A call to serve

Staff members Emery and Sharon Blanksma left their friends, family and comfortable West Michigan existence to spend a year in remote Alale, Kenya, ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of the Pokot people. See page 16.

Inside This Issue

Of all the words said about the Hope–Calvin rivalry, perhaps Dr. Calvin VanderWerf's are the most telling: "An atheist is a person who goes to a Hope–Calvin game and doesn’t care who wins." For more on the generations-old drama and one of its current actors, Hope junior Wade Gugino, see pages eight and nine.
DESSERT STORM: Like families throughout the world, the Hope family, too, has been affected by Desert Storm. A number of Hope alumni (or their friends or relatives) have been called to serve either in the Middle East or stateside as a result of the war, as have two student reservists attached to a Grand Rapids, Mich., medical evacuation unit. Students are confronting their feelings concerning the appropriateness of the war, the involvement of persons they know and the fact that a draft—if authorized by Congress—could involve them directly as well.

The college community has been dealing with Desert Storm, and the events preceding it, in a variety of ways.

To help those on campus understand and cope, informational forums have been coordinated, classes have discussed the war, support groups have been created through the Chaplains' and Counseling Offices, and prayer vigils and services have been held. Students have been showing support for those serving in the service, dorms and Greek organizations have been sending packages, and Student Congress coordinated a postcard writing campaign.

"Most Americans feel very concerned about the fact that we are at war, and whatever their particular views regarding the origins of the war feel strongly supportive of our men and women who are engaged in the conflict and also hope very much that the conflict will soon end," said Dr. John H. Jacobson, president of Hope College. "The dominant feeling that I sense here is one of prayerful hope for the conflict's early conclusion and for the safe return of those who are engaged."

A sign of support at Fraternal Cottage shortly after Operation Desert Storm began.

"First, ladies and gentlemen, the quality of American primary and secondary schooling must be modified before there can be any very marked increase in intelligence and imagination among college and university students.

"Second, the American appetite for requiring vocational certification must be curbed. A very great part of the student body at nearly all campuses is enrolled mostly because, in their words, 'they have to get a degree to get a job.' Thus universities and colleges are crowded with young people who would prefer to be somewhere else, earning money or at least active and emancipated from abstractions.

"Third among my reformatory points, the humane scale in learning should be regained by creating no more mass campuses with many thousands of undergraduates in the lonely crowd and decentralizing so far as possible the existing behemoth campuses. The old collegiate structure of the academic community, as it survives here at Hope College for instance, should be the model once more."

"As a fourth point, curricula at nearly all universities and colleges should be greatly revised, rigorously, so as to provide students with a genuine intellectual discipline, purged of the intellectual bongo-duggles that have disgraced college programs to some extent throughout the beginning of this century, especially since the late '60s."

"It is the function of true education to impart a moral heritage, to teach that the virtues and the vices are real and that the individual is not free to toy with the sins as he may choose. What true education transmits is not values but instead, as I suggested earlier, a body of truth, that is a pattern of meanings perceived through certain disciplines of intellect."

"Thecollege of yesterday was founded upon certain postulates. One of these was that truth is ascertainable; another that religious truth is a source of all good; a third, that we may profit by the wisdom of the ancients, a fourth, that the individual is foolish but the species is wise, a fifth, that wisdom ought to sought for its own sake; a sixth, that for the sake of the commonwealth schools would quicken the moral imagination."

"These postulates have not ceased to be true. It is only that they have been forgotten in our century's obsession with power and money and our century's illusion that ideology is a ready and satisfactory substitute for thought."

"Unless you and I act intellectually and vigorously to renew right reason and imagination among us, by the conclusion of this 20th century, America may be an egalitarian wasteland of mind and spirit, with everybody compulsively schooled and everybody equal in ignorance."

"Excelsior from "Library Renewal in American Education," presented by noted conservative political philosopher Dr. Russell Kirk during his visit on campus in November for the college's Presidential Lecture Series."
Professor leads book drive for Mexican university

When Harvey Blankespoor attended an international conference at Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, two things most impressed him: his hosts' hospitality and their library's need. Consequently, upon his return to the United States the Hope College biology professor devised a way to repay the gracious treatment he had received as a guest: he arranged to send extra copies of scientific journals and textbooks to the university's library. That was three years ago, and Dr. Blankespoor—with the help of other scholars, the college's library and Parke-Davis Inc.—has arranged to send a third shipment of books to Mexico. And the 80-100 gift boxes of books, with a timely Christmas-season departure from campus on Wednesday, Dec. 5, to have the appropriate literature.

The journals and books sent to Mexico are donated by several organizations and individuals. Dr. Blankespoor places notices in the college's Peale Science Center, letting colleagues know when the next roughly-annual shipment is due to depart. He has also been working with Dini Piccitti, library associate for serials at the college's Van Wylen Library, to obtain other duplicate titles.

Parke Davis Inc., a Division of Warner-Lambert Co., through the assistance of Dr. Roger Brummel, director of chemical development, has been providing bound copies of Chemical Abstracts, other periodicals as The Journal of the American Chemical Society and an assortment of books. Parke Davis Inc. has also assumed the cost of trucking the books as far as Laredo, Texas, near the Mexican border, where they are retrieved by the university.

Even though the volumes he is collecting are in English, Dr. Blankespoor believes that they should prove useful at all levels of scholarship—undergraduate, graduate and in on-going faculty research. Some should also prove enjoyable in addition to more technical publications such as Energy Research Abstracts and Practical Cardiology.

I do look at this as more than us giving books. I look at this as the foundation for collaboration down the road—at least I hope so... We need to get together, because when you do then good things happen.

—Dr. Harvey Blankespoor

“Lifeboat Earth: Decisions for Tomorrow”

The 12th annual Hope College Critical Issues Symposium will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, March 6-7, and will focus on the environment.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6
11 a.m. Morning Chapel
Dimnent Memorial Chapel
7-8 p.m. Keynote Address
“Some Politics and the Environment” Gaylord Nelson, former United States Senator, Dimnent Memorial Chapel

THURSDAY, MARCH 7
9 a.m. Keynote Address
“The Politics of Science” Samuel Epstein, University of Illinois, Dimnent Memorial Chapel
10:15 a.m. Focus Sessions
1. “Natural and Artificial Toxics Substances in Food” Jack Schubert, University of Maryland; Winants Auditorium, Graves Hall
2. “Universal vs. Regional Approaches to Environmental Protection” Patricia Ostrom Wegman, Universidad de Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City; Wachter Auditorium, Nykerk Hall of Music

NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE, FEBRUARY 1991

CAMPUS NOTES (continued from page two)

The staff and the library committee.

According to NEH's definitions, the humanities at Hope encompass the departments of English, history, modern and classical languages, religion, philosophy and communication, and courses taught in the history of art, dance, music and theatre. Courses in the humanities represent two-thirds of the college's 57-hour core curriculum required of all students, and 22 percent of the college's 2,800 students are majoring in humanities disciplines.

The new library funding will allow the humanities collection to be developed in all media, including books, periodicals, films, video and audio recordings, and interactive computer programs. The college, which added about 2,400 titles to the collection last year, hopes to increase its acquisition rate to 5,000 titles annually.

In addition, the funding will assist the college in processing its new texts, including cataloging and marking for shelving, and preserving older materials in the collection. Such older materials include not only standard works in the circulating collection but also unique local items such as the only extant copy of a 19th century Dutch language newspaper published in Holland.

The college also plans to hire an additional librarian to oversee the humanities collection. The new librarian will also instruct students in the use of the library's resources and serve as a reference librarian, increasing the number of hours that reference assistance is available to the library's patrons.

Jensen, the project co-director, hopes that the sort of improvements planned for the humanities collection can also eventually be made for the other dimensions of the library's collection.

INSTITUTE SCHEDULED: Hope College has been chosen to host one of only 10 Michigan Summer Institutes for the Arts, Sciences and Technology held at colleges or universities this summer.

The institutes, coordinated through the State Board of Education, provide an opportunity for highly motivated 10th- and 11th-graders to participate in a nontraditional learning experience that includes both in-depth study and broad, interdisciplinary exploration. Activities range from group discussions, research, lab and field experiences, to simulations, art production and performances.

The two-week institute at Hope will run July 7-20, and is expected to draw about 100 participants from throughout the state. The program will be the second for the college, which also hosted an institute in 1989.

Titled “Toward the 21st Century: Challenges, Choices and Consequences,” the Hope institute is designed to help the students understand and prepare for the issues they will face in the future. The interdisciplinary approach is intended to enable them to appreciate the issues from a broader perspective.

The college's program is being held in cooperation of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, and will feature instruction by faculty members from Hope, Aquinas College and the Grand Haven Public Schools. The total project grant from the state, including fees from the participating students, is $60,000.

(see "CAMPUS NOTES" on page 14)
please juniors and seniors
Hope students and
A "mini-college" experience
For prospective
For further information
Pre-Medicine
their
Activities
March
Thursday,
Flint,
Church;
Friday,
Palos Heights,
Wykoff,
Rochester,
N.Y.
Memphis, Tenn.
March
March
March
22 — Emmanuel
March
22 — DeWitt Center,
March
22 — North
March,
Churchville,
Pa.

Symphonette Tour
Thursday, March 14 — Resurrection Reformed Church;
Flint, Mich.
Friday, March 15 — Emmanuel Reformed Church;
Woodstock, Canada
Sunday, March 17 — First Reformed Church;
Rochester, N.Y.
Monday, March 18 — First Reformed Church, Scotia, N.Y.
Tuesday, March 19 — The Reformed Dutch Church;
Claverack, N.Y.
Wednesday, March 20 — Second Reformed Church;
Wykoff, N.J.
Thursday, March 21 — North Branch Reformed Church;
North Branch, N.J.
Friday, March 22 — North and Southampton Reformed Church;
Churchville, Pa.

Chapel Choir Tour
Thursday, March 14 — Palos Heights Reformed Church;
Palos Heights, Ill.
Friday, March 15 — St. John United Church of Christ;
St. Charles, Mo.
Saturday, March 16 — Whitehaven Presbyterian Church;
Memphis, Tenn.
Sunday, March 17 — Westminster Presbyterian Church;
Hattiesburg, Miss.
Monday, March 18 — First United Methodist Church;
Sedalia, Mo.
Wednesday, March 20 — Anchor Community Church;
Mobile, Ala.
Thursday, March 21 — North Atlanta Community Church;
Atlanta, Ga.
Friday, March 22 — Second Presbyterian Church;
Knoxville, Tenn.
Saturday, March 23 — Good Samaritan Reformed Church;
Gahanna, Ohio.

dance XVII will run Thursday through Saturday, March 7-9. For ticket information, see the concert's entry under "Special Events" below.

The Arts
Alumni Recital Series — Saturday, Feb. 16 — Victoria Granowsky '74 Lundy, concert pianist, Wichers Auditorium,
Nykirk Hall of Music, 8 p.m.
Faculty Recital Series — Sunday, Feb. 17 — Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 4 p.m.
Sophomore Recital — Thursday, Feb. 21 — Greg Pratt, clarinetist, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Great Performance Series — Friday, Feb. 22 — Waverly Concert, Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $5 for adults, $5 for senior citizens and students, and $10 for other adults and $5 for students, and information concerning sale dates may be obtained by calling (616) 394-6996.
Junior Recital — Saturday, Feb. 23 — Katherine Grace, soprano, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Guest Concert — Monday, Feb. 25 — Gene Bertocnna, jazz guitarist, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $5 for adults, and $3 for senior citizens and Hope faculty, staff, and students, and may be obtained through the department of music at (616) 394-7650.
Musical Showcase — Tuesday, Feb. 26 — DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids, Mich., 8 p.m.
Call (616) 394-7860 for information.
Student Recital — Thursday, Feb. 27 — Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 7 p.m.
Alumni Concert Series — Saturday, March 2 — Susan Weener '81 Van Dop, pianist, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Great Performance Series — Monday, March 4 — Greg Laman, trumpet, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Alumni Concert Series — Saturday, March 9 — Beth LeFever '86, soprano, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Faculty Recital Series — Sunday, March 10 — Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 4 p.m.
Great Performance Series — Tuesday, March 12 — Eduardus Hall, pianist, Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $5 for senior citizens, $10 for other adults and $5 for students, and information concerning sale dates may be obtained by calling (616) 394-6996.
Chapel Choir Concert — Tuesday, March 31 — Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 7 p.m.
Organ/Trumpet Recital — Monday, April 1 — H. Lewis, organ, Kevin Good, trumpet, Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
Student Recital — Thursday, April 4 — Wichers Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Symphonette and College Choir Concert — Friday, April 5 — Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
Senior Recital — Saturday, April 6 — Gwynne Brandt, flute, Heather Thompson, pianist, Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Collegium Musicum Concert — Tuesday, April 9 — Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 8 p.m.
Chamber Winds-Student Ensembles Concert — Saturday, April 13 — Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Special Events
Musical Showcase — Tuesday, Feb. 26 — DeVos Hall, Grand Rapids, Mich., 8 p.m.
A concert featuring all dimensions of the Hope College department of music, including the Chapel Choir, College Chorus, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Collegium Singers, Orchestra, chamber ensembles and soloists.
Tickets purchased through Hope College are $9.00 each, and may be ordered sending payment to: "Office of Public Relations; Hope College; Holland, Mich. 49423."
For information, call the Office of Public Relations at (616) 394-7690.
Critical Issues Symposium — Wednesday and Thursday, March 6-7
This year's topic is "Lifeboat Earth: Decisions for Tomorrow," and will highlight local, national and global perspectives on the environment.
Dance XVII — March 7-9 — Main Theatre, DeVitt Center
An annual event featuring an outstanding guest artist, choreographed by Hope faculty and performed by Hope students. Tickets: $4 for senior citizens, $5 for other adults and $5 for students, and will be available two weeks prior to the performance either at the DeVitt Center ticket office or by calling (616) 394-7890.

Alumni and Friends
Regional Events
Monday, Feb. 25 — Clearwater Beach, Fla.; lunch with Dr. John Jacobson, president of Hope College, and Bob DeYoung '56, vice president for college advancement.
Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Sarasota, Fla.; lunch with President Jacobson and Bob DeYoung.
Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Punta Gorda, Fla.; lunch with President Jacobson and Bob DeYoung.
Thursday, Feb. 28 — Naples, Fla.; lunch with President Jacobson and Bob DeYoung.
Sunday, April 14 — Detroit, Mich.; lunch
Tuesday, April 16 — Milwaukee, Wis.; dinner
Monday, April 22 — Washington, D.C.; reception for Honors Seminar students.
Alumni Day — Saturday, May 4
Village Square — Wednesday, June 26

Instant Information
Hope Sports Hotline — (616) 394-7888
Activities Information — (616) 394-7863

Sports Schedule
For a copy of the spring 1991 Hope College athletic schedules, write to: Office of Public Relations; Hope College; Holland, Mich. 49423.

Academic Calendar 1991
Spring Semester (1991)
March 7, Thursday — Critical Issues Symposium
March 14, Thursday — Spring Recess begins at 2 p.m.
March 25, Monday — Spring Recess ends at 8 a.m.
April 26, Friday — May Day; classes dismissed at 12:30 p.m.
May 4, Saturday — Alumni Day
May 5, Sunday — Baccalaureate and Commencement.
Marshall scholar views students as individuals

Senior Heidi Hudson of Waukesha, Wis., has been awarded a prestigious British Marshall Scholarship, one of only 40 presented annually to undergraduate students from throughout the United States.

The award is the second such major honor received by a Hope student in the past four years. In 1989, Daniel Stid '87 received the Rhodes Scholarship. The college has also had four Marshall finalists in the last five years.

"The British Marshall Scholarship carries with it great prestige, both for the student and for her college," said Dr. Jacob Nyenhuis, provost at Hope. "All of us rejoice with Heidi Hudson at this singular recognition that she has received."

"She's smart, she's articulate and she is modest, all at the same time, and she has a passion for the field of education. She cares about young people as people and she cares about course content as well."

—Dr. William Cohen

I am especially pleased that the British Marshall Scholarship has been granted to a young woman who has made a commitment to teaching, for it is important that we recruit our best and brightest students into the teaching profession," Dr. Nyenhuis said.

The British Marshall Scholarship program was established by the British government in 1953 as a way of recognizing the United States' role in Europe's recovery following World War II. Designed for citizens of the United States who are graduates of U.S. colleges and universities, British Marshall Scholarships may be used at any British university, and are of two-year duration.

Hudson is majoring in special education. Next year she intends to continue her studies at the University of Manchester, one of the largest schools of education in the United Kingdom.

Her selection ended a process of several months that involved her nomination by Hope College faculty, the submission of an essay and recommendations, reviews at the regional and national level, and an interview in Chicago. If Scholarships were selected on the basis of their intellect and character as evidenced both by their scholastic attainments and by their other activities and achievements.

"She is a most qualified individual for an award like this, and we're all glad that she has received the scholarship," said Dr. Lamont Dirks '50, chairperson of the education department at Hope.

"My emphasis in teaching tends to be to recognize each child as an individual and to go at it from that point instead of looking at it as a whole and having to present a certain curriculum... I tend to view it more as a bunch of individual children who need a lot of different things."

—Heidi Hudson

Heidi Hudson of Waukesha, Wis., recipient of a prestigious British Marshall Scholarship, plans to pursue graduate degrees in both special education and international special education – an interest that even predates her time at Hope.
Science and mathematics education succeeds whenever it takes place within an active community of learners... Such communities promote experiential learning and an investigative, hands-on experience steeped in research from the very first courses for majors and general students alike to capstone courses....
shared experience in the excitement of discovery that can stimulate a student’s long-term interest in a scientific or mathematical career. Frequently, student-faculty research efforts lead to discoveries worthy of publication in peer-reviewed journals or presentations at professional meetings.

Such publication and/or presentation of research results not only enhance the reputation of the college and the development of the faculty member, but also launch the career of the student scientist. However, publications must not become the standard by which we judge successful student-faculty research. Rather, success in cultivating scientific and mathematical talent will prove to be the ultimate measure of effectiveness of the science and mathematics programs at liberal arts institutions.

Ongoing scholarly efforts by faculty have value that extend well beyond the benefits accrued by student researchers. Scholarly activities comprise an essential component of any vital college faculty member with the understanding that active scholarship promotes teaching. Faculty actively engaged in scholarship bring insights into a classroom that allow all students to become partners in the discovery process. From introductory through advanced courses, syllabi are continuously honed to reflect the cutting edge of knowledge. And innovative research methods are rapidly integrated into teaching laboratories. Furthermore, those students who are actively engaged in faculty research become extensions of the faculty member and interact with them in a dynamic fashion to further foster the learning process.

Hope College has enthusiastically accepted the challenge to provide an undergraduate education in science that promotes opportunities for all students as well as creates an ethos that encourages each student to develop to his or her full potential. The Hope faculty are dedicated teacher-scholars who are committed to maintaining an investigative learning process that emphasizes sciences as a process of inquiry as a means of attracting and nurturing students.

Over the years, Hope has established a superior record of attracting promising students and producing graduates who earn doctorates in the sciences. On an enrollment adjusted basis, Hope College ranks in the top five percent of all institutions (colleges and universities) in producing individuals who gain the doctorate in either the life or physical sciences. Furthermore, Hope is ranked in the top five percent of all institutions in producing women who have achieved a doctorate in the life sciences. Virtually all of these graduates, along with many other outstanding graduates, have conducted collaborative research with a Hope faculty member.

Hope’s record in science education is enviable by many standards. However, for Hope and other quality institutions to continue to provide innovative teaching and research experiences for students and faculty, college presidents, deans, science faculty, governing boards, representatives of federal agencies, and private foundations must work together in new partnerships based on a strategic plan. Those who determine authorizations and appropriations in support of science and mathematics education at the federal and state levels also must participate actively in this process. Such partnerships would parallel similar efforts that arose during an earlier challenge to the nation’s leadership in science and technology. In the mid-’60s, post-Sputnik-era our national attention turned to enhancing science, engineering and mathematics education at the undergraduate level.

Heavy National Science Foundation support, in the form of small grants to a large number of institutions, provided resources for professional growth and refreshment of faculty, undergraduate research, curriculum and course improvement; and instrumentation and facilities acquisition and renovation. Unfortunately, after the Sputnik surge, support for undergraduate education eroded, moving through a precipitous decline during the 1970s until educational programs for non-doctoral activities were completely eliminated in the 1980s. Happily, support for undergraduate education is once again on the rise, although we have a very long way to go before current needs are met.

Now is the time for the public and private sectors of our society to once again accept the challenge and invest in the training of young scientists and the education of a more scientifically-literate populace. Our nation will become richer because of that investment.

"Now is the time for the public and private sectors of our society to once again accept the challenge and invest in the training of young scientists and the education of a more scientifically-literate populace. Our nation will become richer because of that investment."

At a 1989 hearing, U.S. Representative Robert A. Roe of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology said, “I am tired of hearing about studies and analyses of the current problems this nation faces in science and technology. We know what works. Let’s stop studying the problem; let’s move from analyses to action.” Representative Roe is right. We know what works. It’s time to put it into practice.

Dr. James Gentile is dean for the natural sciences and Kenneth G. Herrick Professor of Biology at Hope College. He was co-chair of a national colloquium titled “What Works: Building Natural Science Communities,” which was held Feb. 4-5 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. Dr. Gentile has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1976.
Student takes ball and cartoonist's pen in hand

by Eva Dean Folkert '83

I

t is a given. When you're six-foot-nine inches tall, people automatically wonder if you play basketball. Isn't that how we often think in this sports-crazed society? If you're tall, you play b-ball. At least it's sure bet that you aren't a jockey. If appearances are everything, then that means a man like Wade Gugino is quite proficient at monstrous tomahawk slam dunks and intimidating blocked shots. And he is and becoming more dominating, as the junior, a forward on the Flying Dutchmen's nationally-ranked basketball team, is a hardworking, agile center with a good set of hands and strong court presence. As a sophomore and all-MIAA first team selection, he averaged 16.9 points and 7.2 rebounds a game for the season. He's also personable and articulate, a sports writer's dream.

This year Gugino, who is from Midland, Mich., is leaving no room for disappointment. His 19.4 points per game and eight rebound average are among the leaders in the league, and he has already earned two most valuable player awards in tournaments this season. Height has its advantages...on the basketball court at least. But being six-foot-nine also means that you must duck, quite low in fact, through a standard door frame; that you must endure the how's-the-weather-up-there jokes and double-take stares; that you don't drive a compact car. It means having your art history professor ask you to walk behind the entire class, while touring the streets of Vienna during summer school, so you can make sure everyone is accounted for and, more importantly, that you don't block anyone's view. To stand next to Gugino for any length of time gives you a pretty good idea of how a toddler feels.

He has some disadvantages, too.

"You know, it's funny," Gugino says, as always, finding a chance to laugh, "I didn't really like basketball that much in high school. I wasn't that good at it. (He doesn't mention that he was often injured.) In my junior year I grew seven inches. I went from six-foot-one to six-foot-eight. It was terrible. I'd turn around at my locker and hit someone in the head with my elbows because everything was wide open."

And of course, I'd apologize with some feeble excuse like, "I'm sorry about that but I was just walking."

Now it is funny, but at the time...

"Heck, it was funny then, too," laughs Gugino at what had to have been an awkward period.

And therein lies the kicker. Wade Gugino's sense of humor is as massive as his frame. You see, on Hope's campus, he is known as much for making people laugh as he is for bringing down the backboard at the Holland Civic Center. Where once appearance was everything, now it doesn't matter a lick. From this man of extreme height comes Perkins, a comic strip and sometimes political cartoon, found each week in Hope's student newspaper, the Anchor.

At first people had a hard time believing the creator of Perkins, a strip with biting sarcasm and keen wit, was indeed Wade Gugino. Talk around the Kletz on publication day usually went something like this:

"You mean that really tall kid draws Perkins. It's pretty good. Isn't he a basketball player?"

As if the two have to be mutually exclusive.

No Hope College scenario is safe from Gugino's bars. Not institutions steeped in tradition like the Pull or the Delta Phi sorority. Not the timeless campuses of campus dating. Not even President John Jacobsen, and especially not the Holland area's Dutch influence. Gugino had an idea for a strip for one of the local newspapers. He wanted to call it "Van Man," the Dutch crusader for justice in Holland. But when Van Man steps into a phone booth before saving the day, he steps back out in the same clothes. "It's not that he's stupid," Gugino explains, "it's just that he's frugal."

"I don't mind jabbing people or situations here or there," says Gugino about the content of Perkins. "In fact, I think it would be great to just open up the paper some time and see a cartoon where somebody's hating me. But I don't even mind hurt anything with the strip. That's not my focus."

"Wade can find humor in just about any situation, even if it's at his own expense," says Dr. Tony Niewa, '78, assistant professor of biology and Gugino's academic advisor. "He certainly has a knack for cartooning in the style of a Gary Trudeau. It's not all slapstick, and it makes you stop and think, what's he really saying here?"

"I think it would be really cool to be a Calvin & Hobbes--type of cartoonist where, even if a person is really down from a hard day, they can open up the paper and laugh.

http://www.hope.edu/
for a few seconds,” says Gugino, who is a business/arts major with the possibility of a biology double major. “To do that for millions of people would be a great way to make a living. Some way, somehow, I will earn a living. I don't really know when it will happen but that is a goal I've set for myself.”

“Wade is constantly evaluating himself and setting goals,” says Coach Glenn Van Wieren ’64. “He’s always trying to find what he has to do to get better, at both basketball and academics. He is very self-motivated to be good at whatever he does. And he’s more motivated when he’s up against a real challenge. Wade is just a very impressive person. He is a marvelous person. We're lucky to have him at Hope.”

Such praise is sure to make Gugino blush. Wade is a sensitive guy who only wants to fulfill his own expectations, no matter how high. And some of those expectations are pretty lofty. With a genuinely non-arrogant tone in his voice, he reveals, “I should always be able to play better than any other player in a game because I’m bigger and there’s no reason why I shouldn’t.” Already a meticulous artist, Gugino laments the fact that he can’t spend as much time perfecting his craft as he would like. “I just feel like I had more time to draw Perkis; people could really tell where the sarcasm is pointing and then they can make better decisions about how to react to the strip.”

Rest assured, Gugino is indeed doing a fine job with both aspirations. “Wade is very conscious of being motivated for others,” explains Van Wieren about Gugino’s desire to excel. “And he’s very interested and concerned about people, especially children.”

Gugino around children is akin to Gulliver next to the Lilliputians. But since he possesses a rather childlike—not childish—wonder about the world around him, especially in his love for biology and living things, it seems natural that Gugino feels so comfortable around kids. Though it may appear unusual, this college student enjoys babysitting. Last year he taught second grade Sunday School in a local Reformed Church. (Try to imagine a 20-year-old hovering around Gugino’s ankles. Their necks must have really hurt.)

This past summer, while painting landscapes in the Alps of Austria in Hope’s Vienna Summer School program, Gugino met a young boy who became intrigued by the artist. Though they could not speak each other’s language, Gugino invited the boy to join him. The two painted on the hillside together for quite a while, and when the young boy found that he had to return home, Gugino offered him their joint creation as a parting gesture of friendship.

“Wade is fantastic with kids,” says Ted Gugino ’85, Wade’s older brother by seven years and also a three-year varsity basketball player at Hope. “He’s a pretty sensitive person so he has that sensitivity when he’s with them... As a kid, many people pushed Wade to do what they wanted, to be the best basketball player around. Some even laughed at his interest in cartooning. So he remembers that and just wants to do what they want and how they want.”

Maybe he just sees that each child has his own potential.

And so, of course, does Wade Gugino.
Alumni Profile

Hope lessons prompted doctor's volunteer spirit

by Greg Ogles '87

When Dr. D. Ivan Dykstra '35 delivered the Commencement address for the class of '77, he urged the graduates to bless the faculty by the quality of their lives.

Dr. Paul DeWeese '77 took his words to heart.

A physician living in East Lansing, Mich., he has organized two programs to make medical care accessible for the needy. Through the Friendship Clinic in East Lansing, the urban poor—often people with lifestyles that make uninsured self-help impossible—receive both medical attention and compassion. Via the Medical Assistance Program, which involves medical care professionals and institutions in three counties, the underemployed are able to receive treatment and prescriptions at little or no cost, depending on their level of need.

Dr. DeWeese's decision to establish such programs followed his experiences working with the destitute while at school.

"When I was at Hope, I had an opportunity to go to Pakistan in the summer to work at a mission hospital, and that was a life-transforming experience because for the first time I was exposed to a degrading kind of poverty that I had never seen before," he said. "So with that kind of reference point, I always had an interest in looking at how to bring health care services to people who need them."

Beyond giving him an opportunity to recognize that such needs existed, however, Dr. DeWeese also credits Hope with helping make him the sort of person who cares enough to do something about those needs.

"Hope for me was an absolutely crucial experience," he said. "If I would not have gone to Hope, I am absolutely confident I would be a very different person than I am right now."

"It was very, very radical when I went to Hope and began to learn about this notion, this unusual, peculiar notion, that if we're going to be authentic in our Christianity it means impacting the world in some significant way."

—Dr. Paul DeWeese '77

In contrast, the Medical Access Project encompasses several individual pharmacists, dentists, physicians, hospitals and a laboratory, and targets patients who are working regularly but at a level insufficient to support expenses such as medical care.

"I don't know any other city in the country where you have a voluntary coming together of the different parts of the health care system which then offer to reduce the fees that people have to pay," he said.

"The reason I called it the Friendship Clinic was because I wanted to create a sense of openness and warmth," he said. "We really do want to reach out to people in the totality of their life, including their mental, social, physical and spiritual life."

"A lot of their history is this chronic sense of hopelessness—that they're failures and can't do anything else, so they come in with a real sense of being incompetent with life," he said. "So one of the goals is to reach out to them with a sense of justice and a sense of acceptance—to establish a relationship that you can build on."

In fact, the Medical Access Project is successful or spawn similar programs. Regardless of its long-term success, however, both it and the Friendship Clinic reflect Dr. DeWeese's commitment to helping others prompt him to establish both a clinic for the urban poor and a reduced-cost program for low-income persons.

"I remember Bill Hillel going describing the world as a large ball of need and saying 'What you have to do is prepare yourself and then focus on a specific area of need, and then transform it into God's kingdom—or at least move it,udge it, towards God's kingdom,'" Dr. DeWeese said.

He sees the Friendship Clinic and the Medical Access Project as addressing two different yet complementary portions of the world's "ball of need."

"Largely helping the chronically unemployed, often people who are fighting drug and alcohol addiction, or suffering from mental disabilities, the Clinic strives to treat not only the patients' physical needs, but their other needs as well."

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News from Hope College, February 1991
Varied legal career continues

Wendell A. Miles ’38, senior U.S. district judge, presided over the United States District Court proceedings at St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, at Charlotte Amalie during October and November, 1980.

While in residence in Charlotte Amalie, he attended the St. Thomas Reformed Church. He did his rededication services on Sunday, Nov. 11, 1980. During the service he took out members of the congregation who had been acquainted with the father of Barbara Folkensbeek ’43 Timmer, who was a former pastor of the church. He also found church members

The court is composed of seven United States District Court judges who come from seven separate circuit areas of the country. The appointment is for a seven-year period.

The species court was created by Congress in 1978 to provide neutral and detached review of applications for electronic surveillance of foreign powers and agents of foreign powers in the United States. Judge Miles served for four years in Europe while in the United States Army during World War II. He entered the Army as a private and rose to the rank of captain. After the war, he returned to the practice of law until government until 1947.

He was prosecuting attorney of Ottawa County for four years and United States district attorney for seven years. Judge Miles was also special trial counsel for the City of Grand Rapids, Mich., for seven years, and was the first College Counsel at Ferris State College.

He served as circuit judge of the Allegan-Ottawa Circuit (1970-74), and was appointed United States district judge for the Western District of Michigan in 1974, serving as chief judge of the District from 1980-86. He was a part-time instructor at Hope College from 1948-53, taught Constitutional History during 1980-81 and taught English Constitutional History during 1983-84. He established "The Miles Award in Law" at the college in honor of his father, Judge Fred Miles. Miles served as president of a student whose presence in the study of law is judged superior by the faculty of the department of history. He spoke at the college's 95th Fall Convocation in 1959, and was the college's Commencement speaker in 1980.

Judge Miles earned majors in political science and philosophy at Hope, a master's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin and his law degree from the University of Michigan.

He also holds Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Hope College and the Detroit College of Law.
issue of news from Hope College because she transferred to Hope for the spring semester. 

Granddaughter Genie Van Wieren is the daughter of Jackie Nybroe '67 Van Wieren and Glen Van Wieren '64 whose mother and grandfather are also Hope alumni.

40s

50th Reunion
Class of 1941
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Elsie Boynton '41 Bosh and husband Donald are in Moscow in the Sultana of Oman. Because an American field hospital was set up about 20 miles from their home as part of Operation Desert Shield, they shared Thanksgiving dinner with six American servicemen.


Evelyn Smidler '44 Weller and husband Tony moved to Holland, Mich., following his retirement. They are building their dream home in Wayzata and hope to move in by May 1.

45th Reunion
Class of 1946
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Donald E. DeWitt '50 of Pavley in S.C., is retired and lives with his wife, the former Carol Younger. She was known for her work in the Pacific Medical Education (CME) Inc. He is teaching medicine part-time with the University of South Carolina in Charleston and H.C.C., and Bahia

Cynthia Fisle '50 Romano was named as an elder in Trinity Presbyterian Church of Surfside Beach, S.C., after she retired from teaching in Oct., having earned her teaching certificate in 1987. Her field was English literature for high school students.

40th Reunion
Class of 1951
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Donald “Dutch” Van Ingen '51 retired on July 31 from the Northville Public Schools, “Dutch” served as teacher, coach, principal and Central Office administrator during his tenure in Northville.

Ren Schipper '52, football coach and athletic director at Central College in Pella, Iowa, has set a new record for winning football seasons. He posted his 30th straight winning year, breaking the all-time mark of 29 set by his late John Mearns at Jackson State in 1935.

Kenneth Van Wyk '52 is leaving his position as director of the Theological Education Agency (TEA) following the death of his wife, Virginia’s, in 1985. He plans to return to a ministry of teaching and equipping the laity for ministry.

35th Reunion
Class of 1956
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Phyllis Sisoo '58 DeWitt of Birmingham, Mich., was named Who's Who in America for Education in 1980.

Edwin Bredeweg '59 at the end of June is retiring as superintendent of the Oaktown, Mich., school system. He has been the district for over 25 years, also serving as principal of Oaktown High School (Mich.) and Oaktown Superintendent.

Thomas Miller '59 of Grand Island, Neb., was listed in the 1990-91 edition of Who’s Who in the Midwest.

30th Reunion
Class of 1961
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

40th Reunion
Class of 1966
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Mary Leetsma '66 Houston is associate director of programming with the Rev. Dr. Robert Schuler '47's television program Hour of Power, programming the morning show.

James Lee '66 has been named the first holder of the Robert A. Welsh Chair in Chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin. The position was endowed with a grant from the University of Texas Regents.

He and Patricia A. Singer, both of the state's largest investment firms, have co-sponsored a research grant devoted to studies of effective childhood education.

25th Reunion
Class of 1970
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Ken Whitko '70 is a specialist in Wilmington, N.C., and has been named to the board of the Delaware Mining and Minerals Association. He has served on the board of the Delaware Mining and Minerals Association since 1981.

He has also served as a consultant to the state of Delaware and the Delaware Mining and Minerals Association since 1981.

15th Reunion
Class of 1975
Alumni Weekend
May 3-5

Ron Brown '75 of Bartlesville, Okla., is a research engineer for Phillips Petroleum and has authored six U.S. patents.

Jeff Seward '76 of Shiloh, Ill., has been promoted to vice-president and general manager of GE's new subsidiary, General Electric Engineered Systems, Inc., at its facility in General Electric's Corporate Research and Development Center. He has previously served as a research associate in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois.

Jerry Frazier '76 of Bensalem, Pa., has been chosen to appear in the first edition of Who’s Who in America's Teachers and Pupils. He is an associate professor at the University of Arkansas, where he has been teaching for the last seven years, and has published more than forty papers.

Dennis Windersma '75 has joined the faculty of the Whitman College Department of History.

DeWitt '50 Fikse '50 and Wilmington, N.C., and is married to a retired nurse. He has also served on the board of the Public Broadcasting System since 1981.

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with Behr Industries Corp., a German-based company in Grand Rapids, Mich. Craig Piersse '87 has been promoted to senior accountant with the public relations firm of Seyferth & Associates Inc.

Bjorn Porter '87 is working on his MBA at Indiana University, and will graduate in May, 1991.

Phil Tanis '87 of Holland, Mich., is manager of the Knickerbocker Theatres, owned and operated by Hope College.

Kim Chapkis '86 is living in Grandville, Mich. Janice Gillard '86 of Hamilton, Mich., is employed as the tax coordinator for finance-tax department at Hawes Inc.

Henry Gentensan '80 is an account executive with Lijon Communications Group Inc., a marketing services company specializing in integrated communications in segment and lifestyle markets in New York.


Kristin VanderMolen '88 teaches half-time kindergarten and half-time elementary vocal music for the Mackagon (Mich.) Public Schools.

Ann Beckman '89 of Franklin, Ky., is pursuing an administrative career with the University of Kentucky and is also an administrator at Kentucky College of Business.

Emily Burris '89 of Bermuda Dunes, Calif., is currently teaching dual grade in India, Cali., for the Desert Sands Unified School District.

Alyce Dikeman '89 of Oak Lawn, Ill., is working in Indian Springs Early Childhood Center in Chicago. Ann Folker '89 was accepted to Concordia University in River Forest, Ill., and is currently working toward her master's degree in school counseling.

Matt Holcomb '89 of Atar, Mich., is a physical education instructor and assistant football coach in the Reeder (Mich.) Public Schools.

Nicole Leitz '89 of Dearborn, Mich., has just finished a seven month internship with Parvo Div. Research Company and is now beginning a professional degree at Wayne State University.

Douglas Meister '89 of Grand Rapids, Mich., is serving in the MBA program at Grand Valley State University in January.

Lynne Van Wyk '87 of Saddle Brook, N.J., is a staff nurse in the cardiac-surgical surgical department/interim unit at Hackensack (N.J.) Medical Center.

Heidi Veldman '89 of Grand Rapids, Mich., is a senior therapist at the Jejuela House, Day Treatment. She is working on her doctorate in counseling psychology at Western Michigan University.

Phyllis Ross '90 of the administrative services department is working as a charge nurse at St. Vincentius Hospital in New York.

Jared Brown '87 of Bermuda Dunes, Calif., is serving as a bilingual middle school teacher in India, Cali., for the Desert Sands Unified School District.

Shawn Erkine '90 of Wyoming, Mich., is employed as a full accountant with a public accounting firm in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mary Gage '90 of Cheyenne, Wyo., is working for Crowe/Bifield/Averett.

Elizabeth Hoffman '90 has completed the officer indoctrination school at the Naval Educational and Training Center in Newport, R.I., and is now an ensign in the U.S. Navy.

Karen Horner '90 has been promoted to assistant professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Kathryn Skene '90 is living in Knoxville, Tenn., and attending the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Diane Tagge '90 is committee liaison for the Columbus, Ohio, Bar Association, and is responsible for meeting planning and facility management for the association's 55 committees.

Michael Waalkes '90 is a board member of the Hope College Board of Trustees.

Lawrence A. Mayer '91 is a life science professor at Harvard University.

Holly Anderson '89 is a U.S. Army National Guard officer, serving with the 2nd Bn, 611th General Supply Company. She is based in Germany and is working with the U.S. Army Special Operations Forces in Europe.

Michael Waalkes '90 is a board member of the Hope College Board of Trustees.

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Campus Notes

CASA GRANTS: Recent support from corporate and private foundations will enable the Children's After School Achievement (CASA) Program at Hope College to continue its work with local elementary-age students. The program has received one of five 1990 Ameritech Partnership Awards presented through the Michigan Colleges Foundation. The $120,000 award was announced at the Michigan's Hope and Helen Padin Foundation Education Fund.

CASA is designed to meet the educational, cultural and social needs of grade school children who, despite their intellectual ability, have been identified in school as at-risk students. According toec coordinator of the program, the grant will allow for additional volunteers to work in classrooms and provide after-school programs.

TEACHER CHEMISTRY: A three-week workshop, Dr. Michael Seymour, associate professor of chemistry, helped 24 Holland-area elementary teachers learn that many aspects of chemistry can be both fun and easy to teach.

The program was funded through a $1,000 grant from the Institute for Chemical Education (ICE) and classroom activities outlined in a workbook provided by ICE. The participants met every Monday from October through December, reviewing and practicing the activities, learning about the principles involved and exploring effective teaching strategies.

Dr. Seymour emphasized the scientific principles behind the activities so that the teachers would understand more about chemistry and be more confident teaching it — ideally prompting them to include more science in their classroom instruction.

To enable the teachers to give their students as much hands-on experience as possible, he showed them how to reduce the time and acquire the resources required to create useful experiments. Many activities involve simple household items such as dishwashing detergent, vegetable oil, salt, baking soda and vinegar, and can be used with minimal investment like baby food jars and beakers made from plastic, two-liter pop bottles.

To generate the elementary students' enthusiasm, the activities are designed not only to be educational but entertaining. Some of the activities include using red cabbage juice to discover the "pH" of solutions creating slime to learn how to make and study the properties of substances that have a specific chemical composition and using food coloring and water to determine the effect of temperature on the density of liquids.

IN-HOUSE HONORS: Hope honored faculty and staff members for service, academic achievement and professional involvement during the college's annual recognition luncheon Monday, Jan. 7. John L. van Iwaarden '57, professor of mathematics, was recognized for 30 years of service.

Faculty members recognized for 25 years of service were Allen R. Brady (biology), Richard T. Brooks (chemistry), Elton J. Brainerd '50 (religion), Charles A. Hutter (English), Robert J. Palmer (religion), Daniel Paul '50 (education), George W. Ralph (theology), Nancy A. Taylor (English) and James M. Zozowetz (physics).

Recognized for 20 years of service were William Cohen (history), Jack E. Holmes (political science), William S. Mungall (chemistry), William Reynolds (English), Jack R. Ridl (English) and John M. Wilson (art history).

All virtues express their genetic information by means of messenger RNA, and some virtues, including some cancer-causing viruses, store genetic information in RNA rather than DNA, said Herrick. "In the future, ribonucleic acids may be designed that can thrive and thereby inactivate such viruses in a living organism," said Herrick.


Herrick wrote the book for courses in critical thinking and argumentation. The book was released on Oct. 26 with a 1991 publication date.

"The goal of the book is to provide students with tools and the reasonableness of arguments," said Herrick, who spent three years writing the 300-page text.

The book is a result of Dr. Herrick's long-standing interest in argumentation theory.

In Paul '50, professor of education, will be leading a group of elementary teachers through his 14-day Summer Session course "Elementary "Theme: Teaching—British Style" during June 10 and July 1.

The course is designed to help elementary teachers use "themes" as an integrating vehicle to teach science, mathematics, language, art, social studies and the recreational arts, developing three days to each subject area. Instruction for each subject will include presentation by professionals from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

The fee for the course is $2,800 excluding tuition. Additional information may be obtained through the Office of the Registrar, (616) 394-7760.

George Ralph, professor of theatre, has been awarded Second Prize in the Second International "Outstanding Tank" Contests, sponsored by the Poetry Society of Japan.

An additional tank by Ralph was included as one of five "Outstanding Tanka Selected from Contest Entries." Both poems appear in the Autumn 1994 issue of "Tanka Review" in Japan.

Dr. Ralph's interest in Japanese-inspired poetry developed as a result of his study of Asian theatre during a sabbatical leave at the University of Hawaii in 1979. Ralph went on a "Tanka Review" trip to Japan on a Hope College research grant in the summer of 1985.

Jack Ridl, professor of English, has had his alumni poetry anthology A While Longer Before the Cold printed by the college.

The book is a collection of poetry written by Professor Ridl's former poetry students, and is available at the Hope-Geneva Bookstore for $7.50.

FACULTY KUDOS:


It is the complexity of Borges' work that makes the dictionary unique, according to Dr. Agheana. "His work is so culturally complex and diversified that one cannot read the man without some tool that would enable the person to determine the range of his themes and his preference within the theme," he said.

Rodney F. Boyer, professor of chemistry at Hope College, has received a grant from the American Cancer Society for his cancer research-related research.

The $35,500 "Scholar in Cancer Research Grant" will support his study of newly-discovered biological catalysts called ribonucleases. Ribonucleases are a special feature of ribonucleic acid (RNA), and may be of value in treating and preventing various forms of cancer, according to Dr. Boyer.

"One of the most interesting reactions catalyzed by ribonucleases is the splicing or cleavage of other RNA molecules," he said.


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Alumna shares memories of years at Hope

“...The four years at Hope College were wonderful years. I lived in Voorhees Hall which was a world apart. So many friends and such fun."

“I remember so well Armistice Day in the fall of 1918. The first rumor which we heard was premature, but we rushed out of the dorm without any wraps and paraded laughing and singing to the worry of Mrs. Durfee, the dean of women, who was sure we would catch our ‘death of cold.’ Not even she, however, could stop our jubilation."

“Mrs. Durfee had a great influence on my life. Her kindness and the little things she did, a bunch of violets at my place at her table in the dining room, or a word, or a glance to point me in the right direction when I did not know how to handle something..."

“I remember well Professor Nykerk’s classes in Shakespeare and Tennyson, and also Professor Hinkamp’s classes in Bible. There was also Professor Godfrey in chemistry, and Professor Durfee in French, as well as many others."

“We attended chapel every school day morning in Graves Hall. I very seldom missed. After most of the students were seated, the faculty would march in. I remember especially, Mrs. Durfee with her big brown eyes and beautiful white hair piled high on her head."

“Doctors Godfrey and Nykerk were always dressed formally in tails, as were Doctors Wichers, Patterson and Hinkamp, with all the others. Professor Nykerk led the singing, and I can still hear ‘When morning gilds the sky, my heart awakens with joy, Jesus Christ be praised.’ (To this day, I can still repeat it and can hear it clearly.)"

—from I Remember...At Hope...by Ann DeCook ’22 Wahl, who died on Monday, Nov. 19, 1990.

Consider the rich heritage that is Hope College...a tradition of academic excellence in a caring educational community. For 125 years, Hope has provided its students with outstanding learning experiences and lasting memories.

Consider the bright future that is Hope College...the opportunity to continue and enhance a great academic tradition for current students and generations to come.

The Alumni Fund supports Hope’s rich heritage and bright future...by providing institutional scholarships and grants for more than 1,500 students, developing faculty and staff, and operating outstanding campus facilities.

Be a part of a growing heritage and future. Please send a contribution to the Alumni Fund today.

*Photo courtesy of the Holland Historical Trust collection of the Joint Archives of Holland.

sympathy to


She had a master’s degree in counseling from Colgate University and worked as an elementary school guidance counselor.

She and husband George DeBoer ’66 were married in 1969 and had two children: mango, who is now 16, and Mark, who is 13.


The founder of Herman Miller Inc., he was preceded in death by his wife, Nellie Miller DePre, a son, John DePre, and two daughters, Barbara DePre and Helen Peck.

Surviving are two sons, Hugh DePre of Marco Island, Fla., and Martin DePre of Boulder, Colo.; three daughters, Mrs. Barbara (John) Baxin of Richmond, Ind., Mrs. Jean (Willis) Zies of Bloomington, Ind., and Mrs. Janet R. (John) Lauer of Kansas; 14 grandchildren; and a sister, Delta DePre of Zeeland.

The family of Emil E. Hornack, Jr. of Highland Heights, Ohio, who died on Saturday, Nov. 24, 1990. He was 43.

He was president and chief executive officer of Merida Falci Hospital. He collapsed and died of a heart attack while playing basketball with relatives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Kemink; six Hornack, four daughters: Emily, 13; Julie, 12; Kate, 10; and Maggie, seven; his parents, Emil E. Sr. and Irene M. (Patky) of Twinsburg; and two sisters, Mrs. Thomas (Carol) Passavant of Solon and Mrs. Kurt (Christian) Tieu of Aurora.
When Emery Blanksma returned home in mid-December, he made toast. But he didn’t eat it right away.

“I just stood there and I watched—it. I watched the toast bake and then I watched it pop up,” he said. “I just watched it and it actually got cold before I buttered it.”

Making toast may seem like a small thing, but the activity symbolizes in a large way the dramatic change remaining home entailed for Emery and Sharon Blanksma: it was a luxury they had long been without. For nearly a year before, they had lived in remote Alale, Kenya, ministering to both the physical and spiritual needs of the primitive Pokot nomads.

Emery, superintendent of the college’s physical plant, and Sharon, director of health services at Hope and a nurse practitioner, learned of the opportunity through an advertisement that Volunteer Services of the Reformed Church in America had placed in The Church Herald. The denomination was seeking a nurse to replace a missionary about to take a year-long furlough.

The RCA was delighted she was interested, and viewed Emery’s mechanical skills as a valuable bonus. Sharon and Emery were then left to agonize over whether or not they should — and could — leave their careers, income, home and family for a year at an isolated settlement halfway around the globe.

In the end, they concluded that the mission work was something they were being called to do. And the support they received from their family and friends, their church (Fellowship Reformed of Holland) and the college, which granted them each a year-long leave of absence, reinforced the decision.

“It fell into place at the right time of our lives,” Sharon said. “Our kids were grown and through college, and we were feeling like we wanted to do something for God because he’d been very good to us as a family.”

“And the response we received was just overwhelming,” she said. “It was an affirmation of what we planned to do.”

While, in equatorial Africa in the northwest corner of Kenya, about three miles from the Ugandan border, consisted of a half-dozen rough buildings clustered around a runway for bush planes. Electricity was available only in some buildings, and because it was provided by generator it was used sparingly. Lighting was by pressure lamp, cooking was done with bottled gas and refrigeration was provided by kerosene — all requiring scarce fuel. There was no radio at the complex, and the nearest semblance of more familiar civilization was in the town of Kitale, five- and a half hours distant.

In addition, they were isolated by their inability to speak either Swahili or Pokot. Only the permanent missionary, "Helimission," a Swiss-based organization that operates seven helicopters to allow missions of many denominations to provide medical assistance and evangelize.

"We used the dispensary at Alale and the mobile clinics as a tool for evangelism," Sharon said. "The Pokot people are open to learning about the Christian faith. I wouldn’t say they are all converted, but they listen. And they love to sing the songs."

As the only person in the area with a medical background, Sharon combated a variety of ailments, including malnutrition, tuberculosis, worms, malnutrition, burns, snake bites and broken bones. On one occasion she treated a gunshot wound, probably earned in the Pokot’s on-going struggle with the Karamojong tribe, based in Uganda. Both groups periodically raided one another for the cattle they raise.

She also faced Pokot efforts at self-help.

"They’ll take our medicine but they still have their tribal medicine," she said. "If they don’t get better — like in America — immediately, they try something else."

"One time some of the older men were coming in and saying, 'You’ve got to come! You’ve got to come! You’ve got to come with the helicopter! Everybody’s dying up at the mountains,’”

Larry McCauley, his wife Linda and a few of the other mission personnel spoke English — and it was accented, British English at that.

"It was so different, and I guess we didn’t expect it to be that way — not that different," said Emery. "I’d say it took us about two or three months to adjust and fit in."

"Our biggest adjustment was the fact that we were so isolated," Sharon said. "We couldn’t run to a store, for example. You can run to a little grocery store there because there aren’t any.

"Once they made the adjustment, however, they realized that most of the things that they missed were items they could do without. It’s surprising how after a few months of living in a Third World country, you learn you can do without many of the things that we live with here in the States and we feel that we almost have to have," Emery said.

Sharon worked both at the Alale dispensary and in the field. She usually traveled to outlying villages by land rover, but reached the more inaccessible settlements via

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Sharon Blanksma with children in Kenya who, like children everywhere, like to have fun. Both Sharon and husband Emery were touched by the need they encountered during their year-long mission experience.

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Sharon worked both at the Alale dispensary and in the field. She usually traveled to outlying villages by land rover, but reached the more inaccessible settlements via

"Helimission," a Swiss-based organization that operates seven helicopters to allow missions of many denominations to provide medical assistance and evangelize.

"We used the dispensary at Alale and the mobile clinics as a tool for evangelism," Sharon said. "The Pokot people are open to learning about the Christian faith. I wouldn’t say they are all converted, but they listen. And they love to sing the songs."

As the only person in the area with a medical background, Sharon combated a variety of ailments, including malnutrition, tuberculosis, worms, malnutrition, burns, snake bites and broken bones. On one occasion she treated a gunshot wound, probably earned in the Pokot’s on-going struggle with the Karamojong tribe, based in Uganda. Both groups periodically raided one another for the cattle they raise.

She also faced Pokot efforts at self-help.

"They’ll take our medicine but they still have their tribal medicine," she said. "If they don’t get better — like in America — immediately, they try something else."

"One time some of the older men were coming in and saying, 'You’ve got to come! You’ve got to come with the helicopter! Everybody’s dying up at the mountains.’"

Larry McCauley, his wife Linda and a few of the other mission personnel spoke English — and it was accented, British English at that.

"It was so different, and I guess we didn’t expect it to be that way — not that different," said Emery. "I’d say it took us about two or three months to adjust and fit in."

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