1989

News from Hope College, Volume 20.5: April, 1989

Hope College
Dearest Friends,

The moment the Round Robin arrived last week, I was strongly tempted to forget that I was washing, cleaning the house and baking, and to write immediately to all of you and send it on to Marian. So much happens in every one of your letters that I almost feel I could write each of you personally.

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GRADUATION ’89: Approximately 475 graduating seniors will be receiving their degrees at the 124th Hope College Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 7 beginning at 3 p.m. in Holland Municipal Stadium. Baccalaureate will be held earlier that day, at 11 a.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

This year’s commencement speaker will be Professor Susan Cherup, associate professor of biology. Dr. Wayne Boulton, professor of religion, will give the baccalaureate sermon.

Prof. Cherup, who has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1976, was elected the Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) by the graduating seniors in 1985. Dr. Boulton, a member of the Hope faculty since 1972, received the H.O.P.E. award in 1978.

NEWDEAN: Dr. Bobby Fong, associate professor of English at Berea College in Berea, Ky., has been appointed dean for the arts and humanities and professor of English at Hope according to provost Dr. Jacob Nynhuys.

Fong, who will assume his new duties in July, will replace Dr. Elton J. Bruins, the current dean. Bruins, in turn, will act as the college’s provost while provost Nynhuys takes a sabbatical leave in the fall; later Bruins will return to teaching in the department of religion.

“I’m genuinely excited at the prospect of working with him as our new dean for the arts and humanities,” Nynhuys said of Fong. “He brings to the position a combination of personal qualities and expertise which he will bring to the role of dean.”

While applauding Fong’s qualifications, Nynhuys credited Bruins for his years of leadership. “Dr. Fong will be succeeding a very popular and very effective dean, Dr. Elton Bruins, who has served very ably as dean these past five years,” Nynhuys said.

“Dean Bruins was an ardent advocate for

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Quote, unique is an eclectic sampling of things being said at and about Hope College.

“I believe that sport has come to occupy a place in our culture that is unprecedented (in America), and the evidence for this is increasing in importance each year.

“We now have something called the “Sport GNP” — the Sport Gross National Product. It was up to over $50 billion last year and is growing at about twice the rate of the non-sport gross national product. And sport is among the top 10 largest industries in the American economy.

“If you’ve checked your local television listings on any weekend you already know the number of hours devoted to sports programming, attendance is up at every spectator level I know about and so too is participation.

“We still have more than five million boys and girls competing in inter-school sport and more than 35 million boys and girls — girls too, Forces — competing in youth sport. Top marathons often attract 50 to 100 professional runners who are paid and compete for money, and another 10,000 to 20,000 like me who pay to compete — which is a curious irony.

“Sport has always been a legitimate way to express oneself and philosophers have long noted that what is different now I think is that sport has become a favorite vehicle, particularly in literature and films, for investigating personal and cultural themes. And sport has provided not just the framework for these investigations, but the focus for them also.

“We live in a terribly complex, increasingly multicultural society. The culture in general, and many of its subcultures, have tended to abandon their role-shaping, role-enforcing mechanisms. Hero systems are hard to come by.

“In our current time, there are very few places one can turn for a system in which rules are clear, rules are the framework for these investigations, but the focus for them also.

“We live in a terribly complex, increasingly multicultural society. The culture in general, and many of its subcultures, have tended to abandon their role-shaping, role-enforcing mechanisms. Hero systems are hard to come by.

“In our current time, there are very few places one can turn for a system in which rules are clear, rules are defined carefully, standards are clear, outcomes are unequivocal and one’s own contribution to those outcomes is often easily discernable.

“Increasingly, sport plays that role because it’s simply so infrequent in other places.

“With hero systems in short supply — particularly those that support a quest for excellence — many seem to practice what has been called a safe heroism. Needing to struggle against the ordinary nature and predictability of their lives, they tend to become embroiled in the seasonal rites of teams and athletes. In their rooting for their team, they seem to become rooted in something that transcends their own existence.

“The very characteristics that seem so absent in post-modern American life have also been recently more strongly emphasized in our evolving sport forms. Sport has provided increasingly clear roles — specialization has been taken to its logical conclusion. One is now a pulling guard; a small forward; a power-hitting first baseman; a setter.

“Sport has evolved to make outcomes even more clear than in the past because we demand outcomes in at least one part of our life. We now have overt periods, tie breakers, shoot outs in soccer and sudden death.

“Rules are enforced with more clarity and certainty because in other parts of our life rules seem so enforced very ambiguously. So we have the addition of an extra official at basketball, and the use of instant replay in football, and the machines in tennis to call the line violations.

“Sport provides a primary form of national pageantry, and our most common experience of ritual. The symbols of sport are pervasive.

“Players and teams capture our imaginations and our loyalties. We root; we become rooted. At this moment in our cultural life, there may be no more permanent condition, no more permanent loyalty, than that of being a Tiger fan, or a Steeler fan or a Laker fan.”

— Dr. Daryl Siedentop ’60, professor of physical education at Ohio State University and the inaugural speaker of the new Presidential Lecture Series. Dr. Siedentop addressed the issue “Sport in American Life: Faith Seeks Understanding” while on campus Thursday, Feb. 9.

For information concerning the final Presidential Lecture Series event scheduled for the 1988-89 academic year, see page 4.
both the arts and the humanities, and a superb model of the servant leader. Throughout his career he retained the tremendous esteem in which he had been held as a professor in the religion department. I therefore am very pleased that he will serve as acting president during this sabbatical here this fall, before he begins his own well deserved sabbatical.,' Nyenhuis said.

Broms, the Evert J. and Hatte E. Fong Professor of Religion, will take a semester-long sabbatical, returning to teach during the fall of 1990. Broms has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1996.

Fong said that he was impressed with the quality of the college's programs and faculty, and concluded that he initially plans to become more familiar with the college's operations and dynamics. "The most important thing in the short run is that I need to find out the ways that Hope does things," Fong said. "It's only after that that one may conscientiously and wisely help make things better."

Fong has been with Berea College since 1978, first serving as an assistant professor. He has served on several Berea College and community boards and committees, and during a 1986-87 sabbatical was a National Fellow with the Association of American Colleges (AAC) in Washington, D.C., as assistant director of a project on assessing learning in academic majors using external examiners. He has been a frequent grant review panelist for AAC, for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Fulbright for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education.

He is currently a board member and grant reviewer for the Kentucky Humanities Council, the state arm of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is also a member of the Advisory Board for the High School-College Cooperative Learning Program, which provides a junior-year course designed to bring high school teachers to the Berea campus for enrichment seminars. Fong has made presentations at several conferences, and has been published extensively. His teaching specialties are 19th and 20th Century English and American literature, poetry, intellectual history and literature.

He earned his doctorate in English in 1978 from the University of California Los Angeles, where he worked as a teaching assistant in the department of English. He is also a graduate of Harvard University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Fong will be moving to the Holland area with his wife Suzanne, an attorney, and their son, Jonathan, who is five.

NEW ROLE: Dr. James R. Bekkerken, '65, dean for student development services and admissions at Hope, has been promoted to vice president for admissions and student life.

Dr. Bekkerken has served as dean for admissions since 1980, and since last fall has also directed the college's student development program.

"Dean Bekkerken has a very good understanding of the mission and purposes of Hope College and how they should be interpreted in the area of student life," said President John H. Jacobson. "He has outstanding management skills and a fine academic background in student development as well as a proven track record in admissions."

"The integral nature of the admissions and student development programs makes being able to coordinate their efforts a great benefit to the college," Dr. Bekkerken said. "Student life is a large part of what we promote in admissions; it is exciting to actually be involved in enhancing student life at Hope, as well as promoting it to prospective students."

Dr. Bekkerken has a substantial background in the student development area. Prior to joining the Hope staff he was a member of the administration at Lake Michigan College (LMC) in Benton Harbor where his responsibilities included serving as Dean of Student Services. Prior to joining the Hope staff he had served as Dean of Instruction at LMC.

Dr. Bekkerken served on the Hope admissions, financial aid and placement office staffs from 1965-69. During that time period he also served as head resident in two different residence halls. While an undergraduate at Hope he earned four letters in football.

A native of Fremont, Mich., he received his master's degree in student personnel administration and his doctorate in higher education administration both from Michigan State University.

Dr. Bekkerken and his wife Lynne reside in Holland. They have two children, Kristen, who is married, and Tim, aged 11.

DESIGN AWARD: The college's Van Wylen Library received an Award of Excellence for Library Architecture from the 1989 Library Buildings Award Jury of the American Institute of Architecture.

The committee selected seven libraries for the award from 141 submissions. The awards will be presented at the American Library Association's Annual Conference held in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday, June 24.

"I'm absolutely delighted because it confirms what we already believed about the building," said David Jensen, director of libraries at Hope. "And it's an award that can be shared by a number of people - the architects, the president of the college, the dean of the college, and the builder."

The Van Wylen Library has also been featured in the December library architecture issue of Library Journal and in the November issue of American School and University, which included the building in its "Architectural Portfolio 1988," awarding the library one of 13 citations given to new educational facilities across the nation.

The project's architect was the firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott of Boston, Mass. Pioneer Construction of Grand Rapids was the general contractor.

MAAS AWARD: Design Plus P.C. of Grand Rapids, Mich., was recognized for excellence in the 14th annual "M Awards" Program for its design of the Maas Student Center at Hope. Only seven Michigan firms, four from Grand Rapids, were chosen for the awards - out of 69 entries.

The winning firms were selected by a jury of Milwaukee architects. The awards are sponsored by the Masonry Institute of Michigan in cooperation with the Michigan Society of Architects.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER: The Hope College Alpha Eta chapter of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Society (TriBeta) has been designated one of only six outstanding chapters nationwide for the 1980-81 academic year. The honor recognizes the quality and quantity of involvement of the Alpha Eta chapter's members in TriBeta activities and biological research. This award is given to recognize your excellent program in advancing the objectives of Beta Beta Beta Biological Society; the support of sound scholarship, the dissemination of scientific knowledge and the promotion of research in biology," Anne M. Siegel, secretary-treasurer of the national organization, wrote in the award notification letter sent to the chapter.

"We knew that we had a good chapter, that the students are outstanding, but this is a recognition of that, which is nice," said Dr. K. Gregory Murray, assistant professor of biology at Hope and the group's advisor.

"Our chapter at Hope has always been very active," Dr. Murray said, adding that the chapter has been involved with the organization of events and activities like the college's annual TriBeta Science Night for area school children and student-faculty activities that go beyond the classroom environment.

PEW GRANT: Hope is one of 10 liberal arts institutions and two research universities of the Mid-States Science and Mathematics Consortium sharing a $1.4 million grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia, Pa., for collaboration in improving undergraduate science and mathematics education.

The grant to the consortium is part of a national effort supported by Pew to attract and retain students and faculty in the sciences. Hope and Kalamazoo College are the only colleges from Michigan participating in the Mid-States Science and Mathematics Consortium.

(See Campus Notes on page 14)
**The Arts**

*Faculty Chamber Music Concert* — Sunday, April 9: Wichers Auditorium, 5 p.m.

*Senior Recital* — Friday, April 14: Robert Hodson, pianist, Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

*Junior/Senior Recital* — Saturday, April 14: Kelly Stratif, bassoonist and Melodie Cook, violinist; Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.

*Cancellation* — The "Salute to the Duke" concert scheduled for Monday, April 17 has been cancelled.

*Hope College Collegium Music Concert* — Tuesday, April 18: Maas Auditorium, 8 p.m.

*Student Recital* — Thursday, April 20: Wichers Auditorium, 7 p.m.

*The Medium* — Friday, April 21: a presentation of the Hope College Radio Workshop; Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.

*Chamber Winds-Student Ensembles Concert* — Saturday, April 22: Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.

*Hope College Wind Ensemble and College Chorus Concert* — Tuesday, April 25: Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

*Hope College Orchestra Concert* — Thursday, April 27: Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

*Senior Recital* — Tuesday, May 2: David Bright, pianist; Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.

**De Pree Gallery**

*Senior Art Show* — through May 9.

The gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

**The Theatre**

*Night Mother* by Marsha Norman.

A disturbing and powerful drama depicting the conflicts between a persecuted family and an abusive, totalitarian government.

(These productions will be presented on alternate nights, April 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22.)

*All plays begin at 8 p.m.* Hope theatre tickets are available by calling (616) 394-7860. Adults: $3; senior citizens: $2; students: $3. The ticket office is located in the DeVitt Center foyer. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sunday, two weeks prior to and during a theatre production.

**Knickerbocker Theatre**

*Singing in the Rain* — April 8, 10, 12, 13.

*I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* — April 11.

*Salaam Bombay!* — April 14-20.

*Things Change* — April 21-24, 26, 27.

*Hester Street* — April 25.

*Admission* — $3 adults; $2 Hope students and children. Call (616) 392-8167 for show times.

The Knickerbocker is closed on Sundays.

**Summer Repertory Theatre**

**June 23 - Sept. 2**

Curtain time 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. De Witt Center Main Theatre.

*Anything Goes* by Cole Porter

*Our Town* by Thornton Wilder

*The Road to Mecca* by Athol Fugard

*Little Shop of Horrors* by William Shakespeare

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Tickets may be ordered beginning May 30. For further information call (616) 394-7900.

**Admissions**

*Holland Area Program* — Wednesday, April 12

This special program is geared particularly for Holland area students who have applied for admission at Hope. The program will give students the opportunity to learn more about "the college in their own back yard."

*Junior Day 1989* — Friday, April 21

A day designed specifically for high school juniors and their parents to help them begin the college search.

For more information contact the Office of Admissions at (616) 394-7850.

**Alumni Weekend**

*Friday, May 5*


*Saturday, May 6*

11 a.m. Reunion registration - DeWitt Center lawn

10 a.m. Reception - Presidents' home

10:30 a.m. Parade of Graduates

11 a.m. Baccalaureate Service (admission by ticket only)

11 a.m. Alumni Brunch - Kletz, DeWitt Center

3 p.m. Commencement - Holland Municipal Stadium (Holland Civic Center in case of rain)

For information and tickets, please call the Office of Public Relations at (616) 394-7900.

**Village Square**

*Friday, June 23*

Hobbyists, crafterspersons and artists: the auction committee for Village Square '89 is soliciting items to be made available at the June 23 auction. If you are interested in making a donation, contact Mary Kempker at (616) 394-7860 or write "Village Square Auction; c/o Mary Kempker; Office of Public Relations; Hope College; Holland, Mich. 49423."

**Alumni and Friends**

**Regional Events**

*April 11 - Cedar-Grove, Wis.*: 7 p.m.: The Swan (De Zwaan) Restaurant.

*April 13 - Detroit, Mich.*: Reception, 12:30 p.m.; Lunch, 1:15 p.m.; the Detroit Golf Club.

**Elderhostel** — June 18-24

*Hope College Golf Outing* — July 19; Holland Country Club. Shotgun starts at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For more information contact the Office of Public Relations at (616) 394-7860.

**Academic Calendar**

*Spring Semester (1989)*

*Friday, April 28* — May Day; Classes dismissed at 12:30 p.m.

*May 1-5* — Semester Examinations

*Saturday, May 6* — Alumni Day

*Sunday, May 7* — Baccalaureate and Commencement; Residence halls close at 7 p.m.

*May Term* — May 8-May 26

*June Term* — May 30-June 16

*Summer Session* — July 19-July 28

*1988-90 School Year* — classes begin Aug. 29

**Special Events**

*Presidential Lecture Series* — Tuesday, April 11, 3:30 p.m.: Maas Auditorium, Maas Conference Center. Barbara Reynolds, for 22 years a lecturer in Italian at Cambridge University and respected for her translations of Italian works, will present the address "Daniele as Dorothy L. Sayers Saw Him."

*Summer Sports Camps* — Boys Basketball Camp — July 10-21

*Girls Basketball Camp* — June 16-23

*Football Camp* — July 30-Aug. 3

*Swimming Program* — June 12-22 (first session) June 26-July 7 (second session)

*Diving Camp* — July 10-14

*J.V. Basketball Team Camp* — June 10-13

*For more information, please call (616) 394-7900. Ask for Joyce McPherson.*

**Instant Information**

*Hope Sports Hotline* — (616) 394-7888

*Activities Information* — (616) 394-7863
To dream the American Dream

by Greg Olgers '87

The American Dream is alive and well. Prominent in modern American folklore, the American Dream persists as an ideal to which millions continue to aspire. For many, however, the American Dream remains only a dream — unattainable; a distant image of perfection that exists in stark contrast to the abject poverty of their daily lives.

And the 10th annual Critical Issues Symposium, this year entitled "The American Dream: Rags, Riches, Reality," offered no easy solutions. The Critical Issues Symposium, this year held March 1-2, is an all-campus event that spotlights an issue of current social significance via presentations and small group discussions led by experts.

This year's symposium featured 16 speakers from throughout the United States. Perhaps the best-known of the group was Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman to be elected to the Congress of the United States. Chisholm was first elected to Congress in 1969, serving for 13 years before retiring in 1982.

Topics addressed during the symposium ranged from "Popular Television and the American Dream" and "Economics of the American Dream" to historical perspectives on the American Dream. Three keynote addresses provided broad overviews of the American Dream and its attendant controversy, and several smaller focus sessions held between the keynote addresses allowed the audience to delve into specific aspects of the topic.

No single vision of the American Dream dominated the symposium, although some discussions progressed a bit, working definition did emerge. With the concept so prevalent in American culture, however, those attending seemed to have little trouble understanding the issue or relating it to their experience. "Few terms are defined or undefined in so many different ways, or simply bandied about more loosely than the American Dream," said Dr. John Roth, professor of philosophy at Claremont McKenna College in Calif.

"To some people, the term is a joke — an object of satire, derision or contempt," Dr. Roth explained. "To others, the American Dream merely signifies self-determined success, wealth, the good life of fashionable clothes, sports cars and hot tubs — in a word, the latest thing touted by Madison Avenue. And to still others, less scornful or frivolous, it denotes a unique set of social and moral ideals."

"We have found, I think, that the American Dream serves as a metaphor for American identity," said Dr. Richard Warfield, president of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis., as he moderated the symposium's final keynote discussion, "The American Dream is another way of describing the American agenda."

Chisholm noted that in its most basic form the American Dream is universal to all people everywhere — to be free; to be secure; to have opportunity. "If you visit other parts of the world, you'll find the same common concerns for human decency, for family, for loved ones, for national pride — that all of these kinds of things know no national boundaries."

Recalling the nation's homeless and unemployed, Chisholm observed that for many the American Dream remains only a phantom. "We celebrated our 200th year as a nation, and in doing so at that time we attempted to remind our citizens of those principles of democracy and human dignity upon which this nation was supposedly founded," Chisholm said.

"And yet tragically, in thousands of American homes that I see as I travel, those principles and those promises remain an unfulfilled reality," Chisholm said.

Chisholm placed much of the blame for the plight of the nation's homeless and destitute on Washington's lawmakers.

"There is little in-depth understanding of what causes poverty and what perpetuates it," Chisholm said.

"Many of my colleagues in the Congress and the state legislature were good men and most of them were men of course — but because their experience has been replete with successful accomplishments, they have not taken the time to really understand," Chisholm said.

"The top 10 percent of American families have 57 percent — that's more than half — of the nation's wealth," said Dr. Gar Alperovitz, co-director of the Exploratory Project for Economic Alternatives in Washington, D.C., who lamented that the growing inequality of the distribution of American income.

Dr. Alperovitz observed that the inequitable distribution is not without negative effects. "At the low end of the distribution, problems in the U.S. are dense, intense and persistent," Dr. Alperovitz said. "The richest country in the world now ranks 18th in infant mortality — almost always associated with low income."

Dr. Charles Murray, senior research fellow with the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York City, believed that the problems of poverty could be overcome. "I'm not really convinced that this country today is a hard place to get along in," Dr. Murray said. "You simply have to be a contributor."

Dr. Murray suggested that the key to helping insure success is a harsher set of social sanctions for failure to perform, decrying light penalties for crime, unwed pregnancy and lack of productivity, and the effects of those light penalties.

"The Rev. Marion de Velder, general secretary emeritus of the Reformed Church in America, examined the American Dream for the elderly during one of the symposium's 13 focus sessions. "We find the American Dream, as far as the American Dream goes, for older adults is drastically different than when you're younger," Rev. de Velder said.

"The great fear of older people is losing control, independence and dignity," Rev. de Velder said. "I've seen an older person have to give up their checkbook and, after a stroke, begging to get it back... I've seen people fall apart when they've lost their driver's license."

Information cited during the presentation illustrated that the limited, fixed income provided by social security benefits and pensions is often insufficient to allow retirees to maintain their younger lifestyles. For example, the higher taxes generated by rising property values sometimes force retirees from their homes. For those who desire or require an adult care center, such facilities are often prohibitively expensive.

During a wrap-up session held Thursday afternoon, a number of Hope students were given the opportunity to present their perspectives in light of the symposium's revelations: "I'm not sure whether to be embarrassed, or proud or grateful about the American Dream," said Kori Levos, a senior from Rochester, Minn.

Sophomore Tracey Sams from Detroit, Mich., reflected on the dream's inequities. "It's not an ugly world, it's just unfair to some people. But we fight, and we shelve it and we make it."

"We cannot afford to deny the dream's reality or the dream's future without becoming a cynical, mean-spirited people," Dr. Roth said.

Dr. Roth expressed confidence that the American Dream will remain a part of the American experience. He found a parallel in a remark made in Arthur Miller's play, Death of a Salesman: "A salesman's got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory."

"And Dr. Roth, "The same might be said of all of us who stake a claim on American ground."

Music and teaching are professor’s passions

by Lynne Powe ’86

A s evidenced by his busy schedule, Professor Robert Ritsema seems to be in a state of perpetual motion — always seeking new challenges in the world of music.

Cello instructor and performer, conductor of college orchestras and music department chairman, Dr. Ritsema enjoys the many facets of music, and being a member of the Hope faculty gives him the opportunity to immerse himself in the entire musical spectrum.

A member of the Hope faculty since 1967, and a 1957 Hope graduate, Dr. Ritsema said the decision to pursue a career in music education is one he has never regretted.

"When I first came to Hope as a student, I had much music education, but I was very musical. He directed the church choir and tinkered with organs. One day he came home with a cello. I had never seen a cello before, and did not even know what it was, but he said, "This is what you are going to play," and that’s how I got started on the cello.

In addition to fostering a family fondness for music, Dr. Ritsema’s father also urged his children to continue their education, starting a family tradition of Ritsema alumni at Hope.

"Dad didn’t expect us to become farmers," Dr. Ritsema said. "He was very much interested in education and was a self-taught person. My father and his brother were in partnership on the farm and they married sisters, so there were two combined families that rapidly grew up one. Of the seven children, all of us attended Hope — and six of us are now music teachers.

Whether instructing, conducting or performing, Dr. Ritsema radiates an unmistakable zeal for music and strives to instill a love and appreciation for music in all his students.

"I love music and I love young people. My goal is to make every person with whom I come into contact with as a teacher the best musician I possibly can," he commented. "The majority of my students are probably not going to make living as musicians, but I think the fact they participated with others and made great music is an aesthetic experience they will carry with them the rest of their life. Helping them gain an appreciation of music is really what it is all about."

"It’s just like a person on the basketball team is not going to play for the NBA when he graduates, but he’s had the great experience of joining in a group effort," Dr. Ritsema said.

Dr. Ritsema’s enthusiasm spills over into other areas. "Some of my most memorable experiences have been to have to perform, both in collaboration with my colleagues and as a conductor," he said.

When pressed, Dr. Ritsema admits his true love is being behind the baton. "If I were perfectly honest, I’d have to say I enjoy conducting the most," he said. "It gives me the greatest sense of satisfaction because I am dealing with so many different people and bringing it all together. When I get done conducting a concert, there is a sense of exhilaration that can hardly be described."

Because of the liberal arts philosophy stressed at Hope, Dr. Ritsema garner musical talents from many non-music majors. "It’s just amazing the number of outstanding musicians we have from other departments. Of the 60 students we have in the orchestra, at least three-fourths of them are non-music majors. I think it’s a great release for them," Dr. Ritsema said.

Mr. Ritsema said there are times where he would like more rehearsal time with his students, but he also understands their involvement in other outlets. As a reminder, Dr. Ritsema needs only to reflect on his own college years — when he was captain of the basketball team.

"I didn’t think basketball and music would mix, but the coach came to me and said, ‘I really like you to play. I could work something out with the music department, would you be interested?’ And so that is what we did," he recalled. "I felt fortunate because I was excused from certain rehearsals and I didn’t have to go to all the practices. Where else but Hope could something like that happen?"

Dr. Ritsema extends his leadership to areas outside of Nykerk Hall of Music and Snow Auditorium. "I think during the past 22 years I’ve been on every board and committee that you could think of at Hope," he declared. "I was an MIAA faculty representative for 16 years and served as chairman of the board of governors on three different occasions."

Dr. Ritsema’s musical involvement is not limited to the Hope campus. During his "spare time," Dr. Ritsema’s endeavors range from directing young junior high and high school ensembles to participating in a touring ensemble that specializes in music of the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Ritsema has devoted his Saturday mornings to nourishing the budding talents of teenagers through out southwestern Michigan. Each week he migrates to Kalamazoo to work with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra.

Currently celebrating its 50th season, the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra is one of the most respected youth orchestras in the country. The orchestra has 80 members aged 12-19.

"I enjoy working with this age level and I feel I have the ability and techniques to get them to respond and learn things in an orchestral setting," he said.

"I try to instill in them a sense of pride in what they are doing. I really try to emphasize that, show them it is great music and then get them to make that commitment to make the sound the way you want it to sound. There is a certain chemistry that has to happen as well — a chemistry between the conductor and the players, amongst the players and the music, and amidst they players," Dr. Ritsema said.

Many Saturday afternoons Dr. Ritsema also travels to Grand Rapids to rehearse with the Early Music Ensemble, which he was instrumental in forming in 1976.

"In the last few years I’ve become interested in what you might call ‘ancient music,’ or music of the Medieval and Renaissance times. That has become almost an avocation within the vocation because it’s quite different from my work with the orchestra or cello," he said. "With the Early Music Ensemble, we play instruments other than the cello, like the recorder, the krumhorn and the sackbut (a predecessor of the trombone)."

Juggling a schedule as crowded as Dr. Ritsema’s, and trying to maintain a balance between work and family is a challenge, he said. "It’s just like a person on the basketball team is not going to play for the NBA when he graduates, but he’s had the great experience of joining in a group effort," Dr. Ritsema said.

Dr. Ritsema’s enthusiasm spills over into other areas. "Some of my most important experiences have been to have to perform, both in collaboration with my colleagues and as a conductor," he said.

When pressed, Dr. Ritsema admits his true love is being behind the baton. "If I were perfectly honest, I’d have to say I enjoy conducting the most," he said. "It gives me the greatest sense of satisfaction because I am dealing with so many different people and bringing it all together. When I get done conducting a concert, there is a sense of exhilaration that can hardly be described."

Because of the liberal arts philosophy stressed at Hope, Dr. Ritsema garner musical talents from many non-music majors. "It’s just amazing the number of outstanding musicians we have from other departments. Of the 60 students we have in the orchestra, at least three-fourths of them are non-music majors. I think it’s a great release for them," Dr. Ritsema said.

Mr. Ritsema said there are times where he would like more rehearsal time with his students, but he also understands their involvement in other outlets. As a reminder, Dr. Ritsema needs only to reflect on his own college years — when he was captain of the basketball team.

"I didn’t think basketball and music would mix, but the coach came to me and said, ‘I really like you to play. If I could work something out with the music department, would you be interested?’ And so that is what we did," he recalled. "I felt fortunate because I was excused from certain rehearsals and I didn’t have to go to all the practices. Where else but Hope could something like that happen?"

Dr. Ritsema extends his leadership to areas outside of Nykerk Hall of Music and Snow Auditorium. "I think during the past 22 years I’ve been on every board and committee that you could think of at Hope," he declared. "I was an MIAA faculty representative for 16 years and served as chairman of the board of governors on three different occasions."

Dr. Ritsema’s musical involvement is not limited to the Hope campus. During his "spare time," Dr. Ritsema’s endeavors range from directing young junior high and high school ensembles to participating in a touring ensemble that specializes in music of the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Ritsema has devoted his Saturday mornings to nourishing the budding talents of teenagers through out southwestern Michigan. Each week he migrates to Kalamazoo to work with the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra.

Currently celebrating its 50th season, the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra is one of the most respected youth orchestras in the country. The orchestra has 80 members aged 12-19.

"I enjoy working with this age level and I feel I have the ability and techniques to get them to respond and learn things in an orchestral setting," he said.

"I try to instill in them a sense of pride in what they are doing. I really try to emphasize that, show them it is great music and then get them to make that commitment to make the sound the way you want it to sound. There is a certain chemistry that has to happen as well — a chemistry between the conductor and the players, amongst the players and the music, and amidst they players," Dr. Ritsema said.

Many Saturday afternoons Dr. Ritsema also travels to Grand Rapids to rehearse with the Early Music Ensemble, which he was instrumental in forming in 1976.

"In the last few years I’ve become interested in what you might call ‘ancient music,’ or music of the Medieval and Renaissance times. That has become almost an avocation within the vocation because it’s quite different from my work with the orchestra or cello," he said. "With the Early Music Ensemble, we play instruments other than the cello, like the recorder, the krumhorn and the sackbut (a predecessor of the trombone)."

Juggling a schedule as crowded as Dr. Ritsema’s, and trying to maintain a balance between work and family is a challenge, he said. "It’s just like a person on the basketball team is not going to play for the NBA when he graduates, but he’s had the great experience of joining in a group effort," Dr. Ritsema said.

"I really think that as long as I’m teaching that I have to keep looking for outlets to do things. I don’t want to fall victim to the fact that you slow up gradually into your retirement years. I’ve seen that in some people and I’ve also seen the opposite in others — and that’s what I’d like to emulate.”
Valued semester in Indonesia helps dance student find direction and opportunity

by Mary Taylor '89

Stephanie Brooks is not an ordinary dance major. She has all the talent and discipline necessary for one in the art field, but her bubbling curiosity and enthusiasm have taken her far beyond Hope's dance department to exotic locations such as Hawaii and Indonesia. And to not-so-exotic places like Ann Arbor.

Brooks spent last semester studying traditional dance on the Indonesian island of Java. She was honored as one of four American students chosen to participate in a unique new educational opportunity to study there. Her experience in Indonesia has led to further recognition for the 20-year-old Hope junior.

Brooks didn't always aspire to be a dancer; however, "I wanted to be an actress like everyone wants to be an actress. I wanted to be in soap operas."

Acting was Brooks' first love, but it was during that time that he introduced her to the stage at the age of five. By the time she was 13, Brooks was traveling 60 miles three times a week and from her hometown of Three Rivers, Mich., to attend dance lessons. Acting was still a larger interest when Brooks graduated from high school, and she

interested in international folk dance because it was something new. Her keen interest in the genre developed through a folk dance class Brooks took last spring. The course, says Brooks, opened new doors for her. "It absolutely loved the class. It made me realize that you get into this mode where you think there's only ballet and there's only jazz, but gosh, there's a whole world of things out there that I've never even experienced. It made me want to go out there and try those things.

The opportunity for Brooks to do just that came when the Council on International Exchange (CIEE) decided to offer a semester program in Indonesia for the first time in the fall of 1988. Hope's director of international education, Dr. Neal Soder, who served on the CIEE board of directors, thought the program would be especially attractive to students in the arts since the nation is a wonderful art center. And so called the chairperson of the dance department, Professor Maxine DeBruyn.

Prof. DeBruyn knew exactly which student would take full advantage of the opportunity. "Stephanie has always shown an interest in historical dance and is constantly asking questions about the folklore behind it," says DeBruyn. "She was very enthusiastic about this opportunity from the beginning."

"The dance department is excellent. The professors come from incredible backgrounds. They are the most wonderful people and care so much about us."

— Stephanie Brooks

Brooks certainly was excited. Her eyes, always bright, light up even more. "Maxine came up to me in Dow before class one day and said, 'Stephanie, you're going to Indonesia.' I said, 'What? Where's Indonesia?' It blew my mind."

Getting there wasn't quite so easy, however. In preparation for her months in the Pacific, Brooks spent the summer learning the Indonesian language in an intensive program of the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute in Hawaii. Always one to seize the opportunity, Brooks also studied Javanese dance and folklore.

Verbal communication in the foreign

country was not a problem at all, says Brooks. "I know I can't speak it at all according to their standards, but I can speak to an Indonesian for two hours in a conversation and not have any problems at all. The language is not difficult grammatically."

Daily language classes improved the American students' fluency, and a course on the nation's cultural history taught them to appreciate the rich Indonesian and, particularly Javanese heritage. It is presently thought that the ultimate prehistoric being may have lived on the island of Java.

"The (Indonesian) people are so traditionally oriented," reports Brooks. "Even though they are very westernized, they still choose their old ways. The court dances I've learned are from hundreds of years ago. It's amazing how much they've held onto their culture."

"You have to learn about the culture and talk to the people in order to really understand the dance," Brooks says.

Right from the start, Indonesian dance was unlike anything Brooks had ever done before. "Everything Indonesians do is slow, and traditional Javanese dance is very slow," Brooks says. "I think it's hard for Western audiences to pay attention."

Another big difference between Western and Javanese dance concerns body movements. In the classic Indonesian dance form there are many hyperextended elbow movements and the toes are always flexed toward the ceiling. Large emphasis is also placed on the eyes, head and shoulders. Facial expression is something else

Brooks had difficulty adjusting to, "I used to always smile when I danced," she relates, "but there I didn't because in Indonesian dance you don't smile. To avoid a 'dead' face, she does smile now — even though it isn't traditional.

Brooks describes her instructor, Lemanowalee Poerdikolesono, as very traditional. "He is incredible, just fabulous," she reports admiringly. "He was a professional dancer and taught at one of the palace schools. I was really lucky to have him."

The young dancer has given a number of performances since returning to the U.S. In March, she performed a classic Indonesian dance in Dance XV, the dance department's annual production, in March.

The Indonesian experience is reaping further opportunities for Brooks. In April she will be spending a week at the University of Michigan with a prestigious Picas Scholarship and work with experts in the field of Indonesian dance and music. Brooks will be creating a video about the country's dance and culture to be used in K-12 classrooms as a senior project.

Eventually, Brooks hopes to be a dance professor. When asked about her aspirations, she responds enthusiastically: "I want to encourage cross-cultural communication. I want people to have a wider view of the world."

Junior Stephanie Brooks performed a classic Indonesian dance in Dance XV, the dance department's annual production, in March.
Many milestones mark shining winter season

The winter sports season at Hope College, in addition to its continued marks of excellence, observed several milestones.

Senior Shelly Russell of Battle Creek, Mich., was voted the NCAA Division III female Swimmer of the Year for the second year-in-a-row. A nursing major at Hope, Russell will go into Hope’s athletic annals as the most successful student-athlete at a national level in the college’s history. This year she was a Division III swimming champion in two events, raising her career total to seven national championships.

Men’s basketball coach Glenn Van Wieren ‘64 recorded the 200th victory in just his 12th season at the helm of the Flying Dutchmen. Hope made its seventh appearance in the last eight years in the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Junior diver Jim Mitchell of Ann Arbor, Mich., was an NCAA Division III All-American on the three-meter board as he finished in fifth place at the national competition.

No Hope winter sports team finished below second place in their respective Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) race. The women’s swimming team won their tenth consecutive MIAA championship, marking the longest dominance in history of a league sport by a Hope team.

It was definitely a season to remember!!

Hope remains in second place in the MIAA All-Sports standings through the winter sports season.

The MIAA All-Sports champion is determined by the best cumulative finish in all of the league’s 17 sports for men and women. Hope has won this honor an unprecedented nine consecutive seasons, but that streak is in serious jeopardy as Calvin College tops the All-Sports standings after the winter season while Hope is at eight points behind in second place. After winter competition Calvin had 86 All-Sports points, followed by Hope with 78, Kalamazoo 64, Alma 63, Albion 51, Adrian 29 and Olivet 20.

Strong finishes will be needed from Hope teams in the league’s six spring sports if the All-Sports banner is going to continue to hang in the college’s Dow Center.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

A team of over-achievers is the best way to describe the men’s basketball team.

Hope was picked in pre-season polls to finish number six in an MIAA race that was expected to be dominated by Calvin. The Flying Dutchmen did finish second behind Calvin in the league standings but by only one game in a race that went down to the final weekend of play.

And by season’s end the Flying Dutchmen had the best overall record of any MIAA team (19-5) and were on their way to the NCAA Division III playoffs for the seventh time in eight years.

The decade of the 80s will go into the annals of Hope basketball as the most successful era ever. The performance of this year’s team capped a 10-year period that will be hard to match by any small college basketball program in the nation.

Over the decade (1979-80 through 1988-89), Hope teams won 77 percent of their games (186-57) while claiming seven NCAA championships and never finishing below second place.

The tradition of basketball excellence, which started in the 1950s under coach Russ DeVette ’47, has thrived under the tutelage of Glenn Van Wieren. This year was indeed a milestone season for Hope’s coach. In addition to recording his 200th career victory — he’s now 202-84 in 12 seasons — Van Wieren also won his 100th against MIAA opponents (108-36) and his 100th at home (103-21).

Van Wieren’s charges approached opponents in a most unusual way this season. The team’s depth was so extensive that substitutions were frequently done platoon-style whether the team was ahead or behind. On several occasions the B’ team brought the team from behind into the lead.

In the end, this team went into the books as the second highest scoring in Hope history at 87.9 points a game.

The balanced ability of this team was reflected in the players’ decision at year’s end not to elect a most valuable player. Instead, they honored the squad’s four seniors — Jack Holman of Grand Haven, Mich., Tom Livingston of Dowagiac, Mich., Greg Mitchell of Okemos, Mich., and Tim Van Liere of Portage, Mich.

Sophomore point guard Eric Elliott of Hudsonville, Mich., was voted to the coaches’ All-MIAA first team while senior center Tom Livingston of Dowagiac, Mich., was elected to the second team. Elliott was also elected to the Great Lakes Division III All-District second team.

The team’s appearance in the playoffs was short-lived and the ending sudden. For the second year in-a-row, the Flying Dutchmen were eliminated from tournament action on the last play of the game. This year the fatal shot was fired by Allegheny College when a last-second basket broke a tie and gave the Pennsylvania team a 71-69 triumph. A year ago Ohio Wesleyan, which went on to win the national championship, beat the Dutchmen 110-107 on a three-point basket at the buzzer at the end of the second overtime.

WOMEN’S SWIMMING

The Flying Dutch kept their place among the top small college women’s swimming programs in the nation by finishing 10th at the NCAA Division III national championship meet.

Shelly Russell was recognized as the nation’s outstanding Division III swimmer by the College Swimming Coaches Association during the national meet held at the University of Notre Dame.

This year she was the national champion in the 500-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle events, third in the 1,650-yard freestyle and swam the anchor leg on Hope’s two all-American freestyle relay teams.

Russell was an NCAA All-American 22 times during her collegiate career and the most valuable swimmer in the MIAA three years in-a-row. She holds the Division III national records in the 200-yard and 300-yard freestyle events.

“I am pleased for Shelly because she has contributed immensely to our swimming program,” said coach John Patrot. “The honor this year is especially deserving because Shelly made major personal sacrifices in order to achieve in both swimming and in the classroom.”

As a nursing major she frequently faced a training schedule that put her alone in the pool at 5:30 in the morning. It was followed by 12-hour shifts of clinical duty at an area hospital, more on-campus classes and training.

“Shelly showed that when a person makes a commitment to something, accomplishment and success can be achieved,” said Patrot. “She certainly has been a model for all our student-athletes.”

All-American honors were earned by four other swimmers who swam all the way to an 800-yard freestyle relay to fourth at nationals. Honored were a sophomore from Fairfax, a senior from Holland, a junior from Holland, Van Overen, a junior from Newton, and Shelly Van Overen.

Designated honorable mention were sophomore Lori Gans, senior Diane Vos of Zeeland, and junior Constance Stagg of the consolation finals in the breast stroke was among the nation’s top 16 in that event. Senior Jane Hoogland also voted the most inspirational teammates. The team was undefeated for the third consecutive year from the 1989-90 season with a 10-0 straight triumph.

Senior Shelly Russell of Battle Creek, Mich., was voted the NCAA Division III female Swimmer of the Year for a second year-in-a-row.
**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

The women's basketball program continued to prosper under coach Terri McFarland. 

The Flying Dutch posted their sixth straight winning season — a school mark — as they posted a 17-7 record and finished tied with Calvin for second place in the MIAA standings. 

In four years under coach McFarland the Flying Dutch have a 64-32 record.

This season the Flying Dutch captured the championship of the Kalamazoo Invitational, were unbeaten in the Great Lakes Colleges Association tournament, and handed league champion Alma its only loss. The Flying Dutch accomplished all that with only one senior on the team. 

The team's balanced scoring attack was evidenced by the fact that eight different players had game-high scoring honors at some point in the season.

Junior forward Holly Vandenberg of Grand Rapids, Mich. was voted to the All-MIAA first team after leading the Flying Dutch in scoring at 12.7 points per game. Vandenberg has the distinction of receiving all-conference recognition in three sports — volleyball, basketball and softball.

Junior Dina Disney of Brandenburg, Ky. was voted to the All-MIAA second team as she averaged 10.9 points per game and led the team with 104 assists and 69 steals.

Senior Amy Warner of Greenville, Mich. was voted the recipient of the Barbara Ellen Geeting Memorial Award for maximum overall contribution to the team. Sophomore Michelle Stork of Zeeland, Mich. was selected the most improved player.

**MEN'S SWIMMING**

Jim Mitchell became only the third Hope male athlete to earn NCAA All-American honors in swimming/diving competition. This year's medal-winning performance was especially rewarding for the Hope diver who had also qualified for the Division III finals as a sophomore, but couldn't compete because of an injury suffered when he struck the board during practice the week before nationals. 

"Jim was very consistent," praised coach John Bartlett. "He entered the final round in eighth place and was able to hit each of his dives to gain significant ground on the field."

Mitchell also finished 16th at nationals on the one-meter board while teammate Dave Masselink, a junior from Holland, Mich., was 24th.

The men's swimming team finished runner-up in the MIAA standings for the second year in a row. Depth was a hallmark of the team, which despite having only one league champion was able to challenge perennial power Kalamazoo College for the MIAA title. Kalamazoo won the league crown with 692 points while Hope was runnerup at 613.

Four swimmers earned All-MIAA honors — senior Bruce Brown of Napoleon, Ohio and his freshman brother, Doug; and seniors Geoff Greeneisen and Todd Van Appledorn, both from Ann Arbor, Mich.

Doug Brown and another freshman, Chris Von Ins of Holland, Mich., were voted the most valuable swimmers by their teammates while Van Appledorn and senior Matt Weigel of Grandville, Mich. were honored as the most inspirational.


Women's soccer joins varsity

Women's soccer will become an intercollegiate sport at Hope next fall, according to Dr. Anne Irwin, director of athletics for women.

Women's soccer has been a club sport at Hope for six years. Its elevation to varsity status coincides with the decision of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) to have women's soccer become a league sport beginning next fall.

"We are delighted to be able to offer soccer as a varsity sport for our women," said Irwin. "Girl's soccer has become increasingly popular at the high school level so it makes sense for a college like Hope to have it as part of the intercollegiate program."

Girl's soccer is being offered at 43 of Michigan's 720 high schools this year, according to the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Last fall women's soccer was offered by 155 NCAA Division III members.

All seven MIAA colleges will field women's soccer teams next year. Adrian, Calvin and Kalamazoo colleges have established women's varsity soccer programs while Albion, Alma and Olivet will join Hope as newcomers to intercollegiate competition. League play the first year will consist of a single round robin.

Irwin said the college is in process of seeking a women's soccer coach.

The addition of soccer will give Hope nine women's intercollegiate sports. Offered in the fall will be cross country, field hockey, soccer and volleyball. Winter sports are basketball and swimming while softball, tennis and track are offered in this spring.

Next year Hope will offer all 18 sports sponsored by the MIAA. Adrian is the only other MIAA school to sponsor all of the league's sports.

Intercollegiate sports offered men include cross country, football, golf and soccer; basketball and swimming in the winter, and baseball, track and tennis in the spring.
Alumni Association Honors Four

Four Distinguished Alumni Award presentations will be made during Alumni Day on Saturday, May 6. Being honored with the award this year are Dr. Andrew G. Nyboer '39, Dr. Sylvia Scorz '45, Yoshiie Ogawa '58, and the Rev. Stephen M. Norden '74.

The annual Distinguished Alumni awards are made by the Alumni Board of Directors in recognition of the awardees' contributions to society and service to Hope College. Nominees for the awards are selected by the Board on a continuing basis, and may be submitted by any member of the Alumni Association. An on-campus evaluation committee prepares a list of nominees from which the Alumni Board chooses the recipients.

“Aaron G. Nyboer, Class of 1939, we recognize you for your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, the dental profession, and Hope College.”

For more than 40 years, since he graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1944, Dr. Nyboer has distinguished himself in his career in his hometown of Rockford, Ill. He has also served on several community and church boards, and has worked with Young Life for more than 25 years.

Possessing a love of both the Scripture and his fellow man, Dr. Nyboer has delivered seminars concerning the Old and New Testament to many churches throughout the Midwest. Two of them are entitled “The Old Testament Comes Alive” and “The New Testament is Christ Alive.”

His association with Hope has extended far beyond his program at the college as an undergraduate. In 1986, for example, he established an endowed scholarship fund in honor of his father, John Nyboer, who was 27 years a custodian in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

The unique scholarship is intended for any worthy student, but in recognition of his father's position requires that the student participate in a custodial work program as part of the scholarship. As noted in the college catalog, “Preference will be given to an individual preparing for a field in Christian service.”

Furthermore, all four of his children — Jacqueline, Jill, Rebecca and Andrew — and their spouses attended Hope. And, he and his wife Marion, a registered nurse and a graduate of the Presbyterian/St. Luke Hospital in Chicago, fully expect all 14 of their grandchildren to do the same.

“Dr. Sylvia Scorz, Class of '45, we recognize you for your service to higher education, the Reformed Church in America, and Almighty God.”

Dr. Sylvia Scorz is a professor of religion at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and vice president of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, the highest assembly and judiciary body of the Reformed Church.

Born in Zurich, Switzerland, where his father pastored an Italian congregation, he is a highly committed scholar and Christian. After graduating from Hope, where he was a science composite major, he earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Western Theological Seminary in 1953, a doctor of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1956, and a doctorate in languages from the University of Illinois in 1972.

After several short teaching assignments, he joined the faculty of Northwestern College in 1959. He has taught courses ranging from philosophy and Greek to theo- bology, literature, and religion.

Prior to his election in 1986 to the General Synod vice presidency, he served with the Reformed Church in a number of other positions, including as stated clerk of the East Sioux Classis in Iowa. He has also written weekly lessons for the Reformed Church's Sunday School Guide since 1962.

A talented chess player, he has been playing chess by mail for 32 years — with opponents virtually all over the globe, and is the director of the Iowa State Postal Chess Association.

And, his wife, Phyllis, have three children: Christine, Philip and John.

“Yoshiie Ogawa, Class of 1958, we recognize you for your skillful work in international business and your dedication to Hope College.”

Yoshiie Ogawa is staff vice president-international affairs with Northwest Airlines, Inc. and lives in Washington, D.C. A native of Japan, she remembers fondly the tutelage of the Reformed Church missionaries who were instrumental in her decision and ability to attend Hope.

She earned a degree in English while at Hope, and received a master of arts degree in English from the University of Connecticut in 1959. She subsequently returned to Tokyo, Japan, where she obtained a position at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service Office through the U.S. embassy.

During her time at the embassy, she assisted the U.S. government in promoting American agricultural business and products in Japan. She was also active in teaching English to Japanese children and Japanese to American children in the community.

“Stephen M. Norden, Class of 1974, we recognize you for your loyal service to God, family, and alma mater.”

An ordained minister for the Reformed Church in America, the Rev. Stephen Norden was for two years the president of the Hope College National Alumni Association, the highest position of service a Hope graduate can hold in the Association.

He is the son of long-time Reformed Church missionaries to Japan, where he was raised. He majored in political science while at Hope.

After graduation from Hope, Rev. Norden worked as the assistant director of Camp Henry in Newaygo, Mich., and as an intern at Good Samaritan Reformed Church in Cuyahoga, Ohio. Upon receiving his master's degree in divinity, in Western Theological Seminary in 1978, he was installed as minister of youth and education at Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Mich.

In 1987, he accepted a new call and challenged to establish a new Reformed Church in Dublin, Ohio. On April 12, 1987, with 93 communicant members representing 50 families and a total baptized membership of 130, New Hope Reformed Church was organized, with Norden as its founding pastor.

His dedication and love for Hope have been displayed in his frequent visits to campus, the organization of alumni events in the Ohio area, and his past work for Annual Fund phonathons. With Rev. Norden's assistance through letters and personal contacts, the Alumni Fund has grown substantially.

In 1975, Norden married Jean Boven '75. They have two sons, William and Charles.
New program to help teachers teach science

by Greg Olgers '87

Through a new program, Hope will work with Holland area school districts to train current and future teachers in the content and methods of science instruction at the elementary level.

Goals of the program include increasing minority and female representation in the field of science, increasing both educator and student computer literacy, and improving college and local school facilities related to the teaching of science. The project's first three years will be funded through a $526,498 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich. Additional sources of funding that will allow the program to continue indefinitely are being sought.

The program was developed through the cooperation of several organizations. "We worked very closely with people from area schools," said Dr. Nancy Sonneveldt Miller, dean for the social sciences at Hope and one of the program's coordinators. "They helped us identify elementary science as an area we might want to deal with. Representatives of the Hope science and education faculty, local business and industry and the Holland Chamber of Commerce were also consulted."

Dr. Miller said the program will "get teachers away from the textbook to an approach that is more experiment-oriented." She noted that many teachers lack the confidence or science background that would enable them to take a more creative approach to teaching the subject, leading them to rely only on their textbooks or, worse yet, refrain from science instruction. "We're trying to improve the content, the knowledge base — and their comfort level with science," Dr. Miller said.

"I believe that this area of science education is a matter of great concern nationally, and we're very pleased to be able to make a contribution to solve a national problem. I would also say that one can regard this grant as a confirmation of the academic strength of Hope College, both in the natural sciences and in education."

President John H. Jacobson said, "I believe that this area of science education is a matter of great concern nationally, and we're very pleased to be able to make a contribution to solve a national problem. I would also say that one can regard this grant as a confirmation of the academic strength of Hope College, both in the natural sciences and in education."

The program will be managed by a full-time coordinator under the auspices of a advisory council representing the groups involved. The Kellogg Foundation grant will fund the program's first three years, with the council being responsible for identifying funding sources for the future.

To improve science instruction at the elementary level, a new course sequence, "Partners in Science Education," and a series of summer seminars will be offered to elementary educators in the methods and content of science education. Teachers from three local school systems — the Holland Christian, Holland Public and West Ottawa Public schools — will participate tuition-free in the course sequence and seminars. "Partners in Science Education" will run for the entire academic year and will pair 15 local elementary teachers and 15 Hope education students in reviewing four science disciplines — biology, physics, chemistry and geology. Together, applying the teacher's experience with the student's enthusiasm, each pair will develop teaching materials and methods, with the teacher's classroom serving as a laboratory in which both individuals can apply their new knowledge.

Two two-week, science seminars each summer will allow teachers who are unable to be part of the "Partners in Science Education" program to receive instruction as well. Each seminar will focus on a single science discipline.

To increase the representation and interest of female and minority students in science, the program will coordinate special events on their behalf. The program will target middle school-age children in an effort to positively influence their high school and college science course choices.

The program proposal drafted by Dr. Miller and co-coordinator Dr. Irwin Bunk, professor of chemistry at Hope, notes that in the Holland area the number of boys enrolling in advanced math and science courses far exceeds the number of girls. A survey of the three local high schools reveals that during the 1987-88 school year a total of 235 high school males and 162 high school females took pre-calculus or senior math, physics, and advanced chemistry or biology. Minoritv students were similarly underrepresented, according to the survey.

Events designed to help reverse that trend will include day-long science workshops established exclusively for female and minority students. Each workshop will feature a noted female or minority speaker, tours of the college's science facilities and small group, hands-on activity sessions with female or minority persons employed in science-oriented fields.

The program also provides for facilities, materials and equipment improvement and acquisition so that the educators participating in the courses and seminars can apply their new knowledge more effectively. "We must supply what they need if they are to teach as they've been taught, to go beyond the textbook," the proposal explains.

To facilitate hands-on, outdoor education for local students, the program provides funding for improvements to both Holland's De Graaf Nature Center and Lakeview Forest, a piece of forest dune property owned by the Holland Public Schools but presently unused. Improvements involving the 15-acre De Graaf site will include the creation of additional materials for use with the facility and program development that will enable the Center to conduct a winter program. Development at the Lakeview Forest site, which is southwest of the city of Holland, will include the construction of wooden nature trails similar to those found at the De Graaf Nature Center and the restoration of a small building that presently exists at the location.

On the Hope campus, a model classroom will be equipped with a variety of modern science materials so that the educators participating in the program can experience a well-equipped science classroom. "What we want this room to be is a prototype classroom, not a laboratory," Miller said.

Other materials for use with the program will be acquired as required. Science kits, a serious of science videotapes and science resource booklets for teachers are some of the items under consideration.

This is the second major grant presented to Hope by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for innovative approaches to education. In 1977, a $370,000 grant funded the initiation of an integrated health fitness program for Hope students which today is viewed as a model among liberal arts institutions.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930 to "help people help themselves," has distributed more than $1 billion in support of programs in agriculture, education and health. Areas of emphasis within those broad fields include adult and continuing education; community-based problem-focused health services; a wholesale food supply; and broadening leadership capacity of individuals. Projects in opportunities for youth are concentrated mainly in Michigan; support for economic development is provided only in Michigan. The Foundation is today among the largest private philanthropic organizations in the world. It supports programs in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and southern African countries. Limited worldwide involvement is achieved through international networks of activities related to the Foundation's programming interests.
News and information for class notes, marriages, births, advanced degrees, and deaths are compiled for our friendly, computerized files by University Dec. 1987, which is an assistant professor.

Gail Ringstrom '77 holds the position of assistant director of Development, and is also the business manager of the Catholic Student Development Office at the University of St. Thomas.

Paul Bach '74 spent three months in Beijing doing research and teaching work in mathematics, and was involved in teaching and evaluation of students. He was at Peking University.

Barbara Hennig'72 received an award for outstanding teaching and service at the University of Wisconsin, where she is an assistant professor.

Douglas C. Staley '78 is professor of history at the University of New Hampshire.

Dennis S. Stalbom '75 is an executive director of the American Printing House for the Blind.

Jodi R. Scall '75 is assistant manager of the City of Milwaukee, and is employed in the Adventist Education Corporation.

Stuart Schell '78, a high school biology teacher in California, is employed in the Adventist Education Corporation.

Robert J. Deveaux '77 is a partner in the firm of Miller, Meyer, Becker & Jones of Madison, Wisconsin.

Teresa Nelson '79 is a learning disabilities specialist for the district through the U.S. Army, and is employed in the Adventist Education Corporation.

Kevin Anderson '80 is the new owner of Fast Lane Oil in Junction, Wisconsin.

Katrina Pichu '80 is the new owner of Forte, a new restaurant in the Adventist Education Corporation.

Paul B. Sibbald '80 is employed as a research assistant for the PSC Foundation in Muskegon, Michigan.

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IN NEWS:

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NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE, APRIL 1989

13THENE

PLEASrE 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 Van Doe vs. Mrs John Van Doe, for instance)?

We want to keep in touch. Use the form to inform 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

Notes:

Send to Alumni Office, Hope College, Holland, Mich. 49423

IN MUSKOGEE, Okla.


To Douglas Charles Along and Joan Marie Schlesinger, Aug. 13, 1988, St. Paul, Minn.


Robert Palmer and Mary Toppen, June 1, 1988,


Melissa Susan White and Carl Smith '88, Aug. 5, 1988, Sendai, Japan.


IN BIRTHS:

Paul 74 and Betty Wackenbergh '74, Bach Benjamin, March 25, 1987.

Tom '97 and Martha Mayer, Kate Elizabeth, Feb. 5, 1989.

Randall and Susan Nelson 77 Bookout, Katherine Marie 1989, Mary Janie.


David and Mary Beth Harkins '80, Johnston, Lindsey Ruth, Feb. 13, 1989.


Paul and Diane Harvey '77, Krauszer, Elizabeth, Marie, April 1, 1988.


Andrew Michael and Cuthberta Harrison '87, Adele, Calby Clark, Nov. 27, 1988.


Joel Soletik '87 and Mary Smith, Andrew Clarence, Jan. 1, 1989.

Charles 77 and Laura Tenken '77, Vanderpool, Philip John, April 1989.


IN ADVANCED DEGREES:


Holland, Michigan.


Ann Arbor, Michigan.


Gretchen Kesser '87 is employed as the associate head for the University of Michigan. She is now working as a Ph.D. in the Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Studies.

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Koelling '88, Krista '88, and David '88, all received their degrees from the University of Michigan. They are currently working as researchers in the department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

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Campus Notes (continued from page 3)

It gives us an opportunity to integrate what we're doing now with what's going on at other campuses," said Dr. James M. Gentile, dean for the natural sciences and Kenneth G. Herrick professor of biology at Hope. Dr. Gentile is the Hope representative to the program's executive committee, which chooses the consortium representative from each member institution.

Components of the consortium program funded by the Pew grant include a student research program, a faculty development program, a teacher-scholar program, and a teacher-scholar program. Dr. Gentile noted that the visits by scholars and scientists from other colleges and universities supported by the program will enhance the academic and intellectual life of the entire Hope campus, and added that many of the program's activities are significantly expanding the participation of Hope students and faculty members.

Members of the consortium include Beloit College (Wis.), Carleton College (Minn.), Grinnell College (Iowa), Hope, Kalamazoo College, Knox College (Ill.), Macalaster College (Minn.), Rhodes College (Tenn.), St. Olaf College (Minn.), and Trinity University (Texas). Participating research universities are the University of Chicago and Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.


Excellent Program: The department of communication of Hope was selected as one of three "Programs of Excellence" for 1989 and 1990 by the Central States Communication Association meeting held in Kansas City, Mo., this month.

Selection for the "Programs of Excellence" award is made by the small college division of the Association to "... honor small college programs of exceptional merit." The selection was based on indicators of excellence including qualifications of faculty, purpose and goals of the program courses offered, curricular structure and program quality.

The Central States Communication Association is comprised of 289 colleges and universities in 13 states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin). The other recipients of the award were Albion College and Butler University.

Reorganized in 1969 from the former department of speech and theatre, the department of communication offers both a major and minor program of study. As a liberal arts program, the department prepares students to be active, thinking, responsible participants in a democratic society. Students are offered courses of study in communication and rhetorical theory, interpersonal, group and organizational communication, presentation, and speaking. The spoken word is the central focus of the program, which also includes courses in broadcasting, law, media, ministry, education, business, journalism, public relations and related fields.

The department has provided leadership in curriculum and faculty development in the communication field and recently hosted the national conference for undergraduate faculty each summer. This conference attracts participants from colleges throughout the U.S. and offers seminars presented by the leading scholars in various areas of the communication field.

There are full-time faculty in the department including Dr. Theodore Nielsen, Professor Joseph W. MacDaniels, Professor James A. Herrick, and Professor Sandra L. Alspach. In addition to the full-time faculty members five part-time instructors teach in the department.

Hope Ties: The two persons flanking the Febins' bench marker pictured on page 10 and 11 of the February issue of Hope College were not identified in the text because their names were unavailable.

But now we know who they are. Coincidentally, the young man wearing the Civil War uniform (which ironically belongs to Ali McGuigan '66, featured in the February issue) was John Davis, son of Dickens Cameron, the 1830s poet laureate of Michigan. The women's ancestors participated in the battle. Jane V. Lente, a great great granddaughter, and Hendrikus Lente, a great, great, great, great, great. The Van Lentes were brothers — it was through the eventual marriage of their distant descendants that they both happened to become his grandfather. Michael's mother, Jane, is also pictured.

To the Editor: Reading the very interesting news from Hope College, Feb., 1989, I was reminded of my father, Samuel M. Zwemer (87), who knew, of course, both Theodore Roosevelt and Robert E. Lee. I can only imagine that there was a discussion around the campfire Ian of the bickering between the Civil War generals. I'm not sure the two men ever met, but Lee and Lee were good friends of my father.

My goodness, Prof. Nykerk would disapprove of writing a sentence like that, wouldn't he?

Amy Ruth Zwemer Violette Hope Prep School '21

Two years in '25

Faculty Kudos: Dr. Sandra Alspach, assistant professor of communication, was the keynote speaker at a seminar in collective bargaining for public school administrators sponsored by the Ohio School Boards Association in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 14.

Dr. Alspach has developed a course at Hope on conflict management that will be offered during the May Term. The course includes units on communication associated with informal, interpersonal conflict as well as the management of collective conflict which frequently occurs during activities like collective bargaining. The objective of the course is to help students understand the theory behind the emergence of conflict and to practice communication skills that can help manage conflict so that it can be productive rather than destructive.

Dr. Alspach completed her doctorate at Ohio University, where she studied the impact of Ohio's 1984 Collective Bargaining Law on communication between public school administrators and their employees.

Dr. Eugene Jekel, the Edward A. and Elizabeth Markle Professor of Chemistry at Hope, has been elected treasurer of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a national honor society for students enrolled in college pre-medical programs.

Dr. Jekel serves as faculty sponsor to the Hope College chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta. Dr. Jekel was chosen by the national council to serve as a consultant to Hope students planning to enter the health professions.

Dr. Jekel has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1975. He is married of the National Cancer Institute Award from the American Chemical Society and the National Institutes of Health for his excellence in teaching chemistry and recognition of his impact on high school chemistry through a summer program the college hosts annually.

Dr. Jekel serves on the board of directors of the Central Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. In recent years he has served as a reader and table leader for the grading of the national Advanced Placement examination in chemistry as a consultant for the National Board for College Board, he is a frequent leader of discussion and enrichment programs for school chemistry teachers. He is presently serving on the testing committee for the American Chemical Society-National Science Teachers' Association high school examination in chemistry.

Dr. Anthony J. Nieuwkoop and Dr. David Netly, both assistant professors of biology, were awarded two year grants to support their research for National Science Foundation Research Corporation. A private foundation that funds science faculty at undergraduate colleges.

Dr. Nieuwkoop was awarded a Research Corporation grant to study "Molecular Regulation of the Histidine Utilization Genes of Rhizobium fredii." Dr. Netly will study "Influence of the Proteinase Inhibitor of Sorghum bicolor: Characterization and Role in Chemical Defense.

Both are research projects aimed at a basic understanding of genetic and biochemical processes that are of potential importance in the productivity of crop plants. The researchers are collaborating with faculty and students in the biology department at Hope College, and the grant includes support for the students to work with Drs. Nieuwkoop and Netly during the summers of 1989 and 1990.

Dr. Nieuwkoop and Dr. Netly both joined the Hope faculty in 1987. Dr. Donald H. Williams, professor of chemistry, has been appointed to a task force of the National Science Teachers Association to study curricular reforms in secondary school science.

Dr. Williams, who joined the Hope faculty in 1969, is currently serving a sabbatical leave in Washington, D.C. serving in the U.S. Department of Energy at their headquarters in Washington, D.C. While in the Department of Energy, he is working to enhance the educational programs of the Information Services Division, and has testified in front of the National Science Board.

He has also contributed to resolving issues surrounding science education at many levels. "I have found that as the Department of Energy seeks to involve more citizens in discussions concerning radioactive waste, those citizens are better served who have some science education," Dr. Williams said.
Dorothy Sonnega '35 Schuermann died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1989, at the Albion (Mich.) Community Hospital following a long illness. She was 74.

Also a graduate of Muskegon (Mich.) High School, she had been employed as a laboratory technician at the University of Michigan Hospital. She is survived by one son, John J. Schuermann of Florida; one daughter, Mrs. Ruth Hail of Redlands, Calif.; four grandchildren, three sisters, Marie Johnson of Sprig Lake, Mich.; Jeanne Erickson of Muskegon and Ruth Sonnega of Carolasun, Mich.; four brothers, Donald, Paul and Walter Sonnega, all of Muskegon, and Dr. James Sonnega of Plymouth, Mich.; an uncle; and several nieces and nephews.

Ruth Laug '24 TerKeurst, of Grand Rapids, Mich., widow of Dr. Arthur TerKeurst '32, died on Monday, March 13, 1989. She was 85.

Born and raised in Coopersville, Mich., she lived for many years in Warrensburg, Mo. She is survived by several brothers and sisters, Forest and Dorothy Lang of Naples, Fla., Gerald and Jeanette Laug of Runnsville, N.C., Mrs. Genev Smoiler of Caledonia, Mich., and Louis and Vivian Laug of Marco Island, Fla., and several nieces and nephews.

Betty Brinkman '48 Vander Woude of Holland, Mich., died on Saturday, Feb. 12, while vacationing in Tucson, Ariz. She was 62.

Born in Holland, after her graduation from Hope she taught for several years in Holland, New York and Frankfurt public schools, retiring in 1958. She was a member of Third Reformed Church in Holland. She and her husband served at Ada Community Reformed Church, Second Reformed Church of Marion, N.Y., and Olivet Reformed Church in Muskegon, Mich., before moving back to the Holland area.

Following retirement, they were volunteer missionaries in Honduras for six months. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Cornelius A. Vander Woude; a son, Charles Vander Woude of Grand Rapids, Mich.; a daughter, Mrs. John (Elizabeth) Cornell of Grand Rapids; a sister, Mrs. Donald (Jean) DeWitt of Muskegon; several nieces and nephews.

Raymond Van Raalte '29 of Nalcrest, Fla., died on July 3, 1988. After graduating from Hope he taught in the Coopersville, Mich., high school for 10 years, and taught in the Montague (Mich.) high school until retirement. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Van Raalte; a daughter, Mrs. Jean Ingemoll of Montague, and a son, Duall of Lansing, Mich.

The family and friends of Mrs. James (Marie) Altvicn of Holland, Mich., who died on Saturday, Jan. 14, 1989. She was 92.

Born on April 3, 1896, in Kalkaska, she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Jenks. She attended Kalkaska Public High School, graduating from Kalkaska High School in 1914. She then attended the Ypsilanti Normal School and the Hinshaw Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Ill.

For two years, beginning in 1919, she served as the soprano vocalist and piano accompanist on the Redpath Lyceum Circuit in the North Central States. On Jan. 1, 1921, she married James Altvicn in Chicago. They lived in the Chicago area for a number of years, and she taught music in the Onward Settlement School.

James Altvicn died in 1957. In 1957, she moved to Holland, where she was employed in the treasurer's office at Hope until her retirement in 1964. Surviving are a brother, Donald Jenks of Holland; two nieces; one nephew; and several grandchildren and grand-nephews.

The family of John Howard Jacobson Sr. of New Paltz, N.Y., who died on Monday, March 13 in Benedictine Hospital of Kingston, N.Y. He was 83.

He was the father of John H. Jacobson Jr., President of Hope College, and on Oct. 9, 1987 participated in his son's inauguration at Hope as a representative of Yale University.

Born on May 15, 1919, in Moore Lake, Minn., he earned his bachelor's degree from Carleton College of Northfield, Minn., his master's from the University of Minnesota and his doctorate from Yale University.

During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army as a major. He was for many years a professor of English and administrative officer at the State University of New York at New Paltz, retiring in 1969. He is survived by his wife, Katherine; two sons, John H. Jacobson of Holland, Mich., and Carl Jacobson of Oberlin, Ohio; a daughter, Mary Cotton of New Paltz; a brother, Nathaniel Jacobson of Chico, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. Alberta Johnson of Minneapolis, Minn., and Mrs. Jane Smill of Fort Myers, Fla.; nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; several nieces and nephews.

The family and friends of Marion Manto Landerman of Alexandria, Va., who died on Thursday, Feb. 16 in National Orthopaedic Hospital, Arlington, Va. She was 60.

She had for many years been employed as administrative secretary of the business and economics department at Hope. During her residence in Holland, she was also a member of Hope Reformed Church.

**KEEPING HOPE STRONG TODAY AND TOMORROW**

"Alumni support—a mark of recognized excellence. Our goal this year is 50% participation in reaching the $1,000,000 milestone."

CELEBRATE YOUR REUNION! It's our 25th reunion and we look forward to returning to campus and reminiscing with old friends about Hope.

Also, help your class reach its reunion goals. REUNION CLASS GIVING IS VITAL to reaching our Million Dollar Milestone.

Reunion giving means growth for the Alumni Fund. It also guarantees today's students, including many of our children, the same opportunities we enjoyed.

Let's assure Hope is here for future generations.

Bruce and Carolyn Church Turbystra '64

**REUNION CELEBRATIONS ...... MAY 5 - 7**
“Round Robin” tradition keeps nine alumnae close through years, miles

by Greg Olgers '87

Rogue garbage trucks can delay the mail, but they can’t stop it.
For more than 40 years, in a stunning display of the power of friendship, Lucille Teninga ’46 Toren and eight classmates have been corresponding through a “Round Robin” letter — actually a packet of letters sent sequentially from one participant to the next. Each writer, upon receiving the packet, reads the others’ letters; removes her own, old letter (which has completed the circuit) and includes a new one.

And the cycle has continued since 1946. “We all belonged to the Thesaurian Sorority,” Toren said, “and that’s how we all lived at Voorhees Hall. So when we had meetings at the college, well then of course we’d find ourselves wandering to these things together.”

“We really did become very good friends,” Toren said. “I don’t know if it was every night, but it sure was on weekends that we would all get together.”

And then we started corresponding, I think, very shortly after the tears were shed at our graduation. We decided that we should start writing, and the best thought we had was: I write a letter to Marion, then Marion will send it on to Clara, and Clara will send it on to Adeline…” Toren explained.

Two other Thesaurians, 1947 graduates, joined the letter later.

Completing its rounds on a three to six month cycle, the letter has followed their lives through marriages and careers; births and deaths; happiness and sorrow. Transcending all the changes that are by nature a part of life — particularly in 43 years of life — the “Round Robin” has been a constant.

But there was the time the mail almost didn’t go through. Waiting one winter in the mailbox of Louise Edwards ’46 Lowande, the “Round Robin” was crippled by the assault of a garbage truck caught in a New Jersey snow storm. Knocked to the ground, tattered and torn, the packet lay hidden until eventually discovered, recovered and sent on its way.

Through the years, the “Round Robin” packet has been a primary means of communication for the group — news of new homes and births, children’s colds and family moves. Often, photographs and newspaper clippings — first about the writer, and still later her children and grandchildren — accompanied the letters.

The transitions the changing and maturing families underwent are noticeable even in 1939. “You know, upon reading over your letters I couldn’t help but be struck at how different our letters have become from 12 years ago. Now it’s mostly children and houses,” Toren wrote at the time.

Toren — to her regret now, she admits — only saved a few of her old “Round Robin” letters. A newspaper account sent through the Round Robin a few years ago has prompted her to start monitoring the writing more closely — and record the progress of her classmates.

“Betty Fuller ’47 Meiners, who lives in New Mexico, enclosed a little write-up about two years ago saying ‘nine girls have corresponded for 30 years.’ She said, ‘Aw, Phoocy! — We’ve been doing that for almost 40 years,’” Toren recalled.

Toren has amassed some interesting statistics concerning the group. Four of the friends married Hope graduates, three married ministers, three have been directly involved in mission work and all have been involved in the field of education in one way or another — from the elementary to the university level. Six of the nine have earned at least one advanced degree, and they gave birth to a total of 20 children.

The writers’ lives have taken them in vastly different directions — both physically and occupationally. Marjorie Van Vranken ’46 Watchet, who married a Belgian, lives in Zaire, Africa, with her husband, who works with a leprosy mission. Adeline Sybesma ’46, now living in Holland, Mich., held a variety of teaching positions in exotic locations such as Sapporo, Japan; Hong Kong; and The Netherlands Antilles. Meiners, living in New Mexico, went into library work — and was named the New Mexico Library Association’s Librarian of the Year in 1986.

Toren, who lives in Lansing, Ill., with her husband Chet Toren ’41, is a retired science teacher — and taught at both the elementary and high school level. She was recognized as an Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1974, and also has the largest Hope College family. All five of her sons (and three of their wives) attended Hope.

The letter-writing rate has remained fairly constant through the years. One would think that the busy times — years with careers and children — would have caused lapses, or that the pace would have accelerated as the houses emptied and work ended. But that has not been the case. “Now that we have the time, we don’t have the news,” Toren said. “Before, when the children were younger, we took the time to write about the children or whatever was pertinent.”

The “Round Robin” was also never replaced by the telephone. “My background said ‘telephones are for emergencies,’” Toren said. “But even now we never do call — with all these girls; maybe they all felt the same way that I did — except for emergencies.”

“Emergencies” have not always meant bad news. Often, if a member of the writing group, or one of their family members, is going to be near one of the others’ homes, a phone call is used to announce the fact. Lowande, for example, called the Torens to let them know that her daughter, a circus performer, was going to be in the Chicago area.

Although they have occasionally been able to meet one or two at a time, their busy lives have generally prevented them from reuniting as a group. “I don’t think there would be more than possibly once in all this time that everybody came out to a particular place. It was always some of us,” Toren said.

Despite the passage of time, distance and experiences, their closeness has remained. Both planning to attend the Reformed Church Women’s Trienniel on the Hope campus, Toren and Lowande arranged to room together in Voorhees Hall. “We hadn’t seen each other in years — we didn’t know each other, basically,” Toren said.

So great had been the passage of time that the two old friends didn’t even recognize one another: they almost passed each other on campus as strangers — until they overheard their still-familiar voices. Once reunited, Toren recalled, they found they still had much in common — thanks to the letters. “(It was) as though we were together all the time. We knew the troubles they had, the joys they had, the sorrows their children growing up, the difficulty and the joys they had with their children; what their children were doing; where they were going to college,” Toren said. “I think it has brought us together emotionally.

There is every indication that the “Round Robin” will continue. “There’s no sign of it stopping now,” Toren said. “I really thought at the end in ’46 that gradually it would just die down. But instead, through the years it has been a necessity. In fact, we groan when we don’t get it fast enough.”

Alumni Weekend

Coming Soon to
Hope College

May 5-7

Featured attractions
Reunions
Alumni Banquet
Alumni Worship
Sunday Brunch

See the schedule on page 4