

NEWS FROM

HOPE COLLEGE

SUMMER 2023

VOLUME 55, NO. 1

STILL WATERS RUN DEEP

Exploring the AI revolution
pages 24–27

DISTINCTIVE
HOPE





GOLD STARS

Hope has earned a STARS Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. While achieving the standard in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System is the headline, the college's journey from aspiration, to Bronze (2012), to Silver (2017), to Gold reflects something more significant. It is the result of sustained effort by faculty, staff, students and alumni across campus and years to identify ways large and small to be good stewards of Creation, from simply recycling, to installing energy-efficient windows and lightbulbs, to adding trees and plant-bedecked roofs to make Hope not only figuratively but literally more green.

hope.edu/sustainingsustainability

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ON THE COVER

To illustrate this issue's story about artificial intelligence, we decided to put **Adobe Photoshop** beta's *Generative Fill* to a test with simple narrative commands to add a pond in front of Graves Hall — and make the lighting more dramatic, too. The seamless result, rendered in the blink of an eye, illustrates both promise and peril. Hope College is not only navigating the brave new AI world of wondrous creation and morphed reality, but committed to producing graduates equipped to do the same. (Please turn to the back cover to see the original image.)

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----|--------------|
| 2 | DISTINCTIVE HOPE | 7 | CAMPUS SCENE |
| 5 | FROM THE PRESIDENT | 43 | CLASSNOTES |
| 6 | QUOTE, UNQUOTE | 50 | IN MEMORIAM |

FEATURES

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 9 | POPULAR PODCAST CELEBRATES VISION OF HOPE FORWARD | 24 | BEING SMART ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE |
| 10 | LEADING THROUGH STORM AND SUN WITH HOPE | 28 | SPERA: FINDING ART IN THE UNSEEN |
| 16 | GEOPHYSICS SOFTWARE IS A GAME-CHANGER | 32 | SPERA: DEUTERONOMY AND THE SEARCH FOR TRUE PROPHETS |
| 18 | SPRING SPORTS CAP TROPHY-WINNING YEAR | 36 | SPERA: BETTER TEACHING THROUGH CHEMISTRY |
| 20 | THEATRE FELLOWSHIP HELPS STUDENT'S DREAM FOR ZIMBABWE | 40 | SORORITY CONNECTION SAVES A LIFE |

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family of Hope College,

Earlier this summer, a new Gallup poll reported that confidence in higher education has sunk to a historic low. Only about a third of Americans express confidence in the nation's colleges and universities. Public confidence decreased by more than 20 percentage points in the past eight years alone and, notably, the poll found confidence dropped across all demographic groups – regardless of age, gender, education level or political affiliation. It doesn't matter who you are; nearly everyone has lost hope in higher education.



The question is: Why? What's going on here? The Gallup report cited two key reasons: the skyrocketing cost of tuition and the increasingly partisan nature of educational institutions.

News from Hope College has a tradition of featuring the college's presidents four years into their service, mirroring students' time at the college. As we reflected on some of the key themes of the last four years, it is clear that two of the major things God has called us to work on are precisely what's needed to restore hope in higher education.

Hope Forward is our vision to solve the broken business model of higher education, removing the barrier of tuition costs and kickstarting a cycle of generosity that perpetuates access into the Hope community. It has been two years since the public launch of this ambition and we are thrilled by its reception. The best part has been getting to know the students in the *Hope Forward* cohorts who are already passionately and eloquently giving life to the *Hope Forward* vision. And we've only just begun!

When it comes to the increasingly partisan nature of higher education, we at Hope are dedicated to pursuing a middle way. In a divided world that attempts to force everyone and every organization to pick a "side," we strive to be a place that can only be labeled as decidedly following Jesus, not "right" or "left." We want to teach students *how* to think, not *what* to think. We want students to feel safe expressing their convictions and be curious enough to listen to convictions different from their own. We can do all of this confidently because of our Christian mission, which gives us a common understanding of human dignity.

This may not make us popular, but we pray it makes us faithful. Faithful to Jesus, who himself defied political categorization. We also pray that it makes us a place that can restore hope in higher education, as it frees us to put big questions on the table and seek truth, welcoming of differences and unhindered by a particular agenda.

As we look to the years ahead, I'm thrilled to continue building the *Hope Forward* model and seeking the middle way. As befits our name, Hope College is restoring hope to the world. And I'm honored to continue serving the college in partnership with all of you.

Spera in Deo!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt A. Scogin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" being more prominent.

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 the Class of 2023 concluded their journey as undergraduates on Sunday, May 7, they received encouragement and advice from two recently retired or soon-to-retire mentors whose combined service to Hope totals more than 80 years.

The day opened with the college's 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Baccalaureate services in Dimnent Memorial Chapel, which featured an address by Dr. Stephen Hemenway, who retired at the end of the school year as the Betty Roelofs '53 Miller Professor of English after serving at Hope since 1972. It culminated in Commencement at 3 p.m. at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium with featured speaker Dr. Richard Frost, who retired in 2022 as vice president for student development and dean of students after serving at the college since 1989.

Both connected their remarks to the meaning behind the name of the college that they and the graduates shared together.

"Graduates of the Class of 2023, may you all have hope and blessings for a fantastic future," Hemenway said. "In the words of Romans 15:13, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'"

Hemenway presented a personalized list of five "W" words with which he framed advice that he promised that he would also heed in a purposeful retirement.

"When I was editor of my high school newspaper, I learned the importance of the five W words: who, what, where, when, why," he said. "My five W words for you and me are: welcome, wonder, weirdness, worldliness and worship."

“*But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.*”

"[T]hese suggestions are also advice I give myself, since we are all moving from capital H Hope to lower-case hope today," Hemenway said. "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength," says Isaiah 40:31. "They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Frost focused on three thematic lessons encapsulating the graduates' time at the college: transformative relationships, the liberal arts as preparation for a lifetime of learning, and accepting that not everything is easy. None, he noted, would be achievable without hope.

"Hope is the ingredient that allows us each to push through the skeptics and cynics of our culture today, enabling us to have transformative relationships," Frost said. "Hope is the ability to see and understand that God created all of us differently. Hope allows us to extend to others grace and understanding."

"Hope allows us to realize that a lifetime of learning invites us to become more of ourselves, building bridges daily to serve an ever-changing world," he said. "Hope provides us with a faith that in the best of times or the darkest of times we are never alone and that God is with us."

The approximately 590 graduates participating in the Commencement ceremony included students from throughout the United States and around the world. Also during the event, the graduating class presented the "Hope Outstanding Professor Educator" (H.O.P.E.) Award to Dr. Kirk Brumels '88, who is the John H. and Jeanne M. Jacobson Professor of Kinesiology. In addition to his teaching, he conducts research collaboratively with Hope students. Among other service since joining the faculty in 2001, he has also been head athletic trainer, program director for the Athletic Training Education Program and chaired the Department of Kinesiology.

hope.edu/classof23speakers

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL

The college is on the eve of its 162nd academic year, with the members of the incoming Class of 2027 arriving on Friday, Aug. 25, for the start of New Student Orientation that evening.



The rest of the students will begin to return on Sunday, Aug. 27. The Opening Convocation marking the formal start of the school year will be on Sunday, Aug. 27, at 2 p.m., with featured speaker **Becky Starkenburg**, vice president for student formation and dean of students. Classes begin on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

hope.edu/welcomeclassof27

THREE STUDENTS GARNER GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIPS

A total of three Hope students have received highly competitive scholarships from the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, out of only 413 awarded nationwide.

The three Hope recipients are junior **Austin Becksvoort** of Holland, Michigan; senior **Skylar DeWitt** of Hudsonville, Michigan; and senior **Anna Koppin** of Northville, Michigan. Hope is the only college or university in Michigan to have as many as three, and the only liberal arts college in the state to have any, with Becksvoort, DeWitt and Koppin receiving a third of the nine awarded to students attending school in the state. Only 50 institutions in the country had three or more recipients.

hope.edu/threegoldwaterscholars

ASBMB FELLOW NAMED



Dr. Michael Pikaart, professor of chemistry, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Designation as a fellow recognizes outstanding commitment to the ASBMB through participation in the society in addition to accomplishments in research, education, mentorship, diversity and inclusion, advocacy, and service to the scientific community. Of the 20 scientists selected as fellows this year, Pikaart is one of only two from a liberal arts college.

Pikaart is actively involved in the ASBMB, and in collaborative research with students. He directs the college's ASBMB-accredited biochemistry and molecular biology program, and was instrumental in Hope achieving accreditation for the program.

hope.edu/pikaartfellowship



BIG READ AWARDED 10TH GRANT IN A ROW

The award-winning, community-wide NEA Big Read Lakeshore organized by Hope will mark its 10th year with uninterrupted grant support from the nationwide NEA Big Read and an exploration of identity, family, racism and hope.

Running from Monday, Oct. 30, through Saturday, Nov. 18, the Big Read Lakeshore will feature *Homegoing*, by Ghanaian-American author Yaa Gyasi, and The Little Read Lakeshore for children will feature the picture book *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*, by Amanda Gorman and illustrated by Loren Long. For middle readers, the program will feature *The Door of No Return*, by Kwame Alexander, and *New Kid*, by Jerry Craft. New this year, a Mini Read Lakeshore will feature *The More We Get Together*, by Celeste Cortright.

The NEA Big Read Lakeshore has received \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts, one of 62 grants announced on Wednesday, June 14. The program has received a grant from the NEA every year since beginning in 2014, and was the only Michigan recipient this year.

hope.edu/bigread2023

SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOW ELECTED



Dr. Brian Rider, who is an associate professor of kinesiology and director of the exercise science program, has been named a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Selection recognizes outstanding service to the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and distinguished professional achievement in research and/or service. Rider and the other new fellows were honored during the ACSM's 2023 Annual Meeting and World Congress, during a New Fellows Reception on Friday, June 2, in Denver, Colorado.

Rider has been a member of the ACSM since 2012. His research interests include the use of activity monitors to measure and promote physical activity, athlete testing and examining ergogenic aids for enhancing athletic performance.

hope.edu/riderfellowship

YALE FACULTY SEMINAR



Dr. Ernest Cole of the Hope College English faculty was one of only 20 scholars from around the country chosen to participate in the Summer 2023 Faculty Seminar held at Yale University through the Legacies of American Slavery initiative organized by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC).

The June 18-22 seminar has been a resource as Cole, who was born and raised in Sierra Leone, continues his research into the legacies of slavery and colonialism. He is exploring how history, culture and identity relate to cultural and geographic displacement, disillusionment, and the struggle for integration of Africans, primarily in the Americas, during the era of the slave trade, and of African Americans in the United States.

hope.edu/coleyaleseminar



NEUROSCIENCE AWARD

Dr. Leah Chase, professor of biology and chemistry, has received the Career and Lifetime Achievement Award from the international Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience professional organization.

The award is the highest honor presented by FUN, and recognizes outstanding efforts on behalf of undergraduate neuroscience education and research. Chase led the development of the college's interdisciplinary neuroscience program, which became a minor in 2004 and major in 2019, and directed the program for 13 years.

hope.edu/chaseaward

TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Hope College Board of Trustees has elected two new members in addition to reelecting several members.



The new trustees, elected to three-year terms, are: **Debbi Lockhart '82 Jarvis** of Potomac, Maryland, and **Brett Vander Kamp '94** of Holland, Michigan.



Trustees reelected to serve second four-year terms are: Victoria Brunn '84 of Seattle, Washington; Thomas Gordon '08 of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Tim Long '87 of Ada, Michigan; Jim McFarlin '74 of Champaign, Illinois; Leslie Schoon-Monday '93 of Kirkland, Washington; and Carol Girod '81 VanAndel of Ada. Trustees reelected to serve second three-year terms are: Rev.

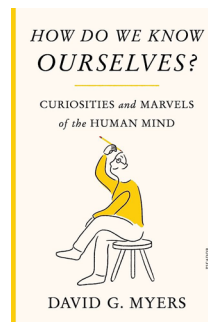
Eddy Aleman of Caledonia, Michigan; Rev. Michael Pitsenberger of Rock Valley, Iowa; and Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton '76 of Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Matthew Wixson '08 of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was elected to a second two-year term as vice chair. Dr. Stephen Boerigter of Los Alamos, New Mexico, is continuing to serve as chair, and Sandra Gaddy of Grand Rapids is continuing to serve as secretary. In addition to Boerigter, Gaddy and Wixson, the board's six-member Executive Committee includes Victoria Brunn '84, chair of the Protecting the Mission Committee; Thomas Gordon '08 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, chair of the Sustaining the Mission Committee; and Andrew Ohm '00 of Seattle, chair of the Living the Mission Committee.

The Trustees who have concluded their service are: Brian Gibbs '84 of Bad Homburg, Germany; Douglas Conant of Chicago, Illinois; and Margaret Miller '86 Willit of Grandville, Michigan.

hope.edu/trustees2023

MYERS BOOK IS A NEXT BIG IDEA



The book *How Do We Know Ourselves? Curiosities and Marvels of the Human Mind* by Hope social psychologist Dr. David Myers has been selected for the Next Big Idea Club, a global subscription community that features recently published, thought-provoking non-fiction books — curated by best-selling authors Malcolm Gladwell, Adam Grant, Susan Cain, and Daniel Pink. The selections are chosen, the club notes, “as the most exciting nonfiction titles of the season.” *How Do We Know Ourselves?* offers answers to questions

ranging from why we misinterpret song lyrics to why it can be so difficult to change someone else's — or one's own — opinion.

hope.edu/myersnextbigidea

REVISIONIST HISTORY PODCAST PRAISES *HOPE FORWARD*



Hope earns praise on best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell's newest *Revisionist History* podcast for taking a revolutionary approach to removing tuition as a barrier for access to college while building generosity and community along the way.

Titled "A Good Circle" and released to the general public on Thursday, June 29, for listening with no charge, the episode explores the vision, impact and potential of the college's *Hope Forward* initiative.

"It's a gamble, but it's a great gamble," Gladwell said of *Hope Forward* while on campus this past spring as he recorded interviews for the episode. "And I am just over the moon that somebody is finally trying to address these deep structural problems in higher education."

Hope Forward is a tuition-free funding model that, once fully implemented, will ask Hope's students to give to the college upon graduation rather than requiring them to pay for their education in advance. Launched in the summer of 2021, it has been piloted across the past two years by 58 students in two cohorts. Fundraising is ongoing to extend *Hope Forward* to the entire student body.

Gladwell had visited campus as a featured participant in the college's March 8-9 Catalyst Summit, which brought together thought leaders from a variety of fields to consider new ideas and spark meaningful conversations about how to fix higher education's broken funding model. Multiple sessions highlighted *Hope Forward* as a case study, with Gladwell emceeding a talk-show style concluding keynote. While at Hope, he recorded interviews with President Matthew A. Scogin '02 and students participating in *Hope Forward* as well as other members of the college community. The podcast also features reflections from Michigan-based, best-selling author Mitch Albom, who was among those who spoke during the Catalyst Summit.

If you are interested in supporting *Hope Forward* or learning more about the initiative, please visit hope.edu/forward



LISTEN TO "A GOOD CIRCLE," THE *REVISIONIST HISTORY* EPISODE THAT EXPLORES THE VISION, IMPACT AND POTENTIAL OF THE COLLEGE'S *HOPE FORWARD* INITIATIVE.



“What a Four Years It’s Been”

President Matthew A. Scogin '02 reflects on his eventful first years in office and priorities for those to come.

By Greg Olgers '87

As he made the introductory remarks during the Baccalaureate service in Dimnent Memorial Chapel on Sunday, May 7, President Matthew A. Scogin '02 admitted to becoming a bit choked up.

He explained that the day’s celebration of the graduating Class of 2023 was bittersweet. He and the members of the class had arrived at the college together in the early fall of 2019, and together learned the ropes and grew in community across the four years since.

“I’ll never get to say again that this class started when I started and went through these first four years with me,” he said. “And what a four years it’s been.”

What a four years, indeed. The span has been marked by some of the most challenging times in recent history, including the COVID-19 pandemic; an increasingly heated national political and cultural climate; and — affecting higher education specifically — a declining number of college-age students in the U.S. that has already prompted a number of colleges to close with more anticipated to follow.

The litany could understandably cause pessimism, but that’s not how Scogin leads or the kind of place that Hope is.

“It’s been beautiful to be back as president these last four years and see how the things that impacted me so much as a student are precisely the things that are still impacting so many students’ lives today.”

—President Matthew A. Scogin ’02

“It’s right there in our name,” he said. “Who better to run toward big, challenging problems instead of away from them than a place called ‘Hope’ — we have true, biblical hope, because of the God we believe in.”

Scogin took the helm with an unusual professional pedigree. His career hadn’t been in higher education, but in business and government. Immediately prior to coming to the college he was chief administrative officer at the global financial advisory firm of Perella Weinberg Partners in New York City; he had previously held senior positions with both the New York Stock Exchange and the U.S. Treasury Department.

Although his experiences provided the opportunity to lead complex organizations under dynamic circumstances, he wasn’t seeking to become a college president — but his *alma mater* wasn’t just any college. “One of the things I told the search committee was that I didn’t have an interest in being a college president. What I was interested in was being *Hope’s* president,” Scogin recalled.

“The high-touch academic experience and the vibrant faith environment here changed my life during my years as a student,” he said. “And for me this was really about a chance to come back and serve Hope College with the skills that I have developed through the career opportunities that my Hope education made possible in the first place.”

In addition to being well-acquainted with the college as an alumnus, Scogin had known Hope as a member of the Board of Trustees immediately before assuming the presidential mantle. Hope was thus not new to him, but even college presidents have freshman years. “The first six months of this job, you’re totally drinking out of a fire hose, trying to figure out who everybody is and where things are happening,” he said.



By the early spring of his first year, Scogin — probably akin to most of Hope’s first-year students — felt like life had settled into something of a rhythm. “And then COVID hit and the whole world turned upside down,” he said.

For Hope, the axial adjustment meant shifting to completely remote operation for the last six weeks of the spring 2020 semester, including providing instruction to students literally around the world with only spring break to prepare, and then determining how to implement a hybrid model during the coming year. There’s an adage to the effect that adversity doesn’t actually build character but instead reveals it, and accordingly Scogin believes that the way that the Hope family — faculty, staff and students alike — handled the crisis speaks volumes about who Hope people are.

“I would not want to relive it. But I just am so proud of the way that Hope came together,” he said. “I think it was a defining moment for Hope, and I’m really proud of how we navigated those early months of COVID.”

Some of the adjustments have become lasting boons. As one example, drawing on faculty expertise, Hope developed a method of testing wastewater for the presence of the virus that not only provided data for college operations but received funding through the state and became a service to

other communities. As another, livestreaming increased of necessity but has continued at an enhanced pace.

Much of the livestreamed content remains available to everyone on the college’s YouTube channel, including the self-effacing, sometimes-tongue-in-cheek and frequently heartfelt social media videos that have become something of a hallmark of Scogin’s presidency since he started creating them during the pandemic.

“They began during lockdown, when the students were all dispersed, and all of us were home, and nobody was coming in to work anymore,” he said. “It felt like such a scary time, such a heavy time in our world, and I felt like we should do something to bring some hope and levity to this. So my family and I, we just started recording these silly little videos on my phone. We would do these silly things and often there would be a serious message along with it. They’ve taken on a life of their own since then.”

[For an example from last school year, readers are encouraged to visit the college’s YouTube channel and watch the “Hope Ones” segment during which Scogin interviews members of the Hope community while he and they eat progressively spicier chicken wings.]

Poised on the eve of his fifth year at the college, Scogin notes that he is excited by the college’s trajectory. Hope is not only weathering the challenges of the age, but thriving.



The national and global challenges of the past four years could understandably cause pessimism, but that's not how President Matthew A. Scogin '02 leads or the kind of place that Hope is. And Hope is not only weathering them, but thriving.

Among other measures, faculty, staff, students and programs continue to receive national recognition and produce significant scholarship [some of which is highlighted throughout this issue]. Student interest is as strong as it's ever been, with Hope receiving a record number of applications the past two years in a row.

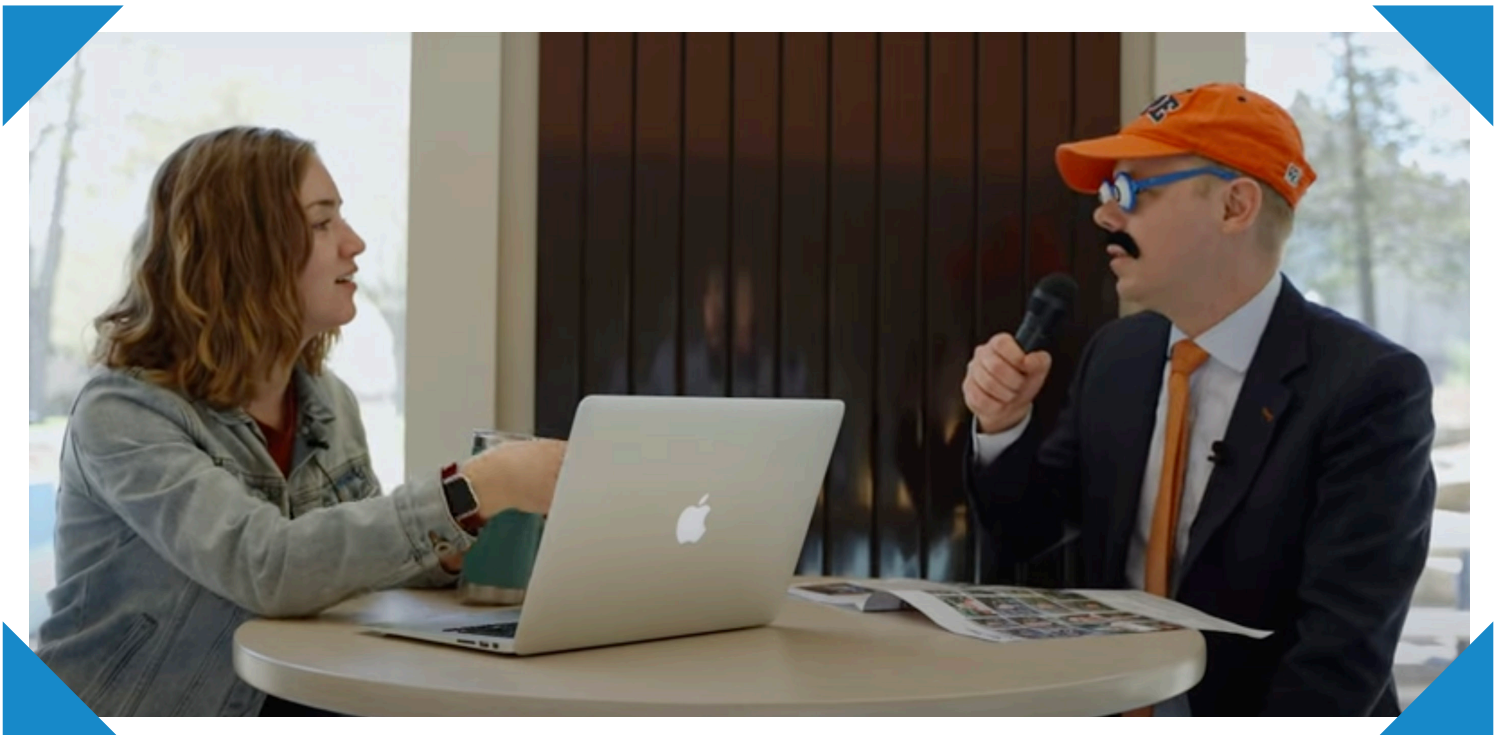
Especially, though, he's encouraged by the response to *Hope Forward*, which the college launched in the fall of 2021 to enhance access to Hope for all qualified students who would desire a Hope education but lack the financial resources to pay for it. Ultimately, the college seeks to fully fund tuition for all students, who would pay only for room and board. Through the model, students commit to contributing to the college after graduation rather than

paying for their tuition in advance. By eliminating the need for student loans, the college hopes to enable students to use their education to pursue impact without the burden of debt, but Hope is also seeking to change the nature of its relationship with students through the initiative.

"Hope Forward is motivated by the message of the Gospel," Scogin said. "One way to summarize Jesus' message of salvation is, 'You're covered. Now, go and live differently.' The message of *Hope Forward* is 'Your education is covered. Now, go and live differently.'"

Achieving the goal for the entire student body will require Hope to add about \$1 billion to the endowment and will take an estimated 10-15 years. In the meantime, Hope has piloted *Hope Forward* with two cohorts of students, 58 total, during the past two school years, with a third group of 25 enrolling this fall. So far, Scogin said, the results are promising.

"The vision is to move from a transactional relationship to a covenantal relationship," he said. "And I think we've seen that develop in the *Hope Forward* cohorts in a profound way, where the students feel real ownership of their education and in the institution because they've made this lifetime commitment not just to give, but to be involved, to be invested."



"Pat," aka President Scogin, goes undercover to follow up with the freshmen he interviewed four years ago at move-in to see what their plans are after graduation.

“We as an institution are making a commitment to our students: ‘We’re going to give you a world-class education. We’re going to help launch you into the world. And we’re going to stay committed to helping you at every turn in your life if there’s ever anything we can do for you,’” Scogin said. “And likewise, the students have made a commitment to us. They’re going to take their education seriously while they’re here, and then they’re going to give and be invested in the institution after they graduate.”

“When we first started talking about community, I would often cite C.S. Lewis, who talked about Oxford as a society for the pursuit of learning,” he said. “And I love that. I love that vernacular because he’s not calling Oxford a business, he’s not calling it a non-profit, he’s not even calling it a school. He is calling it a society for the pursuit of learning, and that’s what I want to be said of Hope — that we’re a true learning community.”

Hope Forward grew out of Scogin’s commitment, which he shared during his inaugural address in September of 2019, to remedy what he describes as the broken and unsustainable business model of higher education nationwide: continual increases in tuition that increasingly put a life-changing college education beyond the reach. He has been pleased to see the initiative spark conversation nationally. The launch year included extensive media

coverage in conjunction with the announcement and appearances on programs such as the South by Southwest (SXSW) EDU Conference & Festival in Austin, Texas.

The growing interest led this past March to the first-ever Catalyst Summit, hosted by Hope with best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell. In addition to Gladwell and members of the faculty and staff, speakers included visiting innovators and thought leaders such as Douglas Conant, former Campbell Soup Company president-CEO and former Hope Trustee; Dr. Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University; Pete Kadens, philanthropist and founder of HOPE Chicago; Dave Levin, co-founder of KIPP Public Schools; and Anne Snyder, editor-in-chief of *Comment* magazine, the Christian based publication devoted to strengthening and improving societal institutions.

“The vision is catching on,” Scogin said. “We knew, in order to achieve something this big, it would be essential to bring in some supporters who aren’t naturally a part of Hope’s constituency, and that’s happening in a pretty exciting way.”

Gladwell became interested in *Hope Forward* and the college after learning about the initiative from another best-selling author, Michigan-based Mitch Albom, who had himself become interested after covering the initiative’s launch.

Along with participating in the Catalyst Summit, Gladwell used his time on campus to interview *Hope Forward* students and others for an episode of his podcast *Revisionist History*, which was released in June. The program, available for listening with no charge, praises the bold, transformational approach.

“To see him, as somebody who had no direct connection to Hope, get so excited about the vision was very powerful,” Scogin said. “I think he helped us see the reality that maybe *Hope Forward* is even bigger than we thought it was. He kept calling us revolutionists.”



“And one of the things that still moves me is that he is excited about *Hope Forward* not just as a creative idea, but for taking our Christian mission and applying it to solve a real-world societal problem,” Scogin said. “What I’ve learned through that and our experience with the initial cohorts of students is that *Hope Forward* works, and *Hope Forward* will inspire people not simply alongside or certainly not in spite of our Christian mission, but because of it.”

The way that Hope pursues that mission, Scogin notes, is central not only in motivating *Hope Forward* but in the distinctive — and desperately needed — way that Hope provides a liberal arts education.

“I want everybody to feel like they can come here and feel safe expressing their own convictions and also come with curiosity to listen to other convictions that might be different from their own,” he said. “The world can’t figure out how to have healthy disagreement right now, and, as is becoming increasingly rare in higher education, we strive to teach students *how* to think, not *what* to think.”

“And we can do that with confidence because of our Christian mission, which gives us a common understanding of human dignity,” Scogin said. “We know that we’re all made by God, made in His image to reflect His character and His light to the world. And therefore, we can put complex questions on the table and wrestle with complex topics, knowing that in our pursuit of truth we’re not always going to agree.”

“And my sense is that students want this,” he said. “My sense is that students want to talk about things like race and sexuality and gender and climate change.”



“I want everybody to feel like they can come here and feel safe expressing their own convictions and also come with curiosity to listen to other convictions that might be different from their own... We strive to teach students *how* to think, not *what* to think... We can do that with confidence because of our Christian mission, which gives us a common understanding of human dignity.”

—President Matthew A. Scogin '02

Scogin was initially appointed for five years, through the spring of 2024, but given his love of Hope he has stayed committed to serving longer. In May, the Board of Trustees invited him to continue.

“I hope I get to do this job for a long time, so I was very honored when the board asked me to commit to another five years,” he said. “I went home and talked to Sarah [spouse Sarah Dieter '02 Scogin] and it was a pretty quick and easy conversation. We said, ‘You bet we will!’”

“I feel as called to be here as I did in 2019, and I’m full of joy every morning walking into my office,” Scogin said. “It’s been beautiful to be back as president these last four years and see how the things that impacted me so much as a student are precisely the things that are still impacting so many students’ lives today.”



MAJOR SOFTWARE GIFT SPURS GEOPHYSICS EXPANSION

By Greg Olgers '87

A monumental grant of sophisticated geophysics software packages will provide Hope College's students with opportunities that only a handful of graduate programs can offer.

The global technology company SLB has donated a total of 40 licenses, 10 each of the complete suites of Petrel, PetroMod, Techlog and GeoX state-of-the-art geophysical software packages for teaching and research in the Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences at Hope.

Each of the four packages is a suite of specialized programs used for studying and mapping reservoirs that are far below the surface of the earth, identifying structural closures favorable for hydrocarbon accumulation, carbon dioxide storage and understanding seismic activity like earthquakes, as well as

detailing reservoirs for geothermal resource development. It's the top-of-the-line standard for scientists at the world's elite research universities and major international energy corporations like BP, Chevron, Exxon and Shell, according to Dr. Uzonna Anyiam, who is an assistant professor of geological and environmental science at Hope and developed the grant proposal.

"This is the leading software for subsurface, geological and geophysical characterization. It will help us start up a new program in exploration and environmental geophysics, and enable our students to develop skills that are rare for undergraduates to have," Anyiam said. "It will benefit our geological and environmental science students, physics students, computer science students, mathematics students and engineering students."

The Department of Geological and Environmental Science — which offers major programs in geology, geochemistry, geophysics and environmental science, as well as a variety of minors — will be adding two courses during the 2023-24 school year to give students hands-on experience with the software. “Introduction to Exploration and Environmental Geophysics” will debut in the fall, with “Sustainable Energy Geoscience” added next spring.

In addition, students are conducting research collaboratively with Anyiam, who is studying subsurface reservoirs that have held hydrocarbons like oil and natural gas, and their potential to safely store the greenhouse gas CO₂ so that it can be removed from the atmosphere. His work this summer has been focusing on reservoirs in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana.

Anyiam describes familiarity with the software as “a skill that every geologist, every geophysicist and every environmental geoscientist should learn.” At the same time, he acknowledges, “It’s really rare to see schools that have this because it is so difficult to use. You need as a professor first of all to know how to use it so that you can teach it.”

Anyiam, who joined the Hope faculty last fall, has worked with the software for the past several years. He recently completed his doctorate in geophysics at the University of Science and Technology of China, having previously completed his master’s in geology at Oklahoma State University and bachelor’s in geophysics at Federal University of Technology Owerri in Nigeria. He was involved in university-based research sponsored by oil companies that explored oil and gas fields to identify potential drilling sites in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of West Africa, as well as induced-seismicity research driven by hydraulic fracturing for shale gas production and dissolution salt mining sponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China in Sichuan Basin.

Looking ahead, he is hoping to establish collaborations with colleagues beyond campus, which he anticipates will also provide additional opportunities for students. And he is especially excited about what the new courses and research program will mean for them, as graduates with such training are much in demand.

“I’m really expecting that very soon students will be getting jobs with their bachelor’s in these major companies who are also the leaders for environmentally sustainable energy development,” he said.



“This is the leading software for subsurface, geological and geophysical characterization. It will help us start up a new program in exploration and environmental geophysics, and enable our students to develop skills that are rare for undergraduates to have.”

—Dr. Uzonna Anyiam, assistant professor of geological and environmental science

LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE



By Alan Babbitt



Hope Athletics delivered excellence inside and outside of the classroom this spring — earning a league-record 39th MIAA Commissioner's Cup trophy as well as 15 MIAA Team GPA Award recipients and 265 individual selections to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

Five teams saw student-athletes compete in NCAA Division III Championships: men's golf, women's lacrosse, women's tennis, and men's and women's outdoor track and field.

Ana Tucker capped her Hope career with All-America performances in both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters at the Division III Outdoor Championships for the second consecutive season. The exercise science major finished third in the 5,000 meters and fourth in the 10,000 — setting program-bests in each event. She helped the Flying Dutch to 16th place in the team standings.

Tucker also was named Hope's recipient of the John Schouten Award which has been presented annually since 1983 to the outstanding female athlete in the senior class. The award is named in memory of John (Jack) Schouten, a long-time physical educator at Hope and the college's first athletic director.

Women's track and field, led by head coach Kevin Cole '88, followed up their MIAA indoor championship in the spring with its fifth consecutive league outdoor title. Tucker was selected as the MIAA's Most Valuable Track Athlete.

Women's lacrosse claimed MIAA regular-season and tournament titles for the first time in program history. Led by head coach

Keagan Pontious, the Flying Dutch reached the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Senior defender Delaney Kirinovic was selected as the MIAA's Defensive Player of the Year; freshman attacker Julia Brown was named MIAA Rookie of the Year. Junior attacker Elena Salazar became Hope's all-time leading goal scorer with 150.

Men's golf also swept, winning the MIAA Tournament in the spring after topping the field during the regular season last fall. Led by head coach Scott Lokers '81, the Flying Dutchmen finished 22nd at nationals.

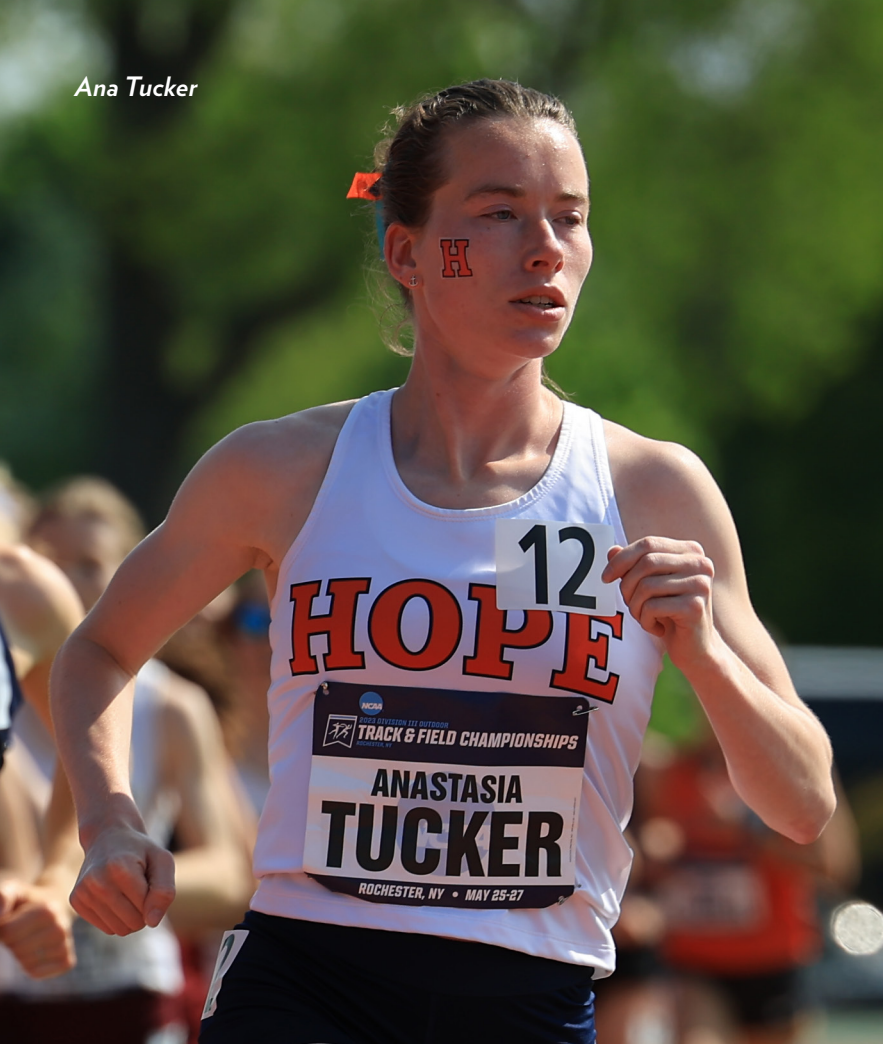
Men's lacrosse earned its third MIAA tournament crown by winning at top-seeded Albion College. Led by head coach Michael Schanhals '90, the Flying Dutchmen reached the second round of the Division III Championships.

Two winter student-athletes continued to earn acclaim. Men's basketball's Evan Thomas and women's basketball's Claire Baguley both received NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships that they will use toward medical school at the University of Michigan and Oakland University, respectively.

In addition, Evan Thomas received Hope's Otto van der Velde Award given to a senior male athlete for outstanding contribution to the college in athletics, scholarship, and participation in student activities. The award honors the memory of Dr. Otto van der Velde, a 1915 Hope College graduate who lettered in four sports and was later team physician for more than 40 years.

ATHLETICS.HOPE.EDU

Ana Tucker



Libby Strotman



Luke Wierengo



Clayton Dykhous, Molly Frederickson, Nancy Scholten '82 Kamstra and Annie Japinga '15 Carrigan at the 2022-23 HOPEYS





ASPIRING TO GIVE ZIMBABWEANS A VOICE

By Cheryl Wunderlich

Rising junior Danai Mandebvu's dream to start a theater production company in her home country of Zimbabwe led her all the way to Washington, D.C., where she presented her plans as part of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

"I would like to highlight Africans' stories and tell them honestly from their perspectives to uplift and empower them [Africans] in a way they haven't traditionally been," said Mandebvu, referring to her theater company plans, which she pitched during the festival.

Mandebvu was one of only eight students selected from colleges and universities across the country as a National Aspire Arts Leadership Fellow for 2023, earning her an invitation to the national theater festival in D.C. this past April. While there, she participated in weeklong Aspire programming.

Aspire is designed to cultivate a new generation of artistic talent with a focus on engaging Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and members of other groups consistently underrepresented in the field. Mandebvu earned her spot as an Aspire fellow by participating in a series of Aspire workshops and courses where she presented how she planned to help her community through theatre.

She dreams one day of starting Kuda Kwedu Theatre Company in Zimbabwe. *Kuda kwedu* means "our will" in her mother tongue, Shona, as in "the will of the people."

This nonprofit company would also give talented Zimbabwean artists a way to sustainably earn a living through the arts, something that is only possible for a rare few in her country, Mandebvu said.

"Our political history is rough, to put it lightly," she added. "There's no room for people to present their views or opinions — to tell their stories, especially stories that go against the political agenda at the time, but are honest."

Zimbabwe was recognized as an independent nation in 1980. The new country experienced political and economic turmoil, which reached its peak during a coup in 2017. Mandebvu said, over the decades, millions of Zimbabweans were either forced or chose to leave because of these economic and political challenges.

"But they still want to participate in what's going on in the country," she said. "After I left Zimbabwe to come to Hope, I realized how little you can impact things from afar."

She would like to return to Zimbabwe one day and use her Hope education as a double major in theatre and global studies, with a concentration in global societies and cultures, to impact her community by cultivating a culture of transparency and agency through theatre.

"Danai has embraced the concept of becoming a citizen artist, someone who uses their work to impact their community," said Michelle Bombe, professor of theatre and chair of the department at Hope. "She's really taken that to heart. I'm extremely proud of her."

Mandebvu called her experience as an Aspire fellow in D.C. "transformative." In the evenings, students went to different venues during the festival and attended a variety of performances, some of which were debuting.

During the day, Mandebvu and the other students attended workshops to discuss topics concerning equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism as well as leadership building.



DANAÍ MANDEVU WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO ZIMBABWE ONE DAY AND USE HER HOPE EDUCATION AS A DOUBLE MAJOR IN THEATRE AND GLOBAL STUDIES, WITH A CONCENTRATION IN GLOBAL SOCIETIES AND CULTURES, TO IMPACT HER COMMUNITY BY CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY AND AGENCY THROUGH THEATRE.



“It was an honest, transparent space to get to know each other so well,” Mandebvu said. “Some very unpleasant experiences birthed our passions. How can we help? How can we be agents for change? We talked about how to uplift voices that traditionally haven’t been heard.”

One of the most valuable experiences was getting a behind-the-scenes look at all aspects of theatre and working with high-ranking theatre professionals who took time to share their expertise in the industry with the students.

Mandebvu said she was most inspired by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, vice president and artistic director of social impact at the Kennedy Center.

“He said he doesn’t have to sacrifice himself [his creativity] to be in this [more corporate] space because his goal is to uplift his community — wearing all these different hats [as a creative and working in a company] in the industry are the methods he uses,” she explained. “You must come back to what you value and your mission, thinking of yourself as an instrument to serve a community and a people.”

Mandebvu’s experiences at Hope College are preparing her well for her mission to bring about community change through theater. Hope College has given her the education she needed because of its supportive theatre department and the flexibility to incorporate global studies with a theatre major.

“Cultures fascinate me,” Mandebvu said. “The nature of the stories I want to tell in the future requires that I have more background knowledge of different people and

cultures. Moving continents [from Africa to America] taught me so much about how our environment shapes us.”

On campus, Mandebvu has participated in “IMAGES: A Reflection of Cultures,” a celebration of the global cultures represented on campus. She has also written and performed spoken-word poetry at events organized by the Pan African Student Association and the Black Student Union, which focus on community building within the African and Black student communities on campus.

By far her biggest time commitment has been involvement in three different theatre productions on campus: *The Wolves*, exploring the intricacies of navigating female adolescence, identity and coming of age in a complicated world through a high school female soccer team; William Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale*; and *The Boy Who Hates Everything*, a whimsical, playful production that combines original music, puppetry and elements of absurdist farce. In addition, she has been a full-time acting intern with Hope Repertory Theatre with roles in *Three Little Birds*, *Tuck Everlasting* and *Rock of Ages*.

“Danai has multiple gifts. She is a talented actor; her range is impressive,” Bombe said. “I commend her for her work as a scholar and student in our classroom as well. She ultimately brings forth the most creative, interesting, thought-out work.”

Bombe doesn’t only rave about Mandebvu’s many talents. She also deeply respects her as a person, noting that “she’s humble, kind and generous.” She has all the makings to fulfill her dream, Bombe said.

HOPE THEATRE PROF AND STUDENTS EARN TRIO OF NATIONAL AWARDS

Danai Mandebvu, who was selected to participate in April's national Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival event following regional competition in February and March, was one of three outstanding members of the Hope theatre family who ultimately received recognition in conjunction with the festival. Please follow the links below for stories celebrating the others' awards, which were announced subsequently.

Michelle Bombe, professor of theatre, was surprised during the April 17-23 event with the National Kennedy Center Gold Medallion — the most prestigious national award presented by the KCACTF — for her career-long dedication to teaching and producing theatre.

Bombe is a professor of theatre, resident costume designer and department chair at Hope, where she has taught since 1991, and across the past 17 years has held a variety of leadership roles with KCACTF at the state, regional and national levels, including a four-year term as KCACTF's national chair that concluded on August 2. In addition to leading the KCACTF during the global COVID-19 pandemic, which led to innovations in using technology that continue to enhance outreach and connection, she was part of the leadership team as the organization has taken additional steps to build access and inclusion through its Representation, Equity and Diversity (RED) Initiative.

hope.edu/bombeaward



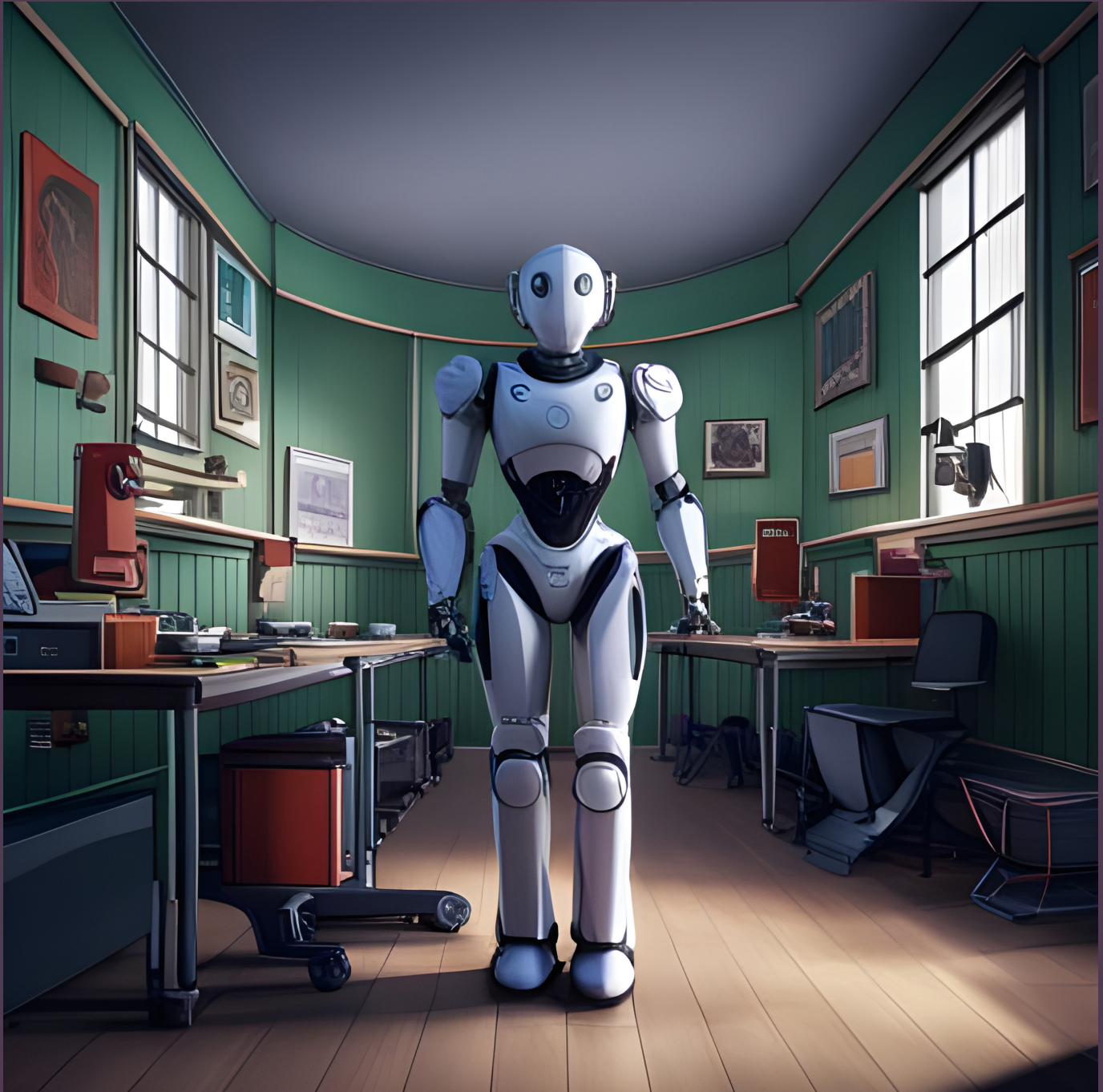
Kelsey Sivertson, who is entering her senior year this fall, received the KCACTF's National Institute for Theater Journalism and Advocacy's top prize. The national competition took place virtually the weekend following the festival.

Sivertson, a non-traditional student from Holland, Michigan, who is double-majoring in theatre and creative writing, was the top performer among the other regional representatives from across the country. She participated after having receiving the top recognition for Region III (of eight regions nationally), which consists of institutions in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Western Ohio. As national winner, she earned a spot in the National Critics Institute, a two-week workshop at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Hartford, Connecticut, that ran July 15-16. She was the only undergraduate student at the institute, which is the nation's only program designed for arts writers and critics and is traditionally attended by writers who are mid-career.

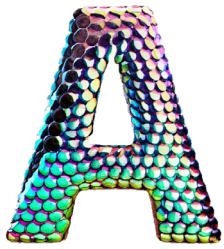
hope.edu/sivertsonaward

AI and the Liberal Arts: Embracing the Power, Preserving Humanity

By Josh Bishop



"Robot in a classroom"
Created using NightCafé Stable Diffusion 1.5



Artificial intelligence has captivated our collective imagination. With groundbreaking models like ChatGPT and visual AI generators, the boundaries of what is possible have been shattered. Yet, amid our fascination, a twinge of fear lingers — a fear of the unknown, of a future shaped by artificial intelligence.

From automating tasks to transforming academic integrity, AI is reshaping education. We stand at the crossroads of an AI revolution, and the question reverberating through higher education is this: How do we embrace AI's power while preserving our humanity?

We stand at the crossroads of an AI revolution, and the question reverberating through higher education is this: How do we embrace AI's power while preserving our humanity?

It's at this point that I, the bylined author, enter the article to admit that I didn't write the previous paragraphs. ChatGPT wrote them, and it took only a few seconds. (ChatGPT is a chatbot developed by the artificial intelligence research lab OpenAI. It came up with the headline, too.)

AI has been working in the background for years, so in one sense it's nothing new. But with the launch of new language-based models like ChatGPT and Google's Bard — and visual AI models like Midjourney and DALL-E 2 — artificial intelligence has made a critical shift. In contrast to earlier forms of AI it's *creating*, not *curating*.

Generative AI works by treating different types of information as if it's a language, then simply selecting what's likely to come next. It can do this with words, as in the first paragraphs of this article, and also with pixels and regions of images, with computer code, with the notes and chords of music, and with the next frame of a video.

"I prefer to call it 'algorithm intelligence,' because it's programs and algorithms that sort through massive

amounts of data and spit out predictions," said Zachary Adams, Hope's digital instructional specialist and an assistant professor of digital instruction.

This technology has been met with excitement: It took ChatGPT only *five days* to reach 1 million users (in contrast, it took Spotify five months and Facebook 10 months to reach the same milestone). It's also been met with fear: One survey of AI researchers revealed that half of them believe there's a 10% or greater chance that AI will result in the extinction of humanity.

Whether one thinks it's good or bad, artificial intelligence is here: Now what?

To ask how AI might be used at Hope would be something of a misnomer, because the technology is already being used on campus. It's editing images and graphics, generating content, refining emails, and cleaning up computer code. And in an ironic twist, faculty members are using AI to catch students who try to cheat by turning in AI-generated assignments. Still, AI could improve the work of Hope's students, faculty and staff in innumerable ways.

"I think it makes everything accessible," Adams said. "It levels the playing field for almost any content and specific skill set that someone may need to get into a job or sector."

As examples, he said AI could translate course content into a student's primary language, adapt content to the level of complexity at which a student learns best, and improve notetaking. Adams also pointed to the benefits that AI could offer to faculty members, such as through time-saving assistance like adapting multimedia assignments, writing essay prompts or developing presentation templates.

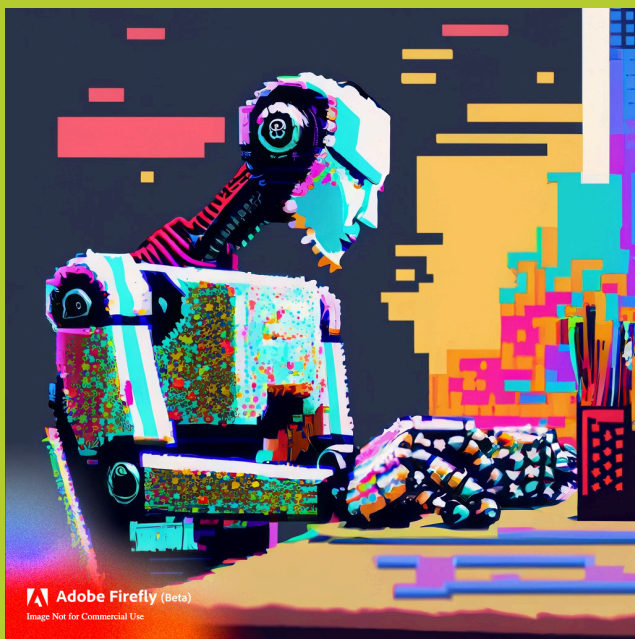
Hope's provost, Dr. Gerald Griffin, who formerly taught in Hope's psychology, biology and neuroscience programs, identified gains that AI can bring to research. "As a behavioral neuroscientist, I was introduced to this through the ability to capture video of an animal and then use AI technologies to calculate and quantify different types of behaviors that would take humans thousands of hours to do," he said.

“We can’t say, ‘Don’t use it,’ because then we’re doing any student that comes here a disservice.”

—Zachary Adams,
Digital Instructional Specialist,
Assistant Professor of Digital Instruction



"Squirrel wearing a backpack"
Created using Adobe Firefly (beta)



"Robot using a computer"
Created using Adobe Firefly (beta)

“The tool advances capability for research,” Griffin said. “It advances students’ ability to edit their work. It enhances brainstorming. It helps connect thought patterns.”

Using AI at Hope clearly has advantages — but it also carries risks. For example, AI can’t tell whether its predictive text is true, only whether the next word in its sentence is likely based on an analysis of its dataset. In other words, it may simply be wrong.

“Eventually it’s going to get to the point where it’s working on its own supply of data, so if it’s looking at incorrect or falsified results, then it’s just going to regurgitate more and more false information,” Adams said.

In terms of academic integrity, students were already using ChatGPT to write their papers within weeks of the program’s release on Nov. 30, 2022. The curious element of using AI-generated papers is that it isn’t, strictly speaking, plagiarism: the AI generator isn’t copying text that already exists but actively generating original content.

“We already are interpreting our policy to say that generative AI is a breach of academic integrity,” Griffin said. “Without a proper citation or permission of the instructor, if you put in a prompt, take from a produced essay, and put your name on it, you’ve misrepresented work that you’ve not done.”

Griffin also pointed to ethical concerns: “It does allow for new types of research to be performed, and we want to build a framework to make sure that research is ethically sound,” he said. “The problem is that the world got a really advanced, powerful tool before there was a shared understanding of how to best use it for learning and for research advancement.”

Yet another concern is related to what Adams called “automation complacency.” If we outsource brainstorming, writing and critical thinking to artificial intelligence, it may atrophy the development of those skills in ourselves.

With so many promises and pitfalls, Hope is taking the approach that it’s critical to learn how to use AI responsibly. And the first way to do *that* is to actually use it. “We can’t say, ‘Don’t use it,’ because then we’re doing any student that comes here a disservice,” Adams said. “We’d be preparing

a whole generation of students who are going to leave Hope and go into careers where they need to use it. How are they going to get a job when they don't have that capability?"

The Academic Computing Committee talked about AI for most of last semester, and Adams was among a group of Hope instructors who presented to the rest of the faculty early in the spring. They discussed some of AI's risks and equipped faculty members to prepare students (and themselves) to think about and adapt it in the classroom.

Another presenter, Greg Lookerse, offered a cautionary word: "If you rely on these programs, you are mechanizing your thinking and creativity in a startling way," he said. Lookerse is an assistant professor of art, and he's recorded several videos about AI and the visual arts on his YouTube channel, Art Can Help.

"Are we just teaching students to be good at business and efficient producers? No. We are teaching them to be more human. Creativity and thinking are human qualities," Lookerse said. "We should highlight the fact that when you use these tools you risk diminishing your creating and thinking capacities — capacities that are deeply human."

For Griffin, these sorts of questions — What does it mean to be human? — are exactly the questions that Hope's liberal arts model is uniquely suited to answer. Hope can give students the training and the tools necessary to work with AI and to think about it with a holistic view.

By forcing us to ask what it is that makes us human, "AI will help us to elevate that definition. We are more than connectors of ideas, more than manipulators of tools," he said. "If it is just organic, if it is just the manipulation, for me that's very depressing. It does not fully explain the human experience and condition."

Can you find all of the 40 AI differences?

(original photo is #1)



Scan to see all the answers!



Imaging What Can't Be Seen

By Ann Sierks Smith



T

here's a paradox in Leekyung Kang's art: She focuses on things we cannot see.

Opaque holes hover in some recent work. What do murky swaths of spray paint cover up? We see a brick foundation, but of what?

Kang finds unseen spaces intriguing. It dates to her childhood in Seoul, South Korea. From her apartment windows she watched a constant stream of deconstructions — buildings razed and new ones built. “You see scaffolding and hidden structures at first, but then it's going to be covered by the outside material. As an artist I was very inspired by facades and building structures in an aesthetic way. I was always curious about unseen space, which is always there, but never fully present,” she says.

An assistant professor of art, Kang joined the Hope faculty in 2021 after teaching for three years at Idaho State University. During one of those summers, she was the Borgeson Artist in Residence at Hope. She teaches drawing and printmaking.

While printmakers typically create limited editions of a screenprint, etching, woodcut or other type of print — numbered identical prints of a single piece — Leekyung Kang often produces a single work of art because she elaborates the printed image.

Screenprinting is one technique in print media. Amid racks of her students' work, she uses the printmaking studio in the De Pree Art Center to create base layers of her pieces on paper, forcing paint through fine mesh screens and stencils. Then she adds details digitally, including squiggles of color that seem to have been done by hand.

With acrylic paint, crayons, and spray paint, she continues to add shapes and blocks and bands of color over printed images — usually abstract, but with an occasional realistic element. “I always want to go beyond one medium to another medium,” she says. While printmakers typically create limited editions of a screenprint, etching, woodcut or other type of print — numbered identical prints of a single piece — Kang often produces a single work of art because she elaborates the printed image.

In college in Korea, Kang studied painting. As she continued her training in graduate programs there and at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) she incorporated blueprints and manuscripts in her work, then gravitated toward the tools she currently employs to create conceptual art that implies digital surfaces and the randomness of our internet presence, as she phrases it.

“Now I'm interested in in-between spaces — from digital to invisible, reality to non-reality,” she says. “I have to use a digital and photographic image. I need to use those references for my work, geometric structures.”

While earning an M.F.A. at RISD, Kang also took courses at nearby Brown University in modern culture and media. Provocative questions about artificial intelligence and other aspects of technology are central to her art, issues probed by philosophers as disparate as Plato and the 20th-century French philosopher George Bataille (whose respective cave allegory and waste theory she finds apt frameworks for the issues that engage her imagination). A remarkable artist residency in 2021 brought those ideas into her experiential realm.

Kang was selected as the 2021 artist in residence at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, a laboratory in South Dakota that's 1,490 meters below the surface. In 12 miles of tunnels, physicists, geologists and others conduct research that must be shielded from cosmic rays.

Scientists there talked about a reflected version of our own universe. “That sounds very fascinating, but we don't really know what it is,” Kang reflects. “I haven't seen it. There's some version of our universe, and I don't even know where it is. In real time and space we only get to see what's available, but what's beyond reality, and how do I see that area that I don't get to see in time and space?”

“When I was able to go down to the underground area, all of a sudden it occurred to me: What if the cave was inverted or reverted? Underground, I got out of real time-space into an underground space, but one I've never been in. I was kind of confused about

the exit and entrance — where was I located, myself? Is it possible to define what space is reality and what is not?”

This spring as she prepared for a solo gallery exhibition in Seoul, Kang taped 2-D works in progress to her office wall and added to them bit by bit. “I don’t really stick to one painting till I finish. I kind of move on. Often several pieces will have very similar elements — similar marks I try to create on purpose. I try to get repetition; they’re echoing back to each other,” she says.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the ASIANetwork, which promotes education about Asia at American liberal arts colleges, when Kang left

for Seoul in June, four Hope students accompanied her: studio art majors Isabella Gaetjens-Oleson ’23 and Joanna Locke ’24, art history major Madi Huerta ’23, and physical and health education major Ayanna Njoroge ’24. One purpose of their three-week trip was to experience Seoul’s contemporary art scene and use printmaking resources beyond what they’d worked with before. Another was to explore East Asian art, history, and the history of printmaking in the context of Korean Buddhist temples and culture. At a UNESCO cultural heritage site, with Kang they viewed woodblock prints made some 800 years ago. They stayed overnight in a

Buddhist temple “to learn about temple manners,” Kang explains. Then, in a printmaking studio in Seoul, they made work out of that inspiration.

Three of the students returned to the United States in late June. Locke stayed in Seoul with Kang to assist her during her month-long show at GOP Gallery in Seoul, and then accompanied her to Brooklyn, New York, where Kang is spending the balance of the summer immersed in a Kunstraum artist residency. She’ll teach on campus this fall, but will make several trips to New York until the residency concludes in late September.

View more of Leekyung Kang’s art at kangleekyung.com.



At the Jeonju Millennium Hanji Museum in Seoul, master paper maker Shintae Park (at bottom right) teaches Ayanna Njoroge ’24, Madi Huerta ’23, Isabella Gaetjens-Oleson ’23 and Joanna Locke ’24, pictured from left, how to make a traditional Korean paper.

Watching construction as a child in Seoul, South Korea,
fostered faculty artist Leekyung Kang's interest in unseen spaces.

*"You see scaffolding and hidden structures at first, but then it's going to
be covered by the outside material. As an artist I was very inspired by
facades and building structures in an aesthetic way. I was always curious
about unseen space, which is always there, but never fully present."*



Ideas and the Test of Time

By Ann Sierks Smith

Tracing and analyzing how texts have been interpreted over time is Dr. David DeJong's niche in biblical studies. The relatively new field is called "reception history" — reception meaning how a text was "received" by those who heard it or, in later eras, read it. What public discourse took place? What nuanced understanding developed? How did it all play out in faith communities?

In his 2022 book *A Prophet Like Moses (Deut. 18:15, 18): The Origin, History, and Influence of the Mosaic Prophetic Succession*, the assistant professor of religion explores how Deuteronomy's concept of "a prophet like Moses" was interpreted from the seventh century B.C. through 100 A.D. in Judaism and Christianity.

Considering disparate, narrowly focused previous scholarship layered with his own readings of ancient texts, he builds the through-story of how Jews in ancient times, and later, the early Christian church, grappled with what it means for someone to be "a prophet like Moses." His book is the first comprehensive treatment of this passage's "after-lives" through the centuries.

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him... I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him."

—Deuteronomy 18:15, 18

DeJong, who arrived at Hope in 2020, teaches various courses on the Old Testament. He also teaches an introductory course called "God and Humanity," which surveys the portrayal of the divine-human relationship in ancient and modern texts. In Introduction to the Old Testament (the whole thing in one semester!) he spends just 20 minutes on the concepts in his book. It's technical, and he expects it will be read largely by scholars; he doesn't want his Hope students to "glaze over." He suggests, though, that pastors and teachers might find his chapters on Luke-Acts and John an interesting look at how New Testament authors worked with categories drawn from the Hebrew Scriptures.

He notes that some prophets in the ancient world were analogous to modern national security advisors: essentially, counselors for the king. "The danger of false prophets was very real in terms of leading the whole nation to disaster," he says. Consequently, there was an urgent drive to discern who was authentic. DeJong proposes two models to describe the ways people assessed whether self-proclaimed prophets measured up.

"The traditional model was that the charismatic spirit of Yahweh can fall on anyone," he says. In this charismatic model, a prophet was "authorized" by people's trust, based on the person's words and deeds, that the private encounter with Yahweh that



the prophet described — the prophet’s “call” — took place.

He calls the other model genealogical, but doesn’t mean it biologically. “It’s grounded in whether they conform to Mosaic Torah, the laws and teachings passed on by Moses. Do they advocate service of the one true God? Do they promote fidelity to Yahweh, and do their words stand the test of time? There’s an empirical test that’s important as well, which is, does what they say accord with reality? Is it going to happen?” Early Christians leaned into this, he says, because “it is quite important for New Testament thinking about Jesus to understand how Jesus and John the Baptist function as picking up the mantle of Moses. It was very important to argue that Jesus is in Moses’ genealogical line.”

The charismatic model destabilizes a bit, DeJong says; the genealogical one offers a sense of tradition, and in it Jesus and the prophets are inspired interpreters. “I argue that Deuteronomy puts in the genealogical model, but you always need the charismatic model, too. Otherwise, it’s too tied to a specific institution,” he adds. Together, dynamically, the two models demand careful thought.

“Deuteronomy wants to give people tools to be skeptical of prophets,” he comments, “and that’s a really liberating moment in religion in general.”

For all the vast differences between the cultural realities of the era when Deuteronomy emerged and the present day, DeJong emphasizes a crucial similarity: revolutions in communication.

For the modern world, it is the shift from the printed word to digital communication. “We’re living in this time when truth is so contested,” he says. “We have gone into the digital age and our brains don’t really know how to keep up. Our understanding of what is true is being corrupted by that. In general, we don’t see that people are learning to be critical thinkers.”

In a strikingly similar context, the authors of Deuteronomy composed the book during the transition from orality to the written word. “It was a cultural transformation that was at least as radical as ours, maybe more so. It was about knowledge, and how it’s acquired, and how we know what we know to be true,” DeJong says.

So in Deuteronomy, “you have the scribes trying to train the people in

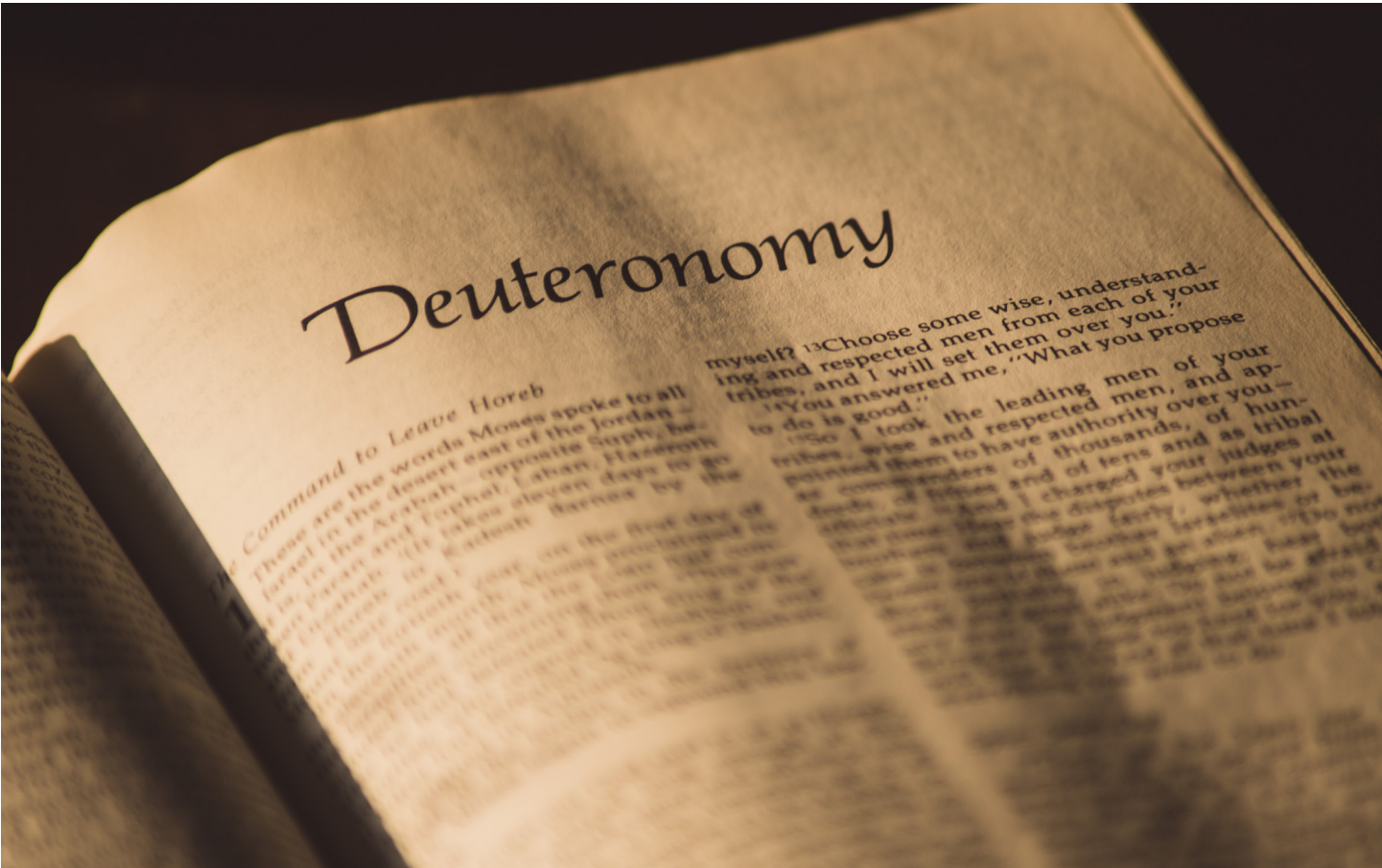
rationality, in critical thinking, and trying to teach how they can discern or assess using empirical and ethical modes of reasoning,” he continues. “They are arguing for a faith that is compatible with what human reason can understand about creation and about God and about humanity. Deuteronomy is really relevant for thinking about contemporary debates about faith and reason.”

His book project now put to bed, DeJong is engaged in a new one. Analyzing Old and New Testament

texts, he is focusing on how the prophet Elijah was redefined, redeployed and used in different contexts as a legitimizing figure. This year he was assisted by Lydia Harrison ’23, who edited Hope’s student journal of Christian thought, *The Bell Tower*, and begins graduate study this fall at Duke Divinity School. “It has been a really rewarding experience to work with Lydia, who is such a promising biblical scholar, and I hope to continue to involve undergraduates in my research going forward,” DeJong says.



Lydia Harrison ’23



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Dr. David DeJong notes that some prophets in the ancient world were analogous to modern national security advisors: essentially, counselors for the king. “The danger of false prophets was very real in terms of leading the whole nation to disaster.”



Research, Teaching, and Research *on* Teaching in Inorganic Chemistry

By Natasha Strydhorst



Just as the COVID-19 pandemic was catching the rest of the world flat-footed, Dr. Joanne Stewart, the Elmer E. Hartgerink Professor of Chemistry, was vocationally a step ahead.

As a prominent member of a “virtual community of practice” — the Interactive Online Network of Inorganic Chemists (IONiC) — and as a contributor to its Discord website, she was already immersed in more than a decade of discussions and studies about the most effective teaching strategies. So it took only a graceful sidestep to continue honing and sharing distance education for IONiC’s national community of more than 1,000 teachers of inorganic chemistry. Stewart’s 35 years at Hope span decades of research at the cutting edge of chemistry pedagogy — she knows better than most that effective learning is particularly hard work. Ambitious projects are her specialty.

“Just like we go into science with this existing body of scientific knowledge, so students walk in with their own prior knowledge. They get exposed to new ideas in some way, and they have to make sense of those new ideas. That’s hard work: You’ve got to try stuff out, you’ve got to fail, you’ve got to refine, you’ve got to try again.”

—Dr. Joanne Stewart,
The Elmer E. Hartgerink Professor of Chemistry

Stewart cites the 30-year-old National Science Foundation-funded Systemic Change Initiative as the most influential project of her early career. “They wanted to change how chemistry was taught, across the whole country,” she says. “It was a very ambitious project.” It needed to be: Research had uncovered that around half of the students entering college to study science switched majors within a year or two. One goal of the initiative was to reduce the exodus of talented, curious students from a field they initially loved. That goal resonated with Stewart, who entered science under the tutelage of gifted, engaging mentors and knows both the joys and challenges of sticking it out to become a full-fledged scientist.

“Essentially all science students run into a problem, a wall, a challenge, at some point in time. Some students are able to navigate that challenge and some students aren’t,”

Stewart says. “The people who set up those walls and challenges are the instructors, and that’s what’s inspired me throughout my career: to support faculty, and help faculty become better teachers.” It’s both challenging and rewarding.

“We know that learning is hard work,” Stewart says. “We don’t always use the best learning approaches that are available to us — we tend to use the things that are easier. Instead, the stuff that really helps us learn is the stuff that’s challenging. It’s like a physical workout. If I want to learn how to run a marathon, walking to the mailbox is not going to train for that.” Listening to an entertaining lecture is the mental equivalent of a leisurely stroll. It isn’t enough to turn students into scientists.

“If I can give a really articulate, concise, clear, fun, entertaining lecture, they’ll like that. But I also know they won’t learn very much,” Stewart explains. “Research is very clear that through active engagement with the material, small group work, etc., they will learn a lot more. But, if I do small group, active learning, etc., that’s harder, so they’re going to leave the classroom having struggled, and feeling like they don’t know as much — even though they know more.” This is particularly prevalent in chemistry. Consequently, one of Stewart’s key research questions is *What makes learning chemistry hard?* She’s explored this with large national surveys, uncovering challenges faced by both instructors

and students; her publications have influenced the development of curricula and standardized tests nationwide.

“We’re starting to understand what things are particularly challenging for students,” she says. “Where do they get lost along the way? How can we work with their alternative conceptions and help shift them over to the way a chemist would conceptualize it? If you have a different conception of how things work, we know — through a lot of research — that displacing a deeply held conviction of how the world works takes a long, long, long time. It doesn’t happen in one semester.”

Most change demands more than time, in Stewart’s experience. Her research findings suggest that communities — and accompanying tight bonds — are essential for the development and spread of best practices in chemistry instruction. “If you’re spreading a virus, then the epidemiological model works great, because a virus spreads through loose ties: All you have to do is bump into somebody. But when it involves behavioral change, or more difficult change, then things don’t spread that way. They spread through these tight ties,” she says. These ties bond IONiC’s members, and Stewart’s next project is designed to link additional groups. “If you want a large social movement, you’ve got to find a way to knit communities together,” she says. Her goal is to link IONiC with other

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communities of practice in sub-disciplines like organic chemistry, physical chemistry and biochemistry.

Stewart is familiar with linking disparate concepts. Inorganic chemistry, her focal area, “is incredibly broad: It’s the study of the entire periodic table,” she says. “You get a whole year to learn organic chemistry — the chemistry of carbon — and then you get one semester to learn the chemistry of the other 117 elements.” Curricula across the country are far from uniform — though it’s a safe bet they will involve imagination and models.

“It’s a pretty abstract topic,” Stewart says. “You can’t see it. You have to have a vivid imagination.” Concepts are not always intuitive.

“There are different models that we can use to explain the same phenomenon, and each model has its own strength and weakness,” says Stewart. “I love that, and for me, it’s

fascinating.” For her students, it can be less so. “Some students are attracted to science because they have this misconception that it’s black and white, that there’s a right answer and a wrong answer. And they get to inorganic, and the answer is ‘it depends.’ That can be very frustrating to students.”

Inorganic chemistry, in a way, models science. “There’s a very important social component to constructing new science knowledge. I believe that learning works the same way,” Stewart explains. “Just like we go into science with this existing body of scientific knowledge, so students walk in with their own prior knowledge. They get exposed to new ideas in some way, and they have to make sense of those new ideas. That’s hard work: You’ve got to try stuff out, you’ve got to fail, you’ve got to refine, you’ve got to try again.” Hard work, after all, is what it takes to learn.





SISTERS FOR A LIFETIME

By Jim McFarlin '74

This is the most remarkable story you will read in this issue of *News from Hope College*.

Or most any other magazine, for that matter.

It's about two women, both Hope College alums, born in the same hospital — the now-assimilated Blodgett in Grand Rapids — two years apart. Improbably, both mothers named their infant daughters Karen Sue.

But wait, it gets better. Both — Karen Heffner '85 Broekstra and Karen Visscher '87 — pledged as members of Sigma Sigma, the oldest sorority on campus. A few years after graduating, Visscher hired Broekstra to join her when Visscher was director of student academic services at Aquinas College.

It was while working there that Vissch, as her Sigma sisters called her, discovered she had polycystic kidney disease, an inherited disorder in which fluid-filled sacs grow on the kidneys, causing them to swell enormously and eventually lose function. She inherited the condition from her mother, who ultimately needed a transplant.

"I remember she came back from an ultrasound appointment and had tears in her eyes," Broekstra recalls. "She said, 'Oh my gosh, I've got what my Mom had. That means someday I'll need a kidney transplant.' We hugged. It was an emotional moment."

The two Sigmas eventually went on to other roles elsewhere, both moving out of state.

Years passed.

The disease progressed.

After months on dialysis, in October 2022 Visscher, now in Albuquerque, New Mexico, did indeed receive her life-saving transplant. And guess who the donor was?





Aw, you're running ahead! That's right: Heff — who now lives in The Woodlands, Texas — donated her kidney so that Vissch could return to a relatively normal life. "And we were a perfect match, too!" Broekstra exclaims. "The doctors couldn't get over what a match we were. It almost makes me think I might be related to her!"

She is now. Talk about Sigmas in service. You've heard of kissing cousins? Meet kidney sisters. One could surmise that the lives of these Karen Sues have been consistently intertwined since they were born, and now forever will be. Some might say it's all just a string of interesting but random coincidences.

Some didn't attend Hope College.

ONE COULD SURMISE THAT THE LIVES OF KAREN HEFFNER '85 BROEKSTRA AND KAREN VISSCHER '87 HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY INTERTWINED SINCE THEY WERE BORN, AND NOW BECAUSE OF A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT FOREVER WILL BE. SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S ALL JUST A STRING OF INTERESTING BUT RANDOM COINCIDENCES. SOME DIDN'T ATTEND HOPE COLLEGE.

One who did was Jenny VanderHart '87 Foster of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Vissch's friend since their freshman year and also a Sigma sister, whom Visscher asked to serve as her advocate in the search for a living kidney donor. Living-donor transplants tend to function better and last longer than organs from deceased persons. However, as is the case with many people who need transplants, Visscher says, "They [her transplant team at the University of New Mexico Hospital, near her home] kept telling me to get a live donor, but I'm the type who doesn't want to ask. No way would I ask someone for that."

VanderHart had no such qualms. "We've been really great friends since freshman year, so when she called I was

more than happy to help," she says. "I have pretty good organizational skills and I'm kind of a doer, which I think is partly why Karen asked me."

The two composed an appeal and posted it on Facebook, where many of their Sigma sisters, members of the Hope family and others saw it. One potential donor stepped forward, but didn't meet all the criteria. Then fate stepped in.

Broekstra hadn't seen the Facebook post and had no idea of the O.K.'s plight. Then one afternoon she was enjoying lunch at Sandy Point Beach House with several of her Sigma Sigma besties. "Someone said, 'Gosh, did you see Jennifer VanderHart's post about Karen needing a transplant? And it's almost beyond time. It should have been done long ago.'"

Broekstra immediately flashed back to that tear-filled hug at Aquinas College. "I hadn't thought about it again until that moment," she says. "I didn't say anything. I just listened. But I called Jennifer later and said, 'Hey, I'm going to do this. What are my next steps?'"

No misgivings? "Inner peace," she says. "I really, truly just handed it to God, and I believe

He pulled it all together and made it possible. I also believe Karen is an incredible person who has so much more to give. She is the most unconditionally loving person I have ever met. No one cracks me up more. She's a gift, and she worked so hard to stay alive. So from the get-go, I just knew it was meant to be."

Broekstra made numerous trips to Albuquerque for testing and interviews; each time, she stayed at Vissch's home. "They ask you 500 times if you're going to back out," Broekstra says. "They even ask you on the operating table. But I had no doubts from the minute I decided to do it. And it was beautiful to rekindle that friendship with her. You know, with Hope people you just pick up where you left off."



"They ask you 500 times if you're going to back out. They even ask you on the operating table. But I had no doubts from the minute I decided to do it. And it was beautiful to rekindle that friendship with her. You know, with Hope people you just pick up where you left off."

KAREN HEFFNER '85 BROEKSTRA

For Vissch, the friendship and her appreciation include not only Heff but Broekstra's family — husband Scott Broekstra '83 and daughters Mackenzie and Kelby. "It takes an entire family unit to support a donor, and their attitude helped me accept the blessing of this huge life-giving donation," she says.

At one point, doctors detected a spot on Visscher's thyroid. It ended up being of no concern, but it delayed the transplant for four months. The COVID-19 pandemic didn't help either. But finally, last October the medical science miracle took place.

Sorority sisters from both Visscher's and Broekstra's classes joined them via Zoom to offer prayers and encouragement just before the transplant. Because they were in separate rooms, Broekstra sought out Vissch for a hug before being wheeled to the OR.

"I was walking around in this hospital gown with the back wide open," she recalls. "I found Karen, and as I turned around to leave, just before they rolled her off, I basically mooned her. Which was a typical Sigma thing to do."

How's Vissch doing today? Her secondhand kidney is functioning well, and all tests so far are promising. But as organ recipients know, a transplant is a treatment, not a cure.

"I'm thankful to be alive, and I'm thankful everything is going well," she says. At the same time, for example, she's found the post-transplant medicine side effects can be challenging.

"You look forward to your transplant for years, then you realize there's a lot that comes with it. You don't want to sound like you're complaining, but you have to curb your expectations because there's still a lot to deal with afterwards. But I'm so happy to be alive."

Happiness shared, in large measure, by her Sigma Sigma sisters. "I feel the friendships you get at Hope College are some of the most meaningful relationships you'll ever have in your lifetime," Heff reflects. "That was my experience."

***Editor's Note:** Author Jim McFarlin '74 brought a particularly informed perspective to this story, which in addition to his talent made him the first choice, bar none, when **News from Hope College** was seeking a writer for it. Jim is also a kidney transplant recipient, and like most recipients knows the exact date of his "second birthday": November 18, 2011. The onetime ESRD (End-Stage Renal Disease) patient representative for the state of Illinois, he chairs a monthly support group for organ donors, recipients and those awaiting transplants, and is active in a wide range of kidney and transplant-focused organizations and activities.*



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BEING A LIVE-TRANSPLANT KIDNEY DONOR, PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE OF THE NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN (NKFM.ORG) AND GO TO "THE BIG ASK, THE BIG GIVE" UNDER PROGRAMS.

NKFM.ORG/PROGRAM-ARTICLE/THE-BIG-ASK-THE-BIG-GIVE



CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: *Julie Rawlings '83 Huisingh*

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

Submissions for the Winter 2023 issue are due by September 26, 2023.

60s

Anne Wiegerink '60 Anderson published her latest book, *Cubbie The Therapy Dog*, a children's true story written from the perspective of her dog, Cubbie.

Thomas Roberts '69 received two awards late in 2022. One was the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's "Justice Award" for "outstanding dedication to public safety." Usually only given

to law enforcement, it recognized his efforts in organizing the Tippecanoe County Court Dog Program, which provides certified therapy dogs to work with children victims of sexual assault and for civil cases. The second award, the "Golden Hoosier Award," for which he was nominated by several Indiana judges, was granted by the Indiana Governor's Office for "a lifetime of volunteer service to the community." He continues to volunteer four to five days a week at medical and psychiatric hospitals in addition to his Court Dog work. He is also a lecturer

at the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine and the Purdue School of Nursing, educating on the benefits of the human-animal connection in physical and emotional healing. Since leaving Hope, he has had the pleasure of sharing his life with 22 different and wonderful dogs from area shelters.

70s

David DeKok '75 recently had his first bylined stories in the *New York Times* in a long journalism career. Based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he covered the extradition hearing in the Poconos for Bryan Kohberger, accused killer of four Idaho college students, and the aftermath of the deadly chocolate factory gas explosion in West Reading, Pennsylvania. The *Times* recruited him last summer for its corps of "stringers," or part-time freelance reporters.

Nancy Blackwell '77 reports that after long careers in information technology, 27 years for her and 44 years for her husband, they have both finally retired and have begun traveling, spending winters in the state and national parks of Florida and summers camping all over the country. When they're not on the road, they are still based in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she is an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and of the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

Paul Hansen '78 had his second book published: *Thematic Expressions for the Lord's Supper*. The book deals with the weeks-long period between the announcement of an upcoming communion service and how to lead people to



Jim McFarlin '74 of Champaign, Illinois, was one of six outstanding journalists inducted into the 2023 class of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in April for his outstanding contributions to the profession.

McFarlin, a member of the Hope College Board of Trustees, is an award-winning author and freelance journalist with extensive newspaper and media-relations experience. He began his career at *The Grand Rapids Press*; was next with *The Flint Journal*, where he won an Associated Press award as an investigative reporter; and was subsequently at *The Detroit News* from 1979 to 1995, serving as pop music

critic, radio columnist and eventually the paper's television critic. He was one of the first people of color in America to cover contemporary music for a major daily newspaper, and one of the first African Americans to cover television for a mainstream media outlet. Most recently, he has pursued a variety of projects as a freelance writer, including articles in publications such as *People*, *Life*, *USA Today*, *Electronic Media*, *Black Enterprise*, *Men's Book Chicago* and *Drive*, the national Subaru owner's magazine (and also *News from Hope College!*); and writing or editing more than a dozen books.

hope.edu/mcfarlin

CLASSNOTES

the table in a biblical fashion. He is currently working on his third book on forgiveness, called *Sin and Forgiveness*.

Peter Warnock '79 developed an online course, ANTH 412, "Slavery and Human Trafficking, Past and Present" for Columbia College Online.

80s

John Ratmeyer '83 and Liliana Ratmeyer have served Navajo (Dine') and other Indigenous peoples (Zuni, Hopi, Acoma, Laguna, etc.) through their work at the Gallup Indian Medical Center (Gallup, New Mexico) for nearly 32 years: John as a pediatrician, and Liliana as a medical lab technologist. He reports that they look forward to retirement some time in 2024. Their two adult children (Paul 28, and Glenn 25) are pursuing medicine as a vocation.

Tom Van Heest '85 recently published *Tree: A Football Novel*, which is the fifth book in the Juddville Jaguars Series.

Mark DeWitt '87 is chief advancement officer

at Evergreen Commons in Holland, Michigan, following a 17-year philanthropy career at Hope during which he led several initiatives including the development of the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts. He is building on a rich tradition of wellness, lifelong learning, travel, arts, disease physical function optimization and more to improve the qualities of lives.

David Kuiper '88 of Dart Bank has been named Alignable's 2023 Local Business Person Of The Year. Alignable is the largest online referral network for small businesses. David was recognized as a leader who has gone above and beyond guiding peers and supporting entire communities. He is the vice president and senior mortgage banker at Dart Bank and is a nationally recognized author, speaker and trainer in the mortgage industry.

90s

Tim Ritsema '90 won the West Michigan Officials Association Athletic Director of the Year Award. He is an athletic director at

Jenison High School and is also vice president of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. He is in his 30th year of education.

Jason Gillard '92 has been working as a therapist for more than 20 years. He was awarded a rare DBT certification (there are fewer than 400 in the United States). He is a DBT-Linehan Board of Certification – certified clinician. He works at Kaiser Permanente and in private practice, and is available to provide consultation and training in DBT.

Jamie Jeluso '92 Sitarz co-authored "Nurses' Rationale For Underreporting of Patient and Visitor Perpetrated Workplace Violence: A Systematic Review," published in *BMC Nursing* in April.

Daniel Combs '93 is a category manager with Gordon Food Service for the Denver metro area. He is also an accomplished nature and landscape photographer represented by LaFontsee Gallery in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Tim Johnston '93 has published *Lockett and the Devil's Path*, the next novel in his Civil War historical fiction series.

Julie Phillipps '94 published her fourth graphic novel in her Pacey Packer Unicorn Tracker series, *Dragon Rider*, with Random House Graphic in March 2023.

Wesley White '94 is the principal scientist, process risk assessment at Evonik Tippecanoe Labs.

Mark Whittaker '94 is president of the Scientific Research Consortium Inc. and AminoAcids.com, a research and testing laboratory in Roseville, Minnesota. He is also the co-founder of Blue Water Farm Feeds LLC, a startup focused on production of insect-derived protein for animal feeds.

Robert Wiesenthal '95 has been involved with the Democratic Party campaigns of Cory Booker, Kenneth E. Nwadike Jr., Edward Markey, Frank Wallbrown, Don L. Rivers, Gene Hart and Lori Lightfoot, in addition to others, by volunteering and contributing.



Maggie Schakel '01 Hirt, her husband Nick and their four children have spent the last six years exploring the world on a sailboat. They have spent time in the Caribbean, Ireland, Scotland and Spain, just to name a few, and are now currently in New Zealand. Nick is able to work remotely from their locations and Maggie homeschools the children along with writing. Her debut poetry chapbook, *Levels of the Ocean* was released in 2022 and *Her Sea-Filled Arms: Layers of Blue* was released in June.



Chad Carlson '03 who has been a member of the Hope College kinesiology faculty since 2014, has become the third generation in his family to achieve the rank of full professor at Hope. His grandfather **Dr. Lamont Dirkse '50**, who taught at Hope from 1964 until retiring in 1992, was promoted to professor of education in 1975 (Chad's grandmother and Lamont's wife, **Ruth De Graaf '50 Dirkse**, also served at Hope, on the staff of the Academic Support Center from 1986 to 1992). Chad's great-grandfather, **Dr. Clarence T. De Graaf**, Ruth's father, who taught at Hope's high school and then the college from 1928 until retiring in 1972, was promoted to professor of English in 1942.

hope.edu/carlson

Shelli Rottschaefer '96 was a professor of Spanish from 2006 to 2023 at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She taught Spanish language classes as well as Latinx literature, film and cultural studies. Additionally, she taught in the inquiry expression program for the first-year students' research writing skills courses. From 2014 to 2023 she was the director of the contemporary writers series program, which brought nationally acclaimed authors to speak on campus. She will begin a new chapter by returning to school for her MFA in creative writing, focusing on poetry and nature writing, in a low-residency program at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, Colorado. Shelli, **Daniel Combs '93** and their canine-child, Bayden, have moved to Colorado.

Katie Wright '06 DeKoster and **Kate Bultema '09 Ralston** have been named to new leadership roles in alumni and family engagement at Hope. DeKoster has been appointed director of family engagement after previously serving as assistant director of student life. Ralston has been named director of alumni engagement after previously serving as associate director of alumni and family engagement. **Beth Timmer '00 Szczersowski**, who previously directed both programs, has taken a new role as director of employer engagement with the college's Boerigter Center for Calling and Career. **Scott Travis '06** continues to serve as executive director of alumni and family engagement.

00s

Paul Lillie '00 joined The Clear Sailing Wealth Group at RBC Wealth Management as a financial advisor. He is working out of the Chicago, Illinois, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, offices.

Josiah Dykstra '02 has co-authored his second book, *Cybersecurity Myths and Misconceptions: Avoiding the Hazards and Pitfalls that Derail Us*. He also wrote *Essential Cybersecurity Science*.

Heather Bachelor '02 Karlson works as a birth doula in the Chicago suburbs, entering her 13th year educating and supporting families prenatally, at labor and birth, and postpartum.

She received her master's degree from National-Louis University in curriculum and instruction and has homeschooled her five children while doing birth work.

Elizabeth Horstman '05 Morehouse and **Craig Morehouse** announce the birth of Logan Blake on April 5, 2023. He joins big sister, Avery.

Neil Simons '05 and **Katherine Stritzke '08 Simons** announce the birth of Soren Bryn on Aug. 23, 2022.

Kari Soderstrom '07 and Mark Bergami were married on Feb. 6, 2023, in Iceland.

Daniel Vasko '07 and **Joseph Vasko '07** are founders of Acumen LLC, a paralegal outsource and fiduciary firm located in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Johnny Rodriguez '09 was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer's office to serve a three-and-a-half-year term on the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan.

10s

Christine Buhrmaster-Reniff '10 and **Ryan Reniff '10** announce the birth of Henry William on March 14, 2023.

Jonathan Tromp '10 earned his *Juris Doctor* degree from Michigan State University College of Law, where he was invited into the Michigan Leadership Initiative and received the Rodney M. Lockwood Memorial Award. While at MSU Law, he clerked for the Honorable. G. Patrick Hillary and served as the business editor for the *Animal & Natural Resource Law Review*, which selected his article "Sweeping Regulations Sweep Up Cruisers..." for publication in the Spring 2023 edition. He has joined the Grand Rapids office of Mika Meyers.

Nate Erber '12 is a senior research associate for Michigan Geological Survey.

Kevin Watson '12 and **Allison Springett '13 Watson** announce the birth of Falyann Marie. She joins big brother and sister Porter and Oakleigh.

Jillian Haverkate '13 Finlayson and Grant Finlayson announce the birth of Griffin Douglas on Feb. 7, 2023.

CLASSNOTES



Ben Mahaffie '11 has been named the 2022 Dr. Carl A. Gerstacker Trooper of the Year by the Michigan State Police. The award recognizes the MSP trooper or sergeant who symbolizes outstanding professional ethics, dedication to duty and a concern for giving back to the community. Now a detective sergeant with the Fifth District's Benton Harbor Major Case Unit, Ben was nominated while serving as a sergeant at the Paw Paw Post. Among other service, he is president of the Niles, Michigan, chapter of the State Trooper Outreach Partnership and established a migrant outreach program.

hope.edu/mahaffie

Allison Bolt '13 Ridlen and Bob Ridlen announce the birth of Levi James on Jan. 3, 2023.

Taylor Votto '14 Blauvelt and Dan Blauvelt announce the birth of their second son, Graham Ronald, on March 16, 2023.

Kelsey Janssen '14 Dame and Frankie Dame announce the birth of Isabelle Suzanne on Oct. 12, 2022.

Madison Werley '14 Finn and **Thomas Finn '17** announce the birth of Charles Thomas on Sept. 26, 2022.

Courtney Mulder '14 received her Master of Science degree from The Ohio State University. She is currently a DNP candidate at The Ohio State University and has presented and published internationally about leadership in nursing.

Christina Heberer '14 Stafford and **Josh Stafford '14** announce the birth of John "Bennett" on Sept. 3, 2022. He joins big sister Emmy.

Charlyn Pelter '15 De Witt and **Michael De Witt '15** announce the birth of Allison Pace on July 30, 2022.

Nicole Sparbanie '15 and Jack Furness were married in Chicago, Illinois, on Dec. 30, 2022. They live in New York City with their dog, Mary Tyler Moore.

Nicole Ladd '16 completed her Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Chicago in April 2023.

Hannah Dauber '17 and Will Kruper were married on Oct. 8, 2022.

Lindsay Hall '17 and **Cullen Smith '17** were married on July 9, 2022. They reside in East Lansing, Michigan.

Erin Murphy '18 and **Tyler Trisch '19** were married on March 10, 2023, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Max Sievers '18 graduated with his M.D. from the University of Michigan and is starting his residency in anesthesiology, also at U of M.

Abby Veldink '18 Sievers completed her Master of Special Education degree with an endorsement in autism spectrum disorder. She is currently a special education teacher at Saline High School.

20s

Noah Weigle '20 will graduate in 2024 from the University of Michigan with a DDS degree from the school of dentistry.

Ruth Holloway '21 received her M.A. degree in political science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She will resume her doctoral studies at the University of Rochester this fall.

Kworweinski Lafontant '21 received a master's degree in exercise science from the University of South Florida in May. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in kinesiology at the University of Central Florida.

Graham Gould '22 and **Lindsay Lane '22** were married on Feb. 4, 2023.

Madison Kerber '22 and **Michael Boynton '22** were married on June 3, 2023.

Madelyn Smith '22 is the Northeast Ohio organizer at Equality Ohio.

Class of 2023

Elise Almquist '23 is pursuing a Doctor of Optometry degree at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee.

Chloe Bares '23 is pursuing a Master of Science degree in disability and human development at the University of Illinois Chicago. She was awarded a partial teaching assistantship and will be working on campus.

Elizabeth Bassett '23 is a business analyst at McKinsey & Company in Detroit, Michigan.

Hannah Beck '23 will be a NICU nurse at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

Ashley Beck '23 is pursuing a Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Claire Benedict '23 will pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at the University of Chicago beginning in the fall of 2024. Prior to that she is on a Fulbright year-long research term in Switzerland at the University of Bern.

Johanna Boelema '23 and **Adam Heisler '22** were married in July.

Steve Boerigter '23 is a Starbucks administration specialist at Gordon Food Service.

Cassidy Broekhuizen '23 is attending Grand Valley State University in the occupational therapy program.

Grace Brown '23 will be a tax associate at BDO USA, LLP beginning in January 2024.

Sophie Brown '23 is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in educational studies with a secondary teacher certification at the University of Michigan.

Hanna Cartwright '23 is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Jane Addams School of Social Work.

Marco Charbonneau '23 is an implementation consultant with Fast Enterprise.

Yoseline Chavez '23 traveled to South Korea in June and then returned to Holland, Michigan, working for Girls Who Code as a computer science advisor for the rest of the summer.

Rita Cheney '23 is pursuing a Master of Science degree in genetic counseling in the school of medicine at Indiana University's Genetic Counseling Graduate Program.

Arianna Cinque '23 moved to Portland, Oregon, in July to participate in Marriott International's Voyage Program in the event-planning discipline at the Ritz Carlton Residences.

Jesse Cooke '23 will be returning to Hope to use his fifth year of eligibility for football. He will be attending graduate school in the fall of 2024 to study sport psychology.

Eleni Copetas '23 is a social media associate at Lambert.

Jenna Core '23 is a cost specialist at Shape Corp.

Parker Cote '23 is a communications specialist for Spring Lake, Michigan.

Hannah Cross '23 is a nurse in Butterworth Hospital's emergency room. She and **Daniel Romano '23** were married on May 19, 2023.

Bethany Dame '23 is pursuing a Master of Music degree in organ performance at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University.

Annika Dekker '23 is pursuing a Master of Science in Information degree with a concentration in library science at the University of Michigan School of Information. She also accepted the Joyce Bonk Assistantship at the University of Michigan, which is a program combining education and work experience for students within the MSI.

Jace De Witt '23 is a systems test engineer with Northrop Grumman in Salt Lake City, Utah.

William Diephuis '23 is a water resources engineer at Coffman Engineers in Burlington, Washington.

Ashish Duvvuru '23 is pursuing a Master of Science degree in basic medical sciences at Wayne State University.

Shannon Dwyer '23 is pursuing a Master in Education degree through the teaching and teacher leadership program at Harvard University.

Multiple graduating seniors and recent graduates have again received recognition through the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Claire Benedict '23 received both awards, but could accept only one. She has chosen the Fulbright, through which she will conduct research in inorganic chemistry at the University of Bern in Switzerland during 2023-24. She has the opportunity to apply again for an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship next year. In the fall of 2024 she will enroll in the Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago, which awarded her its Robert R. McCormick Fellowship, where she will conduct research focused on fundamental organometallic mechanisms.

Jessica Korte '19 also received an NSF fellowship, supporting her doctoral studies in biomedical engineering at the University of California, Davis. The NSF program presented honorable mention recognition to **Sarah Grimes '23**, who will pursue a Ph.D. in forestry and natural resources at Purdue University; **Erik Schoonover '21**, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in petrology at Pennsylvania State University, University Park; and **Jacob VanderRoest '21**, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry, focused on ecological sustainability, at Colorado State University.

hope.edu/nsffellowships

Also in this year's Fulbright U.S. Student Program, **Justine Watson '22** was named an alternate for a master's degree program in business in Italy; **Molly Douma '22** was recognized as a semi-finalist for a research grant in interdisciplinary studies in Peru; and **Gabrielle Kosiba '23** was recognized as a semi-finalist for an English teaching assistantship to South Korea.

hope.edu/fulbrightawards

Madelynn Edgerly '23 is a special education teacher at Sheldon Woods Elementary.

Olivia Edstrom '23 is working in the Convergent Development Program in operations with Convergent in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Madeline Eppard '23 is a special education teacher at Wellington Middle High School in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Julia Erb '23 is in sales and account management at Dow Chemical.

Vanessa Ferreyra '23 is pursuing a law degree at UMass Law School.

Jace Gerlach '23 is in medical device sales for Paragon 28.

Ethan Getchell '23 is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Denver.

Adam Gill '23 is working for Lenovo in the LASR (Lenovo Accelerated Sales Rotational

Program) program in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Margaret Gillich '23 is working at Wedgwood's Autism Center and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

Kyria Gowman '23 is an entry-level mechanical engineer at Universal Piping Industries.

Sarah Grimes '23 is pursuing a Ph.D. in forestry and natural resources at Purdue University.

Alyssa Gruppen '23 is in sales at Lanser Broadcasting for Joy99 radio station.

Camryn Guth '23 is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at Loyola University Chicago.

Joshua Haddad '23 is working in brand marketing at UScellular in Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas Halkyard '23 started a company as co-founder of PRK Parking.

Cole Harger '23 will be returning to Hope to use his fifth year of eligibility for football. He is

CLASSNOTES

working at Prein&Newhof in Holland and will be a municipal civil engineer full time beginning in January 2024.

Lydia Harrison '23 is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Duke Divinity School.

Anna Haseley '23 is a registered nurse at Northwestern in Chicago, Illinois.

Harris Hawkins '23 is in a management trainee position leading to a sales rep position at Cintas.

Ethan Henry '23 is pursuing a Licentiate of Philosophy at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

Michael Hoffman '23 will be an audit associate at Plante Moran's Grand Rapids, Michigan, location starting in January 2024.

Taylor Hofman '23 is a human resources generalist with Koops Automation Systems in Holland, Michigan.

Taylor Horn '23 is a registered nurse for Corewell Health in the emergency department.

Natalie Hufnagel '23 is an auditor for Ernst and Young.

Jenna Hunt '23 is a labor and delivery nurse at Corewell Health.

Hayley Jackson '23 is pursuing a doctorate degree in occupational therapy at Western Michigan University.

Brooke Kale '23 is working as a youth outdoor educator for Wilderness Awareness School in Seattle, Washington.

Olivia Kenrick '23 is a financial planner at Innovia Wealth in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Alexis Koehl '23 is the community engagement and program intern at Hope College.

Alec Kowalski '23 is attending medical school at Michigan State University.

Nicholas Kubert '23 is a production support engineer with Gentex Corporation.

Paige Kuhn '23 is pursuing a doctorate in occupational therapy at Western Michigan University at the campus in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sarah Lapinski '23 will join the assurance staff at Plante Moran in Chicago, Illinois, in January.

Eliza Lewis '23 is a patient care assistant in the Holland Hospital emergency department. She will be applying to physician assistant programs to begin in the summer of 2024.

Molly Leyden '23 will move to Northern Ireland in September for a year-long volunteer experience at Corrymeela, a center with a commitment to reconciliation and growth that was pivotal in peacework during the Troubles of Northern Ireland.

Tyce Lindhout '23 is pursuing a D.D.S. degree at the University of Michigan.

Theodore Lockett '23 is working at Hope College, conducting neuroscience research for a gap year before starting chiropractic school.

Isabel Lopez '23 is a registered nurse at Corewell GR.

Sophia Lupini '23 is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan.

Anna Mason '23 is a staff auditor at Crowe LLP.

Maya Matulis '23 is a registered nurse at Boven Birth Center in Holland Hospital.

Macey Mayer '23 is pursuing a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

Hannah McGrew '23 is working for the Joffrey Ballet School's summer intensive starting in Los Angeles and finishing up her contract in New York City. She reports that she hopes to remain in NYC to continue dancing, choreographing and teaching dance this fall.

Ella McKinney '23 is pursuing a D.D.S. degree at University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

Hope Miller '23 is on the international tax staff at Plante Moran.

Grace Mitchell '23 is pursuing a Master of Science degree in clinical mental health counseling at Gannon University.

Ana Mucci '23 is a data engineer in the global supply chain department at Amway Global.

Macie Muntter '23 is an assistant teacher of English as part of the CIEE Teach program in Spain.

Isaiah Nutt '23 is a painting contractor for Nutt Painting.

Marvellous Ogudoro '23 is pursuing a Master in Management degree at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

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

MEGAN ALTIERI '13

EMILY ARMBRUSTER '13

MEREDITH BUSMAN '14

PARKER BUSSIES '14

LAUREN EZZO '14

GAVIN MIDLAM '16

ALEC NORKEY '13

SARAH PETERSON '15

KARLY RAKLOVITS '15

REGINA SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ '15

Natalie Prestegaard '23 is a legal assistant at Northgate Resorts in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Jill Reitzel '23 is the company manager with Dorrance Dance in New York City.

David Rende '23 is teaching middle school mathematics in Detroit through Teach for America.

Delanie Riebschleger '23 is a registered nurse in a critical care nursing residency program in Traverse City, Michigan.

Bryce Robinson '23 took an assistant producer broadcasting position with the South Bend Cubs MiLB team and participated in a living history event with the Gettysburg National Park for the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in July.

Mikayla Roman '23 is attending graduate school for sport and exercise psychology.

Daniel Romano '23 is a product design engineer at Gentex Corporation. He and **Hannah Cross '23** were married on May 19, 2023.

Sophia Rosiek '23 is pursuing a master's degree in exercise science at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She received a graduate assistantship at OU providing her with a full-ride scholarship.

Colin Salamone '23 is pursuing a doctorate in physical therapy at Grand Valley State University.

Isabel Santos '23 is pursuing a Masters and Education Specialist degree (MEd/EdS) in a school psychology program. She is currently working as a neuropsychology technician at Thomason Memory and Attention, a private practice.

Gavin Schaeffer '23 is a mechanical engineer in research and development at Navistar Inc. in Chicago, Illinois.

Sydney Sheaks '23 is an associate in the accounting and outsourced department with Maner Costerisan in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Luke Shoemaker '23 is pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry and developmental biology at Emory University.

Ellie Slater '23 is working in embedded software engineering at Gentex.

Sophia Stamatopoulos '23 is a mechanical engineer at ComEd in the new-grads rotational program.

Micah Sterk '23 is a cost analyst at Gordon Food Service in Wyoming, Michigan.

Jane Stockbridge '23 is a fourth-sixth grade mathematics teacher at Dater Montessori School in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Juliana Struyk '23 is an operations assistant at Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C.

Sarah Theis '23 is a pharmacy tech while pursuing a Master of Social Work at Michigan State University.

Meilee Topp '23 is an API chemist at Pfizer in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Heleyna Tucker '23 is pursuing a master's in applied statistics at the University of Michigan.

Morgynn Vallieres '23 is an event manager at Campaign Resource Group.

Grace VanDellen '23 is a product design engineer at Gentex Corporation.

John VerMeulen '23 is an associate for Pathstone Partners in Chicago, Illinois.

Caitlyn Warne '23 is pursuing a doctorate in occupational therapy at Indiana University.

Gretel Weller '23 and Zach Geiger were married on May 20, 2023.

Ashley Wrobel '23 is a grape production and viticulture research intern at E&J Gallo Winery in Healdsburg, California.

Grace Wunderlich '23 will be applying to medical school and will work as a medical assistant at Southwest Michigan Dermatology.

Max Zimmerman '23 is a salesman at Crown Motors Toyota in Holland, Michigan.



NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

The Hope College Alumni Association Board of Directors has appointed four new members.

The board's new members are: **Craig DeSousa '72** of Garden City, New York; **Liam Naumann '25** of Wyckoff, New Jersey; **Marissa Solorzano '19** of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and **Gaye van den Hombergh '81** of Lincolnshire, Illinois. (Pictured clockwise starting from the top left.)

The board's three officers are continuing to serve in their roles for a second year. They 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.

Naod Estifanos '23 of Traverse City, Michigan, formerly senior-class representative, was appointed representative of the most recent graduating class. **Alyson Davis '24** of Palatine, Illinois, who was formerly junior-class representative, was appointed senior-class representative.

The board members who have completed their service are: **Thomas Doran '97** of Smyrna, Georgia; **Grace Purdue '22** of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and **Scott Watson '86** of Indianapolis, Indiana.

hope.edu/alumniboard2023



IN MEMORIAM

Please visit the college online, to view expanded obituaries.

magazine.hope.edu/summer-2023/inmemoriam

40s

Marian Klaasen '43 Beltman

June 12, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dorothea Dixon '46 Siff

March 18, 2023, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Adeline Sybesma '46

April 8, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Harvey Heerspink '49

April 4, 2023, Jenison, Michigan

50s

Constance Hartman '50 Formsma

June 11, 2023, Wyoming, Michigan

Canute Vander Meer '50

Feb. 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia

Sandra Lanning '51 Hemple

March 28, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Catherine Sharp '51 Kranendonk

June 17, 2023, Succasunna, New Jersey

Molly Buttles '52 Baker

March 5, 2023, Saugatuck, Michigan

Paul Buckout '52

Feb. 5, 2023, Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Mary Wright '52 Van Zyl

June 14, 2023, South Jordan, Utah

Arthur Veltman '52

May 6, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mary Ellen Weessies '53 Overbeek

May 16, 2023, Downers Grove, Illinois

John Van Riper '53

June 10, 2023, Yorktown, Virginia

Joyce VanDrunen '53 Ward

Feb. 11, 2023, Annapolis, Maryland

Allan Russcher '54

June 16, 2023, Fennville, Michigan

Helen Van Loo '54

June 15, 2023, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Lawrence Veenstra '54

March 14, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Donald Baker '55

May 18, 2023, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Gerald Vander Velde '55

April 10, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Marlene DeVette '56 Dykstra

April 21, 2023, Muskegon, Michigan

Nelvie Jonker '56

April 5, 2023, Orange City, Iowa

Kay Peelen '57 DeWitt

May 16, 2023, Fairfield, Connecticut

Donald Knoll '57

March 2, 2023, Grandville, Michigan

Robert Veltman '57

May 4, 2023, Hart, Michigan

John Docherty III '58

Feb. 11, 2023, Millersville, Maryland

Donna Hardenberg '58

May 12, 2023, Beaver Island, Michigan

William Bogart '59

March 2, 2023, Blossburg, Pennsylvania

Frederick Brown '59

April 30, 2023, State College, Pennsylvania

Marilyn Kortenhoven '59 Hanson

May 16, 2023, Burlingame, California

John Meengs '60

May 10, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Audrey Veld '60 Rietveld

Feb. 19, 2023, Crete, Illinois

Priscilla Wubbels '61 Landreth

Feb. 26, 2023, Versailles, Kentucky

Paul Hesselink '62

May 1, 2023, Las Vegas, Nevada

Frederick Overkamp '62

Feb. 24, 2023, Hurricane, Utah

Bernard Weidenaar '62

June 13, 2023, Cedar, Michigan

Stanley Winn '62

April 15, 2023, Garden Prairie, Illinois

Dennis De Witt '63

April 6, 2023, Holland, Michigan

David Lewis '63

March 1, 2023, Rome, New York

Carl Brandt '64

March 8, 2023, Naples, Florida

Carol Salm '64 Kenney

Jan. 31, 2023, Carlsbad, California

Norman Ten Brink '65

March 30, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Jonathan Wiegand '66

May 14, 2023, Crewe, Virginia

Carol Howes '66 Wilbur

June 3, 2023, Grand Haven, Michigan

Floyd Farmer Jr. '67

June 3, 2023, Muskegon, Michigan

Frank Remmelsberger '67

Feb. 2, 2023, Otto, Wyoming

Deborah Reuss '69

April 2, 2023, Fairhope, Alabama

David VanHeest '69

May 2, 2023, Holland, Michigan

60s

Gretchen VerMeulen '60 Felix

Jan. 20, 2023, Zeeland, Michigan

70s

Charles Bigelow '70

March 9, 2023, Dexter, Michigan

Joan Westhuis '70

April 28, 2023, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Roger Jones '72

June 13, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Candy Carey '72 Porter

April 5, 2023, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Thomas Jeltse '73

May 16, 2023, Dade City, Florida

Margaret Francis '73 Swieringa

Feb. 23, 2023, Ferndale, Washington

Margaret Byl '76 Amstutz

April 23, 2023, Montague, Michigan

Kathleen VanPelt '76 Gross

May 29, 2023, Hillsborough, New Jersey

William Seiberling '79

April 29, 2023, Sarasota, Florida

80s

Nancy Piatt '81

April 10, 2023, Georgetown, Kentucky

90s

Michele Sterk '91 Schoon

May 4, 2023, Ludington, Michigan

Kierun Givens '93

June 8, 2023, North Andover, Massachusetts

00s

Darin Crask '00

June 11, 2023, Seneca, Illinois

Anna Cook '05

Jan. 30, 2023, Boston, Massachusetts

Merry Roberts '07 Morgan

April 8, 2023, Mill Valley, California



Michele Sterk '91 Schoon

of Ludington, Michigan, was facing a grim prognosis when she returned to campus on April 17 to receive the 2023 H-Club Hope for Humanity Award. She had been diagnosed with Stage 3 triple negative breast cancer in February 2022, and wasn't expected to live much longer.

Still, she greeted others with a smile on her face and expressed appreciation for those around her, displaying the spirit that earned her the recognition, which is presented to

Hope alumni athletes who have demonstrated Christian commitment to service to others in their careers at Hope. Past recipients of the award have included both her father, Vern Sterk '64, in 2018, and her father-in-law, Jon Mark Schoon '63, in 2005.

"It's very humbling," she said. "My father-in-law and my dad, I've always looked up to them. They're great people with what they have done in their lives. It's such an honor to be in that group of people. You look at that group [of Hope for Humanity] honorees, they've been world changers."

Schoon, who died on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at age 53, had been a two-sport athlete at Hope, playing volleyball and women's basketball — the latter as a member of the 1990 national-championship team. A nursing major, she worked as a nurse for the past 32 years, most recently in the obstetrics unit at Corewell Health (formerly Spectrum).

Survivors include her husband, Jon R. Schoon '92; their four children, Jacob, Zachary, Caleb '23 and Ellie; her parents, Vern '64 and Carla Vande Bunte '65 Sterk; and mother-in-law, Mary Kay Paalman '66 Schoon.

Michele is pictured with Hope classmate — and current women's basketball coach — Brian Morehouse '91, who presented her Hope for Humanity Award.

hope.edu/schoonaward

Sympathy to the family and friends of

Ronald Fleischmann

May 25, 2023, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ron had been at Hope since 2018 as the director of sponsored research and programs.

Maxine Greij

May 14, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Maxine was the office manager of the Hope College Geneva Bookstore and had been on the staff from 1978 to 2006.

Hubert (Herb) Weller

June 29, 2023, Holland, Michigan

He retired from the Spanish faculty in 1996 after teaching at Hope since 1962.



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