

NEWS FROM  
*HOPE COLLEGE*

WINTER 2023

VOLUME 55, NO. 2



*For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11



DISTINCTIVE  
HOPE





# MURAL FESTIVAL

Hope College's Transportation Garage sits a few blocks away from the core campus. If you didn't know it was there, you might miss it! But thanks to the Tulip City Walls Festival, held during the most sweltering days of this past July, the garage has been adorned with a colorful mural, along with many other buildings in the area. The Festival was created by 3Sixty, an organization supporting the Eastcore Neighborhood (13th to 24th Streets, River to Lincoln Avenues).

The mural was designed and painted by local artist Ryer Appeldoorn.

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



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EDITOR  
*Greg Olgers '87*

SPERA SECTION EDITOR  
*Ann Sierks Smith*

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

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
*Erik Alberg '90, Alan Babbitt,  
Dave Burgess, Michael Grindstaff,  
Sandro Gromen Hayes, Steven Herppich,  
Dan Hunter, Jon Lundstrom, Will MacNeil,  
Greg Olgers '87, Lynne Powe '86,  
Tom Renner '67, Liza Rosales*

HOPE COLLEGE PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND MARKETING  
Anderson-Werkman Financial Center  
PO Box 9000  
Holland, MI 49422-9000  
616.395.7860  
marketing@hope.edu | hope.edu

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

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## ON THE COVER

*The annual lighting of the Christmas tree outside the President's Home on Nov. 29 provided an opportunity for the campus community to gather in anticipation of the Advent season and celebrate the promise of salvation embodied in the birth of Jesus. In a fortuitous conjunction, a timely snowfall a few days before the event blanketed the ground and the roof of neighboring Voorhees Hall to contribute some additional seasonal atmosphere. Merry Christmas!*

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## READ THE MAGAZINE ONLINE

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

## CONNECT WITH US





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family of Hope College,

During the season of Christmas, hope comes alive. And I don't just mean Hope College — although that happens, too. The massive tree between our home and Voorhees lights up, we sing carols in Dimnent, and celebrate long-standing campus traditions like Vespers.

Those joyous occasions are celebrating the coming of true hope into our world: God becomes human. He entered into our brokenness and made promises to redeem it. The arrival of Jesus promises peace on earth, all things made new. And yet, as we celebrate God coming near, sometimes his promises seem so far away.

Isaiah, for example, promises a time when nation won't take up sword against nation. That seems hard to believe, especially now. Across the world we see war, terror, and violence — in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Myanmar and Haiti, just to name a few. Not to mention the violence and division within our own borders.

We celebrate hope, and yet the world seems totally hopeless.

The natural question to ask God in response to these promises is: How can this be? That is the same question Mary posed to the angel Gabriel when he told her that she would give birth to the world's savior.

I wonder if she asked that question again when going into labor in a barn far from home. Or when her son hung dying on a cross. How can this be? If God is really in this, if this is really hope entering in, why does it seem like everything is collapsing?

What does Gabriel say to young Mary? “[T]he word of God never fails” (Luke 1:37). In other words, if God promised it, it will happen. Just trust him. And sure enough, just when things looked the darkest — in that dirty stable, dying on the cross — God's promise came to pass. Shepherds showed up to worship the king heralded by angels. Jesus rose from the dead. Because God's word never fails.

That's why we light trees during the darkest time of the year. To remind us that, often just when things seem farthest away from victory, that's precisely when God's triumph is nearest.

God has made promises over each of our lives. And He has made promises to us as a community — that we would be a beacon of hope for the world. Even when things feel hopeless to the world, we never lose hope.

Why? Because when things are at their darkest point, light is on the verge of breaking through. Because God has made promises about the future. And the word of God never fails.

*Spera in Deo!*



Matthew A. Scogin '02  
*President*





# QUOTE UNQUOTE

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



Even a welcome, sought-after change can lead to anxious moments. As Hope formally launched its 162nd academic year with its Opening Convocation, featured speaker Rebekah L. Starkenburg provided tools to help the members of the incoming Class of 2027 navigate those moments and make the most of their time as college students.

Starkenburg, who is vice president for student formation and dean of students at Hope, presented “A College Life that is Truly Life” during the traditional event, held on Sunday, Aug. 27, at the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse. The audience included the approximately 820 new students as well as their families and friends, and members of the faculty and staff. Fall semester classes began on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

“[A] college life that is rooted in joy is a college life that is truly life. And I think we all want a life in full color, three dimensions, in person,” Starkenburg said. “This is a life that I think we are called to together as a learning community.”

Having worked with students for more than 25 years at multiple colleges and universities — and as the parent of a second-year college student herself — she also noted that the students shouldn’t be discouraged if they don’t feel that sense of joy right away.

“[W]hen you start something new, all kinds of feelings are kicked up,” she said, sharing reflections from her son about his adjustment: “When you are ending high school and starting college, most of your mental energy is focused on looking backwards. Backwards at high school and all of the memories. You miss your friends. You are leaving your family.”

“Finding joy is a process,” Starkenburg said. “It’s going to take some time and it’s going to take some patience.”

To assist the students, she reflected on an excerpt from Psalm 30:5: “Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” With its foundation in the historic Christian faith,

she noted, Hope provides an opportunity to find joy that is meaningful and sustaining.

“A life of joy allows us to see the gifts that despair misses,” Starkenburg said.

“*A life of joy allows us to see  
the gifts that despair misses.*”

“Joy is not happiness. Joy isn’t toxic positivity. Joy is not ignoring our mental health, it’s not hiding from our pain, it’s not ignoring conflict with others,” she said. “Scholar-theologian Karl Barth said that ‘Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. To be joyful is to expect that life will reveal itself as God’s gift of grace.’ Joy is an orientation that allows us to see that the world runs on gift. That the real truth about the world is that God has created a world of abundance and generosity. And joy is living as if that is real.”

To help the students with their discernment, Starkenburg outlined 10 concrete practices that she said experience has shown will make a difference in their lives: Leave your phone in your room and go to the library; go to Chapel; care for your body; find friends in different communities; enjoy the beauty of Michigan; eat three meals a day; get seven hours of sleep a night; get your stuff done during the week; communicate with grace; and learn with courage.

“[Y]ou can’t manufacture joy. It is a gift that comes to you,” she said as she explicated each of the 10. “But I do think there are things you can do even now to create the conditions in which you’ll be able to see the joy when it comes. And it will come.”

[hope.edu/convocation23](https://hope.edu/convocation23)

## COMMENT PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS DEVELOPING MORAL IMAGINATION



*Comment* magazine has selected Hope as the first institution to pilot a new community subscription program called *Comment* for Groups, providing additional resources for students, faculty and staff as they consider how the historic Christian faith can help meet the world's deepest needs.

*Comment* is a quarterly magazine of public theology that serves Christian leaders and culture makers with rooted, fresh ideas for the

faithful practice of public life. Featuring essays and reviews, the magazine is the flagship publication of Cardus, a non-partisan think tank dedicated to clarifying and strengthening, through research and dialogue, the ways in which society's institutions can work together for the common good.

Through the partnership, beginning this fall, all Hope students receive unlimited digital access to *Comment* at [comment.org](http://comment.org), and all faculty and staff are offered complimentary print copies of each issue of *Comment* and unlimited digital access. As a *Comment* for Groups institution, Hope also receives an exclusive monthly newsletter with suggested articles and questions designed to stimulate meaningful discussions and encourage the development of a moral imagination.

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

## PULL AND NYKERK

The even-year sophomore Class of 2026 won both of this fall's traditional freshman-sophomore contests.

The sophomores won this year's Pull tug-of-war, held on Saturday, Sept. 30, along the south side of 11th Street across from the DeVos Fieldhouse, with a gain of 44 feet, 4 inches. It was Hope's 126th year with the Pull, first held in 1898.

The class won the 89th Nykerk Cup competition on Saturday, Oct. 14. The contest was held in the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse during One Big Weekend: Homecoming + Family Weekend. Nykerk began in 1936.

Galleries of photographs from both events are available online.

[hope.edu/pull23oddyear](http://hope.edu/pull23oddyear)

[hope.edu/pull23evenyear](http://hope.edu/pull23evenyear)

[hope.edu/nykerk23](http://hope.edu/nykerk23)



## HOPE RECEIVES DIVERSITY AWARD SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



Hope has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award for the second year in a row from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

As a 2023 recipient of the annual HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding and holistic commitment to diversity and inclusion — Hope is featured, along with the other 107 recipients, in the magazine's November/December 2023 issue.

"When we were notified about being HEED Award winners this year we were told that the selection committee was glad to see Hope apply again and was excited to read our application," said Dr. Sonja Trent-Brown, who is vice president for culture and inclusive excellence at Hope. "It is such a blessing to be recognized with this award for the second consecutive year — a testament to the ongoing investment and efforts of the members of the Hope College community."

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



## ENROLLMENT REPORT

In contrast to what many colleges and universities across the nation are experiencing, Hope continues to see strong enrollment.

This fall, the college's headcount increased for the fourth consecutive year, to 3,369 from the 3,251 of the fall of 2022. The total could have been higher, but Hope deliberately enrolled fewer first-time students, 834 instead of last year's 955, to keep the college's size in the best range for providing both individual attention and robust programming (the general guideline being 3,000 to 3,300-ish). Hope's highest enrollment was 3,433 students in the fall of 2014.

[hope.edu/enrollment23](http://hope.edu/enrollment23)

## BOOK EARNS MULTIPLE AWARDS



The book *Blind in Early Modern Japan: Disability, Medicine, and Identity* by **Dr. Wei Yu Wayne Tan**, associate professor of history, has received multiple awards from professional associations.

The book covers the Edo Period (1600-1868) and examines how blind people in Japan were able to thrive, gaining power and respect in society, through prominence in a range of professions. It has won the American Historical Association's Patricia

Buckley Ebrely Prize for a book on Pre-1800 East Asian history; and the Outstanding Book Award from the Disability History Association; and Honorable Mention for the Presidents Book Award from the Social Science History Association.

Tan wrote *Blind in Early Modern Japan* to provide a new way of understanding not only disability but also history and culture. The book focuses especially on a guild of blind traveling musicians that also led a network of other guilds, in fields such as massage and acupuncture, that consisted of blind people.

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

## RESEARCH CENTER RENAMED TO HONOR SERVICE



The Van Raalte Institute and Hope have honored Dr. Jacob E. and Leona '93 Nyenhuis for their many decades of scholarship and service with the addition of their names to the Theil Research Center, home of the Van Raalte Institute since 2004.

Jacob E. Nyenhuis is a past director of the college's A.C. Van Raalte Institute, which he had previously been instrumental in creating while serving as

provost. Leona Nyenhuis graduated with an art history major after attending Hope as a non-traditional student while her husband served at the college. The announcement — a surprise to the couple — was made during a ceremony at the center on Thursday, Sept. 14.

The new formal name of the building is the "Henri and Eleonore Theil and Jacob E. and Leona M. Nyenhuis Research Center," or the "Theil-Nyenhuis Research Center." The building was named for Eleonore Goldschmidt Theil and her late husband, the eminent economist Dr. Henri Theil, in 2004 in honor of an estate gift to the college.

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

## FIVE FACULTY APPOINTED TO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS



Hope has appointed five faculty members to endowed professorships:

**Dr. Kenneth Brown**, the John H. and Jeanne M. Jacobson Endowed Professor of Chemistry;



**Dr. Susanna Childress**, the DuMez Endowed Professor of English;



**Dr. Jared Ortiz**, the Lavern '39 and Betty DePree '41 Van Kley Endowed Professor of Religion;



**Dr. Jeanne Petit**, the Betty Roelofs '53 Miller Endowed Professor of History;



**Dr. Stephen Smith**, the Robert W. Haack Professor of Economics.

In addition to recognizing faculty members for excellence, endowed professorships provide funding for summer research projects as well as some salary support. The college has a total of 25 endowed professorships for faculty and eight endowed administrative positions.

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

## NATIONAL CERTIFICATION CONTINUES FOR PROFESSIONAL TENNIS MANAGEMENT

Graduates of the college's Professional Tennis Management program will continue to have the advantage of national certification when they seek employment as instructors, coaches and tennis professionals.

The sport's two professional associations, the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) and the United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) have both renewed their partnerships with Hope's program, relationships that have existed since the program began in the fall of 2017. The agreements reflect that Hope's program, which combines academic coursework and hands-on experience, meets the new level-based standards that each of the professional organizations have implemented.

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



## GRANT SUPPORTS PROJECT PROMOTING BREASTFEEDING

Given breastfeeding's health benefits for both mothers and infants, researchers at Hope are seeking to increase the practice in Michigan.

The team is focusing especially on low-income women, for whom the researchers note the participation rate is far below the overall statewide average — which they would also like to see higher. Working with area lactation providers, they'll be providing lactation coaches and measuring the impact on the mothers' experience and how they feel about it. The 24-month study has been funded through a \$50,000 grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation.

The work is being led by **Dr. Anita Esquerra-Zwiers**, assistant professor of nursing, and **Dr. Alyssa Cheadle**, associate professor of psychology. Both of the faculty leads specialize in topics related to pregnancy.

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

## RESEARCH VIEWS SPIRITUALITY OF THOSE LEAVING RELIGION

With church affiliation on the decline in the United States, **Dr. Daryl Van Tongeren** of the psychology faculty is leading a new effort to understand the spirituality of those who have left.

An associate professor of psychology and director of the college's Frost Center for Social Science Research, he is the principal investigator of "Spiritual Yearning as a Psychological Construct: Associations with Spiritual Struggles and Existential Growth," a three-year project that has received a \$509,623 grant from the John Templeton Foundation. He is pursuing the new project with social scientists from Duke University and Case Western University as co-investigators.

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

## SARA HOEVE ELECTED VP OF STATE TEACHING GROUP

**Dr. Sara Hoeve**, who is director of student teaching and teacher certification at Hope, has been elected vice president of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English (MCTE). Her term as vice president began on July 1, and is the start of a four-year cycle that will continue with service to the MCTE as president-elect, president and past-president.

She spent more than 10 years as a secondary English teacher before earning her Ph.D. Prior to coming to Hope in 2020, she was a visiting assistant professor of English education on the Lafayette campus of Purdue University.

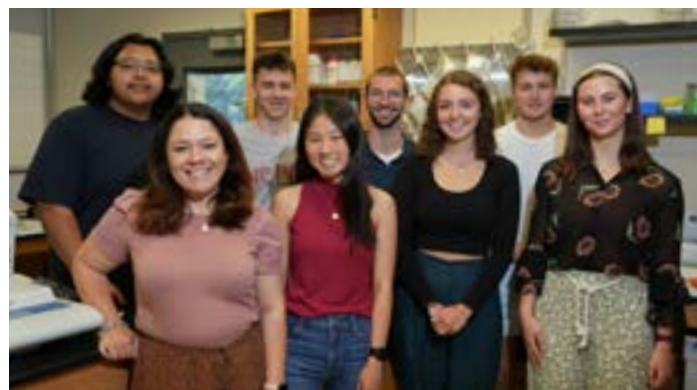
[hope.edu/hoeveelected](https://hope.edu/hoeveelected)

## STUDY VIEWS HELP AND HOPE IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Dr. Kendra Thomas**, an associate professor of psychology who is a specialist in educational psychology, has received a grant from the John Templeton Foundation to take a deep look at hope as a virtue by studying how it manifests in a disadvantaged South African community whose residents are centrally involved in the effort to make things better.

She is conducting the research in partnership with the South African-based nonprofit iThemba Projects, which works with the people of Sweetwaters (Mpumzuza) to enhance young children's development and education by providing guidance and resources for their caregivers. Running through December 2024, the two-year award totals \$210,902.70 (3.6 million South African rand) and is funding additional mentors through iThemba Projects along with Thomas's study of the impact on participants' outlook.

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



## GRANTS FUND RESEARCH ON NERVOUS SYSTEM

**Dr. Erika Calvo-Ochoa** of the biology and neuroscience faculty has received two multi-year external grants in support of her ongoing investigation of how the nervous system heals itself.

Together totaling more than \$500,000, the awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Kenneth H. Campbell Foundation for Neurological Research are helping fund research focused specifically on neural regeneration in the olfactory system, which is responsible for the sense of smell. The NSF award is also supporting development of additional programming integrating the research that will include a year-long neuroscience research-based course for Hope students and a bilingual summer camp for local Latinx K-12 students.

Calvo-Ochoa's research uses zebrafish, but the ultimate goal is to develop knowledge that can someday help humans recover following brain trauma.

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





# GRIT AND GRATITUDE



**FINISHING NATIONAL RUNNER-UP IN RECORD-SETTING FASHION IS NO SMALL FEAT, BUT IT'S HAVING MADE THE JOURNEY TOGETHER THAT STANDS OUT MOST FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE HOPE COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL TEAM.**

*By Alan Babbitt*

In a season filled with gratitude and togetherness, the Hope College volleyball team accomplished so much as one tight-knit group.

Led by American Volleyball Coaches Association Co-National Player of the Year Addie VanderWeide, the Flying Dutch posted a remarkable NCAA championships run that included a national runner-up finish and a Division III-record four consecutive five-set victories.

Hope finished with a 32-3 overall, tied for the third-most wins in a single season. The Flying Dutch also served up NCAA regional and MIAA titles.

Hope, which won MIAA regular-season and tournament championships for the second time in program history, made head coach Becky Schmidt '99 happy on and off the court.



"I am super proud of our team and thankful for the opportunity I had to be a part of this group because it's a group that's just special," Schmidt said. "They make each other better. They make me better. I'm very thankful for the season that we had and the ways their relationships are going to continue beyond this match."

The Flying Dutch lost to defending national champion Juniata College (Pennsylvania) in the Division III championship match on December 2 at Roberts Pavilion in Claremont, California. The NCAA Championships were hosted by Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

It was Hope's second-highest finish at the NCAA Championships. The Flying Dutch won an NCAA title in 2014.

During the tournament, VanderWeide, a junior outside hitter, was named Hope's first AVCA National Player of the Year by sharing the honor with Juniata setter Olivia Foley. VanderWeide made the AVCA All-America First Team. Two teammates joined VanderWeide in receiving All-America honors: sophomore setter Lauren Lee (second team) and junior middle blocker Alison DeWeerd.

Hope reached the national championship match in a memorable fashion.

The Flying Dutch went the distance in four consecutive matches over a span of 15 days. In California,

Hope outlasted No. 8 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in the national semifinals on November 30 and No. 9 in Johns Hopkins University (Maryland) in the national quarterfinals on November 29.

A week before Thanksgiving, the Flying Dutch won the regional they hosted at DeVos Fieldhouse by winning three times in three days, including five-set victories against No. 17 Transylvania University (Kentucky) in the final and No. 23 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the semifinals.

No other Division III program had won more than three five-set postseason matches in a row previously. Libero Olivia Fiebing, Hope's lone senior,

and DeWeerd said the Flying Dutch had the right mindset for success.

"We already have everything we could ask for, national championship game or not. I think that's pretty cool," Fiebing said after the semifinal victory. "I think that allows us to enter this moment with gratitude and freedom."

After the quarterfinal victory, DeWeerd said, "We reset our minds. We start with a prayer [then] we say won two, lost two, there's got to be a change that happens. I think we all knew that and were ready to make that change. From there on out, it was play with less aggression and more love. So much pent-up energy is coming through the four sets, the fifth set it's going to change. We were able to make that change and play with joy and fun."

*Please see page 45 for an overview of the fall season for all of the college's teams, and visit Hope online for additional coverage — including galleries of images from the volleyball championships.*  
**[athletics.hope.edu](http://athletics.hope.edu)**







# YEARS AND **COUNTING**

Marking its 50th installment this spring, this year's signature showcase dance concert at Hope not only is an occasion but is providing one. It's the centerpiece of a year-long celebration that began with a groundbreaking and will culminate in a dedication, all an opportunity to reflect on the rich history as well as the bright present and future of a department that has earned — and it is not exaggeration to say this — an international reputation for excellence.

*By Greg Olgers '87*





- Dance department founder Maxine DeBruyn joins the faculty in 1965 and creates and teaches Hope's first dance class, in modern dance; 17 students enroll. Even as she continued to build the college's program across the next four-plus decades, DeBruyn went on to become a nationally and internationally recognized leader in dance education. She retired in 2006 as the Dorothy Wiley DeLong Professor Emerita of Dance, although she remained active in the department. She died at age 83 on Dec. 9, 2020; a Celebration of Life was held on campus in her honor the following September.

*Maxine DeBruyn teaching a class in the basement of Durfee Hall, 1969.*

- The college's dance program begins with a small studio in Durfee Hall (the Juliana Room) and a room in the basement of the DeWitt Center. The Dow Health and Physical Education Center opens in 1978, providing the college's first purpose-built dance studio as well as faculty offices for the department.



*Dance class in the Dow Studio, 1979*



- With the department's growth and evolving national standards for instruction, the Wesselink Tap Studio opens in the DeVos Fieldhouse during the 2021-22 school year, and the college breaks ground this past Aug. 18 for the Heeringa Dance Wing being added to the DeWitt Center with completion scheduled for the fall of 2024. Next up will be an extensive renovation of the Dow Center to provide even more space.

*Dave and Linda Wesselink  
Tap Studio Dedication, 2023.*



1975



*Dance 2, 1976*

- The dance program becomes a full academic department in 1974, offering a dance minor. Hope begins offering a dance major in 1984. Today, the department offers a dance major with emphases in performance and choreography, a dance dual major, and minors in dance and in dance pedagogy. Coursework is a combination of theory and technique, including ballet, Hip Hop, jazz, modern and tap. The department includes seven full-time faculty and staff, as well as a variety of part-time faculty, adjunct and guest faculty.



- Dance 1, featuring faculty choreography and student dancers, is held in the DeWitt Center main theatre on March 21-22, 1975. Performance opportunities for students today include not only the showcase concert, but also concerts by two companies affiliated with the department, H2 Dance Co. (a pre-professional repertory company) and Strike Time (presenting dance for elementary schools throughout Michigan), as well as fall and spring concerts of student-choreographed work. Hope College has six dance clubs: Ballet Movement Lab, Tap Club, Dance Club/Dutch Dance Team, Swing Dance Club, Rumba Latina/Latin X Dance Club, and For His Glory (Sacred Dance) Club.



- Hope becomes accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance in 1982. Hope also holds national accreditation in art, music and theatre, the first private liberal arts college to have achieved the distinction.
- The Cecchetti Council of America relocates its annual International Summer School to Hope in 1995, with the participants annually including about 250 dance students ages 11-18 from across the United States, instructors, counselors and artists. This coming July, the college will also host the Cecchetti International Classical Ballet Competition, held every three years in various countries around the world.

*Cecchetti International Ballet  
Summer School, 2011*

- The Department of Dance is one of only 250 arts programs of all types nationwide — among them not only dance, but also drama, music and creative writing — highlighted in the 2005 book *Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians and Writers*. (The college's program in creative writing is also featured.)
- The department's H2 Dance Company, featuring student dancers led by co-artistic directors Matthew Farmer '04 and Crystal Frazier, is selected to travel to Scotland to participate in the August 2016 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the largest arts festival in the world.

*Edinburgh Festival Fringe  
in Scotland, 2016*







*Mary Linda Graham started teaching at Hope in 1983.*



*Steven Iannacone started teaching at Hope in 1990.*

- The global COVID-19 pandemic presents a challenge but not an obstacle for Dance 47 in 2021. With no in-person audience an option, the department develops the concert as a pair of multi-camera, professional-quality films to be shown online on April 9 and 10 that year, using the process of producing them as an additional learning experience. (Titled *Reset*, they continue to be available on the college's YouTube channel.)
- Chicago Tap Theatre presents the college with its 2023 Inspiration Award on Feb. 19 during the company's 20th-anniversary gala for the department's "legacy of continued support and advancement for the art of tap dance in America."
- Today, more than 250 students are enrolled in the department's courses in any given semester, including approximately 75 who have declared majors or minors. Across the decades, numerous alumni have made — and continue to make — their career in dance as dancers, choreographers, company directors or dance educators. Many have also double-majored, combining dance with programs ranging from chemistry, to economics and business, to engineering, to French, to psychology, carving out career paths that blend their chosen fields.



*Dance 41, 2015*



*Chicago Tap Theatre, 2023*



- Scheduled for Feb. 9-10 and 15-17, Dance 50 will feature additional activities including an alumni reunion in conjunction with the Feb. 17 performance and tours of the in-progress Heeringa Dance Wing. Members of the Hope family who are interested in learning more about the concert or the 2023-24 celebration of the Department of Dance, or who are interested in supporting the facilities' enhancements, can find additional information online.

**[hope.edu/give/dance-project](https://hope.edu/give/dance-project)**



*Jim and Eileen Heeringa Dance Wing  
groundbreaking ceremony,  
August 2023.*





# WHAT IS TRUTH?

**IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTY,  
CHRISTIAN HIGHER ED CAN  
SHOW THE WAY.** *By Josh Bishop*

**C** OVID vaccines. Election security. Accusations of media bias. AI-generated images and deepfake videos. Homeopathic medicine. Climate change. The world, it seems, is becoming overrun with competing claims, misinformation, conspiracy theories and outright lies. It's gotten so bad that many of us can't tell what's true anymore, or (worse) whether the truth even exists.

"As an institution, we believe in truth, simple as that," said President Matt Scogin '02 at Hope College's 2023 Critical Issues Symposium. "Not only that, we believe in a God who personifies truth. Jesus has this stunning line, this world-changing line, where he says, 'I am truth.' He doesn't say, 'I'll show you where to find truth'; he says, 'I am truth.'"

This year's Critical Issues Symposium invited the entire community to explore the topic of "Discerning Truth in a World of Uncertainty" on September 27, 2023. As in previous years, classes were canceled to allow students, faculty and staff to attend sessions throughout the day. The topic was selected, and the event organized, by Hope College's Student Congress; past topics have included "Engaging the Middle East," "Technology and the Future of Being Human" and "Economic Inequality in a Democratic Society."

**"It's hard to discern the facts and what to do with them. We want to equip students and the community with the tools to discern facts and opinions."**

**—Madeline Chrome '26**



"When we were thinking about topics, we wanted something broad and engaging to a wide audience but also relevant to society today," said Madeline Chrome '26 after the event, in an interview with Hope's student newspaper, *The Anchor*. Chrome was the director of the 2023 symposium. "It's hard to discern the facts and what to do with them. We want to equip students and the community with the tools to discern facts and opinions."

Invited to give the keynote address was Dr. Justin McBrayer, professor of philosophy and associate dean at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and the author of *Beyond Fake News: Finding the Truth in a World of Misinformation*.

McBrayer opened his keynote address by answering the titular question — *What is truth?* — that Pontius Pilate famously asked Jesus 2,000 years ago. "If I were in the audience, I would've said, 'Here you go, Pontius Pilate: Here's what truth is: It's a match, a correspondence, between a description and the world,'" he said. "There are lots of ways of describing the world. Those that match up with the way the world is are true; those that don't match up with the way the world is are false."

Truth, McBrayer said, is black and white; it's objective. He was quick to point out that this doesn't mean our individual grasp of the truth is always accurate or objective. No, it's been made fuzzy by imprecise language, personal motivations and desires, individual lived experience and other limitations. But at the end of the day, he said, "Either the election was stolen, or it wasn't. Either the climate is warming, or it's not. Either the COVID vaccine reduces infections, or it doesn't," he said. "There's no in-between; these are just facts about the world."



**"[Y]ou have no idea how rare it is in higher ed to have something like the Critical Issues Symposium. It's really amazing and a testament to the academic commitment of Hope College."**

**—Dr. Justin McBrayer**



**"As an institution,  
we believe in truth,  
simple as that."**

**—President Matt Scogin '02**



In addition to the keynote address, the Critical Issues Symposium featured four additional breakout sessions led by members of the Hope College faculty.

"One event in particular stood out in my mind," McBrayer said. "I attended a concurrent session on the role of the historic creeds in the Christian life, and it was literally standing room only." He was speaking of a talk on the Nicene Creed, called, "The Truth Will Set You Free: Christ, Creeds, and Commitments in a Confused Age," delivered by Dr. Jared Ortiz, the Lavern '39 and Betty DePree '41 Van Kley Professor of Religion.

"Students, faculty and staff gathered to think together about what a Christian life looks like and how it can be lived better. Coming from a secular institution, I was both inspired and excited about what a Christian academic community can do," McBrayer said.

While Ortiz was presenting about the creeds, Dr. Robert Shipley, assistant professor of music, presented about his life as a professional musician in "Music: The Universal Language." Later in the afternoon Dr. Pamela Koch, professor of sociology, and Dr. David Ryden, Peter C. and Emajean Cook Professor of Political Science, together tackled a contemporary hot topic in "Critical Race Theory: From Arcane Academic Theory to Political Lightning Rod." And "Climate Change and the Search for Truth" was presented by Dr. Jeffrey Christians,

assistant professor of engineering, and Dr. Joshua Bowman, who was a visiting assistant professor of political science at Hope last year.

During his keynote address, McBrayer also presented some ways for institutions of higher education to help us be better thinkers and discerners of the truth. He proposed three solutions, directly and friendlily addressing Hope College with each one.

First, cultivating "epistemically relevant" diversity — that is, diversity that includes not only race, sex and gender, but also viewpoint, politics, religion and socioeconomic class — is one way of counteracting the problem of our limited perspectives. "If each person can share their individual slice of reality, their perspective on reality, we get a holistic picture of what's really going on," he said.

"Will Hope College cultivate the kind of diversity that we need to see the world clearly?" he asked. "Here's what that would mean: It would mean that you welcome voices that are different than your own. That might make you uncomfortable, but that's what cultivating diversity means."

McBrayer's second solution is to lean on academic methods, which can actually work when it comes to finding the answers to big questions. "We're going to have to use the tools that the university has honed over 1,000 years to answer those questions well," he said.

Finally, McBrayer said we need free competition of ideas: “Some of the things that seem true are false; some of the things that seem false are true. How are we going to sort that out?” McBrayer asked. “You have to let ideas duke it out in the public forum. There’s no way of sorting it out if some voices aren’t allowed to speak.

“Will Hope College do this? Here’s what it would look like: It means students have the courage to speak their minds in class,” McBrayer said. “And it means an administration that will encourage open and honest and civil discussion on campus.”

Thankfully, Hope’s administration has already decided to be that kind of campus. “For us, staying committed to the liberal arts means that we’re committed to exposing students to competing ideas and different points of view,” Scogin said during a May 2023 address to Hope employees. And, Hope’s Virtues of Public Discourse show us how.

In many ways, this day-long symposium on truth was itself a demonstration that Hope College is already living up to the ideals McBrayer presented in his address.

“I was so very impressed, both with the college and the students... [Y]ou have no idea how rare it is in higher ed to have something like the Critical Issues Symposium,” he said. “It’s really amazing and a testament to the academic commitment of Hope College. That’s exactly the kind of thing we need to happen more often on college campuses if higher education is to live up to its own aspirations in these polarized times.”

**During his keynote address, McBrayer presented some ways for institutions of higher education to help us be better thinkers and discerners of the truth. He proposed three solutions, directly and friendly addressing Hope College with each one.**

- 1. Cultivate “epistemically relevant” diversity**
- 2. Lean on academic methods**
- 3. Facilitate free competition of ideas**

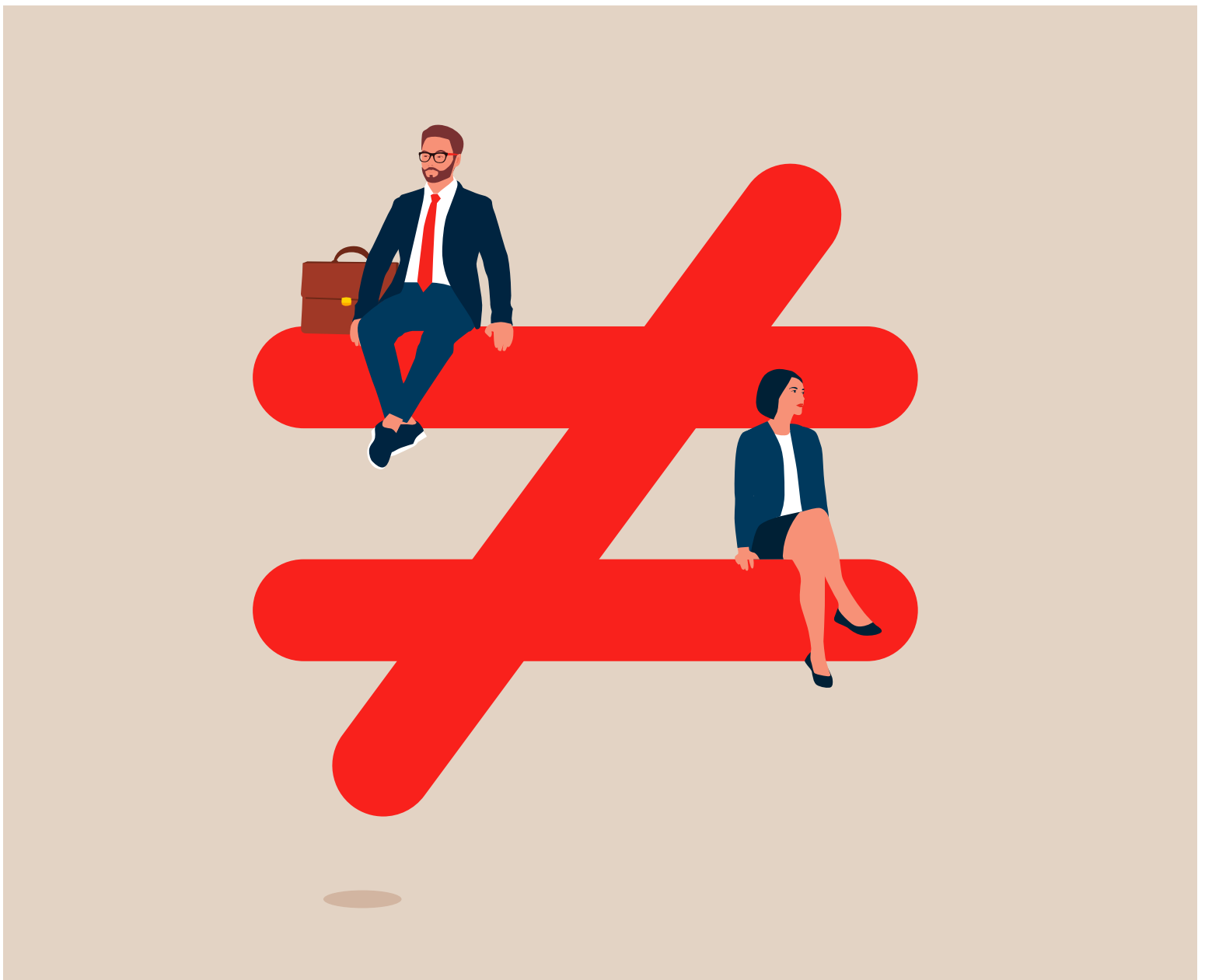
**Watch Dr. Justin McBrayer’s full address and the follow-up Q&A online at [hope.edu/cis23](https://hope.edu/cis23)**





# He Said, She Said: Language and the Gender Wealth Gap

*By Josh Bishop*



**M**any of us are familiar with what's called the gender wage gap, or the difference between the average pay of men and women. According to the Pew Research Center, women in 2022 earned just 82 cents for every dollar that men made, leaving a gender wage gap of 18%.

As serious as this is — and Dr. Lauren Hearit, assistant professor of management in Hope College's Department of Economics and Business, is quick to insist that it is a serious problem — the gender wage gap may be far less concerning than the gender *wealth* gap.

Haven't heard that phrase before? Not to worry: Hearit hadn't heard it either, until she listened to a podcast while walking her dog.

"I was floored to learn that women live, on average, five years longer than their male counterparts, but they're investing cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts," she says. Because they invest so much less, when their investment earnings are wrapped into calculations of the difference between men and women's wealth, the gap in their average net worth is a staggering 68%. "Over the course of a woman's lifetime, you're talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars — or more — in lost potential income."

Hearit, who's trained in organizational communication



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**—Dr. Lauren Hearit, Assistant Professor of Management**

and now applies that knowhow to marketing and management, is well equipped to think about how messages from a range of sources may drive people's economic behavior.

"It's tricky: I kind of tick off quantitative people and I kind of tick off rhetoricians," she says with a laugh. "My metatheoretical frame is that I think words matter and that they shape how we act. I'm at this intersection of economics and communication: What is the quantitative weight of what we say? That's what I'm super interested in."

So in 2021, she teamed up with Dr. Katharine Miller of Marquette University to scour prominent

financial publications for language that might influence women's choices regarding investment.

There hasn't been much research on the topic, she reports. But studies that do exist point to media communicating what she tactfully calls "old-school ways of thinking about things." One commissioned by the (female) CEO of a large bank in the U.K. "basically found that women were told, 'Skip the latte, don't buy the shoes, clip coupons, save money, be frugal.' But men were told, 'Go ask for a raise' — or, almost immediately, 'You need to be investing.' The language and the framing of that financial advice in those publications was fundamentally different."



(Can you feel the righteous indignation rising inside you?)

“Some of the existing research found that 65% of financial articles in women’s magazines — this is broader than the financial news media — categorized women as excessive spenders, whereas 70% of financial articles in men’s magazines focused on making money. So that was sort of the starting point for our research.”

As an analytical device, Hearit and Miller anchored their study in *agenda setting theory*, which looks at how media shapes perception not by telling people what to think, exactly, but by telling people what to think *about*.

Poring over issues of *Kiplinger Personal Finance* and *Forbes* published over two years, they found 53 articles written explicitly for women. “It was 230 pages of single-spaced data,” Hearit reports. “Then we went through and, as a coding team, looked for what stories are being told, what themes are emerging, and whether there are any common or repeated words or phrases that would then begin to shape your understanding of what it looks like if you’re a woman looking for advice.”

While they didn’t find much advice explicitly for women, they did find gendered language expressing themes such as that women should be afraid of one day being alone, and that men rule this world.

Some writing implied that women lose when it comes to finance. “A lot of the financial advice was around how being a woman is an inherent disadvantage,” Hearit explains. Some articles framed that for women, investment is less about bettering oneself than about helping others: one’s husband, one’s children, or women as a group. “It’s very heteronormative,” Hearit says. Often, the language writers chose also pointed to the gendered nature of the financial industry, which is overwhelmingly dominated by men.

She’s understandably hesitant to speculate about why these messages surface in *Forbes* and *Kiplinger*. The paper she wrote with Miller and student researcher Elsie Craig ’25, and submitted to a journal this fall, isn’t meant to lay out why it’s happening, but whether it is happening and to what extent.

Exploring the “quantitative weight” of the messages we receive is not new to Hearit. She has written in the past about the broad impact of messaging by central banks and other financial institutions, starting with her doctoral dissertation. In it she built on the work of Douglas Holmes, who observed in his book *Economy of Words* that (as Hearit simplifies it) “the Federal Reserve says something, and there’s a market reaction.” To explore that, she coded and quantified the language that Fed chairmen used during economic crises over the past 50 years. Her research documented a relationship between the performance of the economy and what the Fed chairs say before Congress during economic crises.

“My Ph.D. is in organizational communication, but I’ve always been interested in how the Fed talks about the economy, and how that shapes our expectations for what the economy is going to do,” Hearit says. “And I thought the gender wealth gap was an interesting extension of that work. I mean, we’re clearly communicating something different to men or women. How does that shape actual behavior?”

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–Dr. Lauren Hearit,  
Assistant Professor of Management





# To Foster a Healthy Mindset and Body Image, Offset Negative Messages

*By Ann Sierks Smith*

There's nothing like filtered TikToks and photoshopped celebrity images to make us dissatisfied with our own bodies. And boy, does modern media deliver a constant barrage.

Dr. Mary Inman, professor of psychology and department chair, knows that affirmation is a powerful antidote.

In multiple strands of research with colleagues and Hope College students, she's identifying social dynamics that can ease people's unhappiness about their body type, and their anxiety that others may reject them because of their weight.

"It's so pervasive now for young people to be dissatisfied with their bodies that this dissatisfaction is called *normative discontent*," the social psychologist explains. One might ask, Is this normative discontent primarily a Western thing? "Cross-cultural research suggests yes," she reports. She cites other psychologists' findings that the more people see other people's bodies, the less satisfied they are with their own. For instance, in a study of

Muslim women who wear hijabs versus those who don't, researchers found greater dissatisfaction among the latter.

Steering clear of "fat talk" is key, Inman says. She means conversations in which people disparage their own appearance or body-shame others. For example, she says, for young women comments as simple and common as *I look fat in these jeans* can be damaging.

"I'm trying to figure out some of the possible ways to help people quiet the negative messages that they hear and they might internalize," Inman says. "My work is showing that self-affirmation is proving helpful. People want to feel like a person of worth. The idea is that when they feel validated in non-appearance-based ways, seeing media images of thin or muscular people does not threaten their body esteem."

Inman joined the Hope College faculty in 1999. Her teaching load includes Social Psychology, Research Methods, and sections of the department's introductory course. Early in her career, she did research

on interpersonal conflict involving people's perceptions of discrimination. She continues that line of research, but her decision about 10 years ago to focus more on body image wasn't as abrupt a lane change as it may seem.

"I shifted into body image to study *intrapersonal* turmoil," she says. She wants to establish whether and how religion plays a part, and what interventions can buffer people's internal worries. She hopes to identify what it is about religiosity that can be harmful or helpful to an individual's body image and anxiety level.

With two student researchers, she documented whether a person's satisfaction with their own body changes when they view "Hollywood images" of "ideal bodies." Their study of male and female Hope students found that it does, and not for the good. Then Inman and her students had them read body-affirming statements from a religious perspective, such as *With God's gifts of love and joy, I am able to accept and embrace the body I have been given*. A second group read similar



*In multiple strands of research with colleagues and Hope College students, psychologist Dr. Mary Inman is identifying social dynamics that can ease people's unhappiness about their body type, and their anxiety that others may reject them because of their weight.*

content that didn't mention God. A third group read irrelevant trivia. She found that satisfaction with their bodies rebounded more markedly among those who read body-affirming religious statements than for the people reading other types of statements, and more so for women than for men.

Inman notes that feelings of self-worth can be contingent on seven domains: appearance, competition, academic competence, virtue,

family support, others' approval and God's love. Appearance and others' approval are considered the most powerful factors contributing to poor body image. Inman's research has found that seeking others' approval by doing things to please them is "reliably related" to low body esteem. In another study published with two Hope graduates, she showed that body affirmations with religious overtones (more so than non-religious

affirmations) protected body esteem for women who base self-worth on appearance or others' approval. Inman notes that the affirmations increased feelings of being loved, which predicted body esteem.

With her department colleague Dr. Charlotte vanOylen-Witvliet, she showed that basing self-worth on appearance is reliably related to poor body esteem in men and women. Their work showed that this "basing self-worth on appearance and body esteem" relationship nearly disappeared for men who reported feeling loved, supported, and nurtured by God.

In a 2022 article in the *Journal of Religion and Health*, Inman and two other Hope students found a reliable relationship between an individual's weight rejection anxiety and their





*“The church tells us that God accepts us, flaws and all. Then my standard ought to be an attitude of being grateful and doing the work God calls me to do, not accepting the standards of Hollywood – being muscular or thin. Then, ultimately, my self-talk should change.”*

–Dr. Mary Inman, Professor of Psychology and Department Chair

body dissatisfaction. Inman's team explored whether affirmation from others in their church might weaken the effect of weight anxiety on body dissatisfaction (seeking a thin/muscular body) and body esteem.

"The theory part is that if people feel they're not being accepted by the secular society — *The cashier is judging me because I'm buying donuts, cake and Cheetos, or I'm not being selected for the team because of my weight* — then they might gravitate toward church as a place of

affirmation, and might start feeling more affirmed at church," Inman explains. "The church tells us that God accepts us, flaws and all. Then my standard ought to be an attitude of being grateful and doing the work God calls me to do, not accepting the standards of Hollywood — being muscular or thin. Then, ultimately, my self-talk should change."

Inman found that women who felt affirmed in their church reported less ill effects of weight anxiety on their

body satisfaction (they were less likely to seek a thin body ideal), yet some negative self-talk (indicating low body esteem) continued. "In this sample, feeling affirmed from one's church community did not stop weight-anxious women from their negative self-talk," she says. "It is fascinating and challenging work with big implications for young people's mental health."





# Mentoring a New Generation of Jazz Musicians

*By Jim McFarlin '74*



**R**obert Shipley is widely regarded as one of the most versatile, accomplished drummers of his era. Equally at home in jazz, pop, blues, R&B and Latin genres, he began his career recording with Grammy-winning blues legend Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown and has performed around the world with Diana Ross, Natalie Cole, The Temptations, Chaka Khan and many others. He’s even authored two books on drum instruction.

So, let’s all ask the question in unison, shall we? How did this guy come to Hope College in serene Holland, Michigan, where he directs the jazz studies program?

“In the mid-’90s I moved to Las Vegas to get off the road because I was getting weary of the travel, the ups and downs of the business,” explains the assistant professor, who joined Hope’s Department of Music in 2021. “Looking at where I was in life, age, and career, a small town just seemed to be a good fit for me, somewhere I could settle down. When my dad retired, he moved home to Florence, Alabama. I guess in my mind I’ve always equated a small town in your later years as success, a smart move.”

While living in Vegas, Shipley became inspired to leverage his decades of experience to teach and mentor others in the next phase of his career. In his 50s, he enrolled at the University of Nevada Las Vegas to earn bachelor’s

and master’s degrees in music with a jazz emphasis.

When he learned in 2020 that Hope was searching for a new jazz studies director, the first person he spoke with at the college was longtime professor Dr. Huw Lewis. “I just fell in love with him! He’s a musical genius, yet he’s one of the nicest guys, so humble.” Shipley says. “So everything just felt really good here. They’re supporting me, and everything was saying, *Yeah, this is where God wants me to be.*”

As the pied piper — or pied percussionist — charged with strengthening and expanding the jazz program, Shipley has initiated the Rising Artist Series, which invites outstanding high school musicians to perform alongside Hope jazz students. One goal is to inspire them to enroll at Hope and play in its premier large jazz ensemble, the Jazz Arts Collective.

“It gives our students a chance to strengthen their mentoring skills, and the high school students love it. We rehearse on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and they tell me those are the best two days of the week. So that works hand

in hand both ways and strengthens the path to Hope,” he says.

To spark younger kids’ interest in jazz, in 2022 he offered free summer drum lessons at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holland, funded by a Mellon Foundation grant. DW Drums, with which Shipley has an endorsement agreement, supplied 10 snare drums and a drum kit.

“They have the drums to this day,” says Shipley. “Some of the students came in one day, got the free drumsticks and never came back, but about 15 students actually learned and stuck in there.”

It was many of the youngsters’ first experience with musical performance. “All you can do is introduce the arts to kids,” Shipley says. “Some will have an appreciation or a passion for it, some won’t. That’s natural. But I tried to get them interested in jazz by educating them about their heritage — how jazz was created on slave routes, through the Latino migration, Brazil and South America, and eventually made its way to New Orleans. It was fun, and in the end they did a video presentation for their families and friends.”

*Director of Jazz Studies Robert Shipley began his career recording with Grammy-winning blues legend Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown and has performed around the world with Diana Ross, Natalie Cole, The Temptations, Chaka Khan and many others.*



Sparkling young musicians' interest in jazz isn't always easy. "Jazz is such a different language," he notes. "Improvisation is an important element, and some students — most students — don't know how to improvise. If you're a classical musician you're used to playing strictly what's on the page. But if they know articulation but don't understand the swing feel, I'm pretty good at explaining it and working with students. It's a process that takes a lot of discipline. I just tell them to be patient, put the work in, and it will happen."

Last summer Shipley put the work into completing his second drum instruction book, *Complete Drum Methods for the Well-Rounded Drummer*. (His first, *The Art of Commercial Drumming*, came out in 2020.) A Hope College Nyenhuis grant enabled him to engage a student assistant, Hope senior saxophonist Houston Patton.

"One thing I put in both books is a rhythm method I found in France and had never seen published anywhere," Shipley says. "I saw this guy teaching it at a conservatory: rhythm exercises for high school age students in a jazz combo. It was probably something he had known from his childhood years and just memorized. It strengthens their relationship with rhythms. They're mandatory reading material for whatever class I'm teaching."



*"As I look at my students at Hope College, I try to create as many opportunities for them to perform as possible because that's what really helped give me an edge coming up. Hope has so much to offer, especially the Department of Music."*

—Robert Shipley,  
Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies

Shipley has been memorizing rhythms since childhood, too. He and his twin brother formed their first band at the age of 10, and their recording-engineer father built a soundproof studio in their Chicago home for them to practice in. "We were looking to be the next Jackson 5," he recalls with a laugh.

"There were so many opportunities in Chicago to see live music, be mentored and perform. As I look at my students at Hope College, I try to create as many opportunities for them to perform as possible because that's what really helped give me an edge coming up. Hope has so much to offer, especially the Department of Music."





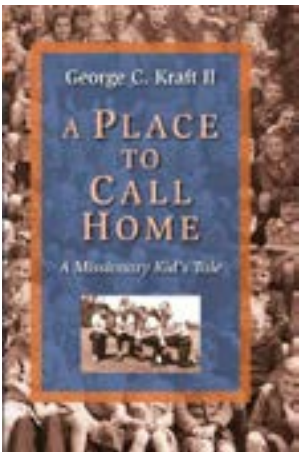
# VAN RAALTE INSTITUTE BOOKS

## History Remembered

With the 30th anniversary of the college's Van Raalte Institute on the horizon, some of the books most recently written or edited under its auspices provide a sense of its ongoing role not only chronicling but also enhancing the past and our understanding of it.

Named for Hope's cofounder and established in 1994, the institute specializes in scholarly research and writing on immigration and the contributions of the Dutch and their descendants in the United States. The institute is also dedicated to the study of the history of all the people who have comprised the community of Holland throughout its history.

To facilitate the publication of the scholarship of the Van Raalte Institute, then-director Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis founded the Van Raalte Press in 2007, serving as editor-in-chief until September 2023. The result has been more than 30 titles (some with multiple volumes), including four published jointly with Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company and three that have received a State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan.



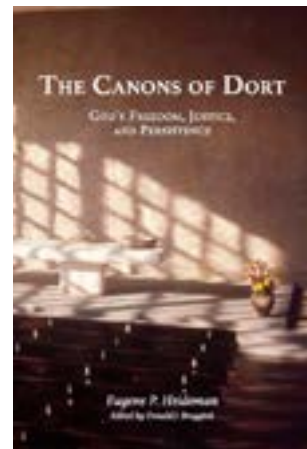
### ***A Place to Call Home: A Missionary Kid's Tale***

George C. Kraft II  
*Van Raalte Press, 2022*

On one level, the memoir *A Place to Call Home* by retired kinesiology faculty member Dr. George Kraft reads like an “Eyewitness to History” adventure. The son of missionary parents in China, he was evacuated to India across the Himalayan Mountains aboard a U.S. Army Air Corps C-47 during World War II. Madame Chiang (Mei-Ling) Kai-shek once visited his school

in Guling. When the hostile communist government took control in China, the family was interrogated and searched before being allowed to walk across a bridge to British Hong Kong. As a student and football player at Wheaton College, he prayed and sang — along with his teammates — with visiting evangelist Billy Graham. In 1963 he was one of three officers in charge of Checkpoint Charlie and helped secure the route traveled by President John F. Kennedy on his way to his “*Ich bin ein Berliner*” address.

The book, however, has a more personal focus. Subtitled *A Missionary Kid's Tale*, it explores the immediate and lasting impact of being an “MK” growing up in the British-modeled boarding-school system far from family, sometimes for years on end.



### ***The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice, and Persistence***

Eugene P. Heideman  
*Van Raalte Press, 2023*

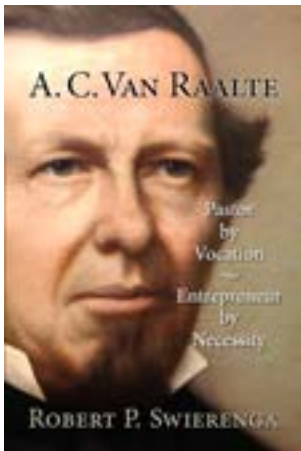
*The Canons of Dort: God's Freedom, Justice, and Persistence* not only shares the final work of theologian Rev. Dr. Eugene Heideman but also serves as a tribute to him.

The Canons of Dort was developed during an international synodical

meeting in the early 17th century in response to a theological controversy of the day. It still serves, along with the Belgic Confession and the Heidelberg Catechism, as an authoritative doctrinal guide for churches in the Dutch Reformed tradition.

Heideman explores the historical context and the theological issues that led to the canons and makes a case for the canons' continued relevance. The book was still in progress when he died at age 92 in 2022. It was prepared for publication by the Rev. Dr. Donald Bruggink, a longtime colleague who was the founding editor of the Historical Series of the Reformed Church in America.

Please visit the Van Raalte Institute online at [hope.edu/vri](https://hope.edu/vri) for more information about the institute and a full listing of its publications with links to purchase.

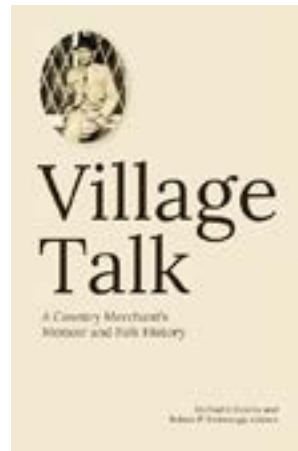


**A.C. Van Raalte:  
Pastor by Vocation,  
Entrepreneur by Necessity**

Robert P. Swierenga  
*Van Raalte Press, 2023*

This new account about the Rev. Dr. Albertus C. Van Raalte by historian Dr. Robert P. Swierenga draws upon information never before available, leading to what has been described as “the definitive biography” of the founder of Holland and cofounder of Hope.

Across its more than 600 pages, *A.C. Van Raalte: Pastor by Vocation, Entrepreneur by Necessity* chronicles Van Raalte’s life and achievements; the challenges and controversies he faced; and the roles that his personality, his faith and the times all played. Van Raalte, who lived from 1811 to 1876, led the Dutch immigrants who founded Holland in 1847 and later settled throughout West Michigan in search of religious freedom and economic opportunity unavailable to them in the Netherlands, where they were persecuted for dissenting from the state-approved church.



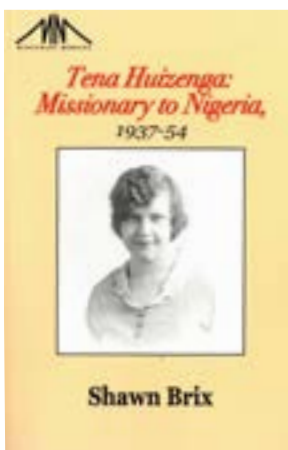
**Village Talk: A Country  
Merchant's Memoir and  
Folk History**

Ray Nies, Michael J. Douma,  
Robert P. Swierenga  
*Privately Published, 2023*

Technically, *Village Talk: A Country Merchant's Memoir and Folk History* isn't a Van Raalte Press book — it was published privately on Amazon. But it was because of the institute, along with the resources of the Holland Museum, that editors Dr. Michael J. Douma '04 of the

Georgetown University faculty, and Dr. Robert Swierenga were able to bring to life a manuscript some 80 years old.

*Village Talk* provides insight into everyday life as experienced by its author, West Michigan resident Ray Nies, from the 1880s to the 1940s. The book chronicles his encounters with the people, places and changes across some seven decades as he grew up in Saugatuck and then spent the rest of his days in Holland, first working in and then running the family hardware store.



**Tena Huizenga: Missionary  
to Nigeria, 1937-1954**

Shawn Brix, with Paul Heusinkveld  
*Van Raalte Press, 2023*

Tena Huizenga was a pioneering Christian Reformed Church missionary in Nigeria. Serving during World War II and after, she was an eyewitness to the monumental changes that swept through Africa in the post-colonial era. Originally published in 1994 as *Aunt Tena, Called to Serve: Journals and Letters of Tena A. Huizenga, Missionary Nurse to Nigeria*, the new edition by

Shawn Brix, edited by Paul Heusinkveld '72, includes additional annotations, maps and an index to help put her experiences into historical and geographic context.



**The Stories of Arthur  
King and Christine Iverson  
Bennett: Medical Missionaries  
in Mesopotamia, 1904-1916**

Christine I. Bennett  
*Van Raalte Press, 2023*

Dr. Arthur King Bennett was one of the pioneer missionaries of the Reformed Church in Ottoman Mesopotamia. He was joined at the Lansing Memorial Hospital in the port city of Basra by his wife-to-be, Dr. Christine Iverson.

Together, they served all comers, regardless of nationality, social status, or ability to pay, and lived adventures ranging from carving a life out of the Great Plains, to being captured by pirates, to racing through river-rapids with a band of thieves hot on their trail.



# 10 UNDER TEN

*By Kate Bultema '09 Ralston*

Before the "Hope in the [Real] World Panel", an engaging conversation about life after Hope for current students, I always ask the recipients of the 10 Under 10 Awards, who serve as the featured panelists, to gather inside Graves Hall. This year, as I welcomed designers, doctors and researchers into the space, I noticed a distinct buzz of energy. There were many hugs, handshakes and "how have you been?"s. A therapist chatted with a voice actor while a lead recruiter caught up with an acclaimed artist and teacher. Some of the recipients had crossed paths during their student experiences, while most were interacting for the first time. They were eager to learn from each other and genuinely excited to share in this experience.

Later, during some down time between their photoshoot and their award celebration, the recipients sat around a table just chatting. There were no egos, no bragging, no comparisons. They were thrilled to both share and glean wisdom and stories they acquired since their graduation from Hope, as they've gone into the world and lived faithfully into their varied vocations.

This cohort of recipients absolutely embodied the purpose of the 10 Under 10 Awards. The awards were created to highlight and celebrate agents of Hope, who delight in learning, seek deep understanding, and respond to the needs they see in the world. They are emerging leaders who in many ways are just getting started. They represent thousands of our young alumni who are impacting their own corners of the world in significant ways by utilizing the skills and knowledge they acquired during their time at Hope.

In keeping with the spirit of the panel, we asked each of them for reflections on their time at Hope or advice that they'd like to share with students who are preparing for their own lives after graduation.

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*We want to honor more alumni like these! To nominate a recent graduate (2014-2023) for a 10 Under 10 Award, visit [hope.edu/alumni/awards](https://hope.edu/alumni/awards).*



## '15

**KARLY FERGUSON  
RAKLOVITS**

*Therapist at Bronson Sexual  
Assault Services*

"College students are given lots of advice and opinions about what they "should" do, and I would instead encourage that each person practice listening to their body and their inner wisdom."



'14

**PARKER BUSSIES**

*Obstetrics & Gynecology Resident  
Physician & Molecular Biology Ph.D.  
Candidate at Cleveland Clinic*

"I encourage Hope students to take as many courses outside of their selected major as possible."



'15

**SARAH JANE  
PETERSON**

*Research Psychology  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
at University of Michigan*

"Get involved in as many things as possible, academically and otherwise! College is the last chance for a lot of these opportunities and you never know where they will take you or who they will introduce you to."



'14

**MEREDITH BUSMAN**

*Emergency Medicine Physician  
& Sub-Elite Marathoner*

"Find a board of mentors for yourself who are already doing what you see yourself doing, even if it's not directly related. Ask them what steps they thought were important towards getting where they are. Meet for coffee, take notes. Also, make your "personal" Venn diagram. Make overlapping circles with your interests, personal activities or professional experiences. Find where the circles overlap, how interests and pursuits overlap."





'13

**MEGAN ALTIERI**

*Artist, Author & Founder  
of Sonder Articles*

"Look across the divide, look into places where you fear you won't be welcomed, and seek to know more about the people there; more of their heart, their motivations, and what makes them tick. I got my first taste of doing that at Hope, in the classroom and in my communities."



'13

**ALEC NORKEY**

*Ethnomusicology Researcher  
& Violinist*

"I would advise students of today to think about their future careers and professionalization as only one part of what it means to be educated. To this end, I would advise current Hope students to both concentrate on their major or specialization, and also take seriously the ideas and insights that a liberal arts education can provide. Embracing a breadth of thought can help prepare for times of struggle and uncertainty that so many face in modern times."



'16

**GAVIN MIDLAM**

*Designer – Entrepreneur –  
Founder of The House of Leon*

"You don't have to pretend like you have it all figured out. Rarely is your career a linear journey. Try things, say yes, take risks."



'15

**REGINA  
SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ**

*Recruiting Lead at Block  
(FKA Square)*

"Take courses that intrigue you, even if you don't see the direct career pathway in front of you. There are so many different types of jobs out there that you may not be exposed to (yet!). As a recruiter that has reviewed hundreds of resumes, I do not care what you studied but what skillsets (hard AND soft skills) you bring to the table."



'13

**EMILY  
ARMBRUSTER**

*Senior Scientist at  
Nanolmaging Services*

"The professors at Hope care passionately about what they are teaching, but they care most about who they are teaching. Beginning with my Hope education, I have been cultivated to not seek goals, but to do the best work I can in the areas around me that call for it. It's not about my fellowships, accomplishments, or who I have become, it's about filling up all the cracks in the world that you're keen enough to spot."



'14

**LAUREN EZZO**

*Voice Actor & Audiobook Narrator*

"Open yourself up to experiences. I traveled abroad for the first time with Hope College; my first time thinking as a global citizen... I engaged with my faith meaningfully for the first time at a Hope Bible study. The art and artists I was exposed to with Hope's theatre, dance, music, and studio programs informed the kind of art I attempt to make – authentic and honestly me."



# ON TOP OF THE WORLD





# JENN DRUMMOND '01 BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO ASCEND THE WORLD'S SEVEN "SECOND SUMMITS"

*By Eva Dean Folkert '83*

**T**he air was painfully frigid and the wind lashed at her face like a million tiny whips, but Jenn Drummond '01 felt nothing.

The sun shone intensely and the view was otherworldly, but Jenn Drummond saw nothing.

The wind yelled at decibels akin to a raucous football stadium, but Jenn Drummond heard nothing.

There, at 19,551 feet above sea level atop Mount Logan in Canada's Yukon, having just completed a two-and-a-half-year "project" to successfully climb the second-highest peaks on each continent, Drummond temporarily lost all of her senses. Then, with a rush as furious as the wind, cold, and view that surrounded her, they all flooded back and with them, an overwhelming sense of wonder and appreciation. Drummond had just set a world record as the first woman (and only the second person) to ascend to the world's Seven Second Summits.

"You take this breath in, and the minute you take this breath in, everything disappears," describes Drummond of the summiting experience. "There's no sun, there's no mountain, there's no Jenn, there's no wind. There's just awe.

"Then you take a breath out," she continues, "and you start to pixelate into a being again. The mountain starts to separate from you and the sky separates from you and all of the sudden you are human again. . . And you realize, it's not about the mountaintop, it's about the journey."

Drummond's journey to the top of the world actually started after a low moment in her life. In December 2018, the Holland, Michigan-native and current resident of Park City, Utah, miraculously survived a catastrophic car accident when her SUV was struck broadside by an oncoming semi-truck, flipping her three times before crashing into the highway's median. Surviving such a violent crash had .01 probability; yet, Drummond not only survived, but escaped with minor injuries.

As most potentially fatal events go, the accident was emotionally jarring, but it was also epiphany-inducing. An unsettling feeling unrested Drummond. And then a good friend died not long after Drummond's car accident.



# 7 SECOND SUMMITS

**"I DO NOT GET TO CHOOSE WHEN I DIE, BUT I SURE GET TO CHOOSE HOW I LIVE."**

*-Jenn Drummond '01*



**Ojos del Salado**  
Chile/Argentina,  
South America  
6,893 meters // 22,615 feet  
*Summited December 2020*



**Mt. Kenya**  
Kenya, Africa  
5,199 meters // 17,057 feet  
*Summited February 2021*



**Gora Dyka-Tau**  
Russia, Europe  
5,205 meters // 17,077 feet  
*Summited September 2021*



**Mt. Tyree**  
Antartica  
4,852 meters // 15,919 feet  
*Summited January 2022*



**K2**  
China/Pakistan, Asia  
8,614 meters // 28,251 feet  
*Summited August 2022*



**Mt. Townsend**  
New South Wales, Australia  
2,209 meters // 7,252 feet  
*Summited June 2022*



**Mt. Logan**  
Canada, North America  
5,956 meters // 19,551 feet  
*Summited June 2023*

"She was running on a trail and asked me to go with her," Drummond remembers. "I said I couldn't. It was wet out. She slips, hits her head, and never comes home. So the sequence of those two events next to each other was pretty significant for me. They made me realize I do not get to choose when I die, but I sure get to choose how I live."

Admittedly, Drummond says her bucket list grew four lifetimes long when she began to think of all the things she now wanted to see, do, eat and accomplish. Though already attaining the two main goals she had for her life – motherhood (she has five boys and twin girls ages 10 to 17) – and career success (she's a financial advisor and owner of Clearwater Wealth Management headquartered in Michigan), she experienced a mini-identity crisis.

"It's 2019, and I don't even know who I am anymore," she recalls. "I don't even know what my favorite color is. So I started 2019 really figuring out who I was again. And I told my kids, 'Hey, Mom's going to start doing stuff she gets excited about. If this feels awkward to you, we need to talk. We need to have discussions because things are going to shift.' They were like, 'Okay, let's do this.'"

Through her coach's suggestion and her kids' inspiration, Drummond landed on climbing the Seven Second Summits when she learned that no woman had accomplished the feat. Most mountaineers view these peaks as more challenging than the seven first summits because there is less infrastructure and fewer safety nets since the Seven Second Summits are not as commercialized as the higher mountains.





**“I’M STILL THE SAME HUMAN AS THE PERSON. I MEAN, I HAD THIS COOL EXPERIENCE, BUT SO IS WAKING UP. SO IS DRIVING YOUR KIDS TO SCHOOL. IT’S ALL THE LITTLE THINGS.”**

**—Jenn Drummond ’01**

Still, Drummond was committed, and though she had climbed a couple mountains in the Tetons in 2017, she had never slept in a tent before. She was physically fit as a runner but she was not a vertical athlete. To become one, she needed a whole new training regimen, but it had to be within the perimeters of her life as a mother and business owner.

“I would build my calendar around family and business, and then I’d give it to my coach and say, ‘Fit (my training) in,’” says Drummond, who was a business major at Hope. “She was like, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me.’ ‘No, I’m serious. I am a mom first, a business owner second, and an athlete third, and this is how it’s going to work.’

“So I was the mom who went to soccer practice with a 12-inch (exercise) step and a backpack full of water bottles and when my kid was playing, I’m up and down on that thing the entire hour and a half.”

As she has with most things in her life, Drummond tackled her training with avidity and tenacity. Becoming a serious mountaineer required it. Besides the physical workouts, she also slept under an acclimation tent positioned over her bed to get used to what thin air felt like at high altitudes.

By the end of 2020, Drummond had climbed Ojos del Salado, between Chile and Argentina (elevation 22,615 feet). Next came Mt. Kenya in Africa (17,057 ft), then Gora Dyka-Tau in Russia (17,077 ft), both in 2021; Mt. Tyree in Antarctica (15,919 ft), K2 between China and Pakistan (28,251 ft), and Mt. Townsend in Australia (7,252), in 2022; and finally Mt. Logan in 2023. She threw in Mt. Everest (29,032 ft) in 2021 for good measure as training for K2, a treacherous peak that she failed to reach on her first attempt. And each time she summited a mountain, she did so with a local guide team and not an American one.

Since her first few ascents, and now because of the entirety of them, Drummond has become a podcaster of “Seek Your Summit” and a motivational speaker. She visits college campuses regularly, telling her story in her seriocomic manner and hoping to inspire others, especially women, to strive for their own mountaintops. She is also an author, having written *BreakProof*, due out in January, 2024, a volume that details the seven lessons she learned about resiliency and goal-setting through her recent journey.

Looking back, Drummond sees the blessed path of safety and success that paved her way and exclaims, “If you didn’t believe in God before [hearing her story], you do now. It gives me goosebumps, and I’m humbled. I can’t even believe this is my life.”

Through it all, she valued and adored the down-to-earth moments that define her journey, too. Those are the ones that remind her that while she did an audacious thing, she still remained true to herself and family.

“So, I come back from my last climb, right?” she recalls. “I just set a world record and I’m feeling pretty good about myself. I get off the plane, my son meets me at the airport, gives me a hug and says, ‘Mom, you have bad breath.’ Yep, I do. I’ve been on a plane for a long time, buddy.

“But, that’s what it feels like, too. It feels like I did this cool thing, but I’m still the same Jenn. I’m still the same human as the person. I had this cool experience, but so is waking up. So is driving your kids to school. It’s all the little things.”





# RISING TO THE OCCASION

## FALL SPORTS SEASON MARKED BY STAND-OUT TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

*By Alan Babbitt*

On a challenging course, the Hope College women's cross country team rose to the occasion again.

The Flying Dutch provided one of many highlights during the 2023 fall season by rising eight spots from the pre-national rankings to place 17th at the NCAA Division III Championships on November 18 in Newville, Pennsylvania. Hope finished ahead of both teams that topped the Flying Dutch at the regional week one week earlier: DePauw (Indiana) and Calvin.

Senior Rebecca Markham led the cross country team at nationals by recording an All-America, 6K run of 21 minutes, 36.0 seconds. The MIAA co-champion was one of four fall All-Americans, joined by football sophomore Nick Flegler, volleyball junior Addie VanderWeide and volleyball junior Lauren Lee. Volleyball's Alison DeWeerd was an Honorable Mention All-American (pages 10-11).

Women's soccer teammates Jenna Mustapha and Carley Wagasky earned all-region honors from the United Soccer Coaches.

Women's cross country and volleyball claimed MIAA team titles. Men's golf earned a 16-stroke lead after the conclusion of 72 holes of fall play. This is the first season the MIAA men's and women's golf championships are determined by play during the fall and spring. Women's golf is in fourth.

A total of 35 Hope student-athletes received All-MIAA honors: nine in football, seven in men's soccer, six in women's cross country, five in women's soccer, four in men's cross country and four in volleyball.

With an 8-2 record, football posted its fifth season with at least eight wins in the past six years. Junior defensive lineman Derik Smith, who plays with a prosthetic leg, was featured nationwide on television on *Courage in Sports: Gridiron Greatness* on CBS in November.

Football, women's soccer and women's soccer all finished runner-up in the MIAA standings.

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



**Rebecca Markham**



**Nick Flegler**



**Derik Smith**







# CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: Julie Rawlings '83 Huisingh

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

*Submissions for the Spring 2024 issue are due by January 30, 2024.*

## 60s

**Jean Paduch '63 Peelen** published *Feisty: A Memoir in Little Pieces* in August.

**Barbara Walvoord '63** has published, *Women's Right in Dutch America, 1857-1979: A History and Memoir*. One section of the book discusses women's roles at Hope, comparing her

experiences as a Hope student (1959-63) with her mother's (1930-34).

**David Stegink '64** reports that having spent 10 winters in Tucson, Arizona, with his partner, Linda Griffin, he is moving permanently back to Muskegon, Michigan. After 30 years as a social work supervisor for the State of Michigan he got back into teaching retirees in the Tucson area. Since he has just turned 80 he figured it

was now time to settle back into his hometown, plus his granddaughter is a Hope freshman and will be nice to be closer. His brother, Gordon '61, also lives in Holland having retired from professorship at Hope in computer science.

## 70s

**Charles Van Engen '70** was awarded the lifetime achievement award by the American Society of Missiology at its annual meeting, held in June at St. Mary's University in South Bend, Indiana. He received the award for his lifetime of forming church and mission leaders for greater service through Bible preaching, teaching and writing so that they mobilize Christ's church to grow by proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in word and deed. Chuck and his wife **Jean Taylor '70 Van Engen** currently live in Holland, Michigan.

**Donald Steele '72** had his monologue piece, *Jacoe and Me* presented by Artistic New Directions in New York as part of its Go Solo presentation. It was performed in October and is also available on YouTube.

**Christian Fenton '73** was appointed interim superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School system while the board searches for a permanent superintendent. He retired from Grosse Pointe after more than 37 years, with the performing arts center at GP North High School named after him.

**Russell Gasero '73** received the Sister M. Claude Lane, O.P., Memorial Award given by the Society of American Archivists in conjunction with the Society of Southwest



A painting commissioned by Hope's Department of Chemistry honors retired professors **Dr. Eugene Jekel '52** of Holland, Michigan, and the late Dr. Elaine Jekel for their impact on chemistry education — and tens of thousands of students — across the country and around the world through a long-running program at Hope for high school teachers. The Jekels, who retired in 1993, coordinated the "NSF [National Science Foundation] Summer Institute" from 1964 through 1991 for teachers of Advanced Placement and second-year high school chemistry.

A unique family connection provides additional meaning. The artist, Tails Jekel, is the husband-and-wife couple's grandchild. Titled "Your Light," the painting has been installed in the hallway near the General Chemistry laboratories on the second floor west of the main/central staircase of the A. Paul Schaap Science Center.

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

Archivists. The award honors an archivist who has made a significant contribution to the field of religious archives. He has been an archivist for the Reformed Church in America for 42 years.

**Richard “Blue” Williams ’75** is in final editing of his dad’s letters (more than 300), postcards and photos sent to his family during World War II, when he served with the 234th Engineer Combat Battalion. The letters, woven with the narrative written after the war about the battlion, covers his training in the U.S. and in England; participation in the invasion of Normandy; the liberation of France, Belgium and Holland; and finishing the war in Germany. The memoir narrative of more than 200 pages will be available online, free, this winter in anticipation of the 80th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy.

**Gordon J. Alderink ’76** co-authored a text book, *Clinical Kinesiology and Biomechanics, A Problem-Based Learning Approach*. He is a retired associate professor from the department of physical therapy and athletic training at Grand Valley State University.

**Jon Post ’77** reports that since marrying his wife, Diane, on a church-planting team in Alaska in 1985, they have served as missionaries in Russia (1992-96), Kyrgyzstan (2001-09), Nepal (2014-21) and Romania (2021-present) with ggvo.org.

**Scott Dwyer ’78** was included in the 2023 edition of the *Michigan Super Lawyers Magazine*. He is an attorney at Mika Meyers, PLC, helping people with employment and labor issues.

## 80s

**Susan Edgcomb ’80 Dickens** wrote *My Eyes Upon Him: An Invitation*, featuring nature photography with scripture in a journal format.

**Sheryl Busman ’80 VanderWagen** recently retired from the Lakeland Library Cooperative, where she served as integrated library system manager for 21 years. She was also elected president of the North American Board of Antiochian Women, an organization of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. She will serve a two-year term.

**Kevin Kleinheksel ’83** was installed as the pastor of community life at Haven Christian Reformed Church in Zeeland, Michigan.

**Peter Dykema ’84**, who is a professor of history at Arkansas Tech University, is also the co-director of Arkansas Governor’s School, a month-long academic summer camp for rising high-school seniors funded by the Arkansas Department of Education. Each summer, 380 students attend AGS and focus on one of nine academic disciplines, along with sessions on critical thinking and ethics, as well as personal and social development.

## 90s

**Jim Breyfogle ’90** wrote his third book in the Mongoose & Meerkat’s trilogy adventure series, *The Redemption of Atness*.

**Christopher Carpenter ’90** became vice chair of implementation and innovation at Mayo Clinic-Rochester in June. He continues to lead the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine’s Guidelines for Reasonable and Appropriate Care in the emergency department effort, the first clinical practice guidelines for emergency

medicine. He is also on the leadership core for clinician-scientists transdisciplinary research, and leads the implementation science core of the geriatric emergency care applied research network 2.0 – advancing dementia care. In March, he co-authored the third edition of *Evidence-Based Emergency Care: Diagnostic Testing and Clinical Decision Rules*. He reports that he is excited to watch his daughter Kayla (Hope ’24) graduate this year and move on to her medical school training.

**Thomas TerMaat ’90** was selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 edition. He works for Foster Swift dealing with Insurance Law.

**Heidi Sunderhaft ’90** has moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where she is a certified Global Gallup’s Strengths coach and teaches Pilates after a career in the K-12 education world.

**Darrel Folkert ’92** completed the Western States 100 Mile Endurance Run, the world’s oldest 100-mile trail race, on June 24.

**Brett Geier ’94** is a professor in the department of educational leadership, research and technology at Western Michigan University. He is currently publishing two books: *Palgrave’s Handbook of Educational Thinkers* and *The Roberts Court and K-12 Public Education*.

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# CLASSNOTES

**Heather Bair '97 Brake** received the HHS Secretary's Commendation Award on Tuesday, Aug. 22. The award was given to several representatives across the federal government who served as leaders in the COVID-19 response. Heather is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service and currently serves as the communications director for environmental health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

## 00s

**Anne Houseworth '01 Gray** was named 2023 Cook County Co-Regional Teacher of the Year and finalist for State Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education. She was also selected to be a Chicago change agent teacher leader by Teach Plus for the 2023-24 school year. She has been teaching music in the Chicago Public Schools since graduating from Hope.

**Anthony Grech '02** is the athletic director for Saugatuck Public Schools in Saugatuck, Michigan. He continues to be the running backs and defense backs coach for the Saugatuck varsity football team and is in his 20th year of teaching at Saugatuck Public Schools.

**Emily Siwek '02** wrote and illustrated her second children's picture book, *Skip, the Stone*, with a local publisher in Ann Arbor. The book is told from the perspective of a Petoskey stone.

**Vince Scheffler '03** was recently honored at Parker Seminars in Las Vegas, Nevada, by the chiropractic profession for his service to Parker University. He served 12 years on the board of trustees at Parker, and was a vital contributor to the school's conversion from a college to a university. Under the board's guidance, Parker University transformed from a chiropractic college to a mainstream university offering more than 30-degree programs and is currently the third-fastest growing university in the state of Texas.

**Veronica Farley-Seybert '04** joined the City of Detroit's law department as senior assistant corporation council within the transaction and economic development division.

**Brandy Schenck '05** received her Master of Business Administration degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Scott Travis '06** now serves as director of strategy and planning at Hope College. After leading alumni and family engagement since 2009, he now provides leadership in implementing strategic projects, lifelong learning and the next institutional strategic plan.

**Whitney Thomas '08 Eads** is the director of theatre arts at Columbus Academy in Gahanna, Ohio. This is her eighth year with the school, where she continues to direct, choreograph and teach theatre to students in sixth-12th grades.

**Matt Rugenstein '08** and **Jill Behm '11 Rugenstein** started Bluebird Roofing Co. this past spring, offering residential and commercial

roof repair and replacement services in West Michigan.

**Samuel Ogles '09** and Katie Robichaud announce the birth of Redmond Pierce on May 18, 2023.

## 10s

**Sally VanderPloeg '10 Naredla** completed her master's degree in nursing from Husson University and is now working as a family nurse practitioner at South Berwick Family Practice, part of the Mass General Brigham organization. She and her husband also welcomed the birth of their son, Karunakar, on Dec. 16, 2022.



## SUMMER HOPE FRIENDS REUNION

Thirteen Hope families and 20 alumni traveled from across the state and country to vacation together in Boyne, Michigan, for one fun-filled family weekend. All the women were Sibylline sisters from the '04 pledge class and were celebrating 20 years of friendship. The participants were:

**Sib Sisters:** Sarah Mignin '07 McCabe, Cara Brondyke '07 Flinn, Megan Sedjo '07 Burns, Melissa Sapp '07 Sedjo, Lindsay Bransen '07 Recsetar, Danielle Constantin '07 Greenman, Libby Castle '07 Webster, Steph Poll '07 Ethridge, Megan Werley '07 Ringnald, Elly Blacquire '07 TerBeek, Rachael Sauerman '07 Piers, Jenna Coffaro '07 Ramsey and Katie Matre '07 VanDyke; and **Hope spouses:** Matt McCabe '08, Dave Sedjo '06, Scott Greenman '06, Grant Webster '07, Adam Ringnald '07, Christian Piers '07 and Trevor VanDyke '04

**Sarah Warner '10** and Zach Weinberg announce the birth of Sabin James on May 19, 2023. He joins big sister, Emily. Sarah is pursuing an MBA/Master of Sustainability dual degree at Chatham University.

**Jeanine De Jong '11 Mozie** received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is chief of staff to the president at Trinity Christian College.

**Alayna Ruberg '11** and Don Atkins announce the birth of Auden on May 26, 2023. She joins big brother Asher.

**Alex Yared '12** is the emergency preparedness program specialist for the Kent County Sheriff's Office.

**Briana Beyer '13** is an associate broker and realtor for the Briana Beyer Team at Coldwell Banker. She was ranked a top-1%-producing team in West Michigan, with properties selling twice as fast as typical local agents. She and her husband, Caleb Driesenga, cover the commercial side of real estate, working with buyers, sellers, landlords and tenants.

**Frank Groen '13** and Melanie Tucker were married on Myrtle Beach in May 2023.

**Kirsten Van Reenen '13 Hein** and **Noel Hein '13** announce the birth of Nila in the fall of 2021.

**Madalyn Muncy-Piens '13** and Joshua Muncy-Piens announce the birth of Cecilia Rose on July 14, 2023. She joins big brother Myles.

**Blake Soulet '13** and his wife, Nikki, celebrated their three-year wedding anniversary in August, and announce the birth of Aycyn Hendrix Siah on July 29. He joins big brothers Kairos (4/28/21) and Rhyker (7/1/22). Blake is pursuing a Master of Science degree in clinical mental health counseling at Walden University. He is currently completing his internship with Genuine Solutions Counseling Center and will complete his program in February 2024.

**Kellie Kirbitz '14 Joyce** graduated from Rush University's pediatric clinical nurse specialist doctor of nursing practice program. She is a clinical nurse specialist in pediatric hematology/oncology at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

Submit your classnotes now to [alumni@hope.edu](mailto:alumni@hope.edu) or [hope.edu/update!](https://hope.edu/update!)

**Karsten Hall '15 Dommermuth** and **William Dommermuth '16** announce the birth of Riley Jane in July.

**Lize Loubser '15** has completed her residence training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi. She is practicing with South Shore Family Practice in Marquette, Michigan.

**Briana Armand '16** received a Juris Doctor degree and a certificate in alternative dispute resolution from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. She is an associate at the law firm of Ropes & Gray.

**Nicole Jahlas '16 Marquez** works in accounts payable in the business office at Siena Heights University.

**Fallon Richie '16** and Colin Kammeraad were married in September 2023 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Carter Collins '17** is the head men's basketball coach at Anderson University, a Division III university located in Anderson, Indiana.

**Robert Henry '17** received his Ph.D. degree in psychology from the University of Utah in 2023. In September 2022 he moved back to West Michigan, where he is an advanced analyst with Meijer.

**Kellyanne Fitzgerald '19** and **Mark Powers '19** were married on May 19, 2023, in Chicago, Illinois.

**Julia Keisling '20** received a Master of Science degree in microbiology and molecular genetics from Rutgers University. She is a pediatric genetic counselor at the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

**Barry Bait '21** received his master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics in March 2023. He is pursuing a certificate in prosthetics and orthotics through a residency in East Hartford, Connecticut.

**Jamie Breyfogle '21** graduated from U.S. Navy Flight School being designated a naval flight officer and earning her wings of gold in August.

**Connor Collins '21** is a high school special education teacher at Fowlerville Community Schools.

**Mical Knafer '21** is pursuing a Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Miami. She has accepted an internship with the University of Miami's Olympic sports as a strength and conditioning assistant.

**Avery Massie '21** was nominated by community members and staff for the Curo Award. She was the only first-year teacher recipient of the award for the 2022-23 school year. The Curo Award recognizes exceptional devotion to a student with a disability, to make the student's life better.

**Caden Collins '22** is in his first year of law school at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

**James Mandeville '22** transferred into the biomedical Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Samantha Martino '23** is pursuing a master's degree in clinical exercise physiology at the University of Delaware.

**Reed Rosado '23** is a district representative for Congressman Bill Huizenga.

## 20s

**Emily Byrd '20 Betten** and **Jordan Betten '18** announce the birth of Jason in October 2022.





# IN MEMORIAM

Please visit the college online, to view expanded obituaries.

[magazine.hope.edu/winter-2023/inmemoriam](https://magazine.hope.edu/winter-2023/inmemoriam)

## 40s

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**Mary Carpenter '41 Steketee**

Sept. 19, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**Mary VandeWege '49 Boeve**

June 30, 2023, Caledonia, Michigan

**Ruth Koop '49 Yeomans**

June 30, 2023, Holland, Michigan

## 50s

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**Albert Boers '51**

June 27, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**Kenneth Hulst '52**

Nov. 5, 2023, Jackson, Michigan

**Kathleen Veltman '51 Parkins**

Sept. 18, 2023, Loveland, Colorado

**Duane Peekstock '52**

Aug. 5, 2023, Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Melvin Voss '52**

July 23, 2023, Parkersburg, Iowa

**Jane Noxon '53 De Witt**

Oct. 13, 2023, Cary, North Carolina

**Victor Nuovo '54**

Oct. 5, 2023, Middlebury, Vermont

**John Santinga '54**

Oct. 23, 2023, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Mina Venema '55 Cook**

Aug. 2, 2023, Bend, Oregon

**Dorah Braak '56**

Nov. 14, 2023, Grand Haven, Michigan

**Henry Stegenga '56**

Nov. 6, 2023, Newport News, Virginia

**Harold Knoll Jr. '57**

Sept. 29, 2023, Montague, Michigan

**Donna Paris '58 Boeve**

July 23, 2023, Rochester, Minnesota

**Robert Vander Lugt '58**

July 9, 2023, Winter Garden, Florida

**Mary Hunter '58 Walker**

Oct. 2, 2023, Wernersville, Pennsylvania

**Norman Arndt '59**

Oct. 5, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

## 60s

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**Egbert Boer '60**

July 30, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**Hazel Rozendahl '60 Groenhof**

Sept. 8, 2023, Saginaw, Michigan

**Phyllis Lovins '60 Vander Werff**

Aug. 20, 2023, Orange City, Iowa

**Thomas Klaasen '61**

July 14, 2023, Dallas, Texas

**Sharon Norris '62 Flynn**

July 11, 2023, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Jerry Hamelink '62**

Oct. 17, 2023, Vicksburg, Michigan

**Judith DeRyke '63 Dunn**

Aug. 13, 2023, East Lansing, Michigan

**Robert Stoel '63**

July 1, 2023, Hamilton, Michigan

**Paul Swets '63**

July 14, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**Thomas Ewart '64**

July 29, 2023, Nevada City, California

**Barbara Fisher '64 Happel**

Oct. 22, 2023, Grand Haven, Michigan

**Nancy Goeman '65 Alciatore**

Sept. 26, 2023, Clearwater, Florida

**Lee Gerard '65**

Oct. 4, 2023, Okemos, Michigan

**Gary Teall '65**

July 4, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**James Lemmerz Jr. '66**

Oct. 2, 2023, Cypress, Texas

**Jeffrey Waldron '66**

Nov. 12, 2023, Redlands, California

**Dennis Wegner '66**

Oct. 16, 2023, Ottumwa, Iowa

**Calvin Boer '67**

Sept. 20, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**Adrian Slikkers Jr. '67**

July 16, 2023, Portage, Michigan

**Ronald Giermann '69**

July 2, 2023, North Fort Myers, Florida

**Lucy Wang '69 Lee**

Oct. 28, 2023, Houston, Texas

## 70s

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**Carolyn MacGregor '70 Getty**

Nov. 12, 2023, Caledonia, Michigan

**Linda Glendening '70**

Nov. 28, 2023, Pella, Iowa

**Thomas Stack '71**

Oct. 12, 2023, Hutchinson Island, Florida

**Rebecca Tate '71 Zurcher**

Nov. 4, 2023, Pomeroy, Ohio

## Jack DeJong '72

June 20, 2023, DeWitt, Michigan

## Marlene VandenBerg '72 Kuite

July 30, 2023, Comstock Park, Michigan

## John Brown '76

Sept. 1, 2023, Holland, Michigan

## Ben Tubergen '76

July 15, 2023, Holland, Michigan

## 80s

## Kathy Hartger '80

Oct. 3, 2023, Montague, Michigan

## Timothy Tietz '83

July 8, 2023, Brick, New Jersey

## Gerald Van Baren '85

Sept. 2, 2023, Ada, Michigan

## Kim McBee '87 Foster

Oct. 28, 2023, Overland Park, Kansas

## 90s

## Amy DeVries '90 Ritsema

Aug. 17, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

## 00s

## Nicholas Grasman '01

Oct. 27, 2023, Midland, Michigan

## Jeffrey Templeton '03

Nov. 17, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

## Elizabeth Farmer '05

Nov. 5, 2023, North Muskegon, Michigan

## Stephen Pels '09

June 20, 2023, Grayling, Michigan



**Carol Schaap**, who died on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, at age 85, is remembered at Hope for having a transformative impact on the campus and multiple college programs, spanning academics, co-curricular experiences, faith formation and financial aid.

Across the past two decades, Carol Schaap and her husband, **Dr. A. Paul Schaap '67**, who survives her, have provided major gifts for facilities including the A. Paul Schaap Science Center, the Jim and Martie Bultman Student Center, and the Saint Anne Oratory at the Carol C. Schaap Chapel in Graves Hall;

and for endowment in support of faculty and student collaborative research in the natural and applied sciences. The funding has been in addition to the significant contributions they have faithfully made annually to the Hope Fund for more than 40 years to support students and financial aid/access to a Hope education.

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

## Sympathy to the family and friends of

### Nancy Emerson

Sept. 4, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Nancy worked in the Registrar and Business Services offices at Hope for more than 10 years.

### Sang Hyun Lee

Sept. 4, 2023

Sang was an associate professor in the Department of Religion at Hope from 1970 to 1980.

### John (Jack) Stewart

Oct. 7, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

He was an associate dean of academic affairs and assistant professor of history at Hope from 1969 to 1974.

### Mark Moran

Oct. 30, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mark was a staff accompanist in the Dance Department for more than 20 years.

### Nancy Nicodemus

Dec. 2, 2023, Holland, Michigan

Nancy Nicodemus retired as professor emerita of English in 1999 after teaching at the college since 1966. In retirement she enrolled at Hope and pursued a degree in art history, graduating in 2007.

### David Roossien

Dec. 2, 2023, Wyoming, Michigan

David Roossien supported the college's music program in a variety of ways, including by funding the Casavant Frères organ in the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts.





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### 2024 JUNIOR DAYS

Friday, March 22, 2024

Friday, April 5, 2024

Friday, April 19, 2024

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