

NEWS FROM

# HOPE COLLEGE

SPRING 2024

VOLUME 55, NO. 3



THE "AND" OF HOPE  
*Moving beyond "either/or"*

DISTINCTIVE  
HOPE

HOPE  
COLLEGE  
FORWARD

## BLUE-CHIP EXPERIENCE

Members of the men's and women's basketball teams represented Hope at the epicenter of the business world on Wednesday, Dec. 27, with a once-in-a-lifetime chance to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange. They were joined for the iconic opportunity by head coaches Greg Mitchell '89 and Brian Morehouse '91, and President Matthew A. Scogin '02, the latter of whom served from 2009 to 2014 as senior vice president and chief of staff at NYSE Euronext, which ran the New York Stock Exchange. The visit was part of a five-day trip to the Big Apple that included two games in the Bronx for both teams.

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



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ON THE COVER

What makes a Hope education distinctive — and not only distinctive but **more**? It's the "and" of Hope, where it's a given that it's possible to combine academic excellence **and** serious engagement with the Christian faith. To wit: It's not necessary to choose one or the other, because they aren't in opposition. Instead, they can and must travel together, and enrich one another, with lives and the world the better for it. The theme is explored very directly in this issue's story on page 16 about the Department of Economics and Business, **but and** that's not the only place.

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family of Hope College,

Why does Hope College exist? It may sound like an obvious question, but it is one worth revisiting from time to time.

From the college's inception, our founders believed this institution was called by God to be a beacon of HOPE for the world.

Starting a tiny new college during the Civil War — a tumultuous time of division and despair — with the intention of bringing global hope was an audacious goal. Yet Hope's history has been full of audacious goals. When Hope was founded, fewer than 1% of 18-24-year-olds in the U.S. went to college. This made starting a tertiary school quite a risky endeavor. But our founders believed that bringing hope to the world required more than just passion: It required education. They also believed that education should be available to all. Thus, Hope College didn't charge tuition for the first five decades of our existence, and in 1878 we boldly admitted women when less than 10% of U.S. colleges did so.

Maybe that's why it didn't seem totally absurd when Philip Phelps, our first president, proposed a grand idea: Let's build a floating campus — a ship that will allow us to physically bring hope to the earth.

The project began with great fanfare. A "laying of the keel" ceremony marked the start of construction. However, when the college hit a financial crisis a few years later, the work was put on hold and the boat remained unfinished.

Enter Samuel Zwemer, an 1887 Hope graduate who dedicated his career to ministry work in the Middle East. Today, several hospitals, schools and churches in Bahrain can trace their origins to his efforts. Zwemer returned to campus later in his career and delivered a talk about Phelps' boat concept. His address was titled "The Ship that Sailed and the Keel that Never Kissed the Sea."

In that poignant talk, Zwemer affirmed the vision of a ship. Yet, in his view it wasn't meant to be just one ship. Rather, it was the collective fleet of our graduating students — who are themselves the vessels that sail forth, carrying hope to the world. "The ships that sailed from Hope College after the keel had decayed are still leaving the port every year," he declared.

On May 5, for the 159th time in the college's history, we will say farewell to the graduating class of 2024 and send out 684 "ships" into the world. As always with partings, it is bittersweet for those of us who have spent four years with these remarkable students.

But of course, all this is as it should be. Our students were here for a season and now they are poised to embark on their next journey. We eagerly anticipate what lies ahead — their impact and contributions as they carry hope into the world.

And make no mistake, today's world is desperately in need of hope — true hope, God's living hope.

That's why Hope College exists — to bring hope to the world! We do it by preparing our students to go out into the world as hope-bringers.

Spera in Deo!

Matthew A. Scogin '02  
President



# QUOTE UNQUOTE

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

“What would Jesus do? I believe he would call us to unity and insist that we make a decision about whether we truly are who we say we are committed to being, or if we are only that kind of American when it’s convenient and doesn’t cost us anything...”

“Yes, there is a lot of hate in our society and throughout the world today. Yet, I am hopeful. If you ask me why, I will tell you that I am absolutely convinced that there are far more good and caring people in our society today than there are those who make all the noise...”

“How do I know this? Because I see it and experience it every day in my own community, on and off campus — and as I travel across the country. With rare exception, the people I interact with on a daily basis have never been more kind and gracious than they are right now. Despite all the noise that I hear in the media, people of a wide range of races, religions and, yes, even sexual orientations are very positive in their interactions with me and with others.”

“So, I leave you encouraging you to both have hope and to accept and welcome your responsibility to spread hope in all we do. That’s who we are at Hope College. That is what we do, and that is our call to duty.”

[hope.edu/mlk2024](https://hope.edu/mlk2024)

This year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Lecture not only commemorated the revered leader but also highlighted an institutional milestone, launching the year-long 40th anniversary celebration of the college’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion. CDI traces its origins to 1984, when Alfredo Gonzales ’75, director of the college’s TRIO Upward Bound program for high school students, was appointed to the newly established position of director of minority affairs.

The featured speaker during the Monday, Jan. 15, event, held in Dimnent Memorial Chapel, was Hope Professor Emeritus John Yelding, a specialist in diversity in education who retired in 2019 but continues to be active at the college as a teacher and mentor. Presenting the address “Reflections on MLK, Civil Rights, and DEI at Hope College,” he considered civil rights issues in contemporary society and what King might think about them if still alive, and took the audience on a historical tour of CDI’s work and achievements and some of the challenges along the way. In keeping with the spirit of both King and CDI, he also called the audience to action.

“The issues that I believe [King] would call us to do battle with are obviously complex and loaded with politics, but I’m certain he would call us to action to do God’s work. I believe he would start by reminding us that problems get solved when we set aside our petty differences, and commit ourselves to work toward achieving goals that serve a greater cause. I believe he would remind us that we can and will do more working together than we could ever do individually, or by isolating ourselves in groups that serve only our own interest and focus on competition with one another rather than cooperation.”

“I believe he would call us to the roots of our Christian faith and ask us in the most honest manner: What would Jesus do? I believe he would call us to unity and insist that we make a decision about whether we truly are who we say we are committed to being, or if we are only that kind of American when it’s convenient and doesn’t cost us anything...”

### MICHELLE BOMBE NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HOPE REP



Longtime theatre faculty member Michelle Bombe has been appointed executive director of Hope Repertory Theatre.

Established in 1972, Hope Repertory Theatre — or, “Hope Rep” — produces plays and educational programs across the summer as well as during the academic year, and includes theatre professionals as well as student interns both onstage and behind the scenes.

A member of the faculty since 1991, Bombe appreciates Hope Rep not only as a theatre professional, but as a former student. Her first connection with the company was in the summer of 1984, when she was an acting intern while she was an undergraduate theatre major at the University of Evansville.

This summer’s season will open on Thursday, June 13, with *The Last Five Years*, and continue through Saturday, Aug. 3, with *Big Fish* and *Detroit ’67*, along with *Dragon Pack Snack Attack* for young audiences, the annual Acting Intern Showcase, and a workshop reading of Margo Connolly’s *Havurah*, a commission of the Big Bridge Theatre Consortium. More information about the season is available online.

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

### HOPE BECOMES HOST TO THEATRE CONSORTIUM

Hope has become the new host of the interfaith Big Bridge Theatre Consortium (BBTC) of colleges and universities, which has also commissioned its third original play dedicated to peace and interfaith dialogue.



Hope is a founding member of the consortium, which began in 2017 and also includes Carroll College, George Fox University, Seattle Pacific University and The University of Portland. Originally headquartered at George Fox, the consortium has relocated to the college along with its founding artistic director, Rhett Luedtke, who joined the Hope faculty at the beginning of the school year as an associate professor of theatre.

The new play, *Havurah* (loosely translated as “circle of friends”), is being crafted by award-winning playwright Margot Connolly and will explore issues related to antisemitism. It is scheduled to be ready to debut during the 2025-26 school year.

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



### ORIGINAL PRODUCTION RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Department of Theatre was invited to perform the original production *The Boy Who Hates Everything* during the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), hosted by the University of Michigan-Flint on Tuesday-Sunday, Jan. 9-14.

*The Boy Who Hates Everything* was created last spring by Hope theatre students and guest artist Chris Garcia Peak and performed on campus in April 2023. The production was selected for the festival by a juried committee from KCACTF from entries throughout the five-state region (Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin).

The play, which also includes original music by Nathan Streifel, follows 22-year-old Desmond, who is kicked out of his home for not finishing his dinner and hating everything. He embarks on a whimsical journey with Amelie, an adventurous singing librarian, on a mission from the Magical Soup Lady to find a cat that can read, to pluck three whiskers from a lion, and to make it snow. Dr. Daina Robins, who retired from the theatre faculty at the end of the fall semester, directed the remount of the production.

In addition to the productions that are invited, theatre students have the opportunity to display their work in dramaturgy, design, stage management, directing, playwriting, musical theatre, and theatre journalism, as well as acting. A total of 24 Hope theatre students participated in this year’s conference and shared their creative activity and research.

The theatre department was also selected from a juried committee to present the costumes from *The Revolutionists* designed by faculty member Michelle Bombe and constructed by Anna Hill with assistance from Hope costume shop students. *The Revolutionists*, by Lauren Gunderson, was produced at Hope in February 2023.

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

## GRADUATION '24

Baccalaureate and Commencement for the Class of '24 are scheduled for Sunday, May 5. Commencement will take place at 3 p.m. at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium, and Baccalaureate at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.



The Commencement speaker will be the **Rev. Shomari Tate**, chaplain of discipleship at Hope. The Baccalaureate speaker will be **Dr. Vicki-Lynn Holmes**, associate professor of mathematics and education.



In the event of rain, Commencement will be held at the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse. Admission to Baccalaureate, and Commencement if indoors, is by ticket only.

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



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS RECEIVE STATE GRANT

The Children's After School Achievement (CASA) and Step Up programs at Hope have received a grant from the Michigan Department of Education's Out-of-School Time initiative for their summer sessions for Holland-area children finishing first through eighth grade.

This is the second year in a row that CASA (grades 1-5) and Step Up (grades 6-8) have received a grant through Out-of-School Time. This summer's \$87,000 award will enable the programs to continue the enhanced service that last year's \$86,400 grant made possible, including hosting more students, expanding the curriculum, hiring additional staff to provide the same level of instructional support per student, and in the case of Step Up to increase the number of weeks that the program runs.

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



## RECORD SUPPORT FOR DAY OF GIVING BENEFITS STUDENTS

Hope is celebrating record-shattering results from the college's 10th annual Day of Giving, held on Thursday-Friday, Feb. 22-23. Members of the extended Hope family from across the United States and around the world made 2,949 gifts totaling more than \$742,000 — almost doubling last year's contributions. In addition, more people made gifts on Day of Giving than ever before.

"We can't thank our generous donors enough," said Michael Niederer, director of annual philanthropy. "You can imagine how much this means to our students, knowing that so many people believe in them and are willing to invest in them. They work hard every day on campus as they prepare to bring Hope to the world."

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

## PROFS RECEIVE FELLOWSHIPS



Faculty members **Dr. Chad Carlson '03** and **Dr. Deborah Van Duinen** have been awarded Lilly Faculty Fellowships by the Lilly Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities.



Carlson is a professor of kinesiology and the director of general education at Hope. Van Duinen is the Arnold and Esther Sonneveldt Professor of Education and founding director of the Hope College NEA Big Read Lakeshore and Little Read Lakeshore.

The fellowships are for mid-career faculty leaders across the disciplines at Network schools to engage the intersections of Christian thought and practice with the academic vocation. Selected as a team for the two-year Lilly Fellows Program, Carlson and Van Duinen are sharing a \$16,000 award that includes \$8,000 in start-up funding to launch a faculty-development campus project at Hope. They will also participate in four conferences in Indianapolis and Chicago between June of this year and June of 2026 for which the network will provide lodging and related materials.

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

## PSYCH STUDENT WINS SECOND RESEARCH AWARD

Hope senior **Nhi Hoang** of Da Nang, Vietnam, has won a regional award for excellence in collaborative student-faculty research for the second year in a row from the Midwestern chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology.

Hoang, who is majoring in psychology and minoring in neuroscience, has been honored for her research titled "I will not apologize! The Dark Triad inversely predicts forgiveness-seeking," mentored by psychologist **Dr. Lindsey Root Luna '03**, who is dean of social sciences. She received her award last year for "Welcome to My House: The Relationship between One's Hospitality and Preference for Houses' Exteriors," with Dr. Benjamin Meagher, assistant professor of psychology.

Hope students have won the highly competitive awards during 21 of the past 25 years. The nine awards that Hope students received from 2014 through 2023 were the second-most in the Midwestern region and the eighth-most of all regions in the U.S.

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



## FOR THE KIDS!

Hope students have put on a marathon effort for a 25th year for the young patients of Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. More than 800 students participated in this year's installment of the annual marathon, held on Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, at the Dow Center.

All proceeds from the marathon go directly towards the funding of special programs that are designed to make the children's visits to the hospital more bearable; helping the families to deal with their illnesses; and supplies related to treatment and care. This year's marathon raised \$364,616.25, raising the event's 25-year total to more than \$4.4 million.

A photo gallery is available online.

[hope.edu/25thdancemarathon](https://hope.edu/25thdancemarathon)



## HOPE AND WMU CREATE FASTER ROUTE TO COMM. MASTER'S

Hope students majoring in communication and alumni within a year of graduating who majored in communication can take a fast track to a master's degree thanks to a new partnership with Western Michigan University.

The college and university have established a "4+1" pathway that will enable Hope graduates who majored in communication to complete a Master of Arts degree in communication at the university in one year when enrolled full-time instead of the usual two. The agreement will enable the Hope majors to apply up to 12 of their undergraduate credits in communication toward the 30-credit graduate degree.

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

## STEPHEN MAIULLO NAMED DEAN



Hope has appointed an experienced and respected campus leader as dean of arts and humanities, naming current faculty member **Dr. Stephen Maiullo** to the role following a national search.

Maiullo, who joined the faculty in 2010, has been active in scholarship and administration at the college throughout his time at Hope, including as interim dean for the past two years.

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

## HONORED AS COTTRELL SCHOLAR



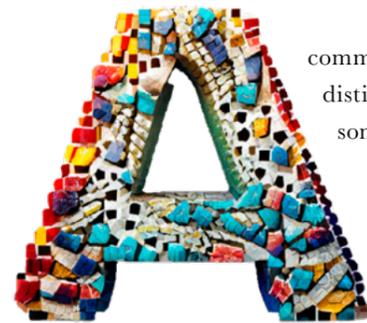
**Dr. Meagan Elinski '13**, assistant professor of chemistry, is one of only 19 early-career scientists in astronomy, chemistry or physics nationwide to receive a 2024 Cottrell Scholar Award from Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

Cottrell Scholars are chosen from among public and private research universities and primarily undergraduate institutions across the U.S. and Canada. The award includes \$120,000 for recipient's research, which Elinski will use for her investigation of "Chemical-Mechanical Control Over Nanoparticle-Hydrogel Sliding Interfaces."

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

# Building the Beloved Community

*By Greg Olgers '87*



community might be imagined as a mosaic — each part distinctive, yet existing in relation with others to create something more.

But what does that mosaic become? For 25 years, the Phelps Scholars Program has helped students not only shape the “what” during their time at the college but develop an understanding of “how” to inform their lives in their communities after Hope.

The Phelps Scholars Program is a year-long academic/residential program for incoming freshmen interested in exploring topics related to diversity. The students enroll in a First-Year Seminar designed just for them and participate in co-curricular activities like field trips to explore other cultural traditions, all while living together in the same residence hall to provide informal opportunities for them to connect with and learn from each other. It is named after the college’s first president, the Rev. Philip Phelps Jr., who brought the first international students (from Japan) to the college in the 1870s.

The program launched in the fall of 1999 with 39 students in Scott Hall, with Dr. Chuck Green, professor of psychology, as founding director. A quarter century later, the Phelps Scholars Program is an acclaimed part of the Hope mosaic that has hosted some 2,000 students, transforming not only individual lives but the college along the way.

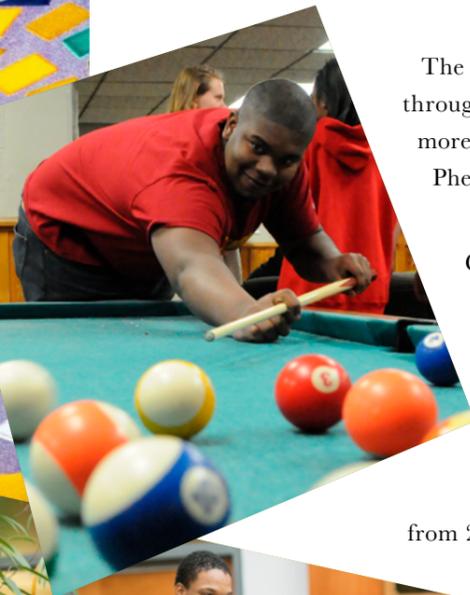
More than 100 of those individuals, spanning nearly the program’s entire history, gathered at the college’s Haworth Hotel during One Big Weekend: Homecoming + Family Weekend in October to celebrate. They were joined by faculty and staff who have made the journey with them.

“We get to capture 25 years of generational impact and a program that’s been transformative in the lives of students, of our alumni; it’s had transformative impact on our campus as well,” said Kasey Stevens, who has served as the program’s director since 2019 and is also associate dean of integrative learning at the college. “The program is not static. It’s not fixed. It’s not about a shelf life of one year. Instead, its outcomes are continuously reproduced in the lives of our students and our alumni — anybody that the program touches. It is iterative and dynamic.”

“The program is not static. It’s not fixed. It’s not about a shelf life of one year. Instead, its outcomes are continuously reproduced in the lives of our students and our alumni — anybody that the program touches. It is iterative and dynamic.”

– Kasey Stevens, director of the Phelps Scholars Program and associate dean for integrative learning





The program's students have a reputation for being especially engaged with their education throughout their undergraduate career, both within the classroom and beyond. As shared by more than one member of the faculty through the years, "I can always tell when I have a Phelps Scholar in my class."

In 2009, the Phelps Scholars Program was recognized by the Association of American Colleges and Universities as an exemplary diversity program in higher education. More recently, it has been singled out as one of the initiatives that have helped the college earn the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine for the past two years in a row.

"Campus-wide, it has changed the face of student leadership and the way that students engage in the classroom. It has permeated so many ways in the college," said Yolanda DeLeon '88 Vega, now retired from Hope, who was the second director from 2013 to 2019 in addition to previously being resident director in Scott Hall for three years. "The students are incredible when they get here, but they leave prepared to make a difference."

As she told the group in October, "It's exciting to know that the body of Phelps Scholars includes (just to name a few) artists, educators, scientists, social workers, world travelers, physicians, engineers, business leaders, graduate students, advisors and community advocates, and that you are changing the world, truly."

Lenee Ligtenberg '04 Hall, who pursued a degree in dietetics after Hope and works as a dietician, was a member of the second-ever cohort of Phelps Scholars in the fall of 2000. She was drawn to the opportunity to explore challenging societal questions alongside others who wanted to do the same.

"I've always been interested in diversity and inclusion," she said. "Growing up, I would ask, 'Why don't I know any women dentists? Why aren't there any people of color in our neighborhood?'"

It was even why she made her college choice.

"I wanted to go to Hope College because of the Phelps Scholars Program," Hall said. "I still think it's one of the favorite things I've ever done in my life."

"The Phelps Scholars Program is why I became so passionate about social justice and diversity and inclusion."

-Tonisha Gordon '09

Tonisha Gordon '09 found the program a crucial source of support as a student of color, particularly following a racially motivated incident. "This program actually saved me as I struggled with my identity as a Black woman on this campus," she said, by helping her to process what happened and see that the event "[wasn't] my fault, but it's something to learn from."

*Something to learn from*, and with which to help others through a career in higher education administration. She is currently assistant director of alumni engagement at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where her work has also included diversity education and retention initiatives, and she is active in her community.

"The Phelps Scholars Program is why I became so passionate about social justice and diversity and inclusion," she said.

It's a path that even led her back to Hope. After completing her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania, she returned as a residential life coordinator for Kollen Hall, also teaching a First-Year Seminar and advising the Black Student Union. Since 2020, she has been a member of the college's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

As the program looks forward to what the next 25 years might bring, the focus is on staying true to its vision of building understanding in keeping with students' and society's ongoing and evolving needs.

"Who is most in need of freedom today? What is the something transformative that we should be handing across generations to today's students? What is the something 'right' that we should be doing as the new generation of elders?" Stevens said. "How do we continue to create an inclusive and intentionally diverse community that mirrors the diversity of the world?"

The sentiment was echoed by founding director Green, who led the program until 2013 and retired from the psychology faculty last December.

"In her autobiography, Coretta Scott King wrote, *Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation... You do not finally win a state of freedom that is protected forever. It doesn't work that way.* Which makes the Phelps Scholars of Hope College as indispensable today as they were 25 years ago," Green said. "In the U.S. and around the world, we need people who will work for the rights of the marginalized. People who know how to love, fiercely. People who yearn to live with others in the beloved community. People who will stand up to the powerful because of their commitment to liberty and justice for all."

"That's why I'm grateful for all those who are Phelps Scholars this year," he said. "And for those who continue to live as Phelps Scholars even after they leave Scott Hall, even after they leave Hope College."



# A Phelps Scholar Forevermore

*By Kylea Canada*



*In keeping with the theme of “25 Years of Generational Impact,” the Phelps Scholars Program celebration in October included reflections from a current student. Senior Kylea Canada, a dance and psychology major from Brookfield, Illinois, shared her perspective on the difference that the program made to her not only during her freshman year as a participant, but throughout her time at Hope — and as she looks ahead.*

Good morning, everyone! My name is Kylea Canada, and I am a senior here at Hope and a proud Phelps Scholar alumni. I began my freshman year at Hope College at a time that was inconvenient, to say the least. I started in August 2020. As if the first year of college isn't daunting enough, I began in the middle of a global pandemic, in the middle of a tumultuous presidential election, and hot on the heels of a summer of civil unrest and racial activism.

On top of all of these out-of-the-ordinary experiences, leaving home for the first time and coming to a predominantly white school as a person of color felt like somewhat of a culture shock. But, within the Phelps Scholars Program I found a safe space to be myself and I found other people who were like me. We were not the same in

that we were all the same race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, or even from the same country. But we were all like-minded in that we were a part of the Phelps Scholars Program because we all cared about diversity and inclusion and we wanted to learn from each other's differences and support each other as we learned how to respectfully and intellectually engage with the world and a broad range of people from different cultural backgrounds.

We did exactly that. My first year of college was filled with late-night conversations in the basement lounge of Scott Hall as my peers and I discussed value systems, objective morality, philosophy, ethics, religion, and of course the very multifaceted topic of personal and group identity. These conversations usually began in a group chat where one of my friends would simply ask, “Who wants to have a deep conversation?” and we were known to continue these conversations until the early hours of the morning. Perhaps participating in these conversations was not the wisest decision in regards to getting all of my homework done... but, my time in the Phelps Scholars Program was a crucial aspect of my college experience as I was evaluating how my past experiences have shaped my perspectives on the world, and my understanding of the world was broadened as I learned from people who came from vastly different backgrounds.

Within the Phelps Scholars Program, I was given the opportunity to process the challenges that we were all faced with in 2020. Discussions on racial equity and reconciliation are not simple and can get quite messy. However, through our First-Year Seminar course and class discussion groups we were able to share our own experiences with each other while we also asked questions and dug deep into how to be a culturally aware, empathetic and confident global citizen responsibly contributing to society.

We didn't solve all the world's issues in a day, or even in the whole year. But it was not for lack of trying, and I for one was better because of it. Moving beyond my first year in the Phelps Scholars Program, I stayed in Scott Hall for a year to help mentor the next class of students and be the Phelps Scholars Representative for the Committee on Culture and Inclusion, I became a tour guide, I now lead on the Hope College Worship Team and I am a Covenant Scholars co-leader. Through all of these roles it has been evident how my time as a Phelps Scholar has impacted the rest of my college years. I have a commitment to increasing true inclusion in all the spaces on campus that I am a part of and I have experience facilitating and participating in the conversations necessary to make that happen. I've watched my cohort of Phelps Scholars go on to give TED Talks, lead in multicultural student organizations, sit on Student Congress, travel abroad across the world, and serve in the greater Holland community. My friends and I went from somewhat confused freshmen trying to make sense of the world at midnight in Scott Hall to being the voices for positive change on campus.

I will forever be grateful for my time in the Phelps Scholars Program and how it has made an impact on my life. The Phelps Scholars Program is where I first found community on campus, and it enabled me to change the world around me for the better. As my favorite mug says, we are “Changing the World One Phelps Scholar at a Time.”

Thank you.

*“The Phelps Scholars Program is where I first found community on campus, and it enabled me to change the world around me for the better.”*

# FAITHFUL & EXCELLENT

By Josh Bishop

Before Dr. Stacy Jackson shifted his roles in business and higher education into specifically Christian higher education more than 20 years ago, he had a particular, memorable conversation with his wife.

“I’m mad,” he told her. “It’s not okay that you can get an average economics and business education at a faithful school, but to get a good education, you’ve got to go somewhere else.”

That conversation was a turning point in Jackson’s career. He ultimately took on a role in the Department of Economics and Business at Hope College, and since joining the faculty in 2007 has devoted himself to stewarding and enhancing — along with his colleagues — a program with a long tradition of being both faithful and excellent.

Jackson is the Kenneth J. Weller ’48 Professor of Management and chair of the department, which has grown from around 80 graduates in 2014 to more than 150 graduates in 2022. Of the more than 300 prospective students that engage with the program each year, many are comparing Hope not against other peer institutions but against larger universities and business schools like Butler, Notre Dame, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

For a department that’s delivering the depth of experience similar to a big business school but within the context of a small liberal arts college, Hope is clearly punching above its weight.

“Many other business programs have large, specialized majors; they’ve pushed out the breadth of the liberal arts; and they can take up to two-thirds of a student’s entire 120 credits.” In contrast, Jackson said, “We don’t believe these hyper-specialized majors give you room for exploration or a broad education. At the same time, we don’t aim for merely a small major that doesn’t have adequate depth around what a student might actually do after graduation.”



In fact, this aim toward life after graduation is an impetus for giving students a wide range of experiences, so they can first assess their skills and interests and then choose what to pursue. In other words, the department has made a deliberate choice to push against the way some other schools pursue the ideas of vocation and calling, instead offering appropriately sized business and economics majors that also lean into the liberal arts.

“Many people view college as a simple transaction, much like an ATM where you just pick a major and get a degree. But students are going to spend their college years, and the years immediately following, doing far more discernment than they’ve done in their entire life so far,” Jackson said. “We want them to be really good at discernment. That’s why we immerse them in community, education and experiences first, so that they can find their calling on the other side of that knowledge.”

As an intentional part of this process, the program exposes students to a wide scope of the business world. The department engages with more than 500 professionals every year (up from 250 professionals in 2018); these professionals represent more than 180 local, regional, national and international firms in places as local as a start-up or non-profit in Holland, and as wide-ranging as Goldman-Sachs in New York City or the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. The program also regularly engages students in applied projects with clients, summer research projects, nine-plus co-curricular programs in a variety of business functions and skill-based workshops led by organizations such as IDEO and Training the Street.

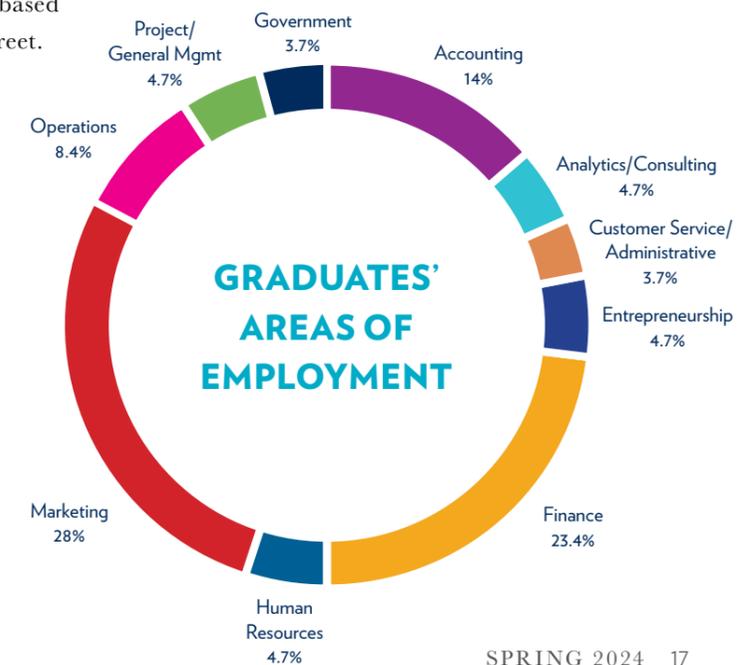
“They’re learning about the breadth of calling and a world where roles in fields such as finance, marketing and operations are more complex than they’ve ever been,” Jackson said. “The right level of sophistication in these fields elevates a student’s ability to be faithful in them.”

Public accounting major Elnora Lunga ’25 underscores this point. “Our education is a tool to enhance our ability to live into the fullness of who we are meant to be,” she said. “In having an academic department approach education with the goal of living a life for Christ, it propels us further toward Him.”



**“THIS WHOLE TEAM IS FAITHFUL AND EXCELLENT. THAT’S WHY WE DRAW FACULTY FROM HARVARD, CORNELL, STANFORD AND OTHER TOP GRADUATE SCHOOLS.”**

—DR. STACY JACKSON





**“THE COLLEGE SPECIFICALLY WANTS TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE HISTORIC CHRISTIAN FAITH, AND I’VE ENJOYED THE FREEDOM TO THINK ABOUT CHRISTIAN ISSUES IN THE COURSE OF ACTUAL ECONOMIC STUDY.”**

—DR. STEPHEN SMITH

**98%** increased confidence when making career decisions

because of our

**4-year** externally engaged vocational discernment process

The approach is clearly working. Currently, more than 500 students are pursuing a major or minor through the Department of Economics and Business, amounting to some 20% of recent years’ graduating classes. And despite the strain these numbers can place on department resources, it consistently achieves placement rates above 98% (including at global firms such as JPMorgan and Whirlpool), integrated experiential learning for all its majors, and top finishes in case competitions where students test technical knowledge against other colleges and universities.

“This whole team is faithful *and* excellent,” Jackson said. “That’s why we draw faculty from Harvard, Cornell, Stanford and other top graduate schools. They don’t have to be here.” He says a primary reason Hope can draw such talented faculty is because they believe in Hope’s Christian mission.

Dr. Stephen Smith, the Robert W. Haack Professor of Economics, agrees. “The college specifically wants to be faithful to the historic Christian faith, and I’ve enjoyed the freedom to think about Christian issues in the course of actual economic study,” he said. “It’s such a joy to have the freedom to do that without giving up an inch on preparing students well in economics’ technical aspects.”

Smith, who completed his graduate work at Stanford University, is also the current president of the Association of Christian Economists; the association’s journal, *Faith & Economics*, is edited by Dr. Steven McMullen, professor of economics at Hope. McMullen holds a Ph.D. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“The basic idea is that, yes, I’m an economist — I do economic research, and my specialization is in global trade and economic development — but I’m Christian as well, and economics and faith really can speak to one another,” Smith said.

“What we’re doing should not be shocking,” Jackson said. “Hope is a Christian college. We’re just inviting students to a historic Christian perspective in business and economics and preparing them to be excellent wherever they decide to go.”

It’s a combination, he explains, that was deliberately baked in by Hope’s fifth president, Dr. Edward E. Dimment, when he established the program in 1931 (making it, incidentally, the second-oldest business program in Michigan).

Smith gave the example of classes that explore what he calls “some of the enduring issues of Christian thinking” on economics: Is my neighbor the person right in front of me, or someone across the world who needs help? I’m just out of college: Should I be giving? What does it take to cultivate a life of generosity? What kind of industry should I work in?

“There’s a lot of insight on these questions that come from Christian scholarship and writing over the past two millennia. There’s a rich tradition that we can draw on,” he said.

Jackson returned to the theme he identified 20 years ago: “For many students, they feel you need to choose between excellent education or faithful education — between a haven or intellectual engagement,” he said.

At Hope College, you don’t have to choose.



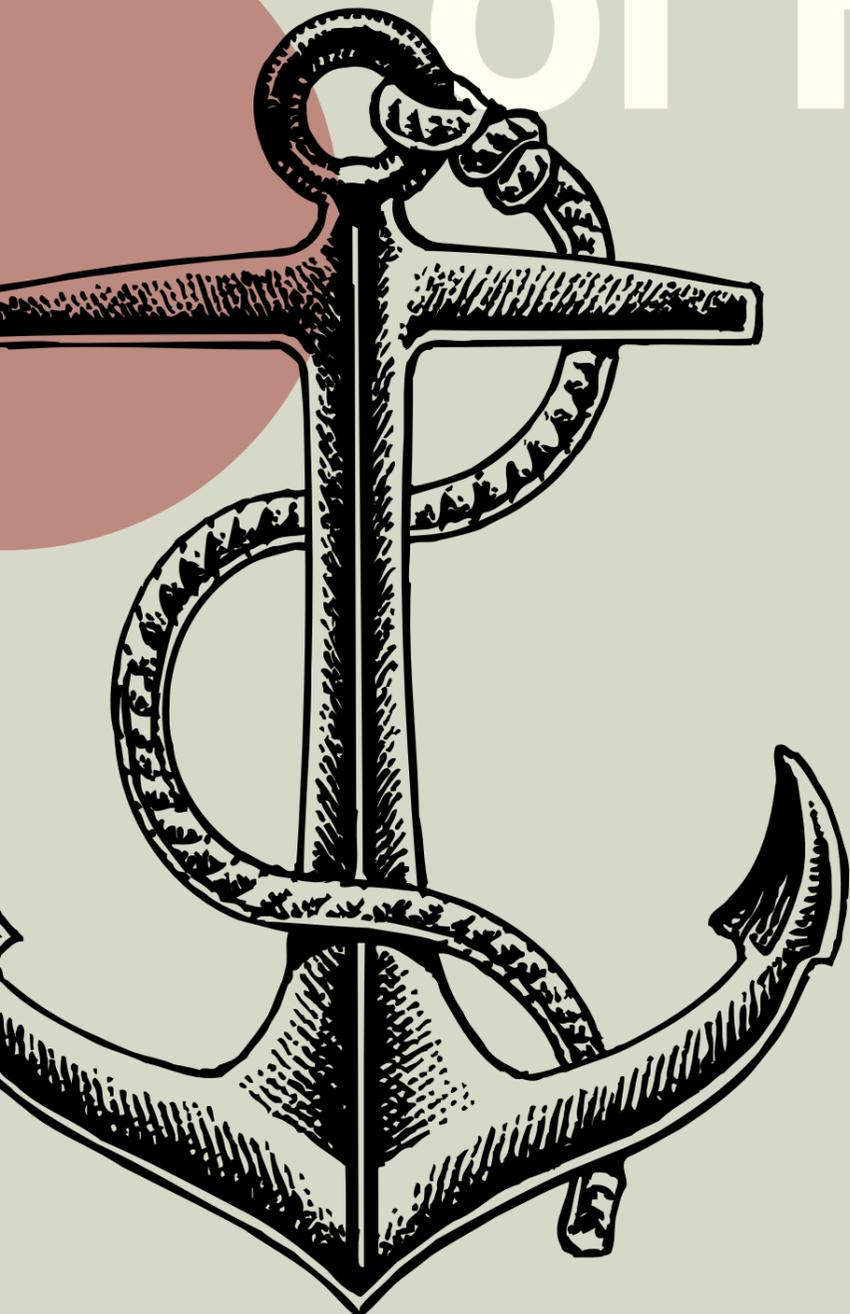
DR. MORGAN WILSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT

**98.2%** of graduates majoring in business or economics were employed or in graduate school approximately six months from graduation



JACQUELINE NICKEL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS INSTRUCTION AND RUCH EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE  
MARKETING CLASS PRESENTATION

# Anchors of Hope



The words penned by the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte when establishing the Pioneer School from which Hope grew are among the college's most foundational: education as an "anchor of hope" for the future. Through all the decades since, that promise has been shepherded by generations of faculty mentors who have not only been *at* Hope, but in a real sense have *been* and *are* Hope. Across campus — in the classroom, in the laboratory, on the stage, on the playing field and in countless ways between and beyond — for a combined 205 years, the eight faculty retirees honored on these pages have embodied and helped realize the vision of transforming tomorrow by shaping young lives today.

*NOTE: As with Hope's faculty retirees of the past several years, our stories about each are online, where they will remain, a lasting tribute available around the world. Just like the thousands of current students and alumni whose lives they helped shape.*

[hope.edu/retirees2024](https://hope.edu/retirees2024)



**Dr. Tom Bultman '78**  
Professor of Biology  
22 years



**Dawn DeWitt-Brinks '84**  
Assistant Professor of Communication  
34 years



**Stu Fritz**  
Associate Professor of Kinesiology  
and Head Baseball Coach  
31 years



**Dr. Vicki-Lynn Holmes**  
Associate Professor of Mathematics  
and Education  
15 years



**Dr. Laura Pardo**  
the Evert J. and Hattie E. Blekkink  
Professor of Education  
19 years



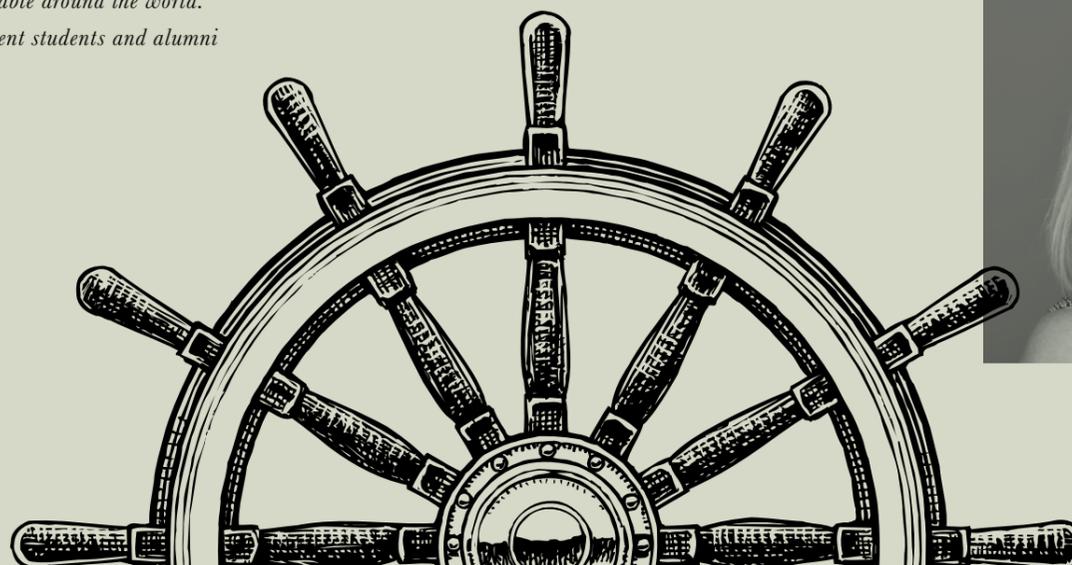
**Dr. R. Richard Ray**  
Professor of Kinesiology / Provost Emeritus  
42 years



**Dr. Daina Robins**  
Professor of Theatre  
32.5 years



**Dr. David Van Wylen**  
Principal with the Office of Possibilities  
9 years





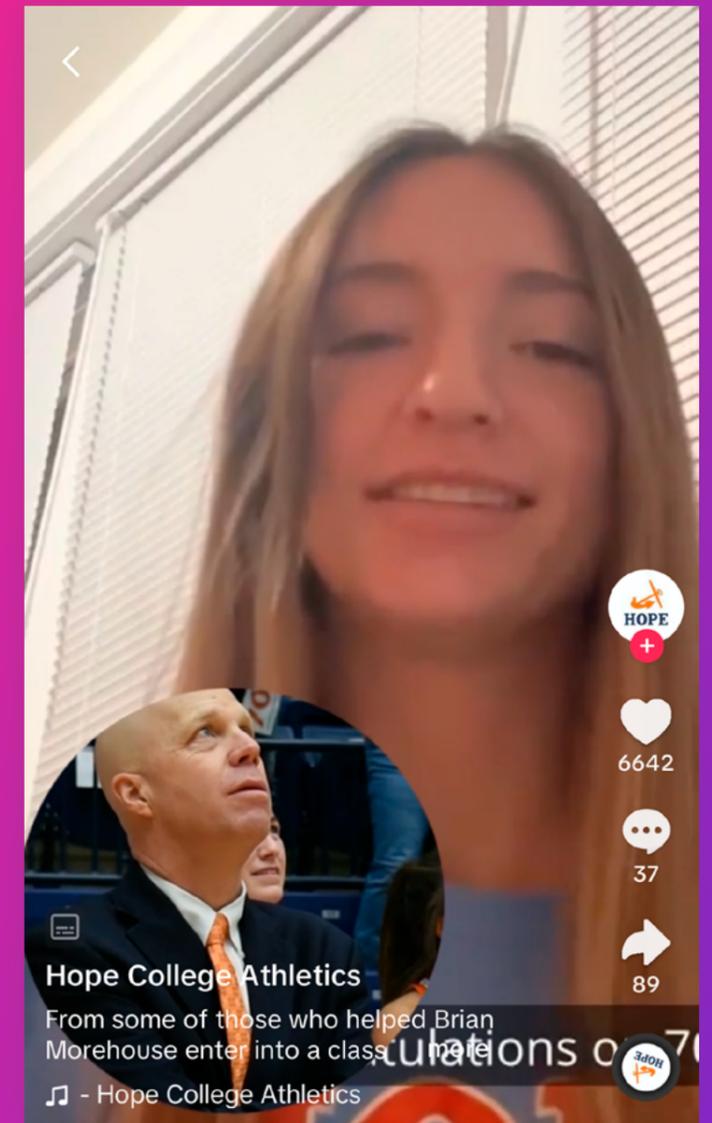
**Kirk Cousins** @KirkCousins8  
 "Two students stopped me after my PT session @ Hope...told me they'd get extra credit if I showed up to the class so I had to stop by. Professor Gentile, thanks for having me, but now I'm holding you to that extra credit!"



"Attending Hope was one of the best opportunities my daughter has been given. She has thrived at Hope, and we are truly grateful. I continually pray for Hope. These decisions have an enormous impact on many peoples lives. God bless you all and the entire student body at Hope!"



"it was the 'cone-air' comb schtick, then the chicken nugget – well played!"



Caption: From some of those who helped Brian Morehouse enter into a class of his own, reaching 700 wins quicker than any coach ever. #CoachMo700 #ncaa #basketball #ncaarecord #hopeathletics #orange #blue #d3 #700wins



# A WINTER SEASON OF JOY

By Alan Babbitt



GRETA GIDLEY

**THERE WERE PLENTY OF REASONS TO CHEER AS HOPE COLLEGE STUDENT-ATHLETES BROUGHT HOME 17 ALL-AMERICA HONORS, FIVE CONFERENCE TITLES AND FOUR MIAA MOST VALUABLE ATHLETES DURING WINTER COMPETITION.**

In March, junior swimmer Greta Gidley led the Flying Dutch's charge to a 15th-place finish at the NCAA Division III Championships in Greensboro, N.C., and a fourth consecutive MIAA title at the Holland Aquatic Center in February. Gidley, the MIAA's Most Valuable Women's Swimmer, placed second in the nation in the 200-yard individual medley for the second consecutive season. Hope earned All-America Second Team honors in eight more events at nationals. Junior Abby Koops was the MIAA's Most Valuable Diver for the third consecutive season. Head coach Jake Taber '04 was voted as the MIAA's Women's Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year.



SARA SCHERMERHORN



JADA GARNER

In women's indoor track and field, sophomore sprinter Sara Schermerhorn raced away with the school's first All-American honors in the 400 meters with a seventh-place finish at nationals. Schermerhorn, the MIAA's Most Valuable Indoor Track Athlete, also helped the Flying Dutch repeat as MIAA champion in February at Trine University as part of MIAA records in the 200 and 400 meters and the 4x400 relay. Head coach Kevin Cole '88 was selected as the MIAA's Women's Indoor Track and Field Coach of the Year.

The Flying Dutch basketball team earned a third consecutive MIAA title with an outright championship and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the 14th time in program history. Led by MIAA MVP, D3hoops.com all-region and junior guard Jada Garner, Hope finished with a 26-4 overall record after starting five new starters. In January, head coach Brian Morehouse '91 became the fastest basketball coach in NCAA history, in any gender, to reach 700 wins (795 games). Morehouse was chosen as the MIAA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.



BRIAN MOREHOUSE '91



TANNER WIEGERINK

The Flying Dutchmen basketball team claimed a third consecutive MIAA Tournament championship by defeating host and eventual national champion Trine University in the finals and then sixth-ranked Calvin University in the semifinals at Trine. Led by All-MIAA and D3hoops.com all-region forward Tanner Wiegerink, Hope posted a 23-7 overall record. Head coach Greg Mitchell '89 was voted as the MIAA Men's Basketball Coach of the Year.

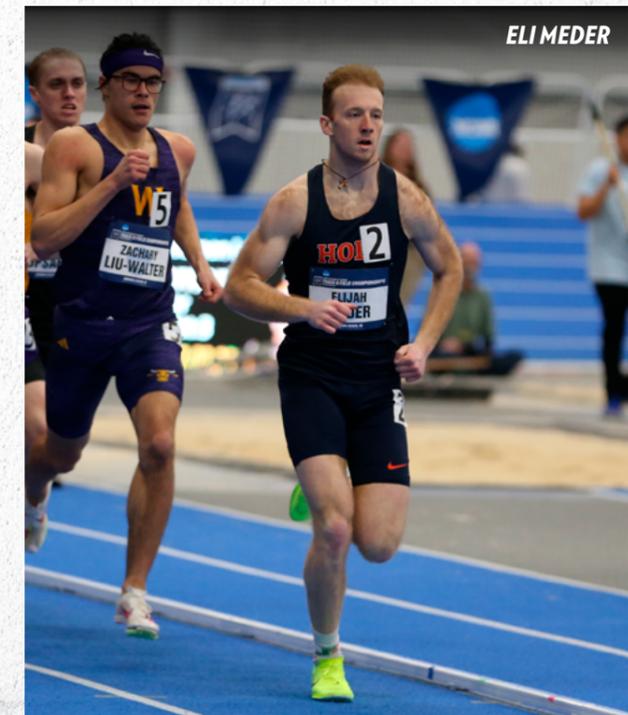


BEN CATTON

In men's swimming, Hope claimed All-America Second Team honors in seven events at nationals and placed runner-up at the MIAA Championships. The 200 medley relay of junior Colin Kalkman, junior Christian Dunaitis, senior Ben Catton and freshman Graham Eisenmann led the Flying Dutchmen at nationals with a 12th-place finish.

In men's indoor track and field, the Flying Dutchmen recorded their highest finish at the NCAA Championships with a runner-up effort at Trine. Hope won three conference titles, including senior Eli Meder in the 800 meters.

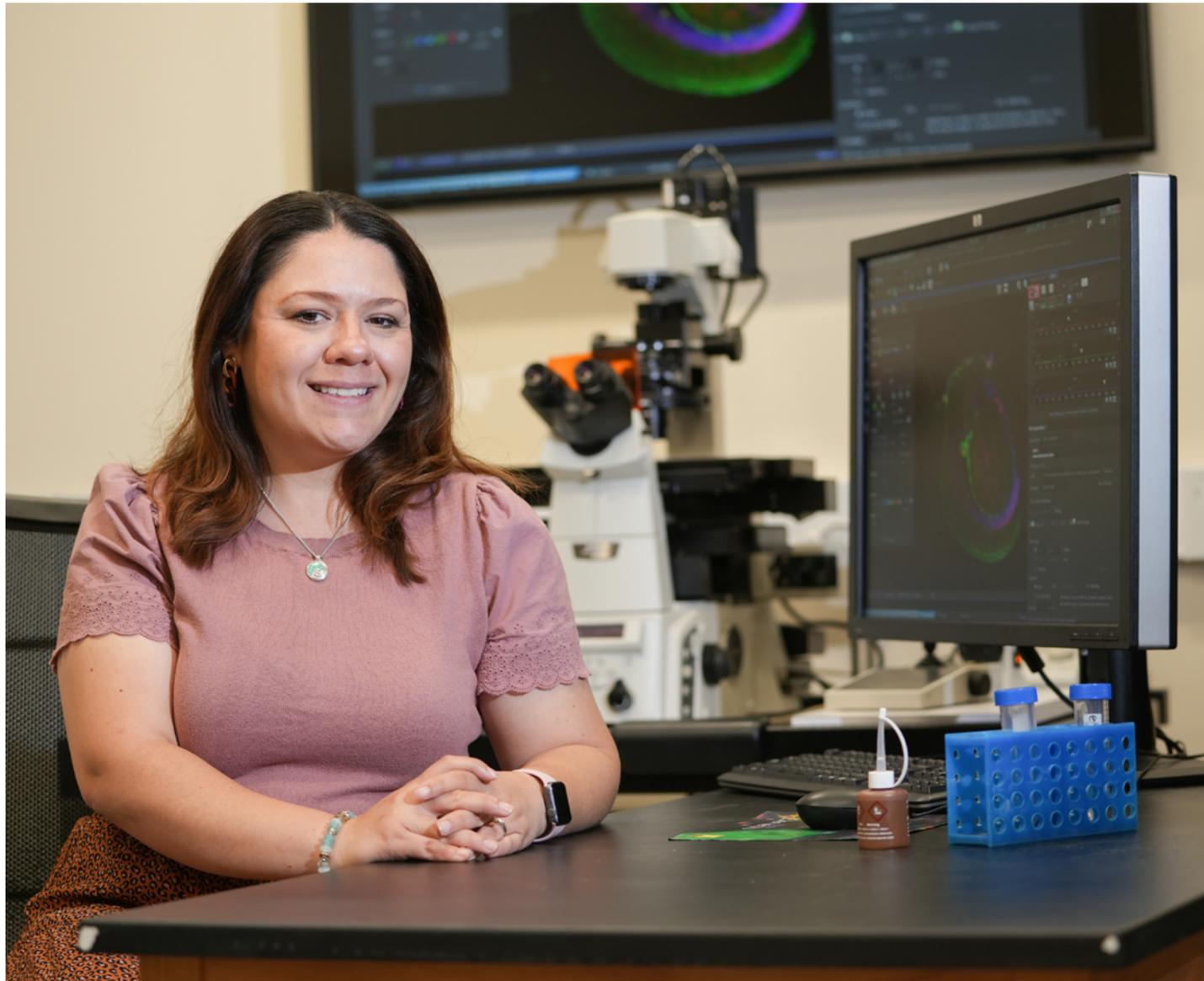
The Flying Dutchmen hockey team repeated as Michigan Collegiate Hockey Conference Vezina Cup champions with a pair of shutout victories. Hope finished with a 27-6 overall record after competing in pool play at the ACHA Division 3 national championships. In December, head coach Chris Van Timmeren '97 announced the Flying Dutchmen would begin skating at the ACHA Division 1 level during the 2025-26 season.



ELI MEDER

# Delving Deep into Zebrafish Brains for Clues about the Sense of Smell and Adaptation to Climate Change

By Natasha Strydhorst



To Dr. Erika Calvo-Ochoa, science is about storytelling. Diminutive zebrafish, with their perpetually surprised expressions and uncannily keen sense of smell, are her striped protagonists. Small though they are, it's their even tinier neurons that are the focus in Calvo-Ochoa's laboratory. With student researchers, the molecular neuroscientist is studying olfaction and neural recovery in this species that does both rather better than humans can.

Zebrafish are heavily dependent on their olfaction (sense of smell) for everything from finding food and mates to avoiding predators. "There are a lot of new cells being born in the olfactory neurons in the nasal epithelium — or, to put it more simply, in the nose — just to cope with potential damage," explains the assistant professor of biology and neuroscience. As the zebrafish brain is also continuously replacing cells, the whole olfactory system is adaptable. "It needs to be able to swiftly change in order to keep up with the environmental demands," Calvo-Ochoa says, voicing her main hypothesis.

That hypothesis fuels three studies Calvo-Ochoa is conducting with her students. In the first, they impair the fish's olfactory brain regions, and then over three weeks they observe physical structures and behavioral outcomes as the fish lose neurons and their corresponding sense of smell — and,

fascinatingly, then regain them. "If we want to translate that into a human disease, it could be like blunt force trauma to the head and olfactory loss," Calvo-Ochoa says, with the caveat that for humans, there is no natural neural recovery — yet. Research like Calvo-Ochoa's dissects the capabilities of other species that may, one day, be replicable in humans.

"The idea is that, collectively, all of this knowledge will build up," Calvo-Ochoa says, thereby paving the way for human applications.

Parkinson's disease, for example, is often characterized early by a disrupted sense of smell. Dopamine, a molecule produced by the brain that conveys signals between neurons, is

involved in many bodily functions — movement, memory, mood and sense of smell among them. While zebrafish are not susceptible to Parkinson's, Calvo-Ochoa's second project mimics this disruption by eliminating dopamine-producing neurons in the fish's olfactory bulb (a structure at the tip of its long, narrow brain). The researchers introduce a drug that is structurally similar to a dopamine precursor chemical. The neurons are hoodwinked by the mimicry and absorb the drug to process into dopamine — only to be dispatched by the toxic compound. Only dopamine-producing neurons in the olfactory bulb are destroyed, leaving the rest of the brain purring along at full capacity.



*"To me, zebrafish give the best of both worlds, because they're similar to us," says molecular neuroscientist Dr. Erika Calvo-Ochoa, noting that the species shares over 70% of its genes with humans. "They're also different in the ways that mean we can learn so much from them."*

Because dopamine-producing neurons are the ones affected by Parkinson’s disease, studying the results of their demise in olfactory bulbs is a step toward probing the relationship between these neurons and olfaction.

Calvo-Ochoa and student researchers are also exploring reactions to low-oxygen environments. They place some zebrafish in low-oxygen water. After 15 minutes, the fish are doing remarkably well in many respects, but their sense of smell is impaired. Back in a comfortably oxygenated tank, the fish are now oblivious to scents that signal threats, and they fail to perform their usual freeze-and-drift-inconspicuously-downward maneuver to avoid the perceived threat. Over this coming summer, the researchers will test whether the zebrafishes’ sense of smell comes back. The experiment has implications both for wild fish, whose habitat is changing as increasing temperatures leave less oxygen in the water, and for humans, who compared to zebrafish are more at risk of severe

reactions to hypoxia (reduced oxygen), as when struggling to breathe at birth or suffering a stroke.

“To me, zebrafish give the best of both worlds, because they’re similar to us,” Calvo-Ochoa says, noting that the species shares over 70% of its genes with humans. “They’re also different in the ways that mean we can learn so much from them.”

Earlier this year Hope College named Calvo-Ochoa a Towsley Research Fellow, a four-year appointment whose recipients receive summer research funding and a sabbatical to pursue scholarly research that benefits Hope students as well as furthering the faculty member’s professional goals. Calvo-Ochoa’s work is also supported by grants from the Kenneth Campbell Foundation (\$80,000 over six years), the Michigan Space Grant Consortium (\$30,000 in April for student research stipends), the International Brain Research Organization (\$30,000) and the National Science Foundation (\$460,000). The latter grant supports

both ongoing research in the lab (2023-26) and another passion of Calvo-Ochoa’s: increasing diversity in science by funding full scholarships for K-12 bilingual summer science camps held at Hope.

“My first language is Spanish. I identify as a Latinx scientist,” Calvo-Ochoa says. These camps for K-12 students tell the story that “scientists can speak other languages and that Spanish can be used to do science and that there are Mexican scientists.”

Working with zebrafish brains takes consummate skill; they’re incredibly fragile structures. “It gave me a lot of patience to learn how to deal with them,” Calvo-Ochoa says. “You become really good at handling very delicate things. I think my students get nervous when they join the lab and I tell them, ‘You’re going to be in charge of your own experiments.’ And they’re like, ‘That’s never going to happen.’ When it does happen, they feel so proud and accomplished. I think it’s one of the things that they like the most about the lab: that sense of ownership of things, even if they seem very daunting.”

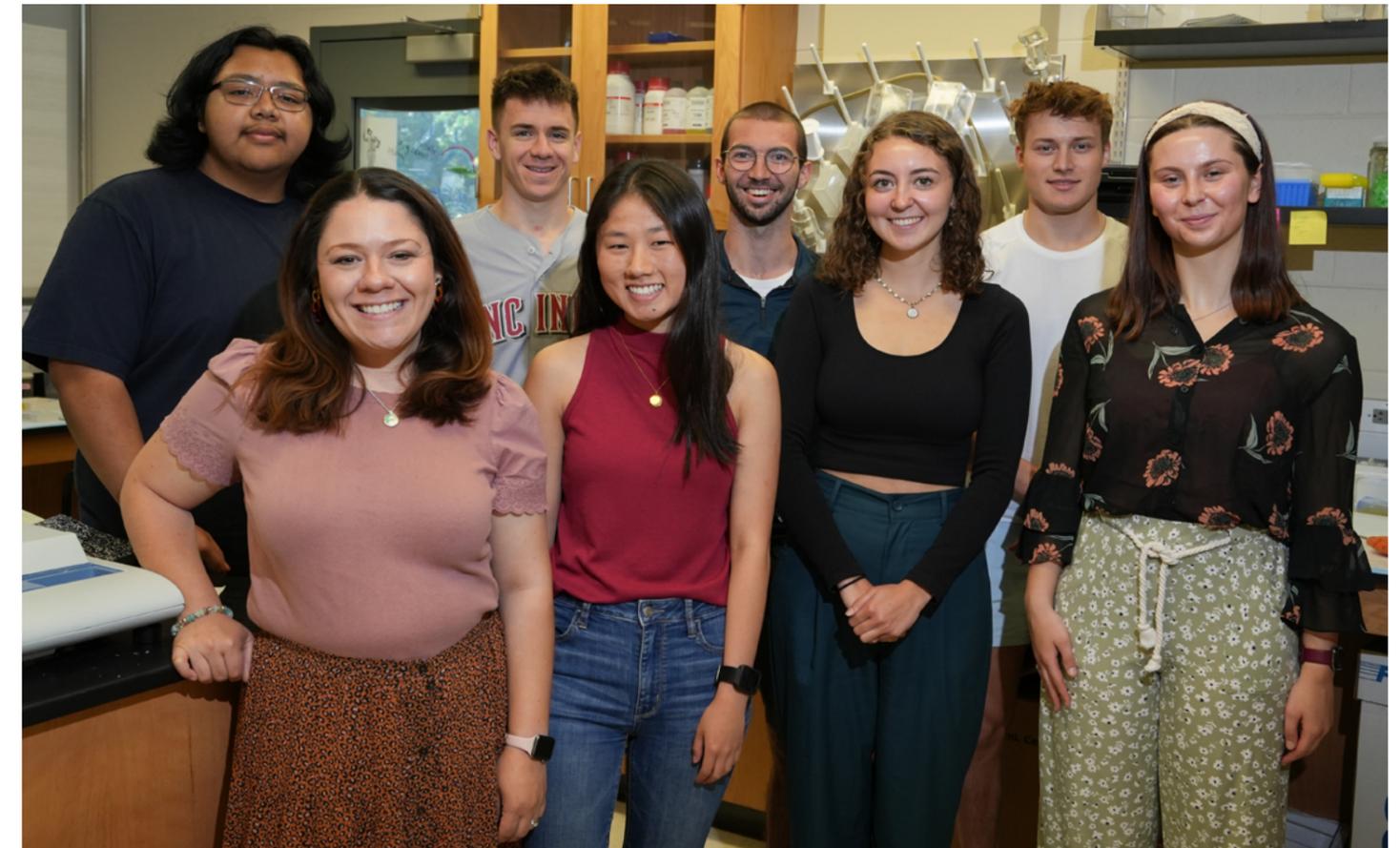
Calvo-Ochoa’s students leave the lab well prepared for research-intensive graduate programs, some with research awards already under their belts. Nathaniel Vorhees ’23 has begun a Ph.D. program at the University of North Carolina, where he is continuing his research on zebrafish neuroinflammation.

“Having done undergrad research,” he says, “I felt well prepared to make that jump.” During his three years in the Calvo-Ochoa lab, he received the Zuidema Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and a national travel fellowship to attend a Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego.

Skylar DeWitt ’24 has also spent most of her Hope years as a member of the Calvo-Ochoa lab. She received two summer research fellowships from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium, and as a junior she won a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. She has accepted admission to a Ph.D. program in neuroscience at the University of Rochester. “I felt very blessed that I could get such a good research experience,” she says. “With bigger schools, a lot of times it’s very hard to get into a lab, and then — if you do — you’re just the dishwasher. You rarely get to actively do the experiments. So that’s something I love about Hope: the opportunity to do that.”

*“I felt very blessed that I could get such a good research experience. With bigger schools, a lot of times it’s very hard to get into a lab, and then — if you do — you’re just the dishwasher. You rarely get to actively do the experiments. So that’s something I love about Hope: the opportunity to do that.”*

–Skylar DeWitt ’24,  
neuroscience and psychology  
double-major with a biology minor  
(pictured far right)



*As one example of the researchers’ work: The team’s study of how zebrafish respond to low-oxygen environments has implications both for wild fish, whose habitat is changing as increasing temperatures leave less oxygen in the water, and for humans, who compared to zebrafish are more at risk of severe reactions to hypoxia (reduced oxygen), as when struggling to breathe at birth or suffering a stroke.*

## A Duet of Music and Computer Programming Brings a Concerto, and a Dream, to Life

By Natasha Strydhorst

**D**r. Matt DeJongh laps up languages: computer, verbal, musical. So when it came time to begin his 2022–2023 sabbatical research project, there were many directions he could’ve taken. There was, however, one especially compelling aspiration DeJongh believed a computer could make a reality if it were programmed just right.

“My project stems from a very specific dream that I have, which is to be able to play a Mozart piano concerto,” the professor of computer science says. “In piano concertos you have a pianist playing and an orchestra accompanies them. It’s very beautiful, it’s very challenging, but in order to do this, you need to have an orchestra — and those are hard to come by if you’re just an amateur pianist.”

But DeJongh knows computers, and thought one could stand in for the orchestra, given the right instructions. The technical process is called music informatics.

“A computer is a tool for creating your own universe in some ways,” he says. “As long as you learn to speak its language, you can tell it what you want it to do, and it’ll do it — within its capabilities. That was the goal of my research: to play a Mozart piano concerto and have my computer be the orchestra that accompanies me.”

*“In piano concertos you have a pianist playing and an orchestra accompanies them. It’s very beautiful, it’s very challenging, but in order to do this, you need to have an orchestra — and those are hard to come by if you’re just an amateur pianist.”*

—Dr. Matt DeJongh, Professor of Computer Science

With a recording of the orchestral score of Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 12, the skills and software of likeminded collaborator Dr. Christopher Raphael at Indiana University, a computer-and-microphone setup, and his knowledge of programming and mathematics in hand, DeJongh got to work. He trained his computer to listen to piano pieces and identify the many simultaneous notes the instrument can produce. He dug into the mathematics and programming and began instructing the computer to play a prerecorded



orchestral part and match its tempo with the piano’s as he played — without warping the pitch, as recordings are wont to do when the tempo is tweaked.

“It is able to maintain the pitch at the same level using some fancy mathematics,” DeJongh explains.

In a piano concerto, the piano’s the star. The orchestra follows, taking its cues from the pianist. Concertos include sections designed to give the pianist solos called cadenzas whose length is up to the musician. Training a computer to recognize what a conductor would signal to a

live orchestra at those moments means taking a different approach than a programmer would to produce a karaoke track of classical music that would give the pianist an unyielding length of time for each cadenza.

“That’s sort of like saying, ‘Drive from Grand Rapids to Detroit and get there in exactly 137 minutes,’” DeJongh says. “Well, you’re just not going to hit it right on the nose. The cool thing is that the computer *does* hit it right on the nose.” He trained it to recognize what a conductor would: the pianist’s flourishing trill signaling an imminent end to the cadenza.

DeJongh hopes to develop the technology into a software application that piano students could use to experience playing a concerto and to practice without an orchestra.

“There’s a really strong parallel between music performance and computer programming,” DeJongh says. From the outside peering in, both look remarkably like cryptic scribbles on a page (or screen). It all comes down to how the computer or performer interprets and enacts those instructions. “The goal of the computer program isn’t to look at those words and say, ‘Oh, what a nice computer program.’”

It's to produce a live experience. It's the same with a music performance. The goal isn't to look at those blobs of ink on a page; it's for somebody to take that and interpret it and turn it into a live performance," DeJongh says.

DeJongh enjoys melding computer science with disparate fields. Taking a philosophical approach, he's also considering how computer behavior, and particularly algorithms, affects human activities — now and into the future.

"Computers are, despite what most people think, not really capable of random behavior," he says. "But when the algorithms get complicated enough, they look random to the outside observer. And this is going to be, I think, the dilemma of the next century: We're entrusting our lives to algorithms and we don't understand how they make decisions."

In the senior seminar he teaches, *The Future of Being Human*, DeJongh combines computer science with philosophy and theology. The course delves into his fascination with "how

artificial intelligence and computer technology change our conception of what it means to be human, and of the soul. It's about how digital technology is transforming society — transforming the ways that we communicate and our conceptions of ourselves," he says. In every class, "there's a whole range of views, and it makes for interesting conversation."

Contemplating the thousands of hours that go into a research project, alongside the myriad more invested in the education and collaboration that make it possible, DeJongh is awed.

*"[A]ll of a sudden you realize: 'Wait a minute — I can.' To me, that is really what education and research are all about. It's making discoveries and creating opportunities to do something really good that you didn't even know you'd be able to do. It's just an incredible experience."*

—Dr. Matt DeJongh, Professor of Computer Science

"When I played that piano concerto for the first time, I started crying," he says. He suspects that's common when a heretofore unrealized dream reaches the cusp of reality. "And then all of a sudden you realize: 'Wait a minute — I can.' To me, that is really what education and research are all about. It's making discoveries and creating opportunities to do something really good that you didn't even know you'd be able to do. It's just an incredible experience."



## The Gift of Creation

*By Josh Bishop*



Unless you're plugged into the French intellectual and philosophical scene, you've almost certainly never heard of Fabrice Hadjadj. One Hope College professor is working to change that.

Hadjadj (b. 1971) is a contemporary philosopher and writer, and “a rising star in the French Catholic intellectual firmament,” says Dr. Joshua Kraut, associate professor of French in the Department of World Languages and Cultures and co-director of Hope’s Emmaus Scholars Program.

To introduce Hadjadj’s perspective on ecology to an English-speaking audience, Kraut is translating a collection of his essays and talks on that topic. The volume is under contract with Front Porch Republic Books, which, according to its website, “publishes works about place, localism, community, decentralism, and conservation.” The book will include Kraut’s translation of five to seven essays and talks by Hadjadj (pronounced *ah-JAHJ*) along with a critical introduction written by Kraut.

“I want to translate him because he’s a really thoughtful voice in a post-Christian society,” Kraut says.

He sums up Hadjadj’s background as “culturally Jewish, atheist and anarchist,” followed by a dramatic conversion to Catholicism in his twenties and a swift rise through academia as a philosopher and public intellectual.



*“I treasure working at a liberal arts school where I can integrate different bodies of knowledge... I’m using French to translate a philosopher writing about ecology and faith – it’s all coming together, and that’s really exciting for me.”*

—Dr. Joshua Kraut, associate professor of French and co-director of the Emmaus Scholars Program

Ecology is just one of the “dizzying variety of topics” he writes about — “he’s enormously productive,” Kraut says. Hadjadj also writes and speaks about art, technology, the family and transhumanism. He’s written a comic and a trilogy of children’s books and released a musical album. And he directs the Philanthropos Institute in Switzerland, which offers a year-long program of education and spiritual formation centered on philosophical and theological anthropology, daily Eucharist, manual work and theater.

Kraut sees Hope as a natural incubator for translation of Hadjadj’s wide-ranging work. “I treasure working at a liberal arts school where I can integrate different bodies of knowledge,” he says. “I’m using French to translate a philosopher writing about ecology and faith — it’s all coming together, and that’s really exciting for me.”

When it comes to Hadjadj’s Christian approach to ecology, Kraut compares the French polymath to the American farmer and writer Wendell Berry, because both point out that “it’s not an insignificant part of discipleship to pay attention to the whole of creation,” Kraut notes.

“Hadjadj diagnoses our current moment of gnosticism — the flight from the material, the flight from the body, the impulse to upload our consciousness to the cloud,” he said. “For Hadjadj, losing track of the material world is a spiritual problem, and it will get you into a lot of trouble.”

Kraut characterizes Hadjadj’s work as pushing against “the fact that we’ve given up on creation as a gift to be contemplated, a gift that actually turns our gaze upward. And when you abandon that, you start to think, *What can I make of all of this raw material to better assist me in pursuing my own vision and dreams?* — as opposed to seeing that creation is valuable in and of itself.”

If there are two polarized ways of seeing the world — at one end a materialist, utilitarian perspective that encourages us to exploit nature as a resource for our own needs, and at the other end a sort of neo-pagan spiritualization of nature that Hadjadj calls “the cult of Gaia” — then Hadjadj writes against both of these tendencies by presenting a third, Christian approach to ecology grounded in givenness, sacrament and Sabbath.

Hadjadj’s point of view is Sabbatarian. He acknowledges that, yes, the creation was given to Adam and Eve to work and have dominion over, but the first thing they had to do was *nothing*: “It seems

paradoxical. The first couple was given the mandate to fill the earth and subdue it — to *do* things — but then immediately comes the seventh day, a day of rest,” Kraut says. In this perspective, we can best engage with creation when we first rest in God by relinquishing control and recognizing our own limits.

Kraut’s forthcoming volume will not be the first time Hadjadj’s work appears in English; there already are translations of two volumes of his theological works. But it will be the first English language publication of his ecological essays and of critical engagement with his work.

“Translating him has been really fun. It’s an unexpected joy,” Kraut says. “It’s very challenging sometimes because there’s a lot of wordplay, but I’ve tried to honor his playfulness.”

“He’s got very Chestertonian turns of phrase,” he adds, referring to the turn-of-the-20th-century British writer and famed wit G. K. Chesterton. “It’s very confident — a lot of clever juxtapositions, a lot of phonetic pizazz.”

*“[Fabrice] Hadjadj diagnoses our current moment of gnosticism – the flight from the material, the flight from the body, the impulse to upload our consciousness to the cloud... For Hadjadj, losing track of the material world is a spiritual problem, and it will get you into a lot of trouble.”*

—Dr. Joshua Kraut, associate professor of French and co-director of the Emmaus Scholars Program

In Kraut’s translation of one essay, “Heaven on Earth,” for example, Hadjadj notes how Paul depicts the apostles as “spiritual farmers of a sort, humble before the power that belongs to the humus.” Hadjadj goes on to describe contemporary culture as alienated from and threatened by nature, observing that “Suffering and death, not ingratitude and injustice, are seen as the worst evils, because we’ve forgone saintliness for satisfaction, consolation for comfort and heaven for health.”

“If he were just a boring essayist, it would be a lot easier, but he’s actually very poetic. So it’s stretching me,” Kraut says.

Kraut hopes that people who read his translations will “take away a gratitude for the world that they live in, that they learn to wonder at it — not in a way that divinizes it, and also not in the detached kind of scientific curiosity either, but that they see God’s glory revealed in every square inch.”

“I also hope that they would see their own need for connection to the land, whatever form that takes.” For Kraut and his family, this means they garden and plant trees more intentionally than they used to. “I’m probably not going to be a farmer like Wendell Berry,” he says, “but it has made me ask myself, *Am I doing justice to the gift of the earth that God has made? Am I honoring this gift that I’ve been given?* I hope the reader would ask the same question.”

*Dr. Joshua Kraut’s forthcoming volume will not be the first time that contemporary philosopher and writer Fabrice Hadjadj’s work appears in English; there already are translations of two volumes of his theological works. But it will be the first English language publication of his ecological essays and of critical engagement with his work.*



# 2023 HOPE COLLEGE FACULTY BOOKS

An example of the robust and varied scholarship of Hope's faculty as represented by the recent publications celebrated during the annual Provost's Recognition Luncheon in January.

## Writing Imperial History: Tacitus from Agricola to Annales

Dr. Bram ten Berge, *Associate Professor of Classics*

The late first- and early second-century Roman senator and historian Tacitus produced a collection of works widely recognized as offering the most authoritative account of Rome's early imperial history. Tracing many of the enduring themes and concerns that Tacitus explores across his writing, the book shows how the political, geographical, and rhetorical theories expounded in his early works influenced his later narrative of the evolution of the Roman monarchy.

## The Evolution of the Groove

Professor Robert Shipley, *Assistant Professor of Music*

A resource for students and professional drummers, the book provides more than 150 song examples within genres such as R&B, rock, pop, soul, disco, funk, blues, jazz and Latin. They are presented in chronological order, covering more than five decades, to demonstrate the development of the styles across time.

## Psychology

Dr. David Myers, *Professor of Psychology*

Now in its 14th edition, the bestselling book continues to be shaped by Dr. David Myers's goals since the first: connecting students to high-impact research, focusing on developing critical thinking skills, and presenting a global and inclusive perspective on psychology so that all students can see themselves in the text and see psychology in the context of a wider world. With Dr. C. Nathan DeWall, professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky; and Dr. June Gruber, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience, and director of the Positive Emotion and Psychopathology Laboratory, at the University of Colorado.

## What Hath Darwin to Do with Scripture? Comparing the Conceptual Worlds of the Bible and Evolution

Dr. Dru Johnson, *Visiting Associate Professor of Religion*

Moving beyond the either-or debate in exploring what the Bible and evolutionary science say about creation, the book considers that and how — even though their ideas are sometimes in conflict — they both provide intellectual frameworks for understanding human origins. After opening with discussion of the differing conceptual worlds of the Bible and evolutionary science, Johnson traces both through the connection among scarcity, cooperation and violence; the fitness of creatures to their environment; and the genealogical aims of sexual reproduction.

## Widening the Lens: Integrating Multiple Approaches to Support Adolescent Literacy

Dr. Deborah Vriend Van Duinen  
*The Arnold and Esther Sonneveldt Professor of Education*

Providing a resource for secondary teachers across all content areas, the authors encourage a “widened lens” approach that considers varied perspectives and research findings when engaging in multiple and often competing initiatives, issues and pedagogies. Using examples from their own and others' classroom experiences, they explore numerous theoretical and practical understandings of literacy to inform classroom instruction. With Dr. Erica R. Hamilton, assistant vice president for academic affairs at Grand Valley State University.

## Understanding Technological Systems

Dr. John Krupczak Jr., *Professor of Engineering*

Filling the gap between engineering science and engineering design, the book provides an introduction to engineering and technology centered on the underlying structure common to all technological objects. Major topics include the concepts of technological function and the embedding of functional capabilities in physical components, the hierarchical nature of systems, and the clustering of related systems into technological domains.

## The Nicene Creed: A Scriptural, Historical and Theological Commentary

Dr. Jared Ortiz  
*The Lavern '39 and Betty DePree '41 Van Kley Professor of Religion*

An accessible introduction that explains how the Creed is anchored in the Bible and how it came to be written and confessed in the early history of the church. The authors show how the Creed reflects the purpose of God in salvation, especially in relation to Christians' divine adoption as sons and daughters, leading to glorification. With Dr. Daniel A. Keating, professor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

## Power Struggle: Cycle B Sermons Based on the Gospel Lessons for Proper 17 Through Thanksgiving

Dr. Wayne Brouwer, *Professor of Religion Instruction*

A tapestry of sermons inspired by the Gospel lessons from Cycle B of the three-year liturgical cycle, which focuses on Mark and John. With titles including “Bonding and Confidence,” “Chaos,” “Heaven's Culture” and “Up The Ladder to Nowhere,” the sermons delve into themes such as the true motives behind our actions, the essence of authentic humility and the values that truly matter to Jesus.



This past fall was an especially active publication season for Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger '79, who is the Leonard and Marjorie Maas Professor of Reformed Theology and had three books that provide a Christian perspective on environmental stewardship published within two months.

## Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement

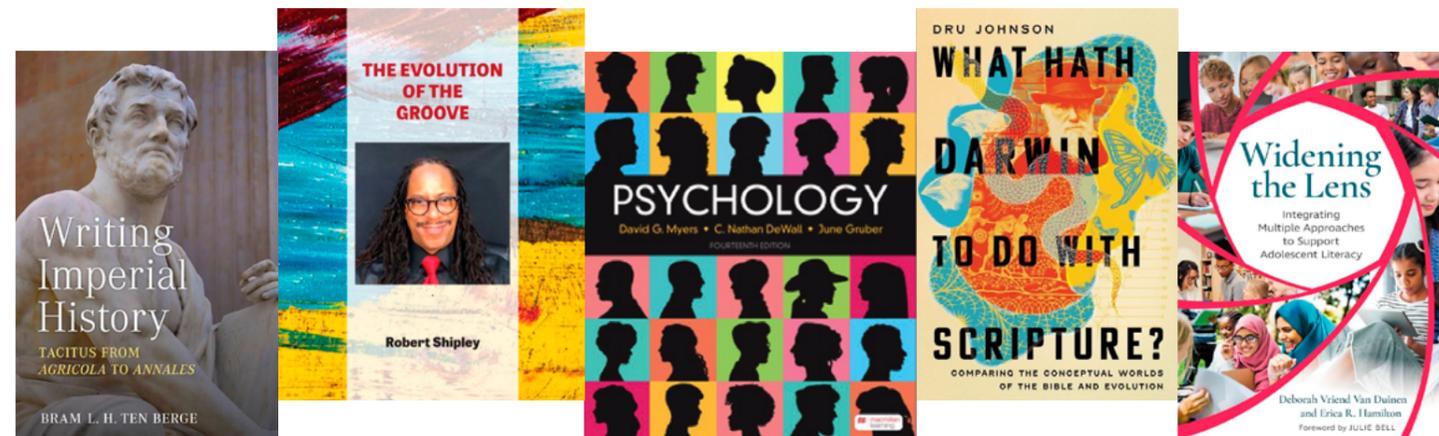
Discusses various forms of homelessness — socioeconomic homelessness, ecological homelessness (not feeling at home on the planet) and postmodern homelessness (having a house, but not feeling at home) — and demonstrates how Christian faith offers a path toward homecoming and homemaking. Co-authored with Brian J. Walsh, now retired campus minister and adjunct professor of theology at the University of Toronto.

## Creation Care Discipleship: Why Earthkeeping Is an Essential Christian Practice

A guide that progresses from biblical vision, through Christian tradition, through ecumenical insights from around the world, to practical advice for those who want to put their faith into action in their everyday lives. The chapters are bracketed by biblical meditations on passages such as the Creation story, Noah's flood, and Jesus's seven “I am” from the Gospel of John.

## Ecoflourishing and Virtue: Christian Perspectives Across the Disciplines

Explores how human vices drive many ecological problems and how human virtues foster ecological solutions. Drawing on insights from 20 Christian scholars across many academic disciplines, this book addresses issues such as environmental racism, interfaith dialogue, ecological philosophies of work, marine pollution, ecological despair, hope and humility. Co-edited with Dr. Nathan Carson, associate professor and program director of philosophy, and director of the Sierra Program, at the Fresno Pacific University.





**HOPE** >>>  
**FORWARD**

from  
apathy  
to  
all-in

*By Carl Heideman '88*

In some ways, I'm a model of Orange and Blue: I'm an alumnus ('88), married to an alumna ('87); we're parents of two Hope graduates; and I've worked at the college for 35 years, currently as director of process and innovation. Hope College has been a large part of my life, and I'm enthusiastically better for it.

But there's another side to this. I came to Hope very reluctantly upon strong recommendations from my parents and siblings. Much of my time in college was spent in frustration or frivolity (I was a Cosmo, which simultaneously kept me barely in and nearly out of college). As an employee, I've had periods of

apathy or irritation as I participated in the sausage-making of higher education. As an alumnus, I've felt misunderstood at times, and sometimes unhappy with decisions that "the college" has made — and I know that friends have sometimes been frustrated with Hope, too.

I was even getting ready to move on to the next phase of my career, away from Hope College, when Matt Scogin announced *Hope Forward*. At first, I saw it as just another fundraising campaign slogan, but then I took a closer look at it and its three pillars of access, generosity and community. Now, I'm all-in.



Members of the Cosmopolitan Fraternity (1986–1987) *Milestone*



**AT FIRST, I SAW IT AS JUST ANOTHER  
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN SLOGAN,  
BUT THEN I TOOK A CLOSER LOOK AT  
IT AND ITS THREE PILLARS OF ACCESS,  
GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY.**

**NOW, I'M ALL-IN.**



## ACCESS

Some of the criticism of Hope by my friends centered on affordability — they couldn't afford to send their own kids to the college. So, I initially focused on the first of the pillars: access. Access is more than just being affordable, but “affordable” was the hook that got me re-energized and even more involved. I like the idea of helping make it possible for students to have the same opportunity that I had. I also like the idea of challenging the cost model of the machine of higher education, and maybe showing the world that other colleges should be doing what we're doing.

The college's goal is to endow and fully fund tuition, with students asked to contribute to Hope after graduation to support future generations rather than pay in advance. Students and families will still need to pay for room, board and the other costs of attending Hope, but *Hope Forward* will bring back the ability for a student to work full-time in the summer and maybe part-time during the school year and graduate without debt. Wow, that's how college used to work until sometime in the mid-1980s when education inflation — at colleges and universities across the country — started significantly outpacing the rest of inflation.

**ACCESS IS MORE THAN JUST BEING AFFORDABLE, BUT “AFFORDABLE” WAS THE HOOK THAT GOT ME RE-ENERGIZED AND EVEN MORE INVOLVED.**

## GENEROSITY

While in the future gifts will sustain *Hope Forward*, putting it into place for every student is going to require the college to raise three to five times more money than we've ever raised before. My position at Hope is very flexible and I get involved in many things — I work in business process improvement, departmental organizations and other buzzwords — so I've had a chance to work with our philanthropy team, since we're not going to raise three to five times more money than we ever have by doing things the same way.

Fundraising on behalf of access and affordability would seem to lead naturally to *Hope Forward*'s pillar of generosity — and, I'll admit, at the beginning I mainly studied generosity to figure out some marketing hooks to get people to donate money. But, one day a co-worker who had worked at churches and other non-profits talked with me about her damaged relationship with generosity, and I began to see the pillar differently.

It never occurred to me that people have a relationship with generosity, let alone a damaged one. I thought about my own relationship with generosity, and realized it wasn't very intentional: I generally followed patterns handed down to me from my parents or encouraged by tax laws. So, I went all business-process-improvement on myself and defined the goals, scope, and practices of my relationship with generosity. Donating time and cash to Hope and *Hope Forward* is a part of that relationship, but there are other parts that have nothing to do with Hope College. I've talked with many people since then and challenged them to consider their relationships with generosity, healing wounds, making repairs, or updating strategies along the way. The ones who took the challenge came back to me feeling refreshed and revitalized, just as I am.

## COMMUNITY

That left me with community, the third pillar of *Hope Forward*. While I've been a part of the employee community for 35 years and interacted with the student communities along the way, I've been pretty disconnected from my alumni friends. I've never been back for a reunion or gathering. So, I considered why I was connected in some ways and not connected in others.

These days, a lot of us are pretty cynical about institutions. For me, I realized that I had started seeing Hope College as an institution instead of as a community — and that it was keeping me from much of the community. So, I started reconnecting with my old friends, students I had lost track of, and alumni with similar interests but from different eras. I didn't reconnect to raise money for the institution — I reconnected for me and for them. We've been having a great time! It's also helped me remember and appreciate how Hope made those people and experiences a part of my life, and that we as a community are Hope College.

Generosity, Access, and Community. That's *Hope Forward*. It's not a handout, it's not socialism, it's not a gimmick. It's a bold challenge to higher education and a bold challenge for all of us. Please study *Hope Forward*, consider your relationship with generosity, and keep connecting to our community. And maybe together, we can provide more access to a high-quality education right here in Holland, Michigan.

So that's what I think about *Hope Forward*. I'd enjoy hearing what you think about college and especially *Hope Forward*, good or bad. If you want to share thoughts about *Hope Forward*, the college or the community, please send a message to me at [hopeforward@hope.edu](mailto:hopeforward@hope.edu).



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOPE FORWARD, PLEASE VISIT [HOPE.EDU/FORWARD](https://hope.edu/forward)**

**“YOUR WINDSHIELD IS A WHOLE LOT BIGGER THAN YOUR REARVIEW MIRROR.  
... WE'RE MEANT TO BE PEOPLE WHO LOOK FORWARD.”**

– President Matthew A. Scogin '02



JOURNEYS THROUGH HOPE

# History and Memoir

THREE DECADES APART, EACH POSSESSING A PASSION FOR MINISTRY WHEN OPTIONS FOR WOMEN WERE LIMITED, A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ATTENDED A HOPE THAT WAS BOTH OF ITS TIMES AND OFFERED SKILLS AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MOVING BEYOND THEM.

By Barbara Walvoord '63

It was 1962. My Hope College Old Testament professor, the Rev. Dr. Simon DeVries, had asked me to come into his office. Yikes! Had I done something wrong? I loved the class, had gotten A's on tests and papers, and had eagerly searched out extra reading. Daughter and granddaughter of Reformed Church ministers, accustomed to theological discussions in church, Sunday School and Catechism class, and at our family dinner table, I was fascinated, as Prof. DeVries taught us how to use history, archeology, sociology and literary criticism to understand God's word. In his office that day, Prof. DeVries began, "You're very good at this scholarship." My heart swelled. High praise from this demanding, scholarly man.

And then he said, "You might think of becoming a director of religious education."

Wait. Not a minister? Not a seminary professor? Nope. It would be 17 more years before the RCA ordained women. There were virtually no women seminary professors anywhere. Prof. De Vries, in the fine tradition of Hope faculty, was identifying and encouraging his most talented students, but DRE was all he could realistically offer me.

So, I majored in English, got a superb education at Hope College, got my doctorate, and became a college faculty member. I conducted research on how students learn to think and write in various college disciplines. In 2008 I published a study of how students developed intellectually and spiritually in 66 introductory religion courses around the country, including at Hope. The

book helps teachers of religion courses understand their students and shape their teaching methods. That's a kind of ministry, and Hope College gave me the skills to pursue it.

Let's go back a generation. In the 1930s, among Hope's 400 students were my father, Christian Walvoord, son of a Reformed Church minister and headed for the ministry himself, and my mother, Marie Verduin, from a farm family in South Holland, Illinois, who had all the qualities of an excellent minister.

The society and the college were VERY sexist. There were no women administrators (except dean of women) or board members. My father was elected president of his class, a position held only by men; my mother was elected secretary, a position held only by women.





# Hope College Anchor



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Hope College, Holland, Mich., March 2, 1932
Number 31

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## HOPE REPRESENTATIVES COMPETE FRIDAY

### HAROLD DE WINDT WINS THE BRONZE BUST OF WASHINGTON!

Chris Walvoord Places Second In the Bust Contest

WASHINGTON. THOU SHOULDST BE LIVING." IS WINNING ORATION

Friday evening the activities connected with the celebration of the bi-centennial anniversary of George Washington's birth were very fittingly climaxed with the Washington Bust contest. Professor Bruce Raymond was chairman of the program and announced that the bronze bust of Washington after Houdan, valued at \$250, would be presented to the winner of the contest at the



HAROLD DE WINDT



MARIE VERDUIN

Due to the illness of Rosa Ponselle, the Philharmonic concert in Grand Rapids, which was scheduled for this week, is postponed indefinitely.

**Many New Books Are Available Now In Library**

FOURTEEN NEW BOOKS ARE ADDED BY GIFT OF CLASS OF 1931

Chief among the new books ac-

Contest Will Be Held at Calvin Friday, Mar. 4

FINAL MICHIGAN CONTEST WILL BE HELD AT HOPE MARCH 11

The Michigan Oratorical League, a member of the Interstate Oratorical Association, which comprises the colleges of fourteen states, and of which Hope rejoices to be a charter member, has voted to hold its final contest at Hope College to determine two of Michigan's finest orators. The date has been fixed as Friday, March 11th. On this day our Chapel will be

*The Anchor* called women students "girls" and "little coeds." Virtually all chapel speakers were men. Most education students were women, but the Michigan Educational Association meeting in Detroit in 1931 featured six "men of distinction" as speakers, no women. There were no women's intercollegiate sports. There was an honor society for men but not for women. Cruel humor in *The Anchor* diminished women. I could go on.

But Hope offered women significant support for ministry, broadly understood.

In 1934, women constituted one third of the Hope faculty (nine of 27). Full professors were 13 men and 2 women. Women were limited to English, history, music, speech, drama and languages. Nonetheless, Metta Ross, Winifred Durfee, Laura Boyd, Shirley Payne and Nella Meyer were models of strong, capable women.

Many extra-curricular activities were gender-specific, so women gained speaking and writing skills in the women's division of oratory and leadership experience as officers of the women's sororities and the Young Women's Christian Association.

To serve surrounding small churches, Hope sent

out women's as well as men's student "gospel teams" to lead worship and youth activities. One team of women students drove 30 miles through a snow storm to South Haven, to lead a union service of three local churches, including offering the main address. *The Anchor* used "devotions" to name the woman's address and "sermon" to name the address by a male student in a different church. Nonetheless, a woman got to be the main speaker for a church service.

With these kinds of support from Hope, my mother, after college, became a prominent leader in the RCA, helping to restructure the women's organizations into a more unified and powerful force, and advocating for women's ordination. She and three men received Distinguished Alumni Awards from the Hope College Alumni Association in 1975.

Another support for women in ministry was preparation of women missionaries. The Student Volunteers club supported those heading for the mission field. The majority of its members were women. Three Hope women students and one man joined 3,000 other college students at the national convention in 1931. All the speakers were men.



In 1930, Hope had 59 alumni who were missionaries, almost a third of them women, reported *The Anchor* — under the headline “Hope Men in Mission”! Hope gave women skills for the expanded roles they could fulfill on the mission field. At Hope, in 1920, Tena Holkeboer won first place in the women’s division of the Michigan Oratorical League. As a missionary in China, she directed four Chinese schools serving two thousand boys and girls. At Hope, all religion faculty and virtually all chapel speakers were men, but in the Philippines, Holkeboer taught Bible, presented chapel talks and led radio evangelism. (For an impressive study of women at Hope in the 1930s and 1940s by three Hope student researchers, see the Hope College Digital Project Archive at [hopedla.org](http://hopedla.org).)

And now? As just one example — and one who has an important impact on students today: Lynn Japinga, who graduated from Hope 18 years after me, in 1981. She went on for her M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, became an ordained RCA minister and earned her Ph.D. from Union Seminary. She taught at Western Seminary. She served as pastor of RCA congregations. She is now the Rev. Dr. Lynn Japinga, Hope College professor of religion and author of five books. She has a broader scope for her talents, but in another way, she belongs to a long line of women who, despite the sexism of the college and society, found support at Hope College.

For more information on women at Hope, see *Women’s Rights in Midwest Dutch America, 1847-1979: A History and Memoir* (Wit & Intellect Publishing, 2023), available on Amazon.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Across a career in higher education that spanned more than 40 years, Dr. Barbara Walvoord ’63 earned a national reputation as an expert on student learning and assessment, authoring numerous books, retiring in 2008 as founding director of the John Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Notre Dame, where she was also a member of the English faculty. She has continued to write in retirement, most recently publishing *Women’s Rights in Midwest Dutch America, 1847-1979: A History and Memoir*, drawing on her own and family experience, and that of many others. In these first weeks after national Women’s History Month, in this essay developed for *News from Hope College*, she focuses on ministry, sharing that while there were ways that Hope reflected the times, the college also encouraged and supported female students in moving beyond the norms of the day.



## CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: Julie Rawlings ’83 Huisingh

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

Submissions for the Summer 2024 issue are due by May 28, 2024.

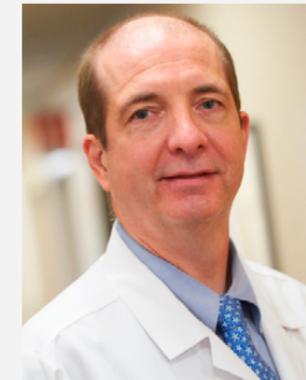
### MAY 16-18 “MILESTONE WEEKEND” A CHANCE TO ENJOY HOPE WITHOUT EXAMS OR PAPERS

Talks by alumni and faculty on topics ranging from mountain climbing around the world to brain-regeneration research at Hope, campus tours and updates about the college, and opportunities to connect with other members of the Hope family will all be among the highlights of the college’s Milestone Weekend running Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18.

The event is new, but also has a long pedigree. It’s a descendent of the Alumni Weekend of years past, retaining parts of the former tradition while emphasizing opportunities to learn from alumni and faculty while enjoying fellowship on campus — like being a student, only without papers to write or exams to take.

Moving the weekend ahead a few weeks to mid-May instead of Alumni Weekend’s latter-April situates the event in an even gentler part of spring, when campus and West Michigan are at their best. It also deliberately lands near one of the most significant dates in the college’s history, and hence the new name: May 14 is the anniversary of when in 1866 the college received its Charter of Incorporation as a College of Liberal Arts from the State of Michigan.

The program begins on Thursday, May 16, at 6:30 p.m. with a talk by **Jenn Drummond ’01**, who as featured in the Winter 2023 issue of *News from Hope College* is the first woman to climb the world’s Seven Second Summits. The evening’s events will also include a dinner and the presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards to **Dr. Robert Motzer ’77** of Ridgewood, New Jersey, a medical oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Research Center who has been at the forefront of research into kidney cancer for more than 30 years; and **Nontsikelelo Sisulu-Singpai ’97** of Midrand, South Africa, who is chief director of the Department of Women, Children & People with Disabilities, South African government.



**Dr. Robert Motzer ’77**



**Nontsikelelo  
Sisulu-Singpai ’97**

Multiple “Milestone Sessions” throughout the day on Friday, May 17, will include an additional talk by Drummond and addresses by Motzer and Sisulu-Singpai; a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion; updates about Hope’s academic programs, and research presentations and lab tours with faculty and students in the natural and applied sciences; campus tours emphasizing sustainability and the college’s newest buildings; and reflections by students participating in the *Hope Forward* initiative.

Saturday, May 18, will include a guided tour through Holland from the comfort of a Hope College tour bus and the latest exhibitions at the Kruizenga Art Museum.

In addition to the preceding activities, which are open to everyone (and mostly free, except for the opening evening and the bus tour), there will be events for the 50-Year Circle and a reunion for the 50-year Class of 1974 on Friday and Saturday.

The complete schedule and registration information are available online.

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

60s

**Mary Klein '64 Kansfield** has written stories of three generations of RCA church women which are captured in a new book titled *A Culture of Our Own: Three Generations of Midwestern Dutch Women*.

**Nelson Murphy '68** came out of retirement for the fourth time last year and accepted a call to serve part-time as the pastor of Tincum United Church of Christ in Pipersville, Pennsylvania, not far from where he and his wife, Sandie, now live in Yardley.

70s

**Robert VandenBerg '71** and his wife, **Sharon Brown '71 VandenBerg**, have now retired. After practicing medicine for 40 years and living in the state of Washington, they have sold their home and retired to Arizona. He reports that the Lord has richly blessed them and allowed them to build a home in a beautiful retirement community. The weather is warm and beautiful every day. Sharon is playing pickle ball and Robert is flying model airplanes and driving radio-control race cars.

**Lyn Wiff '72 O'Doran** has published *Singing the Voice of God*, an eco-spiritual science fiction novel.

**Chuck Brooks '74** retired in 2020 from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Washington, D.C. His duties included: U.S. Domestic Operations, Special Events Office, executive protection for Secretary of State, POTUS, FLOTUS and high-ranking U.S. military and foreign dignitaries, Turkish Embassy, Russian Embassy, DACHA Russian Compound, senior security liaison specialist for U.S. passport locations, Special Operations and Investigations Unit, Supervised Counterterror Team.

**Michael Toscano '75** reports that after more than 40 years, he retired from a career in the pharmaceutical industry as of December 2023. In February 2024, the Michigan Pharmacists Association honored him with its Executive Board Medal. This leadership award is the highest honor a non-pharmacist can receive and was presented at the association's annual state

meeting in Detroit, Michigan. He and his wife, **Jan Wallace '76 Toscano**, reside in Elk Rapids, Michigan, where they enjoy an active life.

**Karen Siebenthal '79** retired from Pfizer, Inc. after more than 30 years working in clinical development, specializing in the support of inspections of clinical trial data by regulatory agencies worldwide.

80s

**Diane Barr '80 Brace** relocated to Florida and reports that she stays busy singing in community women's chorus and church choir and volunteering in many church ministries. She reports that she enjoys traveling, caring for her three dogs, gardening, reading, crafting and spending time with family.

**Jennifer Heitman '85 Gurney** is now an internationally published poet. Jennifer has spent a career in public policy, advocacy and education. Fourteen months ago, she embarked on a journey to become a published poet for the first time – at the age of 59. Since November 2023, she has had nearly 700 poems accepted for publication in more than 50 online and print journals around the world. In January she won an international poetry contest – the 6th Annual Bash-an Haiku Competition – and in February her poem was published as one of 10 worldwide winners. Additionally, another of Jennifer's poems was selected through the Ars Nova Shared Vision project to be turned into a choral piece and sung by the renowned Ars Nova Choir in a series of concerts in the Denver, Colorado, area this June. This project connects art, poetry and music to create a shared vision. Details of the project can be found online.

**Beth Lindquist '87 McCaw** is the new dean of seminary and vice president of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

**Carl Heideman '88** wrote a story for this very issue of *News from Hope College* and you can read it on page 40.

**Harry Coffill '89** is a K-12 library-media specialist at Godfrey-Lee Public Schools and received the Ruby Brown Award for Individual

Excellence from the Michigan Association of School Librarians (MASL). This award recognizes excellence in an individual who has helped promote and integrate the use of the school library in the curriculum and has encouraged local-level awareness of the importance of the school library within the curriculum. He is serving in his 30th year as a Michigan educator.

90s

**Jeff Baxter '94** has published two books, *Jewish Insights: Modern and Ancient Beliefs To Grow Your Understanding of the Bible and Faith*, and *Exploring Israel: Helpful Insights For Studying The Land of The Bible*.

**Richard Blair '94** was inducted into The National Academy of Inventors as a Fellow. This is an honor for academics with a strong record of invention and innovation. The Academy consists of members whose backgrounds include science, engineering and medicine.

**Marc Montpetit '97** and **Charlene Tyke '97** purchased Olives Restaurant in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, in October 2022. They enlisted the design services of well-known designer Jean Stoffer to elevate the restaurant to match the quality of the scratch-made food. The renovation and remodeling process was filmed for an episode of *The Established Home* on the Magnolia Network. The episode aired in December 2023. Olives is a casual fine-dining restaurant in the heart of Gaslight Village.

**Kara Sporer '98 Lardinois** recently completed 20 years of service as a physical therapist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. She is an assistant manager for an outpatient pediatric team in the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

**Kari Vandrese '98 Zamora** was invited to perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in December as the director of the Faubion Middle School honors orchestra. The group was one of the two middle school orchestras chosen nationally. This is the second time that her orchestra has been invited.

00s

**Dana Lamers '01 VanderLugt** of Hudsonville, Michigan, participated in an on-stage conversation at Hope with emeritus English professor Jack Ridl on Thursday, Feb. 8, focused on her book *Enemies in the Orchard: A World War 2 Novel in Verse*. Geared toward middle-grade readers, the book recalls the use of German prisoners of war on farms in West Michigan during World War II. Dana is a former middle-school English teacher, and now works for Ottawa Intermediate School District as a secondary literacy consultant and part time in Hope's education department supervising secondary student teachers.

**Ben Fedak '03** and Rebekah Timerman announce the birth of their son, Ira Jay Timerman Fedak, on Dec. 10, 2023.

**Sarah Sanderson '03** and Sean Doyle announce the birth of their daughter, Moira Lynn Doyle, on Sept. 7, 2023 in Holland, Michigan. They will return to Stockholm in January of 2024 to finish their second tour in the

Foreign Service. In the fall of 2024, they head to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, for their third tour, where Sarah will work as the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Officer for three years.

**Christopher Avery '05** was an author on the National Climate Assessment 2023 for the U.S. government along with 500 other authors. He included a podcast to aid the advancement of the work they are doing.

**Rachael Sloop '05 DeWitt** is the executive director for the Children's Advocacy Center in Holland, Michigan.

**Rob Knecht '05** and **Adam Dickerson '11** along with their wives, **Kelly Vance '05 Knecht** and **Megan Mejeur '10 Dickerson**, acquired all the assets and real estate of a logistics company in Jenison, Michigan, and are now operating Prins Trucking & Services. Prins Trucking & Services focuses primarily on refrigerated freight in the Midwest and Northeast regions. They specializes in hauling eggs, turkey, bananas, bottled water and anything that needs to stay cool.

**Sarah Quesada '06** received a Honorable Mention by the Modern Language Association



**Amanda O'Reilly '00 Stricklen, RN, MSN**, who is the program manager for the Michigan Bariatric Surgical Collaborative and the Michigan Surgical Quality Collaborative, was selected as a 2024 Presidential Leadership Scholar. She is one of 60 leaders from across the country representing the military, non-profit organizations, and public and private sectors invited to participate in a bi-partisan, six-month initiative that began in January focused on learning from the presidencies of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Lyndon B. Johnson, and their administrations. They are traveling to each participating presidential center to learn from key former administration officials, business and civic leaders, and leading academics. They will study, put into practice varying approaches to leadership, and exchange ideas to help strengthen their impact in the communities they serve.

for *The African Heritage of Latinx and Caribbean Literature*. She received her Ph.D. degree from Stanford and is on the faculty of Duke University.

**Tarin Coulas '08 DeVoursney** and Mike DeVoursney announce the birth of Paul Michael on Jan. 10, 2024.

**Andrew Hickok '08** and Ross Zoet were married on Oct. 20, 2023, in Detroit, Michigan. They are living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and both work at Michigan Medicine.

**Lauren Stacks '08 Yamaoka** has been appointed to the role of senior vice president of advancement at The Fuller Foundation, the fundraising arm for Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. She and her husband, **Tom Yamaoka '08**, live in Rancho Mirage, California, with their 2-year-old son Ralph.

**Jack Abe '09** and Amanda Abe announce the birth of John "Tripp" William III on June 13, 2023.

**Tim Carter '09** was promoted to associate partner at the global management consulting firm McKinsey & Company in July 2023. He provides strategic advice for governments and corporations looking to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

**Elise LaRoche '09** and Daniel Hekman announce the birth of Heidi Rose on March 13, 2023.

10s

**Ashley Adkins '10 Potter** and Lloyd Potter announce the birth of Adeline Maisie on July 27, 2023.

**Andi Springett '10** welcomed baby boy Josiah Kit Orion via adoption on Oct. 3, 2023. Andi is currently working as a professional development educator and RN on the Boven Birth Center at Holland Hospital, and more recently became an adjunct professor in GVSU's healthcare simulation center.

**Teresa Borst '10 VanDerSchaaf** of Byron Center, Michigan, is the head varsity volleyball coach at South Christian High School.

## CLASSNOTES

**Seth Velderman '11** of Midland, Michigan, is the director of programming for Guiding Light, a local nonprofit committed to helping individuals recover from addiction.

**Caitlin Roth '12 Currie** and Rohan Currie announce the birth of their rainbow baby, Xavier, on Christmas Eve in Canberra, Australia.

**Andrea Toren '12 Erber** and **Nathan Erber '12** announce the birth of Ada Marie on Nov. 19, 2023.

**Peter Aune '13** received a master's in physician assistant studies degree from Louisiana State University Health Science Center – New Orleans. He is employed with Ochsner Baptist Hospital in the orthopedic upper extremity clinic in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Eric Cox '13** finished his surgical residency at Beaumont Health in Detroit, Michigan. He passed the ABOTO written boards in the specialty of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery, and is now practicing at University of Michigan Health-West.

**William DeBoer '14** and Keirsten DeBoer announce the birth of their daughter, Blair Holland, on Nov. 30, 2023, in Fruitland, Maryland.

**Ellen Milroy '14 Frost** and Jack Frost announce the birth of Addison Joyce on Oct. 8, 2023, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Jake Rozema '14** and Samantha Rozema announce the birth of Genevieve Violet on Dec. 11, 2023.

**Andrew Borrer '15** and Kellan Borrer announce the birth of Regent Maurice on May 2023. They report he is a smiley guy and a snuggler.

**Connor Brady '15** runs Wildline Media Productions and released his first short documentary, *Take Me to Ski Venture*, which documents the history and charm of an 85-year old community-owned ski hill in Upstate New York.

**Katharyn Jones '15 Haas** joined Pande Lecture Management as a lecture agent after six years as a public librarian. She coordinates events and speaking engagements for groundbreaking authors. In this new role, she

also assists Ayesha Pande Literary with record keeping for the James Baldwin Estate.

**Hope Daniel '15** and Ted Nickels were married on Oct. 14, 2023, in Petoskey, Michigan.

**Jennifer Pollack '15** received a Master of Arts degree in counseling with a concentration in marriage and family therapy from St. Edward's University. She is a clinical therapist at Autonomy Therapy in Austin, Texas.

**Reid Sexton '15** and Madyson Van Howe were married on Oct. 8, 2022, and announce the birth of Claire Meredith on Sept. 17, 2023, in Holland, Michigan.

**Osiris Brink '16 Morel** was appointed to the Hispanic Lobbyists Association Board of Directors. She is a policy analyst in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Government Relations Department.

**Troy VanPortfliet '16** and **Samantha Stevenson '17** were married on Oct. 27, 2023, in Holland, Michigan.

**Robert Henry '17** is a visiting assistant professor of psychology in the Hope College psychology department. He joined in June 2023, and in December he accepted a tenure track position at Hope as well.

**Andrew Rot '18** and his wife, Rachel, celebrated their third anniversary in September and their first child in October 2023.

**Gabrielle Barber '19** received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School in May 2023. She is an assistant defender for the state appellate defender office in Detroit.

## 20s

**Alissa Smith '20** received her MBA degree in 2023 from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, while playing as a graduate student-athlete on the varsity women's basketball team and earned 2x academic All-Canadian honors. She now lives and works in New York City as a commercial trainee at Anheuser-Busch.

**Alana Saarinen '22** is a reptile and amphibian zookeeper at the Detroit Zoo, specializing in amphibian conservation and reintroduction efforts for endangered species.

**Haley Whitmore '22** received a Master of Public Administration degree from Purdue University in April.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Please visit the college online, to view expanded obituaries.

[magazine.hope.edu/spring-2024/inmemoriam](https://magazine.hope.edu/spring-2024/inmemoriam)

## 40s

**Doris Frederick '47 Failing**  
Dec. 25, 2023, Wilmington, North Carolina

**Vernon Houting '49**  
Dec. 21, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**Alexander Humbert '49**  
May 10, 2023, Ormond Beach, Florida

## 50s

**Marjorie Fenton '51 Davis**  
Jan. 4, 2024, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

**Mary Voskuil '51 Haveman**  
Jan. 2, 2024, Holland, Michigan

**Frances Scholten '52 Rinkus**  
Dec. 26, 2023, Holland, Michigan

**John Rookus Jr. '53**  
Dec. 9, 2023, Wayland, Michigan

**Sherwin Kamps '55**  
Nov. 11, 2023, Zeeland, Michigan

**Thomas Keizer '55**  
Jan. 11, 2024, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Richard Bolt '56**  
Dec. 3, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**J. Dean Hogenboom '56**  
Dec. 19, 2023, Lombard, Illinois

**Marilyn Kotlan '56 Idsinga**  
Dec. 8, 2023, Whitehall, Michigan

**Helena Joffer '56 Lawrence**  
Nov. 18, 2023, Sioux City, Iowa

**John De Vries '57**  
Nov. 26, 2023, Lake Oswego, Oregon

**Joanna McIntyre '57 Marston**  
Nov. 21, 2023, Warren, New Jersey

**Anita VanLente '57 TeHennepe**  
Dec. 20, 2023, Franklin, Maine

**Alice Brink '58 Kooyers**  
Jan. 24, 2024, Holland, Michigan

**George Van Verst '58**  
Dec. 8, 2023, Chicago, Illinois

**Janet Baird '58 Weisiger**  
Jan. 17, 2024, Holland, Michigan

**Larry Ter Molen '59**  
Feb. 9, 2024, Evanston, IL

## 60s

**Carl De Jong '60**  
Dec. 20, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Judith Dorn '62 Balfourt**  
Jan. 19, 2024, Hobe Sound, Florida

**Marie Geerlings '62 Blauwkamp**  
Jan. 29, 2024, Zeeland, Michigan

**Norman J. Kansfield '62**  
Jan. 27, 2024, Flushing, N.Y.

**Marcia Hondorp '62 Williamson**  
Dec. 21, 2023, Midland, Michigan

**James Vaccaro '65**  
Dec. 10, 2023, Midland, Michigan

## 70s

**Janice Blakley '70 Westlund**  
Dec. 22, 2023, Rockford, Illinois

**Carl Folkert '74**  
Jan. 5, 2024, Holland, Michigan

**Velma Neau '74**  
Jan. 19, 2024, Ypsilanti, Michigan

**Renita VanderMeulen '75 Howat**  
Nov. 22, 2023, Tacoma, Washington

**Joseph Policoro '77**  
Jan. 20, 2024, Westminster, Colorado

**Jeffrey Tittle '79**  
Jan. 5, 2024, Rockford, Michigan

## 80s

**Gerald Welch '80**  
Jan. 6, 2024, Champaign, Illinois

**Scott Earl '86**  
Jan. 29, 2024, Lambertville, Michigan

## 90s

**Sherry Grupp '90 Schuen**  
Nov. 22, 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**David Edmunds '92**  
Dec. 15, 2023, Stevensville, Michigan

## 00s

**Lloyd "Aaron" Quimby '04**  
Dec. 19, 2023, Ypsilanti, Michigan

## Sympathy to the family and friends of

**Merrie Bannink**  
March 23, 2024, Holland, Michigan  
Merrie Bannink worked for Hope College for 22 years, retiring in 2010 from the Registrar's Office.

**Leo Martonosi**  
Jan. 28, 2024, Holland, Michigan  
Leo Martonosi regularly covered Hope athletics across 40 years as a sports writer and editor at *The Holland Sentinel*, from which he retired in 2009 as senior sports editor.

**Peter Schakel**  
March 20, 2024, Holland, Michigan  
Peter Schakel retired in 2017 as the Peter C. and Emajeane Cook Professor of English Emeritus after teaching at Hope since 1969.



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