ART REVEALING LIFE
Powerful exhibitions prompt discussion of race campus-wide.

pages 10–13
IMAGES: A REFLECTION OF CULTURES

The Hope campus is a global community, its members gathered from not only across the country but around the world, learning both with and from one another, in the classroom and throughout life together. It’s a treasured and meaningful mix that’s celebrated each November through “IMAGES: A Reflection of Cultures,” when students from many of the nations represented at the college present skits, dance, song, language, fashion and other clips of culture. The event consistently packs the 536-seat Knickerbocker Theatre to standing-room-only, enthusiasm that itself is a reflection of Hope. A full gallery of photos is available online: hope.edu/images2016
ON THE COVER

Hope junior Carissa Sutherland-Smith and faculty member Dr. Heidi Kraus consider “Quilt #25 (Yemanja)” (Sanford Biggers, 2013), one of the works featured in “Resilience,” which ran in the De Pree Art Center and Gallery this fall paired with a second exhibition “Hateful Things.” The two exhibitions together fostered campuswide exploration of race, part of the distinctive opportunity that Hope as a Christian liberal arts college provides for holistic exploration of the world’s most pressing issues.

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Printed using soy-based inks.
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the new News from Hope College! By now, you’ve probably noticed that our magazine has undergone a bit of a transformation. Indeed, our longtime editor Greg Olgers ’87 and designer Samantha Bruin have worked hard on a fresh look for Hope’s flagship publication.

Some of the changes to News from Hope College reflect feedback that you, our readers, offered in an alumni survey (read more about that on page 7). You expressed a desire for more news, delivered with more depth and candor, that shares how Hope students, employees and alumni are tackling the toughest issues of the day.

One such story is “Race at the Center,” an article by alumnus Jim McFarlin ’74 reflecting on the art exhibition, “Hateful Things | Resilience.” For this exhibition, the Hope community came together to think deeply about the dehumanizing nature of racism as well as our shared responsibility to honor the God-given dignity of all people. This dialogue was both sobering and uplifting — and yet, for Hope, not unexpected. Our strategic plan invites us to engage in this kind of work. More importantly, our Christian faith calls us to do so.

In November, we shared another moment that was both sobering and uplifting. On the day following our contentious national election, some of our minority and international students were subjected to remarks by other students who made them feel unwelcome on our campus. They were not alone; sadly, similar incidents occurred on college campuses across the country. As the administration responded to these incidents, I was gratified that our student body quickly and faithfully rose to the occasion, organizing a gathering on the Pine Grove as an expression of unity and inclusion. Hundreds of students, staff and faculty quietly and reverently joined hands to affirm that all are welcome here, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality or political views. It was an honor for Kelly and me to participate in this student-led event.

As we approach Christmas season, may we find comfort in the angel’s message:

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”
(Luke 2:10)

At Hope College, we aspire to be a welcoming place because, indeed, God’s love and mercy is for all people.

Wishing you all the joy and comfort of the Lord during this season of miracles.

John C. Knapp, Ph.D.
President & Professor
As a scholar whose specialties include the history of the English language, Hope College’s Opening Convocation speaker Dr. Curtis Gruenler found his theme in the name of the occasion itself as he addressed the members of Hope’s incoming Class of 2020 in Dimnent Memorial Chapel on Sunday, Aug. 28.

“The first part of ‘convocation,’ con-, is a prefix meaning ‘together’ or ‘with.’ You have been called together here,” said Gruenler, who is a professor of English as well as director of general education at Hope. “But beyond that, I want to suggest that vocation, finding and living into your callings in life, happens through con-vocation, your calling to be with others.”

Presenting the address “Called Together in Hope,” Gruenler outlined ways that the students could grow within the community they were joining, beginning with the college’s foundation in faith.

“As a virtue or character trait, hope is a habit of directing desire and trust toward something good in the future,” he said. “Hope College places its hope in the Christian God, the God who is proclaimed to be three persons in one. This doctrine of the Trinity tells us that God is relational, or, as the biblical book of First John puts it, God is love.”

“The virtue of hope tries to imagine how this ultimate goal can direct and shape every aspect of life, that is, all the ways we relate to each other and to the non-human world, all of our work and all of our play,” he said.

Next, Gruenler recommended that the students become active in their new college home, to benefit from opportunities beyond the classroom.

“Find communities with purposes that inspire you, and join in,” he said. “Make a commitment and keep showing up. Or invite people to join you in trying something new. Either way, take opportunities for leadership. These will challenge you in ways that help you discover what you bring to a community, which is a key to finding your vocation.”

He also encouraged them to approach not only their academic majors but all of the subjects in their liberal arts education with equal interest.

“Each subject cultivates a disciplined kind of attention that can show you something about the world, about yourself and about how to live well together,” he said. “Each discipline, from physics to dance to social work, joins you to a community of people seeking to find truth, make beauty and do good. So whatever you are studying at a given time, give it your full attention.”

Such learning, Gruenler said, should also be about more than grades.

“Look beyond your successes and failures to the deeper learning that is happening beneath them,” he said.

Additionally, he noted, growing within community can also require time for reflection.

“Cell phones and social media make solitude more scarce and more necessary,” he said. “Solitude allows creative thoughts and longings to bubble to the surface. Take time to be alone and unplugged in places you like.”

He concluded by encouraging the students to seek out encounters with diversity, the better to understand not only the world but themselves.

Editor’s Note: The entire address is available online, as is a video of the ceremony.

hope.edu/convocation2016
FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Welcome to the new version of News from Hope College! We’re glad you’re here and hope you’ll stay a while.

We usually don’t get self-reflective in these pages, because it’s not about us. Our feeling is that News from Hope College serves best by putting the spotlight on the college and the people of Hope, celebrating the character and quality of this place we love and the impact that it has on students and, through them, the world. We do that not as an “alumni” magazine per se but a college magazine, meant not only for former students but also parents of students, prospective students, myriad other friends of the college and anyone who picks up a copy and starts to read, so we also try to strike a balance between assuming familiarity with Hope and serving as an introduction to a first-time visitor.

We’re continuing in that vein, but this time we thought we should say a bit about the magazine, since we’ve made some changes that we’re excited about—and hope that you will be, too.

The first Hope alumni publication

Others followed through the years

News from Hope College started as The Hope Imprint newsletter

Changed to tabloid size

Major redesign; switched from newsprint to glossy stock

New size and redesign!

February 1916

HOPE COLLEGE BULLETIN

August 1947

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

March 1968

THE HOPE IMPRINT

October 1972

NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE

April 2007

NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE

December 2016

NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE

News from Hope College has a rich ancestry. Although the student Anchor newspaper is older (1887), the first official Hope periodical seems to have been the Hope College Bulletin, which began in February 1916 in a compact 5”-by-7” size to help promote Hope’s semi-centennial. A variety of publications followed as the college sought to connect with the extended Hope family, leading to News from Hope College (initially as The Hope Imprint) in 1968.

And we continue today walking alongside technologies that weren’t available a generation ago and are even more immediate, like the college’s website and social media.

So, why the change now? Well, we’ve taken to heart the input of the recent alumni survey.

The most obvious effect has been on the size of the publication. Prominent among the responses we received? Readers wanted a smaller footprint, finding the larger size a difficult fit in mailboxes, during travel (Yes! You take us with you!) and just generally.

Our former dimensions were a nod to the publication’s long-time history as a tabloid-sized newspaper, and also enabled us to feature photography well. In that latter regard, however, size matters not. In fact, starting with this issue you’ll see artwork and eye-catching design showcased even more (you’ve had a preview across the past year as we’ve snuck in some of the changes, like full-page photos in “A Closing Look” since August 2015). It’s a subtle difference, but our new size also allows us to use a better paper stock, still with recycled content, that prints more clearly—and at a lower cost.

And—or, maybe, especially—text still matters. We want to show you not only the surface but the substance of Hope College. The survey results also indicated that many of you want even more substance, seeking exploration of how this Christian liberal arts college lives into its mission by engaging with issues vital not only to the campus but the world. You’ll see the beginning of that emphasis in coverage in Jim McFarlin ’74’s story about Hope’s weeks-long exploration of race this fall, inspired by the exhibitions “Hateful Things” and “Resilience” in the De Pree Art Center and Gallery.

Please look, too, for us to continue across the coming issues to present a mix of features on campus life, students and alumni, faculty research, and general news from and of Hope College, all intended to provide a sense of this place and the difference it makes.

Oh, and also the classnotes. Some college and university publications have done away with them because of lack of reader interest, but our survey found that at Hope they’re still treasured. And we completely understand the perspective of those who read that section first—which we don’t mind at all, although we hope that you spend at least a little time with the rest.

Thanks for reading—and, enjoy!

Greg Olgers ’87, Editor
SOPHOMORES SWEEP FALL TRADITIONS

The Class of 2019 swept the college’s two traditional fall freshman-sophomore contests, winning both the Pull tug-of-war and the Nykerk Cup competition.

The sophomores won this year’s Pull tug-of-war, held on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the traditional Black River location, by 54 feet and nine inches in a contest that ran for two hours and 42 minutes. The win avenged the Class of 2019’s defeat the year before by a similar amount, 55 feet and four inches.

Their Nykerk victory followed four weeks later, on Saturday, Oct. 29, at the DeVos Fieldhouse in conjunction with Family Weekend. The event moved to the DeVos Fieldhouse in 2014 because strong audience demand had pushed past the capacity of its previous home, the Holland Civic Center.

Images from each event are available online.

UNITY CIRCLE EXPRESSES COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION

In the days following the presidential election, college campuses across the country faced high levels of anxiety and emotion as they experienced a surge in reports of harassment aimed at minority students. When Hope, too, received reports of student behavior inconsistent with the college’s values and expectations of conduct, the campus community was quick to respond.

At Chapel on Wednesday, Nov. 9, Hinga-Boersma Dean of the Chapel Dr. Trygve Johnson encouraged students and employees to attend to each other and practice the wisdom of quick, slow, slow: “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry” (James 1:19). In that spirit, Hope student leaders invited their peers to gather peacefully in the Pine Grove on Friday, Nov. 11, promoting a respectful and inclusive campus environment.

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff heeded the call, standing silently and holding hands as a show of unity, inclusion and love.

FROM BLOGS.HOPE.EDU

“We are children of God first and foremost. That always needs to be front and center.”

— Chad Carlson ’03, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Junior Varsity Men’s Basketball Coach

Hope and Calvin colleges know a thing or two about competition—they have earned national attention through the years as storied rivals in sport. But, rivals need not be enemies and competition need not be incompatible with being Christian, as faculty and students from the two schools shared during the inaugural Global Congress on Sport and Christianity in York, England, while presenting research they conducted together.

More about the research and its impact on its student participants is featured in “The Rivalry: Sport Versus Religion?” in the ongoing Stories of Hope blog. Stories of Hope is one of three dozen blogs on the college’s vibrant blog network, which shares accounts written by students, faculty or staff highlighting scholarship, study abroad, individual academic and co-curricular programs, alumni activities and achievements—and more.

blogs.hope.edu/stories-of-hope
BOOK CELEBRATES CALVIN VANDERWERF’S PRESIDENCY

A new book by former faculty member Dr. Douglas Neckers ’60 celebrates Hope’s eighth president, Dr. Calvin VanderWerf ’37, for enabling Hope not only to survive in the research-focused era of Sputnik, but to become the nationally recognized institution which continues to thrive today.

Neckers’s book Cal VanderWerf: Anchor of Hope credits VanderWerf, who led the college from 1963 to 1970, with transforming Hope from a relatively typical smaller school into an institution that provided an exceptional education for students of the space age and years since. Published this summer by BioSolar Publishing, the book explores how VanderWerf, who had a distinguished career in higher education as a chemist before becoming Hope’s eighth president, emphasized enhancing the college’s academic quality, particularly in the physical sciences. It was a move, Neckers notes, that was absolutely essential as private colleges and state-supported universities began to compete ever more not only for students but also external funding for their programs—especially for research—resources that were and continue to be crucial.

“Cal’s presidency built Hope College into a place where it would not just survive, but lead in intellectual experiences for American undergraduates in the final decades of the twentieth century,” Neckers writes in the book.

PREPARING TO ADDRESS THE WORLD’S ‘GRAND CHALLENGES’

A major grant to Hope from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will bring together faculty and students from multiple divisions and disciplines in exploring “grand challenges”—the important issues facing the world in which the students are preparing to live and work.

The college has received an $800,000, three-year grant to establish the “Mellon Grand Challenges Initiative,” through which Hope will develop linked courses across the disciplines starting next fall and establish faculty-student research opportunities built around large-scale, relevant themes—like, for example, post-conflict reconciliation, religious coexistence, globalization or freedom of speech. In addition to addressing the questions themselves, the program will model how bringing together the skills and insights of multiple disciplines provides the best hope of addressing complex issues.

HOPE IN PICTURES

Please visit the college online to enjoy extensive photo galleries organized by topic and chronicling a variety of events in the life of Hope.

A beam signing on Friday, Oct. 28, celebrated placement of the final piece of structural steel for the Jim and Martie Bultman Student Center. Participants during the Family Weekend event included the first generation of the students that the building will serve for years to come.

WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY EXCELS AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hope’s 10th-place team finish and Erin Herrmann’s All-American fourth-place finish at the NCAA Division III Women’s Cross Country Championships were among several highlights this fall.

Coach Mark Northuis ’82 and the Flying Dutch also claimed one of the school’s four MIAA titles. They were joined by men’s and women’s golf, and women’s soccer. Women’s soccer athlete Elizabeth Perkins tied for the national lead in goal scoring.

Learn more about the fall season on the Hope Athletics website and mobile app, or search Hope Athletics on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

hope.edu/athletics
RACE
AT THE
CENTER

EXHIBITIONS SPUR EVENTS AND DIALOGUE CAMPUS-WIDE

By Jim McFarlin '74
The steady, mournful drumbeat of racial unrest, senseless death and reactionary violence reverberates across our nation. Through social media, the Internet and other vehicles, details of each tragedy send shock waves into every corner of America — even the serene West Michigan enclave of Hope College. At the bi-monthly meeting of Hope’s 80-member Black Student Union (BSU), “We have conversations about getting ready for grad school,” says organization president Curissa Sutherland-Smith, “but we also have conversations about things going on in the world.”

On a campus where U.S. minorities make up 15 percent of the student population and African American just 2.5 percent, such conversations easily could be lost in a vacuum. Words seldom carry lingering impact or historical context, or convey the direct link between modern-day outrages and atrocities of the past.

As Vanessa Greene, director of Hope’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion, puts it, “The Jim Crow history is not talked about a lot in our society. We kind of go from slavery to Martin Luther King to President Obama.”

So perhaps the only thing more surprising than Hope approving Greene’s recommendation to present the exhibit “Hateful Things,” centering around a collection of blatantly racist images and artifacts from America’s Jim Crow era (1877 to as late as the mid-1960s), was the campus-wide, interdepartmental willingness to use the display as a springboard for discussion and education.

“Hateful Things” was paired with a second exhibit, “Resilience.” Both ran from Aug. 26 (just in time to greet students arriving for the fall semester) through Oct. 7 in the De Pree Art Center and Gallery. Nearly three years in the making, “Hateful Things|Resilience” emerged as the first dual exhibition in the gallery’s history.

“Hateful Things” is a traveling 39-piece sample from the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University in Big Rapids. It features multiple uses of the “N-word,” images of lynching, round black infants advertised as “alligator bait,” and more. It is equal parts fascinating and repulsive.

The Jim Crow museum, curated by Ferris State Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion David Pilgrim, is billed as the largest public collection of segregation-era artifacts anywhere. It is “all about teaching, not a shrine to racism,” Pilgrim, who is black, says on the museum website.

“Resilience,” curated by De Pree gallery director and Hope assistant professor of art Dr. Heidi Kraus, was a smaller exhibit showcasing colorful, hopeful works of such world-renowned contemporary African American artists as Sanford Biggers, Faith Ringgold and Lorna Simpson. With artwork on loan from the Monique Meloche Gallery in Chicago and Hope’s Kruizenga Art Museum, “Resilience” represented the first time “Hateful Things” was shown in conjunction with another exhibit.

“We had a wall, both metaphorically and physically, dividing the space,” Kraus says. “But when you were in the ‘Resilience’ portion, you could still see aspects of the other side. The individual artists in ‘Resilience’ may have not been directly responding to it (‘Hateful Things’), but it’s part of who they are and they’re aware of it. You can’t escape it.”

Greene had been aware of Pilgrim’s Jim Crow Museum for at least a decade. However, when she returned to the Ferris State campus several years ago for a conference, she scarcely could believe her eyes: the museum had moved from a single room to a gleaming, expanded space displaying more than 9,000 objects from its collection.

“When I walked in and saw all those dehumanizing items of African Americans, it just floored me,” she recalls. “Nine thousand artifacts, it’s just overwhelming.”

That planted the seed for Greene to inquire about the traveling “Hateful Things” exhibit. “I saw it as a way to live out Dr. Pilgrim’s vision to experience these painful images head on and process how they have shaped our society from a superiority-inferiority framework,” she says.

“But I was kind of afraid. I didn’t know what students would do or what the response might be, so I sat on it. Ultimately I decided the opportunities to educate our students far outweighed the fear of negative behavior or reaction from them.”
Greene approached Kraus with the idea. “I was like, ‘Vanessa I am pre-tenure. What are you trying to do to me?’” Kraus says, laughing. Then Kraus visited the Big Rapids museum and came away similarly determined. “But I knew very early on that this was going to have to have a lot of institutional buy-in here,” she says. “So immediately I started reaching out to people.”

Among many others campuswide, Kraus forged alliances with Dr. Charles Green, professor of psychology; Dr. Patrice Rankine, former dean for the arts and humanities, and his successor, interim dean Dr. Marc Baer; and Dr. Jeanne Petit, professor of history and department chair. “Heidi was very proactive about pulling in the entire academic community to make sure this exhibit went well,” Petit observes.

“There were very deliberate ties to the classroom to discuss, discuss, to make sure that the exhibit was seen in its proper context and not just put out there,” she says. “I think it was a great example of an ultimate goal of the college, to see things from multiple angles and gain a deep understanding of what a cross-disciplinary perspective can bring.”

First, however, Baer says the college did some groundwork for the show. “There were advance articles in the Anchor,” he says, “and select groups were invited to see it, then communicate back to their networks ‘This is what it is, and this is what it isn’t,’ particularly for minority students.”

Dr. Trygve Johnson, who is the Hinga-Boersma Dean of the Chapel, noted that communities grounded in faith such as Hope are particularly called to engage with society’s greatest challenges.

“The Christian does not hide or ignore the brokenness and darkness of the world; instead the call of the Christian is to see it, and name it as such,” he said. “‘Hateful Things’ is an exhibit designed for our community to name this brokenness and darkness of our racial past and present.”

“I HOPE THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY IS THAT THE LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS INCREASED SO WHEN PEOPLE ARE MAKING DECISIONS OR COMMENTS RELATED TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, THIS EXPERIENCE WILL REGISTER. I ALSO WANT PEOPLE TO GO TO THE CORE OF THEIR FAITH, THEIR PROFESSION OF FAITH. WHAT DOES GOD CALL US TO DO?”

–VANESSA GREENE, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS

“Hateful Things|Resilience” served as the impetus for a series of related events across Hope’s campus. They included:

- A screening of the film From Jim Crow to Barack Obama, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, Denise Ward-Brown, associate professor at Washington University in St. Louis;
- A performance of the Randy Wyatt play A Simple Question by the Grand Rapids theater company Ebony Road Players, co-sponsored by the departments of English, History, Theater, and Women and Gender Studies;
- “The Most Laughable Things I Had Ever Seen:’ Currier & Ives’ Darktown Comics,” a lecture by Dr. Marcy Sacks, professor of African American history at Albion College;
- The presentation “The Roots of Economic Inequality: Race, Class and the Denial of the Past,” led by historian Dr. Anna-Lisa Cox ’94 of Western Michigan University, part of this year’s Critical Issues Symposium on “Economic Inequality in a Democratic Society”;
- The Fall Arts and Humanities Symposium, “Am I Not Human? Racial Identities in Modern America,” featuring presentations from professors Dr. Kenneth Goings of Ohio State University and Dr. Leonard Harris of Purdue University, assistant professor Dr. Rachel Stephens of the University of Alabama, and Hope faculty members Dr. Jack Mulder ’00, Dr. Kendra Parker and Green.

Kraus says BSU president Sutherland-Smith, a junior psychology major from Chicago, came up with “Resilience” for the second section of the exhibit. Over dinner, Kraus confessed to her that viewing the Ferris State exhibit made her feel unclean, and guilt-ridden over white privilege. “I said, ‘Dr. Kraus, do you know why your exhibit means so much? Because it reminds us our ancestors made it through. Even during the Jim Crow era we were inventing things, doing things. We had resilience.’”

The question, Sutherland-Smith says, is “What do we do next? This is a subject we can’t let drop now because the exhibit is over.”

Those next steps can take many forms. In October, for example, a group of students organized a public awareness effort regarding Halloween costumes, some of which potentially can be offensive to African Americans.

“When we know better, we do better,” Vanessa Greene echoes. “I hope the biggest takeaway is that the level of consciousness is increased so when people are making decisions or comments related to diversity and inclusion, this experience will register. I also want people to go to the core of their faith, their profession of faith. What does God call us to do?”

It did not go unnoticed that the “Hateful Things|Resilience” exhibit was contemporaneous with the grand opening of the landmark Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. “I wish I could say I planned that,” says Kraus. “But it just shows that so many things around this issue are converging at the same time. This has been a blessing to me.”
When I was an undergraduate at Hope in the early ‘70s, the running joke on campus was that if you wanted to find the entire African American student population, wait until they gathered for lunch at a far corner table inside Phelps Dining Hall.

Then they all would be together.

Black students flocked to that table—huddled might be a better verb—for camaraderie, comfort... and strength in numbers. It was the Billy the Kid strategy: keep your backs to the wall and your eyes on the crowd.

I was reminded recently that Hope experienced a “surge” in African American enrollment during that period, thanks to a pipeline arrangement with Southern Normal School in Brewton, Alabama, and some serendipitous timing. Yet the net effect still was a drop of ink in a pail of milk. We were few, we were separate, and we didn’t feel equal.

I may have been the exception. I was the first black person ever to attend school in my tiny West Michigan hometown of Spring Lake, and graduated from high school there. I lived among white people, and Dutch descendants at that. I was pre-assimilated.

Possibly because of that, I think I was recruited about as aggressively as any college that doesn’t offer athletic scholarships would pursue anyone. (After the Civil Rights Act in 1964, diversity in higher education became a national focus: Hope stuck out like a wooden shoe.) I vividly remember pleading to a Hope representative that yes, yes, I will visit your campus if you please get off the phone and let me watch the NFC Championship game!

The college’s proximity to home was the tipping point. When I arrived, to my recollection, there were no African American professors and very few employees of color, period.

All these memories were racing through my mind as I silently, pensively toured the “Hateful Things|Resilience” exhibit at the De Pree Art Center and Gallery. Not because the images sparked flashbacks of mistreatment or discrimination in college. Far from it.

My four years at Hope were among the best of my life. I was a member of my freshman Pull team, joined the Cosmopolitan Fraternity, earned a degree that paved my career, forged friendships that endure to this day. I served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and promote my alma mater at every opportunity.

No, memories came back because the Hope College I attended could not have dared attempt a display like “Hateful Things|Resilience” as a conversation starter. More than 40 years since my graduation, race remains “the most important issue in our country,” Marc Baer, interim dean for the arts and humanities, said to me. “And on this side of heaven, we’re not going to fix it. But we can make changes. We can do things. We can eat away at it.”

This exhibit took giant bites. So much has improved at Hope, but if we don’t continue to talk about our problems, change dies. Ironically, the most vulgar and racist images one can imagine made me proud to be a Flying Dutchman.

–Jim McFarlin ’74
T
his is not the staid and stuffy scene you might expect in an art museum: Happy voices echo as children, parents and college students huddle around tables coloring, cutting and folding Dia de los Muertos crafts. A preschooler pages through a gallery catalog. A young family draws on the entryway sidewalk with chalk.

But then, Hope College’s Kruizenga Art Museum is not a staid and stuffy place where visitors are expected to shuffle about with whispers and contemplative gazes. “We want the museum to be a laboratory for learning but also a place for people to enjoy themselves,” explained Charles Mason, director and Margaret Feldmann Kruizenga Curator of the museum that opened just over a year ago.

“Enjoy” was the operative word on this late October Saturday, with students and the Holland community invited to a Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Community Day, complete with a traditional ofrenda, treats, festive craft projects and student-led tours—in Spanish—of the current exhibit of Mexican art.

Hope’s Latino Student Organization (LSO) organized the event. Its president, Maria Garcia, a junior from Chicago, Illinois, said celebrating the ofrenda at the Community Day was particularly meaningful. “It is a little piece of home. Born in Mexico, I remember decorating ofrendas, coloring skeletons to hang around the school or home, and especially the candy skulls,” she said.

With craft projects underway in one museum gallery, the other featured the large ofrenda, or altar, built to honor the dead. A group of 50 students gathered the night before to decorate it in honor of significant Latin cultural figures including Cesar Chavez, Juan Gabriel, Diego Rivera and Selena. The colorful, multi-level structure included sugar skulls, traditional foods and drinks, pottery and elaborate papelle picado—lace-like cut paper decorations.

“This is a dream. We’ve come a long way; it’s absolutely incredible,” Garcia said. Previous years’ ofrendas were not as elaborate or in such prominent locations, added Iliani Perez Rodriguez, vice president of the Latino Student Organization and a senior from Williamston, Michigan, who planned the event with Garcia.
In conjunction with its fall exhibit “After the Rupture: New Directions in Mexican Art 1960s-1980s,” museum staff reached out to involve the Latino Student Organization. The Dia de los Muertos celebration came about. “For the past several years, LSO has tried to make this day better each year, so when Charles contacted me about this opportunity, I was overwhelmed with joy,” Garcia said. The museum already had included other students in staging the exhibit, such as Spanish majors who translated labels and design classes that offered layout ideas.

Student and community involvement is intentional at the Kruizenga. “The museum was created to function as an educational resource for the college, but also to be a point of intersection between the campus and the community,” Mason said. “By involving students in activities like the Day of the Dead Community Day, we hope to make the museum more comfortable and more fun for everyone, from the campus and community alike.”

The opportunity to connect with families in Holland—which is 23 percent Hispanic—was significant, said Ernesto Villarreal,
assistant director of Hope's Center for Diversity and Inclusion. “For some of these kids, it might be the first time they interact with a college setting. For some of these kids, it might be the first time they see a Latin American college student. We want to empower our students to serve as models for the next generation.”

Garcia and Rodriguez hoped the event would teach visitors more about the tradition that is a national holiday in Mexico and celebrated in various ways throughout Latin America.

It also presented a chance for students from different Latin nations—and non-Latin students—to learn about each other. “It’s really a beautiful thing when you see students from all over talk about it—this is the tradition we had, versus the tradition you had... Seeing them come together and make something like this, where everyone has their own little twist on it, is really a joy,” Villarreal said.

He praised the opportunity and support that museum staff gave the students. “It’s exciting to see this can be a space where we’re actively displaying the rich diversity that we have at Hope, and that students who historically may not have had a significant voice can now see a powerful part of their history and culture on display.”

It’s also significant that the “voice” could include laughter and chatter of children and parents and students, right alongside a significant art exhibit. “We realize that many people are not inherently attracted to art museums,” Mason said, “but we hope that by involving a broad range of people in our exhibitions and programs, we can create a network of human connections that makes the museum more approachable and enticing for people to visit.”
“The museum was created to function as an educational resource for the college, but also to be a point of intersection between the campus and the community. By involving students in activities like the Day of the Dead Community Day, we hope to make the museum more comfortable and more fun for everyone, from the campus and community alike.”

–Charles Mason, The Margaret Feldmann Kruizenga Curator of the Kruizenga Art Museum
The emotions experienced by parents as they bring their newly minted freshmen to college are, to say the least, complex.

There’s of course, and first and foremost, hope that the coming years will be joyous and help pave the way to a fulfilling future—whatever that might be for their child. There’s pride in each young person for the hard work that has earned a place in the incoming class. And yet… there’s also sorrow for what is ending, as the all-too-brief years of childhood conclude with a departure that will leave a tremendous void. Lives are being launched, and that’s good, but lives are also changing, and that’s difficult.

As a result, there were more than a few tears as the college provided an opportunity during New Student Orientation for parents to write letters to their new students—brief epistles in which they might share their love and hopes and dreams, to be delivered at graduation. It’s a tradition started three years ago by President John Knapp and Kelly Knapp. The Knapps understand well what it is to be the parents of college-age students: they’ve had five themselves, including youngest son Ron in the incoming Class of 2020 at Hope.

“When we see your child on campus, we see our child,” Kelly said as the parents gathered in Dimnent Memorial Chapel for the event, which focuses on the new students’ families as they make their college adjustment. “And all of us care, we pay attention and we are available.”

“This is a time to let go, and that’s hard to do,” President Knapp said. “But this is a community, as Kelly said, that cares deeply about each and every student. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to write a note to your son or daughter sharing how much this experience means to you and all the things you care about and hope for them.”

The letters are tucked safely away for delivery in 2020—and News from Hope College wouldn’t dream of spoiling anyone’s surprise, but here (anonymously) is what a few of the parents noted that they shared:

“We wrote that we hope that she’ll have made lifelong friends and that her education will have impacted her more than she ever dreamed it would… and we did it with a lot of tears, and I think that’s okay to say.”

“I wrote first that I love her and am proud of her. I hope that she takes advantage and really invests in the life of the college, and that she’ll just really become confident and find her calling in life.”
“My hope is that he totally embraces the moment and that he is surrounded by people that will pour themselves into him like those that poured themselves into me when I was here.”

“She will have experiences at Hope that will change her life! We know that the professors and students at Hope will find her to be a catalyst for driving positive change in the world. She will challenge herself and others to really think about the issues and challenges that people face in the world today—she has done this her whole life!”

Steve and Kristi Sieck of Flemington, New Jersey, are members of the college’s Parents’ Council, and have had three children attend Hope: son Brennan, who graduated in 2014; daughter Margaret, a junior; and daughter Elizabeth, a member of the freshman class. They’ve appreciated the care with which Hope has approached New Student Orientation—a quality consistent with the personal approach and positive impact they’ve found and valued throughout their children’s time at Hope.

“We believe that Hope has really thought through the New Student Orientation process and is doing everything possible to help make the transition as pleasant and productive as possible for the new students and their families,” Steve said.

“The fact that Dr. Knapp and his wife Kelly, and so many others who are leading Hope into the future, bring their experience as parents to the table to help all of us navigate through this exciting time means so much to Kristi and me,” he said. “We have now trusted Hope with all three of our children. There is no greater endorsement we can give.”
LEADING THE WAY:
Lessons from the Corporate Century Club  By Greg Olgers ’87

It’s not a blueprint, but a new book by Vicki TenHaken ’73 of the Hope management faculty offers insights for business leaders who’d like to see their organizations thrive in the long-term, examining five traits shared by U.S. companies in the “Century Club”—firms that have lasted at least 100 years.

*Lessons from Century Club Companies: Managing for Long-Term Success* was published earlier this year by Spinner Press of Ann Arbor, Michigan. It suggests five characteristics that help companies become centenarians: strong corporate mission and culture; unique core strengths and change management; long-term relationships with business partners; being active members of the local community; and long-term employee relationships.

Although “making money” isn’t on the list, that’s not to say that profits don’t matter. Instead, TenHaken’s results echo influential business thinker Peter Drucker, who noted that while profits are necessary to a company’s survival, the purpose of business should be to create and keep a customer.

“Leaders of the Century Club companies say these practices build loyalty to their firms, in particular with customers and employees,” said TenHaken, who is a professor of management and the Ruch Director of the college’s Baker Scholars Program. “They also believe their approach to doing business is difficult for competitors to imitate and helps their firms to thrive.”

TenHaken’s conclusions are based on surveys of more than 7,000 companies in the U.S. and Japan as well as follow-up interviews and case studies. She has conducted research on the project for more than 10 years, working with economics professor Makoto Kanda of Meiji Gakuin University in Japan, who was already studying *shinise*—ancient and honored Japanese companies—when they met while she was leading Hope’s Japan May Term in 2004.

TenHaken notes that there are more than 600 companies in the U.S. that are more than 100 years old. The book lists many (she will welcome learning of more), from Zildjian of Norwell, Massachusetts, established in 1623, through Western Construction Group of St. Louis, Missouri, established in 1915.

While the cohort includes firms like the Ford Motor Company, established in 1903, she and Kanda focused on small- and medium-sized, privately owned firms, which in the U.S. represent more than 95 percent of all businesses.

“We wanted our research to be useful to a majority of companies today desiring to thrive for the long-run,” she writes. “We wanted the practices we revealed to be relevant.”

Some of TenHaken’s findings regarding each of the five qualities:

**FACTOR 1: STRONG CORPORATE MISSION AND CULTURE**

“The existence and deliberative preservation of certain values and beliefs that form a strong corporate culture are a key survival factor among Century Club companies. Most have values developed by a founder and passed on through the generations…”

“Present leaders of Century Club companies see themselves as stewards or custodians of the business and feel an obligation to manage the firm in a way that both honors the past and ensures its survival into the future.”

**FACTOR 2: UNIQUE CORE STRENGTHS AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

“These company ‘secrets’ or special methodologies make the organization and what it offers unique. Further, the enduring enterprises say the ongoing development of their special capability is also necessary. The image of old companies is often that they stick to tradition and resist change. Nothing could be further from the truth.”
**FACTOR 3: LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS WITH BUSINESS PARTNERS**

“These firms regard the maintenance of long-term relationships with customers and the development of their suppliers from generation to generation as crucial to their own success… The emphasis on relationships with business partners goes beyond mere economic transactions or the exchange of goods or services for financial gain.”

**FACTOR 4: LONG-TERM EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIPS**

“Many employees become lifelong, loyal members of the organization and often describe their relationship with the company as being part of a family. One of the important employee practices used by the old companies is the development of leaders from within, using a deliberate process for leadership succession.”

**FACTOR 5: ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

“Century Club companies participate actively in their local communities, promoting them and developing local networks for mutual learning and benefit. Century Club companies believe their businesses greatly benefit from having a good standing in the community. They also say that a community’s good reputation helps their business, so enduring enterprises invest time and resources in projects that develop and sustain their communities.”

As important as the research found the five qualities to be in ensuring the longevity of the companies studied, TenHaken noted that they are not a map charting guaranteed success.

“Though the practices Mako and I identified exist in companies in business for over a century and many are not practiced by younger companies, implementing these practices alone cannot guarantee a company’s survival for the long run,” she writes. “Too many economic and social factors, not to mention the results of poor leadership, affect the life spans of businesses. Also, the statistical significance of these practices does not mean that all Century Club companies employ all the practices we uncovered.”

TenHaken worked in corporate settings for more than 25 years before joining the Hope faculty in 2000. She previously worked at General Electric and Herman Miller Inc., in roles including executive vice president of strategy, general manager of a new business venture, vice president of marketing, director of corporate planning and human resources management. She has published several papers on topics of leadership and corporate longevity as well as a handbook for new managers. In 2007, she received an award through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program to teach and conduct research in Krakow, Poland.
Senior Elizabeth Ensink discovers new opportunities through Hope’s interdisciplinary approach to liberal arts.

By Chris Lewis ’09
This summer, senior Elizabeth Ensink of Hudsonville, Michigan, participated in one of the United States’ most competitive undergraduate creative writing fellowships, “Nature in Words.” The 10-week fellowship, based at Hastings, Michigan’s Pierce Cedar Creek Institute for environmental education, provided a unique opportunity for Ensink to merge the diverse academic interests that she’s been able to pursue at a high level at Hope, where she is majoring in both biology and English with a writing emphasis.

It wasn't the first time that she earned major external recognition for her work either. In April, she was one of only 60 undergraduates nationwide chosen to present original research during the 20th annual “Posters on the Hill” event held in Washington, D.C., and sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR).

Throughout the summer fellowship, Ensink worked on a series of lyric essays, titled “Field Guide on Disappearing,” that utilized research about Michigan’s flora and fauna, combined with personal reflection, to cultivate peoples’ understanding of their natural surroundings.

“My study of biology fit into this project naturally in many ways,” Ensink says. “Many of my essays included more formal scientific descriptions of species and natural phenomena, along with the imagery and narratives that are more familiar to creative writing.”

She adds, “I also used the research skills and curiosity I’ve developed while studying biology to help me find information and new questions to ask. I think my fascination with the biological world fueled a lot of my writing, and the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute provided an environment where I could really pursue that interest.”

Although Nature in Words Fellowship students are required to write about nature, they are also able to choose which angle they would like to use as they complete their projects. Ensink chose to develop lyric essays that emulated the format of scientific field guides.

“As a result, Elizabeth was able to blend her creative writing ability with her knowledge of science,” says Sara Syswerda, Pierce Cedar Creek Institute’s education and field station director, who served as Ensink’s fellowship supervisor. “She was also able to blend the scientific writing style with a more creative writing style, which is not often done.”

Due to her studies at Hope, Ensink knew how to automatically analyze text as a reader and as a writer. She was also aware of various literary techniques, and able to incorporate research and experiment with form and style—two necessary skills throughout her fellowship.

“Simultaneously, Elizabeth’s familiarity with scientific texts and processes of inquiry was highly generative to—and essential
for—her project,” says Dr. Susanna Childress Banner, assistant professor of English, and Ensink’s fellowship mentor. “She brought to her project a depth and breadth of scientific knowledge, including attention to minute detail and a general understanding of contexts and technical terms, which sprung organically from her interests in biology.”

Ensink’s participation a month earlier in CUR’s highly selective “Posters on the Hill” event, during which students shared their work with members of Congress, congressional staff, federal government officials, academics and other researchers, stemmed from her participation in the college’s Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Scholars Program in the Arts and Humanities. As a Mellon Scholar, she began to conduct research after her sophomore year, ultimately focusing on a topic in which she could utilize both of her majors.

“THE LIBERAL ARTS PERSPECTIVE OF EVERY CLASS MOTIVATED ME TO FIND WAYS THAT BIOLOGY AND ENGLISH INFORMED EACH OTHER, AS HOPE CULTIVATED AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ARE ENCOURAGED.”

-Elizabeth Ensink, a senior from Hudsonville, Michigan

Titled “The First Inoculation Debate: A Quantitative Text Analysis of the Boston Smallpox Endemic of 1721,” her research project had two primary goals: To analyze how religious views and cultural tensions influenced concerns over inoculation (a primitive form of vaccination) when it was first used in America in 1721 during a smallpox outbreak, and to explore how digital tools, particularly text analysis with a tool called Voyant, help researchers uncover and visualize new perspectives on historical documents. She was also intrigued by parallels with the contemporary debate in the United States regarding vaccination.

“When I realized that the vaccination debate began over 200 years ago with some of the same concerns we see today, I became very interested in exploring those connections and the way cultural factors influence medical debates,” Ensink says. “The Mellon Scholars program, which emphasizes bringing digital technology to humanities research, provided me the opportunity to take this interdisciplinary approach and learn about some of the new ways we can study history, namely quantitative text analysis.”

Ensink was mentored by Dr. Jonathan Hagood, associate professor of history, as she developed and presented her research project. While observing Ensink’s progress, Hagood noticed the direct influence that both of her majors had on her research capabilities. In particular, he believes that Ensink’s biology background helped her understand the science behind inoculation and vaccination, so that she could successfully translate the meaning of historical texts, as they related to scientific subjects.
“Her English and creative writing background also helped her empathize with the authors she studied and gave her insights that were useful to analyzing the texts and understanding the results of the data and text analysis,” Hagood says. “That is, it’s one thing to report what the tool tells you; it’s another to explain it. Her background gave her the tools necessary for evaluating, contextualizing and explaining the results.”

As Ensink prepares to graduate, she remains deeply influenced by Hope’s interdisciplinary approach to liberal arts. In fact, she intends to once again blend her passions for biology and creative writing, as she pursues a full-time science writing position.

“The information I learned in biology classes has inspired images and unique forms for poems, while the attention to detail and language honed in my writing classes helped improve the precision of my work in biology,” Ensink explains. “The liberal arts perspective of every class motivated me to find ways that biology and English informed each other, as Hope cultivated an environment where interdisciplinary perspectives are encouraged.”

Cover art for Elizabeth’s final collection of essays, drawn by her brother Elliot Ensink, featuring a scene from Pierce Cedar Creek Institute.
Soaring in Scotland

Members of the college’s H2 Dance Company strike an exuberant pose as H2 makes its debut on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, Scotland, during August’s Festival Fringe, a prestigious and massive international event featuring more than 50,000 shows from around the world. The pre-professional company presented a sample of faculty member Matthew Farmer ’04’s original work Dieser Ort on the historic thoroughfare and then went on to stage full performances at the intimate indoor Triplex venue across the next four nights.
Please visit the college online for more about H2's time in Scotland.

hope.edu/h2scotland
GOING COAST TO COAST
By Eva Dean Folkert ’83
As voluminous waves rose and flowed more than three miles off the Holland shore, Brian Kieft ’01 looked out over the black-green topography of Lake Michigan and scoured the waterscape. His small boat, as well as his eyeballs, bobbed up and down with each swell, rolling like marbles on a parabolic joyride. The undulating motion alone would make most anyone’s innards sickly; add intense gazing and the task is certainly not meant for the faint of stomach. But Kieft, a water-loving wave-rider, had no problem with either, so his search on the big lake’s surface continued.

Finally, after 20 minutes of unwavering focus, Kieft and his colleagues saw what they went looking for just 100 yards away from their craft. There, coming up from the deep, cork-popped a six-foot, yellow-orange, torpedo-shaped robot. And Kieft was the one who commanded it to do so. From an app. On his phone.

Tethys—the six-year-old, half-million-dollar AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle) invented by the Monterey Bay Aquatic Research Institute (MBARI) with Kieft as one of its software engineers—made its freshwater debut in the Great Lake in August. Prior to its introduction to water without salt, Tethys—of which there are six in the world—had been serving as a deep-sea lab in the Pacific Ocean, monitoring water quality and aquatic life via a suite of sensors for scientists at the University of Hawaii and MBARI, both world leaders in advanced research and education of oceanographic science.

But for that month this past summer, MBARI, in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Great Lakes Science Center, took Tethys coast to coast, and with it came Kieft. The California native, Hope-educated in the liberal arts with a computer science major, returned to the shores of Michigan from the shores of the Pacific much to his nostalgic delight. In the trademark anchor on Hope’s campus and the Big Red lighthouse in Holland’s harbor, a foreshadowing of Kieft’s watery but computer-related career trajectory seems clear now, even if it was not then. Imagination and dreams, and hard work of course, are the vessels with which this even-keeled and confident man has circumnavigated across waters and time—from one home coast to another—all before the age of 40.

A marine biology field trip to Catalina Island while Kieft was a high school student in the 1990s “sold me on the water,” he says. “I still love going back there to this day.” But at Hope, two professors sold him on work with computers. Herb Dershem,
“Our mission statement (at MBARI) promotes combining scientists and engineers to create and try things that have never been done before. It’s this aspect of the work that makes Monday mornings exciting for me.”

–Brian Kieft ’01
and Michigan in water nine to 150-feet deep for over 1,000 kilometers, giving “a more persistent observing presence than research boats and people can provide,” Kieft explains. “And it has the smarts to do what it has to do (like stopping in areas where data is rich) without a lot of human intervention.”

Of course, Kieft was the one to program those smarts into Tethys. And floating around marine biologists at MBARI has informed that programming, as did a liberal arts education, where cross-disciplinary chatter is a valued norm. “It’s nearly impossible to work on the systems I do without knowing the basic scientific requirements behind them,” he confirms. “Part of what makes MBARI so interesting is that we have scientists learning a lot about engineering and engineers learning a lot about the science.” It’s vital for Kieft, also a United States Coast Guard-licensed captain, to constantly consider the various physical and chemical oceanographic processes—like wind-driven coastal upwelling, a piece of fluid jargon he uses frequently—that affect Tethys’ intelligence.

It should go without saying by now that work on water, saline or fresh, with computers, stationary or swimming, are Kieft’s patent joys. The technology is complex, the days can be long and the water occasionally harsh, but it’s a good day when a whale or dolphins or sea otters provide him company out in the bay. It’s a good day when new environmental advances are discovered with his help. And it’s always a good day when Tethys comes back as commanded.

It’s especially a good month, though, when work and science bring his family—wife Kimberly VanDerWende ’01 Kieft, a Michigan native, and their two young sons—back to a state where currents of fond memories and new discoveries abide. And Brian Kieft, for one good day, was buoyed by the serendipitous flow that sent him coast to coast.
When it comes to long-term romantic relationships, what people say they want and who they choose can often seem disconnected. By Greg Olgers ’87

But is that good or bad, or is the answer “it depends”? In any case, can knowing that there’s a difference help people make better choices and lead happier lives? Dr. Carrie Bredow of the psychology faculty is working to find out. She’s looking in particular at whether or not people have standards of which they’re not even aware.

“There’s a lot of literature on what people say they want in a partner. Up until recently, it’s just been assumed that that gives us a straightforward window into what people do,” said Bredow, an assistant professor of psychology who has been studying adult romantic relationships and standards for marriage partners for several years. “But new methodologies for studying romantic relationships have uncovered what some are calling a ‘fundamental disconnect’ between the qualities people report valuing in a mate and the type of partners they actually select.”

“We’re trying to go beyond what they say that they want,” she said. “Maybe it’s because part of what is guiding our behavior is unconscious.”

“What we’re most interested in is whether that can actually predict future behavior,” Bredow said.

Bredow and the Hope students on her research team have spent the last year and a half developing and testing a set of questions designed to measure people’s unconscious or implicit preferences for a long-term partner instead of what they explicitly report. The results thus far have been promising.

“Our pilot work in this area has been exciting, and has demonstrated not only that implicit measures can meaningfully capture people’s unconscious attitudes toward the desirability of different traits in a partner, but also that the correspondence between people’s implicit standards and their partner’s characteristics can sometimes predict relationship outcomes in circumstances where their explicit standards cannot,” she said.

Her next step is to follow a group of volunteers across a longer period of time. The resulting study, “The Role of Implicit and Explicit Mate Standards in Partnering Cognitions and Behaviors,” will run for the next four years, supported in part through a $7,500 grant that she received recently from the Christian Scholars Foundation.

It’s work that is being facilitated by the Internet. Bredow recruited the study participants, all currently unmarried adults, through Amazon Mechanical Turk, providing a more representative cross section than she would garner if, for example, focusing on college students or even people in a specific geographic area. “You can get a pretty diverse group of people and what’s happening with their partnering behaviors,” she said.

The participants all completed an online survey this fall and will provide additional information annually. Bredow anticipates that the long-term, or longitudinal, nature of the project will provide a range of experiences—some participants still single, some in relationships, some with relationships that began and ended—that will help enhance the validity of the results. Ultimately, she would also like to see the project extend even longer, potentially for 10, 15 or 20 years.

“I’m really excited about this particular data because we just don’t know that much about how people in the general public make these partnering decisions and how that impacts their behavior later on,” she said.
CHRISTMAS VESPERS

A quiet moment as Hope readies its celebration of Christmas Vespers in Dimnent Memorial Chapel in this undated image from the college’s collection in the Joint Archives of Holland. A beloved part of Advent in West Michigan for more than 75 years, Christmas Vespers provides an opportunity to step away from the intensity of the semester’s closing weeks and the busyness of life in general, and to reflect in fellowship on the meaning of the season.
NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE

A reception on campus during Orientation Weekend on Saturday, Aug. 27, provided an opportunity for the college’s generational new students and their families to connect with each other and members of the Hope faculty and staff, more than a few of whom had been a part of the campus community when the new students’ parents were likewise at Hope—and remembered them fondly and well.

The college has a total of 106 generational new students this year, ranging from the second generation of their family to attend Hope through the fifth. The list is available on the college’s website, along with a photograph showing many of the third-, fourth- and fifth-generation students.

hope.edu/generational2020

FAMILY TRADITION

CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: Julie Rawlings ’83 Huisingh

Your Hope friends want to hear from you! Please share your news online at alumni@hope.edu or hope.edu/update, or via mail at: Alumni News; Hope College Public Affairs and Marketing; PO Box 9000; Holland, MI 49422-9000

Submissions for the Spring 2017 issue are due by Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017
40s

Delbert Knooihuizen ’42 and Mimi Moncada ’43 Knooihuizen celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, Aug. 17, in Hudson, Ohio, at the Laurel Lake Retirement Community.

Connie Hinga ’49 Boersma of Holland, Michigan, reports that she has had eight grandchildren and four of their spouses attend Hope College.

Harvey Heerspink ’49 of Jenison, Michigan, visited the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., last year with more than 100 other World War II veterans from western Michigan. More than 1,000 veterans from all over America were there on that day.

50s

June Dunster ’52 Stoppels of Grand Rapids, Michigan, reports that she is still responding to questions about puppets and puppetry.

Dick Hagni ’53 of Rolla, Missouri, retired from Missouri University of Science and Technology 16 years ago, after teaching geology for 45 years (the last 15 years serving as chairman of the Department of Geology and Geophysics). However, he continues to do research in geology, give professional presentations at geology meetings, and write papers on the results of his research. Over the past three months, he has given six talks (on different aspects of geology), published two papers and a book chapter, and reviewed two journal papers. He specializes in the study of economic mineral deposits.

Kate Ver Meulen ’53 Rudy of Greenwich, Connecticut, reports that in the winter months she and her husband live in “The Boulders” in Scottsdale, Arizona.

John Busman ’54 and Barb Pennings ’56 Kremer were married on May 14, 2016, in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Barry Whitsitt ’54 of Oxford, Georgia, reports enjoying returning to Holland to the family’s cottages to enjoy the cooler temperatures.

Ruth Pruis ’56 Boender and John Boender celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in June 2016.

Terry Zylman ’59 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, taught high school band for 20 years in Michigan and performed with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Battle Creek Symphony, Lawrence Welk, Harry Connick Jr., Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Temptations and Four Tops, touring Broadway shows and on numerous recordings, and is still performing.

60s

George Boerigter ’61 was elected chairman of the New Mexico Angels, the local venture capital investment group in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Angels consist of 60-75 accredited investors investing in five to seven deals per year. George also helped found the NM Startup Factory that annually starts three to four high tech NM firms.

Gail Pennington ’63 Siefert of Morehead City, North Carolina, retired after 25 years of teaching high school German, French and English in New Jersey. She retired to North Carolina and has recently traveled to Israel and Beijing, China.

Kathryn Brown ’65 Hicks of Athens, Texas, retired after 10 years teaching in Michigan and 29 years teaching in Texas. She recently married Mark Hicks.

Norman Ten Brink ’65 retired as professor of geology at Grand Valley State University in 2003 and reports that he is now enjoying summers in Holland, Michigan, and winters in Green Valley, Arizona. Hiking, biking and archery are his favorite activities.


Mary Groenewoud ’66 Hale of San Antonio, Texas, is a retired reading specialist. She and her husband, Dwight, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2017. She reports that they enjoy traveling and visiting family and friends.

William Hultgren ’66 of Dearborn, Michigan, retired after 44 years of employment with the City of Dearborn: 20 years as city attorney and 24 years as a district judge. His wife, Julie, is retiring after 25 years with the 19th District Court and City of Dearborn.

Robert Werge ’66 has retired as an international anthropologist with the U.S. Government and his consulting firm. He and his wife live in Denver, Colorado, close to one of their three children and three of their nine grandchildren. He moved to Colorado 20 years ago to ski, hike and bike, which he still enjoys.

The Arcadian Fraternity marked its 70th anniversary with multiple events during Homecoming Weekend, with more than 100 Arcadian brothers from the Classes of 1949 to 2016 participating. The activities included a gathering on Friday, Oct. 21, during which 12 pledge brothers from the 1950s shared memories of their era and their journeys since, and culminated in a celebration on Saturday, Oct. 22, during which the fraternity honored the Rev. Gerard Van Heest ’49 of Holland, Michigan. Jerry, who was Hope’s chaplain from 1979 until retiring in 1994, was a founding member of Chi Phi Sigma, chartered in 1946. More about the fraternity is available at arcadianfraternity.com.
This fall, Hope College dedicated the press box at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium in honor of Tom Renner ’67 and Carole DeYoung ’67 Renner, and honored the couple during the H-Club Coaches’ Luncheon on Monday, Oct. 24. Tom served Hope for 47 years before retiring in 2013. He was associate vice president for public and community relations, and his work included publicity and photography for the college’s varsity athletic teams.

Marcia De Graaf ’67 retired after 17 years as the human resources/community coordinator at DW McMillan Memorial Hospital in Brewton, Alabama. She will continue to serve on the board of directors of Covenant Alzheimer’s Services, where she has served since 2007 and plans to work with Alzheimer’s education for caregivers and their support team.

Laurie Taylor ’67 Rossi of Fairview, New Mexico, has been studying to become a symphony conductor. She has begun playing the cello and plays with High Desert Strings of Santa Fe. She will be conducting the Santa Fe Symphony for one piece in December, the third year in a row.

Pamela VanderWeele ’68 of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, is an interpretive volunteer at Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska. This is her second three-month volunteer position at Sitka. She is also an active Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

Karen Zeh ’69 Baumgardner moved to Iowa in December 2007 to serve the Reformed Presbyterian Church. During 2011-12, all three of her daughters were married. She and her husband currently have six granddaughters. She reports that in addition to being a pastor’s wife, she has an ESL Bible class for Japanese women.

E. Stevens Binder ’69 retired after several principal jobs including National and State Exemplary School Awards.

Carolyn Westlake ’69 Sigler of Sterling Heights, Michigan, reports that she is currently enjoying her four grandchildren and camping. She and her husband recently celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary and have enjoyed several mission trips teaching ESL in central Europe.

Dorothy Spencer ’69 retired on Sept. 1, 2013, from East Carolina University’s Division of Health Sciences, where she served for more than 16 years as associate vice chancellor for communication and information services and director of the William E. Laupus Health Sciences Librarian. She reports that since retirement she has relocated to Loveland, Colorado, where she enjoys being near family and has access to the wonderful Denver Airport from which she can easily pursue her passion for international travel.

70s

Gail Rutgers ’70 of Holland, Michigan, has been an artist at Uptown Gallery and Frame Shop in Holland for 22 years. She continues to exhibit and sell her art through the gallery.

Reed Brown ’71 is retired and enjoying life in the “Babylon by the Bay,” San Francisco, California, near theaters, War Memorial Opera House and other wonderful pastimes.

Warren Sherman ’71 has been accepted into a two-year master’s program at Brown University in cybersecurity. He is currently a consultant with Standard & Poor’s in the company’s New York headquarters.

Doris Smith ’72 DeLuca has retired as executive assistant and office manager from CTS Inc., a software consulting company headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. She reports that she and her husband are looking forward to travel and more family time as her daughter and son-in-law have recently returned to the United States with their new daughter after living overseas for the past 10 years.

Sharon VanDyk ’72 Purkey of Sidney, Montana, retired from 30 years of teaching middle school language arts, history and mathematics. During the first month of retirement she traveled through northern Europe, and she looked forward to Japan in the fall.

Philip Tappert ’72 of Grapeland, Texas, is in his 30th year of ministry in France with students at the University of Montpellier, combined with a church-planting effort.

Christian Fenton ’73 has retired as deputy superintendent for business and operations after 37 years with the Grosse Pointe Public School System. He also served for a brief period as interim superintendent. Besides budget and finances, his focus has been on repairs, improvements and expansions to the district’s historically/architecturally significant K-12 building. He attended the Grosse Pointe Schools as a student, so his affiliation totals 50 years. He reports that he and his wife, Ann Grace, will continue to travel and enjoy their children, grandchildren and music service at Knox
Mary Jo Partridge ’73 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, retired from the Plymouth Road Animal Clinic after 37 years.

Lillie Parker ’73 Wilbourn of Portsmouth, Virginia, has retired from teaching after 32 years. She reports that she plans to travel and keep herself busy. She volunteers at her church’s school and will help raise her grandson.

Chuck Brooks ’74 of Harwood, Maryland, has worked as a senior security specialist and federal officer for the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security in Washington, D.C. for the past 10 years. His responsibilities include executive protections, senior security liaison for the Office of Consular Affairs and serving as a diplomatic security officer for the U.S. Diplomatic Facilities Protection Programs.

Sue Drenkhahn ’74 of Holland, Michigan, retired after 35 years of work as a public library reference librarian, mostly with Hennepin County Library in suburban Minneapolis, Minnesota. She reports that she now cares for her 100+-year-old mother.

Scott Lenheiser ’74 of Farmington Hills, Michigan, is in his 38th year as a member of the Michigan Bar Association. He specializes in real estate transactions, taxation issues and business law, and practices in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and Greater Detroit. He has helped his ninth client achieve decamillionaire net worth status.

Roxanne Vanderveer ’74 retired from the State of Michigan, Grand Traverse/Leelanau County Department of Human Services on Jan. 1, 2011, after 30 years of service. She reports that she enjoys her part-time job working in the tasting room at L. Mawby and Big Little Wineries located in rural Suttons Bay.

Kris Musco ’75 David of Warwick, Rhode Island, completed a year as district governor for Rotary International. As governor she was responsible for 66 Rotary clubs in the state of Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the islands of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard. The year ended with the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, South Korea, and a trip to Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. She and her husband, Bill, are both active Rotarians and members of the Rotary Club of Providence, and she reports that they are enjoying retirement.

David Edwards ’75 recently was appointed president and CEO of the Essex County Community Foundation, a $32-million grant-making organization serving the north shore of Massachusetts.

Debra Buis ’75 Hartman and David Rockey were married on August 2, 2014. She reports that she and her husband are both retired and enjoy traveling. They divide their time between their homes in Freeport, Illinois, and Rapid City, South Dakota.

Ginny Agre ’75 Kiser of Greensboro, North Carolina, reports that she and her husband are enjoying retirement.

Glenn Wagner ’75 has published a book, God Incidents: Real Life Stories to Strengthen and Restore Your Faith, aimed to help persons who have lost faith, are losing faith or desire to help those who are struggling with faith issues. He has been a United Methodist Pastor for 40 years, and currently serves as senior pastor of United Methodist Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven, Michigan. The book shares inspirational real-life stories, important biblical lessons and historical examples to offer helpful perspectives on God. The book was the best-seller during this year’s statewide annual conference for United Methodists in Michigan, held at Michigan State University.

Richard Williams ’75 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is in his 18th year as director...
Ron Bechtel ’82 is a program director at 70x7 Life Recover in Holland, Michigan, a ministry that teaches people with felonies how to do life better and places them in a job with one of more than 30 partner employers. He trains the mentors who help the participants succeed and directs the work of case managers and teachers in Holland, Grand Haven and Allegan, Michigan. This past May and June, Ron walked the 500-mile Camino Frances pilgrimage from St. Jean Pied-a-Port in France across Spain to Santiago de Compostella. In September, Ron and his wife, Maya, will celebrate the first birthday of their first granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann. Hope College Class of 2037, daughter of Brant Bechtel ’14 and Emily Martinez ’15 Bechtel. He is pictured with Cynthia Slagter of the Spanish Department at Calvin College. He started a conversation with a young person walking beside him and she turned out to be a Calvin student, and then he met the whole Calvin crew (20 students walking a portion of the trail) when they all stopped in Manjarin.

Ellen Barker ’76 Smith of Holland, Michigan, opened Albert K’s Catering in May 2016 after a 30-year career in human resources. She followed her true passion for cooking and entertaining.

Anthony George ’77 reports that after 16 years of college teaching he is now back to being a full-time artist, framer and dad.

Rachel Hesselink ’77 retired in June 2015 with 31 years of federal service. For the past six years, she worked in the finance budget office of the Surface Combat Systems Center, Dept. of Navy in Wallops Island, Virginia.

Her federal career also included 18 years with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, primarily conducting performance evaluations of environmental, nuclear waste and energy programs, and six years with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission leading a budget development team. Rachel was part of the first Hope College Washington Honors Semester program in 1976, interning in the White House Press Office. She and James Noel were married on June 11, 2016, in Salisbury, Maryland.

Daniel Kiel ’77 will be bicycling Sea to Sea again, June through August. The trip is from Vancouver, BC, to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Sea to Sea raises funds to fight poverty.

Carolyn Walburn ’77 Metzler of Albuquerque, New Mexico, works at the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, serving as spiritual director for the Living School, a two-year program doing a deep dive into the Christian mystical tradition through which students from all over the world respond to the needs and suffering of creation.

Ralph Schubert ’77 was named associate director for Title V Programs at the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Division of Specialized Care for Children. The division partners with Illinois families and communities to help children and youth with special health care needs connect to services and resources. He is supporting adoption of the “medical home” model of clinical practice, family participation in medical care and smooth transition from pediatric to adult health care for children with special health care needs and their families.

Judy Diephouse ’78 Wolffis of Grand Haven, Michigan, retired from the Grand Haven Public Schools after 37 years in education. She had taught in a learning disability resource room in second grade and in kindergarten. She reports that she is looking forward to enjoying walking, gardening, family and friends gathering at the cottage, and the beautiful Grand Haven beaches.

Leah Sunderlin ’79 Haugneland has completed two years serving as the treasurer for Taylor High School Band Boosters, the band of which her daughter is a member. She has amassed more than 1,200 hours of service in both years and was nominated for Volunteer of the Year during the 2014-15 school year.

Mark Ongley ’79 of Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, published his first book, Into the Light: Healing Sexuality in Today’s Church, in August 2016. Its aim is to redeem the church’s discussion of sexuality by offering grace and healing to the sexually abused, addicted and sexually averse.

of community economic development, with responsibilities administering the state’s MainStreet program, the Arts and Cultural District program, the Historic Theaters Restoration Initiative and the rural frontier communities program. He continues to live in the North Valley along the Rio Grande Bosque.

Ron Bechtel ’82 is a program director at 70x7 Life Recover in Holland, Michigan, a ministry that teaches people with felonies how to do life better and places them in a job with one of more than 30 partner employers. He trains the mentors who help the participants succeed and directs the work of case managers and teachers in Holland, Grand Haven and Allegan, Michigan. This past May and June, Ron walked the 500-mile Camino Frances pilgrimage from St. Jean Pied-a-Port in France across Spain to Santiago de Compostella. In September, Ron and his wife, Maya, will celebrate the first birthday of their first granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann, Hope College Class of 2037, daughter of Brant Bechtel ’14 and Emily Martinez ’15 Bechtel. He is pictured with Cynthia Slagter of the Spanish Department at Calvin College. He started a conversation with a young person walking beside him and she turned out to be a Calvin student, and then he met the whole Calvin crew (20 students walking a portion of the trail) when they all stopped in Manjarin.

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80s

Ann Moored ’80 DeYoung of Coopersville, Michigan, recently retired after 35 years as a teacher, principal and curriculum coordinator. She is now pursuing various education consulting opportunities.

Sue Schuurmans ’80 Eby of Morrison, Colorado, teaches private piano lessons in the Denver metro area.

Debra Hall ’80 Tolsma of Muskegon, Michigan, left Steelcase Inc. in 2015 and formed her own company, Relevant Learning Solutions, specializing in leadership and workforce...
Sallie Copenhaver ’81 Duncan of Biddeford, Maine, has worked for Walmart for seven years, recently switching departments from front end to softlines.

Marcia Wolffis ’81 von Ehr is currently pursuing an AAS degree in accounting at the University of Alaska. She works as a document specialist in the finance department of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. She reports that she and her husband John “Pat” ’82 von Ehr are happily living in Palmer, Alaska.

Jeffrey Beswick ’84 was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2017 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. He has practiced law in the Grand Haven, Michigan area for more than 25 years.

Mark Nagelvoort ’84 of Holland, Michigan, was promoted to chief operating officer overseeing all divisions of Tommy Car Wash Systems, from sales, accounting, warehouse, IT and project management to construction.

Will Jewson ’86 is in his third year as the pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in Janesville, Wisconsin, after a 25-year career in the major appliance/electronics industry.

Bonnie Baker ’87 Hooyenga of Holland, Michigan, is working with top doctors and doctor’s assistants in autism and top people in commercial organ and piano.

Steve Van Harn ’87 recently started a new role as senior purchasing analyst with LG Chem in addition to launching Rinchen Ranch to raise Tibetan Yak for meat, fiber and breeding.

Maureen Rand ’88 Oakley of Frederick, Maryland, was promoted to the rank of professor at Mount St. Mary’s University. She published The Bottle, the Breast, and the State: The Politics of Infant Feeding in the United States in 2015.

Raymund Woo ’88 of Maitland, Florida, was chosen as chief of staff at Florida Hospital for Children in Orlando, Florida, where he continues his research on robotic spinal surgery.

Robert Anderle ’91 of Middletown, New York, relocated from his home of 18 years in and around Chicago in 2015, having accepted a call to serve as pastor of Scotchtown Presbyterian Church in Middletown, New York. He has been married since 2012 to Jacqui, and their two children are Braden (3) and Lydia (1).

Kathi Damsteegt ’91 Clark reports that she and her family have returned to Michigan, this time on the opposite end of the state in Milford, Michigan. Her husband took a design-engineering position with Mahle in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and they moved from western New York last spring. They have a daughter in her second year at Hope College, so with this move they are able to visit her when needed and see her in her theatre shows at Hope.

Patricia Stegink ’91 Villanueva of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, is now serving as school director for Happendance (501-c) in Okemos, Michigan, in addition to remaining on faculty. She is also the artistic director of Velocity Concert Dance and Education Exchange and assistant director with Impulse Student Dance Company.

William Charles Crowley ’92 taught a month-long Graham Technique intensive for a fifth year at the Centre de Danse du Marais in Paris, France, in August 2016 and held an audition for Dance 43 at Hope College in September 2016. He then traveled to East Lansing, Michigan, where he set his work, “Ghost Light” on
VIENNA SUMMER SCHOOL CELEBRATES 60TH

Multiple events in Vienna this summer helped celebrate the 60th anniversary of the college’s beloved Vienna Summer School. Highlights, held in conjunction with this year’s summer school, ranged from a visit to the European Union Office, to a tour of the Leopold Museum, to a violin and piano concert at the Vienna Choir Boys Auditorium. Members of the Hope family from the Class of 1957 through current students as well as faculty, staff and friends of Hope participated in the events. Pictured is a banquet at Fuhrgassl-Huber in the Vienna Woods on Friday, June 24, which more than 100 attended.

The college’s Vienna Summer School was founded in 1956 by the late Dr. Paul Fried ’46, who was a member of the Hope history faculty and Hope’s first director of international education. The program has been led since 1976 by Dr. Stephen Hemenway of the English faculty. Nearly 3,500 students from more than 200 colleges and universities have enrolled in the summer school since its beginning.

Happendance Dance Company. He also taught master classes at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky; the School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Lexington, Kentucky; Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia; Broward College in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Miami Arts Charter School in Miami, Florida, in September and October.

Don Lingle ’92 of Dayton, Ohio, marked his 19th year at LexisNexis this past July. They have locations in Ohio, Georgia and Florida with emerging offices in North Carolina.

John Suchan ’92 of Wichita, Kansas, recently wrote and won a grant to purchase a class set of iPads for the autistic population of students at the Maize South Middle School where he is a counselor.

Brad Brown ’93 of Bradley, California, accepted a pastoral call at Heritage Village Church in Paso Robles, California.

Jason Evert ’93 of Jacksonville, Florida, has joined Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT, Inc.) as a senior marine scientist performing environmental impact analyses and ecosystem restoration planning. He is also associate faculty at the University of Phoenix, teaching biology to non-majors.

Sarah Rickert ’93 has started a new role as a quality manager with Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories in Princeton, New Jersey.

James Schut ’93 of Franklin, Tennessee, has entered his eighth year as an associate professor of graduate counseling at Trevecca Nazarene University.

Allison Goins ’94 Ash of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the dean of student care and graduate student life at Wheaton College. She and her husband have two children, Ellie (6) and Maddy (4).

Danielle Phebus ’94 Bielby of Battle Creek, Michigan, reports that she and her husband celebrated 19 years of marriage and have four children. She is active in her church and her community.

Scott Crawford ’95 has been employed with Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, since 1999. He is the associate director of the office of undergraduate admissions.

Beth Thorrez ’97 announces the birth of Miriam Esperanza.

Shawn Walbecq ’97 of Interlochen, Michigan, is the K-12 principal at Suttons Bay Public Schools.

Erik Manninen ’98 was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army on May 15, 2016. Currently, he serves as the internal medicine residency program director at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. WBAMC offers one of the six residency programs for internal medicine in Army hospitals. Erik and Melisa (married 17 years) and their children, Wesley (16), Donna (12), Gordon (10), and Henry (7), reside in El Paso, Texas.

Benjamin Cook ’98 of Cazenovia, New York, founded Ben Cook Metalworks LLC in 2015, producing modern industrial furniture and architectural elements.

Karen Paradis ’98 Filipiak is working part-time as a staff registered nurse at Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, in a women’s and children’s float pool. She is a mother of a 4-year-old daughter and an 18-month-old son.

Elizabeth Freeman ’98 graduated with a Master of Science degree in nutrition and integrative health. She partners with individuals and organizations to create awareness and drive change in food and healthy lifestyle choices.

Amy-Lynn Halverson ’98 and Daniel Tatlock announce the birth of Margaret Louisa on April 2, 2016.

Matthew Kuiper ’98 received his Ph.D. in Islamic studies and theology from the University of Notre Dame. He successfully defended his dissertation on modern Islamic history on Monday, June 27, and was awarded

Kari Jackson ’99 Chavey of Novi, Michigan, marked her 10th year at General Motors in October in the propulsion systems embedded controls group, where she met her husband, Dana, whom she married on Oct. 1, 2011. She completed her master’s in global automotive and manufacturing engineering degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in December 2013 and welcomed her daughter Estibaliz Frances on Feb. 10, 2016.


Erin Frazer ’99 Nagrant of Brunswick, Ohio, has been a hospitalist for the Cleveland Clinic since April 2014. She and Andrew Nagrant announce the birth of Mary-Judith on June 21, 2012, and James Michael on June 7, 2015.

Kathryn Nixon ’99 of Hainesville, Illinois, recently received her LCSW and is maintaining a happy career at Allendale Association. She and Nadia Foster were married on Sept. 16, 2016.

Dan Taylor ’99 and Jenn Taylor announce the birth of Brynn Elise on Aug. 17, 2016.

Kate Davelaar ’00 and Tom Guthrie announce the birth of Abraham Thomas on Jan. 13, 2016. Kate and family live in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she is serving as the interim director of Ulkirk Greensboro (campus ministries of the PC (UCA)).


Sara Coke ’00 Leidich and Jay Leidich announce the birth of Charlotte Mary Jane on May 31, 2016.

Michelle Ouellette ’00 and Victor Acciari were married on July 13, 2013, and announce the birth of Victoria Lynn on May 12, 2014.

John Vlnka ’00 and Sarah Bussing ’00 Vlnka announce the birth of Harrison Cole on March 30, 2016.

Laura Parsons ’00 Yanez graduated May 2016 from Baylor University’s executive MBA program with healthcare administration specialization and was inducted into the honors society for business, Beta Gamma Sigma.

Matthew Goupell ’01 was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at the University of Maryland - College Park. He also started a new five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health investigating how to improve hearing with cochlear implants.

Daniel Lannin ’01 of Mount Prospect, Illinois, accepted a position at Illinois State University in Bloomingtom/Normal, Illinois, as assistant professor of clinical and counseling psychology. Dan obtained his Ph.D. in clinical counseling psychology in May 2016 from Iowa State University.

Christopher Rutan ’01 and Jennifer Rutan announce the birth of Grayson. He joins brothers, Hudson (7) and Landon (6).

Laura Merte ’01 Walsh and Justin Walsh announce the birth of Summer Lizbeth on Aug. 1, 2016.

Elizabeth Lomasney ’02 McDermott of New Lenox, Illinois, is an assistant professor of English at the University of St. Francis and an associate editor at RHINO magazine. Her chapbook, How to Leave a Farmhouse, was published last year.

Susan DeKam ’02 of Dallas, Texas, presented an organ concert as the inaugural performance in the Distinguished Alumni Recital series at Hope on Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Concert Hall of the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts. She serves as an organist at Northaven United Methodist Church, as an adjunct piano and organ faculty member at Mountain View College in Dallas, and as primary accompanist for Coppell High School, and also maintains a private piano and organ studio.

Josiah Dykstra ’02 was named to the Daily Record’s list of Very Important Professionals Successful by 40 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ian Fish ’02 and Candice Fish announce the birth of Everette Spencer on May 13, 2016.

Matthew Doerr Parker ’02 and Krista Parker announce the birth of Isla Ave Ann on Aug. 26, 2016. Matthew is a program manager for Applied Minds, LLC in Burbank, California, a think-tank consulting organization that helps client companies develop new products and systems.

Rachael Pridgeon ’02 Peckham of Huntington, West Virginia, was tenured at Marshall University, where she teaches creative writing. This fall she was on sabbatical.

Meredith Care ’02 Segur and Chad Segur announce the birth of Kirsten Elise on Sept. 17, 2015.

Erin Hughes ’03 Cobb and Jeff Cobb announce the birth of Brennan Jeffrey on Aug. 18, 2015.

Andrew Imdieke ’03 received his Ph.D. in accounting from Michigan State University. He is an assistant professor of accountancy at the University of Notre Dame.

David Rye ’03 recently opened the Vermont 100 Store in Waterbury Center, Vermont. The Vermont 100 Store stocks a wide assortment of made-in-Vermont crafts, toys, gifts, art, games and other Vermont necessities, as well as its Vermont 100 house brand of apparel and merchandise.

Noel Snyder ’03 received a Ph.D. in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, with a concentration in preaching and the arts. He continues to serve as chaplain and director of spiritual life at Alma College.

Kerilyn Harkaway-Krieger ’04 graduated with a Ph.D. in English and religious studies in December 2014. In the fall of 2015, she started serving as an assistant professor of English at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts.

Julie Laskowski ’04 Hogue of Osceola, Indiana, is currently staying home with her three young children.

Dan Vagle ’04 of Overland Park, Kansas, is a small-business product manager for Commerce Bank.

Kortney DeVito ’05 Marlatt and Nick Marlatt announce the birth of Isabella Katherine on Aug. 24, 2016.

James Morse ’05 and Paris Terkeurst ’08 Morse announce the birth of Athena in April 2016.

Jessica Robinson ’05 of Grand Haven, Michigan, is entering her second year at Western Theological Seminary. She is an official aspirant for the priesthood in the Episcopal Church and is currently serving as parish intern at St. John’s Episcopal in Grand Haven. She also has founded The Lakeshore LGBTQ Faith Initiative.

Ray Jones ’06 of Hudsonville, Michigan, was appointed the director of nursing at Spring Arbor University in November 2015. He is currently working on his doctoral degree in nursing.

Stephanie Koenke ’06 Kostsuca and Rusty Kostsuca announce the birth of Claire Elisabeth, born on March 23, 2016.

NoahDavid Lein ’06 wrote and self published, as David H. Safford, The Bean of Life, a Story of Love and Coffee, which debuted on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Heather Amundson ’06 Lobejko and Patrick Lobejko announce the birth of Molly Grace on June 8, 2016.

Zephyr Miller ’06 works at Warner Bros supporting the company’s EVP of worldwide digital marketing for all theatrical releases. She reports that she is celebrating 10 years of living in sunny Los Angeles, California.

Rachel Achtmeier ’06 Rhodes and Matt Rhodes announce the birth of Benjamin Harvey Morton on March 29, 2016. 
Anna Van Wyck ’06 of Mears, Michigan is a licensed professional counselor and infant family specialist, and has an M.A. in clinical mental health counseling, specializing in play therapy and children.

Rebecca Bombard ’07 and Bruno Piro announce the birth of daughter Bella Dea Jayne on July 15, 2016. Rebecca has been the owner and artistic director of R&B Dance Center, Wilmette, Illinois, for the past three years.

Aaron Garoutte ’07 and Jennifer Gable ’06 Garoutte announce the birth of Claire Carolyn born on Feb. 28, 2016. She joins their son, Charlie. Aaron also earned his Ph.D. in microbiology and molecular genetics at Michigan State University.

Steven Rodriguez ’07 of Rochester, New York is the senior pastor at Lakeview Community Church.

Emily Walsh ’07 Schreiner and Chris Schreiner announce the birth of Damian Donald on March 3, 2016.

Laura Buck ’07 Smith and David Smith announce the birth of Judah Kenneth on Feb. 6, 2016.

Joel Evenhouse ’08 and Gretchen Davis ’09 Evenhouse announce the birth of Harper Jane on July 7, 2016.

Heidi Weir ’08 Franklin and Darrin Franklin announce the birth of Cadence on Jan. 5, 2016.

Mandy Novak ’08 Goetz received her Master of Business Administration degree from Ferris State University in August 2016. Her graduate paper, “The Bleak Reality of a World Without Standards,” was nationally recognized by the American National Standards Institute and is being published in Standards Engineering the journal of the Society for Standards Professionals. She and her husband, Matthew Goetz ’06, also announce the birth of Brooklyn Jill on Feb. 19, 2016.

Jolene Huber ’08 and Jared Carlson were married on June 4, 2016, in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Clinton Jepkema ’08 and Laura Scherer ’08 Jepkema announce the birth of Cora Suzanne on March 11, 2016. She joins big sister Evelyn.

Michael Kaffka ’08 reports that he has led an exciting career in sales for the past eight years and has lived in four different states. He reports that he feels like Hope’s communication classes, specifically taught by Prof. James Herrick, were what made him understand argumentation and communication rhetoric the most. It has helped in his ability to align, persuade and influence others.

David Nyitray ’08 and Elizabeth Richert ’08 Nyitray announce the birth of Noah John on June 9, 2016.


Sarah Watkins ’08 and Matthew Fabian were married on Aug. 28, 2016, at Bottom Lounge in Chicago, Illinois.

Stephanie Knapper ’09 Adams and David Adams announce the birth of Leia Irene on June 3, 2016. She joins Emma (4) and Nora (2).

Tim Van Noord ’09 has joined Colliers International West Michigan as a sales associate. He specializes in industrial investment sale and lease transactions, and is based in the firm’s downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, office. He was previously the regional director of research and analytics at Newmark Grubb Knight Frank for four years, serving in Los Angeles, California and Chicago, Illinois. Before that, he was a senior analyst for Grubb & Ellis in Boston, Massachusetts, for two years.


Hillary Delhagen ’09 of Brooklyn, New York is a creative arts therapist at Rikers Island Correctional Facility. She has been working with adults with severe mental illnesses at Brooklyn Community Services as the senior art therapist for the past three years.

Jill Immink ’09 Knaus and Andy Knaus announce the birth of Bri Noelle on Feb. 4, 2016.

Tamara Pischke ’09 began pursuing a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy at Spalding University in Fall 2016.

James Ralston ’09 received his Master in Business Administration degree from Central Michigan University in August 2016.

Rachel Bakken ’09 Romero and Diego Romero ’09 announce the birth of Collin on July 6, 2016.

Jason De Jong ’09 and Julie Kofron ’10 were married on April 30, 2016, at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. In July they moved back to Holland, Michigan, from Denver, Colorado, to be closer to family.
Michelle Geerlings '10 and Ty Tanis '11 were married on June 17, 2016. Michelle works at the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan, and Ty works for Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holland.

Chelsey Poindexter '10 Herrmann and Christopher Herrmann announce the birth of Joanna Christine on May 27, 2016.

Katie Moloney '10 Miller of Ludington, Michigan, is a health educator at District Health Department #10.

Beth Olson '10 and Jon Lauterbach were married on Aug. 20, 2016 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Corinne Schild '10 received her Doctorate of Psychology degree in clinical psychology from Adler University in August 2016. She will remain at Louisiana State University in mental health services for a post-doctoral fellowship.

Carolyn Powers '10 Wiersma and Nathan Wiersma '11 announce the birth of Lucy Noelle on July 18, 2016.

Jonathan Brooks '11 received his Master of Science degree in wildlife and fisheries biology from Clemson University in August.

Carl Dunker '11 of Holland, Michigan, left his job as a copywriter and information architect at deZignwright in St. Joseph, Michigan, and began working as a writer and editor at Herman Miller in May 2016. He continues to accept the occasional independent design and writing projects.

Luke Hoogevseen '11 and Leah Patenge '12 were married on Aug. 12, 2016 in Holland, Michigan.

Shawna Rholl '11 Levet and Lucas Levet announce the birth of Eloise Katherine on April 21, 2016.

Sarah Patton '11 and Peter Benjamin were married on May 21, 2016, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They now reside in Canton, Michigan.

Casey Sullens '11 is the employer relations manager of graduate career services at the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Paul Austin '12 has traveled to more than 40 countries and founded two businesses in e-learning. He currently resides in Lisbon, Portugal.

Rebecca Coe '12 and Dennis Walker were married on Sept. 3, 2016, in San Diego, California. After two trips around the world with her husband, she has started as a post-production coordinator/editor at Loma Media in San Diego.

Daniel DeVries '12 and Brittany Worman were married on Aug. 12, 2016, in Holland, Michigan.

Matthew DeYoung '12 of Coopersville, Michigan, is an accountant and analyst for Valley Truck Parts headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Kristen Hasbrouck '12 and Phillip VanDenBerge were married on March 28, 2016, in Elk Rapids, Michigan.

Emily Henry '12 of Bellevue, Kentucky, was featured through the Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series at Hope on Tuesday, Sept. 20, both reading from her work and participating in a question-and-answer session. Her publications include the young-adult novel The Love That Split the World.

Anna Leach '12 of Washington, D.C., is a special assistant in the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education, where she provides leadership to the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, a national initiative from President Obama challenging college campuses to participate in community service with elements of interfaith dialogue.

Maria Mosher '12 received her degree in kinesiotherapy and adapted physical education from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ann Rodwell-Lawton '12 is the director of education, training and outreach for The Women’s Center of Greater Danbury. She also serves as the center’s legislative liaison and oversees the center’s advocacy efforts on state-level policy issues.

Peter Smith '12 graduated from Western Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts
degree in May and has begun working as the youth director at Silver Creek Reformed Church in German Valley, Illinois.

Jessica Breslin '13 has entered into full-time ministry and is now the chief of staff at The Table Church in Washington, D.C.

Stephanie Browne '13 Mouw and Alex Mouw '14 were married on May 20, 2016 in Holland, Michigan.

Joel Hartleroad '13 will pursue a Master of Business Administration at Virginia Tech.

Carra Hood '13 and Davis VanderVeen '13 were married on Sept. 18, 2016 in Holland, Michigan.

Stephanie Browne '13 Mouw and Alex Mouw '14 were married on May 20, 2016 in Holland, Michigan.

Kayla Howard '13 received her master’s degree in physician assistant studies from Central Michigan University. She and Eric Vredeveld were married on Sept. 24, 2016.

Leah LaBarge '13 and Charles Gies '14 were married on July 22, 2016.

Gail Luskin '13 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, is a registered nurse at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital on the hematology and oncology floor.

Luke VanderZouwen '13 and Morgan Appell '14 were married on Aug. 29, 2015, in Midland Michigan. Luke is employed as a doctor of physical therapy at Full Potential Physical Therapy and Morgan is a K-2 resource teacher at Jefferson School in Holland, Michigan.

William DeBoer '14 moved to Salisbury, Maryland, and is a lead radio broadcaster for University of Maryland Eastern Shore men's and women's Division I basketball. In the spring he will take over as the lead voice of the Delmarva Shorebirds, a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Baltimore Orioles.

Colin Drinkard '14 received a Master of Science degree in athletic training from the University of Kentucky's College of Health Sciences in May 2016. He was hired by Spectrum Health to serve as the head athletic trainer at Union High School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Joshua McCammon '14 is the sound supervisor at Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago, Illinois.

Ellen Milroy '14 received a Master of Education degree in higher education administration from North Carolina State University in May 2016 and is the assistant director of global programs in the Poole College of Management, North Carolina State University.

Samantha Rushton '14 and Matt Sheehan were married on July 16, 2016, in Clawson, Michigan. Samantha is the communications and marketing director at Bishop Foley Catholic High School.

Cameron Holicki '15 is in his second year of medical school at Michigan State University.

Genevieve Janvrin '15 and Jarred Mackey '15 were married on Oct. 21, 2016, in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Aaron Mick '15 and Lauren Duncan were married on July 30, 2016. Aaron is pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Connecticut.

Sharon Abraham '16 is a registered nurse at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Blake Appell '16 is a personal banker at Fifth Third Bank in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Francesco Moen '16 is a research laboratory technician associate in the Maillard Lab at the Life Science Institute for the University of Michigan.

Brianne Hemmeke '16 and Randall Roux '16 were married on June 25, 2016.

Kara Niffin '16 is an applied behavior analysis technician with Centria Healthcare.

Tyler Olesh '16 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, is in marketing communications with Haworth.

Elizabeth Ringel '16 is the discipleship director at the Church of the Living Christ in Fremont, Michigan.

Matt Rolain '16 is attending medical school at Wayne State University.

Jay Williams '16 reports that his time at Hope was extremely fulfilling and he found himself and his purpose. Since graduation he has hit the ground running, starting three companies. He wants to help anyone turn a great idea into a tangible business.
Lois Tysse '38 Strom of Holland, Michigan, died on Thursday, July 14, 2016. She was 99. She taught in the Fenton Public Schools for 31 years. Survivors include her daughters, Sigrid Strom and Marilyn Strom; and two granddaughters.

Elise Ulmer '41 Baehre of Grandville, Michigan, died on Thursday, May 12, 2016. She was 96. Survivors include her children, Leon (Rosemary) Baehre, Joanne Baehre, and Arvin Baehre; five grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and brother, George (June) Ulmer.

Mildred Timmer '43 Van Oostenburg of Grandville, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2016. She was 94. Survivors include her children, Mark (Julie Marcellus '75) Van Oostenburg '72, Mavis Van Oostenburg '76 (Jim) Bottenhorn, Paul (Jill) Van Oostenburg '78 and Phil (Jill) Van Oostenburg '84; sister-in-law, Hazel Christians; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Genevieve Bussies '44 Fenton of Lakeland, Florida, died on Friday, June 10, 2016. She was 94. She taught school in Manton, Michigan. Survivors include her husband of 69 years, Kenneth Fenton; three children, Kenneth (Beth) Fenton, Barbara (Orvel) Boyd and Janice (Alan) Updike; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Margaret Karreman '45 Boshoven of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died on Monday, May 30, 2016. She was 93. She loved to travel and enjoyed music. Survivors include her husband, Fred Boshoven; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

Ethelyn Van Leeuwen '46 Rezelman of Valparaiso, Indiana, died on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016. She was 94. She taught in a number of elementary schools. Survivors include her daughters, Ann Rezelman '79, Jan (Randy) Bays and Sue Rezelman ’82 Williams (Wayne) Gunter; and four grandchildren.

Chester Droog '47 of Artesia, California, died on Friday, Feb. 5, 2016. He was 94. He served in the U.S Air Corps during World War II, flying in 15 missions over Germany until he was injured. He served decades with the Reformed Church in America. Survivors include his wife of more than 71 years, Jacqueline Droog; daughters, Judy Droog '72 (Tom) Romanosky, Jill (Vince) Jacobo, Jaci (Jon) Matson and Jodi Hinds; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Robert Strabbing '47 of Zeeland, Michigan, died on Friday, June 10, 2016. He was 92. He served in the United States Navy in World War II. He retired as the principal of Zeeland Christian School after 23 years. Survivors include his children, Robert (Rose) Strabbing, Linda (William) Vanden Bosch and Sandy (Wes) Lemmen; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; siblings, Norma Van Popering, Carol (Herm) Kolk, Mary (Roger) Shoemaker and Chuck (Ona) Strabbing; and in-laws, Jo Strabbing and Herb (Marilyn) Banger.

Harvey Buter '48 of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, June 20, 2016. He was 92. He served in the U.S Army during World War II. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Hope in 1977. He was senior vice president at Holland Motor Express for 34 years, vice president at Old Kent Bank for 10 years and the treasurer of Third Reformed Church for more than 50 years. Survivors include his children, H. James (Stephanie) Buter '71 and Jane Buter '80 (Kevin '78) Clark; three grandsons; three great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Jane Buter.

Nelis Bade '49 of Holland, Michigan, died on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016. He was 94. He served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during World War II, stationed in Guam. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Joanne Bade; children, Craig (Amy) Bade, Tom (Donna) Bade ’74 and Shelly Bade; four grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Henry (Cindy) Mass.

M. Jean Snow '49 Bloemendaal of Athens, Georgia, died on Tuesday, July 26, 2016. She was 89. She was an elementary school teacher in Silver Spring, Maryland, and for the West Ottawa Public Schools in Holland, Michigan. Survivors include her husband, John Bloemendaal ’64; children, Robert (Lacy) Lubbers, Richard (Tammy) Lubbers and Margaret Lubbers ’78 (Sergio) Quesada; brothers, Curtis Snow ’45 and Robert (Rita) Snow ’49; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

Ellen Beuker ’50 Froelich of Frankfort, Michigan, died on Friday, Sept. 2, 2016. She was 88. She owned Strawtown Country Store, a gift shop and Christmas store. Survivors include her children, Rob (Judy) Froelich, Sue (Matt) Mehl and Heidi (John) Slinkman; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Carol Beuker ’59 (John ’59) Krauss; and sisters-in-law, Carol Beuker and Connie Froelich.

William Jellema ’50 of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, died on Monday, Aug. 8, 2016. He was 89. He served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps. He was the president of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Survivors include his sons, William Jellema, Calvin Jellema ’79 and Jonathan Jellema ’81; two daughters-in-law, Laureen and Gail; and five grandchildren.

Paul Lupkes ’50 of Rapid City, South Dakota, died on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. He was 89. He
became the campus minister at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1977 and became an associate professor for the college in 1989. He also served as chaplain at Fort Meade’s VA Hospital. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Gladys Buurman ’56 Lupkes; children, Janet Lupkes ’76 (Gus ’76) Lakow, Debra Lupkes ’78 (Randy) Eisenbeis, Richard (Lisa) Lupkes ’81, Sandra Lupkes ’89 and (Todd ’88) LaRaugh; eight grandchildren; one great-grandson; sister, Carol Born; and sisters-in-law, Beverly Lupkes, Shirley Lupkes, Florence Lupkes and Juliet Lupkes.

Eugene Marcus ’50 of North Canton, Ohio, died on Sunday, July 31, 2016. He was 87. He served as first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and Air Force Reserve. He was the executive vice president at Ryerson Steel. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Betty Marcus; son, Larry (Nancy) Marcus; and three grandchildren.

Daniel Paul ’50 of Sunny Hills, Florida, died on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2016. He was 89. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific. He was a member of the Hope education faculty from 1966 until retiring in 1994. In addition to courses on campus, his teaching included leading students abroad to study theme teaching in England for several years. Survivors include his wife of almost 66 years, Joan Ten Hoeve ’50 Paul; sons, James Paul ’83, John (Jill) Paul ’81 and Peter Paul ’89; and three grandchildren.

Jean Cloetingh ’53 Smith of Champaign, Illinois, died on Friday, June 17, 2016. She was 84. Survivors include her children, Barbara Smith ’76 (Dan ’76) Bussema, Norman (Patti) Smith, Melissa (Scott) Mongreig and Cheryl (Joe) Thulin; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Ronald Smith ’56.

Donald Lubbers ’54 of Holt, Michigan, died on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. He was 83. He served in the military and was stationed in Hawaii. He worked for Auto-Owners. Survivors include his brother, Jerry Lubbers; daughters, Deborah Fox and Kim Lubbers ’83; son, Steven Lubbers; daughter-in-law, Sharon; and two grandsons.

Harold Bazan ’55 of Vriesland, Michigan, died on Saturday, June 4, 2016. He was 84. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Betty Bazan; children, Sue (Bruce) Vanden Beelt, Pat (Terry) Hop, Gary (Cheryl) Bazan, Bev (Aaron) Fletcher, Mary Beth (Rex) Rogers and Amy (Russ) Kellicut; 30 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; brothers, Wes (Millie) Bazan and Ken (Mari Lou) Bazan; and in-laws, Annie Burgess, Ken (Margaret) Vanden Berg, Mel (Lorraine) Vanden Berg, Linda (Vic) Berkompas and Larry (Greta) Vanden Berg.

Jonathan Hinkamp ’55 of Ticonderoga, New York, died on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. He was 81. He was a retired minister of the Reformed Church in America and served for 40 years as pastor of the Flatlands Reformed Church of Brooklyn, New York. Survivors include his children, Karen Hinkamp and Ronald (Misako) Hinkamp; sister, Eloise Hinkamp ’51 (Gerard ’49) Van Heest; and one granddaughter.

Robert Reid ’62 of Mansfield, Ohio, died on Monday, July 18, 2016. He was 75. He was the national sales manager for Magnum Products. Survivors include his children, Robert Reid, Jane (Joe) Eagleston, Susan Schafer and Gerald (Susan) Reid; step-children, Tim Dennison and Margaret Dennison; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

David Waanders ’62 of Piscataway, New Jersey, died on Monday, May 23, 2016. He was 75. He was a minister for the Reformed Church in America and professor of pastoral care at New Brunswick Theological Seminary for almost 40 years. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Janet Waanders; daughters, Christine (Ivan) Haskell and Emily (Adam) Senz; two grandchildren; brother, Gerald Waanders; and sisters-in-law, Harriet Waanders and Elizabeth DuMez.

Patricia Inardi ’62 Yuill of Harpursville, New York, died on Monday, March 28, 2016. She was 75. She studied and taught religious history. Survivors include her husband of 37 years, James Yuill; son, Allan (Fatima Gasdon) Yuill; three grandchildren; and sister, Margaret Bade.

Bernard Ekema ’63 of Paw Paw, Michigan, died on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016. He was 86. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was a pastor in several Reformed churches. Survivors include his wife, Clarissa Ekema; children, Robert Ekema, Leslie Ekema, Kath (Randal) First, Dale (Juliana) Ekema; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; for Alexian Brothers Home Health Care and as a parish nurse at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her children, Paul Dawdy and Evan (Janna) Dawdy ’83; and sister, Sandy (William) Grew.
and brother and sister, Arlyn (Shirley) Ekema, Charlotte (Stanley) Burchett.

Karen VanderWerf ’63 VerHulst of Wyoming, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2016. She was 74. She taught piano lessons and served as an organist at Grace Reformed Church. Survivors include her husband of nearly 54 years, William VerHulst; children, Clark (Meribeth) VerHulst ’85, Julie (Brett) Dyke and Bart (Rosemary) VerHulst ’92; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister, Elaine VanderWerf ’60 (Gordon) Damsteegt; brother-in-law, John (Jean) Ver Hulst; and sisters-in-law, Lois (Jack) vanilla, Phyllis (Bruce) Moody and Shirley (Jim) Wissink.

Word has been received of the death of Allan Lebbin ’64 of South Bend, Indiana, on Monday, March 14, 2016.

Richard Vander Borgh ’64 of Westwood, New Jersey, died on Saturday, July 16, 2016. He was 74. He retired as the pastor of the Old North Reformed Church in 2014. Survivors include his sisters-in-law, Jane Vander Borgh and Joanne Reformed Church in 2014. Survivors include his wife, Mary Kuipers; daughters, Elizabeth Anderson-Wirz; sister, Nancy Anderson; and brother, Roy (Barbara) Nilsen.

Wenche Nilsen ’65 Haverkamp of Chicago, Illinois, died on Sunday, July 24, 2016. She was 73. She taught middle and high school French and language arts. Survivors include her husband, Larry Haverkamp ’65; daughter, Heidi (Adam Frieberg) Haverkamp; son, Jon (Laurie) Haverkamp; two grandchildren; and brother, Edward (Antoinette) Bratton.

David Anderson ’67 of Portland, Maine, died on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. He was 71. He was a chemist at the Portland Water District for 22 years and taught chemistry at Westbrook College. Survivors include his wife, Karen Anderson; daughters, Sara Anderson (Jason) Cluggish; and Katherine (Holger) Anderson-Wirz; sister, Nancy Anderson; and five grandchildren.

Dixon Kuipers ’67 of Onekama, Michigan, died on Sunday, July 3, 2016. He was 81. He retired from Dearborn Schools. Survivors include his wife, Mary Kuipers; daughters, Elizabeth “Betsy” Kuiper, Laura Kuipers and Barbara (Steve) Parker; three grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Eileen Kuipers and Ruth Dailey.

Mark Vande Brake ’71 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died on Monday, July 11, 2016. He was 67. He specialized in printmaking and documented his inner life with a journal of drawing and watercolors. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Kathryn Theurer ’72 Vande Brake; children, Sally (Joshua) Colby and Jacob (Guinevere) Vande Brake; two grandchildren; and numerous siblings.

Word arrived as we went to press of the death of Karla Hoesch ’73 Wolters of Zeeland, Michigan, on Monday, Nov. 28, 2016. She was 65. She was a professor emerita of kinesiology at Hope, where she taught and coached from 1987 until retiring in 2010. She had a passion for the history of sports and a special interest in the history of the Olympics and women in sports. She was at Calvin College prior to joining the Hope faculty, and during her career she coached 1,792 athletic contests in softball, volleyball, field hockey, basketball and tennis. She was Hope’s softball coach from 1988 through 2010, and closed her career ranked the sport’s fifth-winningest NCAA Division III coach all-time. Survivors include her husband, Tom Wolters ’73.

Christina Hansen ’75 of Flint, Michigan, died on Monday, June 13, 2016. She was 63. She worked as a computer programmer for Electronic Data Systems and then for Hewlett Packard. Survivors include her mother, Vadra Hansen; and sister, Amelia (Paul Nehring) Hansen.

Dale Van Dahm ’78 of Irvine, California, died on Saturday, July 30, 2016. He was 60. He was a senior vice president at Wells Fargo Bank, running teams in the commercial real estate and workout divisions until his retirement. Survivors include his wife, Paula Van Dahm; sisters, Cindy Vander Naald and Lori Wieringa; and brother, Mark Van Dahm ’86.

Robin Berens ’82 of Holland, Michigan, died on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016. She was 56. She worked for USF Holland. Survivors include her sisters, Sandy (Jason) Wolters, Soni VanDam and Kerri (Tom) Gebben.

Word has been received of the death of Noreen Decker ’82 Goodbody of Hermosa Beach, California, on Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

Kent Smith ’84 of Newbury Township, Ohio, died on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2016. He was 55. He was a registered professional engineer and was awarded five U.S. patents. Survivors include his parents; son, Dieken Smith; and sisters, Carmen Smith and Michelle (Mike) Mertens.

Barry Weller ’88 of St. Louis, Missouri, died on Saturday, May 28, 2016. He was 50. He was an actor and performed with the St. Louis Theater.

Bretton Folkert ’93 of Ada, Michigan, died on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016. He was 45. Survivors include his wife, Julie Bos ’93 Folkert; children, Elena, Claudia and William; parents, Alan and Judi Folkert; parents-in-law, Mark and Karen Bos; siblings Nate (Jackie) Folkert, Kara Folkert, John (Jennifer Folkert ’05) Siehling and Nathan (Allison) Mashman; sisters-in-law, Lisa Bos ’97 and Amy Bos ’99; and grandparents, Hulda Rigerink ’41 Folkert and Marie Geerlings ’62 Blauwkamp.

Brent Buckingham ’97 of Eaton Rapids, Michigan, died on Saturday, June 4, 2016. He was 41. He was a crop adjuster and farmer. Survivors include his parents, Roy and Carolyn Buckingham; siblings, JP (Jennifer) Buckingham ’99 and Trudy Buckingham Pendergraft; and grandfather, Frank Kneller.

Mark Wheeler ’08 of South Haven, Michigan, died on Saturday, July 2, 2016. He was 48. He had served in with the U.S. Marine Corps. He was the assistant pastor and the music director at Greater Faith Community Church. Survivors include his wife, Angela Wheeler; daughter, Autumn; son, Isley (Amaris) West; three grandchildren; mother, Bernice (Edgar) Thomas; father, James Wheeler; and brother, Eric (Theresa) Wheeler.

Sympathy to

The family of Hazel Brummel of Holland, Michigan, who died on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016. She was 93. She was a seamstress, making Navy coats during World War II. She worked for Hope College for 18 years. Survivors include her son, Ron (Ruth) Brummell; daughters, Diane (Bob) Senior and Mary (Ron) Wiley; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family of Maria Elena Collazo of Tucson, Arizona, who died on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. She was 79. She worked in dining services at Hope. Survivors include her children, Maria DeQue, Maria Collazo, Sarah Sanchez, Israel Collazo, Daniel Collazo and Rosa Elsess; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; sisters, Cruz Martinez, Josefina Castro, Rosa Castorena, Carmen Corral, Petra Garcia and Margarita Bare; and brothers, Pedro Castro, Renee Castro and Guillermo Guerrero.
At an institution where decades-long service often seems typical, Charles Aschbrenner of the music faculty still stood out. At the time of his death in September he’d been teaching at the college for 53 years—and if cancer hadn’t claimed him, he would be teaching still.

His tenure spanned a third of Hope’s history, including the college’s milestone centennial in 1966 and sesquicentennial this past year, and across five presidencies. Its duration surpassed that even of the legendary founder of the Department of Music, John B. Nykerk, who taught at Hope for some 50 years until his death in 1936.

Aschbrenner was a pianist known internationally not only as a performer but for his expertise in Dalcroze Eurhythmics. He joined the faculty in 1963, the same year that Dr. Calvin VanderWerf ’37 became president, and although he retired in 2008 as professor emeritus he continued to teach part-time for the next eight years as an adjunct professor.

He died on Saturday, Sept. 18, at age 79. Appropriately, the memorial service was held in the Concert Hall of the college’s Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts. Hundreds of colleagues, former students and friends attended, many driving across the country to be present.

The sentiments shared online—such as those in the guestbook provided by the Langeland-Sterenberg and Yntema Funeral Home—provide a sense of his impact across generations:

“This wonderful man brought gentleness to piano teaching and all his classes. I was a lucky recipient as a piano performance major at Hope,” wrote Bobbi Vander Ven ’75 Kearns of Holland, Michigan. A student 30 years later, Jess Schmidt ’06, noted, “He was the most incredible teacher from whom I ever had the privilege of learning. The most alive person. Always encouraging, honest, and he definitely made me the best pianist I could be. I can imagine that does not even scratch the surface of who he was. My heart goes out to his loved ones, family and friends.”

Such was his dedication to teaching that he continued to serve in the classroom even as aggressive lung cancer and treatment took their toll, and such was his spirit that even long-time colleagues didn’t know what he was enduring.

“He wasn’t telling very many people—it wasn’t his way to project that,” said Dr. Brad Richmond, professor of music and director of choral activities, who has taught at the college since 1998. “He just loved to teach. What fulfilled him at the end of the day was sitting down and helping someone find their inner pianist, and maybe their inner soul as well.”

Aschbrenner was signed on to teach Dalcroze Eurhythmics again this fall, and also remained active as a performer—in late July, for example, he was on campus practicing with his four-piano group.

In his final weeks, he was in a specialized-care facility. Many current and former Hope faculty visited, along with former students and keyboard faculty from around the country. On September 7, after 39 years of companionship, he married his spouse, Chris T. Spencer, who survives him.

Characteristically, ever the thoughtful teacher, he asked that in lieu of flowers, any financial contributions be made to the Charles Aschbrenner Keyboard Scholarship at Hope.

Editor’s Note: The college’s announcement about Charles Aschbrenner’s death, which includes additional biographical information, is available online: hope.edu/aszchbrenner.
WINTER AND SPRING EVENTS

Please visit hope.edu/eventinfo to view more information about the college’s hundreds of events!

WINTER Happening
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017

THE RIVALRY AT HOPE
FEBRUARY 18, 2017
hopecalvin.com/gather

DE PREE ART EXHIBIT

BETWEEN THE SHADOW AND LIGHT: PROJECT R5
JANUARY 9 – FEBRUARY 9, 2017

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LECTURE
JANUARY 16, 2017

MUSICAL SHOWCASE
FEBRUARY 3, 2017

DANCE

DANCE 43
MARCH 3-4 & 9-11, 2017

RESEARCH

CELEBRATION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE PERFORMANCE
APRIL 21, 2017

THEATRE

THE HOLLOWS PROJECT
APRIL 21-22 & 26-29, 2017

Please visit hope.edu/eventinfo to view more information about the college’s hundreds of events!
RITES OF AUTUMN

Brilliant colors splashing across the trees; pulling the coat just a little tighter against the first hint of the chillier weather to come; cider and doughnuts; family, friends and fellow fans gathered together in the stands to cheer gridiron favorites.

Wide receiver Jake Kozlowski of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, carries the ball during the college’s Homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium. The play was part of a convincing 31-7 win against Trine University and successful 7-3 debut season for first-year head coach Peter Stuursma ’93.
WELCOME!
Prospective students and their families are invited to visit Hope and experience first-hand the college's friendly community and distinctive holistic approach to preparing students for lives of leadership and service.

VISIT OPTIONS
• Individual Visit
• Overnight Visit
• Visit Days

2017 SPRING VISIT DAYS
Monday, January 16
Friday, January 20
Friday, January 27
Friday, February 3
Friday, February 17
Monday, February 20
Friday, February 24
Friday, March 3
Friday, March 10
Friday, March 31 (Junior Day)
Friday, April 7 (Junior Day)
Friday, April 21 (Junior Day)

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT:
🌐 hope.edu/visit

REFER A STUDENT:
🌐 hope.edu/refer