as a participant. You see, ten years ago, ODL Inc. President Larry Mulder also sponsored the first Run-Bike-Swim and he’s been doing that ever since, too.

It’s obvious, then, that Mulder is a man who believes in the things he supports. A tell-tale sign of his corporate exec, he says, he became involved in Run-Bike-Swim (from here on, RBS) after participative interest began to wane in a four-year-old business seminar program which ODL funded for the college. Since several employees he knew at his company were joggers at the time, “the idea of a new program along the physical fitness line tripped my trigger.”

So the corporate president contacted Hope physical education prof and basketball coach, Glenn Van Wieren. Nineteen-seventy-eight was a big year for the phys ed department. They had just moved into the new Dow Health and Physical Education Center. So Van Wieren, in keeping with the Center’s commitment to cardiovascular activity, took Mulder’s early idea of a running event two steps further. He added swimming and biking, too.

Row, rowing her boat

It’s over 3,000 miles from Holland’s Black River to England’s River Cam, and sometimes the distance between today’s United States and the practically timeless buildings and gardens of Cambridge is simply seem even greater. One person who’s shown that she can live in both worlds is Kim Waldorf ’86, who spent the last academic year doing graduate work in education at Cambridge.

Though the River Black is only used for Pulling purposes, Waldorf spent many hours rowing on England’s narrow River Cam. As if academic demands weren’t enough, the energetic 23-year-old decided to follow the example of her brother (who rowed a little at Yale) and tried out for a place in the Fitzwilliam College ladies’ boat.

“I just saw a notice posted on a bulletin board about openings and decided to give it a shot,” she said.

Once a competitive AAU swimmer in high school, Waldorf was always interested in rowing, wondering what it would be like to glide through the water without getting wet. Familiar with exhausting swimming workouts at ungodly times, she admits that she never really adjusted to the December and January practice schedules which let her and her teammates watch the sun rise over the nearly frozen Cam.

“It was absolutely freezing out there,” Waldorf reflects, “there were times when my fingers would turn numb and a little blue.”

The weather and Waldorf’s technique began to warm up for the remaining two seasons during March and April, and May and June. Though a rookie, Waldorf made rapid progress and soon won a place for herself in Fitz’s number one boat, one of the five fastest boats in the river. By the time of the May Bumps — a series of races that rewards boats which catch up to bump the faster boat — Waldorf had established herself in the vital number-one stroke position, beating out other veteran rowers to capture the spot. (A Bump system of racing is used on the River Cam since its narrow width cannot facilitate four boats to race abreast of each other.)

Now, having completed her master’s degree in philosophy of education through the traditional student-government-run format of the University System, Waldorf has returned to the States and works in Washington, D.C. Rowing days aren’t over, though. She hopes to find a team in the Washington area where races are rowed on a much wider, more impressive river than the Cam — the Potomac.
alumni alert
by David Van Dyke '84
Alumni Director

It's a beautiful autumn in Holland and, as always, very busy. We have held a number of regional events around the country the past few months, and I have enjoyed seeing many old and new friends. An alumni picnic was held in Washington, D.C., in September. This has become an annual event for Washington alumni, and Rich Webster '84 did an excellent job organizing this year's picnic. John Abe '79 put together a great get-together at the Mid Day Club for all Hopeites who live or work in downtown Chicago. This event was also well-attended, and I know we will have more of those, too.

Early in October we held a very unique alumni and friends event in the Dallas area. From our upper deck box seats, we watched the Texas Rangers play the Seattle Mariners. (Not exactly the Detroit Tigers versus the Toronto Blue Jays, I know, but . . .) Many thanks go to Jeff Cordes '80 who organized this event for us.

Homecoming 1987, "Who says you can't go home again?, was a huge success. Many Hopeites did come home on Saturday, Oct. 10 as record attendance was reported. The inauguration of Dr. John H. Jacobson as Hope's tenth president highlighted the weekend on Friday afternoon. The classes of 1982 and 1977 celebrated their five and 10-year reunions. I would like to thank Nancy Moore Souders, Paul Boersma, and Kimberly Kuiper Josephson for heading up the '82 reunion. For the '77 reunion, thanks go to Rob Pocock, Betsy Boernsen Jupserse, Sue Dirks Carlson, and Jane VanBunte Knecht.

We have begun our series of regional dinners to introduce John and Jeanie Jacobson. We held two very successful events already in Muskegon and Grand Rapids. Upcoming events will be held throughout Michigan in Ann Arbor on Oct. 28; Lansing on Oct. 29; Detroit, Nov. 4; Kalamazoo, Nov. 5; Midland, Nov. 12; Chicago, Nov. 19; and Southwest Michigan, Dec. 3. If you live in these areas, you will be receiving an invitation soon.

Stan Busman '73 and Christine Peterson '84 are putting a fun evening together for Hopeites in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area on Tuesday, Nov. 17. I'm looking forward to spending time with our group there.

The Hope Flying Dutchmen basketball team will be playing in a roundball tournament in Pella, Iowa on Nov. 27-28. If you are headed for Iowa or live in the area, the Alumni Association will be sponsoring a get-together with the team on Friday evening. As you can see, I've been travelling a lot lately, but I'm looking forward to seeing you when we come your way.

Oh, by the way, don't forget you will receive the new Alumni Directory free by contributing to this year's Alumni Annual Fund. This new publication came off the press just this month, and it lists all Hope alumni alphabetically and by region. If you send your gift to the Annual Fund soon, you'll receive the directory in time for your Christmas card mailing.
Generation Students

Not only is the 1987-88 freshman class the largest ever, the contingent of freshman generation students in the class is also Hope's most ever. One-hundred second, third, and fourth generation students can list their Hope lineage to family ties. The group includes students from Hawaii, California, and Texas plus one pair of twins, Bill and Michelle Meenks from Petoskey, Mich.

A list of this year's second generation students appears on page 22.
Class of 1977
Row 1: Jean Lineaweaver Schroeder, Elizabeth Elliot McBride, Jean Lighthower Kirchner, Deborah Decker Thompson, Diane Lowe Helmken, Diana Ulrich Holbein, Debbie Markwardt Blaske, Cheryl Boorh Hill, Lissa Cadman Vocelken, Amy Ward Webster, Sandy Mecter Mattin, Susan Baker Hearworth, Barbara Pyznowski Bentley, Susan Warkotte McKay, Mary Vandenberg Cupery, Mike Ringenberg, Jerry Bevington, Lynn Thomas, Fred Schiemmer, Greg Caskey, Lee Bechtel, Ruth Johnson James.
Row 5: Ted Newcomb, Sarah Knepper, Peter Moise, Conley Zoonenmaa, Earl Sotman, Barb Feil Slotman, Rick VanDerMeulen.

Class of 1982
Row 4: Ed Stimson, Steve Cameron, Carol Janke, Dan Henegeld, Betty Bukema, Andrew Birner, Tim Schipper, Tom Koning, Harvey Koedyker.
Hopi’Coime advanced class

712 and in foreign countries.

Mid-Atlantic Region
President
Timothy Van

Central Region
Susan Bruggink

Michigan Region
J. Idema

Western Region
James Hanson

Anaheim,
Michigan Region

Kerr

Highlands Ranch,
Grandville.

William Anderson

18 years.

for the next issue

Rep

Rep

Parchment, Mich.

Grandville.

Abe

Michigan Region

Molly Buttles

Williamsburg, Va.

Central Region

for a year at Western Michigan University. She has returned to the

Munich, Germany.

Organized in 1967, the Alumni Association numbers nearly 16,000 members. The Association has several regional groups located throughout the United States. Listed below are the Alumni Association Officers.

For more information, contact Anna Wirshaus.

Hopi’Coime advanced class

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For more information, contact Anna Wirshaus.
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We can help you find out more about the advantages of planning your estate. Please send me in confidence and without obligation:

☐ How to Write a Will That Works - 40 Answers to Questions Often Asked About Wills
☐ Information about establishing an Endowed Scholarship Fund
☐ New 1986 Tax Law - This special brochure outlines the new law in simple English. It explains the continuing tax benefits for outright and deferred charitable gifts.

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City, State, Zip
Telephone (____)_______________________

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(616) 394-7775

ATTENTION FORMER HOPE ATHLETES!!

The Office of Public Relations needs your help. In a future News from Hope College, we will be commemorating the MIAA 100th-year anniversary. As a part of the coverage, we would like to publish some of your favorite tales of league competition. Please write and tell us about an exciting game you played in or an interesting anecdote you remember. Of course, we would need as many particulars as possible—year of competition, the sport and the opponent, where it was played, how the game ended, and why this game was memorable for you. For instance:

Please address your letters:
Eva D. Folkert
Office of Public Relations
Hope College
Holland, MI 49423

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing your stories.
Joan Donaldson '75 was named the Michigan Homemaker of the Year at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit this fall. Joan, who won the Allegan County Young Homemaker of the Year Award last fall, was chosen from among 40 contestants for the statewide honor. She and her husband, John VanVoerkile '76, grow blueberries on an organic farm on the outskirts of Fennville.

Craig VanderKolk '76 was a member of the 70-person medical team which performed the 22-hour operation separating Siamese twins, Patrick and Benjamin Bender of Ulm, West Germany. Craig is a plastic surgeon at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He and another plastic surgeon worked closely with the neurosurgical part of the team operating to separate a vein shared by the twins in the back of the head. The two plastic surgeons were responsible for opening the head and reconstructions of the scalp and its flaps for eventual closure so as separate scalp coverings.

Suzanne Galter '81 has been promoted from graduate assistant to associate instructor of voice at Indiana University. She has also been accepted into the doctoral program in vocal performance and has had her full tuition scholarship renewed. Suzanne recently had an operatic role in Gershwin's Of Thee I Sing at the Indiana University Opera Theatre.

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NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE, OCTOBER 1987

TWO-YEAR-ONE
Theological Seminary, June 1987.

University counselor psychology, Michigan Engineering, Syracuse University, March 1987.

Gordon Poole, J.D., Vanderbilt Law School, master of business administration degree, Queens School of Management, University of Vermont, May 1987.

Catherine Schroeder ’84 Hall, master’s degree in counseling psychology, Michigan State University, March 1987.

JoDae Keller ’74, Ph.D., in vocal music treatment and research, University of Illinois at Chicago, Sept., 1987.

Nicholas Marcellini ’81, master’s degree in biology, Eastern Kentucky University, July 1987.

Duane Rice ’84, master of science in environmental engineering, Syracuse University, June 1987.

Martin Schoonmaker ’81, M.D., Wayne State University, June 1987.

Randy Smith ’85, master of business administration degree, Western Michigan University, June 1987.

Rick Switzer ’76, M.D., College of Osteopathic Medicine, Michigan State University, June 1987.

Phil Taylor ’80, D.O., Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, June 1987.

David Vander Velde ’78, Ph.D, in chemistry, University of Illinois, May 1987.

Jill Nihant ’79 Van Zyl, master of arts degree in elementary education, Western Michigan University, Aug., 1987.

Shawn Wietsook ’85, master’s degree in analytical chemistry, Indiana University, Aug., 1987.

**deaths**


A Reformed Church minister, Jacob served churches in Illinois, Michigan, and Canada. He was the president of the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Classis of the RCA and served on the governing board of the Chicago Hebrew Mission and the Chicago Tact Society. He was also president of the expansion committee of the Reformed Synod in Chicago and a member of the committee on church union between the United Presbyterian and Reformed churches.

Jacob was a graduate of Moody Bible Institute and Western Theological Seminary.

Surviving are his son, Robert, a daughter, Jacqueline; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and three nieces.

Harmon Denfferder ’38 died Tuesday, June 23, 1987 in Zeeland, Mich.

He worked for Commercial Manufacturing Co. from 1918 to 1972. He and served on the First Michigan Bank Board of Directors for many years, Harmony was an Army veteran of World War I and was a charter member of the Gideons, the Kaerst American Legion Post.

His first wife, Della, preceded him in death in 1972. Surviving are his wife, Viola; a son, Christian; a daughter, Marsha Kemper; six step-children; seven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

Walter Herriing ’30 died Thursday, Aug. 13, 1987 in Kingston, N.Y.

A well-known area fruit farmer, Walter and his brother operated Highland Orchards and Herriing Orchards in Ulster Park, N.Y. He was a 60 year member of the New York State Farm Bureau, a member of the Extension Service Board, and past master of the Ulster Orange.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth; a son, Jonathan; three grandsons; and a brother and sister.

David Hiltbrurt ’37 died Thursday, Sept. 1, 1987 in Kalamazoo, Mich.

He attended Hope and graduated from Western Michigan University. David was a social worker for the American Legion in Kalamazoo.

Surviving are his family, brothers, and sisters.


Martha was a graduate of the Hope Preparatory School, attended Hope College, and graduated from Blodgett School of Nursing in 1930.

With her husband, she served RCA churches in Melvindale, Linthieth, Schuylerville, and Clinton, N.Y. She was also a member of the Extension Service Board, President of the Ulster Orange, and past master of the Ulster Grange.

Surviving are his family, sons, Robert and daughter, Lora; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.


The Hope College wrestling coach during the 1983-84 season, Tim, 29, was also a member of the Deering’s Truck Exchange in Holland, Mich.

Surviving are his parents, Robert and Mildred, two brothers; and grandparents.

Carole Kamerling ’76 died Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1987 in Holland, Mich. from injuries sustained following an automobile accident.

Carole was a computer science major at Hope.

Surviving are her parents, Robert and Margaret, and four grandchildren.

Gertrude Jaoling ’36 Kamerling died June 21, 1987 in Indianapolis, Ind.

A registered nurse, Gertrude served with the Army Nurse Corps during World War II.

Surviving are her husband, Adrian; a son, Adrian; two daughters, Patricia Messer and Barbara (Darnell) two grandchildren; and six brothers.


At Battle Creek, Mich.

He earned a medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School. William established his practice as a physician and surgeon in Kalamazoo, Mich. in 1915. He later served in the U.S. Medical Corps during World War I. In 1946, he returned to Kalamazoo to resume his practice. He was honored by the Michigan State Medical Association for 50 years of service in 1985.

Surviving are his wife, Arla, four sons, William, James, Larry, and John; six grandchildren; and one sister.

Wilma Meyer ’23 Reed died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1987 in Holland, Mich.

An established watercolor artist and teacher, Wilma also attended Pratt Institute of Design in New York.

Surviving are two daughters, Judith Haynes and Katherine Humphrey; six grandchildren; two sisters and a brother.

Albert Schaadman ’26 died Thursday, June 11, 1987 in Holland, Mich.

Albert earned a master’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1928. After teaching in Galien, Mich. for five years, he moved to Holland and taught at the high school for nine years. He then owned and operated the Saas Photo Shop in downtown Holland until retiring in 1961.

He was a member of the Holland School Board for eight years, serving six terms and also served on the Salvation Army Board for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Marion; two daughters, June Jantell and Joan Jantell; four grandchildren; and a sister.


Matthew taught Latin, speech, and dramatics at Cadillac High School for 40 years. He served as the Michigan State Coach in 1946.

He also received the national recognition from the National Press Association. In 1966, he received the Michigan Congress of Parents and Teachers Scholarship Award from the PTAs of Cadillac.

Matthew was a member of the National Education Association, the Michigan Education Association, the National Retired Teachers Association, and the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel.

Surviving are his wife, Esther; two brothers and two sisters.

**sympathy to**

The family of the late Mr. E. E. D’Amico who died of a heart attack Tuesday, Sept. 15.

**PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

Does the alumni office have your current name and address? Has there been a recent change in your marital status? Would you prefer Hope used a different form of your name (Jane Doe vs. Mrs. John Doe, for instance)?

We want to keep in touch. Please use this form to inform us and update us. Note the number of spaces per line available. We look forward to hearing from you.

Name _____________________________

Street ____________________________

City _____________________________ State ________ Zip  ________

Class of ________

Send to Public Relations, Hope College, Holland, Mich. 49423

**NOTES**

(NOTE: This form is intended only for Hope College alumni and former students. If you are not currently an alumni or former student, please do not use this form.)

**TEN-THRE**
Alumni perspective

Robert Schuller on the state of television ministry

Nineteen-eighty-seven will undoubtedly go down in history as the year of the American television ministry crisis. Rocksly the Jimmy and Tammy Faye Bakker scandal, the country began to pay microscopic attention to a realm of television programming which hardly ever drew an exorbitant amount of publicity before.

Suddenly, with the Bakker scandal, all television ministers found themselves lumped to one general profession labeled "teleevangelists," a relatively new-fangled word. During 1987, it was a label that also deemed them "irresponsible" and "unaccountable." The rash of generalizations about television ministers meant that men like Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggert, Pat Robertson and Oral Roberts were magnified under the close-up lenses of Time magazine, network news, and every daily newspaper in the country. And not the least of those included in the television ministry crack-down was Dr. Robert Schuller 47.

A Reformed Church in America minister, Schuller is the founder and senior pastor of the largest RCA congregation in America — the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif. His "Hour of Power," an established religious program since 1970, is broadcast to 171 stations across the country from the Crystal Cathedral, a magnificent glass structure built in 1958. Pastoring an established church then, and not just evangelizing from a staged ministry, Schuller's "Hour of Power" weekly audience totals approximately two-and-a-half million, and according to recent Nielsen ratings, that makes it the most popular weekly religious telecast.

Still, Schuller's ministry has been affected by a dilemma it had no control over. For this issue of news from Hope College, the Rev. Stephen Norden, a fellow RCA minister and president of the Hope College Alumni Association, talked to Hope's most famous alum at a retreat Schuller hosted.

Here, then, are Dr. Schuller's views on the current state of television ministry and its future.

Norden: How have the events of the past year affected your ministry?

Schuller: "It's affected our ministry by what I call irresponsible journalists who fail to make distinctions between the different people who are teaching religion. Therefore, they have lumped us together and taken the perception that all people in religious televisions must be doing something immoral, unethical or irresponsible. And therefore, we have to be accountable, and we have to be exposed. So, that attitude forces us to reveal even our own personal ministries which has not been a comfortable thing. It's very uncomfortable to suddenly be viewed as suspicious. Now, though, we have come through that period of excess inquisitiveness. I've never felt that we were lacking in accountability because, as you know, we belong to the Reformed Church in America and that's where we present our accomplishments. It's been difficult but I think that we are now perceived by the American people as distinctive. And that doesn't mean we're better or worse, it just means we're different. I'm hopeful that as I look back on this period, I'll be able to say, 'Well, at least they see the difference between a Jimmy Swaggert, a Jerry Falwell, a Pat Robertson, and a Robert Schuller.'"

Norden: "How is the "Hour of Power" different from other religious telecasts?"

Schuller: "First of all, we are a televised church service that aims at ministering to spiritual and emotional needs. And we transcend sectarianism. We deliberately proclaim a message that can also be healing and inspiring to Roman Catholics or persons of almost every Protestant persuasion. But, we are not geared to satisfy the spiritual needs of the negative, neurotic Christian. And we do have those. So I would say we are a positive, ecumenical, classical, mainline Christian church service.

"Then, I would also say we are unlike many of the television ministries which were primarily established by evangelists who came into town, set up a tent, try to convert people, then move on. For many of the television programs, religious television is an evangelism tent in a TV set, whereas the pastor who has a church is interested in ministering to the total needs of the people. Their mentality is different. Again, it doesn't mean it's better or worse. I'm just analyzing it, not judging it."

Norden: "What do you say to people who have lost their faith in television ministers?"

Schuller: "I would say that faith placed in any one person is faith wrongly placed. Faith must only be placed in God. Misconduct charges have been an unfortunate part of the history of Christianity, yet millions worship God each week at their local church. Each minister should be judged according to his or her own conduct and merits as an individual. Try to trust your minister, but place your faith in God."

Norden: What should the public expect as a "standard of morals and integrity" from television ministers?

Schuller: "I think they should expect exactly what they would expect from the local Protestant minister or from the Roman Catholic priest in their hometown. No more, no less."

Norden: After all this uproar, what do you see as the future of television ministry?

Schuller: "The future is very solid if we're able to gain access to the marketplace. There has been a growing trend in this country, particularly over the past year, to discriminate against the sale of air-time to religious personalities. If that continues to be the case, if that is not challenged in the courts, well, then obviously television ministries have a dim future. I'm a great believer in the free market place and free enterprise which also means I'm a great believer ultimately that there are going to be television stations interested in the bottom line. And they can derive more revenue, earn more from sponsors for some religious telecast, then they'll buy it (the show). Ideology has an almost infinite capacity to rationalize as it moves closer and closer to the bottom line. And corporate policy has an almost infinite ability to overlook contradictions as it moves closer to the bottom line. So it's helpful that we'll be able to have the freedom to buy the time."

"If that is the case, then I happen to believe that our particular television ministry could last for decades because we're classical and not fashionable. Our message has never been the latest theological fad. One Irish writer, I believe it was Oscar Wilde, said, 'Who marries the spirit of his age will soon find himself a widower.' So, I've always been nervous and uneasy about jumping into contemporary theological fads. We try to develop a theology based upon the unchanging nature of the human person. And that's the need of dignity, self-respect, self-worth. We relate that to the Gospels and have it totally scriptural in its support."

Schuller: "I think that 100 years from now the Crystal Cathedral will be a beautiful facility still broadcasting across the country and the world. I think there's always room for our kind of a cognitive and positive emotionally centered church service."

Interviewer Steve Norden is a 1974 Hope graduate. Norden was attending Dr. Schuller's retreat because, like the well-known minister, he too is beginning a new RCA church in Dublin, Ohio. He agreed to talk to Dr. Schuller and ask the prepared questions upon the request of the news from Hope staff.

TWENTY-FOUR

NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE, OCTOBER 1987