

# NEWS FROM *HOPE COLLEGE*

SUMMER 2022

VOLUME 54, NO. 1



## RESEARCH AT THE BEACH

*Hope scientists discover wonders just a few miles from campus as they study the ecology of West Michigan's spectacular sand dunes.*

pages 22–25



## DISTINCTIVE HOPE



## A DOZEN STRONG

Hope's 12 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association regular-season championships in team sports during the 2021-22 school year reflect the college's consistent excellence in athletics: strong performances in event after event, from sport to sport, and across fall, winter and spring. Hope's league-record MIAA Commissioner's Cups — the 38th this year, 22 more than any other member school — show that “year after year” and “decade after decade” are true, too.







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EDITOR  
*Greg Olgers '87*

SPERA SECTION EDITOR  
*Ann Sierks Smith*

LAYOUT AND DESIGN  
*Samantha Bruin,  
Rebecca Van Dyke '96 Robrahn,  
Paul Willard*

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
*Jeff Febus, Steve Frommel, Bob Handelman,  
Steven Herppich, Laurel Hungerford,  
Jon Lundstrom, Greg Olgers '87,  
Lynne Powe '86, Johnny Quinn,  
Tom Renner '67, Lou Schakel*

HOPE COLLEGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND MARKETING  
Anderson-Werkman Financial Center  
PO Box 9000  
Holland, MI 49422-9000  
616.395.7860  
[marketing@hope.edu](mailto:marketing@hope.edu) | [hope.edu](http://hope.edu)

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
*News from Hope College*  
PO Box 9000  
Holland, MI 49422-9000

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## ON THE COVER

*With this issue, the college's **Spera** journal highlighting groundbreaking research at Hope becomes a regular feature of **News from Hope College**. Pictured, faculty members Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman '82 and Ed Hansen with their team chronicle West Michigan's unique coastal wetlands in a study that is itself noteworthy for its longevity.*

## DEPARTMENTS

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## READ THE MAGAZINE ONLINE

[magazine.hope.edu](http://magazine.hope.edu)

## CONNECT WITH US





Dear Friends and Family of Hope College,

An important strength of Hope is that the college isn't distinguished by one quality, but many. Some institutions of higher education are known for outstanding teaching and strong mentoring relationships with faculty and staff. Some are known for research and scholarly inquiry. Some are known for faith development. Some are known for their athletic programs.

As a co-educational liberal arts college grounded in the historic Christian faith, Hope focuses on all of those at once. And time and again, we receive affirmation that we are doing it well. This comes in many forms, be it public recognition for excellence in research and teaching (this year we are proud to have set a new record for academic grants), sports championships (this year we won two national championships and 12 league championships), and strong interest from students in being part of our community (this fall we will welcome our largest freshman class ever, after having received 1,000 deposits by May 1 to be part of the Class of 2026!). We're encouraged by this momentum, but these external measures aren't at the core of why we do what we do.

The answer, of course, is for our students, reflecting our commitment to educating them as whole people. Throughout each year in this magazine we present a variety of ways that happens at Hope, but beginning with this issue we're placing added emphasis on faculty scholarship in a new section called *Spera*. *Spera* began as an annual, stand-alone journal in the spring of 2017 to showcase the breadth and depth of faculty research campus-wide, and continued in print through 2020 and online (due to the pandemic) in 2021. By folding the content into the magazine, we intend to do something that the original approach couldn't: keep the spotlight on our professors' scholarship throughout the year. Moving forward, we'll be continuing to highlight research in the arts, humanities, natural and applied sciences, and social sciences.

We hope that you'll enjoy the "what" of the articles (what *is* behind the behavior of West Michigan's spectacular lakeshore sand dunes and their ecosystems?) but also hope to inspire you with the "why." Hope's professors are outstanding teachers whose commitment to their students is remembered fondly by alumni throughout their lives. For faculty across campus, research is part of that commitment, providing an opportunity to mentor students in going beyond what is already known and experiencing how to discover, building skills that have served Hope's graduates well for generations. As researchers, our faculty not only stay current in their fields but lead the way, expertise that translates into an excellent classroom education. And through their research, our faculty expand understanding and address needs that make a difference in the world. That helps our students — and all of us — too.

*Spera in Deo!*



Matthew A. Scogin '02  
President





# QUOTE UNQUOTE

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



As the members of Hope's graduating Class of 2022 prepared to receive their diplomas and cross the stage into the future, Commencement speaker Dr. Marcus Fila shared one last lesson before they became alumni: "Play the Long Game."

More than 710 graduating seniors participated in the ceremony, held on Sunday, May 8, at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium.

An associate professor of management, and also this year's recipient of the Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) Award, Fila encouraged the members of the class to think long-term instead of getting caught up in the immediate.

The short term is alluring, he said, because its costs aren't immediately apparent. "On any given day the impact may be small; but the accumulation of tiny disadvantages makes the future harder," he said. "Only when the costs become too large to ignore, do people realize that they have been playing the wrong game."

In contrast, Fila said, "Playing the long game means paying a small price today to make tomorrow easier, for you, for the people and society around you. You compound results, but this time in a positive way."

Fila acknowledged that there are times that pressing matters require attention. "[T]here are short-term goals which cannot be ignored," he said. "For example, day-to-day demands for your classes. At work, there are always pressing goals for today, or even this hour. We can't always be looking misty-eyed into a future which hopefully awaits us."

He subsequently presented strategies for thinking instead in the long-term in career, education, faith, and friendships and relationships:

- to discern calling even while addressing the real and present need for employment;
- to realize that the benefits of their education will build over time, and to keep learning;

- to be deliberate in cultivating a relationship with God;
- and to actively maintain meaningful friendships.

To guide the graduates as they considered what the long game might mean in their lives, Fila also posed a question: "What really irritates you?" The impetus, he said, was an approach to priority-setting that he credited to Hope College President Matthew A. Scogin '02, who he noted "has a mantra that the place in life you should make a difference is where you see something that irritates you."

"[T]hink about that aspect of life that irritates you, and how you can make a difference there," Fila said. "As soon as this commencement ceremony concludes, be the agents of change, and of stability, that this world needs, by playing the long game in life. You won't regret it, and neither will the world around you."

The ceremony was preceded by the Baccalaureate services, which were held in Dimnent Memorial Chapel and featured the address "A Proverb for Life" by the Rev. Paul Boersma '82, who retired at the end of the year as the college's Leonard and Marjorie Maas Endowed Senior Chaplain.

Boersma based his text on Proverbs 3:27, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." Reflecting on the passage, he said, "It's a proverb that I believe when lived out, has the power to impact relationships between people regardless of age, gender, race, economic status, political preference or educational background for good."

"As you go out from this place, and whether you go East, West, North or South, tuck this proverb in your back pocket and use it generously today, tomorrow and throughout the rest of your lives for God's glory and for His Kingdom to be experienced here on earth as it is in heaven," he said.

[hope.edu/commencement22](https://hope.edu/commencement22)





## NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The college's 161st academic year is nigh, with the members of the incoming Class of 2026 arrive on Friday, Aug. 26, for the start of New Student Orientation that evening.

The rest of the students will begin to return on Sunday, Aug. 28. The Opening Convocation marking the official beginning of the school year will take place on Sunday, Aug. 28, at 2 p.m. with featured speaker Dr. Deborah Van Duinen, who is the Arnold and Esther Sonneveldt Associate Professor of Education and founding director of the Hope College NEA Big Read Lakeshore and Little Read Lakeshore.

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



## HOPE WELCOMES NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS

Hope's new dean of students joined the college earlier this month equipped with two decades of leadership experience in higher education and a deep appreciation of the impact of a liberal arts education in the context of the Christian faith.

Becky Starkenburg, who was previously vice president for student life and Title IX coordinator at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, was chosen following a national search and began in her new role on August 1. Across her career, she has had a range of leadership experiences in student development, including in residence life, student leadership, counseling, vocation and career, community engagement, athletics, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

[hope.edu/dean-starkenburg](https://hope.edu/dean-starkenburg)

## HOPE PRESENTS TWO HONORARY DEGREES

Hope presented honorary degrees during its Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 8, to Dr. Robert Donia '67 and Dr. Richard Frost.

Donia is an internationally recognized expert on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and received an honorary Doctor of Law degree for his many years of public service in defense of human rights and work toward international justice.

Frost retired from Hope at the end of the school year as vice president for student development and dean of students after serving at the college for 33 years, and received an honorary Doctor of Arts (D.A.) degree for his many years of dedication to the holistic development of college students.

[hope.edu/honorary-degrees](https://hope.edu/honorary-degrees)

## TRUSTEE OFFICERS AND NEW MEMBERS

The Hope College Board of Trustees has appointed two new officers and three new members.

Dr. Stephen Boerigter of Los Alamos, New Mexico, who previously served as secretary, has been elected chair, succeeding Karl Droppers '82 of Holland, Michigan, whose term is ending. Dr. Matthew Wixson '08 of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is continuing to serve as vice chair. Sandra Gaddy of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been elected secretary, succeeding Boerigter.

The new Trustees are **Lisa Meengs '95 Joldersma** of Washington, D.C.; **Dr. Jeanne Petit** of Holland; and **Dr. Jon Soderstrom '76** of Madison, Connecticut.



In addition to Droppers, the Trustees who have concluded their service to the board are: Dr. Virginia Beard of Holland; and Mark Van Genderen '90 of Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

[hope.edu/board-officers-trustees](https://hope.edu/board-officers-trustees)

## BIG READ ANNOUNCES AWARDS AND PROGRAM

An active May and June for the NEA Big Read Lakeshore and Little Read Lakeshore organized by Hope included a statewide honor for 2021 and continued grant support.

In May, they were named the Statewide Community Impact Partner of the Year for 2021 by Michigan Humanities.

In June, they received support, respectively, from the nationwide NEA Big Read (\$19,000) and Michigan Humanities (\$15,000). This year's Big Read Lakeshore will feature Madeline Miller's *Circe*. The Little Read Lakeshore for children will feature the picture book *Last Stop on Market Street*, by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson. For middle readers, the program will feature Homer's *The Odyssey*; the young-adult novels *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*, by Jason Reynolds, and *Superman: Dawnbreaker*, by Matt de la Peña, and the graphic novel *Žita the Spacegirl*, by Ben Hatke.

[hope.edu/bigread2022](https://hope.edu/bigread2022)



## MORE FACULTY RETIREES ANNOUNCED

In addition to the nine faculty retirees highlighted in the Spring 2022 issue, three more current or former professors retired at the conclusion of the 2021-22 academic year:



**David James '76**, coordinator of academic coaching with Hope's Academic Success Center, who for some 35 of his 37 years at Hope was also a member of the English faculty, most recently as an adjunct associate professor;



**Dr. William Pannacker**, professor of English and senior director of Mellon Initiatives, a member of the Hope faculty for 22 years; and



**Dr. Jeffrey Polet**, professor of political science, a member of the Hope faculty for 18 years.

*Stories about each are featured online along with the others' features.*

[hope.edu/three-retirees](https://hope.edu/three-retirees)

## ART HISTORY RESEARCH RECEIVES NEH GRANT

Dr. Anne Heath of the art and art history faculty has received a Summer Stipend for research from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The grant is one of only 103 Summer Stipends awarded by the NEH to scholars around the country. The \$6,000 stipends support full-time work on a humanities project for two months.

Heath, who holds the college's Howard R. and Margaret E. Sluyter Professorship in Art and Design, is investigating the relationship between how the Abbey of La Trinité (the Holy Trinity) in Vendôme, France, displayed a religious relic known as The Holy Tear of Christ during the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and what people of the time experienced when they came to the abbey on pilgrimage.

[hope.edu/heath-nea-grant](https://hope.edu/heath-nea-grant)



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Herb Weller, who retired in 1996 as professor emeritus of Spanish after 34 years on the faculty, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Holland's Human Relations Commission during the annual Social Justice Awards ceremony held during the city council meeting on Jan. 19, 2022.

He was honored "for dedicating his life to building a culture of learning and connection between the City of Holland and the wider world."

[cityofholland.com/914/Social-Justice-Awards](https://cityofholland.com/914/Social-Justice-Awards)



## PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS' RESEARCH RECOGNIZED

Three graduating seniors won regional awards for excellence from the Midwestern chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology for student-faculty collaborative research projects. They were honored during the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association held on April 21-23.

**Ellie Margason '22** of Hinsdale, Illinois, and **Zach Wiggins '22** of Kalamazoo were honored for "Does Affirming Privileged Groups Make Them More Sympathetic to Outgroups' Explanations about Racism?" They conducted the work mentored by Dr. Mary Inman, professor of psychology.

**Sabrina Blank '22** of Traverse City was honored for "Forgive, Fall Asleep, and Flourish: Overcoming Rumination through Compassion." She conducted the work mentored by Dr. Andrew Gall, associate professor of psychology; and Dr. Charlotte vanOyen Witvliet, who is the Lavern '39 and Betty DePree '41 Professor of Psychology.

[hope.edu/psych-honors](https://hope.edu/psych-honors)





## STUDENT FILMS EARN HONORS

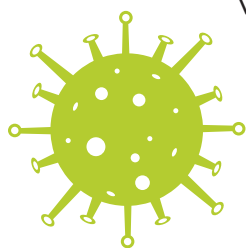
Two films by Hope students prepared through the college's Digital Cinema course won awards this spring in statewide and national collegiate competitions.

*Ebb and Flow* was the 2022 winner in the Fiction – Short Form category of the 2022 Student Production Awards presented by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. It was produced by Matt Severino, Carter Damaska, Sam Joachim, Adrienne Johnson, Tyler Grose, Luke Goral and Emily Mann.

*Don't Look Back* won an Award of Excellence in the Short-Form Documentary category of the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts National Competition, and second place in the Documentary category of the 2022 Michigan Student Broadcast Awards presented by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. It was produced by Katy Smith, Caleigh Miller, Rylee Thayer, Trinity Frye and Yailyn Compres.

[hope.edu/student-films](https://hope.edu/student-films)

## FACULTY FULBRIGHT SUPPORTS INFECTIOUS-DISEASE RESEARCH



Virologist Dr. Benjamin Kopek of the biology faculty has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award that will take him to Paris, France, to participate in the international effort to head off future global pandemics.

He will spend the 2022-23 academic year conducting research at the Pasteur Institute. He will be focusing on a specific step in the route traveled by many infectious diseases, seeking to determine why the insects such as mosquitos that frequently spread them don't get sick.

[hope.edu/kopek-fulbright-award](https://hope.edu/kopek-fulbright-award)



## NURSING RESEARCH WINS AWARD

A collaborative student-faculty research project led by nursing professor Dr. Vicki Voskuil seeking to help adolescent girls improve their health by becoming more physically active has won a Distinguished Abstract award from the Midwest Nursing Research Society. The MNRS honored 13 abstracts, out of more than 500 accepted for presentation at the society's annual conference.

[hope.edu/voskuil-mnrs-award](https://hope.edu/voskuil-mnrs-award)

## TWO STUDENTS RECEIVE GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIPS

Hope seniors Seth Almquist of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Claire Benedict of Ada, Michigan, have each received highly competitive scholarships from the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

Only 417 scholarships were awarded. They are for one or two years, depending on the recipient's year in school, and cover tuition, mandatory fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

Almquist is pursuing a composite major with an emphasis in environmental geochemistry. Benedict is double-majoring in chemistry and Spanish.

[hope.edu/goldwater-scholarships](https://hope.edu/goldwater-scholarships)

## FORMULA RACING TEAM PLACES IN TOP 20%

Hope College Formula Racing earned 14th place overall out of the 90 teams from throughout the United States as well as Canada, Colombia and Mexico that participated in the Formula SAE competition held at Michigan International Speedway on May 18-21.

Hope's finish was its second highest in its five appearances at the speedway event since 2010. The college placed 9th out of 45 teams in 2021.

[hope.edu/formula-sae-2022](https://hope.edu/formula-sae-2022)







# BLAZING TRAILS

*By  
Elizabeth  
Council*

**What do Amelia Earhart, Jackie Robinson, and Neil Armstrong have in common with approximately 14% of students at Hope College?**

**They are all trailblazers — the first to break a barrier and pave the way for the next generation.**



At Hope, more than 400 students are the first in their families to pursue a four-year degree, often referred to as first-generation college students or more affectionately “first-gen.” And while attending college is a major life change for every student, first-gen students experience additional challenges. Especially as Hope pursues *Hope Forward* — making a Hope education more accessible by eliminating tuition as a barrier — Hope is placing even greater emphasis on understanding those challenges and helping first-gen students navigate college.

Elizabeth Colburn, recently retired director of the Hope College TRIO Upward Bound program, describes first-gen students as “highly driven and highly motivated.” And Colburn would know. She spent the last 35 years leading the federally-funded Upward Bound program to prepare first-generation and low-income Holland-area students for education after high school.

“Some first-gen students might think higher ed is not a possibility because they cannot afford it or their parents didn’t do it. It’s not that they don’t have parents who care, it’s just that they do not know how to go about accessing it,” Colburn said.

Approximately 40% of America’s college students are first-gen. At Hope, the first-gen student population ranged from 12% to 21% over the last decade. Many navigated the college search and admissions process entirely on their own.

“They didn’t have someone telling them to go to Hope or pushing them to go to Hope. They chose Hope,” said Alyssa Boss ’08, associate registrar.

Boss’ personal experience as a first-gen transfer student to Hope has had a profound impact on her roles as the associate director of advising and a First-Year Seminar instructor. “I wish I had someone telling me to study abroad, or get involved in student groups or to seek out hands-on experiences throughout college,” she said.

For Andrea Hernandez ’23 of Dallas, Texas, one of the most challenging parts of being a first-generation college student was learning to advocate for herself. “I

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was not aware of what questions to ask, what to look for, what to expect, and what resources I should utilize because I didn’t have anybody else to depend on or who could relate to me,” she said.

Added to the stress of not knowing what questions to ask or where to find help was joining a community that looked and felt very different from the one at home. For many students, this compounded pressure can make sharing their college experiences with family and friends back home more difficult, and make asking for help and getting involved in campus activities even more intimidating.

“My transition from being a high school student to a college student was pretty rough because I not only had to deal with the culture shock from coming from a predominantly Hispanic community, but also not having that underlying piece that was visible to everybody [being first-generation].

“I was, in a sense, sort of ashamed to call myself a first-generation college student, not just because of myself but because I didn’t want people to judge my family and where my family comes from. But, I grew and developed my identity and perspective about what being first-gen is like.”





Hernandez is now helping other Hope students with their adjustment to college. She co-led the college's First-Generation Student Union in her junior year and is an Orientation director leading into her senior year.

Recent graduate Marketea Abbott '22 from Melvindale, Michigan, followed a similar path. She knew a college education was necessary to achieve her goal of becoming a social worker. Generous financial aid, several part-time jobs and a scholarship from the Detroit Regional Dollars for Scholars program made pursuing her degree possible, but she lacked the benefit of family experience to help her with the journey.

"I have 10 siblings, all adopted except the two oldest sisters. My parents didn't have an expectation of what we would be doing post-high school. I valued education and wanted to be a social worker," she said.

Abbott admits she struggled to get by in college and said at times, her situation made her feel like she did not fit it. "I felt like I wasn't supposed to be here. Like, 'it shouldn't be this hard to go to school.'"

"Now that I'm in my senior year, I find myself telling my siblings the things I navigated, thanks to God," she said, speaking during the closing weeks of the spring semester. "Hopefully, they will be confident to go to college. They know it's an opportunity and something they can do."

Equipped with her Hope degree, she is helping others by working with the Detroit Regional Dollars for Scholars program that once supported her. Abbott credits her first gen peers and Yoli De Leon '88 Vega, recently retired senior academic and career advisor, for helping her achieve her goals.

"To know there are people who know exactly how it feels, and that there are faculty in a higher position advocating for you — I am very, very grateful for Yoli and the First-Gen Student Union," Abbott said.

First-gen students at Hope aren't on their own. For staff and faculty in Academic Affairs and Student

Development, student well-being is the top priority. Care teams, close advisorships and mentorship programming are in place to provide academic, emotional and social support for all students.

There's growing recognition at colleges and universities across the nation of the importance of enhancing support for first-gen students in particular. National data shows that first-gen students complete college at lower rates than their peers. They also disproportionately enroll in less-selective colleges — which means that many don't even consider that schools like Hope could be right for them.

"We've always been here," said Vega who is also a first-gen Hope grad. "but not necessarily represented in programming or services. The number of students gaining access to higher ed brings it to the forefront," Vega said reflecting on her 31-year tenure in supporting student success at Hope.

"Everyone [in academia] is trying to find ways to be better," said Provost Gerald Griffin.

At Hope, Griffin noted, "faculty and staff across campus are working together to better understand the needs of our first-gen students and how Hope can better meet the needs of our students where they're at. All students have something to contribute to Hope; it is our job [as faculty and staff] to help them find and unleash their God-given gifts."

Griffin said the provost's office is providing resources to help propagate inclusive instruction across campus, which includes everything from ensuring access to affordable textbooks to walking alongside students in their preparations for life and work after Hope.

Significant work is also being done to identify the "hidden curriculum" — learning moments discovered through experience, not from a lecture or textbook. These are things like how to schedule classes and choose a major, and knowing how and when to visit a professor's office hours.



“We are looking at retention and persistence in a discipline. How do we help our students complete their academic goals at Hope? And, what does it mean to best prepare our students for a graduate experience?” Griffin said.

Dr. Ryan White, associate dean for academic advising and applied learning, understands first-gen students are coming to Hope with unique backgrounds and challenges. His expertise is in undergraduate identity development, and his career has centered around developing new academic programs and resources for student success.

“We find nationally that some of the challenges in the transition for first-gen students are not because of the students, but due to gaps in the environments they are stepping into,” White said. “We’ve seen this at Hope College and we are working to make Hope inclusive and accessible to first-generation and all students.”

White credits Summer Bridge and Step2Success as examples of programs to ease the transition to college. Summer Bridge is a two-week living-learning experience for first-year students to get acquainted with college life before the frenzy of fall semester starts. Similarly, Step2Success is a two-day pre-orientation program coordinated through the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to give students a jump start on academics and developing community during their transition to Hope.

These programs, combined with Academic Advising, the Fried Center for Global Engagement, the Boerigter Center for Calling and Career, and the First-Year Seminar experience, are all opportunities for first-gen students to stay connected and explore who they are and why they’re at Hope, White said.

**First-gen students at Hope aren’t on their own. For staff and faculty in Academic Affairs and Student Development, student well-being is the top priority. Care teams, close advisorships and mentorship programming are in place to provide academic, emotional and social support for all students.**





# A Sacred Space

*The newly renovated Saint Anne Oratory at the Carol C. Schaap Chapel is a beautiful, sacred space of worship and prayer for Hope's Catholic community.*

*By Josh Bishop*



If you step into the newly renovated Saint Anne Oratory at the Carol C. Schaap Chapel in the basement of Graves Hall, where the former Schoon Meditation Chapel was located, you'll find it to be a place of peace and quiet, of uncommon beauty — a place of palpable sacredness. As the Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, said in the homily of his Mass of Blessing for the oratory, this space is “above all a place where Christ can be found, where Christ is present.”

A brief explanation about the name, Saint Anne Oratory at the Carol C. Schaap Chapel: In Catholic piety, Saint Anne is honored as the mother of the Virgin Mary; Saint Anne is also the patron saint of the principal donor, Carol C. Schaap, after whom the chapel is named. And during his homily, Bishop Walkowiak explained that an oratory is “a place for divine worship for the benefit of a specific community or a group of people,” adding, “We immediately think of the Hope College community and all those associated with it.”



It was for the benefit of this community that Paul '67 and Carol Schaap served as principal donors, donating the lion's share of the funds required for the chapel's renovation. (In total, more than 30 benefactors contributed.) The project caught their attention in part because Catholics are the largest single Christian denomination on Hope's campus. "I think that's something that Hope College should be proud of," Paul said, referring to the ecumenically Christian mix of Hope's community.

The donation was also a celebration of Carol Schaap's faith. Carol has been a faithful Catholic her whole life, and although Paul is not himself Catholic, the couple has attended Mass together since they were married 47 years ago. "I'm very pleased and honored to have my name associated with this particular chapel," Carol said. "I'm glad we were able to support it and to be able to have a place of worship on campus for not only students but also for staff."

Paul also fondly remembers his time as a student at Hope and, in particular, his love of Chapel services. "When I think back to what Chapel meant to me, I think of the Catholic students and staff and about what that experience will mean to them," he said.

Recent graduate Kam Wilcox '22 was thrilled to experience the Saint Anne Oratory before his time at Hope ended, and he spoke eloquently about the connection between the chapel's beauty and its spiritual purpose:

"It's a tradition in the Catholic Church, and in other Christian traditions, that we reverence God as Beauty itself," he said. "We understand that there's a connection between beauty and spirituality, between having a beautiful sacred space and prayer and spirituality. So Saint Anne's is very much a visible sign that this place is different. This is a place to encounter God."

The chapel was designed to recall iconic Catholic churches such as Bernini's Cornaro Chapel, Sant'Andrea della Valle and San Clemente.

*"This is a place to encounter God."*

—Kam Wilcox '22

Everything about the oratory has been designed for this purpose — encountering and worshipping God — by the architects in the classical tradition.

In addition, because the Saint Anne Oratory is in the basement, "we tried to connect ourselves back to the early Christian traditions," said Nicholas Rolinski, a graduate of the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame who lives and works in Holland and is also a part-time lecturer at Hope. "We understood that these crypt chapels and small underground worship spaces when Christianity wasn't even legal had something to offer in terms of the nature of the space."

The renovated oratory is an expanded, well-proportioned, classically designed chapel with a stone floor, hardwood pews, and dark carpentry and millwork. The physical space is oriented toward a gold-plated tabernacle illuminated from above; the tabernacle houses the Blessed Sacrament — a consecrated host that, according to Catholic teaching, is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ.

"It's a beautiful space to encounter God in, and it's a very different atmosphere than some of the other beautiful spaces on campus. Diminent is this big, majestic place, but Saint Anne's is a beautiful, intimate space," said Father Nicholas Monco, O.P., chaplain of the Saint Benedict Institute. The Institute is a ministry of the local parish, St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, with a primary mission to serve Hope College.

In the ceiling above the tabernacle is a circular stained-glass window featuring a dove representing the Holy Spirit surrounded by symbols for the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). The stained glass is lit from behind by natural light from the Graves Hall windows and by some artificial lighting.



“The Holy Spirit is the power that transforms the sacraments, but also the power that unites us as Christians. The window also represents our love and commitment to the word of God,” said Dr. Jared Ortiz, professor of religion at Hope College and executive director and co-founder of the Saint Benedict Institute.

Set into one of the stone tiles on the floor is a quote from a thermodynamics textbook by Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, president of Hope College from 1972 to 1987: *“Quite obviously it is impossible to give conclusive answers to these questions on the basis of the second law of thermodynamics alone. However, we see the second law of thermodynamics as a description of the prior and continuing work of a Creator, who also holds the answer to our future destiny and that of the universe.”*

“The quote is a nod to our ecumenical mission and to the harmony we see between faith and reason,” Ortiz said.

The Saint Anne Oratory at the Carol C. Schaap Chapel will be primarily used for divine worship: Mass is celebrated daily in the chapel; all are welcome to attend. The space is also used for prayer and for public and private devotions, including Eucharistic adoration, which is when a person spends time in prayer and meditation to adore Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist.

“The experience of adoration was very beautiful and impacted me in a lot of ways,” said Caryn Dannah ’22. “I grew deeper in my faith and in my relationship with the

“The experience of adoration was very beautiful and impacted me in a lot of ways. *I grew deeper in my faith* and in my relationship with the Lord, just sitting there in silence and meditating on the Eucharist in front of me in the chapel.”

—Caryn Dannah ’22

Lord, just sitting there in silence and meditating on the Eucharist in front of me in the chapel.”

The oratory also contains a series of Byzantine-style icons created, or “written,” by local artist Amanda Fickel. “An icon is a religious image that’s meant to reveal some kind of truth about God and lead you closer to God through contemplation of Him and the lives of holy people who have dedicated their lives to God,” she said.

Fickel spends several months completing each icon. Four of the eight sacred images are already installed: Anne, Mary, and Jesus; Joseph and Jesus; Joachim and Anne; and Augustine and Monica. The remaining icons — Saints Benedict, Thomas Aquinas, Josephine Bakhita and Mary Magdalene — will be hung when they’re all completed. The chapel was designed to include the use of bays to create spaces suitable for displaying the icons.

Despite its modest size (it holds up to 46 worshippers) and humble location (in the basement), the chapel was designed to recall iconic Catholic churches such as Bernini’s Cornaro Chapel, Sant’Andrea della Valle and San Clemente.

“When we do projects, especially projects of this level of craftsmanship, we act as though this chapel is supposed to last for over 100 years,” architect Nick Rolinski said. “If you can bring meaning and sense of place and beauty into a space, it at least has a chance to last for the long haul.”

In that way, the Saint Anne Oratory at the Carol C. Schaap Chapel represents an investment for the future — for the Catholic community at Hope College, for the work of the Saint Benedict Institute, for the ongoing testimony of Carol Schaap and her faith, and for the worship and the presence of Jesus Christ in the people and place that is Hope College.

“I genuinely hope that it remains a space for people to encounter the Lord in the future,” Wilcox said.





*Pictured left to right: Fr. Charlie Brown, the Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak and Fr. Nick Monco*





# HSRT is Golden

## 50 Seasons on the Hope Stage

*By Eva Dean Folkert '83*



fter all these years, its origin story has taken on a bit of a mythical quality, and it goes like this:

It's 1971, and a long-awaited theatre on the campus of Hope College has finally been completed. While its new paint smell slowly dissipates, two young and ambitious theatre professors, John Tammi and Don Finn, connive and brainstorm and decide that their new theatrical home — DeWitt theatre — should not only host plays during the school year, but house a summer company, too. Talented Hope theatre students could cut their acting and artistic chops during the summer, they reasoned, and professional actors could be brought in, too. They would call it Hope

Summer Theatre; they would put on four shows that would run back-to-back in three-week periods; and, they would take advantage of one of the best selling points in the new space: **Air conditioning.**

"I remember talking with Don about all of the positive reasons why starting a summer theatre in Holland, at Hope, made perfect sense artistically," says Tammi, professor emeritus of theatre who, after 47 years at the college, retired in 2014. "I also remember Don saying to me, 'It makes sense because we'd be the only air-conditioned theater facility in western Michigan.' So, for a few years our promotional poster had a line that read, 'In air-conditioned comfort.'"



Just two seasons in, Finn and Tammi would change the company's direction and name. People were staying away in droves, Tammi remembers, and something had to give. A course correction was required. The company became Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in 1974, with various plays rotating throughout a 12-week period, "which was what we wanted to do from the beginning," founding artistic director Tammi confides.

It wasn't long before a children's performance troupe started (1973); more air-conditioned stages joined the DeWitt mainstage to host the burgeoning seasonal repertoire (the DeWitt studio theatre, Snow Auditorium in the former Nykerk Hall of Music, the Knickerbocker Theatre, the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts); and the company grew in reputation and the audiences in number. This summer, despite some periods of financial uncertainty and the recent challenges of COVID-19, HSRT celebrated its golden anniversary — 50 years of educating and employing hundreds of up-and-coming and professional actors; 50 years of educating and entertaining thousands of Holland-area theatre-goers with more than 300 shows that reflected the width and breadth of the human experience.

"I'm just happy to have lived long enough to see it," Tammi muses.

"From the very beginning, we had pretty high standards for theatrical art and that was really due to John Tammi," says Mary Schakel '69, who began her 40-year association with HSRT in its first year as a costume designer and ended as its producing director in 2012. "Everybody fed off of that as the years progressed. It's pretty amazing that a theater [company] lasts 50 years, especially because of COVID."

If not for COVID, last year would have marked the 50th season of HSRT, but the global pandemic kept the DeWitt and other campus theaters dark in 2020. The shows went on in 2021, albeit in limited runs and on an outdoor stage on the Van Raalte Commons so actors and audience could remain as safe and healthy as possible while unmasked. This year, all shows returned inside with actors unmasked during performances, while the audiences were

required to wear a protective face covering "due to strict actors' union rules," says Lenny Banovez, HSRT's current artistic director. "Basically, the audience wore masks so that the actors didn't have to. . . And people were pretty understanding of that."



Banovez came to HSRT in 2018 and is cut out of similar cloth as Tammi. Banovez also co-founded a theatre group, TITAN Theatre Company in New York City, which he still continues to artistically direct from September to May. In Holland for the past five summers, he says he feels the force of "standing on the shoulders of giants" like Tammi and Schakel and David Colacci (former artistic director for 23 years) and hundreds of other company members of renown, especially in this 50th season.

For long-time HSRT cast member Chip Duford '90, being a part of a reputable regional theatre with a strong national profile has defined much of his acting career, from college student to professional. It was for students like him that Tammi and Finn envisioned HSRT working symbiotically with Hope's theatre department, creating space for young people to set one foot on an academic stage and another on a professional one.



Duford arrived at Hope as a potential pre-med student, “but that lasted three seconds I think,” he laughs. With encouragement from Tammi when he was a Hope theatre student, and from visiting HSRT Shakespeare and voice coach Peggy Loft, while he was an HSRT intern, Duford pursued a career on stage. Now in his 28th season with HSRT, he says he returns summer after summer because of its people and what the company has meant to him. Working in repertory (which means acting in up to three different plays and roles in one week), on a thrust DeWitt stage (which means the audience surrounds the actors) are rewarding and rare challenges in American theatre, and Duford acknowledges that those elements made a difference in his earning his Actor’s Equity card. And so did a sweet, little, beloved play called *Chaps*, a production originated for and by HSRT members.

“[Writers] Malcolm Hillgartner and Jahnna Beecham were the catalysts, and I and my fellow castmates were involved with the creation of many elements of that original production,” recalls Duford.

*Chaps* — a comedic musical revue featuring four singing cowboys and a cowgirl set in 1944 — was a risk for HSRT when it was created in 1995, and it turned into an all-time favorite, becoming a part of the company’s rotation two more times and finding its place on other regional stages, too, still to this day. But Banovez will tell you that much of theatre production has been and will always be just that — a creative and financial risk that is worth it to move careers and conversations forward.



“What I’m interested in is doing really good plays that share lots of voices from different communities and making sure they’re done well,” he says. “I want to offer something I know people will like. I want to offer them something they think they might like and then I want to offer them something they don’t know they like. . . Basically, I always want to challenge people and I always want to make them laugh.”

For the 50th summer season, Banovez and company challenged theater-goers with a play about Japanese internment (*Hold These Truths*), about mental health (*Every Brilliant Thing*) and about lifelong hope (*The Color Purple*). The company brought the laughter with *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, *Figaro* and a modernized version of *Much Ado About Nothing*. *50 Years of HSRT Through Song* provided a musical retrospective. Finally, a play for young audiences, *Lulu and the Long Walk*, was its GENext project, HSRT’s new program that commissions, workshops, or produces a new work by a BIPOC artist every season. (To cap the company’s landmark 50 years, HSRT will stage *It’s a Wonderful Life: Radio Play* in December.)

It’s no wonder then that the 2022 cast and crew of 106 — hailing from New York City to a Florida performing arts high school — provided “an alchemy that I love so much. We had people from Broadway to those with their very first professional contract,” says Banovez. He held auditions in 17 different locations last spring that resulted in “the most diverse, international and talented company we’ve ever had,” he adds.

With the opening and closing of all eight shows in the 2022 summer season, Banovez and company continued to build upon and elevate HSRT’s historical penchant for excellence, empathy and risk-taking. That’s no small feat to pull off on the American stage these days, no matter if in NYC or in Holland, MI. As for the next 50 years?

“I hope that for the next 50 years that we never lose sight of creating conversations, that we never lose sight of taking risks and that we never lose sight of the community we’re serving,” Banovez says. “I also hope we continue to have the audacity to have fun. An audacity that says, ‘How dare we? How dare we try and make the world a better place?’ And then the answer to that should always be, ‘How dare we not?’”





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of the human experience.





# Why Do Wetlands Come and Go Between Dunes?

*A long-running Hope study uncovers answers — and more questions*

*By Natasha Strydhorst*

*Professor Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman '82 and Heleyna Tucker '23  
conducting their wetland research in Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area.*





“On Sunday afternoons, after church and dinner, one of my favorite places to go was the area that’s now called the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area,” said Professor Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman ’82, a West Michigan native and assistant professor of geological and environmental science instruction. “I just thought the whole area was fascinating — these wetlands in the midst of the dry dunes. And I just remember thinking to myself: *Gee, when I grow up, I would love to study these.*”

“Well,” she added, laughing, “I’m 5 foot 4; I never really grew up.” But she did come to study the dunes, and eventually the interdunal wetlands, which had transitioned to upland dune vegetation when Lake Michigan’s water level was low from 1998 to 2014 (a change that for years caused

her colleagues in the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences to be skeptical of DeVries-Zimmerman’s childhood memories).

Then in 2016 — just three years after Lake Michigan’s lowest recorded water levels — the interdunal wetlands reappeared in Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, heralded by frog songs. DeVries-Zimmerman was thrilled, not just by the confirmation of her youthful memories but also by the return of a unique and little-studied ecosystem.

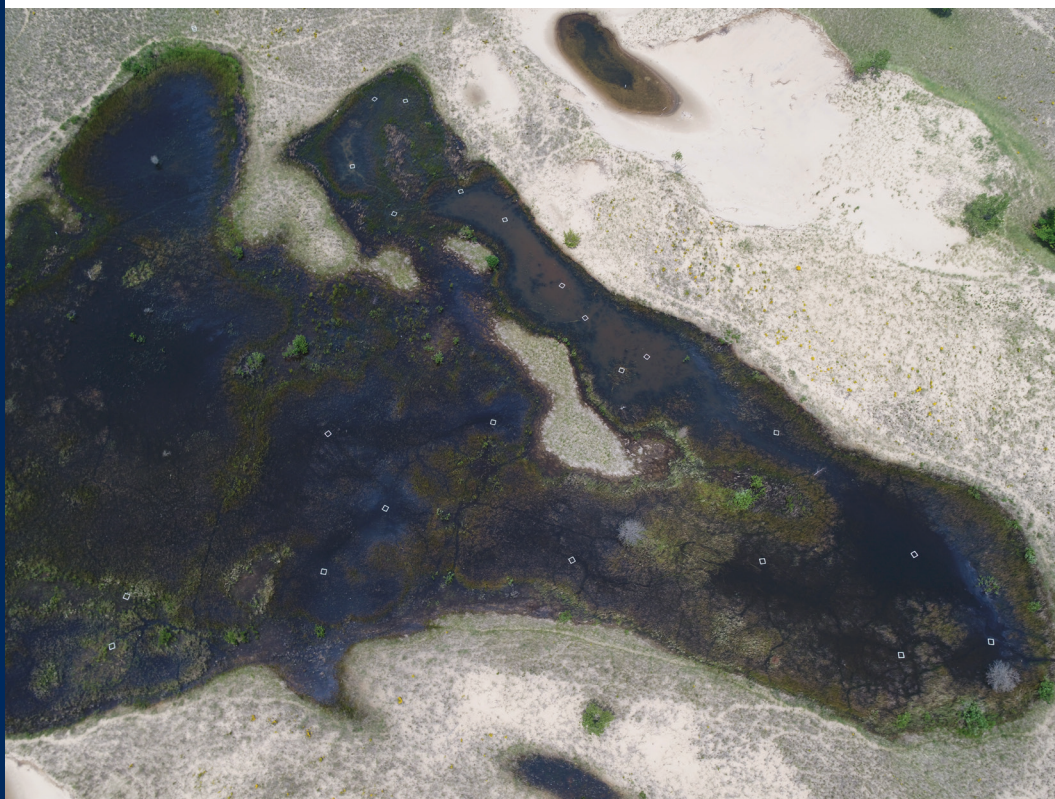
“In order to get these interdunal wetlands you have to have a low dune complex — not the really tall parabolic dunes — because you have to have the wind erode the sand so that you hit the water table,” the geologist said. Dynamism in the water level is also a

given, and the wetlands have adapted a regenerative strategy to cope with cycles of scarcity and plenty.

“One thing these wetlands do is they dry out and they come back, they dry out and come back. Lake Michigan has done this up and down for decades — for years even before historical records,” DeVries-Zimmerman said. “These systems have adapted to where the seed bank can persist until water levels come up and allow that vegetation to have the right conditions to germinate, which is absolutely incredible when you think about it. Seeds have survived 25, 30 years of dormancy. But if things dry out, water levels drop, and you don’t get the influx of water to regerminate those species. Then the system disappears.”







*Aerial view of frame markers placed in wetland area.*

The environment is a rare and threatened one, despite its hardy, regenerative abilities. How it will hold up in the coming decades remains an open question, but DeVries-Zimmerman and her colleagues in the interdisciplinary Hope College Coastal Group are in the midst of what may be the only research investigating the habitat from the multifaceted approach of combining water chemistry, vegetation dynamics and remote sensing.

“As far as we know, we are the only ones doing a longitudinal study like this on the wetlands within the Great Lakes basin,” DeVries-Zimmerman said. “There have been smaller snapshots, but nobody has carried on a study for this long.” Their study began in 2016 — with the return of the frogs — and is still going strong.

The six years’ worth of data has enabled DeVries-Zimmerman’s primary project this summer: running statistics on reams of data concerning vegetation, water chemistry and water level patterns to investigate the environment’s trends as each variable has ebbed and flowed.

There have been surprises.

“We thought that as the water levels dropped, we would see the bulk of the vegetation density come back, except we didn’t plan on the muskrats moving in,” DeVries-Zimmerman explained. After a year of their voracious munching, it remains to be seen how the vegetation coverage will ultimately respond: “Now we have an additional complicating factor, to see how those seeds come back after just being plundered and eaten and all those roots just chewed to bits.” That

unpredictability highlights the value of a longitudinal study in such a dynamic environment where not everything is as it might seem.

The interdisciplinary nature of the group’s work lets the professors involved paint a remarkably robust picture of these variable environs and introduce their students to a variety of research strategies and tools.

“The dunes, I think, are the primary example: It’s not just geology; it’s not just the wind and sand moving. The plants are an integral part of what’s happening. And certainly within the wetlands, the whole hydrogeology is definitely a part of it, and the chemistry of that water. It all plays together,” DeVries-Zimmerman said. “We’re able to integrate our research and give the students a wider research experience. They get a better experience because they haven’t just been siloed into one discipline.”

Mentoring student researchers is a substantial and meaningful piece of DeVries-Zimmerman’s work — and the Coastal Research Group’s as a whole. She’s particularly valued the opportunity to help young women to see themselves in careers engaged with science, an area in which the gender is underrepresented — and has been especially gratified when they’ve also caught her passion for the dune ecosystem. “I’ve had many female researchers, and they have been in love with the wetlands project — really felt a big connection to it,” DeVries-Zimmerman related. “And with two of them, it influenced what they’re doing with grad school and with law school.





So I kind of feel like a very proud mother hen.”

It is little wonder students are enthralled with the dunes; DeVries-Zimmerman’s enthusiasm for them is infectious.

“I feel incredibly lucky to be able to do research in this area that I’ve always loved since I was a kid. Not everybody gets to do that,” DeVries-Zimmerman said. “It’s my happy place. Especially during the pandemic, it has been a happy place to go and see sandhill cranes. Their call — it’s like nothing else on this planet: You can almost picture their ancestral dinosaurs.”

The dunes, changeable as they are, evoke something prehistoric, too: composed of sand that, millennia and miles away, was once sundry stones, hosting seed banks whose dormancy periods are still the stuff of conjecture. The Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area holds uncounted questions for the next generations of intrepid researchers.

“Now we need to regroup and figure out the next set of questions to ask,” DeVries-Zimmerman said. “How are we now going to go after answering those questions — knowing full well that we’ll never answer everything?”

## The Hope College Coastal Group

includes Dr. Ed Hansen (emeritus), Dr. Brian Bodenbender and Professor Suzanne DeVries-Zimmerman ’82 of the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences (GES); Dr. Michael Philben of the GES and Chemistry Departments; and Dr. Brian Yurk and Dr. Darin Stephenson of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Current projects include:

- Investigating the impact of changing lake levels on sand dunes and dune plant populations along the Lake Michigan shoreline
- Understanding how vegetation populations in the dunes change over time and the factors driving those changes
- Developing a variety of techniques to monitor sand movement and surface change in local dune complexes. This work is supported in part by the Curtis A. Jacobs Mathematics and Statistics Summer Research Fund and the Jobe and Julie Morrison Family Faculty Development Fund.
- Assessing the rates of carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions from interdunal wetlands
- Studying historical meteorological data along the coast to evaluate regional climate change and its implications for coastal dune systems



# What Makes Athletes Tick?

*Students Team with a Sport Psychologist  
on Six Summer Projects*

*By Natasha Strydhorst*







**F**rom the start, it's been go, go, go for Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Dr. Femi Oluyedun. (Growing up with three brothers may have contributed to that lifestyle and mindset.) From a childhood immersed in sports to a stint on Wabash College's soccer team as an undergraduate psychology major, through his years of study for his master's degree and Ph.D. in psychosocial aspects of sport and physical activity, he's long been fascinated by sports and the human behaviors around them.

"A big part of me getting interested in the field of kinesiology was based around my love for sports and background in studying psychology as an undergrad," he said. "I eventually combined the two, and it has been such a fulfilling and enjoyable endeavor." It's been fun for his students, too, who experience the vast task of research projects — from warm-up to finish line — under Oluyedun's coaching.

This summer, Oluyedun has some half a dozen projects on the go — some applied, others theoretical. They're

led by Hope kinesiology majors and psychology majors — student researchers getting an early taste for experimental and survey methods of learning about athletes' minds and bodies, and how they work together on and off the court and field and pool. You could say he has a lot of balls in the air: It's a balancing act he's been training for his whole life. Oluyedun is coaching a scholarly team toward research prowess and academic sportsmanship.

It's not uncommon for Oluyedun's students to be drawn into applied kinesiology and psychology exercises with athletes — projects with practical goals — followed by immersion in the research world. Of at least one student, Oluyedun noted, "it's been cool to be able to see how we've gone from her taking a few of my classes, to then working with her on how to do applied sport psychology — actually sitting down with groups of athletes and trying to teach them how to do different mental skills to improve their performance — to now, this summer, getting into the research side."

Students develop their initial idea with deep dives into the literature to grasp their project's theoretical angles, then propose the study for approval and obtain informed consent from participants before collecting data through a survey or an experiment. Ultimately, they analyze their data, write up their findings, and present them—sometimes at Hope, sometimes at conferences. (Two of Oluyedun's



student research partners recently made presentations at a regional conference hosted at Michigan State University, and another presented at a national conference.) The time-consuming but rewarding process prepares students to forge their own paths into careers in applied fields of physical therapy and medicine, or into research-focused graduate school programs.

“My goal is to help them see just how much time and effort it takes to do just one project,” Oluyedun said. “It often takes a minimum of a year, and it shows that you can’t skip any steps if you’re trying to complete quality work with the goal of publishing in a top journal.” Research is a long, patient game; it helps to have an experienced, patient coach.

One study led by several Hope swimmers is investigating whether the strength of a swimmer’s motivation varies with his or her role (starter or non-starter) on the team. Another group is researching the extent to which peer relationships influence athletes’ perfectionism and their “impression motivation behaviors” — their drive to come across well to others. Since athletes are routinely under the microscope, they may have elevated impression motivations. “We literally create these vast arenas

to watch athletes perform in their sport,” Oluyedun said. “Well, we’d be interested to know to what extent athletes feel a need to constantly monitor their behaviors in order to fit in or be a strong role model.”

A third project this summer probes the relationship between levels of adipose (fat) tissue and student athletes’ working memory. Previous research indicates that students who exercise at the campus gym three or more times per week tend to have higher GPAs than those who do so less frequently. However, “it could very well be that the people who happen to go to the gym more often are also the people who happen to be high performers,” Oluyedun cautioned. “So this study would actually let us examine the direct connection between a physiological measurement, like adipose tissue, in tandem with cognitive ability (working memory).”

A student who’s a former baseball player is leading a study on the relationships within sleep and sport. That research group is aiming to collaborate with researchers in Hope’s Department of Psychology. “Does someone rate less anxiety if they report better sleep?” Oluyedun wondered. “That’d be an interesting question because we know that, for an athlete, you want to be able to reduce your

anxiety and we know that you want to be able to enhance your sleep — to get the best quality sleep — if you’re trying to have the best performance.”

Oluyedun’s time and training encompass more than studies, however. He’s also involved with community workshops through ExploreHope Academic Outreach that demonstrate to high school students what the health professions look like — from practitioners’ perspectives. The 2022 workshop was the first to take place in person.

In this June’s health professions camp, Oluyedun led a day-long program on sport psychology. Some of his Department of Kinesiology colleagues led the days focused on exercise physiology and on anatomy. High school students walked away with a taste of professions that could, one day, become their own careers.

Oluyedun’s top academic coaching tip? Getting involved in research during the undergraduate experience may be the best move you ever make. “It can help you orient how you plan to go through your undergrad career, and it teaches different skills. I think it’s one of the most formative experiences you can have as an undergrad.”





## Oluyedun's top academic coaching tip?



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*"It can help you orient how you plan to go through your undergrad career, and it teaches different skills. I think it's one of the most formative experiences you can have as an undergrad."*



# Do High Rates of Homicide Slow Imports and Exports?

*Hope economics professor Dr. Stephen Smith and his research partner believe they have the breakthrough evidence to prove it*

*By Jim McFarlin '74*



*Dr. Stephen Smith with summer research student Phuong Anh (Jeannie) Vu '23*

**A**s we have seen amid the recent ongoing horrors in Ukraine, war can have a devastating effect on a nation's citizens, infrastructure, self-reliance and economy. But what about when the attacks are not external, but internal? Can a country's level of civil and interpersonal violence, the "everyday" bloodshed we see through the media, have an effect on its trade status with other nations?

Hope Professor of Economics Dr. Stephen Smith thinks it can. And after two years of intense research analyzing data from more than 100 countries, he and his research partner believe they have the breakthrough empirical evidence to prove it.



“For several decades there has been work in economics that has assessed the impact on global trade arising from straight-out war,” Smith said. “And the costs of war in human terms are, of course, almost beyond description. But we wanted to extend that literature and consider how and if what we might call background levels of violence — the kinds of crimes that when linked together would be considered ‘civil violence’ — have an impact on international trade.”

The mind-boggling task of acquiring, collating and comparing 17 years’ worth of recent crime statistics from the majority of countries on Earth — “an extraordinarily large data set,” Smith acknowledged — was aided by two Hope student research assistants and economics majors, Claire Moore ’22 of

Springfield, Missouri, in 2021 and Phuong Anh (Jeannie) Vu ’23 from Hanoi, Vietnam, this summer. Meanwhile, Smith’s longtime co-author Dr. Michael Anderson of Washington & Lee University in Virginia was assessing and analyzing the data as well. Both men are members of the Association of Christian Economists, of which Smith is president.

While Smith wanted the study to be more comprehensive, including such crimes as assault, domestic violence and child abuse, for the sake of consistency the focus was narrowed to homicides. “There is just no other measure of civil violence that was as

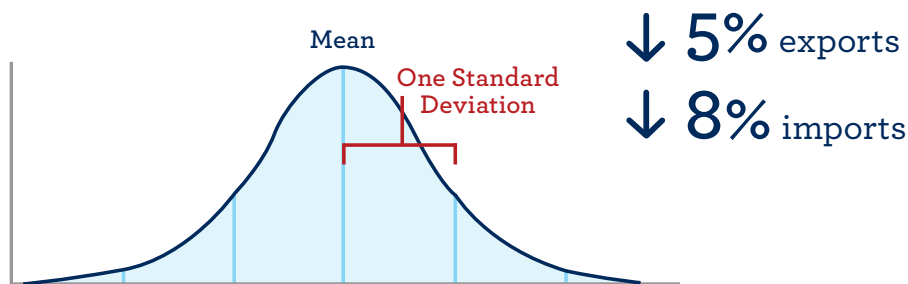
accurately and comprehensively collected across multiple countries and years,” he explained.

“We may yet be able to get some good data on other forms of civil violence, but it’s tricky. The thing about homicide rates is that countries generally report homicides pretty accurately. This is data collected by the United Nations, so it’s considered reasonably good.”





“We predict that a 1 standard deviation increase in homicide rate per 100,000 people will lower that country’s exports by 5% and lower its imports by 8%.”



The initial findings? “We do find that there is a statistically significant effect of higher homicide rates on the amount of trade that takes place,” Smith revealed. “Everything else being equal, a country with a higher homicide rate does trade less than another comparable country. To put it technically, we predict that a 1 standard deviation increase in homicide rate per 100,000 people will lower that country’s exports by 5% and lower its imports by 8%.”

In truth, Smith suspected lower trade figures might be the case at the outset. “It’s one thing to find a statistically significant effect,” he said, “but what really surprised us was how big that effect is. We were also slightly surprised that the effect on imports was higher than the effect on exports. Going into this we were thinking that if a country had a high level of

civil violence it might make it harder for that country to organize exports or sales abroad. But it turns out that imports are affected more, and to be honest we’re still trying to figure out why that’s the case.”

The nations studied included the United States, of course, and those findings could be considered surprising as well. “By no means is

the U.S. homicide rate low by global standards,” Smith said, trying not to sound obvious. “Over our study’s 17-year span the rate hovered around six homicides per 100,000 people. There’s a whole lot of the world that does a whole lot better than that. Japan. Germany. Most of Europe.

“But that said, amazingly, the global average of homicides per 100,000 is around eight, so the U.S. is actually below the average. And the reason is that there is a group of countries that just have very high homicide rates — El Salvador, for example. Some countries are at more than 60 per 100,000 people.”

The focus for Smith and co-author Anderson this summer is to complete a submittable version of their findings for journal publication. Although this study pushed both professors to learn some of the most recent innovations in empirical economic research, the collaboration itself was far from a new experience.

The global average of homicides per 100,000 is around eight, the U.S. is actually below the average.



United States

6

100,000



Global Average

8

100,000



El Salvador

63

100,000





*“We do find that there is a statistically significant effect of higher homicide rates on the amount of trade that takes place. Everything else being equal, a country with a higher homicide rate does trade less than another comparable country.”*

—Dr. Stephen Smith,  
professor of economics

“Stephen Smith and I published our first paper together in 1994, and our collaboration has continued unabated to this day,” Anderson said. “Each of us sees our work as economists as part of our Kingdom work. Quite simply, I haven’t met anyone who shares Stephen’s combination of intellectual talent, curiosity, collaborative instincts and absence of pretense.”

Raised in Hong Kong, Smith joined the Hope College Department of Economics and Business in 2016. In 2018 he launched the department’s

China May Term, but the travel-study course was derailed two years later due to the pandemic. “We had the honor of being the first Hope College activity canceled because of COVID,” he lamented. “I do hope we can go back. I think the students gain a real sense of another culture and economy, and I always learn a lot as well.”

Prior to coming to Hope, Smith spent nearly 30 years on the faculty at Gordon College in Massachusetts. “I really enjoyed being at Gordon,” he reflected. “It was one of the leading

schools in Christian higher education, and a lovely place to be. But in the course of my work there I got to know a lot of economists around the country and came to realize that Hope had a very strong economics and business department full of people who are really good colleagues. When I heard there was an opening at Hope, it was a very attractive place to apply. It was a big move, but it’s been marvelous being here. My wife and I really enjoy West Michigan.”



# A NEW JEWEL IN THE CROWN

By Greg Olgers '87



A major addition planned for the DeWitt Center will provide essential instructional and rehearsal space for the college's internationally recognized and nationally accredited Department of Dance, along with other improvements that will benefit everyone who is either on stage or in the audience in the adjacent main theatre.

Facing Columbia Avenue near the main entrance, it will prominently feature a state-of-the-art, 3,900-square-foot dance studio that can double as a performance venue for dance, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre and others. It will also include dressing rooms and a green room; and — for audience members — additional restrooms in the lobby.

The project is the second of three for the department, which has not only outgrown its quarters but must meet new standards for accreditation that the existing facilities can't address. The total cost for the DeWitt addition is \$6 million, which includes construction and an endowment for ongoing maintenance and building operations. Work will begin once fundraising is complete; donors have contributed \$3.7 million so far.

Given the circumstances, Hope has basically had two choices: scrape by, or do it right. The college has selected the second option. Clearly, the decision is good news for maintaining accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Dance, which Hope has held for nearly 40 years. There's more, though, than

competitive pride at stake. The point of the NASD standards is to serve students well — which department chair Matt Farmer '04 noted would be the faculty's priority even if the association didn't exist.

"First and foremost, we're a student-centered department," said Farmer, who is the Dorothy Wiley DeLong Associate Professor of Dance. "That started with Max [department founder Maxine DeBruyn]: 'What is best for students: how we teach, what we teach — the curriculum that we have.'"

The department's primary instructional space has been on the second floor of the Dow Center, which opened in 1978 — three studios since a 2002 renovation. The construction of the DeVos Fieldhouse added another in



## ART IN MOTION



2006. (Alumni may also remember classes in Durfee Hall's Juliana Room, retired from service several years ago.)

As it happens, the fieldhouse studio was the first to be updated, with the addition this past school year of a "basket-weave" sprung floor for use in tap. It was crucial timing, since Hope had the opportunity to host an international tap festival directed by faculty member Heather Cornell.

Renovating the Dow will be the third project, and although the design is still in the preliminary stages will likely be extensive. The new NASD requirements include that studios have at least 2,400 square feet and ceilings at least 15 feet high. Hope can't achieve that in the Dow's current configuration without raising the roof,

which isn't an option. So, the plan is to create two 2,400-square-foot dance studios out of the two-story-tall racquetball courts, and the adjacent exercise/weight rooms. The portion of the second floor currently occupied by studios would be renovated as open space housing exercise and weight equipment to provide a better workout experience for students.

In the meantime, the sooner-to-come DeWitt project will put the dance program at the literal center of the "arts corridor" that runs from Eighth Street to 13th Street. The five blocks begin with the community's Holland Area Arts Council, and continue with Hope's Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts, DeWitt Center, Kruizenga Art Museum, De Pree Art Center and Gallery, and Dow Center.

Farmer is pleased at the chance that the location and the towering windows of the addition will present to showcase Hope dance, a tradition of more than 50 years, not only on performance nights, but day-to-day.

"Where a space is located says a lot about an institution's support," he said. "I'm excited that students and community members will be able to walk by and see live dance all the time."





# OUTSTANDING SPRING CAPS A RECORD YEAR FOR HOPE ATHLETICS

By Alan Babbitt



**JACK RADZVILLE**



**SYDNEY JACKSON**



**EVAN MADAY**

A successful spring season secured the 38th MIAA Commissioner's Cup trophy for Hope Athletics, the most among member schools. It was the first time in three years the all-sports award was handed out.

Four spring teams earned MIAA regular-season championships — baseball, men's lacrosse, women's tennis, and women's outdoor track and field — giving Hope College a school-record 12 league titles for the academic year.

Four student-athletes were selected as the league's most valuable by MIAA coaches: senior Evan Maday in baseball, senior Jack Radzville in men's lacrosse for offense, senior Brayden Blackburn in men's lacrosse for defense and senior Sydney Jackson in women's tennis. Maday completed his career as Hope baseball's first player to achieve 200 career hits, tallying 231.

Four teams competed at NCAA Division III Championships during the spring: men's golf, women's tennis, men's outdoor track and field,

and women's outdoor track and field. Junior runner Ana Tucker earned All-America honors in two distance events, placing fifth in the 5,000 meters and eighth in the 10,000 meters and helping the women's outdoor track and field team finish 46th. Tucker set school records in both the 5K and 10K during the school year. Men's golf finished 22nd at nationals, having earned a berth by winning the MIAA's 54-hole NCAA Championships qualifier during spring play. Women's tennis won an MIAA title for a record seventh year in a row and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Five student-athletes were named to CoSIDA Academic All-America® Teams: Brant Kym and Maday in baseball, senior Kaelin Callow in softball, and Tucker and senior Nick Hoffman in track and field.

Fall and winter athletes also continued to earn acclaim. Volleyball teammates McKenna Otto and Tracy Westra, swimmer Emma Schaefer and women's basketball's Kenedy Schoonveld were awarded NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships. Schoonveld was also named a finalist for the Division III Honda Female Athlete of the Year award.

To round out the year's achievements, 243 student-athletes made the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, and 17 teams claimed the MIAA Team GPA award.





ANA TUCKER



MENS' GOLF

HOPEYS AWARD RECIPIENTS



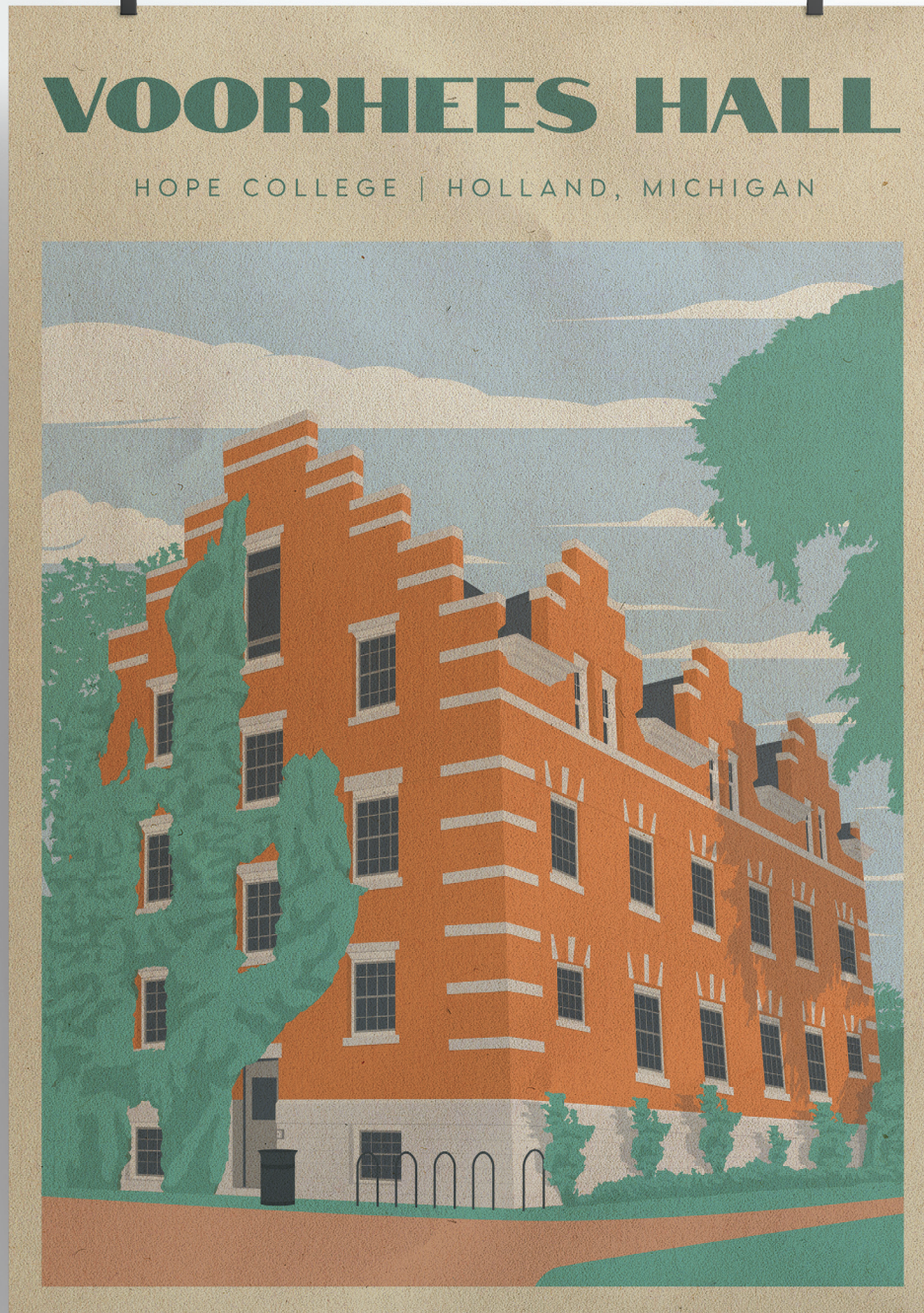
[ATHLETICS.HOPE.EDU](https://athletics.hope.edu)



## Hope College Re-imagined

Hope College Creative  
Services Team  
(2014-present)  
2022  
Vector art on paper

The Creative Services  
Team collaborated with  
their talented student  
graphic designers to re-  
imagine several campus  
scenes in the iconic style  
of national park posters  
of the 1930s and 1940s.





# PINE GROVE

HOPE COLLEGE | HOLLAND, MICHIGAN





# GRAVES HALL

HOPE COLLEGE | HOLLAND, MICHIGAN





# DIMNENT CHAPEL

HOPE COLLEGE | HOLLAND, MICHIGAN



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please visit [bookstore.hope.edu](https://bookstore.hope.edu)! Stay tuned  
for additional releases.



# CUSTOMIZED COFFEE BLEND SUPPORTS HOPE FORWARD

By Greg Olgers '87

*Hope Forward* is a creative new approach to funding a Hope College education, so what could be more appropriate than finding a creative way of helping make the initiative a reality?

Dan '09 and Kara Dornbusch '12 Guy, owners of the Espresso Bay coffee shop in downtown Traverse City, Michigan, have done just that by creating the "*Hope Forward Blend*."

"We were in Holland and had the chance to meet with President Scogin in his office," Dan Guy recalled. "We wanted a way to get involved and help support it. The best way we could do that was to do another type of coffee. All the proceeds from the sales go to the *Hope Forward* fund."

It was easy for the Guys to choose to become part of the effort. At the most fundamental level, they owe their relationship to Hope: They met in the summer of 2008 during one of the regional picnics organized by the college for incoming students as Kara was about to begin her freshman year. More, though, they appreciate the education they received and want to provide the same for future generations.

"Hope's a really special place for both of us," Dan said. "We really had a positive experience there. It's just some little way that we can stay connected and help support the future generations hoping to go and get a good Christian education."

Visiting Espresso Bay is one way to experience the *Hope Forward* blend, but it's not the only way. The shop also includes the blend among the variety of coffees that customers may order through its website ([espressobay.com](http://espressobay.com)) and have shipped to them.

In addition to transforming the future for Hope students through *Hope Forward*, the college is taking the lead in fostering a larger conversation in higher education about helping students and society by transforming the tuition-driven business model. In the same way, Dan and Kara Guy hope that other alumni and friends of the college might find their own unique ways to support *Hope Forward*.

"We're hoping that other alumni might see this article and say, 'Hey — I can do something little to make a difference' with the products that they make," Dan said. "If we all do a little bit to add to the fund, we'll get to the goal eventually."

*Hope Forward* will fund students' tuition up front and ask them to give back after graduation, enhancing access and enabling students to pursue impact after college rather than chase income to repay student loan debt. For more about the model, please visit:

[hope.edu/forward](http://hope.edu/forward)







# CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: *Julie Rawlings '83 Huisingh*

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 Winter 2022 issue are due by September 27, 2022.*

## 50s

**Barry Whitsitt '54** reports that he and his wife Mary Ann are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this month. Their family has grown to 30 members and they held a family reunion at their cottage in Holland, Michigan, this summer.

## 60s

**Earl Johnson '64** is currently writing in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Bible study series *The Present Word*. He also serves on the Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force and the board of directors of the Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care in Gloversville, New York.

**Audrey Prins '64 Rasmussen** has published two murder mysteries, *Who Killed D.L. Phillips* and *Revenge*, under the name of A. Eveline.

**Fred Wezeman '64** of Palos Heights, Illinois, retired as professor emeritus at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine after 38 years as professor of anatomy and cell biology, ending in 2014. His long tenure at Loyola included being a department chair, dean of the graduate school at the medical center, and director of musculoskeletal research in the department of orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation. After retirement he attended Chicago Theological Seminary full-time and graduated with the M.Div. degree; he is ordained by the Chicago Classis of the RCA. He received Level I certification for clinical pastoral care at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where he served as a

chaplain in the emergency department. He now volunteers at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in the department of university ministry. There he does one-on-one work as a spiritual director for medical students who choose to work with a guide to seek a deeper understanding of the relationship between faith formation and the practice of medicine.

**Nelson Murphy '68** just completed a 2-plus year assignment as an interim associate conference minister in the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC), primarily supporting the 64 churches of the New Jersey and Chesapeake Associations, UCC. With his wife, Sandie, he moved to Yardley, Pennsylvania, to be within an hour's drive of all five of their grandchildren living in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

## 70s

**Donald Steele '72** had his play *Mother's Day* produced by the theatre department at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 24, 26 and 27, 2022. It was available online as well.

**Gerry Swieringa '72** will be retiring as rector of St. Brendan's Anglican Church in November. He reports that he and his wife, **Peg Francis '73 Swieringa**, have no concrete plans beyond that point, but look forward eagerly to the spaciousness of life.

**David Cluley '75** was appointed to the board of directors of the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance. The NLEA works to facilitate

## 10 UNDER 10 AWARDS

*Hope College and the Alumni Board of Directors are proud to announce the recipients of the fourth annual 10 Under 10 Awards. The awards are designed to honor alumni within 10 years of graduation making significant contributions in the local and global community by living out their calling.*

[hope.edu/10under10](http://hope.edu/10under10)

**SARA DUHR '12 BAZYDLO**  
**EDEN COLLINS '12**  
**JOSH COOPER '17**  
**ALLIX HUTCHISON '17**  
**ALECIA IVERY '13**  
**NICHOLAS LEONARD '12**  
**ISABEL MORRIS '15**  
**SAMANTHA POON '15**  
**MARCO TORI '12**  
**ALEXANDRA VROOM '19**



## CLASSNOTES

economic development in Michigan's Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet counties.

**Al Fedak '75** and his wife, **Susan Hermance '75 Fedak**, were featured in The Daily Gazette of Schenectady, New York, on Tuesday, Feb. 8: *50-Plus Living: Sue and Al Fedak – Lives filled with music*. Al has more than 300 choral and organ works in print; more than 100 of his hymn tunes appear in hymnals and collections throughout the world; and he is currently booked with commissions. Susan was the conductor of the Burnt Hills Oratorio Society for three years and has started her own chorus. She also maintains a voice studio at Schenectady County Community College.

**Daryl Johnson '75** reports that after 30 years of painting and raising a family in New Hampshire, she has moved to New Orleans where she maintains an art studio near Bayou St. John. She's joined by her husband of 40 years, Corky Benson.

**Dawn Erickson '77 Brown** and her husband, Ron, recently followed their daughter's family to Indianapolis, Indiana, to be near them. She reports that although they loved living in Oregon, the pull of grandchildren was stronger.

**Bart Neckers '77** recently retired after a 40-year career as a family dentist in North East, Pennsylvania. He intends to spend more time with his spouse (Ann), children and grandchildren, and playing in senior softball leagues. Ann and Bart have traveled to seven European countries with Senior Softball USA to promote the sport through competition and instruction.

### 80s

**Eva Dean Folkert '83** who retired this spring as interim director of public affairs and marketing, received a Meritorious Service Award from the Hope College Alumni Association on Monday, April 25. She had served in multiple capacities at Hope since 1985, including as senior administrator for women's athletics, director of women's athletics and co-director of athletics; women's golf coach; assistant professor of kinesiology; and director of communication services.

**Beth Anderson '83 Robbins** is the data and assessment supervisor for Collierville Schools in Collierville, Tennessee. She was the principal of West Collierville Middle School for the past five years.

**Margie Oklatner '85 McCarty** moved to Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, in July 2020 and is the senior pastor of the Good Shepherd Buckhorn Charge. The charge has several active social ministries, including a diaper ministry, Bundles of Blessings. Margie sings with the Bloomsburg Singers. She was a featured soloist in "Serenade for Strings" this spring. She looks forward to a trip to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, and a few days exploring Italy in September.

**Mike "Mickey" McVickar '85** reports that his Intro to Art History class must have had some positive influence on him; approximately 20 pieces of art from his and his husband's art collection will be featured in the exhibition "As Is: Beauty and the Body in Contemporary Art" at the Grand Valley State Universally Arts Gallery from Aug. 26 through Nov. 4. He reports that they are thrilled to be sharing some of their collection with the West Michigan community.

**Mark Rebhan '85** has been named chief strategy officer at MRM-Detroit. MRM is a full-service marketing services agency, and is part of McCann Worldgroup.

### 90s

**Kristy Balogh '90 Sidlar** celebrated her one-year heart transplant anniversary by publishing her first book: *Change of Heart: My Journey of Transplantation, Revelation, and Transformation*.

**Karen Kooyman '91 Abraham** retired in June after 31 years in public education. She taught elementary school for 17 years and spent the last 14 years as an elementary school principal. She plans to continue working part-time in schools along with traveling.

**Jamie Jeluso '92 Sitarz** of Littleton, Colorado, published her research titled "Chemotherapy-Induced Alopecia: Examining Patient Perceptions and Adherence to Home Haircare Recommendations" in the April 2022 edition of *The Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*. She also presented her abstract as a poster presentation at the Oncology Nursing Society's National

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Conference in Anaheim, California. She has been an oncology nurse for 29 years and lives with her husband of 24 years in Colorado. They have two children, 16 and 19 years old.

**Ryan McFall '93** who is a faculty member in the computer science department at Hope College, received the college's Janet L. Andersen Award for Teaching Excellence in January 2022. This award recognizes specific activities or aspects of teaching, rather than generic "effective teaching," but the emphasis is still on recognizable excellence, and is named after Janet Andersen, professor of mathematics from 1991 to 2005.

**Jennifer Salls '97 Bailey** won a state teaching award and one of eight national teaching awards from the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization. She is a second grade teacher at Argyle Central School in Argyle, New York, and inspires creativity, curiosity and science exploration in her students using vermicomposting in the classroom, identifying maple trees to tap on the school grounds and analyzing school garden sites for pollinator habitats.

**William Kintz '97** was promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve in a ceremony at USCG Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Currently serving as the first-ever senior reserve officer at CG Cyber Command, he is the architect of the service's Reserve Cyber Program which engages reserve members from across the country using a groundbreaking Remote Participation paradigm to form a surge workforce focusing on protecting both the nation's critical maritime infrastructure and Coast Guard networks from impact by malicious cyber attacks. This fall he will be transitioning the role of Chief of the Coast Guard's Reserve Intelligence program. He is one of only 35 actively serving reserve captains within the 7,000-member Coast Guard Reserve Component.

**Timothy Su '97** is the chief information officer at Partnership to End Addiction in midtown Manhattan. This January marked his 15th year working at the organization. He and his family continue to reside in New York City and actively serves in their local church.

**Amy Strassburger '98 VanStee** has taken on a new role as vice president of content and community at Expressable, which provides online speech therapy to children and adults around the country. She's responsible for the creation of digital content that educates, supports, and inspires people wherever they are in their communication journey.

**William Kim '99** was appointed as the city attorney for the City of Flint, Michigan.

**Dana Marolt '99** has graduated from Tulane University summa cum laude with her master's degree in social work. She started her career as a child and adolescent therapist specialist at PRA Perakis, Resis, Woods, and Associates back in her home town of Crystal Lake, Illinois, this summer, relocating from Madison, Wisconsin, after spending the last 17 years there. She reports that she is excited for this new chapter in her life.

## 00s

**Joel Murr '01** is the director of community health advancement for Bronson Healthcare, the largest employer and leading healthcare system in Southwest Michigan.

**Benjamin Tennant '01** and **Simone Schartow '01 Tennant** announce the birth of Beatrice Joy on Aug. 24, 2021. Also in 2021, Simone completed training as a yoga instructor with Yoga Abbey, and Benjamin finished a two-year program of training as a spiritual director.

**Marta Liang '02** and Ken Gibson announce the birth of Gabriel in October 2021. He joins a big sister, Hannah.

**Beth Lomasney '02 McDermott** published *Figure 1*, a poetry collection now available from Pine Row Press.

**Elly Douglass '04 Jordan** received the Hope for Humanity Award from the alumni H-Club on Monday, April 25. A member of the cross country and track teams as a student, she is a supervising attorney at the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, leading a team in providing trauma-informed legal services to refugee and immigrant children who have experienced

**Becky Renner '00 Anderson** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been honored as one of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors for 2022 by *Forbes* and SHOOK Research.

A financial advisor with Edward Jones, she ranked seventh among Top Women Wealth Advisors Best in State in Michigan. To compile the national 2022 list of 1,377 women, SHOOK Research analysts conducted more than 16,000 interviews with nominees. Criteria included client service, compliance records, community involvement, the investment process, assets under care and tenure in the industry.

persecution and human trafficking.

**Lydia Riddell '05 Nelson** and **Walt Nelson '05** announce the birth of Benjamin on Jan. 5, 2022. He joins an older sister and brother.

**Ann Druham '06** is joining the American School of Dubai as a high school special education teacher. She has previously taught in international schools in Qatar, Indonesia, and most recently in Shenzhen, China.

**Johanna Swanson '06** and Jeffrey Stearns announce the birth of Adam Joseph on Dec. 8, 2020. Johanna is a program coordinator for the college access program office at Calvin University.

**Nicole Prince '07** is the editorial director at a women's retailer and recently started a passion project called "double dutch." This subscription-based newsletter features personal essays (infertility/loss which Nicole is journeying through, her experience as an adoptee, etc.), recipes her friends beg for, and perfect product recommendations.

**Tally Reeverts '07** and Sarah Wodin-Schwartz announce the birth of Dane Hiram in February 2022.

**John Dulmes '08** was recently appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the



# CLASSNOTES

Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC). The council assists the state in developing, maintaining, implementing, supporting, and promoting emergency response principles, strategies, and practices. He is the executive director of the Michigan Chemistry Council.

**Amanda Cooper '08 Taylor** and John Taylor announce the birth of Lily Hope on April 14, 2022.

**Krista Homakie '09 Francis** and Chris Francis announce the birth of Milo Allan on Feb. 17, 2022.

**Heather Urling '09 Golin** and Zachary Golin announce the birth of Emma Joan on March 23, 2022.

## 10s

**Jeff DeYoung '11** has accepted a position with West Michigan Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Jeff completed his surgical residency program at Denver Health in June. He reports that he is excited to return to Michigan and begin his surgical career working in one of the four offices of this Holland-based practice.

**Byron Patton '11** and **Megan Spitler '11 Patton** announce the birth of Lucas David Patton on Feb. 27, 2022.

**Clayton Sommers '11** and **Katlyn Prince '11 Sommers** announce the birth of Ada June on Feb. 23, 2022. She joins two big brothers, Braxton and William, and a big sister, Mayzie.

**Leah Hottel '11 Templeton** and Sean Templeton announce the birth of Sean Patrick on March 29, 2021. He joins big sister, Bridget.

**Allyssa Wagner '12 Sweers** received a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Northern Michigan University on May 3, 2022.

**Erik Durham '13** was recently promoted to director of creative and brand development at B2 Outlet Stores, an off-price retail chain with more than 20 locations in Michigan.

**Carly Nelson '13** is a legislative assistant for Senator Becky Massey in the Tennessee General Assembly.

**David Heinze '17** won first place in The National Competition in Organ Accompaniment sponsored by Schoenstein & Co. Organ Builders and the American Guild of Organists, Washington, D.C., Chapter. The competition was held at the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in D.C. David, along with three other finalists, was chosen from a recorded round to compete in Washington. Most organ competitions focus on solo organ repertoire and not on what most organists do on Sunday mornings. The live round was challenging and each finalist led the audience in two contrasting hymns of their choice, and then accompanied a psalm sung to Anglican chant, a vocal solo, and choral work. They were each given three hours of practice time on the organ, and each had a 15-minute rehearsal with a soloist followed by a 30-minute rehearsal with the eight-member professional test choir and the choir director.

**Elisabeth Brewington '14** has completed her master's in healthcare management and public health from the University of Maine. She works at the Maine CDC in infectious disease epidemiology.

**Ellen Milroy '14 Frost** and Jack Frost announce the birth of Jack Milroy on Jan. 20, 2022.

**Jessica Culbertson '14 Reed** received a Master of Public Health degree from Northern Illinois University. She recently started a new position as a training and technical assistance specialist at Prevention First in the Chicago area. She and her husband welcomed their first child, Andrew Edward, on Oct. 13, 2020.

**Emilie O'Connor '15** was recently published as a contributor in *Heaven and Nature Sing*, a 365-day devotional edited by Sharon Brodin. This devotional is a Christian daily devotional with nature and outdoor adventure themes. *Heaven and Nature Sing* is a collaboration with writers

and artists from all over the U.S. and around the world who work in for-profit or non-profit outdoor industry or ministry organizations (and a few who are simply outdoor lovers).

**Abigayle Schnell '15** received her Ph.D. in pharmacology and physiology from Saint Louis University and is currently a postdoctoral research scholar at the University of Iowa Research Foundation.

**Sarah Ratliff '16 McGrath** and Russell McGrath announce the birth of William on Jan. 20, 2022.

**Richard May '17** and **Hannah Pikaart '18** were married in July 2022 in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

**Emily Kain '18** graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine on May 13 with an MD degree and joined the pediatric residency program at Case Western University at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, in June.

**Ashley Warner '18** received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Davenport University.

**Rachel Dion '19** and **Benjamin Douma '20** were married on April 30, 2022, in Shelby Township, Michigan.

## 20s

**Jasmine Love '20** graduated from the University of Michigan School of Social Work in December of 2021 with her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and is now a Limited Licensed Master Social Worker (LLMSW) as a therapist at the Children's Advocacy Center of Kalamazoo County. Jasmine did a psychology internship through the Ottawa County location in Holland during her time at Hope, and reports that she is excited to be back in the environment. She published research on child maltreatment during her time in graduate school and continues to do research with her colleagues at the University of Michigan on trauma and child maltreatment. She also served as a member/executive board member for the University of Michigan





**Allison Utting '18 Burkhardt** of Hudsonville, Michigan, who teaches United States history at West Middle School in the Byron Center Public Schools, was the state of Michigan's recipient of a 2022 James Madison Graduate Fellowship, awarded by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

Recognized as one of America's most prestigious awards in constitutional history and government for secondary teachers, James Madison Fellowships support the graduate study of American history by aspiring and experienced secondary school teachers of American history, American government and civics. The foundation offers only one fellowship per state per year.

The fellowships fund up to \$24,000 towards a master's degree to individuals desiring to become outstanding educators of the American Constitution. As part of the program, each fellow also attends a four-week summer institute (running June 11-July 8 this year) on the Constitution held in Washington, D.C.

Burkhardt is pursuing a Master of Arts degree with a specialization in teaching American history and government through Ashland University. She anticipates graduating this coming December.

School of Social Work's Child Welfare Student Association and was a case reviewer/shift leader for CPS for a year during graduate school.

**Anna Kate Peterson '21** is working as the development events assistant at the American Enterprise Institute after completing the Fourth Fellows program in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Marketea Abbott '22** is working for Detroit Regional Dollars for Scholars and is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Wayne State University.

**Carli Adams '22** is pursuing a master's in occupational therapy at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

**Janelle Baar '22** is a registered nurse on the cardiology floor at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She and Connor Seifert were married in August.

**Bridget Bateman '22** is a community coordinator with Small Giants Community.

**Mara Benitez '22** is an engineer with Toole Design in Denver, Colorado.

**Jeffrey Bikus '22** is a financial analyst at Glanbia Performance Nutrition.

**Sabrina Blank '22** is pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Wayne State University.

**Kendall Boouma '22** and Nate Alderman were married on Saturday, July 2, 2022.

**Kelly Bosis '22** is pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati.

**Carolina Burkhardt '22** is a structural project engineer 1 at AHBL, Inc.

**Kaelin Callow '22** is attending physician assistant school at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois.

**Emma Clark '22** is pursuing a master's in voice performance at Bowling Green State University.

**Emma Cole '22** is pursuing an occupational therapy degree at Western Michigan University.

**Caryn Dannah '22** is a FOCUS missionary on a college campus.

**Mikenna Davidson '22** is pursuing a master's in counseling psychology degree with a child and adolescent concentration at The Chicago

School of Professional Psychology.

**Holly Denouden '22** was married on Saturday, June 11, and is a product engineer for Steelcase Inc.

**Casey Doolittle '22** is pursuing a computer science and software engineering master's at Auburn University, where he will have a research assistantship.

**Ryan Flynn '22** is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Belmont University.

**Chloe Haskins '22** is pursuing a Master of Science degree in speech-language pathology at Grand Valley State University.

**Lindsey Heldema '22** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Grand Valley State University.

**Abigail Hol '22** will be teaching mathematics at Tolleson Union High School in Arizona.

**Judith-May Hooker '22** is an audit associate at BDO USA in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Mackenzie Horn '22** is pursuing a DVM degree at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Maggie Houseman '22** is a transitional foster care case manager at Bethany Christian Services in Holland, Michigan.

**Chloe Hutchison '22** is a nurse in the pediatric cardiothoracic intensive care unit at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital.

**Sydney Jackson '22** will pursue a master's in bioengineering – medical product engineering and will be a bioelectrical engineering intern at Diekema Hamonn Architecture and Engineering.

**Megan Jacobs '22** is a program director at the Bethlehem Intergenerational Center.

**Fiona Johnson '22** is teaching high school mathematics for Jenison Public Schools.

**Emma Johnson '22** is pursuing a master's in athletic training at Northern Michigan University.

**Cody Kalahar '22** is attending the Grand Valley State University Doctor of Physical Therapy program.





## NSF RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HONORS GRADS

A graduating senior and two recent graduates have received recognition through the prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation this year.

**Josephine Surel '22** and **Ethan Heyboer '20** have received fellowships. **Eleda Plouch '20** has received honorable mention.

Surel majored in engineering with a concentration in chemical engineering, and minored in chemistry and mathematics, and will pursue a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Oxford in England beginning this coming fall. Heyboer and Plouch are each pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

[hope.edu/nsf-honors](https://hope.edu/nsf-honors)

**Taemin Kang '22** is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Sophie Kieffer '22** is an ICU nurse at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in the medical intensive care unit.

**Andrea Koh '22** is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Texas Women's University in Houston, Texas.

**Sara Koster '22** is a technical sales engineer for Keyence in the mobile computing solutions group.

**Julia Lalain '22** is pursuing a doctorate in occupational therapy at Western Michigan University.

**Claire Lelkert '22** is pursuing a JD degree from the Indiana University School of Law. She and **Chapin Thiel '21** were married on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

**Emma Lindsey '22** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Western Michigan University.

**Abigail Lockie '22** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in children, youth and family, and a play therapist certification at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

**Claire Lundy '22** is a software engineer for SpinDance.

**Jonathan Mann '22** is pursuing an MFA degree in creative writing at Butler University.

**Margaret Martino '22** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree on the forensic social work track at Aurora University.

**Paige Massa '22** is working as a phlebotomist in Ohio and was married on Sunday, July 17.

**Carlie McNiff '22** will pursue a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan.

**Hannah Mitroff '22** is pursuing a master's in public health with a focus in dietetics at the University of Michigan.

**Alyssa Morehouse '22** is a chemical biological radiological nuclear specialist in the U.S. Army.

**Hannah O'Neil '22** will be living, studying and working in Crete.

**Amy Osterbaan '22** is pursuing a clinical Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Addison Panse '22** is pursuing a master's in occupational therapy at Radford University in Virginia.

**Josiah Peterson '22** is an engineer at Prein & Newhof.

**Alyssa Potyraj '22** is attending Florida Gulf Coast University for Physical Therapy School.

**Erin Ramey '22** is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at Ohio State University.

**Jonas Rees '22** is an operations specialist at CapTrust Financial Advisors.

**Mackenzie Rhode '22** is pursuing a master's in library and information science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Julia Robleski '22** is a business analyst at Meijer in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Luke Rufenacht '22** is pursuing a Master of Education, Leadership, Organizations and Entrepreneurship degree (ELOE) at Harvard University.

**Hope Schaaf '22** is a Spanish immersion teacher for Jenison Public Schools.

**Emma Schaefer '22** is pursuing a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Cassidy Schumacher '22** is the director of volleyball operations at Montana State University and will be pursuing a master's in sport and coaching sciences.

**Hayley Scollard '22** is a registered nurse at Mary Free Bed Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the medically complex unit.

**Maria Seidl '22** is the youth prevention and coalition specialist at Arbor Circle.

**Hannah Smith '22** is a financial analyst at General Motors.

**Madison E. Smith '22** is pursuing a Doctor of Occupational Therapy degree.

**Madison R. Smith '22** is pursuing a JD and MBA degree at the University of Toledo on a full-ride scholarship.

**Isabel Snoap '22** is pursuing a DPT degree from Grand Valley State University.

**Megan Summerfield '22** is a marketer/business developer at Cento Anni in Holland, Michigan.

**Matthew Summerfield '22** will be pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Iowa, where he will be researching cures for epilepsy.

**Josephine Surel '22** is pursuing a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Oxford.



## GRADUATING SENIORS RECEIVE FULBRIGHTS

Three graduating seniors have received awards to go abroad to pursue graduate study, teach or conduct research through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

**Vicente Bickel '22** will pursue graduate studies in Spain through a Fulbright Fellowship; **Anne Bruebach '22** will teach in Bulgaria through a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship; and **Rachael Grochowski '22** has received a research Fulbright Fellowship for a project that she will conduct in Japan.

[hope.edu/fulbright-seniors](https://hope.edu/fulbright-seniors)

**Hannah Tegtmeier '22** is pursuing an occupational therapy degree at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois.

**Day Tripp '22** is a program commissioner with Transatlantic Scout Council.

**Natalie Trout '22** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Western Michigan University.

**Seth Van Blois '22** is an audit assistant at Deloitte.

**Michael Walsh '22** is a process support engineer at Gentex.

**Emma West '22** is working on the medical intensive care unit at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital.

**Haley Whitmore '22** is pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree at Grand Valley State University.

**Kamaro Wilcox '22** is working for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students as a campus missionary.

**Jacob Willemsen '22** is a registered nurse in the emergency department of Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Mariya Zalma '22** is a residence director for the University of Minnesota Duluth in the housing and residence life department.

**Mikayla Zobeck '22** is a commercial sales specialist at Dow Chemical.

## NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Hope College Alumni Association Board of Directors appointed five new members and elected three new officers during its April meeting.

The board's new members are: **Tonzia Buor '05** of Denver, Colorado; junior **Alyson Davis '24** of Palatine, Illinois; **Jonathan Hatfield '09** of Grand Rapids, Michigan; **Dr. Ken Janda '73** of San Diego, California; and **Leah Wicander '07** of Madison, Wisconsin.

Newly elected as the board's three officers are: president, **Tracey Forbes '03 Hoesch** of Ann Arbor, Michigan; vice president, **Tonisha Gordon '09** of Perrysburg, Ohio; and secretary, **Dr. Kiersten Krause '97** of Holland, Michigan. The outgoing officers are president, **Dr. Jon Soderstrom '76** of Madison, Connecticut, whose tenure on the board has concluded; vice president, **Lindsay Allward-Theimer '11** of Atlanta, Georgia; and secretary, **Anna Leach '12** Hartge of Washington, D.C.

**Grace Purdue '22** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, formerly Senior Class Representative, was appointed representative of the most recent graduating class. **Naod Estifanos '23** of Traverse City, Michigan, formerly Junior Class Representative, was appointed Senior Class Representative.

In addition to Soderstrom, the board members who have completed their service are **Jonathan Liepe '91** of Colorado Springs, Colorado; **Terrell Solberg '21** of Traverse City; **Carl Toren '79** of Lynnwood, Illinois; and **Susan Renner '90 Williams** of Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition, board member **Lenora Vandenberg '64** Koelbel of Laredo, Texas, died on Nov. 6, 2021.

[hope.edu/alumni-board-2022](https://hope.edu/alumni-board-2022)



Tonzia Buor '05



Alyson Davis '24



Jonathan Hatfield '09



Dr. Ken Janda '73



Leah Wicander '07





# IN MEMORIAM

[magazine.hope.edu/summer-2022/inmemoriam](https://magazine.hope.edu/summer-2022/inmemoriam)

As we shared in the Spring '22 issue, we have reluctantly adopted the practice — followed for several years by many college and university alumni publications — of including only brief notices of the death of members of the Hope family, except when some additional information is needed to explain their connection to the college.

We did not make that change lightly, particularly since your editor of these past 33-plus years remembers and prefers the days long past when we included full obituaries for everyone. The fact remains,

though, that as decades have passed and the college has grown, there have been ever more death notices. Although to compensate we had for some time been including only a portion of the biographical information that we received, they of late had even come to comprise half of the entire classnotes section.

Please know, though, that, as has been true for years, the full obituaries are on the college's *News from Hope College* web pages, and will continue to be available for viewing from anywhere at any time.

## 40s

### Howard DeMaster '48

July 5, 2022, Shawano, Wisconsin

### Mary Brower '48 Post

March 15, 2022, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

### James Den Herder '49

March 7, 2022, Naples, Florida

### Mary Hepp '49 Dunning

July 8, 2022, Westerville, Ohio

### Judith Mulder '49 Van Zanten

March 2022, LaGrange, Illinois

### Charles Sligh III '51

April 15, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Harriet Essenburg '51 Van Reken

May 22, 2022, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

### Robert Dennison '52

March 5, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Donald DeYoung '52

March 30, 2022, Plainwell, Michigan

### Jacqueline VanHeest '52 DeYoung

April 8, 2022, Kalamazoo, Michigan

### Erna Laing '52

July 6, 2022, Nashua, New Hampshire

### Hendrik Parson '52

March 21, 2022, Gardnerville, Nevada

### Charles Wissink '52

Jan. 21, 2022, Boca Raton, Florida

### Russell Block '53

March 2, 2022, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey

### Verlaine Brown '53

July 21, 2022, Newfane, Vermont

### Dorothy Moerdyk '53 Hoekstra

June 15, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### William Sailer '53

April 3, 2022, Deal Island, Maryland

### Donald Shull '54

June 22, 2022, Portage, Michigan

### Glenn Straatsma '54

April 29, 2022, Reno, Nevada

### Harold Goldzung Sr. '55

Feb. 25, 2022, Norton, Massachusetts

### James Hutton '55

May 8, 2022, Albany, New York

### Ruth Pruis '56 Boender

March 11, 2022, Sheldon, Iowa

### Robert N. DeYoung '56

Aug. 1, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Marcia Veldman '56 Thompson

April 29, 2022, Ann Arbor, Michigan

### Warren Buitendorp '57

May 13, 2021, Berlin, Maryland

### Janet Tuttle '57 Faulstich

Feb. 4, 2022, Yarmouth, Maine

### David Kinkema '57

June 9, 2022, North Canton, Ohio

### Dawn Phillips '58 Heyer

March 24, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Wayne Nyboer '58

June 22, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Corwin Bredeweg '59

March 25, 2022, Midland, Michigan

### Franklin McCarthy '59

March 8, 2022, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## 50s

### Phyllis Sherman '50 Booi

July 5, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Henrietta Weener '50 Bruggers

June 25, 2022, New Orleans, Louisiana

### John Dinger '50

April 10, 2022, Zeeland, Michigan

### Marilyn Wolbrink '50 Koop

March 22, 2022, Holland, Michigan

### Charles Mulder '50

Feb. 24, 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan

### Elizabeth Koch '50 Robinson

March 28, 2022, Trotwood, Ohio

### Carl Nelke '51

March 25, 2022, Columbia, New Jersey

## 60s

### Walter Johnson '60

May 12, 2022, Laguna Niguel, California

### Gary Raterink '60

July 16, 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan



## Bruce Vander Mel '60

April 5, 2022, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

## Lee Henry Wenke '60

June 30, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Bruce Beimers '62

March 18, 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan

## Nancy Guldenschuh '62 Zimmer

March 24, 2022, Rochester, New York

## Sharon VanEerfen '63 Bos

March 3, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Robert Brookmann '63 Looman

March 15, 2022, Saint Charles, Missouri

## J. Paul Teusink '64

Dec. 11, 2021, New York, New York

## Margie Otto '65 Meyer

May 10, 2022, Spring Lake, Michigan

## John Ver Steeg '65

June 10, 2022, Kalamazoo, Michigan

## Gregory DePree '66

March 23, 2022, Estero, Florida

## Henry Dykema '67

March 1, 2022, Grant, Michigan

## Calvin Kempker '68

April 7, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Lenora DeBoer '69 Ridder

March 19, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## David Ross '69

May 22, 2022, Rochester, New York

## David Styf '69

July 11, 2022, Marietta, Georgia

## Stephen VanderWeele '69

May 2022, Fort Worth, Texas

## 70s

## Laura Boyd '70

July 8, 2022, Kalamazoo, Michigan

## Brian Gibson '71

June 14, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Dale Muyskens '71

March 1, 2022, Athens, Michigan

## Thomas De Cair '72

June 12, 2022, St. Pete Beach, Florida

## Robert Hoffman '72

April 19, 2022, Muskegon, Michigan

## Laurel Dekker '72 Kempkers

April 1, 2022, Hamilton, Michigan

## Ronald Deenik '73

July 15, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Justine Emerson '74

April 17, 2022, Juneau, Alaska

## Greg Gronwall '74

May 1, 2022, Lawrenceburg, Indiana

## Wes Wilhelmsen '74

Dec. 14, 2020, Hopewell Junction, New York

## Mary Vande Bunte '76 Ross

March 26, 2022, Bath, Michigan

## Robert Baker II '79

April 21, 2022, Umatilla, Florida

## Harold Delhagen '79

March 26, 2022, Webster, New York

## 80s

## Jack Onk '86

May 7, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Kimberly Taylor '87 Simons

April 21, 2022, Westfield, Indiana

## 90s

## Karen Zienert '90

March 18, 2022, Niles, Michigan

## Christopher Collins '92

April 21, 2022, Fowlerville, Michigan

## Jennifer Donnelly '92

June 10, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Ami Goding '93

June 20, 2022, Holland, Michigan

## Kathleen Corcoran '96 Varboncoeur

March 22, 2022, Muskegon, Michigan

## Matthew Tailford '97

May 20, 2022, Valparaiso, Indiana

## 00s

## Samantha Hyde '04 Knight

April 9, 2022, Mattawan, Michigan

## 10s

## Anna Mulder '10 Nieboer

May 21, 2022, Kalamazoo, Michigan

## Sympathy to the family and friends of

## James Becksvoort

April 15, 2022, Holland, Michigan

James Becksvoort retired from the Hope College physical plant department.

## Connie Brummel

July 19, 2022, Holland, Michigan

Connie Brummel was a former director of the Hope College CASA Program.

## Leonard Ericks

June 21, 2022, Holland, Michigan

Leonard Ericks retired from Hope College Creative Dining.

## Bryant Hichwa

April 30, 2022, The Sea Ranch, California

Bryant Hichwa was a faculty member of the Hope College Department of Physics from 1975 to 1985.

## Jon Huiskens

April 21, 2022, Jenison, Michigan

Jon Huiskens retired from Hope in 2011 after more than 40 years as the Hope College registrar.

## Marjorie Maas

July 17, 2022, Holland, Michigan

Marjorie Maas and her husband, Leonard, received Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Hope in 2001.





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## WELCOME!

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## EVENTS

*Please check online for the most up-to-date event information!*

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

Join us October 21–22, 2022, as we combine Homecoming and Family Weekend into one big weekend. More details will be online at:

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



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