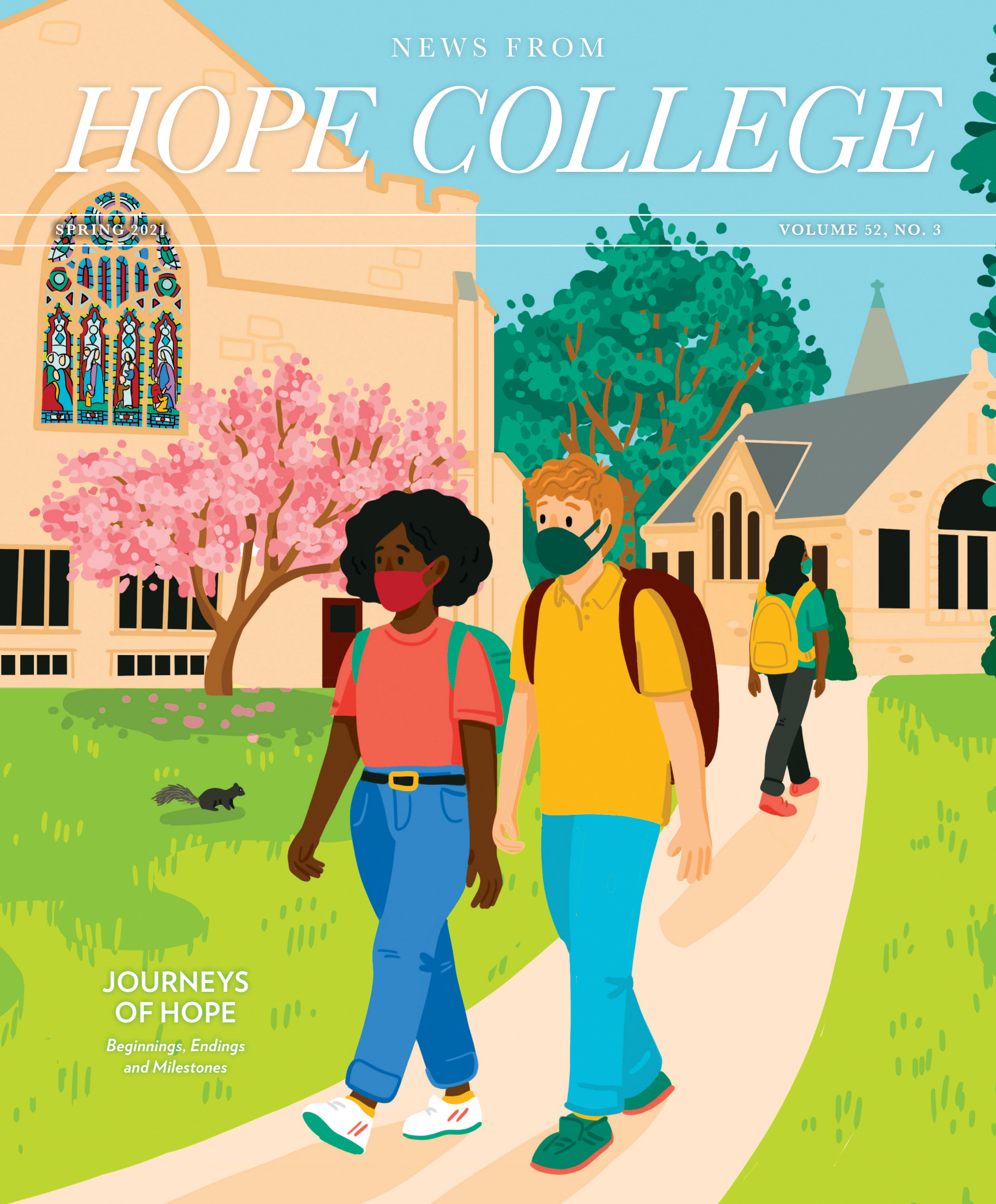


NEWS FROM

# HOPE COLLEGE

SPRING 2021

VOLUME 52, NO. 3



## JOURNEYS OF HOPE

*Beginnings, Endings  
and Milestones*



DISTINCTIVE  
HOPE





## “HOW CAN I HELP?”

Becoming a front-line worker in the fight against a global pandemic was never in a job description at the college, neither for the clinicians of the Health Clinic nor for anyone else. And yet, when Hope established its rapid-testing center as a component of the college’s multi-pronged strategy for monitoring for the presence of COVID-19 within the student population, no one said no. In fact, members of the staff from across campus volunteered to serve at the site while trained nurses like Health Center director Cindy Sabo administered the ubiquitous nasal swabs.





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## ON THE COVER

*An artist's rendering provides a new take on a familiar spring campus scene that serves as a metaphor for this issue's content, a potpourri that includes new staff and programs, retirements, travels through the challenges of the pandemic and travel literally challenged by the pandemic. Christy Johnson, based in the UK, created the illustration for Hope, along with the portraits of the 19 retiring faculty pictured on pages 31-35.*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family of Hope College,

Spring is a time full of hope.

After a Michigan winter, spring is always welcome on Hope's campus, and this year more than ever. From budding trees in the Pine Grove to students emerging from their dorms to study in hammocks, the hope of barrenness being brought back to life is visible all around. This mirrors the hope of Easter that we also celebrate each spring; the hope found in the resurrection of our Savior.

As you'll read in this issue, our campus community has continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic with ingenuity and resolve, taking steps to minimize spread while seeking to share an on-campus living and learning experience as fully as possible. We have been through a lot together over the last 12 months. By almost any measure, Hope College is stronger today than it was before the pandemic. For that, we are grateful for God's faithfulness and buoyed by the hope of emerging soon from the pandemic's long shadow.

While we look ahead to the future with hope, we also mark endings. A total of 19 professors are retiring this year, their service to the college totaling more than 600 years. We wish them well as they enter a new phase of life, but cannot overstate the impact they've had or how deeply they'll be missed. We are also mourning the tragic death of Dr. Jenny Hampton of the physics faculty in an automobile accident in March, and the passing — also chronicled later in these pages — of many other beloved members of the Hope family, including retirees Carolyn Bareman, Maxine DeBruyn, Myra Kohsel, Lloyd Meeuwsen and Robert Palma, and adjunct professor and former dean Dr. F. Sheldon Wettack.

There is of course much we can do ourselves to be agents of hope and change — and what an important and necessary role education plays in that process, especially education grounded in the Christian faith. Here at Hope our passion is to help students discern and hone their talents and passions so that they can be bright lights in their professions and communities informed by the knowledge that all of us have been created in God's image and are loved by Him. I hope you will enjoy reading about ways that the college and people of Hope are engaging with such ideas, and perhaps even be inspired to join us in our commitment to transforming young lives, and through those lives the world, for the better.

Spera in Deo!



Matthew A. Scogin '02  
*President*





# QUOTE UNQUOTE

QUOTE, UNQUOTE IS AN ECLECTIC SAMPLING  
OF THINGS SAID AT AND ABOUT HOPE COLLEGE.



In conjunction with national Black History Month, Hope hosted a virtual visit with Kwame Alexander, the *New York Times* bestselling author whose most recent book of 35, *Light for the World to See: A Thousand Words on Race and Hope*, was published in November. The event was a collaborative effort of several Hope organizations: the NEA Big Read Lakeshore, Black Student Union, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Ruth Tensen Creative Writing Fund, Cultural Affairs Committee, Department of Education and Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series.

Requiring a creative approach, as so much during the pandemic has, the Feb. 26 presentation was framed as a conversation. Hope junior Danait Yonas, president of Black Student Union, posed questions (including some submitted by local elementary classes that had read his award-winning middle-grade book *The Crossover*), and Alexander answered from his home in Virginia. The topics were correspondingly varied, ranging from whether or not he had ever met Amanda Gorman, who read her poem at the presidential inauguration (yes), to which of his books is his favorite (whichever he is currently writing).

In the following excerpt, he reflects on his approach to racial justice, with suggestions for others who might wish to follow a similar path.

“I’m more interested in actually going out in the world and doing the work to make the world a better place. So I’m not going to spend a lot of time talking about what other

people should be doing or what should be going on or what politicians... I’m just going to go out and try to change the world one word at a time.

“So, if it means that I’m going to write a book that is going to be a mirror for Black kids to be able to see themselves and it’s going to be a window for non-Black kids to be able to see Black kids, then that’s what I would do.

“If it means I’m going to go out and build a library and a health clinic in Ghana because I know these 200 kids in this village in the eastern region that I’ve been to, and they have one book and they don’t have a health clinic — if that’s what it takes, that’s what I’m going to do. So I’m going to be about the business of putting in the work to make this world a better place, and I’m going to hopefully try to surround myself with people who want to do the same thing. That’s where I choose to sort of spend my energy — on actually doing the work.

“I think there are a lot of people who would have wonderful conversations and pontificate about what needs to be done or what the world is doing with racial injustice. I’m just not one of those people. I just like to work.

“So my challenge to students at Hope College, in the community, is to be an advocate when things are not going right, when you see something going wrong, when you see somebody being unfairly treated. Be an advocate, and if you really want to do something, be an ally: say something, do something.

“I think we all have to have something to offer to this world to help make this world better... So you’ve got to be great. You’ve got to be great at who you are and who you are becoming so that you can then use that greatness in whatever it is you do and then offer it to us to help us be great.”

For more about Kwame Alexander, please visit his website.

 [kwamealexander.com](http://kwamealexander.com)

“  
*Be an advocate, and if you really  
want to do something, be an ally:  
say something, do something.*”







## GRADUATION '21

Baccalaureate and Commencement for the Class of '21 are scheduled for Sunday, May 16, with several adjustments from the events' traditional formats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The day will include a Baccalaureate service in the morning with two Commencement ceremonies in the afternoon to facilitate physical distancing. Baccalaureate will be for the graduates only and guest attendance at Commencements will also be limited, but all of the events will be livestreamed.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the plans are contingent on circumstances and health department requirements and guidelines at the time. Please visit Hope online for additional and up-to-date information.

 [hope.edu/commencement](https://hope.edu/commencement)

## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF '20



When the pandemic necessitated the postponement of Baccalaureate and Commencement for the Class of '20, Hope anticipated rescheduling the events. Plans were even made to hold the ceremony in August. However, with the pandemic continuing and gathering sizes in the state restricted accordingly, it couldn't happen this past summer or in the several months since. With a year having

now passed, the college is instead planning to hold a celebration of and for the class in the Pine Grove on Saturday, May 22 (with Sunday, May 23, as the rain plan). Organized by the President's Office and the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement, the event will incorporate elements of both a reunion and the traditional ceremony—the latter including remarks by Dr. Jared Ortiz of the religion faculty, who would have delivered the 2020 Commencement address, and President Matthew A. Scogin '02.

 [hope.edu/celebrate2020](https://hope.edu/celebrate2020)

## DANCE MARATHON FINDS A WAY



With a 20-plus-year history, Dance Marathon wasn't about to sit 2021 out — despite the pandemic.

With the massive, traditional 24-hour gathering in the Dow Center out of the question, the organizing Dream Team found creative solutions. For example, they celebrated the Miracle Families outside in lieu of the traditional arrival tunnel formed by students, held the opening and closing ceremonies via live feed; hosted activities and presentations

at a variety of locations to reduce gathering sizes; and had dancers chronicle their participation at home with photographs.

Held on Friday and Saturday, March 26-27, this year's marathon raised more than \$300,000 for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, bringing the 22-year total since 2000 to \$3.3 million.

Please visit the college online for a gallery of images from this year's event.

 [hope.edu/dance-marathon-2021](https://hope.edu/dance-marathon-2021)

## HONORED FOR BOOK



Dr. Angela Carpenter, assistant professor of religion, received the 2020 Dallas Willard Book Award from the Martin Institute and the Dallas Willard Research Center (MIDWC) at Westmont College for her book *Responsive Becoming: Moral Formation in Theological, Evolutionary, and Developmental Perspective*.

In announcing the award, MIDWC noted that "Dr. Carpenter's book was selected because it retrieves a distinctive, experientially informed account of the human spiritual and moral formation that Christians call 'sanctification.' In it, she provides the foundation for a constructive account of formation that is attentive both to divine grace and to the significance of natural, embodied processes."

The announcement continues, "The judges praised it for its clear exposition of different perspectives, its combination of scholarly depth and accessibility and for breaking new ground in crossing over between the often hostile fields of theology, psychology, and human development. The conclusions are pioneering and compelling and admirably explore the complexity of the human person, consistent with the main concerns of the Dallas Willard Book Award."

 [hope.edu/angela-carpenter](https://hope.edu/angela-carpenter)





## WINTER SPORTS REPORT

Amid a shortened winter sports season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hope College excelled — winning MIAA championships in women's swimming and diving and women's indoor track and field, and the MIAA Tournament in women's basketball.

The women's basketball team finished with an undefeated record for the second consecutive season, going 16-0 and setting a school record with a 45-game winning streak that's the eighth-longest in NCAA Division III history.

The men's swimming and diving team placed second at the MIAA Championships, its highest finish in seven years. The men's indoor track and field team tied for second place at the MIAA Championships, its highest finish ever.

Four Hope student-athletes were named MIAA Most Valuable Athletes in their respective sports: senior Emma Schaefer in women's swimming for the second year in a row, senior Kenedy Schoonveld for the second consecutive season in women's basketball, sophomore Ana Truck in indoor track, and junior Kameron Wilcox for the second year in a row in men's diving.

 [athletics.hope.edu](https://athletics.hope.edu)

## OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN



Dr. Gabe Southard, associate professor of music, has been named a Pearl Flute Artist by Pearl Musical Instrument Company, a global manufacturer of flutes based in Yachiyo, Japan. Southard is one of only 64 musicians around the world to hold the distinction, which reflects upholding a high level of performance and educating as a flutist in addition to using Pearl flutes.

He recently transitioned to a Pearl flute after performing with his previous flute for nearly three decades, and earlier this year acquired a flute custom-made for him. For perspective on what a professional musician looks for when choosing (and designing) an instrument, please visit the question-and-answer story shared online.

 [hope.edu/gabe-southard](https://hope.edu/gabe-southard)



## CHRONICLING HOPE MUSIC'S HISTORY

Music as a department isn't the college's oldest academic program, but music as a tradition harkens back to the earliest years of Hope itself. (One example: The eight members of the college's first graduating class, in 1866, sang an ode written by President Philip Phelps Jr. set to music composed by a classmate.) It's a through-line that links thousands of students across generations and numerous dedicated faculty. And it's a story now told in *Making Music: Hope College's Music Department: A History*, which highlights the development and impact of the nationally accredited department across more than 150 years.

Published by the college's Van Raalte Press, the book was co-written by Dr. Marc Baer and Allison Utting '18. Baer is a professor emeritus of history who also served as interim dean for the arts and humanities and interim chairperson of the Department of Music, and was a visiting research fellow at the Van Raalte Institute during 2018. Utting majored in secondary social studies education and minored in history and is an eighth-grade history teacher in Byron Center, Michigan. It is available via the Hope College Bookstore as well as Amazon.

 [hope.edu/music-history](https://hope.edu/music-history)



Circumstances related to the global COVID-19 pandemic remain dynamic and evolving, and circumstances at Hope can vary as the college responds accordingly in keeping with local, state and federal guidelines and requirements and local health conditions. Updates are posted regularly at the website that the college developed in the spring of 2020 to centralize information.

 [hope.edu/coronavirus](https://hope.edu/coronavirus)



## HAWORTH HOTEL SET TO REOPEN FOLLOWING RENOVATION

The renovation of the college's Haworth Hotel has been so comprehensive that it's easier to identify what hasn't changed than what has. The exterior brickwork and windows are the same.

Inside the three-story building, which is adjacent to downtown Holland and located on the northern edge of the campus, is a different place.

The transformational project has been made possible through a gift from Haworth Inc. and has been led by Patricia Urquiola, an award-winning designer and architect based in Milan, Italy, who has worked with the company for several years. Haworth products are featured throughout.

The first guests since the work began in November 2019 will begin staying in May.

"Enhancements that we have talked about for years have come to fruition, and I can't wait to see people enjoy the result," said Derek Emerson '85, who as director of events and conferences at Hope has administrative responsibility for the hotel. "We're extremely grateful to the Haworth Inc. for the generous support that has made the renovation possible and for connecting us with Patricia Urquiola to make it exceptional."

The lobby has not only been redesigned but enlarged to feature additional informal seating, a new pre-function area outside the main ballroom and access to new meeting rooms. Still to come this summer is a Biggby Coffee shop meant to serve not only hotel guests but the general public and campus community, reflecting a new emphasis on making the space a welcome center for visitors to the college and a gathering place for all. A new spiral staircase to the second floor provides access to a new meeting room, and for overnight guests a new exercise room that looks over the lobby.

If anything, the changes to the 48 guest rooms have been even more dramatic. Emptied to the bare walls, they've been so extensively refurnished and refurbished that even the showers are new.

The name of the building has been shortened to Haworth Hotel from Haworth Inn and Conference Center. The change is intended to help prospective guests, who Emerson noted are more likely to use "hotel" than "inn" when searching for a place to stay. The building continues to serve as a conference center for the campus, Holland community and organizations from around the country, with meeting and banquet facilities totaling more than 10,000 square feet and 13 conference rooms that can accommodate groups of up to 400.

Located facing College Avenue between 9th and 10th streets, the hotel is operated by Hope by Creative Dining Services, which also provides food service for the rest of campus. The staff includes employees of CDS and Hope.

Haworth's support of the renovation continues a long tradition of engagement with Hope, a connection reflected in the name of the facility, which opened in January 1997. Hope named the building after Haworth in honor of donations to the college's endowment.

Additional architectural design for the Haworth Hotel has been provided by GMB Architecture + Engineering of Holland and the general contractor is Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. of Grand Rapids. The total project cost is approximately \$7.5 million.

The project was originally scheduled for completion in phases between May 2020 and the early fall of 2020, but was delayed because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, including a statewide shutdown of construction projects last spring.

 [haworthhotel.com](http://haworthhotel.com)



# Being Intentional

*By Greg Olgers '87*

**Kamara Sudberry '15** joined the Hope staff in January in a role that is likewise new for the college itself, as engagement officer for diversity, equity and inclusion with Development and Alumni Engagement.

Counting from when she was a first-semester freshman, the Flint, Michigan, native has been a member of the Hope family for nearly 10 years. As a student, she dual-majored in management and political science, studied abroad through the Vienna Summer School, was a member of the women's basketball team and served as a resident assistant. Prior to returning to Hope as a member of the staff, she served first with AmeriCorps, working with Goodwill Greater Grand Rapids as an outreach specialist to help those who were unemployed or underemployed, and more recently as a community health and diversity, equity and inclusion specialist at Spectrum Health with an emphasis on improving the social determinants of health of vulnerable communities and enhancing support for employees from all backgrounds.

*News from Hope College* sat down with her to learn about the work that she's doing and why.





# Q&A

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## **Welcome back to Hope! Will you please tell us about your position at the college?**

Thank you — I'm excited to be back! My role is to collaborate with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and many other campus partners to serve underrepresented alumni and families. I also support new emerging work in that space: specifically, the Alumni of Color Advisory Council, a newly formed group that hopes to build and strengthen relationships with alumni of color, as well as allies. I'm proud to work alongside my Alumni and Family Engagement team, and we are committed to elevating the voices of all Hope College alumni.

"This position is not necessarily new for the DNA of Hope, but it is new, I think, when it comes to taking intentional approaches. I'm sure a lot of the things that I will be doing were ideas that were put forward before. But it is nice to be a part of manifesting and really bringing those ideas to life."

## **What should people know about Hope's addition of an engagement officer for diversity, equity and inclusion?**

"Last year brought heightened awareness to what advocates for BIPOC communities, or Black, Indigenous and People of Color, have been saying for years. I'm thankful to see the growing field of diversity, equity and inclusion throughout many different systems and organizations. And I think it's important to note that Hope College is not the exception.

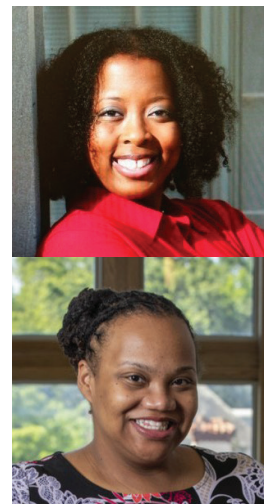
"There is a lot of good work that needs to be done, and there are so many opportunities and ways that we can make it better for all. I think the larger Hope community should be encouraged to see us creating space at the table and taking intentional steps in the right direction. At this time, my focus

is to serve as an active listener, connector and collaborator with the diverse alumni network of Hope College and prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion in everything we do.

"That takes being vulnerable, that takes rethinking processes and co-building solutions to systemic barriers. It's sometimes uncomfortable and hard, but I often feel that leaning in to that is where healing and reconciliation can take place. And I applaud my *alma mater* — and now my employer — for realizing that that's a space that we need to be in."

## **You mentioned the Alumni of Color Advisory Council [new in 2020]. Could you please describe it and what it brings to the process?**

"The formation of the Alumni of Color Advisory Council is definitely a testament to the organizing and leadership of Vanessa Greene, former director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. This group started meeting informally last semester, and has already grown into a powerful resource for the college. The council meets bi-monthly and advises the college on ways to empower and strengthen relationships with students and alumni of color. The board consists entirely of BIPOC alumni volunteers, and is co-chaired by Dr. Tiffany Labon '05 (pictured upper right) and Courtney E. Brewster '04 (pictured lower right). We're fortunate to have their voices at Hope right now, to have people continuing to reach out and give us the good and the bad. We need this form of feedback, it is healthy. I know we as human beings sometimes get defensive when we hear constructive feedback, but it makes us all better."





### **What made Hope a place to which you wished to return as a staff member?**

“As much as I love the women’s basketball program and Lake Michigan, honestly, it was the people of Hope. I’ve met people who feel like family at Hope — who are part of my family now, my village and my tribe. Coming back to serve them in any sort of capacity is such an honor, because truly, I am being paid to do something I would most likely do for free, especially for the people that I love.

“And then also just the opportunity to meet more people. Higher ed is a unique space to be in because you get fresh new faces every single year and the opportunity not only to make a difference in their lives, but to gain so much from those relationships. And maybe in a selfish way, I just wanted some more of that magic.”

### **What are you most looking forward to in the months ahead?**

“I think what’s really cool about Hope is that — and probably other higher ed places say it — you really should belong to the Hope College community for the rest of your life. That’s a growing philosophy, I think, under President Scogin, and I’m excited to explore what that looks like for all alumni of Hope. When our alumni don’t feel that sense of belonging, it’s understandable for them to disassociate and to not reach back out, but I really want to change that through my work.

“Hope has proven its resiliency through COVID to be one of the only colleges, that I know of, that has maintained some sense of normalcy. And I think that resiliency can be translated to diversity, equity and inclusion, especially with the same intent and the same emphasis behind it. No one wanted the pandemic, but we want diversity, equity, inclusion. And with that desire, I imagine that really the sky’s the limit.”

### **Is there anything you’d like to add that the other questions haven’t touched on?**

“I know that there’s both curiosity and cautiousness around diversity, equity and inclusion work. I think that’s extremely normal, and I harbor that as well. So any person really coming with that mindset or questions, I welcome them in. I want everyone to know that I can be reached, that I’m here to listen and to be a resource.

“Also, the second thing that I want everyone to know is if there are any alumni out there who are thinking about how Hope can be a help, especially now that COVID-19 has changed the landscape of our world, we would love to engage with them. Maybe someone is considering a job change, or going through a time of transition or thinking about professional development like getting board experience or public speaking experience. We would love to be a support system to them, because no matter what, we see you as a community member of Hope, and you are a part of our family. Know that we have your back if you need us.”

***Please visit the college online for more information about the Alumni of Color Advisory Council; for resources related to diversity, equity and inclusion; for the college’s Inclusive Excellence website; and to connect with Kamara.***

**hope.edu/alumniofcolor**



**"I think that [Hope's resiliency through COVID-19] can be translated to diversity, equity and inclusion, especially with the same intent and the same emphasis behind it."**





# A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY

THE BOERIGTER CENTER FOR CALLING AND CAREER HELPS STUDENTS – AND ALUMNI – DISCOVER AND CONNECT TOOLS, TALENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION.

*By Josh Bishop*

**T**he basic pitch for the Boerigter Center for Calling and Career sounds deceptively simple: “We’re here to help students figure out everything from finding a major to finding a job and everything in between,” said Shonn Colbrunn ’94, executive director.

As with most things, though, the reality is more complicated than it sounds. The Boerigter Center is a growing network that encompasses the Center for Leadership as well as academic and health professions advisors. It works in close concert with the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement to serve Hope’s vast network of 35,000 alumni.

The Boerigter Center has garnered national recognition twice within the past year. Last spring, the center was named a Program of Distinction by Colleges of Distinction for “superior ability to think ahead about how their students will succeed after they graduate.” Earlier this semester, the Boerigter Center and the college’s Van Wylen Library shared the 2021 group Innovation Award from Commission for Career Services of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) for a collaborative training initiative for students.

And, as we’ll see, it isn’t resting on its success, but is poised to embrace the future with a tenacious commitment to adaptation and innovation.

## The Student Experience

The Boerigter Center was launched in fall 2018 with support from SoundOff Signal in honor of George ’61 and Sibilla Boerigter. Integrated into the academic program of the college, it includes and expands on the work of Hope’s former Career Development Center in combination with staff from the college’s academic advising program along with Alumni and Family Engagement. Its long-term goal is to work with every student at Hope before they graduate — and they’re well on the way, engaging with more than 50 percent of students during the 2019-20 school year.





The center's location on the first floor of the DeWitt Center is a main thoroughfare on campus, designed so passersby literally walk through the Boerigter workspace. Staff from the center also present in First-Year Seminars and other courses; last year, they reached more than 1,400 students with information about calling and career.

These two scenarios — location and classroom visits — have allowed Boerigter Center staff to build widespread awareness across campus, but the team aims to engage with each student in a deeper way. In their freshman and sophomore years, this interaction is largely centered around helping students discern their passions, personalities, skills, dreams and opportunities.

“Especially for freshmen and sophomores, we really lean in on that discernment side of things and being there to open the conversation about calling,” said Colbrunn. “If you can find the spot where your gifts and strengths overlap with your interests and then overlap with something that you can get a paycheck to do, then we’re on to something.”

The Boerigter Center helps students discern their calling with tools like the StrengthsQuest assessment and with PathwayU, a means of matching students’ interests and abilities with potential careers. Another part of the process is DiscoverWork, a program that places students (usually freshmen) with employers, often but not exclusively alumni, across the country to spend one or two days job shadowing.

Hope College junior Marketea Abbott (pictured on right), a social work major from Detroit, Michigan, says that the DiscoverWork program was her favorite aspect of the Boerigter Center during her first two years at Hope.

“My freshman year I went to Atlanta to job shadow at Junior Achievement of Georgia, and my sophomore year I went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to job shadow at Brooks Law,” Abbott said. “I learned exactly what I want to do with my degree, and it made me so much more passionate about my specific field of social work.”

She also gained lifelong mentors: “I still connect with my DiscoverWork hosts multiple times a year, and it’s amazing to know that I have people to uplift me and realign me when life gets crazy.”

Grace Charnesky ’20, now an issue resolution team co-chair at General Motors, was a frequent visitor to the Boerigter Center. “I participated in two DiscoverWork opportunities, shadowing engineers at Haworth in Holland, Michigan, and the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado. Both experiences gave me a better understanding of what I wanted to achieve with my degree,” she said.

If students can’t manage one- or two-day visits, Boerigter Center staff can help set up phone calls for informational interviews with alumni in fields that interest students. The option has been especially popular during COVID-19, when many workplaces are restricting visitors.

After spending time on discernment, the Boerigter Center shifts into helping students prepare for their callings during their sophomore and junior years: figuring out which major to declare, identifying research to pursue, pinpointing leadership skills to develop, and preparing résumés, head shots and LinkedIn profiles. In September 2020, a virtual “Career Camp” attracted more than 275 students to multiple virtual workshops and an intensive résumé review process.

“As I started searching for internships, the staff at Boerigter helped me proofread my résumé and cover letters, practice with mock interviews, and learn how to network with others in my field. Attending career fairs gave me a chance to learn about different industries and decide what I was most interested in pursuing,” Charnesky said.

Moving into the typical senior year, Boerigter shifts again, this time into helping students pursue the opportunities for which they’ve prepared. For most students, this includes job applications, interviews and networking.

If all goes well, students graduate from Hope College with a leg up on their postgraduate plans, whether career, graduate school or volunteer service. But the Boerigter Center’s involvement doesn’t stop after four years.



## Alumni Engagement

The Office of Alumni and Family Engagement is one of the Boerigter Center's closest on-campus partners.

“Our partnership is so important to us that we develop programs together and share resources, including a number of staff who work with both the Boerigter Center and Alumni and Family Engagement,” said Scott Travis '06, executive director of alumni engagement. “We share a front desk on the first floor of DeWitt — and we are working on new partnerships that are unique within higher education.”

The offices partner by involving alumni in training and advising students. “Because of the coronavirus, we’ve been pushed to taking all of our preparation workshops, like how to write a résumé or interviewing tips, and doing them online,” said Colbrunn. “It actually created a perfect opportunity, because we decided to pull in alumni to every one of these workshops to share their expertise.”

With in-person events, Boerigter staff were limited to working with local or regional alumni; since the mandatory shift to remote delivery, however, they’ve been able to dramatically expand their network of alumni experts. And they plan to keep it that way.

The Boerigter Center also sets aside a portion of its time for appointments with alumni who want help navigating career changes later in life. “We have an open invitation to alumni to call us and we’ll get started with you,” Colbrunn said.

Charnesky (pictured right), who majored in engineering and minored in Mandarin, relied on the Boerigter Center's career services. “When I started looking for jobs after college, the Boerigter Center helped me find ways to improve my applications and fine tune my interview responses,” she said. “They supported me through every stage of my career discernment, and I can’t recommend meeting with them enough.”

Lunch-and-learns and other virtual events are also tailored specifically to alumni audiences.

“Career development is an important part of a lifelong relationship that all alumni are invited to have with their *alma mater*,” said Travis. “We do alumni engagement from the lens of career much more today than we used to because it’s so relevant in people’s lives.”

In early 2020, the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement and the Boerigter Center together unveiled The Hope College Connection, a new digital platform that connects Hope alumni to other alumni as well as to current Hope students. It’s a sort of combination alumni directory meets social network meets career networking platform.

“That is where alumni can engage and network for the benefit of students — but it’s also for the benefit of fellow alumni, because they’re able to get on the site and find others who work in the same field and message each other for connections or advice,” said Colbrunn.

Currently, The Hope College Connection has approximately 3,000 active users that encompass 50 states, 30 countries and more than 70 areas of industry expertise.

“The Hope College Connection is just as much about making career-related introductions between alumni as it is about introducing them to students. It also serves as the alumni directory, so it can benefit those who are looking to get in touch for other reasons,” Travis said.





## What's Next?

As the Boerigter Center turns toward the future, both Colbrunn and Travis said that they're working together to figure out ways to increase and expand career support and lifelong learning resources for alumni.

"We're listening to what our alumni want, and we're committed to investing in our partnership with the Boerigter Center for the benefit of our alumni," said Travis.

They are also working together to improve and create new spaces for students, alumni and employers to connect on campus, with plans to renovate the former Kletz in the lower level of the DeWitt Center for use in advising, career development, alumni and family engagement, and the Center for Leadership.

And they're continuing to explore new opportunities to deliver information via video, as well as planning to capitalize on some of the lessons learned from their aggressive shift to digital programming during COVID-19. They're offering new resources to distinguish Hope graduates from others — things like certification in Tableau (a popular data visualization software) and digital badges in critical thinking and intercultural fluency — and they're partnering closely with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to improve their services to students of color and other underrepresented students.

The Boerigter Center has changed and expanded dramatically since its inception just a few short years ago, and they're building on that foundation to carry their momentum into the future. In other words, as much as is already happening for students and alumni through the Boerigter Center, there's a lot more in the works.

**Join Us!**

[connection.hope.edu](https://connection.hope.edu)

 **The Hope College**  
**CONNECTION**

# Making Music with a Mission

By Jim McFarlin '74

As the world grappled with the intensifying COVID-19 health crisis last spring, there were those in the U.S. who began referring to the plague disparagingly as “the China virus” and the “kung flu.”

Concurrently, according to *Time* magazine, the STOP AAPI HATE center founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council has received more than 1,800 reports of violence or harassment against Asians and Asian Americans nationwide since mid-March 2020 when the coronavirus was officially declared a pandemic.

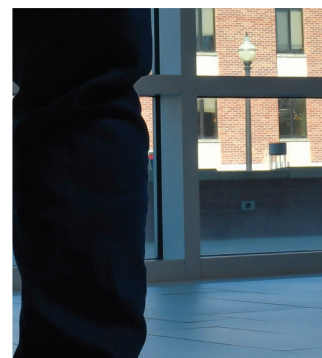
Coincidence? Dr. Jordan VanHemert, Hope assistant professor of music instruction in saxophone and jazz studies and a Korean American, doesn't think so.

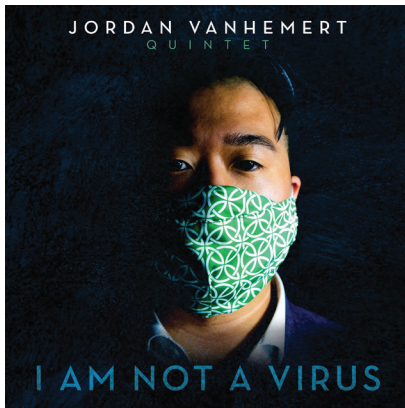
“I still have conversations with people who say it's inconsequential and ask why I get so worked up about it,” says VanHemert, a West Michigan native. “I say, ‘Look, words matter.’”

“It affected how people see us, and it's enabling the kinds of things I know [Asian and Asian American] students on this campus have experienced. People have yelled things at them, thrown things at them. And when you think about a school that's supposed to be a safe place where students can pursue knowledge, pursue growth in their faith, anything that gets in the way of their pursuit to become their best selves is worth fighting against. And that's what I'm here to do, to fight that.”

VanHemert, a nationally recognized composer and jazz saxophonist as well as instructor, decided to launch his counterattack through music: *I Am Not a Virus*, his debut album, was released in March on Big Round Records, a division of PARMA Recordings.







The eight-song collection, recorded in two days last July at the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts while observing social distancing, showcases VanHemert's quintet of trumpeter Rob Smith, bassist Kazuki Takemura, Andy Wheelock on drums and Hope adjunct

professor of piano Lisa Sung. "These are friends and colleagues I'd really grown to enjoy playing with over the years," he says. "Such was the case with Lisa. I met her in 2019 and I've really enjoyed our collaborations."

"Jordan is a leader by nature," praises Sung, also Korean American. "Very organized, but at the same time very approachable, just a wonderful, fun person to be around. Those usually don't go together where musicians are concerned, but he has the best of both worlds."

Despite its challenges and outrages, 2020 was in many respects a banner year for VanHemert, who also is founder and music director of the Holland Concert Jazz Orchestra. He was honored by the musical instrument company Conn-Selmer as a distinguished performing artist of the prestigious Henri Selmer Paris saxophone brand, recognized as "an elite musician, clinician, educator and composer." He joined the staff of *The Saxophonist* magazine as jazz review and book editor.

However, ironically, it was the divisive and infuriating events of the past year that provided VanHemert the resolve to take on his proudest accomplishment: composing his first album.

"I've always known I wanted to record, because when I first thought about getting into music CDs were

what really grabbed me," he reflects. "Not being able to see live music, I knew I could always be transported by putting a CD into the stereo system. So I knew I wanted to record, but I never felt truly ready for it.

"Then I came to understand that you never really feel ready, that's not a thing. I realized my emotions over COVID and other events had gotten so strong that I said, 'All right, I have something to say and I need to say it.'"

Pre-release reaction to *I Am Not a Virus* was positive. Noted jazz critic Scott Yanow called the LP "quite impressive," adding that the track "Autumn Song" — inspired by VanHemert gazing out his Hope office window last fall watching the leaves change — "could eventually become a classic." Of course, though, it's the works galvanized by ongoing social unrest that ring with the most relevance. As VanHemert explained in a television interview on Grand Rapids' WOOD-TV, "I want to be able to put music into places where words can't go."

Besides the pensive, simmering "I Am Not a Virus" title track, the LP also features the melodic, propulsive "Justice for the Unarmed (BLM)," in tribute to the deaths of George Floyd and other African Americans that fueled the Black Lives Matter movement.

"That one came to me really quickly," says VanHemert. "One of the themes I wanted to illustrate was Black-Asian solidarity because it is so important to me. Because of the friends I have, the mentors I've had, that's where it comes from."

Perhaps the most surprising selection on the album is VanHemert's reinterpretation of "Arirang" ("My Beloved One"), the traditional folk song often considered Korea's unofficial national anthem. "I originally planned to do all original compositions on the record,

**"I want to be able to put music  
into places where words can't go."**

**—Jordan VanHemert, assistant professor of music**



but as I was drafting the lineup ‘Arirang’ kept calling out to me,” he says.

“The ‘Arirang’ is a really important song, and I think when any Korean in our diaspora hears it, it immediately stirs something embedded within them. I guess I included it because it’s a song that has deep personal significance to me. When I crafted the compositions for this album I asked myself, ‘What does it mean to be Korean American in the 21st century?’ I always found the answer to that question through the ‘Arirang.’ When I listen to that song, I feel whole.”

The song affected Lisa Sung as well. “Yes, of course,” she says. “All his compositions I just love. They’re very original, very authentic, but with some traditional elements as well.”

After completing *I Am Not a Virus*, VanHemert says the next challenge was finding a label to distribute his work. “A bunch of labels wanted to own my music, and I wasn’t really cool with that,” he says, laughing. “I was like, ‘So, I’m going to write all this music, put my blood, sweat and tears into it, then you’re going to own it?’ I settled on PARMA because it’s a very artist-focused label.” So much so VanHemert says PARMA CEO Bob Lord will visit Hope this semester to give a guest lecture to music students on entrepreneurship in the arts.

VanHemert says he didn’t see any role models that looked like him growing up, which fills him with a sense of responsibility. Among other things, he serves as an advisor at Hope’s Asian Student Union.

“To me, it’s about planting seeds,” he says. “About doing what I can do, and frankly that’s what it takes for me to sleep at night. Every night I ask myself, ‘Did I do right by my students today, particularly my students of color? Did I do all I could to fight for a better world for them? Did I give them the opportunity to grow in the best way?’ Some days, that answer is no. But every day, that’s what I strive for.”









# Bringing Back the Birds

By Eva Dean Folkert '83

Each year, we in more northern climes appreciate when various bird species return to our regions on the fresh wisps of spring. In fact, we eagerly anticipate their arrival with high seasonal acuity. After our muted long-winter life, “Hey, I saw my first robin today!” is as much a rite of spring as spotting college students wearing shorts in March.

Yet, while *we* revel in seeing and hearing renewed bird chirps and antics, what if *they* actually can’t hear or see *each other*? What if the things we humans take for granted (birdsong, bird flight) are things that the birds themselves are having problems identifying?

What if the birds are the ones with a failure to communicate?

Self-professed bird nerd Dr. Kelly Ronald, assistant professor of biology, has spent the past year hoping to answer those questions from a bird’s eye, and ear, point of view. Her collaborative faculty-student research team, which includes eight student-researchers, is studying how increased noise and light due to human activity affect birds’ ability to hear and see in both urban and rural settings. House sparrows are serving as their subjects to help them, and eventually other scientists, begin to understand more broadly why the number of birds in North America has been declining. A recent study, published in *Science* magazine in October 2019, reports that the total bird population has fallen by 29 percent since 1970.

That’s an estimated loss of nearly three billion birds.

“Birds combine lots of sensory modalities to make behavioral decisions from mate choice, to caring for offspring, to predator-prey decisions,” Ronald explains. “But changes in the physical environment caused by human activity alter environmental sound and light profiles, so birds’ behaviors have to change, too.”

For example, Ronald notes that previous research has shown that birds in urban areas sing at higher frequencies or louder amplitudes to avoid the masking caused by lower-frequency traffic noise. “But currently, very few people are asking questions on the sensory reception side,” she says. “So, we know these animals are changing signal production due to urbanization, but what is happening, if anything, on the signal reception side? Ultimately, as communication involves the successful reception of signals, it is imperative that we examine receiver sensory processing as well.”

So, that means that Ronald and her students have to give birds sight and hearing tests. But first, they have to have birds to which the tests can be given.

“Birds combine lots of sensory modalities to make behavioral decisions from mate choice, to caring for offspring, to predator-prey decisions. But changes in the physical environment caused by human activity alter environmental sound and light profiles, so birds’ behaviors have to change, too.”

—Dr. Kelly Ronald,  
assistant professor of biology

So, step one: **Find some birds.**

Student-researcher Sarah Yonker, a senior biology major, vividly recalls a morning when she and Ronald traveled to a horse stable in Nunica, about 30 minutes away from campus, to attempt to capture rural house sparrows. In the quiet of a frigid early morning in January, Yonker and Ronald worked together to set up mist nets without gloves on “because the nets are so fine, you need to put them out with your bare hands,” recalls Yonker, who will enter veterinary school in the fall at Michigan State University. “Our fingers felt frozen, but it actually was a fun experience. There was a beautiful sunrise that day, and we got our first female house sparrow for the lab.”

Ronald uses house sparrows because of their abundance — in fact, they are an invasive, non-native, pest-like species to North America — and hopes to have a mix of 60 country and city birds. She works in conjunction with Holland’s DeGraaf Nature Center and nearby Outdoor Discovery Center to gather birds and also enlists the help of friends with feeders. Her lab protocol houses the birds for a number of weeks while providing them with natural perches, as well as bird toys, and feeding them a steady diet of seeds, mealworms, millet sprays, vitamin water and grit. Since house sparrows are fairly social, they are always paired with same-sex co-habitants; Ronald doesn’t really need to welcome any baby sparrows to her laboratory brood, after all. The animal care staff at Hope also checks on them daily.

“We plan to use this project to obtain some baseline information [from sparrows] and jump from that to studying native species as well,” Yonker says.

Onto step two: **Administer a hearing test to the birds.**

This sounds dicey, doesn’t it? How do you even begin to determine if a wild bird is hearing and seeing what you want it to hear and see? It turns out that the methodology for that is more common than you might think.

“We do what are called auditory-evoked potentials and visual-evoked potentials, and people are pretty familiar with the auditory-evoked potentials,” Ronald

says. “This is what newborn humans are given for their newborn hearing screening tests. You put electrodes right at the surface of the skin. Then you play a sound and make sure that the auditory nerve is responding to that sound as you would expect. We do that same sort of thing with the birds. I sedate them, and then I play them different frequencies of sound at different intensities or amplitudes to assess how they hear. It’s a very similar type of process with vision, except instead of presenting sounds, I’m presenting lights to them to see how the retina is responding.”

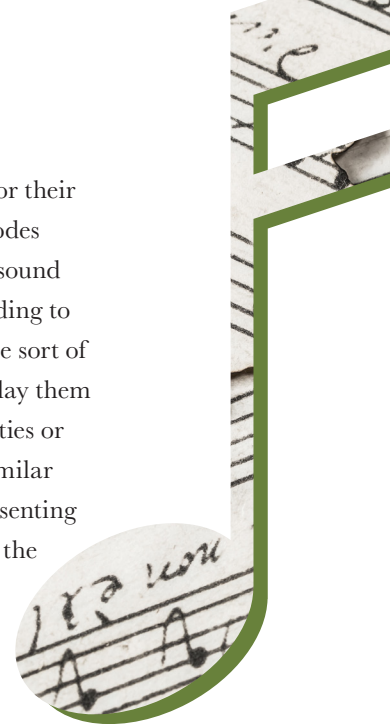
Through a grant she received from the Christian Scholars Foundation, Ronald purchased the auditory and visual assessment equipment from a company that sells the very same apparatus to hospitals. “I actually had to sign a waiver saying I wasn’t going to assess any humans for diagnostic reasons with this equipment,” she says. She assured them that, of course, it was just for the birds. (Oh, c’mon, you had to know that cliché was coming.)

Step three: **Process that data.**

This phase has yet to begin for the members of Ronald research team. They are still busy finding birds and conducting sensory tests. But Ronald has some theories that may seem indubitable — like too much exposure to constant, loud noise (think jackhammer operators without ear plugs) causes worse bird hearing — and some that aren’t.

“Birds are interesting because they can regenerate their hair cells (sensory receptors in the ears of all vertebrates) while mammals cannot,” Ronald explains. “So noise may not have as strong of an effect on the birds as it would for a mammal, but we just don’t know. I’m thinking that perhaps they have elevated thresholds. Like, we’re not going to see as much of a response until we turn the volume of the sound up.”

In terms of bird vision, not as much is known, Ronald adds. “There is some evidence in humans that nighttime glare can affect how we perceive patterns. I’m just expecting that there might be a difference between animals that are exposed to a lot of nighttime glare, rather than birds [who don’t experience] as much.”







Finally, in every step: **Mentor and teach Hope students.**

Ronald arrived at Hope in the summer of 2019 as sensory physiology/ecologist eager to engage Hope students in her lab immediately because she believes that research is where “real science can actually happen,” she says. “It’s where I can teach my students that science is hard and doesn’t work all the time. . . So, resiliency and problem-solving are as much a part of our work as the science itself.”

Yonker says she has learned those lessons and more in her work with Ronald. Though she plans to become an equine vet, working with these delicate animals has given her an appreciation for the research methods that field biologists use, such as “bird identification, banding, and mist netting,” says Yonker, who earned a national research scholarship through the Garden Club of America to conduct the project with Ronald.

“I also strengthened my public presentation and writing skills, specifically scientific writing, working on a manuscript for publication. I personally enjoyed having an energetic and enthusiastic mentor who encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and develop additional research interests.”

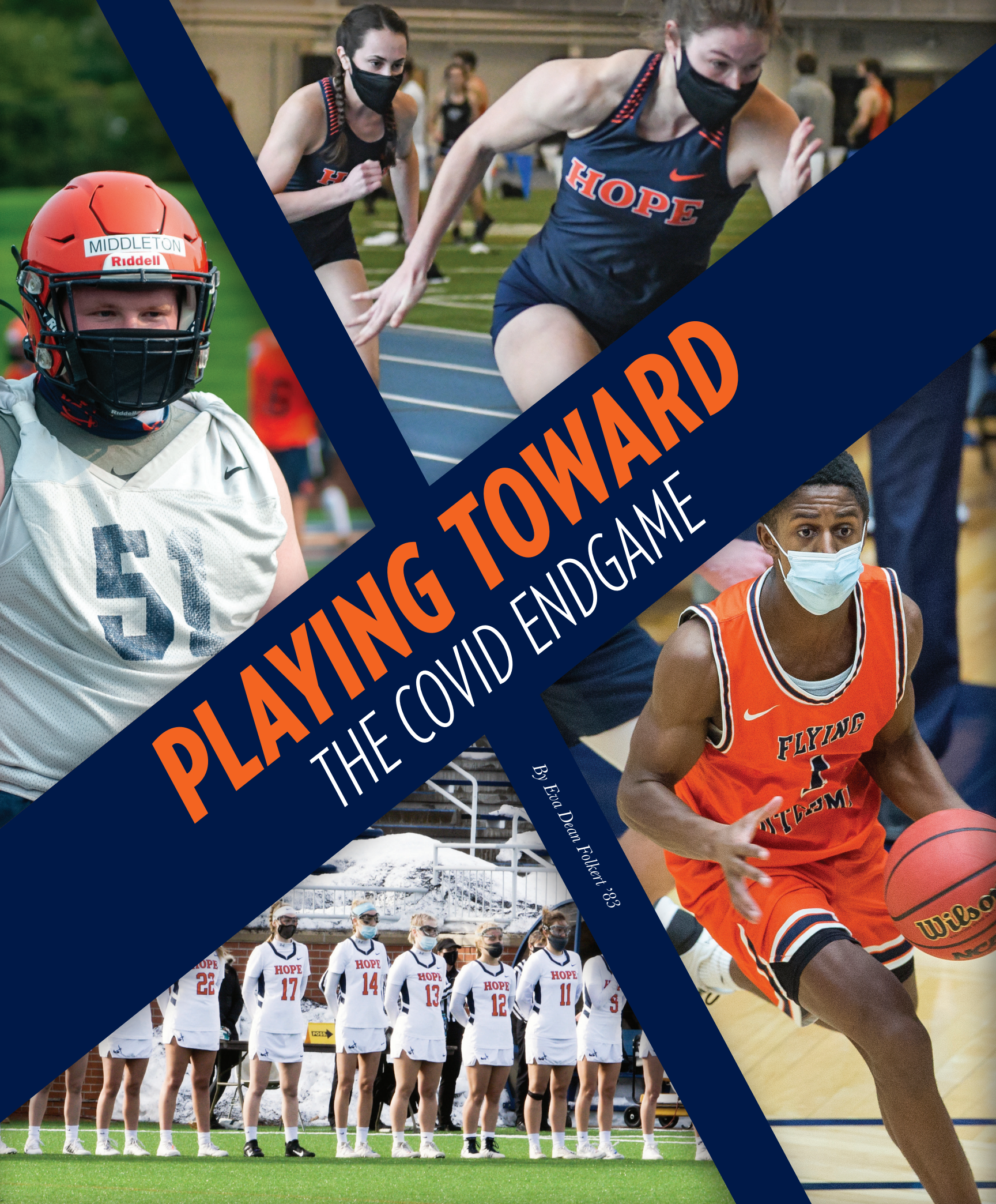
Eventually, professor and student hope their work will influence future conservation efforts for bird species who make their homes where anthropogenic (human-caused) light and sound abound. To live in harmony with harmonic birds, pressing questions, like, “How do we design cities and structures to be friendlier to cohabitating animals,” require urgent answers.

“Birds are beautiful and fun to look at, of course, but they also pollinate plants, they disperse seeds,” Ronald emphasizes, an avian affinity obvious in her tone. “They just do so many great things that make our world better.”

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What if the things we humans take  
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are having problems identifying?





# PLAYING TOWARD THE COVID ENDGAME

*By Eca Dean Folbert '83*



Just two months into 2021, a year that rang in with oxymoronic anxious optimism, heavy reality struck the Hope College athletics program with the force of a 500-pound barbell dropped from 1,000 feet.

One of the longest-standing, tradition-laden staples in Hope athletics' diet was removed from a limited menu of competitive offerings on its plate.

For the first time since the 1944-45 season, a Hope-Calvin men's basketball game was canceled, this time due to the impact of the COVID-19. Though the teams were cleared to play for the 204th time on January 30 (a 79-77 Hope win at Calvin), the 205th edition of The Rivalry at Hope was postponed due to COVID protocols and eventually not rescheduled, a rarity that only a world war and a pandemic could induce. When Hope-Calvin basketball gets scrapped, you know the world is wonky.

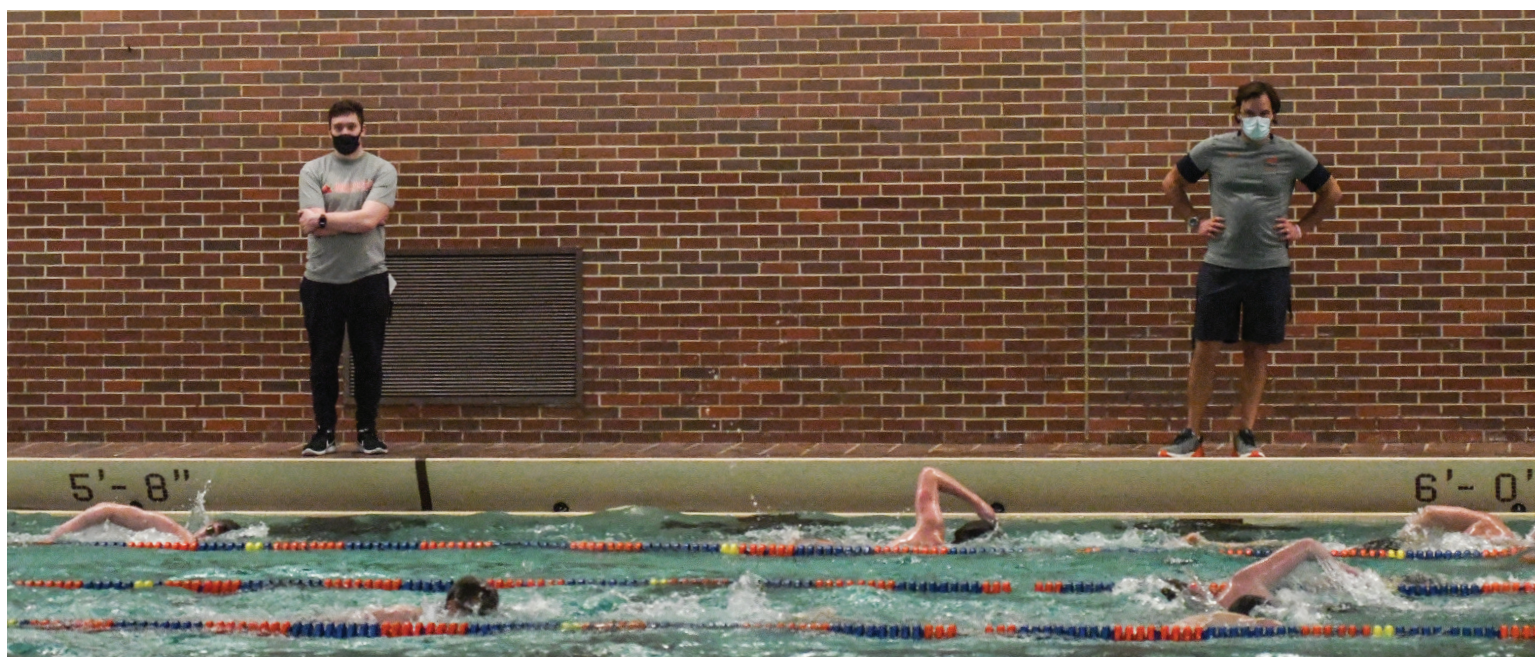
\*Thanks, COVID.\*

For Tim Schoonveld '96, Hope's director of athletics, managing challenge after challenge, not just for himself but for Hope's 53 head and assistant coaches and more than 500 student-athletes, has been his daily existence for the past year. A man of unwavering faith who turns to

scripture for inspiration, wisdom and peace, whose abiding mantra — "Choose Joy"— is prominently displayed in large, wooden, script letters in his DeVos Fieldhouse office, Schoonveld admits to being a little cantankerous on occasion about COVID uncertainties forced upon the program since last March.

Can you blame him? He is a human being. Living in a pandemic.

But he is a servant-leader, too. Putting the entire program's needs front of brain, with the focus on providing the best possible experience for students within the necessary constraints, Schoonveld has become a decision-making Gumby® while regularly ingesting a concoction of alphabet soup. Not only must he be flexible and contort to every new scenario the pandemic forces upon the world of Hope athletics, he prioritizes the health and safety of every participant while doing so, abiding by myriad health and competition standards set forth by Hope, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).



“The hour-by-hour decisions are unreal,” Schoonveld admits. And then he recounts the arm-long list of COVID protocols for safeguard compliance that affect game hosting, team travel, regular COVID testing, contact-tracing, and so on. All of it would make any leader’s head spin.

“When you are an administrator, you want to be organized and detailed, but right now you also have to be totally flexible. All of us do. We want to be positive and optimistic, but we also know there’s a reality that’s stressful, that’s up and down, and it’s hard. For everybody.”

So, where has Schoonveld found his joy in all that target moving? What could possibly make him smile when a litany of letdown fills his weeks? That’s one question he is quick to answer.

“One of the best days I’ve had in the last 10 months was when our basketball teams came back to campus after New Year’s, and they all tested negative,” he quickly remembered. “And then the next day they all were practicing on the court, which they hadn’t done in eight, nine weeks. And they were happy. You could hear shoes squeaking and people laughing. And you’re just like, ‘Okay, this is cool to have a little sense of normalcy for a few hours.’”

Albeit while wearing masks. (Since Hope and MIAA schools test student-athletes less frequently than Division I schools, face coverings were required during practice and competition.)

Women’s basketball student-athlete Jess Moorman says wearing an ear-looping face covering is really not any big deal. “Of course, it would be nice to not have to worry about it, but it hasn’t changed the way we practice and compete,” she says.

Such optimism from Moorman is commonplace; she was a BCAM (Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan) “Team First” award winner for the 2019-20 season for “putting team before self, teamwork, commitment, service and sacrifice.”

Yet Moorman has every reason to be sour, given how her and her team’s season ended last year and how it wasn’t allowed to end this year. Perhaps no team experienced the hardship of COVID-alterations more than Hope women’s basketball. With the team ranked No. 1 in the nation and undefeated both last year and this year with 45 consecutive wins, it could be easily argued that two national championships were within their reach if the NCAA had not canceled the 2020 and 2021 tournaments.

“It was just crushing,” Moorman says about the end of the 2020 season after her team had won the first two rounds of the national championship and was ready to compete in the quarterfinals when the NCAA pulled the plug.

“I kind of didn’t know what to do with myself after that. For me, personally, I put basketball aside. I was like, ‘That is just such a sore part of my heart right now.’ And I think I built up this wall of being like, ‘What’s the point now?’”

## To illustrate, here’s how the ever-evolving calendar has played out due to COVID-19 for Hope Athletics since the start of the 2020-21 school year:

**Mid-July** *All fall team competition is postponed and moved to a limited spring season (except cross country which will not compete at all), but fall coaches and student-athletes can practice.*

**Mid-September** *It is determined winter sports teams can begin to compete at the end of December.*

**Early November** *It is determined winter sports teams can begin to compete the second week of January.*

**November 18 to January 8** *No teams practice or compete at all.*

**Early January** *It is determined winter sports can begin to compete the third week of January with no fans.*

**Mid-January** *It is determined men’s basketball can begin to compete at the end of January.*

**End of January** *Hope football cancels its spring competition schedule for non-COVID health and safety reasons and decides to focus on the Fall 2021 season.*

**Early February** *The NCAA cancels winter championships due to nationwide low participation numbers in the Division III membership.*

**Mid-February** *It is determined fan attendance by immediate family of players and coaches will be allowed league-wide.*

**Throughout February** *Multiple league contests are postponed or canceled.*

**March, April, May** *Fall and spring teams take what they can get.*



Indeed. Coffee without caffeine? Vacation without pictures? Sports without championships? Why bother? The answer to all those questions is usually not in any pessimist's wheelhouse. But Moorman is no pessimist, and she eventually found a perspective on "why bother," not only because of her own positive personality but from her four years playing for the Flying Dutch.

The "why bother" answer, be it caffeine-less coffee, photo-less travel or competition-less sport, is imbued with an affinity for the experience.

"The bottom line is, I play because I love basketball. I've loved it since I was a little girl shooting hoops in the driveway for hours," explains Moorman, a mechanical engineering major from Northville, Michigan, who will graduate in May and look to enter the workforce.

"Life lessons are being learned right now. I know, you can say that happened pre-pandemic," she continues. "But I think especially now in this time, I'm learning valuable, powerful things, like with struggle comes growth. And to be a part of something bigger than myself, learning that lesson with people who mean a lot to me even if we're not competing for a national championship, is a blessing that I'm so grateful to have."

Like Moorman, student-athlete Matt Middleton experienced loss and had a similar mindset when he learned that Hope football would not be competing this spring. A senior business major and offensive lineman from Scotts, Michigan, Middleton wanted to finish his final season at Hope with just one game at least. But for performance and non-COVID safety reasons, head football coach Peter Stuursma '93, in consultation with his staff and players' council, decided to focus on competing for an MIAA championship this coming fall and canceled league competition in the spring.

"I really, really wanted to play in my senior year and get my time in," he said. "But at the same time, after having our meetings with Coach and [head athletic trainer] Tim Koberna and hearing about the reasons why, it didn't feel like it was the right thing [to compete this spring]."

"And even though it was a negative thing for me, I felt like for the Hope College football team, it was a positive. I'm just one person on a whole team of other people, and I think that it would be extremely selfish of me to be upset or mad at Coach, because I truly do think it's best for the team as a whole."





The sacrificial attitudes of hundreds of student-athletes like Moorman and Middleton make Schoonveld well up with emotion and pride. Sport is just a tool that people use to help transform the world, he likes to say. That Hope student-athletes are already using those tools is proof of the education that sports in general and Hope athletics specifically has given them during a life-changing pandemic. It's not been easy this year, but with gratitude and clarity of purpose, the entire athletics program has forged forward toward a COVID endgame.

"The short-term goals this spring were, 'Let's play, let's be safe, and let's try to compete for championships as able,'" Schoonveld said. "But I think the longer-term goal is, 'Hey, when we come out of this, how are we sharpening, strengthening, making ourselves better so that we are back next year better than ever?' It'll be a new day. And we're so ready for that."

THE SHORT-TERM GOALS THIS SPRING WERE,  
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-TIM SCHOONVELD '96, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS





# OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE

Nineteen longtime members of the faculty are retiring this year. How to celebrate 19 tenures totaling 600+ years? It starts here, with these winsome portraits. But then, please, visit the college online for photographs and biographical sketches. And most of all, if you get a chance, say to them, as we do here: *THANK YOU! You made a difference, and you will be missed.*

[hope.edu/retirees2021](https://hope.edu/retirees2021)



**BARRY BANDSTRA**

*Professor of Religion and Director  
of Academic Computing*  
38 years



**NATALIE DYKSTRA**

*Professor of English*  
21 years



**NANCY COOK**

*Professor of Education*  
35 years



**DOUGLAS IVERSON '72**

*Assistant Professor of Economics  
& Ruch Executive-in-Residence*  
29 years



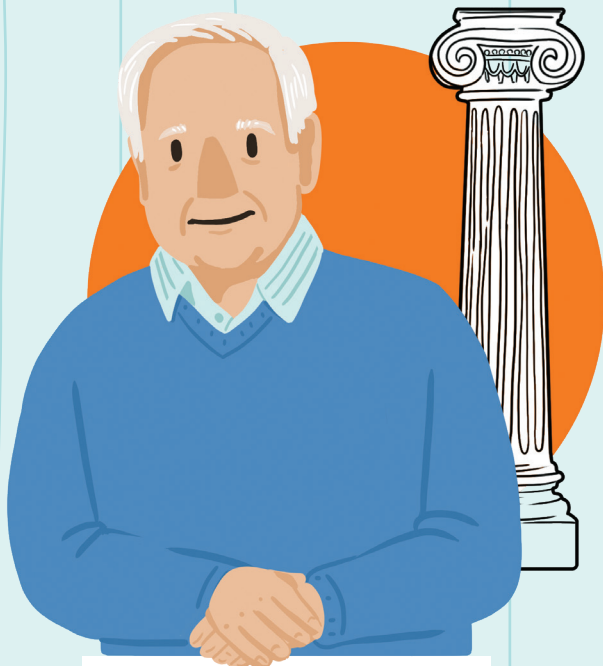
**TEUNIS (TONY) DONK**

*Professor of Education*  
30 years



**JENNIFER GARDINER**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor  
of Art Instruction*  
24 years



**ALBERT BELL**

*Professor of History*  
43 years



**DONNA GARRETT**

*Assistant Professor of Nursing*  
15 years





**STEVEN HOOGERWERF '77**

*Associate Professor of Religion*  
29 years



**KATHY WINNETT-MURRAY**

*Professor of Biology*  
35 years



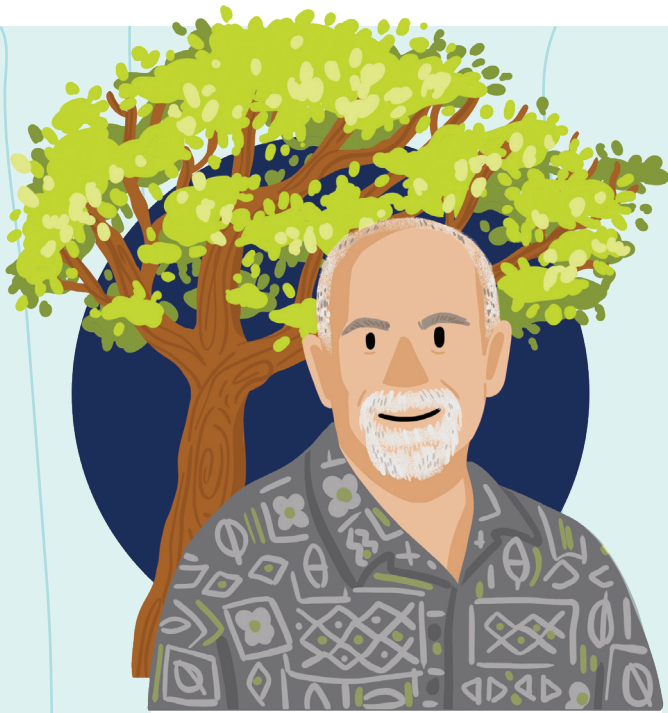
**DEBORAH WEISS '75  
STURTEVANT**

*Professor of Social Work*  
33 years



**STEVE NELSON**

*Associate Professor of Art*  
32 years



**K. GREG MURRAY**

*T. Elliot Weier Professor  
of Plant Science  
35 years*



**PATRICIA ROEHLING**

*Professor of Psychology  
34 years*



**DEDE JOHNSTON**

*Guy Vander Jagt Professor  
of Communication  
27 years*



**TOM SMITH**

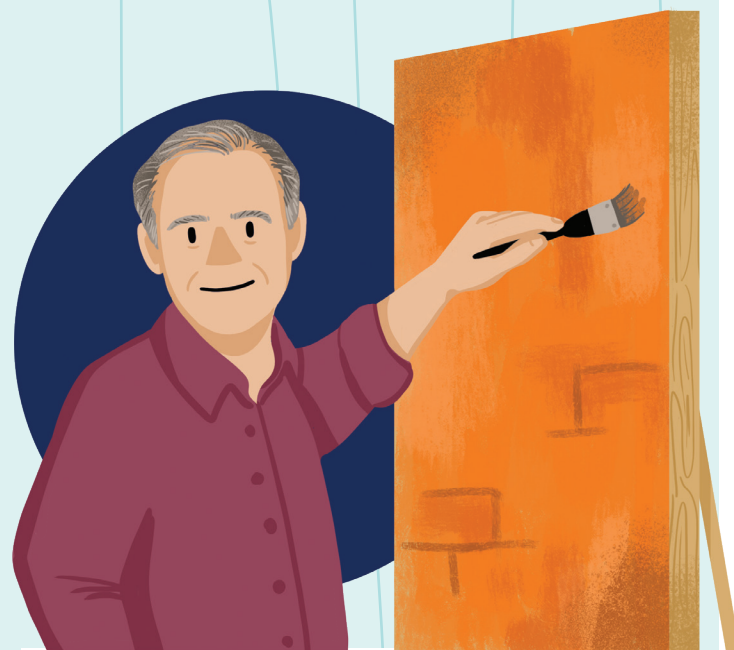
*Dr. Leon A. Bosch '29  
Professor of Management  
28 years*





**BRUCE MCCOMBS**

*Professor of Art*  
52 years



**RICHARD SMITH**

*Professor of Theatre*  
49 years



**MARTY WEENER '85  
LABARGE**

*Associate Professor of Accounting*  
14 years

The portraits on these pages were created for Hope by U.K.-based artist Christy Johnson using photographs provided by *News from Hope College* from the college's collection.

# GLOBAL LEARNING IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

From 12-hour time differences during remote learning to staying on campus year-round, Hope helps international students navigate the unexpected.

By Ann Sierks Smith



If you want to put yourself in the shoes of a COVID-era international student, try on these scenarios from spring 2020 — the early months of the worldwide pandemic.

You need a visa to fly from the Philippines to Michigan to start your freshman year at Hope College. You line up an appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. The embassy shuts down. (In this scenario, you are Jairus Meer '24.)

Partway through your junior year study abroad program in Australia, COVID-19 hits and your program's classes go remote. Your home country, Rwanda, closes its borders. (Kenneth Munyuza '21.)

After Hope College switches to virtual instruction, your American dorm mates pack their belongings and leave, and you wonder, *Should I go home now to Malaysia, or will students be called back to campus in a few weeks?* (Andrea Koh '22 sticks it out into April. Aware that some Hope international students' travel plans keep falling apart, when she finally books her three-hop, nine-thousand-mile trip home, she also takes some cash out of the bank in case one of her connecting flights is canceled and strands her en route.)

A year later, a bright spot amid the continuing pandemic: All three students are on campus this semester, engaged in Hope classes and activities. But it's been an adventure, to put it mildly, for international students to study at American colleges over the past year.

"When you are across a border or across an ocean, apart from family, far from the culture and society you are familiar with, whether or not there's a global pandemic

it's hard," said Amy Otis '96. As senior director of Hope's Fried Center for Global Engagement, she leads the team that supports international students and off-campus study.

"When there's an emergency situation on top of that, loneliness, fear and a sense of being overwhelmed tie into that," Otis continued. "The pandemic has been overwhelming for all students, but international students have to deal with questions that ramp up. *Can I return home or not? Are there flights to my home country? If there are, can I afford to fly home? Am I better off staying in this country or going home and studying remotely?*"

Sixty-four international students are enrolled at Hope this spring. They hail from 25 countries, from Argentina to Zambia. Just six of them are studying from home this semester, far fewer than the 23 who studied remotely in the fall — some due to safety concerns and others forced by circumstances such as travel restrictions, airfare price spikes and inability to obtain visas. Uncertainty about such issues led 12 others to take off part or all of Hope's 2020–21 academic year.

International travel is easier now than in 2020, but challenges continue. "We had a student from Vietnam whose flight to the U.S. would have been about \$7,500," Otis said. He is studying remotely this semester.

So are three Chinese students who would have been required to quarantine in another country for two weeks before entering the United States, Otis said. A Nepalese student is attending classes online for his entire freshman year because well into 2021 the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu was not yet fully operational, so he could not get a visa.



“Hope faculty have been amazing in trying to accommodate learners who are running into those kind of barriers,” Otis said.

These students are making it work with virtual classes, but studying remotely from great distances involves adjustments way bigger than mastering Google Meet. It’s like working the night shift. As Meer experienced all fall at home in Manila and Koh had to deal with in her home city of Kuala Lumpur for the final weeks of last year’s spring semester, in their time zone in south Asia a class that met at 1 p.m. on the Hope campus came up on their screens at 1 a.m. (give or take a daylight saving time hour). To ask questions outside of class, they made video chat appointments for times like 3 a.m.

“That will never get off my mind. It was a struggle,” said Meer.

Weekly conversations with his professors helped, and so did talking online with international students who were on the Hope campus. “It’s interesting how amazing the Hope community has really been — including international students like me to be engaged in their community,” he said. Even while he studied from abroad, he felt like he was “in the conversation.”

Meer, who plans to major in biology and minor in peace and justice studies, tapped during the fall into Hope’s Peer Partnership Learning program, an initiative of the Academic Success Center in which upperclassmen teach newer students about particular courses and topics. He also was able to work remotely with writing assistants in the Klooster Center for Excellence in Writing and learn from the Boerigter Center for Calling and Career about professional options for biology majors.

Happy to be on campus this semester, Meer is making up for lost time. He joined the Asian Student Union and the Hope Interfaith Youth Alliance. He’s looking into the sailing team, too — something new for him. “That fall semester really opened me into different realms of being open and curious about things,” he said.



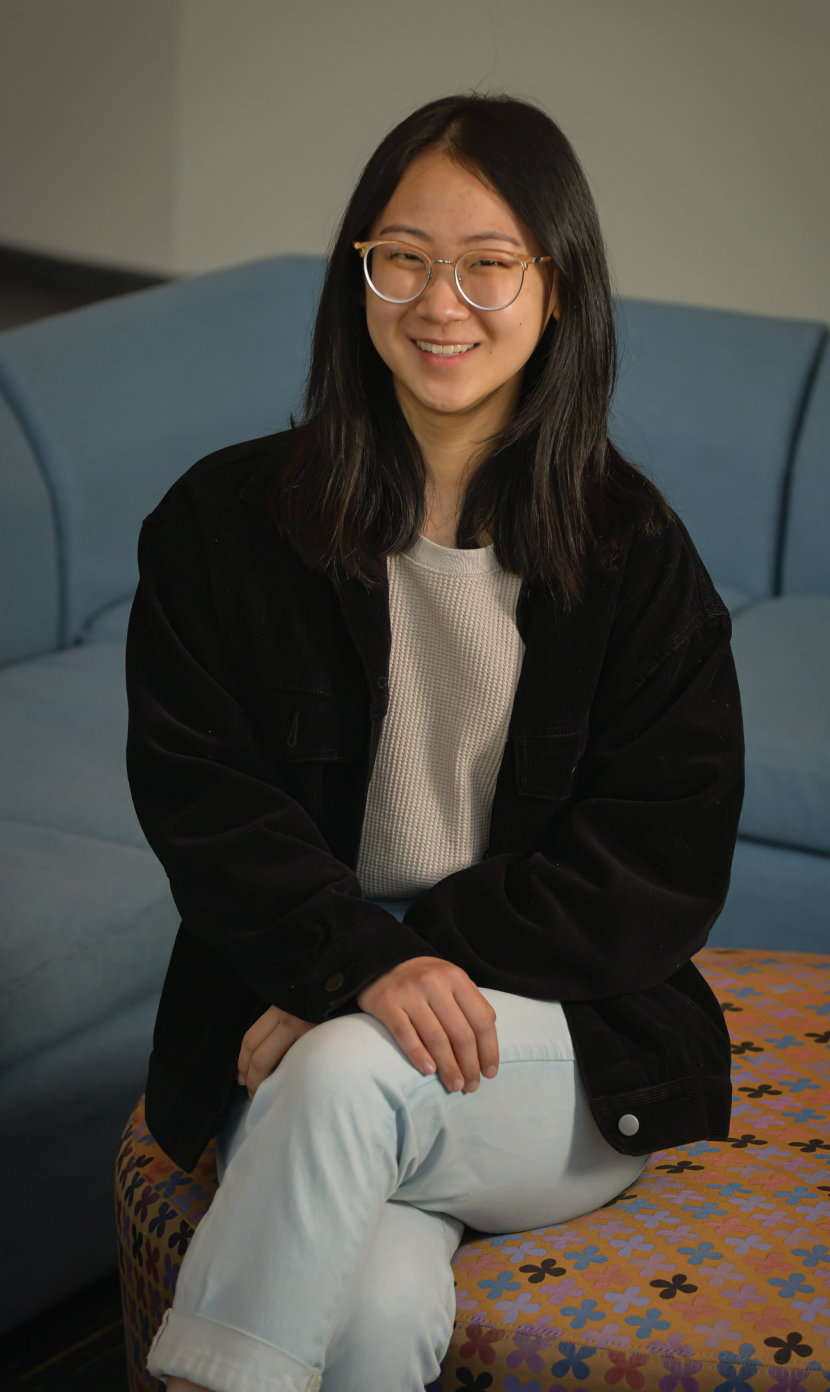
## ***JAIRUS MEER '24***

Major: Biology

Minor: Peace and Justice Studies

Home Country: Philippines

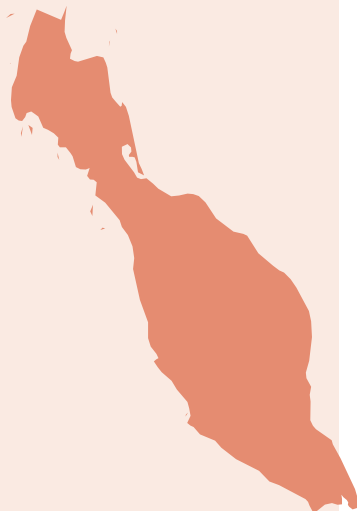




## ANDREA KOH '22

Major: Kinesiology

Home Country: Malaysia



For Andrea Koh, finishing the first COVID spring in Kuala Lumpur went without a hitch. She's a planner. Before going home in April, the kinesiology major arranged to get a week ahead in her classwork in case she encountered travel delays. "I'm grateful for my professors; they were really nice about it," she said. The fact that she was home schooled was a plus; her home is set up for studying. "Malaysia was in lockdown, too. It made it easier to stay in and study," she said. She slept from 4 a.m. until noon to stay close to "Michigan time" until the semester ended.

Since she returned to Hope in August, Koh's classes have been a mix of "instructional modalities": online, in person and hybrid. She spent the four-week winter break on campus, taking Hope up on its offer of free housing for students who could not return home.

After the fall semester ended, Hope's Haworth Hotel became home base for 24 international students (about twice the usual number) plus some American students. Hope also provided some free meals, and the Global Engagement staff created a food pantry so students could prepare other meals on their own; the staff kept it stocked with food donated by the Hope community and other Holland residents. "Host families," which Otis's team arranges routinely for Hope's international students, provided care packages until dining halls reopened.

"International students put a lot of trust in us as an institution that we are going to walk with them and take care of them," Otis said. "We work really closely with various departments anyway to make sure students feel they have a home away from home at Hope. We had to advocate for our students in new ways."

All year, Global Engagement staff have checked in regularly with international students in one-on-one online conversations and socially-distanced walks. *How's your family? Is everyone staying healthy?* The staff know that for the 58 international students who are on campus this semester, being far from home during the pandemic has extra layers of complication and emotion.

Malaysia became locked down again, with interstate travel banned; Koh's mother and grandmother could not celebrate Lunar New Year together.

Meer reports that people in Manila remain skeptical of the Philippine government's daily COVID reports. "Hospitals are still struggling, and there's a lot of politics," he said.



And although Rwanda has tallied fewer COVID-19 cases than Hope College's county has, the country went back on lockdown in February.

"Hope has been trying to give students a lot of ways to relieve stress," said Kenneth Munyuza, who is back on campus now for the first time since the end of 2019.

Things worked out okay for him last spring after his program in Australia pivoted to virtual instruction; he was able to remain in the housing the program provided, though he had to cook for himself. By the time the program ended, Rwanda's borders had reopened and he went home.

Munyuza has an unusually broad perspective on COVID's impact on students' lives: from the viewpoint of a study abroad participant, a remote learner, a student on campus during the pandemic, and even as someone who's been quarantined.

Because "there was so much mixed news about the United States," the computer engineering major took his fall classes remotely from his home in Kigali, seven hours out of sync with the Hope campus.

"From friends I spoke to who were doing remote courses at other American schools, Hope seems to have done a better job," he said. Professors provided lots of online resources and opportunities to talk with them outside of class. The college provided other types of support, too. "And I was really surprised that they handled the pandemic so well and stayed open all semester," he added.

So Munyuza returned to campus in January. Due to close contact with another student who later tested positive for COVID, however, he had to spend the first two weeks in quarantine. He transitioned to classes in person in February.

Mixes of stories like that are common among Hope's international students, here and abroad. Otis receives a steady stream of feedback from them.

"The international students who are remote really miss Hope. They miss the community. They would like to be in in-person classes. I hear them worrying about how this will affect their academic plans," Otis said. "The students who are here continue to lean into the international community and the Hope community. They're grateful to be here, to be able to do as much as they can in person, and grateful for the support the Hope community has provided them."

## PANDEMIC LIMITS OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

A few fortunate Hope students are studying abroad and in four U.S. cities this semester, but others had to postpone those plans when most off-campus study programs suspended operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, unsure of what the spring would bring.

Amy Otis '96, senior director of Hope's Fried Center for Global Engagement, expresses a great deal of confidence in the programs Hope partners with that remain open. They have put in place health and safety guidelines that include protocols for quarantining or relocating students, she reports, and for returning students to their home countries to complete coursework remotely if COVID alert levels force a program to suspend operations in a particular country. Some require testing before students arrive, or start with a period of on-site quarantine, or conduct orientation remotely.

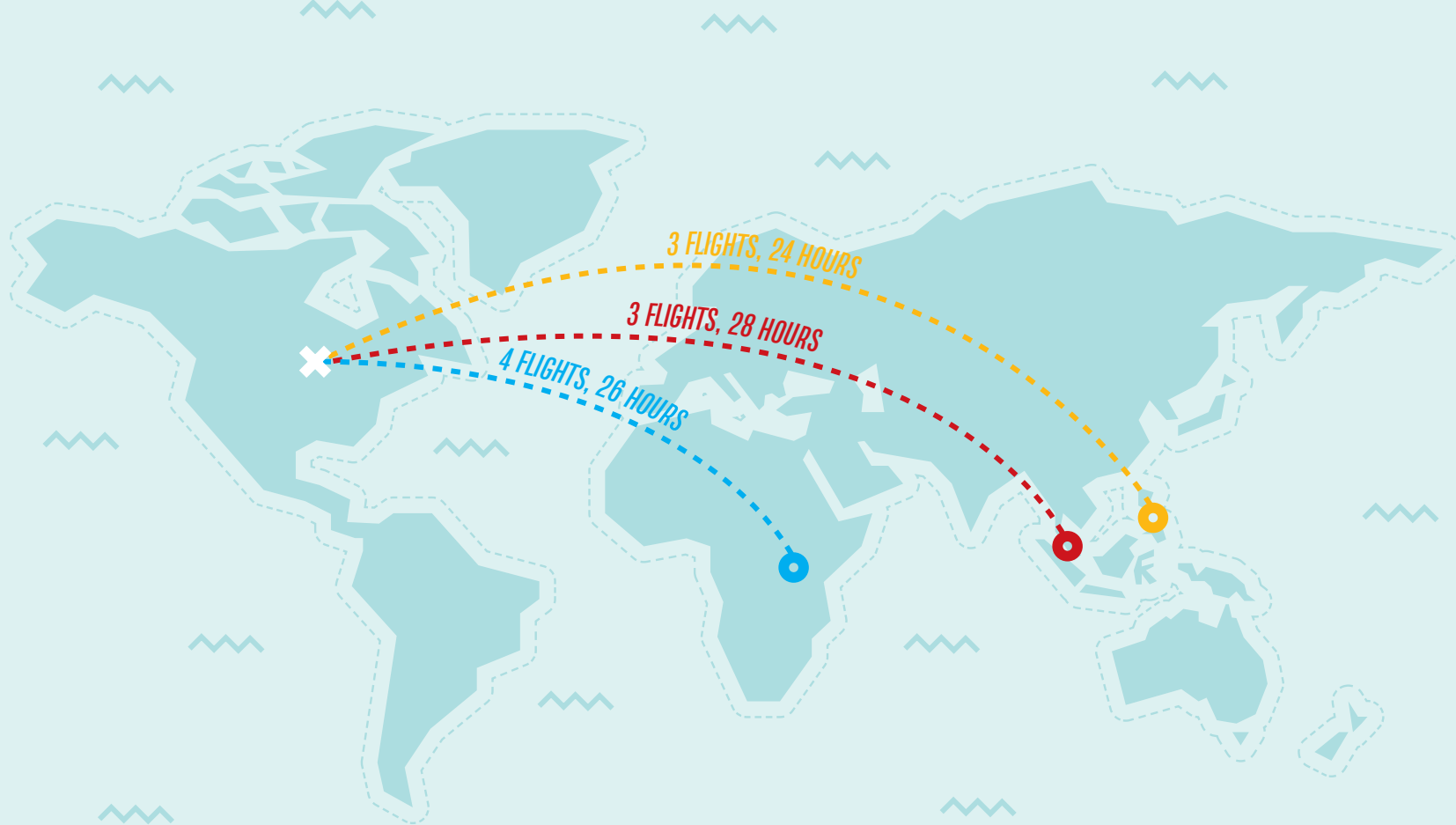
This spring, Hope students are participating in four off-campus programs in the U.S. and four overseas.

The domestic programs that are operating include the Hope Department of Political Science's Washington Semester Program, which takes Hope juniors and seniors to D.C., where they participate in seminars and internships. The other off-campus programs running this spring take place in Chicago, New York City and Denver.

Farther afield, four other Hope students are enrolled in programs on other continents: one in Greece, one in South Korea, one in Kenya and one in China. (China is home to the latter student, who under the State Department's tightened travel rules would have had to spend two weeks or more in another country on the way from China to Hope in order to be allowed to enter the U.S. Instead, he enrolled in a Chinese study abroad program with which Hope partners.)

Three other Hope students who were poised to participate in spring semester programs in Japan had to pivot quickly when those programs were canceled in late January. They quickly registered for classes at Hope instead.

Hope's usual roster of May Term travel-study courses has been winnowed this year to just one, the Adirondacks May Term led by Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger '79, which is a self-contained outdoor program.



## JAIRUS MEER '24

### World Travelers

has been to Austria, France, Canada, Italy, Japan, Malaysia and Australia

### Multilingual

speaks Tagalog and English

### Favorite food at home

dinuguan, a Filipino pork dish

### Favorite food at Hope

Crust 54 pizza and Kilwin's ice cream

### Weather report

"I have never been this cold before."

## ANDREA KOH '22

visited Japan, Thailand, Singapore, China and the Netherlands

speaks English, Malay, and some Hokkien

rojak, a Malaysian salad with tofu, shredded vegetables and curry sauce

bibimbap at Phelps Dining Hall

"I love it! All my friends back home are jealous."

## KENNETH MUNYUZA '21

has spent time in Australia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Belgium, England and India

fluent in English, Kinyarwanda and French

isombe, a Rwandan stew of mashed cassava leaves and other vegetables

"I don't like the food here. Maybe tacos?"

prefers one temperature year round. "Fall isn't bad."

“INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PUT A LOT OF TRUST IN US AS AN INSTITUTION THAT WE ARE GOING TO WALK WITH THEM AND TAKE CARE OF THEM. WE WORK REALLY CLOSELY WITH VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS ANYWAY TO MAKE SURE STUDENTS FEEL THEY HAVE A HOME AWAY FROM HOME AT HOPE.”

—Amy Otis '96, senior director of the Fried Center for Global Engagement



# *Hope Mourns Death of Jennifer Hampton*

1973 – 2021



Hope is mourning the death of Dr. Jennifer Hampton of the physics faculty, who was killed in an automobile accident in Holland on Sunday, March 14, 2021.

Hampton, who was 48, was a professor of physics and department chair at Hope, where she had taught since 2007 and was a dedicated mentor of students in collaborative research.

“This loss brings deep sorrow for all of us who knew and loved Jenny as a colleague, friend and teacher,” said Hope College President Matthew A. Scogin ’02 in a message sent to the campus community. “As kind and encouraging as she was brilliant, Jenny was a bright light at Hope.”

In an interview on local radio station WHTC, Dr. Gerald Griffin, who is interim provost and was a colleague in the Division of Natural and Applied Sciences, described Hampton as “a brilliant star, and a star that cast light on others so that others could see their great potential within themselves; a star that connected people, that mentored others, that really cared deeply about the world and the people of the world.”

The college held its Monday, March 15, Chapel service, offered virtually during the pandemic, as a time of prayer and remembrance, and set aside places on campus for small gatherings.

Hampton taught in all areas of the physics curriculum, from introductory classes to upper-level lectures and laboratories. She also served as the faculty contact for the Materials Characterization Lab, which includes the college’s scanning electron microscope and atomic force microscope.

Her research interests were highly multidisciplinary, drawing from chemistry and materials engineering as well as physics, and her areas of expertise included electrochemistry,

nanoscale science, scanning probe microscopy, and batteries and fuel cells. She had received multiple research and equipment grants from the National Science Foundation and had several articles published in refereed journals. She had made a seminar presentation about her research during the college’s Winter Happening event in 2012.

Her collaborative research with students focused on understanding and controlling the fabrication of inorganic thin films and nanostructures for energy related applications. Through the years, students she mentored in research were co-authors on published research articles and received external awards and honors including a Goldwater Scholarship, a first-place research presentation award during the Annual Meeting and National Student Conference of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and being chosen to present research during the American Physical Society (APS) March Meeting, the largest physics meeting in the world.

She was a member of Faith Christian Reformed Church in Holland, where she regularly participated in the worship team and had served on the missions team and as a pastoral deacon.

She was a 1995 graduate of Oberlin College, where she majored in physics. She earned an M.Phil in physics from the University of Cambridge in 1996, an M.S. in physics from Cornell University in 1999 and a Ph.D. in physics from Cornell University in 2002. She had also been a post-doctoral fellow in a research laboratory at Penn State.

Survivors include her parents, Charles and Barbara (Settergren) Hampton; her two sisters, Ellen Miriam Filgo (Kelly), and Karen Rachel Hampton; two nephews; and aunts, uncles and cousins.

**[hope.edu/jennifer-hampton](http://hope.edu/jennifer-hampton)**



# CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: Julie Rawlings '83 Huisingsh

Your Hope friends want to hear from you! Please share your news online at [alumni@hope.edu](mailto:alumni@hope.edu) or [hope.edu/update](http://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 Summer 2021 issue are due by Tuesday, June 1, 2021.*



## THE PULL “CUP OF VALOR”?

Even a well-known tradition can harbor mysteries. Consider, for example, this note about the venerable Pull tug-of-war from the *Anchor* student newspaper on Oct. 8, 1930: “At 7:30PM nearly all the Freshmen were gathered at the main floor of the Masonic Temple to celebrate their victory of pulling the Sophs through [the] Black River and winning the Dimnent ‘cup of valor.’” Edward Dimnent was Hope’s president at the time, but no reference to a “cup of valor” appears elsewhere in Pull lore. If any readers know of this artifact that seems lost to the mists of time, please send a note to the Joint Archives of Holland at [archives@hope.edu](mailto:archives@hope.edu). (Undated Pull photo, circa 1930s)

## 60s

**Wesley Granberg-Michaelson '67** published his 10th book, *Without Oars: Casting Off into a Life of Pilgrimage*. Drawing from experiences on the Camino de Santiago in Spain; Lourdes, France; Mt. Tabicorar, Nigeria; and elsewhere, he shares how faith is best experienced through embodied practices as a pilgrimage. Stories and resources are shared that encourage anyone’s inward and outward journey.

**Bob Terwilliger '68** recently published a book of lighthearted essays titled *Cleverly Yours: Humorous Glimpses of Life as a Christian*. The book consists of a selection of Bob’s writings for the church newsletter during his 15 years as pastor of Bethany Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Each essay looks at an everyday event or circumstance and reflects on how the Christian faith touches every aspect of daily life. The book is available in paperback and Kindle versions on Amazon.

**Tim Tam '69** and his son, **Isaac Tam '01** were given the Recognition of Community Service Award on Monday, Nov. 30, by the British Columbia Dental Association for their extraordinary efforts to provide emergency dental care during British Columbia’s Stage 1 COVID-19 pandemic response.

**Sue Holmes '69 Tell** is penning a weekly faith-based blog, *Echoes of Grace*.

## 70s

**Michael Ebberts '73** retired in 2014 after nearly 41 years with IBM, where he worked with large mainframe computers. That career was sparked by taking a FORTRAN statistics course from Dr. Herbert Dershem while at Hope. He resides in the Catskill mountains of New York with his wife, Kathy. He reports that they ski in the winter and boat in the summer. They completed the Great Loop on their boat during 2016-19.

**Mary Jo Coughenour '78 Baker** has edited and published two volumes (available through Amazon/Kindle) in collaboration with her dad, The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Coughenour, a Hope College professor 1969 to 1975, and 1974 H.O.P.E. award recipient. The first two books, from a series of four, are: *In Pursuit of Wisdom: A Memoir, Vol. 1. Essays, Biblical & Theological Writings*; and *In Pursuit of Wisdom: From the Pulpit, Vol. 2. Sermons*. Volumes 3 and 4 are underway and are titled: *And the Stones Cry Out! Vol. 3. Archaeological Pursuits*; and *Community Connections, Vol. 4. Community Concerns, Tributes, and Creative Writing*. The four books cover six decades of teaching and preaching, professing a profound sense of God’s presence in the world.

**Scott Dwyer '78** was elected to the management committee at Mika Meyers PLC, a law firm based in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



## BLACK STUDENT UNION PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

The Black Excellence Dinner and awards ceremony hosted by the college's Black Student Union has become a beloved tradition, and so even though the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic precluded gathering in person the celebration continued. Given the format, the fifth annual event didn't include a banquet, but the online ceremony featured student performances and recitations, and recognition of two alumnae and a treasured mentor.

**Dr. Kristina Kyles-Smith '04** of Perry Hall, Maryland, and **Dr. Jessica Rankins Parker '07** of Mason, Ohio, both received Kujichagulia Alumni awards (named for the second principle of Kwanzaa, meaning self-determination). Kyles-Smith is executive director of Two Rivers Public Charter Schools in Washington, D.C., and Rankins Parker is a neurologist specialized in headache and facial pains while teaching medical students at the University of Cincinnati. The Black Student Union also presented its Sankofa award (the name derived from the Akan people of Ghana, expressing the importance



**Kristina Kyles-Smith '04**

**Jessica Rankins Parker '07**

**Vanessa Greene**

of sharing knowledge from the past) to **Vanessa Greene**, who was director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Hope, where she was on the staff from 2003 until becoming chief executive director of the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI) this past November.

Please visit the college's YouTube channel to view the event, which includes the presentations as well as reflections by Kyles-Smith, Rankins Parker and Greene.

 [hope.edu/bsu-awards](https://hope.edu/bsu-awards)

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO HONOR FOUR

The Hope College Alumni Association is honoring four alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards this year.

The association plans to celebrate both the 2020 and 2021 honorees virtually at a date to be determined. The awards are normally presented at the annual Alumni Banquet during Alumni Weekend each April, but this year's and last year's events were canceled because of the pandemic.

As reported last year in the Spring 2020 issue of *News from Hope College*, the spring 2020 honorees are the late **Dr. Elton Bruins '50**, who played a leading role in chronicling the Holland area's and college's history across more than 50 years as a member of the Hope faculty and administration and as a scholar; and **Craig S. Morford '81**, whose career in law has included leadership roles in the U.S. Department of Justice and in the health care and energy industries. Bruins died on Monday, March 23, 2020, at age 92 and will be recognized posthumously.



**Elton Bruins '50**

**Craig S. Morford '81**

**Deborah Heydenburg '87 Fuller**

**Lara Plewka '98 MacGregor**

The 2021 honorees are **Dr. Deborah Heydenburg '87 Fuller**, who is a professor in Department of Microbiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and chief of the Infectious Diseases and Translational Medicine Division at the Washington National Primate Research Center, and co-founder and chief technology officer of the biotechnology company Orance Inc.; and **Lara Plewka '98 MacGregor**, who is founder and director of the international nonprofit organization Hope Scarves, which through scarves, stories and research supports people facing cancer.

Please visit the college online for more information about the honorees.

 [hope.edu/daa-20-21](https://hope.edu/daa-20-21)

## CLASSNOTES

**Robert Niedt '78** and his wife, Linda, have moved to Staunton, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, where he continues to write and edit for *Kiplinger Washington Editors* in Washington, D.C. (remotely that is, he reports, also noting that the view of the Blue Ridge Mountains is stunning).

**Marcia Vanden Berg '78** retired on Jan. 30, 2020, after 27 years at HealthWest in Muskegon, Michigan. She held positions as a case manager, community placement coordinator, clinical supervisor I and II, contract specialist and finally provider network manager. During her time at HealthWest, she also served on the crisis response team for the county of Muskegon. Prior to working at HealthWest, she held positions at Laketon Bethel Reformed Church in Muskegon as the director of Christian education and youth, admissions recruiter and then assistant director of admissions at Nazareth College in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

### 80s

**Todd Wolffis '82** is a mortgage loan officer for Lake Michigan Credit Union serving both Florida and West Michigan.

**Ellen Brandle '86** reports that after 11 years in the same position at the same school (teaching English and German to five- and six-year-olds in an English language immersion program at an international school in Berlin), she requested

in September to take over a new class of six year olds who are at high risk should they become infected with the coronavirus. Teaching now only in German, she can only say that "Corona" has availed her a most interesting professional challenge. Due to the current global situation, she is most thankful to be able to work with these unique children at this very surreal time.

### 90s

**Victoria Derr '90** has recently published her second academic book, *Latin American Transnational Children and Youth: Experiences of Nature and Place, Culture and Care Across the Americas* with colleague Yolanda Corona. She is an associate professor at California State University Monterey Bay.

**Michelle Hoppe '90 Long** is currently in her 10th season as director of education at Children's Theatre of Charlotte and celebrating her latest play adaptation of *The Velveteen Rabbit* and its premiere on Broadway On Demand available through March 2021.

**Michelle Dziurgot '92** was named a Fellow of the American College of Dentists in 2020.

**Tim Johnston '93** has published the latest novel in his Civil War historical fiction series, *Locett's Betrayal*, which is available under the pen name of T.J. Johnston.

**Jeff Baxter '94** published *Exploring Israel: Helpful Insights for Studying the Land of the Bible*. The nearly 300-page book explores 30 places in Israel with maps and pictures to help people understand the Bible better and grow their faith.

**Evan Llewellyn '97** has been named a principal with Edward Jones holding company. He was one of 161 individuals chosen this year from more than 50,000 associates.

**Tracy Bednarick '98** and Chris Humes were married on Dec. 19, 2020, in St. Louis, Missouri. She received a master's in gifted education from Lindenwood University and is the executive vice president of the Gifted Association of Missouri.

**Matthew Kuiper '98** who is an assistant professor of religious studies at Missouri State University, has published his second book, *Da'wa: A Global History of Islamic Missionary Thought and Practice*, which was published by Edinburgh University Press in late January 2021. He is married to **Laurie Byington '96 Kuiper**, and he spent nearly three years researching and writing this book while teaching full time at Missouri State.

**Rebecca de Velder '99 Fein** and colleague Dr. Leila Kalankesh won the Coronation 2020 Golden Award granted by the World Business Institute at the United States. Their winning project is called "COVID-19 Voices," and is an app that allows patients with COVID-19 to track their experiences and provide the real-time data to researchers.

**Megan Masta '99 Stiverson** was elected judge of the 2B District Court in Hillsdale County, Michigan, and took office on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

### 00s

**Renee Lick '00 Nicholas** and Trevor Nicholas announce the birth of Everett Maurice on Sept. 11, 2020.

**Laura Donnelly '01**, an associate professor of English and creative writing at SUNY Oswego, returned to Hope electronically on Nov. 10, when she paid a virtual visit to the poetry class taught by **Pablo Peschiera '93**. This fall also saw the publication of her new poetry book *Midwest Gothic*, which explores themes of place, religion, and family history with a particular focus on the lives of her mother and



Every day, students are inspired to think big and go beyond at Hope College.

Their transformational experiences are made possible by the generous gifts from people like you.

Contact Bob Johnson today to continue this legacy for the students of tomorrow.  
johnsonr@hope.edu | 616.395.7247





**Susan Hinman '00** is a captain in the U. S. Navy and is currently serving as the director of the Advanced Specialty Program in Endodontics for the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, where she is also an associate professor. She has received several military awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), National Defense Service Ribbon, GWOT Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon. More about Susan is available online.

 [hope.edu/susan-hinman](https://hope.edu/susan-hinman)

grandmothers in rural northern Michigan. The book received the Snyder Prize from Ashland Poetry Press, selected by bestselling author Maggie Smith, and was also a finalist for the Poets Out Loud Prize and the Lexi Rudnitsky Editors' Choice Award. The collection's launch on Nov. 5 was a virtual event moderated by **Katherine Bode-Lang '02**. Laura and Katie had both read at Hope through the Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series in September 2014.

**Rebecca LaRoy '01 Town** is serving as co-pastor, alongside her husband, **Greg Town '02**, of the Knox and Thompson's Lake Reformed Church in Knox, New York.

**Treasure Givan '02 Samuel** is a librarian and middle school electives teacher at The Franklin Academy, a STEM-based independent school in Bellingham, Washington.

**Vince Scheffler '03** and the other Parker University Board of Trustees members were honored by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges with the 2019-20 John W. Nason Award for Board Leadership. The university experienced severe damage following a tornado that hit Dallas, Texas, in October 2019. The board immediately deployed

resources to restore operations, and because of their swift and decisive work the school successfully devised a plan that met at the crossroads for restoration and growth.

**Kimberly Lauver '04 Fletcher** has become the data library manager for HR Consulting Group, Sapient Insights. She is also enjoying being a coach with CYO in volleyball and basketball for middle school girls.

**Susana Rodriguez-Snyder '04** and Jesse Snyder announce the birth of Lucia Liliana on March 22, 2020.

**Jason Burns '06** and Nathan Brunner announce the birth of Elizabeth Addison Brunner-Burns on July 31, 2020. They expect the finalization of their adoption to take place in early 2021.

**Stephanie Koenke '06 Kotsuca** has received the outstanding clinician award from the American Physical Therapy Association of Michigan. This award is presented to one physical therapist in the state of Michigan each year who has exemplified excellence in clinical care as well as influence and mentorship to students and fellow therapists.

**Steve "Marc" Palma '06** released his first novel, *Moon Dog*, on Oct. 28, 2020.

**Kristin Olson '07 Brace** and Neal Brace announce the birth of Lark Rozalia on Oct. 25, 2020.

**Lyndsey Yonker '07 Huisman** and Ben Huisman announce the birth of Arthur David on Nov. 9, 2020.

**Leah Wicander '07** and Kurt Loewenkamp were married on Sept. 19, 2020.

**Mercedes Cowper '08** has become the marketplace manager with the real estate development company CANA Development, managing a high-end food hall in the Foggy Bottom area of Washington, D.C. Previously, she was the wine director at Plume restaurant in downtown D.C. In the interim, after the closing of the restaurant in March 2020, she started her small business, The Social Somm, hosting virtual wine tastings for clients across the U.S.

**Erika English '09 Mayer** and Nate Mayer announce the birth of Leonys (Leo) on April 12, 2019. They report that he was born with complications but under God's grace has since flourished and excelled.

**Justine Post '09** and her husband, Andrew Hammond, announce the birth of Edith Jane on April 20, 2020. She joins a big sister, Dorothy Ann. They live in North Carolina.

**Tiffany Day '09 Russ** and **Garrett Russ '09** announce the birth of Addilyn Mae on Dec. 1, 2020. She joins older siblings, Gabriel (6), Ava (4) and Mia (2).

**Vera Dusenbery '09 Sultz** is working for the world renowned Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum in Sanibel, Florida.

## 10s

**Christine Buhrmaster-Reniff '10** and **Ryan Reniff '10** announce the birth of Maya Rae on Nov. 14, 2020.

**Beth Olson '10 Lauterbach** and Jon Lauterbach announce the birth of twin girls, Ayla and Emra, on Dec. 29, 2020.

**Emily Cook '10 Pierson** completed her master's in English literature at Grand Valley State University in December 2020. She and Preston Pierson announce the birth of Olivia Kay on Oct. 13, 2019.

## CLASSNOTES

**Kara Shetler '10** earned a Doctor of Medicine degree in 2016 from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 2020, she completed a neurology residency at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center, where she is also completing a fellowship.

**Katy Smith '10** moved overseas to teach in the United Arab Emirates. She is teaching first grade at The WellSpring School in Ras Al Khaimah.

**John Spruance '10** has been coaching college basketball for 10 years. He started after graduation and was on staff at the University of Hawaii. He has also been at Lewis University, University of Indianapolis and now University of Southern Indiana. He was recently named one of the top 50 impactful assistant coaches in NCAA Division II men's basketball by Silverwaves Media.

**Teresa Borst '10 VanDerSchaaf** and Andrew VanDerSchaaf announce the birth of Wes. He joins older sisters, Hattie and Hanna.

**Sara Warner '10** and Zach Weinberg announce the birth of Emily Antoinette on Oct. 5, 2020.

**Amanda Goodyke '11 Damon** and **Christian Damon '11** announce the birth of Philip Charles on Aug. 25, 2020.

**Bryant Russ '11** and **Amanda Potts '13 Russ** announce the birth of Miriam Hope on Oct. 15, 2020.

**Kathren Cutshall '12** and Robert Ashford were married on July 27, 2020.

**Grace Gonzalez '12 D'Agostino** and Joe D'Agostino announce the birth of Giada Rae on June 1, 2020.

**Amanda French '12 Jacobs** and Paul Jacobs announce the birth of Emerson Kent on Nov. 17, 2020. He joins big sister, Eloise.

**Danielle Northuis '12 Uzarski** and Ben Uzarski announce the birth of Andrew Benjamin on June 12, 2020.

**Parker Bussies '14** graduated from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine with a MDMS in genomic medicine and is completing his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Cleveland Clinic.

**William DeBoer '14** is the assistant director of sports information at Salisbury University, an NCAA Division III institution in Salisbury, Maryland.

**Samantha Rushton '14 Sheehan** and Matt Sheehan announce the birth of Rowan John on Oct. 21, 2020.

**Hannah Schulz '15** and Reid Dugan were married on Aug. 29, 2020.

**Erin Rhodes '16 Johnson** and **Lucas Johnson '16** announce the birth of their second child, Louisa Lynn, on Nov. 3, 2020.

**Ivy Keen '16** is a New York partner programs coordinator with America Needs You, a national non-profit.

**Jordan Betten '18** and **Emily Byrd '20** were married on July 18, 2020.

**Kristen Godwin '18** received a Master of

Public Health degree in administration and policy from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in May 2020. She is working for the Minnesota Department of Human Services in Saint Paul, Minnesota, as the substance use disorder reform communications specialist.

**Hannah Winegar '18** received a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Wayne State University.

**Damon Cove '19** and **Madison Lynema '19** were married in June 2020 in Holland, Michigan. Their wedding was officiated by Professor John Yelding at Holland State Park.

**Jason Gomory '19** is an admissions representative with an emphasis on communication strategy at Hope College.

## 20s

**Abbie Buckhout '20** has moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and is in the nurse residency program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

**Kiley Corcoran '20 Gomez** and **Paul Gomez '20** were married on Sept. 5, 2020.

 **Hope** COLLEGE

DAY OF GIVING

2021

**\$514,198** TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

1,883 TOTAL GIFTS

254 NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS

THANK YOU!!!

[hope.edu/give](https://hope.edu/give)





# IN MEMORIAM

The college is often privileged to receive additional information in celebration of the lives of members of the Hope community who have passed away. In addition, because this thrice-yearly magazine can lag several months behind in reporting the deaths of retired faculty, the notices within are brief synopses of the fuller tributes developed for Hope's website when the college learned of their passing. Please visit Hope online for the expanded obituaries and articles.

[magazine.hope.edu/spring-2021/inmemoriam](http://magazine.hope.edu/spring-2021/inmemoriam)

## 40s

**Delbert Knooihuizen '42** of Hudson, Ohio, died on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. He was 99. Survivors include his children, Don (Monica) Knooihuizen and Bruce (LaVerne) Knooihuizen; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and sister, Mary Ann Knooihuizen '56 (Charles) Bradley.

**Wilbur Brandli '46** of White Pigeon, Michigan, died on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. He was 103. Survivors include his spouse, Gloria Brandli; and two children.

**Agnes Finlaw '46 Green** of Jenison, Michigan, died on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020. She was 97. Survivors include her children, Barbara Blum, Nancy (James) Farese and William (Michelle) Green; eight grandchildren; and sister, Anne Finlaw '54 Holmlund.

**Marvin Jalving '46** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. He was 96. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Lois Hoppers '48 Jalving; daughters, Judy Jalving '74 (John) Mills, Jane (Eric) Schweinzger and Jill Jalving '82 (Marc '82) Vander Meulen; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Calvin Malefyt '46** of Greenville, North Carolina, died on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. He was 95. Survivors include his children, Linde Barrett, Timothy de Waal Malefyt and Elise Mclean; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; step-children, Tammy Perdue and Phillip Perdue III; and many step grandchildren.

**Richard Fuller '48** of Frankfort, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020. He was 93. Survivors include his children, Marilyn (Paul) Copeland, Timothy (Carol) Fuller and Jonathan

(Kate) Fuller; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Constance "Connie" Hinga '49 Boersma** of Holland, Michigan, died on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021. She was 93. Among other involvement with Hope, she was a past president of the Women's League for Hope College, and with her husband, Max '46, created the endowment for the Hinga-Boersma Dean of the Chapel. She and Max, who died in 2003, both received Distinguished Alumni Awards and honorary degrees from Hope, and friends and colleagues established the "Max and Connie Boersma Scholarship Fund" at the college in their honor. Survivors include her children Bill (Claire Campbell '75) Boersma '75, Betsy Boersma '77 (Tom) Jasperse and Paul (Melody Meyer '83) Boersma '82; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and brother and sister-in-law, Rod (Shirley) Boersma.

**Richard Glerum '49** of Oxford, New York, died on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021. He was 95. Survivors include his children, Mary (Carl) Green and David (Margaret Ann) Glerum; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

## 50s

**Alex Ebneith '50** of Crossville, Tennessee, died on Monday, Dec. 21, 2020. He was 96. Survivors include a niece and nephew.

**Kenneth Kleis '50** of Holland, Michigan, died on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021. He was 95. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Wolffensperger '50 Kleis; children, Peter (Linda Van Wyk) Kleis, Trinie (Glenn) Vander Ploeg and Connie (Dale) Mead; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Harvey Laman '50** of Holland, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020. He was 96. Survivors include his children, Nancy (Dean) Snoek, Mark (Sandra Wissink '85) Laman '78 and James (Mary) Laman '78; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Shirley DeBoer '50 Sharpe** of Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020. She was 91. Survivors include her sons, Andrew (Ethel) Sharpe, Richard Sharpe '79 and John Sharpe '85; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**Wynetta Devore '51** of Syracuse, New York, died on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020. She was 91. Survivors include her children, Julia Bryant and David Bryant; and brother, Jesse Devore.

**Harold Kooyers '51** of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on Monday, Oct. 19, 2020. He was 90. Survivors include his children, Linda (Bill) Ressler, Randall Kooyers, Nancy (Rob) Jenner and Glen (Laura) Kooyers; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Donald Lenderink '51** of Orange City, Iowa, died on Sunday, July 26, 2020. He was 90. Survivors include his children, Lynne (John) Hubers, Judy Clausen, Mary Beth (Jerry) Reuvers and Brian (Dyan) Lenderink; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and brother-in-law, Ed Cooper.

**Joan DeBlock '51 Mulder** of New Era, Michigan, died on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020. She was 90. She was preceded in death by a son, David Mulder '76. Survivors include her husband of 71 years, Paul "Chip" Mulder '50; children, Daniel (Mary) Mulder, Donna (Donald) Byker, Mara (David Mulder) Mulder '76 Bonsanti and Donald (Susan) Mulder; 16 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

# IN MEMORIAM

**Ann Holstege-Schutt '53** of Holland, Michigan, died on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020. She was 89. Survivors include her husband, Ray Schutt; step-children, Larry (Jan) Schutt, Wanda Bailey, Dale Schutt, Diane (Ron) Alferink, Steve (Shirley) Schutt, Tom Schutt and Ron (Missy) Schutt; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and in-laws, Ila Schutt, Howard Schutt, Don (Marlie) Schutt, Ken (Arlene) Tenckinck and Mike Van Dyke.

**Ruth Metten '53 Moe-McNitt** of Ravenna, Michigan, died on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020. She was 90. Survivors include her children, Sandy (Dan) Pigors and Steve (Tammy) Moe; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; brothers-in-law, Arden Moe, Wayne (DiAnn) Moe, Ed Luce and Darrell Harper; and sisters-in-law, Pacita Moe, Carolyn Raymond and Ilene Boho.

**Jack Kalee '54** of Jenison, Michigan, died on Friday, Dec. 25, 2020. He was 88. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Marilyn Kalee; children, Linda (Scott) Kacos, Sue (Ken) Prins and Doug (Paula) Kalee; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and siblings, Bob Kalee '58 and Kathy (George) Sagara.

**Robert Langenberg '54** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died on Friday, Dec. 11, 2020. He was 91. Survivors include his children, Mary (Eric) Alvarez, Elizabeth Langenberg '91, Amy (Brian) Koster, Robert (Vickie) Langenberg, Timothy Langenberg and Thomas (Lori) Langenberg; and 34 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Ralph "Mac" MacLachlan Jr. '54** of Glen, New York, died on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020. He was 92. Survivors include his wife, Betty MacLachlan; daughters, Mary Beth (Jonathan) Gehring-Smith, Rebecca (Jeffrey) Clemens and Laura (Gregory) Schweitzer; and two grandchildren.

**Ruth Kuit '54 Paul** of Western Springs, Illinois, died on Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020. She was 87. Survivors include her sister, Mary (John) McCallum; sons, James (Nancy Simmons) Paul, Timothy Paul, William (Tanya Surawicz) Paul and Mark (Hsin-I Chang) Paul; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Eugene Schoeneich '54** of Douglas, Michigan, died on Thursday, March 19, 2020. He was 91. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Dee Schoeneich; daughters, Suzanne (Michael) Daley, Delia (Bill) Marietti and Katherine Schoeneich; and three grandchildren.

**Paul Vander Meer '54** of Vancouver, Washington, died on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020. He was 87. Survivors include his wife, Carol Vander Meer; sons, William and Gregory Vander Meer; brother Canute (Joyce) Vander Meer '50; and step-daughter-in-law, Roslynn Casterine and her children.

**Ruth Bogaaard '54 Van Voorhis** of Iowa City, Iowa, died on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021. She was 88. Survivors include her children, Brad (Toni) Van Voorhis, Laura (Ken) Goddard, Jane (Kurt Anstreicher) Van Voorhis and Susan (Jim) Bohnenkamp; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Benjamin Le Fevre '55** of Malta, New York, died on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. He was 87. Survivors include his son, Steve (Suzy) Le Fevre '81; daughter, Lori (Steven) Cherry; two granddaughters; brother-in-law, Colyer Crum; and sister-in-law, Alice Le Fevre.

**Eugene Stoddard '55** of Corry, Pennsylvania, died on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. He was 87. Survivors include his sister, Sherry (Paul) Wascak and Nancie (Marty) Miller; and brothers, Bernard (Mary) Stoddard and Dean Stoddard.

**Nancy Gailkema '56 Bedingfield** of Laurinburg, North Carolina, died on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020. She was 86. Survivors include her husband of 64 years, Robert Bedingfield '56; daughter, Robin Bedingfield; son-in-law, Thomas Brown; and two grandsons.

**Sally Sieber '56 Honkanen** of Saint Clair Shores, Michigan, died on Friday, April 17, 2020. She was 85. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Clarence Honkanen; children, Stephen, Christian, Mark '85 (Lynley) and Matthew '86; and 12 grandchildren.

**John Helmus '57** of Jefferson, Iowa, died on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020. He was 89. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Elaine Helmus; children, Bryan Helmus, Calvin (Jaime) Helmus, Rita (Mark) Rasmussen, Laura (Larry Dowd) Helmus, Ivan Helmus, Yvonne (Tod) Uhlenhopp, Coreen (Dave) Herring and Rose (Alan) Weber; 15 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; sister, Coba Boersema; and sister-in-law, Arendina Helmus.

**Merwin Van Doornik '57** of Holland, Michigan, died on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020. He was 85. Survivors include his children, Dave (Leigh) Van Doornik and Don (Mary Anne) Van Doornik; four grandchildren; sisters, Eleanor

(Roger) Nyland and Ardith Van Doornik '61 Tschanz; and sisters-in-law, Maurine Lautenbach and Cornelia Dykstra.

**Robert Andree '58** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021. He was 85. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Mary Kay Diephuis '58 Andree; children, Mark (Brenda) Andree, Katherine (Johnny) Blue '85 and Elizabeth Andree '87 (Bob) Bruins; nine grandchildren; and brothers-and-sisters-in-law, Gerald Vander Velde, Jan Lamer '67 Andree, Chuck (BRC) Diephuis and Marty Diephuis '61 (Hurshal) Clark.

**Kenneth Kole '58** of Wyoming, Michigan, died on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020. He was 88. Survivors include his sons, Marc (Colleen) Kole and Eric Kole; three grandchildren; and brother, Jack (Shirley) Kole.

**Everett "Ev" Nienhouse '58** of Carlsbad, California, died on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020. He was 84. Survivors include his wife of 21 years, Erika Volkenborn '58 Nienhouse; and sons, Jon and Eric.

**Lynn Carol Van't Hof '58 Rutter** of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, died on Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020. She was 83. Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Thad Rutter II; children, Thad Rutter III and Sean (Amy) Rutter; seven grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Barb Van't Hof.

**Gus Feenstra '59** of Holland, Michigan, died on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021. He was 90. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Barbara Feenstra; children, Jeffrey (Deborah Muir '80) Feenstra '79 and Laureen Dunn; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Sadie Kuiper; brother, Richard (Carolyn) Feenstra; and in-laws, Glenn (Mary) Thompson, Kenneth (Ann) Thompson and Carol Thompson.

**Robert "Bob" Kessler '59** of Mayfield, New York, died on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. He was 82. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Gail Kessler; children, John (Linda) Kessler and Sherry (Joseph) Chinski; brother, Bruce Kessler; sister, Louis Nolan; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**George Magee '59** of Holland, Michigan, died on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020. He was 83. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Joyce Tysen '61 Magee; children, Martha Magee '84 (Jan '84) den Bakker, Michael (Mie) Magee, Mark (Yukari) Magee and Koichi (Robyne) Magee '95; and six grandchildren.



## 70s

**Charles Skinner '59** of West Hurley, New York, died on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021. He was 83. Survivors include his children, Charles (Kristen) Skinner III, John Skinner, Richard Skinner and Charlotte Skinner, four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

**James Stevens '59** of Pentwater, Michigan, died on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020. He was 83. Survivors include his children, David (Sally Norgrove '82) Stevens '80, Mark (Lori) Stevens, Paul Stevens '83, Deb (Steve Ball) Stevens '86 and Mary (Rodney) Keith; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother, Larry (Linda) Stevens; and sister-in-law, Louise Stevens.

## 60s

**Ardith Brower '60 DaFoe** died on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020. She was 82. Survivors include her brother, Bob Brower; children, Rachelle DaFoe '88 (Rob) Whitacre and Chad DaFoe; and three grandchildren.

**Jan Leestma '60** of San Rafael, California, died on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. He was 82. Survivors include his wife, Louise Marsilje '61 Leestma; and sibling-in-law, Edward (Diana Hellenga '64) Marsilje '64.

**Sandra Postema '60 Sunde** of Louisville, Colorado, died on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021. She was 82. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, David Sunde '60; daughters, Judy (Steve) Hanawalt, Lisa Rutland and Mary (Dave Merchant) DeBeer; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister, Christine (Gordon) Sikkenga.

**Susan Walcott '60** of Grand Rapids, Michigan died on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020. She was 82. Survivors include her sister, Mary Ann Kline.

**Virginia "Ginny" Liebertz '62 Walls** of Surprise, Arizona, died on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020. She was 80. Survivors include her husband, Gordon Walls; and daughters, Heather and Laura.

**Janet Koopman '62 Van Dyke** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020. She was 80. Survivors include her husband of 58 years, David Van Dyke '60; son, John (Nicole) Van Dyke; one grandson; and brother, Leroy (Marjorie) Koopman.

**Carol Wagner '64 Carr** of Lynwood, Illinois, died on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020. She was 78. Survivors include her husband, Nelson Carr; brother, Dennis (Sarah) Wagner; son, Russel (Anna) Leep; stepson, Kris Carr; stepdaughters, Shelby Brown and Stacie Carr; and six step-grandchildren.

**Hope Beckering '65 Brandsma** of Rocklin, California, died on Monday, Oct. 19, 2020. She was 77. Survivors include her husband, Richard Brandsma; and brother-in-law, Raymond Beckering '58.

**Robert Dahl '66** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021. He was 76. Survivors include his wife, Christi Dahl; and children, Matthew (Joelle Rossback '95) Dahl '91 and Rachel (Brian Gootee) Dahl '95.

**David Noel '67** of Bradenton, Florida, died on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020. He was 75. Survivors include his wife, Adrienne.

**Theodore Oegema Jr. '67** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020. He was 75. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Carol Oegema; children, Karen (Arshad Desai) Oegema and Jeffrey (Christina Eugster) Oegema '97; three grandchildren; brothers, David (Flo), Daniel (Sherry), Timothy (Cindy) and Steven (Joan); and sister, Deborah Oegema.

**Delwyn Sneller '67** of Lake Ann, Michigan, died on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021. He was 75. Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Jereen Sneller; daughters, Michelle (Mickey) McGee, Emily (Aaron) Edel and Leslie Sneller; brother, Wayne (Marlene) Sneller; three granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

**Mark Menning '68** of Lansing, Michigan, died on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020. He was 73. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Menning; sons, Jesse '01 (Whitney) and Ian; and brothers, Bruce (Victoria '68) Menning '66 and Roger (Elizabeth) Menning.

**Ruth Welscott '69** of Sun City, Arizona, died on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021. She was 73. Survivors include her partner of 46 years, Karen Markwardt-Blakewell; Karen's children, Randy (Anita) Jurgens, Carol Hugo and Lori Blackfish; brothers, Richard (May Lynne) Welscott and Roger (Mary Jo) Welscott; Karen's brother, Roy (Patty) Markwardt; sister-in-law, Letha Markwardt; 10 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.

**Robert Alexander '70** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. He was 78. Survivors include his wife of 30 years, Shirlene Alexander; son, Paul Lewis; two grandsons; one great-grandson; and brothers, Jay Bertalan and John (Betsy) Bertalan.

**Jane Kasmersky '70 Greller** of Newberg, Oregon, died on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020. She was 71. Survivors include her children, Tom (Tabitha) Greller, Brian Greller, Michael (Ellie) Greller and Katie (Ben) Lacey; eight grandchildren; brother, John (Heather) Kasmersky; and sister, Mary Kasmersky '69 Booth.

**David Jipping '72** of Valparaiso, Indiana, died on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020. He was 71. Survivors include his children, Joshua Jipping and Jessica Jipping; one granddaughter; and brother, Don (Wilma) Jipping.

**Ellen TenHoor '72 Fitch** of Holland, Michigan, died on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. She was 70. Survivors include her children, William Perec, Margaret (Matt Fletcher) Perec, Kevin P.H. Fitch and Jude Fitch; sisters, Joan (James Dobson) TenHoor '66 and Lois Ten Hoor '70 Sterenberg; and in-laws, Robert (Yolanda) Fitch and Noreen Fitch.

**Randall Zomermaand '72** of Tampa, Florida, died on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020. He was 70. Survivors include his wife, Debbie Zomermaand; children, Caroline Zomermaand, Jacques and Adam Benbassat; siblings, Nelda Briggs, Barb (Dan) Wehrmeyer, John (Jan) Zomermaand, Les Zomermaand, Conley (Patricia) Zomermaand '77 and Mike (Barb) Zomermaand '81; and four grandchildren.

**Larry Levey '73** of Holland, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. He was 70. Survivors include his wife, Cacilda Astolfi-Levey; daughter, Nicole Levey; stepdaughter, Kathleen Bortolete; stepson, Beto (Shelby) Gonzalez; one step-granddaughter; brother, Steward (Kathy) Levey '67; sister, Della (Fred) Dartt; and brothers- and sisters-in-law.

**Jeanette Gaige '75 Davidson** of Hooksett, New Hampshire, died on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021. She was 68. Survivors include her husband of 40 years, Donald Davidson; daughter, Nora (David) Adamek; two grandchildren; one sister, Sharlene Vanderbilt; and brother, Dennis Gaige.

# IN MEMORIAM

**Barbara Herbek '76 Bruggers** of Davidson, North Carolina, died on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020. She was 66. Survivors include her husband, Stephen Bruggers '76.

**Russell Kupfrian '77** of Las Vegas, Nevada, died on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020. He was 67. Survivors include his sister, Laura Kupfrian '66 (Chuck '68) Burt.

## 80s

**Connie Isley '80** of Comstock Park, Michigan, died on Friday, Nov. 20, 2020. She was 63. Survivors include her parents, Bob and Betty; and siblings, Laurie James, Ed (Karen) Isley, Tami (Roger) Kokx, Tim (Deb) Isley and Kathy (Mike) Miller.

**Donald "Clark" Kuipers '80** of Holland, Michigan, died on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. He was 65. Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Barbara Ingham '79 Kuipers; daughters, Kaitlin (Nathan) Vander Weide and Victoria (Armin) Moaddel; mother, Judy Kuipers; brother, Clark (Nancy) Kuipers; and sister, Kim (Bill) Petroelje.

**Jordon Loch '80** of Highland, Michigan, died on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020. He was 63. Survivors include his siblings, Judy (Chuck Jr.) Cooper, Jeff (Kymm) Loch and Jill Loch.

**Susan Markusse '81 Peterson** of Weslaco, Texas, died on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020. She was 61. Survivors include her sons, Jacob (Candice) Peterson and Matthew (Haley) Peterson; three grandchildren; and sisters, Judy (Paul) Markusse Paget and Kathy (Greg) Markusse Portolese.

**Brian Baker '84** of Wyckoff, New Jersey, died on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020. He was 58. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Baker; children, Kimberley Grace and Zachary Gibson; and sister, Nancy (Robert) Milnamow.

**Daniel Fead '86** died on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020. He was 56. Survivors include his mother, Myra; sister, Nina (Carlos); and brother, Tim (Lee Ann) Fead '90.

**Mark Van Dahm '86** of Woodridge, Illinois, died on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020. He was 56. Survivors include his wife, Laurie; children, Jodi, Kelli and Jacki; siblings, Cindy (Herman) VanderNaald and Lori (Gerrit) Wieringa; and sisters-in-law, Kim Van Dahm and Paula Van Dahm.

## 90s

**Bryan Dewey '95** of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020. He was 48. Survivors include his wife, Lisa Shenk '99 Dewey; children, Erika and Caleb Dewey; parents, Donald (Carol) Dewey; and brother, Marc (Julie) Dewey.

**Chad Storey '97** of Highland Village, Texas, died on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020. He was 44. Survivors include his girlfriend, Amanda Daniels; his children, Kalee Storey, Cayden Storey and Cash Storey; stepchild, Cole Coulter; one grandchild; parents, Doug (Sharron) Storey; grandmother, Louise Storey; sister, Stacy (Mark) Sitzema; and sister-in-law, Andrea Daniels.

**Scott Voshel '98** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. He was 44. Survivors include his wife, Heather Fowler-Voshel '02; and son, Carson.

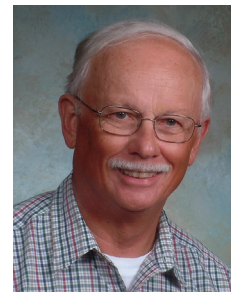
## Sympathy to

The family of **Carolyn Bareman** of Holland, Michigan, who died on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. She was 95. She was the administrative assistant in the student development office at Hope College.

The family of **Myra Kohsel** who died on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. She was 78. She worked for more than 32 years at Hope, retiring in 2009 as the office manager for the Department of English. Survivors include her husband Al Kohsel; son, Dan Jordan; four grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brother, Kenneth Dykman; step-children, Laurie Ann Garlington, Deborah Playford, Carol Gothard, James Kohsel and Scott Kohsel; step-grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

The family of **Lloyd Meeuwsen** of Zeeland, Michigan, who died on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. He was 89. He retired from the physical plant department at Hope College. Survivors include his children, Paul (Karie) Meeuwsen, Pat (Reed) Navis, Jayne (Del) Ritsema, Tom (Sherri) Meeuwsen and Dave (Stacey) Meeuwsen; 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Pauline Meeuwsen; and brother-in-law, Jim (Jan) Tanis.

The family of **Robert Palma** of Holland, Michigan, who died on Oct. 17, 2020. He was 86. He retired from the Hope College faculty



in 1994 as a professor emeritus of religion after teaching at the college since 1966. His courses during his last semester at Hope included Basic Christian Thought, Perspectives on Christ, and Holy

Spirit and Christian Spirituality. He taught a variety of other courses during his time at the college, including Senior Seminars and independent studies. Survivors include his wife, Mary Harmeling '61 Toppen-Palma; children, Janine Palma Vandenberg and Rob Palma; sister, Sandy (Ray) Kieft; stepchildren, Julie (Mark) Lester, Jon (Christina) Toppen '84, Jill Toppen '88 (Danny) Faulconer and Joel (Karen) Toppen '91; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family of **Florence Vuurens** of Muskegon, Michigan, who died on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020. She was 87. She worked as a secretary at Hope College. Survivors include her daughter, Diana (Ken Tuffelmire) Burr; one grandson; brother, Carl (Carol) VanDyke; and in-laws, Walter Vuurens and Charlene VanDyke Nykamp.



The family of **F. Sheldon Wettack**, who died on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021. He was 82. His time as a chemistry faculty member at Hope ran across seven decades, initially as a professor and later dean from

1967 to 1982, and since 2004 as a visiting professor. In between, his career included serving as dean of arts and sciences at the University of Richmond in Virginia; president of Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana; and vice president and dean of faculty at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California. (While at Harvey Mudd he was also an adjunct member of Hope's chemistry faculty from 1995 to 2003.) Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Marilyn Wettack; sisters, Betsy White and Barb (Mike) Estrada; children Kathy Wettack '78 (Jim '81) Hodge, Pam Wettack '81 (Burt '81) Leland, Deb Wettack '84 (Dean '84) Welsch and David (Amy) Wettack; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



# *Remembering an Icon* *Maxine DeBruyn*

1937 – 2020

Retired dance professor Maxine DeBruyn's energy was limitless and legendary, and her impact reflects it in lasting tribute even as she is mourned.

DeBruyn, who pioneered the creation of the college's nationally accredited dance department beginning in the 1960s and was active in dance education internationally for more than half a century, died on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020. She was 83.

She initiated the Department of Dance at Hope with a single course shortly after coming to the college in 1965. From that first class, the program grew into a department in 1974 and a major in 1984. The academic program has been accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD) since 1982.

DeBruyn retired from Hope in 2006 as the Dorothy Wiley DeLong Professor Emerita of Dance, but continued to teach at the college and remained active in professional associations and dance education for several more years.

"Max touched, guided, and inspired the lives of literally thousands of dancers, students, educators, colleagues, humans," said longtime colleague Linda Graham, who retired from Hope's dance faculty in 2019 after teaching at the college since 1983. "The world is better because she was here — there is no greater dance to be done."

DeBruyn chaired the college's dance program from its beginning through the 2003-04 school year. In addition to being active as a teacher and choreographer, among other service she was head cheerleading coach from 1968 to 1996; founded and directed the Strike Time Dance Company, an affiliate company of the Department of Dance that brings dance to children in grades K-6; and founded and advised the student Sacred Dance Group. She continued to teach dance classes at the college for several years after retiring.

Active professionally at the highest levels beyond campus, she was a past president of the NASD; a past president of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO); past president of the Sacred Dance Guild; past president of the Midwest District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD); past vice chair of the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs; past member of the Advisory Board of Dance and the Child International (daCi); and past member



of the Conseil International de la Danse, UNESCO, Paris. She coordinated Cecchetti Council for America International Summer School at Hope College for more than 20 years, beginning in 1994.

A 1959 graduate of Michigan State University, she received numerous honors for her extensive involvement in dance education. She received multiple service awards through the years from the Midwest District of AAHPERD; a service and leadership award from AAHPERD in 1987; and the Honor Award from the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in 2000. She received a Presidential Citation from the National Dance Association for dance assessment in 1992. In 1989, her work in the arts was cited in the U.S. Congressional Record and in a Joint Concurrent Resolution from the State of Michigan Legislature. For her community impact, she received the Resthaven Good Shepherd Award in 2011, honored as "a leader in senior wellness throughout the Holland/Zeeland, Michigan community."

She received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Dance Council in cooperation with the NDEO in 2004. The NDEO presented her with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.

DeBruyn played a leadership role in the effort to establish the college's DeLong Professorship in the 1980s. The endowment was for many years used to bring additional dance professionals to campus to work with students. Hope named her to the professorship in 2002 and committed to supporting the visits in other ways. She received the college's Ruth and John Reed Faculty Achievement Award in 2001, and was honored by the Alumni H-Club at Hope in 1985 and 1996.

Survivors include her daughter, Margret Christine DeBruyn, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

[hope.edu/maxine-debruyn](http://hope.edu/maxine-debruyn)



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