

NEWS FROM

# HOPE COLLEGE

WINTER 2020

VOLUME 52, NO. 2



## HOPE NOT DESPAIR

*The Hope community rallies during an unprecedented, extraordinary fall semester.*



# DISTINCTIVE HOPE



## TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

Had this photo been taken during any other semester, these pews — along with the rest of Dimnent Memorial Chapel — would have been filled with some 1,000 students, faculty, staff and community members gathered for one of the college's thrice-weekly morning Chapel services. This past fall, of course, was no normal semester, and providing the safest possible environment through physical distancing meant that in-person Chapel couldn't take place. That didn't mean, though, that *Chapel* couldn't happen. The services continued with their blend of message (a journey through the Acts of the Apostles) and music, but livestreamed so that the campus community and beyond could still worship together while apart.



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EDITOR  
*Greg Olgers '87*

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

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS  
*Michael Dillon, Kent Esmeier,  
Steven Herppich, Jon Lundstrom,  
Greg Olgers '87, Lynne Powe '86,  
Tom Renner '67, Louis Schakel,  
Paul Willard*

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

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

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## ON THE COVER

*Masked but not unseen. The entire campus community pulled together to enable Hope not only to complete classes in-person but to do so with COVID-19 rates far below local, state and national levels. (Finals week went remote in accordance with a statewide order.)*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Family of Hope College,

With Thanksgiving recently past and the Advent season upon us, I write with a sense of gratitude.

I am grateful for the care and determination with which the faculty, staff and students prepared for and pursued the fall semester despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to their expertise, hard work and diligence, we not only completed an entire semester of in-person classes, but consistently had rates of infection below the local, state and national levels.



Within this issue you'll see some of how it happened. You'll learn of the college's multi-faceted approach to mitigating the presence and spread of COVID-19 on campus, including our ongoing wastewater-testing initiative that builds on decades of water-quality research at Hope. Although not every activity could continue (no intercollegiate sports, no Pull), the people of Hope were inventive in their virtual delivery of events like Chapel, concerts, plays, Homecoming, Nykerk and even Christmas Vespers.

Despite the challenges of the past nine months, Hope remains in a strong position to look to the future. We commemorated the transition of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and multicultural student organizations to their new home in the Keppel House. Also, for the first time since 1968, we announced a freeze to tuition, room and board rates for the 2021-22 academic year. This, in part, is our response to a difficult year that Hope students and families have endured, but it is also a deliberate move to be counter-cultural against the spiraling costs of higher education.

All of us at Hope also owe a debt of gratitude to those who were here before us and built an institutional culture able to adapt to unprecedented circumstances. They number thousands across generations, but I believe you'll understand why we single out Dr. Gordon Van Wylen, who passed away in November at age 100. As the story in this issue relates, he played a tremendous role in shaping the college as Hope's president from 1972 to 1987.

Underlying all, I am grateful to God, from whom, as the doxology says, all blessings flow. These are difficult times. And yet, even in such times, we can find much that is good if we do not give in to despair. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 calls upon us to "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances." I hope, whatever your circumstances, that you are able to find joy in blessings in your life, and that you are buoyed by the promise embodied by the birth of our Savior that we celebrate this month.

*Spera in Deo!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt A. Scogin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew A. Scogin '02  
*President*

# QUOTE UNQUOTE

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



Given the times, Dr. Daryl Van Tongeren's presentation "Building Resiliency Amid Uncertainty" was a gift.

Van Tongeren, who is an associate professor of psychology, delivered the talk via Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 15, during "One Big Virtual Weekend," the college's combined Homecoming and Family Weekend. The weekend's format, adopted to help assure participants' safety during the global COVID-19 pandemic, evinced the topic's relevance.

"The big idea for building resilience in the midst of uncertainty is that cultivating meaning is the key to flourishing in all seasons of life, including when we are suffering," he said. "You're going to have better mental health. It's been linked to better physical health. It's been linked to perceived growth."

Van Tongeren's research focuses on the social motivation for meaning and its relation to virtues and morality. He and his wife, Sara, who is a mental health therapist, are co-authors of the book *Courage to Suffer: A New Clinical Framework for Life's Greatest Crises*, which was published in March.

"So why does suffering pose a problem? Well, each of us has a worldview," he said. "We have expectations about the way the world operates, about our place in the world and how we can plan for the future."

Those worldviews, he said, help people cope with four primary existential concerns: groundlessness, or the idea that the world is outside of one's control; fear of isolation; self-identity; and death.

“*The big idea for building resilience in the midst of uncertainty is that cultivating meaning is the key to flourishing in all seasons of life, including when we are suffering.*”

"Suffering can peel back all of those layers and reveals the small cracks in our worldview," he said. "You start questioning, 'Well, if I was wrong about this, might I be wrong about other things as well?' And then we start wondering if we don't have some of the answers we felt we had to some of these big questions in life."

To nurture meaning during such times, Van Tongeren suggested engaging one's head, heart and hands.

"Think about transcendent practices," he said. "What are ways that you can engage your religious or spiritual values, and your religious or spiritual traditions, that will help you move past yourself? That will help connect you with something bigger than yourself to a sense of meaning."

"The second is the heart," Van Tongeren continued. "Can you invest in relationships with loved ones? One of the bedrocks of meaning is relationships. And so to the degree that you can connect with others, you can invest in those relationships. Those are going to provide you with a deep sense of meaning, even amidst the uncertainty of COVID."

"And then think about your hands," he said. "Is there something that you can do to act virtuously, and pro-socially, someplace in some way that you can give back to other people in the midst of this uncertain and tragic time?"

As an additional strategy for building resilience, Van Tongeren recommended coming to terms with the notion of uncertainty itself.

"View these existential threats and uncertainty in general as facts, not fears," he said. "The sooner we can realize that these are just some of the natural givens of life, the more we can befriend them, the more we can engage them — and the more we can engage them with openness and growth rather than insecurity and defensiveness."

He also recommended developing a worldview that is both solid and flexible. "I like to think about it as if you're building a house," he said. "Think about just the framework, just the most important pillars. Are there a few things that are relatively unmovable that you can rest on? But leaving a lot of room for flexibility and uncertainty."

*Editor's Note: The full presentation is available on the college's YouTube channel.*

 [hope.edu/building-resiliency](https://hope.edu/building-resiliency)



## NEW SPACE FOR ATHLETICS AND DANCE

Both an academic program and the athletic program at Hope will benefit from a new major gift that will address facility needs to enhance student experiences and education.

Jim and Eileen Heeringa of Holland, Michigan, contributed \$5 million to the college, designating approximately half toward the construction of a new locker room facility at Ray and Sue Smith Stadium and the other half toward renovating space in the DeWitt Center for new studios for the Department of Dance. The donation is the lead gift for each project, and the new facilities will be named in honor of Jim, who died on Oct. 21, and Eileen.

Groundbreaking for each project is yet to be determined as fundraising continues. Per the new Pay It Forward policy recently enacted by the Hope Board of Trustees to move toward fully-funded tuition for students, new funds must be raised for the endowment that are equal to new building costs.

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

## PULL CANCELED

It's been a difficult couple of years for the Pull tug-of-war. Last year, the contest relocated to campus because of the high water at the event's traditional Black River site. This year, it was canceled because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

This fall is only the fifth time on record that the long-running freshman/sophomore (and even-year/odd-year) event has been canceled. Believed to have started in 1898, the Pull was previously canceled in 1918, 1943 and 1944 due to World War I and World War II, respectively, and in 1957 due to a campus flu epidemic. There's no information for 1899-1908.

There's a chance that the contest will be rescheduled to the spring semester, but the continued pandemic and structure of the academic calendar make it unlikely.

[hope.edu/pull2020](https://hope.edu/pull2020)



## SOPHOMORES WIN NYKERK

The sophomore Class of '23 has won this year's Nykerk Cup competition. In a first for Nykerk, there was no in-person audience, with the event instead prerecorded and shown on the college's livestream channel due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The staging was also adjusted, with all of the participants — including in Song and Play — filmed individually and presented together through the magic of technology and editing.

Please visit Hope online for more background about this year's contest and the video.

[hope.edu/nykerk2020](https://hope.edu/nykerk2020)



## VESPERS, IN NEW FORM

Even though adjustments due to the pandemic have changed its form, Christmas Vespers is still a part of the Advent season.

Vespers is usually presented to large audiences in Dimnent Memorial Chapel during four services in early December. This year, however, the college concluded its semester before Thanksgiving and in any case the traditional model would have run counter to the ongoing safety precautions designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Instead, the event was pre-recorded and has been made available on the college's YouTube channel.

[hope.edu/vespers2020](https://hope.edu/vespers2020)

## Important Tuition Announcement

FOR THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

### TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD HELD STEADY FOR 2021-22

With many families struggling because of the economic impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Hope will hold tuition, room and board at the same level during 2021-22 as during the current academic year. The move is also a step forward toward the college's longer-term goal of making a Hope education more accessible and affordable for all students.

President Matthew A. Scogin '02 made the announcement on Nov. 20 in a message sent to students, families, staff and faculty and posted on the president's blog. It's the first time that Hope has frozen tuition since 1968.

[hope.edu/flat-tuition](https://hope.edu/flat-tuition)

### SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS ACCLAIMED

Hope has again earned a STARS Silver rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education. Hope has held a silver rating since 2017, after previously holding a Bronze rating beginning in 2012.

[hope.edu/stars-sustainability](https://hope.edu/stars-sustainability)



### NSF GRANT PROVIDES ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

A major, multi-year grant to Hope from the National Science Foundation will help meet the national demand for engineers by providing scholarships and supplemental programs for academically talented students with high financial need who plan to pursue careers in engineering.

The \$999,061 grant will support a total of 15 students in two cohorts. Hope is recruiting current high school students for enrollment starting in the fall of 2021 and fall of 2022.

Students who intend to major in engineering and are eligible for awards through the Federal Pell Grant Program will be eligible for the initiative. Through the Hope program, they will receive a \$10,000 scholarship each year for four years in addition to the other financial aid for which they qualify via the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The students will also become part of an academic learning community centered on their participation in the program and interest in engineering.

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



### HOPE FANS WIN!

Hope College led the nation in average home attendance for men's and women's basketball during the 2019-20 season, the NCAA announced in November. It is the 12th consecutive time the Flying Dutchmen and Flying Dutch both have accomplished the feat. Last season, the Flying Dutchmen averaged 2,214 fans over 12 home games at DeVos Fieldhouse, while the Flying Dutch drew 1,162 fans to DeVos Fieldhouse over 15 home games. Head coach Greg Mitchell's Flying Dutchmen were the only Division III team to draw a crowd larger than 2,000 fans. The national average was 327. Head coach Brian Morehouse's Flying Dutch were the only Division III team to average at least 1,000 fans. The national average was 198. Hope also finished third in Division III in home volleyball attendance (466), 10th in women's soccer home attendance (268), and 29th in men's soccer home attendance (288).

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



## ELECTED PSYCHOLOGY FELLOW



Dr. Daryl Van Tongeren, associate professor of psychology, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Social Psychology. He is the third member of the psychology faculty to have been chosen. Dr. Mary Inman and Dr. David Myers were elected in previous years.

As noted in “Quote, Unquote” on Page 6, his research focuses on the social motivation for meaning and its relation to virtues and morality. Specifically, he and his students adopt a social-cognitive approach to study meaning in life, religion and virtues, such as forgiveness and humility.

[hope.edu/vantongeren-fellow](https://hope.edu/vantongeren-fellow)

## ARTICLE HONORED

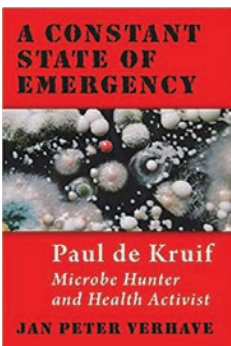


Dr. Ernest Cole, who is the John Dirk Werkman Professor of English and chair of the Department of English, has been honored by the African Literature Association as author of the best article in African literary studies published in a major peer-reviewed journal in 2019.

He has received the association’s Abioseh Porter Best Essay Award. The recognition is for his article “Decentering Anthropocentrism: Human-Animal Relations in Aminatta Forna’s *Happiness*,” which was published in the *Journal of the African Literature Association* in January 2019.

[hope.edu/cole-article](https://hope.edu/cole-article)

## BIOGRAPHY WINS AWARD



A biography published by the college’s Van Raalte Press about Zeeland, Michigan, native Dr. Paul de Kruif, whose 1926 book *Microbe Hunters* became an international bestseller, has won a 2020 State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan.

The annual awards honor individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the appreciation, collection, preservation and/or promotion of state and local history. The biography, *A Constant State of Emergency: Paul de Kruif, Microbe Hunter and Health Activist*, was written by Dr. Jan Peter Verhave and published in 2019.

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

## LECTURE AWARD



Dr. Leah Chase, professor of biology and chemistry, has received one of two 2020 Janet Andersen Lecture Awards from the Midstates Consortium for Math and Science.

The awards honor faculty at consortium-member colleges and universities who have vigorous research programs involving undergraduates, who are engaged and skilled teachers, or who create interdisciplinary research opportunities for undergraduate students.

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

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EARN CAPSTONE HONOR



Dr. R. Richard Ray, professor of kinesiology, has earned the capstone honor presented by National Athletic Trainers’ Association in recognition of his transformational leadership and service.

He is the 2020 recipient of NATA’s Eve Becker-Doyle Leadership Award, the top recognition given to a 40-plus-year NATA member for outstanding leadership and volunteerism within the association.

Ray has been extensively involved in the discipline of athletic training at the regional and national level. His service to Hope includes having been dean for the social sciences and provost. For several years, he was the college’s head athletic trainer, and he developed Hope’s academic program in athletic training, which under his leadership grew into a full major.

[hope.edu/ray-honor](https://hope.edu/ray-honor)



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

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

# REMEMBERING A LEADER

*President Emeritus Gordon Van Wylen, who died on November 5 following a determined fight with COVID-19, lauded for his quality of character and lasting, transformational impact on Hope.*

*By Greg Olgers '87*

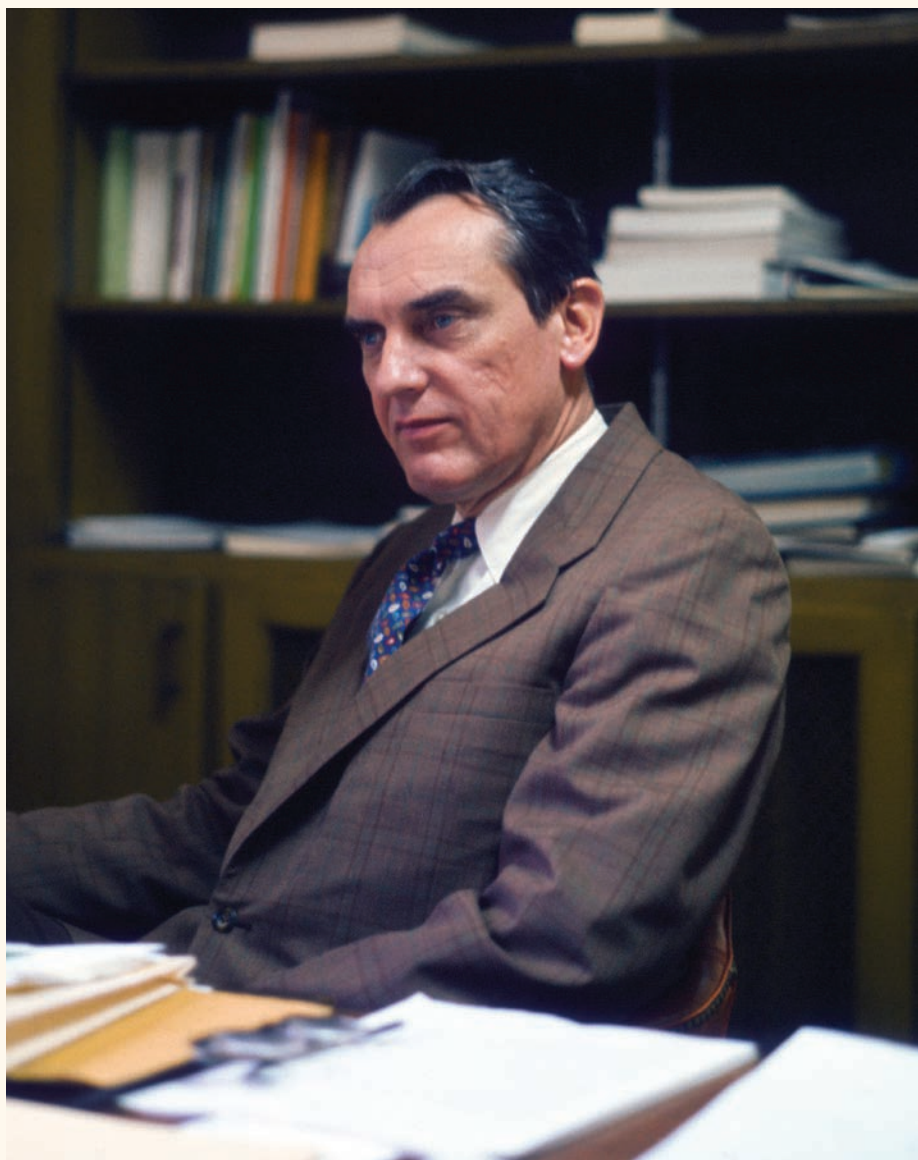
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*Dr. Gordon Van Wylen* of Holland, Michigan, who served as Hope's ninth president from 1972 until retiring in 1987 and was also actively involved in the Holland community both during and following his time at Hope, died on Thursday, Nov. 5, after a determined fight with COVID-19. He was 100.

Van Wylen is remembered at Hope for the quality of his character and for his lasting, transformational impact on the college through his 15-year tenure.

"Dr. Van Wylen was a remarkable human being — a vibrant and passionate leader who devoted his life to God, the pursuit of knowledge and public service. He had a profound impact on countless lives," said Hope College President Matthew A. Scogin '02.

"His extraordinary leadership and vision has left an enduring mark on this college," Scogin said. "As president, Dr. Van Wylen penned the mission statement that still guides us. He was also a champion of the physical development of our campus — notably architecting the closure of 12th Street that helped make the Pine Grove what it is today. In short, he helped us center our purpose and created the center of our campus. That's a remarkable legacy, and we will miss him greatly."





Van Wylen's son Dr. David Van Wylen, who has been a member of the Hope faculty and administration since 2015, describes his father's strong Christian faith, work ethic and emphasis on teamwork, and love of students as key to understanding Gordon's service to Hope.

"Dad's Christian faith was his defining dimension. It shaped his family, work, and community life," Dave said. "He drew upon it as his personal foundation and motivation, and in turn this was a catalyst and inspiration for many others. He loved Hope College, but saw his service to the college ultimately as an avenue for God's love and the realization of grace through Jesus Christ."

"One of Dad's favorite phrases was, 'Great things can be accomplished if you do not care who gets the credit.' As such, he was deeply grateful for the talented and dedicated colleagues with whom much was accomplished during his 15 years as Hope College's president," he said. "He was a tireless worker and expected others to join the effort, but found joy and satisfaction in advancing the college's mission through facilitation of the intellectual, spiritual and physical development of students."

Van Wylen's years as Hope's president featured extensive development of the college's programs as well as its physical plant. He received national recognition for his leadership in 1986, when he was named one of the nation's 100 most outstanding college presidents in the study "The Effective College President" funded by the Exxon Education Foundation.

"He had a huge impact on the college and has left a remarkable legacy: renewal of the Christian character of Hope, strengthening the academic program through recruitment of an outstanding faculty, enhancement of the campus by setting high standards for excellence in architecture, enrichment of the endowment (10-fold increase), establishment of a strong program of fiscal management, improvement of living facilities for students, and a more competitive athletic program," said Dr. Jacob E. Nyenhuis, who joined the Hope faculty in 1975 and served as a professor of Classics, dean for the arts and humanities, and provost during Van Wylen's presidency. "There are of course intangible aspects of his legacy, too, but that list is a good beginning on assessing his impact on this college that we love so dearly."

The mission statement that Van Wylen led Hope in developing in the 1970s has been revised only lightly in the years since: "The mission of Hope College is to educate students for lives of leadership and service in a global society through academic and co-curricular programs of recognized excellence in the liberal arts and in the context of the historic Christian faith."

Academic departments initiated during his presidency included the Department of Dance, Department of Computer Science and — initially as a joint program with Calvin University — Department of Nursing. Hope also revised its core curriculum, began offering pre-engineering courses (establishing a major in 1997) and in 1980 began offering its first Bachelor of Science degrees.



Major campus buildings completed or begun during his presidency included the Peale Science Center (1973), now part of the A. Paul Schaap Science Center; the Dow Health and Physical Education Center (1978); College East Apartments (1982); the De Pree Art Center and Gallery (1982); the Maas Student and Conference Center (1986); Bekkering Admissions Office (1988); and Gordon J. and Margaret D. Van Wylen Library (1988), named in honor of him and his wife Dr. Margaret Van Wylen by the college's Board of Trustees. Hope also extensively renovated multiple facilities, including the DeWitt Student and Cultural Center, Lubbers Hall, Phelps Dining Hall, Van Vleck Hall and Voorhees Hall. Other significant campus development included the closing of 12th Street between College and Columbia avenues.

His presidency included two major comprehensive fund-raising campaigns, each the largest in the college's history at the time: *Build Hope*, which was initiated prior to his tenure and concluded during the 1976-77 school year having raised more than \$10.4 million, and *The Campaign for Hope*, which concluded in 1987 having raised nearly \$31.7 million.

Dave recalls that one of Gordon's most memorable days at Hope College was February 6, 1980, the day that he turned 60. "That morning, he spoke during the college's Chapel service," Dave said. "That evening, Hope played Calvin in basketball, the fans sang happy birthday to him at halftime while a cake was presented, and then Hope went on to beat Calvin, ending a string of 22 consecutive losses to its arch rival."

Van Wylen's community and volunteer involvements through the years included serving as a member and elder of Christ Memorial Church; as a board member and president of the Holland Community Foundation; and as a board member with Bethany Christian Services, Trinity Christian College, Words of Hope and Pine Rest Christian Hospital. After retiring from Hope he was active in the renewal of downtown Holland, launched Homecor for the revitalization of central city neighborhoods, and various other community projects and was involved in the establishment of the Van Andel Institute, also serving on the Van Andel Education Institute board. Recently, he was instrumental in the rejuvenation of Pillar Church as a joint RCA/CRC congregation.

In conjunction with the year of their retirement from Hope, Gordon and Margaret established an endowed scholarship at the college in the name of the graduating Class of 1987. The couple also stayed actively engaged with the college after retiring, including attending May Term courses abroad and Hope events on campus. Gordon was the featured speaker during the college's weekday Chapel service on Friday, Oct. 4, 2013.

Prior to assuming the Hope presidency, he was dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan, where he had been on the faculty since 1951. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific as an officer aboard the submarine *USS Hardhead*. In honor of his military service, he received on-court recognition through the University of Michigan's Toyota Hero of the Game

*“Dr. Van Wylen was a remarkable human being – a vibrant and passionate leader who devoted his life to God, the pursuit of knowledge and public service. He had a profound impact on countless lives.”*

–President Matthew A. Scogin '02



program during the university’s home basketball game versus UCLA in December 2018.

His publications include a 1959 textbook on thermodynamics that was republished in multiple editions through the years and translated into seven other languages; *Vision for a Christian College*, a collection of essays from his time at Hope; and *Encounter at Sea And a Heroic Lifeboat Journey*, which he co-authored in 1994 with Ichiro Matsunaga, who had been an officer aboard a Japanese light cruiser sunk by the *USS Hardhead* in 1944.

He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Calvin University in 1967, an honorary degree from Meiji Gakuin University of Japan in 1987, and the Alumni Society Medal from the University of Michigan College of Engineering Society in 1995. He also received multiple honors from organizations in West Michigan, including a Distinguished Service Award from the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce in 1983; the Distinguished Service Award from the Holland Rotary Club in 1991; induction into the Community Hall of Fame by the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area in 2001; and the West Michigan Dutch-American Leadership Award during the West Michigan Dutch Heritage Community Celebration in 2006. Gordon and Margaret were the grand marshals for Holland’s Tulip Time Volksparade in May 2005.

He received an honorary degree from Hope in 1972 in conjunction with his inauguration as president. Faculty, staff and friends of the college established the Gordon J. and Margaret D. Van Wylen Scholarship Fund at Hope in

1982 in honor of the couple’s service to the college. Gordon delivered the Commencement address at the invitation of the graduating class in 1987. The college’s Alumni Association honored the couple with Meritorious Service Awards in 1998.

Born in Grant Township, Michigan, on Feb. 6, 1920, Van Wylen grew up in Grand Rapids and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School in 1937. He attended Calvin University on the 3-2 engineering program with the University of Michigan, graduating in 1942 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Calvin and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the University of Michigan. He completed a master’s in engineering at the University of Michigan in 1947 and his doctorate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951.

He was preceded in death by Margaret, who died on Aug. 4, 2018, at age 93. Survivors include their five children: Elizabeth (Jack) Rudenga, Steve (Kathy) Van Wylen ’77; Ruth Van Wylen ’79 (Neil) Jasperse; Dave (Pat Lunderberg ’80) Van Wylen, and Emily Van Wylen ’85 (Tim) Overway; 16 grandchildren; 12 great -grandchildren; and his brother, Wayne Van Wylen. Dave became the dean for the natural and applied sciences at Hope in 2015 and is now leading the launch of Hope’s new Office of Possibilities and Applied Innovation.

*Please visit the college online for a gallery of photographs taken throughout Gordon Van Wylen’s time as president and during the years that followed.*

[hope.edu/vanwylen-photos](http://hope.edu/vanwylen-photos)

— *New Home for* —  
**CENTER FOR  
DIVERSITY  
AND INCLUSION**  
*Is a Dream Come True*

*By Greg Olgers '87*



A prominent campus landmark with a storied history is providing a spacious new home that not only enhances Hope's efforts to foster a diverse, welcoming community but is itself inviting.

The college's Center for Diversity and Inclusion and multicultural student organizations (MSOs) moved to the Keppel House on 10th Street between College and Columbia avenues in November after being based most recently in two locations in the Jim and Martie Bultman Student Center.

A formal dedication ceremony will take place in the spring on a date still to be determined, but Hope held a celebration for the campus community on Thursday, Oct. 29. The October event was bittersweet in that it also involved saying farewell to longtime staff member Vanessa Greene, director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), who was leaving the college the following week for a role on a larger stage as chief executive officer of the Grand Rapids African American Health Institute (GRAAHI). At the same time, the occasion presented an opportunity to thank Greene for her impact across 17 years at Hope — with CDI's move to the Keppel House providing a lasting example.

"Vanessa has been an ardent advocate for a stand-alone campus space for diversity and inclusion," said President Matthew A. Scogin '02 in a message sent to the campus community in advance of the event. "We celebrate with Vanessa the chance to see her vision become a reality."

"I want to thank Vanessa for serving the Hope community, especially our students of color, with purpose and determination," Scogin said. "She has been an unwavering source of support for students and student groups, always there to listen, encourage and inspire, even in the most challenging times. Vanessa helped us be better and do better, and we will continue her work."

Greene's move to GRAAHI, a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving healthcare parity for African Americans, will keep her connected to Hope. The college has partnered with GRAAHI since 2018 on a region-wide initiative to support students of color interested in healthcare professions, a relationship forged with her guidance.

"The loss of Vanessa's tireless leadership undoubtedly leaves a hole at Hope," Scogin said. "At the same time, I am thrilled for Vanessa, knowing that she has the opportunity to lead an organization she cares deeply about."

Greene joined the Hope staff in 2003 as director of multicultural education, and led the program's expansion into its current form as the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. During her time at the college, she created many high-impact programs to build and showcase diversity, equity and inclusion on campus, including the GROW Council, the Diversity Institute, the Diversity Lecture Series, and Step2Success. She was critical to the continued success of the Women of Color and Senior Recognition event, the Black Excellence Dinner and MSO activities. Recently, she instituted a new alumni advisory council, developed new programming for the Covenant Scholars and, in collaboration with the Boerigter Center for Calling and Career, helped launch the Leadership Empowerment Program.

In the closing weeks of her time at the college, Greene's thoughts were focused on what the new space means for Hope and its students.

"We're so excited — there are just no words to express it," she said. "It speaks volumes for the institution in terms of its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion."





Built in 1914 and owned by Hope since 1986, the stately, two-story brick structure provides not only more room but a distinctive location along an active route that links multiple residence halls and academic buildings. The house previously served as office and meeting space for the college's Campus Ministries program, which moved into a new building of its own in 2019.

CDI supports the college's ongoing and increased emphasis on fostering racial and cultural understanding and equity through campus- and community-wide programming and outreach, and through working with student organizations and individual students. The center's activities include coordinating multiple annual lecture series and other events throughout the year, from the Hispanic Heritage Month Lecture in September to the Women of Color and Senior Recognition banquet each spring; organizing workshops for students, faculty and staff; and serving as a liaison with other area organizations like GRAAHI and the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance.

The center also works closely with the seven MSOs in developing programming and providing a support network for Hope's students of color, who comprise approximately 18% percent of the student body. Greene is especially pleased that being under one roof — in an inviting location that has been a literal home — will help facilitate interaction with students and provide an added sense of community.

"Hope is for all of the college's students, but it can be challenging to be a student of color at a white-majority institution — no matter what the institution is," she said. "The Center for Diversity and Inclusion is for everyone at Hope, but this space shows that the college understands about the challenges and the importance of providing support to help the students of color flourish."

The staff offices are on the second floor, with most of the building reserved for students, who were involved in selecting the décor and furnishings. The lower level features a lounge, and the first floor contains a library, study area and reception space.

In addition to a director, the CDI staff consists of an assistant director — Jevon Willis, who is interim director while Hope conducts a national search for Greene's successor; and a program coordinator/office manager, Margo Walters. The MSOs for whom the house has become home base are the Black Student Union, Asian Student Union, Latino Student Organization, Lambda Delta Pi Leadership Community, Men's Enrichment Network and Pan African Student Association.

"The MSOs' goals are very rooted and aligned with CDI to support student success," Greene said.

"They're able to recognize and hear about and see the good and the bad of students' experiences and bring that back to us," she said. "It's a community of care where

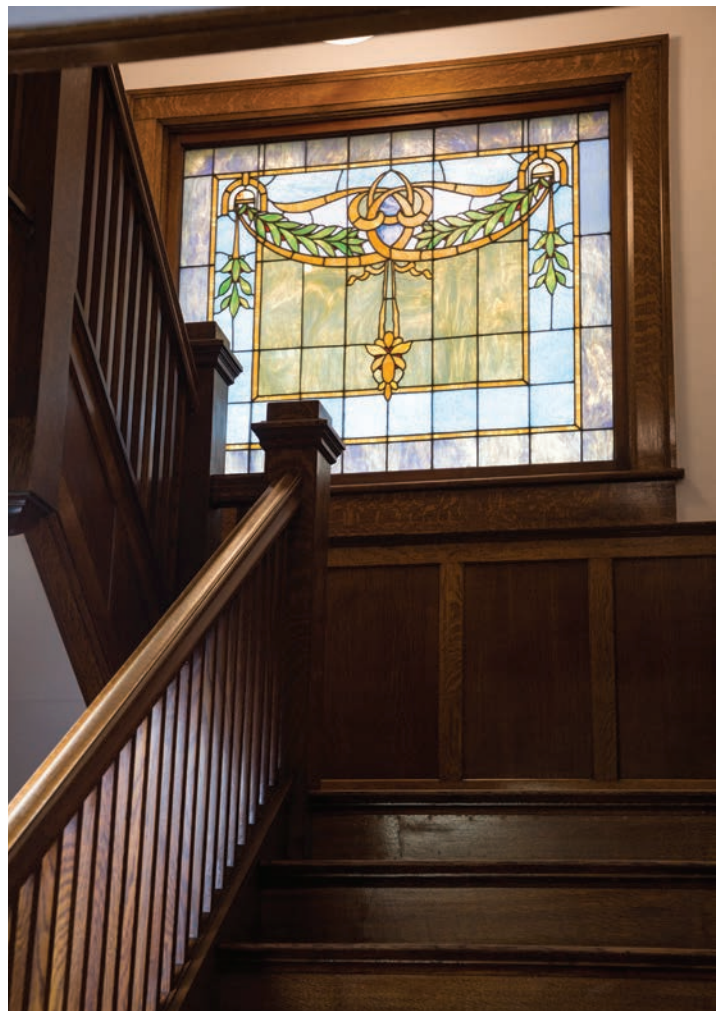




everybody's looking out for each other, and I think the house will create an even better opportunity for that.”

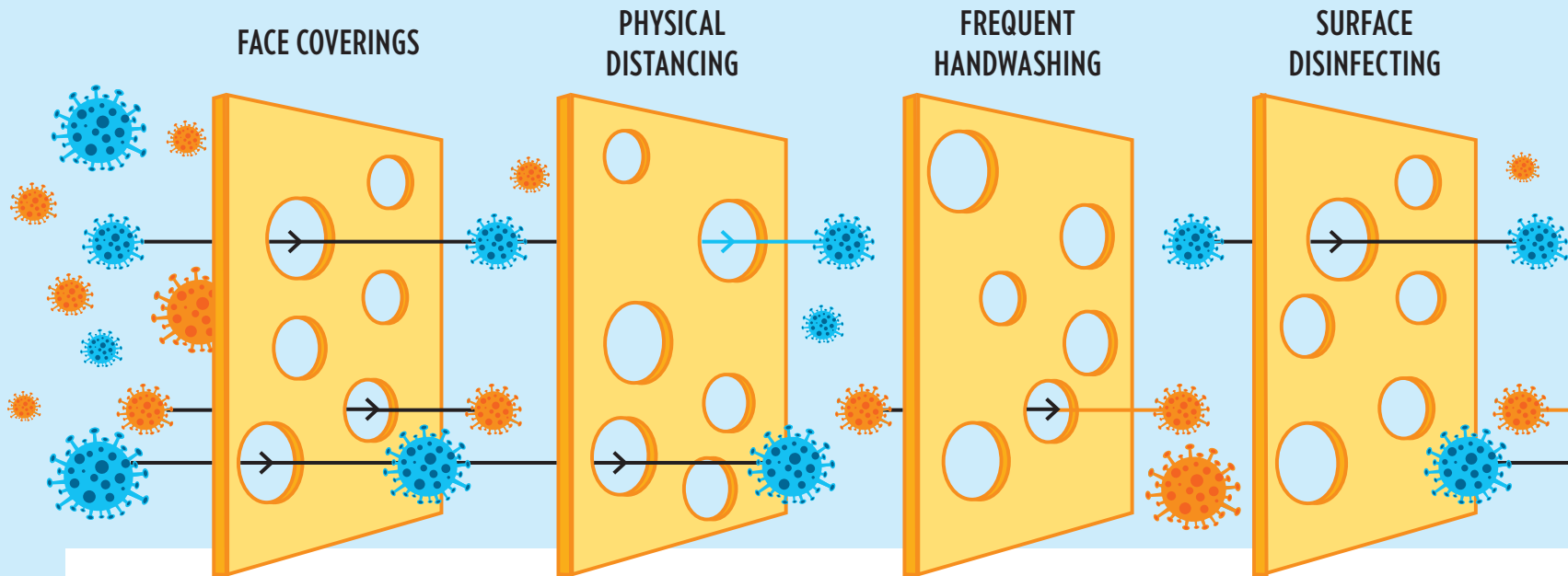
The Center for Diversity and Inclusion began in the mid-1980s as a multicultural education program with office space in the DeWitt Center. Hope established a two-room multicultural center in Phelps Hall in 2000 for students, providing informal gathering space for the MSOs and a conference room that also contained computer-equipped work stations. The offices and lounge space moved to the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication when it opened in 2005, remaining until moving to the Bultman Student Center in 2017.

The Keppel House was built by Albert and Kate Keppel. The college purchased it from their daughter Ruth Keppel, who lived in the house until 1989. It served as a guest house for Hope from 1989 until 1994, and housed the college's Campus Ministries staff from 1994 until the program moved to the newly constructed van Andel Huys der Hope. The Keppel House was originally located at 85 E. 10th St., but Hope had it moved east to 129 E. 10th St. in the summer of 1995 to help clear space for the construction of the college's Haworth Hotel and Cook Hall residence hall.



# HOPE'S BATTLE PLAN FOR BESTING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS...SO FAR

By Eva Dean Folkert '83



**T**o fight an invisible opponent like the novel coronavirus in 2020, Hope College determined that the best battle plan was one that prioritized and relied upon transparency and science.

During the fall semester, those attributes carried the campus community through 13 weeks of in-person, on-campus operations in the midst of a global pandemic. (Final exam week went remote in order to follow new state requirements issued on Sunday, Nov. 15.)

It all started more than 10 months ago when Hope formed a COVID Steering Committee even before moving to remote operations last March. Led by Jennifer Fellingner, vice president for public affairs and marketing, the group met — and still meets — frequently with Ottawa County Health Department officials, campus biologists and health providers, and other college administrators. Their mission: to proactively, openly and frequently plan for and communicate about a multi-pronged COVID-19 mitigation strategy.

What the college eventually adopted resembled that Swiss cheese analogy you may have seen popping up in stories in the media when it comes to COVID-19 prevention. Haven't heard about how a holey food item has anything to do with preventing a new global disease? Well, the analogy goes like this: One COVID-19 safeguard alone, like a mask or testing (thus one piece of Swiss cheese), cannot beat the coronavirus, but if you stack more methods of prevention on top of each other, the holes in your defense fill up and block possible infection.

At Hope, those layers of defense include common safeguards like mandatory face coverings, physical distancing, frequent handwashing and surface disinfecting. But additional pieces of the COVID-19 prevention strategy included starting the fall semester two weeks earlier than usual (on Aug. 17) in order to finish by Thanksgiving to reduce the potential of viral spread by eliminating occasions for travel; and,

requiring cogent, comprehensive safety plans for each department, lab group and office (more than 90 in all) to demonstrate adherence to state health guidelines prior to returning to campus. Finally, the college also committed to testing symptomatic and asymptomatic students regularly while conducting on-campus wastewater testing as well.

That's eight layers of COVID-19 defense at Hope.

But it's the testing plan that has drawn the most buzz.

"From the beginning, there was always a commitment to testing. But early on, the question was how comprehensive will the testing be?" Fellingner said.

The answer: Quite comprehensive. Students, faculty and staff were sent COVID-19 "spit" tests to complete, and return with negative results, before they could step foot back on campus in August. Pre-arrival tests totaled 3,878, of which 38 were positive with 36 students

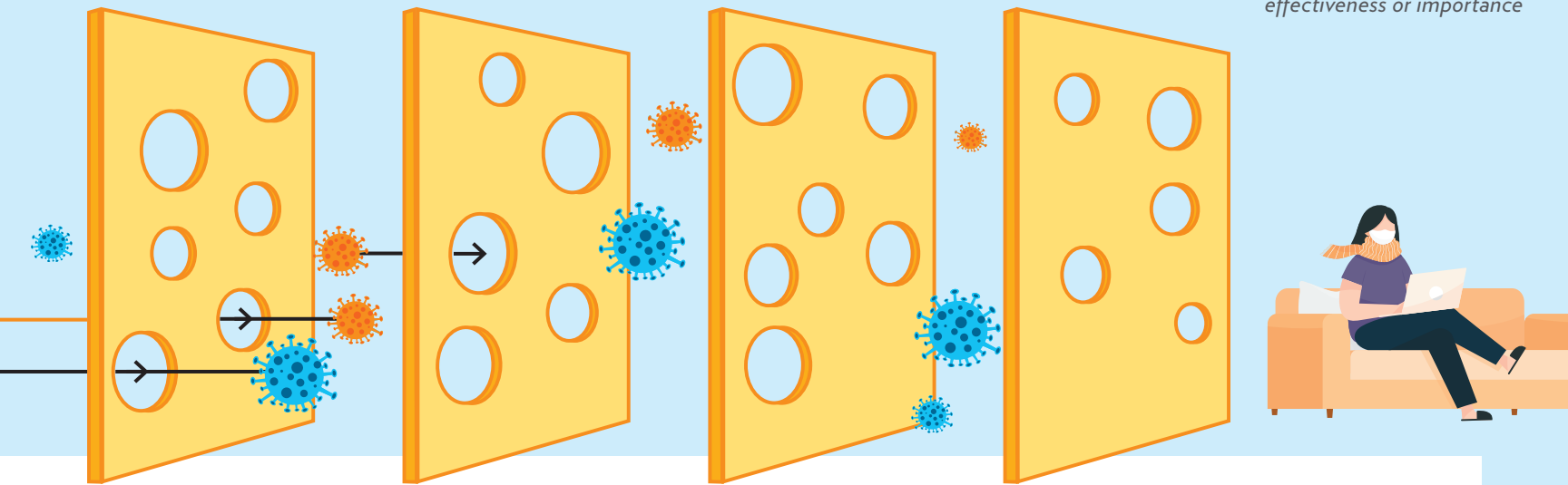
## STARTING THE FALL SEMESTER TWO WEEKS EARLIER

## REQUIRING COGENT, COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLANS

## WASTEWATER TESTING

## ON-SITE RAPID TESTING

*\*Listed in no order of effectiveness or importance*



isolating at home and two on campus before being allowed to attend classes. The college aimed for, and achieved, a classroom baseline presence of zero cases of COVID-19 on day one of the 2020-21 academic year.

Then, the college continued its surveillance testing throughout the semester, securing COVID-19 “lower nasal” rapid-test supplies and processing machines to do so. “With surveillance testing, the question then was how robust should it be? Ben helped us determine that,” Fellingner said.

Dr. Ben Kopek is a virologist and associate professor of biology, and because of his expertise was able to guide the college’s testing strategy for asymptomatic students. He determined that approximately one percent of the Hope student body who were not exhibiting symptoms would be randomly chosen and tested daily. Symptomatic students would be automatically tested. Those found to

be positive for COVID-19 were sent to isolation housing at dedicated residential areas on campus and contact tracing commenced, headed up by Tim Koberna, assistant professor of kinesiology and head athletic trainer.

Finally, daily wastewater testing of various campus residential zones (see following story) led by multiple faculty members from the natural sciences topped off Hope’s testing strategy. If significant RNA signals from the novel coronavirus were detected in wastewater, the college focused on that zones’ residents for rapid-testing.

All in all, that made Hope’s fall testing tally this: Since the first day of classes, more than 6,600 COVID-19 tests were administered at Hope with an overall positivity rate of 2.7%. The seven-day average for the week ending Nov. 20, which was the last full week of the semester, was a bit higher at 3.4% but still well below the county (16.7%), state

(11.7%) and national (10%) averages for the same period. Testing information was made publicly available each week on the [hope.edu/coronavirus](https://hope.edu/coronavirus) dashboard and in weekly Campus Health emails to students, families, faculty and staff.

“All of this, each part, is an investment in the health and wellness of the Hope community,” Fellingner explained. “Certainly, (the investment) has not been the same as other semesters. But in terms of disruptions, we’ve been able to stay the course. And, our students have been an important reason why. They are doing so great with masks and physically distancing. They’re showing up for their surveillance tests. They’re doing it. They’re keeping us here.”

Now that the fall semester has ended and the Advent season has begun, so, too, have hopes arrived for the second semester to go as well as the first.

It will begin again on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021. \*

*\*Editor’s note: After News from Hope College went to press, and after many recent discussions with experts, much information-gathering and analysis, consultation with other colleges, guidance from local health officials, and input from faculty and staff, college administrators have decided that spring classes will start two weeks later than originally planned, on Monday, January 25, 2021.*



## TREASURED COMMUNITY

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These unusual yet also familiar scenes from this past fall show both why and how the campus community made meeting in-person possible: *We want to be together, and together we'll make this work.*

[hope.edu/fall-photos](https://hope.edu/fall-photos)







# WATER-QUALITY EXPERTISE HELPED THE SEMESTER HAPPEN

By Ann Sierks Smith

**A**mong all the firsts that 2020 brought, here's something no one saw coming: Hope College staffers parked in campus intersections, opening maintenance holes to get to the sewage below. Six mornings a week, rain or shine.

They are the front-line workers in the college's wastewater surveillance program, which since August has kept tabs on COVID-19 levels in what's flushed and washed down drains in residence halls.

It is part of Hope's multi-pronged approach to keeping the campus safe during the pandemic, and came together thanks to a constellation of resources that's unusual for a school like Hope: science faculty with specialties in water quality, virology and microbiology, plus a lab already equipped for ongoing, long-term water quality research.

"We had the right types of equipment, we had faculty with the right sets of expertise, and we had recent graduates who had come up through some of our active programs on environmental monitoring. That allowed us to tap into the research quickly," said microbiologist Dr. Aaron Best, one of four Hope faculty who lead the wastewater testing program.

The broad goal of Hope's combined strategies this fall — testing at home of every student before the semester, daily random testing of students and wastewater testing — was to inform administrators' decisions about how best to maintain a safe, healthy campus community. The wastewater component proved so effective that the college will be placing even more emphasis on it going forward and eliminate the random testing (which experience has shown that it essentially renders redundant).

"You really want the data to be actionable," Best added. "This is really not a research project approach to things; this is a production level approach. You have to make decisions with the best available information you have, and see if it helps. And it has."

In addition, if wastewater analysis detects an elevated level of the virus in a particular section of campus, it sets in motion immediate testing of all the students living in that zone.

Each time that occurred, the full testing of students in the zone identified a number of asymptomatic cases. For example, Best related, early



*“This is really not a research project approach to things; this is a production level approach. You have to make decisions with the best available information you have, and see if it helps.*

***And it has.”***

**–Dr. Aaron Best**

in the semester testing produced “a reasonably high detection, and so it concerned us. We recommended everybody in the dorm be tested. The testing team was able to bring everyone over to DeVos Fieldhouse and run them through the test that night. We caught five cases we wouldn’t have caught otherwise, or till later — prior to when they even would have approached getting symptoms.”

Once those active cases are removed from the zone — that is, when students who tested positive are isolated in a separate location on campus — and contact tracing and quarantine occur, testing indicates a drop in the level of virus in the wastewater from that zone, he added.

Collecting samples of sewage is less messy than it sounds, although members of the team note that on warm days it can be whiffy. Ick factor notwithstanding, it’s effective: just as infected individuals may “shed” virus as they breathe and talk, they may shed virus in urine and feces, too.

For sampling purposes, the faculty leading the wastewater surveillance project — Best, chemists Dr. Michael Pikaart and Dr. Brent Krueger, and virologist Dr. Benjamin Kopek (see pages 18-19) — divided the college into nine residential zones. Between 200-250 students live in each one. In each zone, wastewater flows from all the residence halls and cottages into the same sewer main, so a sample taken from a single existing utility port provides data about the entire zone.

In masks, gloves and neon yellow safety vests and hats, the wastewater sampling team sets off each morning in a golf cart and a tiny utility truck with lights flashing and golf flag flying. They use a magnetic cover lifter to open utility shafts and then reach in by hand or with a hook to haul up auto-samplers installed near the top of the shafts, from which clear, flexible tubing extends down into open trenches of sewage far below.



*campus is divided into*  
**nine residential zones**



*each zone contains between*  
**200 – 250 students**



*samples collected rain or shine*  
**6 mornings a week**



*“A lot of the techniques we're using now are the same as the ones we learned for research projects as students, so I really felt like I knew what I was doing even when we were just starting.*

*In an even more general sense, a lot of research is about troubleshooting and problem-solving, and having already experienced that has made it a lot easier to adapt to brand-new projects like this and get things up and running smoothly.”*

**—Amy Olgers '20, project intern**

Heading up the crew is Randall Wade '16, who majored in three sciences and now directs the chemistry lab for Day 1, Hope's program that vaults freshmen into scientific research. Working alongside are interns Hope hired to staff this project: Amy Olgers '20 and Daniel Wade '20, who both majored in geology and environmental science and came onboard in August; and Schuyler Brunink '20 (biology major) and Kyle Ross '20 (biochemistry and molecular biology major), who started in mid-October.

The white plastic auto-samplers resemble beer kegs in size and shape. A power unit on each one's cover pumps in 130 milliliters of fluid every 20 minutes. Each morning, each unit contains 72 samples that it collected during the previous 24 hours. Traveling through an early-October day with Olgers and the Wade brothers (Brunink and Ross hadn't yet joined the project) provides a chance to see the process unfold. With a long, battery-powered mixing tool, Danny Wade blends the contents, pours some into a smaller container he hands off to Olgers, and then tips the rest back down the open hole. On the back of the utility truck, Olgers pours 40 milliliters into each of three vials and adds salt and a buffer substance to preserve and stabilize the samples so lab analysis will produce an accurate count. She labels and packs the vials; Wade drops the mixing tool into a bucket of bleach solution and covers the maintenance hole; and they're off to the next stop on their 90-minute route.

In Best's laboratory at the A. Paul Schaap Science Center, they pasteurize the contents of each vial to inactivate any virus that may be present in the sample. They filter out solids and then capture and clean RNA on a silica filter column, Randy Wade explained.

Then they perform a quantitative polymerase chain reaction, adding enzymes and running the material through cycles of heat that copy and amplify the RNA. The PCR results are computer-generated and computer-read.

It's heady stuff, but not for the recent grads working as interns. All four participated in research as students at Hope, and Olgers and Wade both were engaged in water quality research specifically. “I worked in the same lab space under mostly the same supervision and on similar projects — water quality studies — as a student, so I was already familiar with the procedures and protocols that we use in the lab on a daily basis,” Danny Wade said.





“A lot of the techniques we're using now are the same as the ones we learned for research projects as students,” Olgers agreed, “so I really felt like I knew what I was doing even when we were just starting. In an even more general sense, a lot of research is about troubleshooting and problem-solving, and having already experienced that has made it a lot easier to adapt to brand-new projects like this and get things up and running smoothly.”

Concurrent with the team's daily lab procedures, two miles north testing is also underway at Trident Laboratories, a toxicology lab owned by Dr. Matthew Rycenga '06. Part of each morning's samples are delivered to Trident for processing there. In March, as COVID testing exploded on the scene, the college loaned instrumentation to Rycenga that has proved valuable for his firm's parallel testing to back up results obtained on campus.

Finally, around the dinner hour, the evening shift takes over. At home, Best pulls up onscreen the results of that day's lab work. He analyzes the data and sends a summary to Kopek, who reviews it and makes a nightly recommendation to the testing subcommittee of the college's COVID-19 Steering Committee. Best and Kopek look for elevated levels of deactivated SARS-CoV-2 virus — even slightly high readings that indicate that one or more individual in a particular zone of campus may be shedding the virus.

“We know we can detect it. The challenge is to be able to correctly interpret it,” Best said. Infected individuals have varying levels of the virus within them, and it's unclear how much virus any one person may contribute to the wastewater. “They may be shedding at different levels as they move through their infection; each one of us behaves differently.”

The college's efforts are expanding beyond the Hope community.

All along, in addition to samples collected on campus the college lab has been testing two wastewater samples that Holland city workers collect each morning at the input lines of the municipal sewage treatment facility and deliver to the science center.

Since Oct. 1, Hope's wastewater surveillance team also has been part of a pilot project of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) to coordinate testing labs' procedures, detection methods and reporting so data can be monitored on a statewide level and used predictively. EGLE has purchased equipment for participating labs, some of which were just starting up wastewater testing. Hope College received digital PCR instrumentation capable of more sensitive detection of what's in sewage. Best said he and his colleagues are interacting with the public health departments of Ottawa County and Allegan County and have begun monitoring the wastewater treatment plants in nearby Zeeland and Allegan.

**Since Oct. 1, Hope's wastewater surveillance team also has been part of a pilot project of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) to coordinate testing labs' procedures, detection methods and reporting so data can be monitored on a statewide level and used predictively.**





## SETTING THE PACE

*Walking- and running-themed First Year Seminar and Senior Seminar courses take a literal approach in reflecting on making life's journey.*

*By Jim McFarlin '74*



Quite by coincidence — or happy accident — two seminars offered as part of Hope College’s Interdisciplinary Studies Program happen to mirror the Hope experience.

Students walk onto campus their first year eager but apprehensive, ready to learn and become a part of something bigger but knowing they are works in progress. Years later they race from Commencement, diplomas waving overhead, prepared to benefit humankind and show the world all they have gained.

So it seems somehow logical there should be a First Year Seminar (FYS) at Hope titled “Vote With Your Feet: Walking as a Way of Life,” and a Senior Seminar named “Run for Your Life,” both challenging students to venture outside and pound the pavement in search of deeper internal truths.

The former is led by Dr. Michael Misovich, associate professor of engineering. The latter is run (so to speak) by Dr. Vicki Voskuil, associate professor of nursing. They created their 20-student seminars independently, each developing their own curriculum. And while their topics are far removed from their fields of expertise, both say it is invigorating to leave their academia for one course to share a personal pursuit with students.

Voskuil, for example, has been teaching nursing at Hope since 2004 and became interested in conducting her first Senior Seminar, but wasn’t sure what its topic would be.

“There was a Senior Seminar workshop in 2017 led by Jonathan Hagood [the late associate dean and Senior Seminar program director],” Voskuil recalls. “My original plan was to teach a course called ‘Do No Harm’ on ethics for pre-med and nursing students that had been taught by another professor, but the workshop message came through loud and clear that you should teach something you’re passionate about.”

That meant running. “I know running has taught me a lot of life lessons, but I wondered if I could teach a course on it,” Voskuil says. “I started looking at books and said, ‘I think I can make this work.’ Jonathan was super supportive. He said, ‘It looks like you’re in the literature review phase. I think you should just go for it.’”

Voskuil has been teaching “Run For Your Life” since the spring of 2018.

Similarly, Misovich, a chemical engineer and member of the Hope faculty since 2002, is an avid walker when not in his lab. (The “Vote” in his course’s title refers to lifestyle choices, not politics.) He says he has Aimee, his wife of more than 35 years, to thank. “She was from a small town (Lapeer, Michigan) where you walked everywhere,” he relates. “Over time I adapted to that more and more. It grew on me.

“Around town I try to walk as much as possible. Students inevitably ask, ‘Do you walk because it saves you money?’ Yes, in that I don’t have to keep putting gas in my car. ‘Do you walk because it’s good exercise?’ Yes. But walking sometimes can just clear your head, help you think. So many things about it can improve your life in little ways. So I feel very holistically about walking.”

The seminars, considered essential elements of a Hope College education, are holistic as well. FYS students are introduced to college-level ways of active learning and the value of a liberal arts education, while Senior Seminar classes explore what students have learned within the framework of their beliefs, life goals and historic Christian faith. To that end, Voskuil made a fundamental change in her coursework this year.

“The class reads one book together,” she says. “I’ve gotten sort of mixed reactions on the book I’ve been using, so I felt I needed to make a change. Even though they write their own ‘life view’ papers and we talk about running in terms of spirituality and peace, I thought there wasn’t a strong enough tie to Christianity.

“One of my first book ideas was *The Road to Character* by David Brooks. I heard him when he came to campus [in 2015] and I’d read the book. It isn’t really about running, but it ties in because it’s the ‘road’ to character, you run on a road, and where are you going? I think it ties in more to Christianity. Brooks talks a lot about sin and our culture has gotten away from that. We’ve had really good conversations about it, and about suffering.”

Experiencing the suffering of the long-distance runner is not a prerequisite for the seminar, which attracts athletes

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*First Year Seminar students are introduced to college-level ways of active learning and the value of a liberal arts education, while Senior Seminar classes explore what students have learned within the framework of their beliefs, life goals and historic Christian faith.*



First Year Seminar (FYS)

**“VOTE WITH YOUR FEET: WALKING AS A WAY OF LIFE”**

*Dr. Michael Misovich, Associate Professor of Engineering*

and non-athletes alike. “It always fills up quickly and students are very enthusiastic about enrolling in it, which is always a good sign,” notes Dr. Matt DeJongh, Senior Seminar director and chair of the Department of Computer Science. Still, “Run for Your Life” logically attracts seniors like Jacob Kelley from Rockford, Michigan, a member of Hope’s cross country team.

“Obviously, running has been a big part of my life for a long time,” Kelley says, “so I thought it would be a cool lens for me to write my ‘life view’ paper through. I have really come to appreciate how good of an allegory and metaphor running can be for many different parts of your life, particularly your spiritual life.”

Likewise, former track athlete Johanna “JoJo” Emmanuel of Wheaton, Illinois, a nursing student who has taken Voskuil’s classes before, discovered a new dimension for her running through the seminar. “We read one author who talked about just enjoying the journey as you’re running, and I thought that was a really good point,” she says. “Yes, it’s hard, but make sure you’re also having fun at the same time.”

Like everything else in life, COVID-19 has necessitated major adaptations in the seminars. Misovich says his students currently don’t even meet in a classroom. Nonetheless, freshman Kayla Wolma of Hudsonville, Michigan, has found that the course has reordered her thinking.

“I’ve always had a passion for hiking, but this class has completely changed my perspective on walking,” she says. “To be able to go on walks to clear my busy mind has truly been a blessing for my college experience so far. It forces me to slow down and truly feel like my greatest self.”

Echoes Emily Dieffenbach, a freshman from Grand Rapids Forest Hills, “Walking for an hour twice a week has allowed me to breathe and take in nature, and de-stress in the middle of the day, which I have learned is essential in order to succeed in the classroom.”

Given the coronavirus constraints, that pleases Misovich greatly. “I told my FYS students at the beginning, ‘I’m not going to lie to you and say this is exactly like the Hope experience we could give you in normal times,’” he says. “It’s the Hope experience in the time of COVID. But I hope you come to feel this is still a better experience than you would have gotten anywhere else.”



Senior Seminar

**“RUN FOR YOUR LIFE”**

*Dr. Vicki Voskuil, Associate Professor of Nursing*



# THE SHOW MUST GO ON

By Greg Olgers '87



Statewide size restrictions on gatherings to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have presented interesting challenges for Hope, which annually hosts hundreds of events not only for the campus and alumni but the general public.

The situation has been a particular predicament for the college's arts programs, for which exhibitions, concerts and plays are not only entertainment but integral and essential hands-on learning experiences for the student participants. It's one thing to rehearse; it's another to perform for an audience.

Fortunately, artists are by definition creative, and the departments of art, dance, music and theatre all found ways to reach audiences this semester.

The De Pree Gallery opened with an online exhibition and then transitioned to protocols such as requiring masks and physical distancing, and limiting the number of patrons present. The Kruizenga Art Museum remained open to visitors with the same policies.

For music, that meant livestreaming the program's many student and faculty concerts and recitals instead of hosting in-person audiences, and as noted on Page 7 producing Christmas Vespers as a prerecorded film.

In dance, the H2 Dance Company likewise created fully produced, pre-recorded films. Music and film projections

were featured alongside the company's dancers, and multiple cameras and glide cameras provided close-ups and larger sweeping views to present a unique view of the company. The department added a bit of Hollywood-style flair to the Oct. 16 premiere by celebrating the student dancers with a red-carpet showing at the Knickerbocker Theatre for a limited number of students and family members.

And theatre? The program did something new by staging its season-opening production of *Twelfth Night* outside, an approach unusual for Hope but with millennia of history. While the entry patio of the DeWitt Center is not the open-roofed Globe Theatre nor an amphitheater *à la* ancient Greece, the old-school solution provided a unique experience and connection to traditions past for cast and crew, and allowed a larger (but still limited) audience to attend than if the play had been indoors. (The department also livestreamed two of the six performances for those who couldn't snag one of the 40-some in-person seats available during each of the six shows.)

Junior theatre and English major Emi Herman, who portrayed Viola, reflected on the preparations and embracing the approach in an entry posted to the college's arts blog a few days prior to the Oct. 2 opening performance. It's presented on the next two-page spread (with light editing to read past-tense) to provide a student's-eye view of the inventive way of addressing an unprecedented need.



**WATCH**  
Visit the college's YouTube Channel  
to stream the latest performances.  
[youtube.com/hopecollege](https://youtube.com/hopecollege)

Person of reflections

# ON TWELFTH NIGHT IN A PANDEMIC

By Emi Herman



COVID-19 has put a full stop to the arts industry. Actors, musicians, technicians, arts administrators and so many other people are in a state of limbo.

Hope College was among the lucky few places that implemented safety protocols that allowed student and faculty artists to come together in these trying times to put on something magical. One of these spectacles was the theatre department's outdoor and socially-distant production of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

I think it is a common misconception that theatre just happens. One day a group of actors show up to a performance and magically know all their lines and movements. A silver lining to the COVID-19 restrictions was that we could showcase our work from start to finish to the Hope College community. This meant students and faculty passing the entrance of the DeWitt Center witnessed every stumble and every triumph in the rehearsal process. Yet another silver lining was that this play was livestreamed! Not only could people watch it safely from their homes, but we reached an even greater audience than ever before.

As an actor in this production, I found getting to opening night a wonderful rollercoaster. I started my journey to become Viola last semester under the direction of Johamy Morales and was over the moon about being able to

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...AND BEING CLOSER  
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NOW MAKES ME FEEL  
LIKE I MUST KISS OR  
FIGHT THE PERSON."



continue into this semester. I was skeptical at first about acting with the restrictions of being outdoors and with masks on, but I soon remembered that both of those are traditions of theatre. I also realized that connection can still happen at a six-foot radius, and being closer to a scene partner now makes me feel like I must kiss or fight the person. What may have seemed like disadvantages also turned into helpful tools, because we had our set on day one and the audience not being able to see our facial expressions made us actors use our physicality in ways we never had before.

However, working outside the DeWitt entrance is definitely more nerve-racking than any other rehearsal process I've been a part of. I felt like I must be *performing* through every rehearsal as if it were the final product. My peers could see me crash and burn from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. four days a week with a special matinee on the weekends. Of course, these higher stakes in real life only added to the process because Shakespeare only wrote his characters in high-stakes situations. The public rehearsals also forced me to trust my choices as an actor more than ever. I wanted to turn the heads of the people walking to their dorms. If they didn't, was I doing my job? Would I be able to keep our future audience engaged?

I am so thankful that we were able to continue *Twelfth Night* in person and that Hope College has been safe during this unprecedented situation. Working on a Shakespeare play is a beast, and I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to play Viola and tackle this beautiful play in a way that very few people get to experience.



# THE YEAR OF LIVING EPICALLY

*By Eva Dean Folkert '83*



To call 2020 the perfect year to accomplish anything noteworthy, one has to either be the world's biggest optimist, or a master of determination.

It turns out, Jon Ornée '03 — the proclaimer of such an ironic compliment about the year 2020 — is a bit of both. To pull off a monumental, relay-style swim across Lake Michigan this past August, Ornée needed optimism and determination in equal measure. As the organizer of the self-declared Epic Swim 2020, he also needed five other endurance swimmers, stunning weather, calm-ish waters, light winds, two boats, several support crew, and all of the stars to align (which they metaphorically did, but more on that later).

He got it all by providence and a perseverance born out of a life-changing event (more on that later, too).

While the COVID-19 pandemic sidelined an Olympics and stymied major sporting events in the U.S for many weeks, Ornée, his brother David '05 and four friends — Nick Hobson, Jeremy Sall, Matt Smith, and Todd Sutor — gave themselves, and hundreds of others who followed them on a live tracker, something

to cheer about. On August 11, from the shores near Rawley Point Lighthouse in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, the six swimmers stepped foot into crisp 51-degree water and started their invigorating swim per relay rules set forth by the Marathon Swimmers Federation.

After a couple miles, the Big Lake cooperated and warmed to 70 degrees, mostly staying there the rest of the way. For a total of 20 hours, 50 minutes over a course of 54 miles, Ornée and the other swimmers chased across Lake Michigan in 30-minute legs, swimming along a lane line dragged by a lead boat to keep them on track. At least one swimmer had to be in the water unassisted at all times, and the relay exchange involved a new swimmer diving off the support boat, coming up behind the previous swimmer and completing the exchange with a high five in the water.

In between “laps,” the swimmers recovered on the “chase” boat, consuming thousands of calories, catching little sleep and soaking up the experience as any good aquatic creature would.

“When you're in the water, you really are just immersed in the water itself and in the process of swimming, so you can't

really appreciate the entire atmosphere,” says Ornée. “So, it was really special to have moments on the boat to get energized by the guys and to look out and realize you can't see land anywhere. It makes you appreciate what a wonder and gift Lake Michigan is.

“Plus, there's not a better place to enjoy the night sky than in the middle of Lake Michigan. It was an awesome night, too. The waves got bigger — two to four feet — but a meteor shower was going on that night and that was amazing to see. It all was a clear reminder that we are finite beings in the grand scheme of things and at the mercy of Mother Nature and the lake itself.”

When the Epic Swim team finished its quest, all stepping out together near Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington, Michigan, the athletes had averaged 1:18 minutes per 100 yards. What the six achieved was indeed an apt definition of epic for its length and its speed.

The idea to swim across Lake Michigan, which is the world's fifth largest lake and third largest in the U.S., occurred to Ornée seven years ago, but it took a bike crash to get him moving on it. During the summer of 2019, while

*Left to right: Todd Sutor, Jon Ornée, Jeremy Sall, Nick Hobson, Dave Ornée, Matt Smith*





traveling at 27 miles an hour on his time trial bicycle on a northside road in Holland, Michigan, Ornée was struck by an SUV. The collision sent him airborne, and the violent landing broke his right arm and sprained his ankle but miraculously spared his spine, legs and head.

Still, the accident was jarring and perspective-laden, as most potentially fatal events are, and it caused Ornée to have an immediate epiphany as he lay on the asphalt in pain.

“When you're a cyclist, unfortunately there's a pretty good chance you're going to end up on the ground at some point. In that moment, I was asking myself, ‘Why? Why do I do this stuff? Should I hang it up and play it safe?’ I imagined taking that route in life and then pretty quickly considered the other side and decided to double down on the phrase that came to my mind: ‘You only get one life, make it epic.’

“Now, I'm in a bit more of a hurry to do the things that I intend to do in this life since the crash,” he adds, “and the [Epic Swim] idea was still one that I felt strongly I wanted to do. 2020 seemed like the perfect year to get it done.”

Ornée, originally from Grandville, Michigan, and now a Holland resident, had wanted to swim across the Great Lake with his five siblings – who had all been competitive swimmers in their younger years – since 2013. But he and they waited on that idea for too long. “Now we're a bit scattered,” he observes. “One brother is in California, one in Virginia, and we have a sister in Africa. But Dave said yes.”

At first, Dave Ornée was a bit hesitant to join in. 2020 may have been perfect timing in Jon's mind, but Dave, who is co-owner and director of operations for Michigan Awesome, an online retailer that sells merchandise touting the Mitten State, admits he was initially non-committal due to work demands and family life. “I told Jon I would be a first alternate because I wasn't sure how steadfastly I could commit to it,” Dave said. But as big brothers tend to do, Jon convinced his little brother to come along.

“In the end, I'm glad I committed to doing it,” admits Dave, who swam competitively for Hope. “I would have definitely had some regret of missing out

had I not. The Epic Swim lived up to its name. It was crazy because it was a ton of work and planning for months and then in a much shorter period of time, it was over. It was surreal, but it was awesome.”

Most of the months-long planning landed in Jon Ornée's wheelhouse as he studied lake routes and currents, contacted hundreds of charter boat businesses, and obsessed about weather, looking for the best frame of time to set aside for the attempt. A creative and curious guy, Ornée is detailed-oriented, too. As a musical artist (he once was the band leader for AG Silver and now performs with his wife, Necia, under the name Lady and Gentleman), a small-business owner (he founded and operates Creativino, a design company for wine brands and labels), and a health coach, Ornée is that rare breed — a big- AND little-picture guy. From the planning minutiae found in hundreds of emails to coordinate boat captains (two) and support crew (five), to the grander, give-back vision of partnering with the charity FLOW (For the Love of Water) to raise money to protect and preserve the Great Lakes, Ornée oversaw it all.

Finally, once everything was swum and done, he did take some time to savor the accomplishment, but quickly Ornée was off to the next epic endeavor. In September, he set a world ultra-cycling record with an Epic Ride, a 369-mile journey with seven other cyclists who went from the bottom (Sturgis at the southern border) to the top (Sault Ste. Marie at the northern border) of Michigan in 15 hours and 56 minutes for an average of 23.2 mph. Then in October, Ornée notched another world record for the fastest 100 miles on a bike while drafting, doing so from behind his dad's minivan on the Michigan International Speedway in 2:20:46 (for an average speed of 42.6 mph).

Ornée does slow down once in a while, though. Like when he started the Epic Adventure Academy this fall, a homeschool co-op he conducts with three

other families for six elementary school children (two of them are his) "when a remote learning option and curriculum were presented by our school district due to COVID-19. So I'm a homeschool teacher one day a week," he says on his personal website, [jonornee.com](http://jonornee.com). "Our kids are learning a ton, spending lots of time outside and having a blast. Learning is everywhere."

"I'm really not a thrill seeker. I'm not an adventurer-at-all-costs person," he adds. "Being a great dad and husband and friend and community member are important to me. And so is living the best version of my life and encouraging others to do the same. I don't encourage people to swim across Lake Michigan, but I do encourage them to do that thing that's stirring in them. I think that it's important that we all pursue our passions."

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-DAVE ORNÉE '05**



# 10 Under 10

*By Kate Bultema '09 Ralston*

Four years ago, when the idea to convert the Young Alumni Awards, which honored two recent Hope graduates, into the 10 Under 10 Awards, increasing the number of yearly recipients considerably, one of the concerns brought forth was the rate at which we would deplete the nomination pool. Despite the risk, we decided to have faith that we'd be able to find enough recipients every year based on our knowledge of the quality graduates that Hope produces. Now, three years into the program, I look back on our initial concerns and laugh. While we are constantly working to encourage nominations, finding phenomenal candidates for this award has certainly not been a problem! In fact, I continue to be absolutely amazed and even a little overwhelmed at the accomplishments, attributes and aspirations of our youngest alumni.

Our nominations come from spouses, parents, best friends, former teammates, staff members, faculty members and even community members. The people of Hope are masters at elevating each other, shining the spotlight on each other. It is a privilege to read the nominations, a thrill to sit in on the selection committee meetings, and an honor to get to know the recipients each year as we work to tell their story and connect them to current students and fellow alumni.

The selection process is extensive. Representatives from all over campus — student life, admissions, each academic division — and the Alumni Association Board of Directors come together to read each nomination and thoughtfully select 10 recipients, with the full Alumni

Board approving the slate at their semi-annual meeting. It is an invigorating experience for everyone involved — what a joy it is to see all the places recent grads have taken their skills, their passions and their hope! Each recipient uniquely fulfills the criteria of the award:

- Emerging leader making a significant contribution by living out their calling;
- Engaged in the local or global community through professional and/or volunteer involvement;
- Serves as an outstanding young role model for current and future students and alumni by showcasing the attributes of a graduate anchored in Hope.

The 2020 10 Under 10 Award recipients were honored this year via a virtual ceremony on Friday, Oct. 16, as part of One Big Virtual Weekend: Homecoming & Family Weekend. While this year was different, the celebration was heartfelt — as the recipients deserved.

While we may have worried four years ago that 10 might be too many, after three cycles of recipients, I can confidently say that 10 will never be enough. In addition, we delight in honoring these 10 individuals, we recognize that there are many more young alumni who also shine bright. Our desire with this award is not to overshadow any other alum but instead to place a spotlight on what all our Hope graduates are doing with their education and unique gifts.

*Kate Bultema '09 Ralston is associate director of alumni and family engagement at Hope.*



## '10 Luis Silva

**Human Resources Business Partner**

*"My Hope education gave me the critical and analytical thinking skills that have allowed me to think outside the box in the real world. Hope College made me agile, improved my work ethic, and made me a naturally curious person. It instilled in me a servant leader mindset when I approach a diverse set of situations. Through my time at Hope, I discovered a passion to build stages where every person has an equal opportunity to succeed."*



## '14 Annalise Klein

**Education Consultant for Culturally Responsive Science and Project Based Learning**

*"I entered college pursuing a career that would allow me to experience as many different stories of the human experience as possible. At Hope, my experiences and many guiding conversations from mentors pushed me towards the field of education. I was filled with a need to live in communities in the U.S. that have historically struggled to find the successes that I had been privileged to so easily inherit."*



## '10 Peter Stoecker

**Assistant Professor of Health & Physical Education**

*"I want to make my students believe that they can succeed academically and that my door is always open. My experiences at Hope taught me how to be open-minded, compassionate, and determined to be the best possible educator I can be and I have applied this methodology to my current practice. I am so grateful for the Hope College community and how it molded me to what I am today."*



## '14 Eric Vachon

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Nursing**

*"The experience that I had at Hope between nursing, playing baseball, and being a part of the Hope community shaped who I was as a young adult in a critical time of development. My courses and faculty at Hope inspired me to never stop gaining knowledge and to always be a student. I have transitioned that passion into a career as a researcher and an academic, and I am truly grateful to Hope College for instilling that value in me."*



## '13 Thomas Gable

**Wildlife Biologist, Project Lead**

*"I would simply not be who I am or where I am today if it were not for my time at Hope College. I did not realize how exceptional the education I received was until I started graduate school and began interacting with other graduate students who had attended different colleges and universities. I entered graduate school prepared and equipped with the skills, knowledge, and problem-solving abilities needed to be successful."*



## '10 Stephanie Bogema

**Chief of Staff/Senior Project Specialist**

*"My Hope education has impacted my career in profound ways. The mentorship I received from faculty at Hope dramatically shaped the direction of my professional career."*

*If there is one defining principle of my Hope education that will stay with me for the rest of my life it is that there is always hope in God and because of that hope we are expected to demonstrate the light and love of Christ so that everyone around us also witnesses that hope."*





## '13 Meagan Elinski

**Asst. Professor of Chemistry & Surface Chemistry Researcher**

*"I can say with the strongest conviction that I would not be where I am today without the foundation and continued influence of my Hope education. This [has been] evident in the technical aspects of my career, the role of my faith in my journey since graduating from Hope, and my desire to be an engaged global citizen."*



## '15 Charlyn Pelter DeWitt

**Legal Aid Attorney**

*"Hope is a very unique and special place. The professors and the other students support each other and push each other to succeed. There is a strong emphasis on living in a Christ-like way and treating others with dignity... I love my job because I get to bring a little bit of Hope into people's lives."*



## '10 Amy Fisher Weibley

**Nonprofit Communications & Community Impact Director**

*"I am blessed every day to use my talents, education and abilities to make a difference in my local community, and it is all because of the strong foundation Hope College provided me through a high-quality liberal arts education."*



## '10 Jordan Fuller

**President of International Non-profit**

*"Hope helped me set my compass for pushing myself intellectually and professionally while also following God's purpose for my life. Therefore, I knew since 2007-ish that my purpose was to serve Honduras."*



# CLASSNOTES!

Classnotes Writer: *Julie Rawlings '83 Huisingsh*

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

*Submissions for the Winter 2020 issue are due by January 26, 2021.*

## 50s

**Norma Hoffman '52 Richardson** retired in July after 54 years as a Spanish professor at Central Michigan University. She was tenured as a full-time professor in August 1967. She graduated from Hope with a major in Spanish, and received her M.A. in Spanish from the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, in 1954. She was granted a teaching assistantship with the recommendation of Dr. Donald F. Brown, her Spanish professor at Hope. From 1954 to 1957 she taught as an instructor of Spanish and English at Central College, Pella, Iowa. She received her ABD in Spanish, also with a teaching assistantship, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1959. While teaching full-time at Central Michigan University she completed course work and her dissertation at Michigan State University. She was awarded a Ph.D. in Spanish language and literature in 2001.

## 60s

**Darrel Staat '64** had his fourth book, *Student Focused Learning: Higher Education in an Exponential Digital Era*, published on June 15, 2020. The book can be used by 21st century educators in higher education to learn what teaching methods already exist, different from the lecture/discussion method, that support student focused learning. He joined the faculty of Wingate University in January 2015 following a 44-year career in community college administration.

**Cindy Hill '64 Wackerbarth** and **Paul Wackerbarth '64** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 23, 2019.

**Richard Timmer '68** is the chairman of the

Chippewa County Road Commission and was elected president of the County Road Association of Michigan representing all 83 county road agencies.

## 70s

**George Bennett '72** retired from his second career as a rostered deacon assigned to the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America after 13 years

and will continue to reside in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

**Scott Lenheiser '74** continues to practice law, primarily business and estate planning, and advises entrepreneurs' concerns in the greater Detroit- Wayne and Oakland counties in Michigan. He exhibited at the annual Holland Gun and Knife Show on Saturday, Feb. 22. He has only missed exhibiting at this show a few times since 1987. He attended the 2019 North American Society of Pipe Collectors Show in Dublin, Ohio. It is an international



**Barbara Timmer '69** has been getting together regularly with her Sigma alumnae group, **Sarah Baas '71**, **Mary Browning '69 Vanden Berg**, **Mary Piers '68 George**, **Gail Parker '72 Westerhof**, **Christy Zuverink '69 Vanderhill**, **Jayne Olsen '68 Geribo**, **Mary Schakel '69**, **Bonnie Brandsma '69 Mannes**, **Joyce Nelson '67 Nilsen**, **Patti Dykstra '69 Felix**, **Jill Leach '70 Kelly** and **Connie Vandervelde '70** in person. Due to COVID-19 they started getting together on Zoom and designed a t-shirt to all wear to their upcoming get togethers.

show featuring master pipe carvers from the United States and around the world, collectors of and dealers in estate pipes, and pipe tobacco producers and distributors. He is working on his third Ford station wagon which currently has 130,000 miles on it with 120,000 to go at least. He reports he has magicians for mechanics.

**Karen Johnson-Wiener '75** had her book *The Lives of Amish Women* published by Johns Hopkins University Press. The book explores Amish women's lives, looking at the contexts in which they grow up, the activities in which they engage, the values they come to espouse as members of particular church communities and the roles they define for themselves.

**Sue Poppink '75** has achieved the rank of full professor in the Department of Educational Leadership of the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University.

**Jerrianna van Gessel '76 Boer** retired from Hart-Ransom Union School District in Modesto, California. She began her teaching career teaching English, German and drama at Ripon Christian High School; next taught junior high English and social studies for 13 years at Hart-Ransom; and then served as principal of the K-8 school for 15 years. She reports that she enjoys writing and spending time with her grandchildren.

**Jean Lightowler '77 Kirchner** retired this June from federal service having served 15 years with the U.S. Navy as a training director with the Naval Education and Training Command. She received the Superior Civilian Service Award. She retired from the State of Illinois University System in 2010. She now looks forward to reading, drawing, painting and bike riding as well as longer visits to children and grandchildren in the states of Texas and Washington. Her husband, **Gary Kirchner '77**, is also enjoying his retirement plan working part-time for the UDT SEAL Association and Gunn Group. His interests focus on energy education and climate change. He is also teaching in the communications department at Old Dominion University.

**James Lampert '77** reports that he is retired and living blissfully in Toronto, Ontario. He has published his first book, *The Tao of Canada*, a new translation of the Tao Te Ching for the discerning Canadian lifestyle. It imagines Lao Tzu traversing the Trans-Canada Highway and then stopping into a Tim Horton's for a double-



**Sheryl Radike '79 Page** along with **Sandy Busman '79 Cott**, **Cindy McOwen '79 Poole** and **Mim Miller '79 Brada** traveled to Buena Vista, Colorado, for their biennial reunion. The four met the first day of freshman year while living in Kollen Hall and have maintained their long-distance friendship for 45 years.

double and some Timbits before penning his 81 thoughts on Canadian life. He would especially like to thank Professors. Hemenway and Ridl at Hope for the parts they played in teaching him how to write right.

**Mary Jo Coughenour '78 Baker** has volunteered as secretary for the Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association since 2017, earning the HKNA President's Award 2019. Her neighborhood won the City of St. Petersburg Communications Award and two Honorable Mention Awards 2020, and was awarded NUSA National Neighborhood of the Year 2020. She initiated, co-authored, compiled and edited a feature-length article for the *American Bungalow Magazine*, Fall 2020, Issue 100, titled "Historic Kenwood: A 30-Year Transformation of a Neighborhood through Architecture and Art." Her art banner and others designed by fellow Artist Enclave members line First Avenue North in Historic Kenwood, St. Pete, Florida. Since March 2020, MJ has sewn and donated more than 800 masks to healthcare workers and residents in the Tampa Bay area and across the U.S. She was featured in *tampabay.com Helpers* series in April 2020. MJ and her husband, Mike, have lived in Florida since 2010.

**Vicki Visscher '78 Olson** has retired from the University of New Mexico in Gallup, New Mexico, after teaching biology for more than 30 years.

## 80s

**Mark Plosila '81** retired from the State of Florida after 20 years of service. He began his career as an investigator and two years later was promoted to supervisor of an 11-county area. Seven years later he became an inspector. Although he received several citations during his career, the highlight was the President's National Medal of Patriotism awarded by the American Police Hall of Fame. He had previously retired from a division of Sara Lee Food Corp. During his retirement, he plans to focus on photography, oil painting and sculpting.

**Mary De Vries '84 Harrington** has recently retired as the food safety and quality manager after 35 years of employment with General Mills working at the Yoplait facility in Reed City, Michigan. She and her husband, Chris, live in Paris, Michigan, where they operate a beef cattle farm. They have recently taken up white water kayaking and hope to spend more time with their kid and grandkids.

**Rob Berstrom '86** is the SAP integration manager with Toledo Molding and Die, a division of Grammer AG. In this new role he will be in charge of the upcoming implementation of SAP R3 and Hanna for the North American locations. He has been with Toledo Molding and Die since 2015.

# CLASSNOTES

**Deborah Heydenburg '87 Fuller** is a professor in the department of microbiology at the University of Washington and chief of infectious diseases and translational medicine division at the Washington National Primate Research Center. Her lab developed a promising COVID-19 vaccine that entered phase 1 human clinical trials in September 2020. This next generation vaccine could induce more rapid immunity in the population and better responses in the elderly. Promising preclinical results with this vaccine were recently published in *Science Translational Medicine*.

**Larry Wagenaar '87** has been reappointed to the Michigan Historical Commission for a term ending in 2024 by Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer. He was first appointed in 2012 and provides oversight to the state's Michigan History Center and also operates the Michigan Historic Marker Program. He was also elected vice president of the Cultural Advocacy Network of Michigan, a non-profit group which advocates with the state legislature and promotes arts and cultural support statewide. The network consists of numerous statewide arts and cultural organizations.

**Dan Boerigter '88** was elected chairperson of the board of directors of SoundOff Signal, a global leader in emergency lighting based in Hudsonville, Michigan. He continues to practice law in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a partner in the firm of Yost & Baill. He and his wife,

**Christina Eisenmann '88 Boerigter**, currently have two sons enrolled at Hope, Peter '20 and Steve '23.

**Harry Coffill '89** is entering his third year teaching for Godfrey-Lee Public Schools serving as library-media specialist for students in grades K-12. He reports that, like any teacher is finding, this year is serving up peculiar challenges, but he is proud to be working with the "Legends" at Godfrey-Lee.

## 90s

**Jim Breyfogle '90** has his first book *The Tales of the Mongoose and Meerkat* published.

**Kelly Phillips '91 Nichols** has coauthored and published the young adult historical fiction eBook, *Beyond the Dragonhead – A Viking Adventure*. It has earned "#1 New Release" in its genre.

**John Suchan '92** started the Johnny Cleveland Podcast at [jclelandpod.com](http://jclelandpod.com).

**Shelly Woolman '93 Cornish** has retired from Alpena Public Schools after 25 years in education as both a teacher and a principal. Her husband also retired from his career as an orthopedic surgeon, so as young retirees they are enjoying time hiking, mountain biking and sailing. They are also planning a through-hike on the Appalachian Trail, leaving in April 2021.

**Julie Phillipps '94** wrote and illustrated her first graphic novel, *Pacey Packer Unicorn Tracker*. The book is a humorous adventure about a girl who travels to a magical land to rescue her little sister from an evil unicorn. This middle-grade-graphic novel is the first in a series published by Random House Graphics. She has had four previously published picture books, *Wink the Ninja Who Wanted to Be Noticed*, *Wink the Ninja Who Wanted to Nap*, *Monkey Ono* and *The Simples Love a Picnic*.

**Mimi Do '97 Gaffney** was promoted to commander in the United States Navy. She now serves as the assistant Naval Attache to the U.S. Embassy in Singapore and proudly represents the United States in Singapore's diplomatic community.

**Hillary Heinze '97** was recently appointed chairperson of the University of Michigan-Flint's department of psychology. After graduating from Hope, she received her

doctorate in clinical psychology at Wayne State University. As part of the requirements for her Ph.D., she spent two years conducting pre-doctoral research at Yale University.

**Mandy Fry '98 Eldred** is the facility and event services manager at the Kalamazoo County Parks and Expo Center.

**Jenny Wilson '98 Farmer** is a lecturer in the B.S.N. program at North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina.

**Ryan Janus '98** was named Musician of the Year by the United States Air Force band of Mid-America out of Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He reports that he will be forever grateful to the world-class musical instruction at Hope, which helped him achieve his dream of touring the world playing music. He and his wife have five children and four pets, and are moving to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado to continue their adventure.

**Kathryn Nichols '99 Campbell** serves as pastor at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to starting this position in June, she and her husband, Austin, welcomed their second child, Archer Grayson, on Jan. 23.

**Darcy Carmichael '99** and Chad Carmichael announce the birth of their 14th child, Isla Grace Josephine on July 18, 2020.

## Let's talk about IRAs and your Required Minimum Distribution

2020, then



The SECURE Act

Then COVID-19

2020, now



The CARES Act

Then ... what?

2021



??



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00s

**Eric Goodman '00** joined the law firm Brown Rudnick LLP as a partner in its bankruptcy and corporate restructuring practice group in Washington, D.C.

**Elizabeth Stancik '01 Barksdale** is the director of regulatory affairs and scientific policy at LUNgevity Foundation, the nation's premier lung cancer-focused non profit organization. She most recently served as the assistant director for regulatory science and policy at the American Association for Cancer Research.

**Tim Cupery '01** and Molly Riddle were married on June 26, 2020, in a smaller than originally planned ceremony in Berkeley, California.

**Taylor Werkman '01 Halliday** earned a master's degree in integrated curriculum from the American College of Education. She also earned the gifted education endorsement on her Ohio teaching license in the summer of 2020.

**Christina Stavros '01 Kidonakis** and Anthony Kidonakis announce the birth of Georgios Panagiotis-Stavros on July 17, 2020.

**Michelle Smith '04 Sandeen** and her husband, Andrew, have adopted Devin Nehemiah, who is 3 years old and had been living with them as a foster son for more than two years. He joins older siblings Zarya and Jarod, who are glad that Devin is finally an official part of the family. Michelle is still involved with Bible translation with two groups in Tanzania and East Africa although she now works remotely from Pennsylvania.

**Lindsey Kuipers '05 Compton** and James Compton announce the birth of Hadley Anna on Sept. 27, 2019.

**Helen Fylstra '05** left the field of education in December 2019 and became a licensed social worker in February. She is working as a clinical therapist at Olimene Counseling Services in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

**Christopher Meeusen '06** and Laura Post Meeusen announce the birth of Silas Matthias on Aug. 14, 2020. He joins his brothers Gabriel and Lucas.

**Kirsten Gruenberg '07 Hughey** graduated from Western Michigan University in August 2020 with a Master of Arts degree in teaching children with visual impairment.

**Kristin Stoops '07 Shuman** and **William Shuman '07** announce the birth of Myles Thomas on Oct. 8, 2019. He joined big brother Brayden (6).

**Matthew Baker '08** of New York City had a new story collection, *Why Visit America*, published in August by Henry Holt. Named one of Esquire's "20 Must-Read Books of Summer 2020," the book received a starred review from Booklist, which wrote: "Bold, captivating, and deeply relevant, Baker's imaginative stories offer approachable, optimistic perspectives on morally ambiguous topics facing Americans, including what it means to be one nation." Nine stories in the collection have been optioned for film/television by studios including Netflix, Amazon, Fox, FX and Searchlight Pictures.

**Addison Haynes '08** received a Master of Business Administration degree from Indiana University's Kelly School of Business. He reports that he continues to be a change driver with his hospital organization and is looking to improve the quality of health care across the country.

**Christopher Erickson '09** has been a practicing attorney in Indiana since 2012 and was admitted to the Michigan Bar where he is representing Allstate and its insureds in West Michigan. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two children, Logan (4) and Chelsea (1).

**Krista Homakie '09 Francis** and her filmmaker husband, Chris, decided to document their journey after they were diagnosed with COVID-19 in March. What they didn't expect was that four months and more than 20 tests and research studies later, they'd be releasing the first COVID documentary of its kind. The documentary, *Making Lemonade: Our COVID-19 Story*, has been accepted into many film festivals and won best indie feature at the Los Angeles Film Awards. It can be watched at [makinglemonade.film](http://makinglemonade.film)

**Elise LaRoche '09 Hekman** and Daniel Hekman announce the birth of Felicity Hope on Sept. 4, 2020.

**Jill Immink '09 Knaus** and Andy Knaus announce the birth of Sydney Grace on July 20, 2020.

**Jacob Wingate '09** and **Mary Cantor '11** were married on Aug. 2, 2020, officiated by **Dr. Ellen Tanis '90 Awad**, Hope College's associate dean for student life.



**Laura Dow '07** of Stonington, Connecticut, was one of six educators and parents from around the country who participated in an online expert panel on [rollingstone.com](http://rollingstone.com) hosted by *Rolling Stone* and *SheKnows* in August. The panel discussed anxieties, hopes and coping skills for the return to school in the fall in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Laura teaches 9th-12th grades special education in the self-contained setting at Stonington High School and provides transition support for 18-21 year olds with disabilities. She was chosen to provide a New England and special education perspective.

[hope.edu/rolling-stone-dow](http://hope.edu/rolling-stone-dow)

10s

**Natalie DeGeorge '10 Nethercott** and Tyler Nethercott announce the birth of Stella Maris in April 2020, joining Roman Michals (4) and Leo Gabriel (2).

**Julie Reishus '10 Peterson** and **Andrew Peterson '12** announce the birth of Junia Violet on Aug. 1, 2020.

**Andrea Eddy '10 Ricci** and Fabricio Ricci announce the birth of Bella on May 27, 2020.

**Aaron Welsch '10** and **Anna Heckenliable '11 Welsch** announce the birth of Olivia Rose on Aug. 18, 2020.

**Jill Valentino '11 Brundage** and **Joseph Brundage '11** announce the birth of Nathan Reeder on June 10, 2018. He joins big sister, Claire Sienna.



## GRADS LEAD VIRTUAL PROJECT TO EMPOWER CHOREOGRAPHERS WORLDWIDE

Two Hope graduates on opposite sides of the world led a global choreographic residency to provide a bright contrast to the cloudy days of COVID-19. Over 110 choreographers and movers in more than 30 countries on six continents registered to participate in this unique 20-day virtual challenge running Aug. 11-30.

**Hania Szymczak '16** (Poland- and Mexico-based, and pictured left) created the project, “Choreography Days 2020,” to develop professional choreographers’ and dancers’ artistic practices and encourage movement artists to create, since the pandemic has resulted in fewer opportunities than usual. She invited **Jazlyn Ruiz '19** (U.S.-based, and pictured right) to assist manage. Bytom Dance and Movement Theatre ROZBARK in Poland (with whom Szymczak apprenticed) also agreed to be official project partners.

Participants responded to a daily choreographic prompt by choreographing a phrase a day. The aim was to practice the act of making choreographic decisions and discerning stronger from weaker choices in choreographic contexts.

Szymczak and Ruiz successfully drew a worldwide community of pre-professional/professional dancers and passionate artists. They also facilitated a residency that provided challenges for dancers performing from hometown theaters to European Opera Houses.

The two alums note that Hope provided them with tools to make the event a success, and to bridge gaps among the global dance community’s divides and provide a safe and inclusive space to create and connect. “Neither of us had experience spearheading a global residency like this, but we felt incredibly equipped by our knowledge and education thanks to our *alma mater*,” Ruiz said. Szymczak completed a composite major in leadership and performance art and a major in German language and culture, and minored in mathematics. Ruiz majored in dance performance and choreography and communication with an emphasis in interpersonal studies.

Szymczak in particular thanks Steven Iannacone, who retired in 2018 after teaching at Hope since 1990, for recognizing and fostering her emerging talent in dance theory and composition. She also credits Mary Linda Graham, who taught at Hope from 1983 until retiring in 2019, for offering initial inspiration to the residency.

“She imparted that ‘to be a great choreographer, one must choreograph a dance a day!’” Szymczak said. “After several years, I decided to attempt it and invite the rest of the dance world to join.”

**Clayton Sommers '11** and **Katlyn Prince '11** Sommers announce the birth of Mayzie Kate on May 24, 2020.

**Eden Collins '12** is an assistant professor of sculpture at Stephen F. Austin State University after serving as a visiting assistant professor of sculpture during the 2019-20 school year.

**Sarah Sohn '12 Pittman** is the assistant principal of discipline and attendance at Washington High School in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Kyle Mireles '13** and Elizabeth Hampton were married in August 2020.

**Leah Ewald '14** is a therapist for unaccompanied youth from Latin America with Samaritas in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She received her Master of Social Work degree from Grand Valley State University in May 2020.

**Jonathon Hayden '14** and **Paige Fawcett '15** were married on March 7, 2020.

**Brittany Lawson '15 Ryers-Hindbaugh** received a Juris Doctor degree from Washington and Lee University School of Law and passed her West Virginia Bar exam.

**Eva Sagastume '15** and **Drew Thomas '16** were married on Friday, May 17, 2019, in Temecula, California.

**Michelle Kerr '16** and Matthew Wilmes were married on Aug. 15, 2020.

**Emily Cook '17** and **Chad Compagner '17** were married in May 2020. Emily completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Central Michigan University in May 2020.

**Chris DuBose '17** and **Payton Hoff '17** were married on Saturday, Sept. 5, in Detroit, Michigan.

**Madeline Lacy '17** and Roelof Jan Elsinga were married on Sept. 1, 2020. They reside in Groningen, Netherlands.

**Bailey Towns '17** is a special education teacher at Harland Consolidated Schools.

**Daniel Vachon '17** has enrolled in the doctor of nursing practice program at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, studying to be an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner.

**Allison Utting '18** and Tyler Burkhardt were married on Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020.

**Kelly Arnold '19** and **Jarod Wolters '19** were married on Saturday, Aug. 22, in West Olive, Michigan, in the company of their family and wedding party.

20s

**Chandler Alberda '20** is a digital marketing specialist at Merrell.

**Cy Balk '20** is a product development and marketing intern at Priority Health.

**Jennie Blough '20** is a children's services specialist for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

**Madison Brechbuhler '20** is a marketing coordinator at Brechbuhler Scales Inc. in Canton, Ohio.

**Elena Budinsky '20** and **Brandon Derstine '19** were married in August 2020. Elena moved to Palo Alto where Brandon is working on his doctorate in chemistry at Stanford University and she enrolled in Stanford Health's new graduate RN program. She started in October on the medical cardiac floor.

**Kaitlin Carl '20** is a pre-K teacher at Calvary Young Children's School in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Carleigh Eidson '20** is pursuing an occupational therapy degree at Grand Valley State University.

**Sarajane Fortier '20** is attending the University of Indianapolis Krannert School of Physical Therapy.

**Kira Goetz '20** is a nurse at Ascension Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Krista Graverson '20** is a centralized insurance services associate for Northwestern Mutual.

**Casey Gunther '20** is a paraprofessional at Ottawa Area Center in Allendale, Michigan.

**Brittany Henkin '20** is a student success coach at City Year Detroit, an AmeriCorps program.

**Gina Horsburgh '20** is a kindergarten teacher at North Creek Elementary in Chelsea, Michigan.

**Kathryn Joachim '20** is an artist educator with Kentucky Shakespeare, one of the longest-running free Shakespeare festivals in the country and the largest in-school arts providers in the Kentucky commonwealth.

**Cherish Joe '20** is attending graduate school at the Universidad de Alcalá in Madrid, Spain, and is working as an English teacher at a local Spanish middle school.

**Savannah Johnson '20** is a business analyst at Meijer.

**Julia Keisling '20** is a genetic counselor assistant at the Children's Hospital of Michigan.

**Daniel Kroeze '20** is a junior business analyst for Rutherford and Associates in Holland, Michigan.

**Riley Lentz '20** has a sixth grade English Language Arts teaching position at Gull Lake Middle School.

**Elizabeth Leon '20** is a realtor at Five Star Lakeshore in Holland, Michigan.

**Jasmine Love '20** is attending graduate school at University of Michigan School of Social Work on the welfare of children and families pathway. She is also a case reviewer for CPS in the school's child and adolescent data lab.

**Julian Lugo '20** is a case coordinator at the Ottawa County Children's Advocacy Center.

**Ella Marx '20** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree from University of Michigan.

**Rebeca Masis Cubero '20** and **Veronica Vance '20** were married on June 27, 2020.

**Jessica McAlpine '20** is teaching transitional kindergarten at Edgewood Elementary in Muskegon Heights.

**Sarah McCoy '20** is a registered nurse for TriStar Centennial in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Mercedes Rede '20** is a surgery coordinator for the Michigan Spine and Brain Surgeons, PLLC.

**Lian Robinson '20** is attending graduate school at Grand Valley State University.

**Heaven Silas '20** is pursuing a master's degree in higher education and working as a graduate assistant for Central Michigan University in the Center for Inclusion and Diversity.

**Zach Snoek '20** is a software developer at Faithlife Corporation in Bellingham, Washington.

**Caleb Tallquist '20** is an associate software engineer at Quicken Loans.

**Lauren Thorne '20** is an undergraduate internship supervisor at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services in the Psychological Consultation Center.

**Alyssa VanZanten '20** is pursuing a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering at Michigan State University.

**David Wang '20** is attending graduate school in Notre Dame's ESTEEM program.

**Matthew Werkman '20** is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan with a concentration in interpersonal practice in integrated health, mental health and substance abuse.

**Emily Wolfe '20** is a graduate assistant at Alma College while she is attending Central Michigan University for a master's in higher education administration.

**Sarah Zurawski '20** is a kindergarten teacher at a nature-based school in North Carolina.

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# IN MEMORIAM

The college is often privileged to receive additional information in celebration of the lives of members of the Hope community who have passed away. Expanded obituaries are available online.

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## 40s

**Emilia “Mimi” Moncada ’43 Knooihuizen** of Hudson, Ohio, died on Friday, June 12, 2020. She was 97. Survivors include her husband of 73 years, Delbert Knooihuizen ’42; children, Don (Monica) and Bruce (LaVerne); four children; and three great-grandchildren.

**Seymour Padnos ’43** of Holland, Michigan, died on Thursday, July 9, 2020. He was 99. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Esther Padnos; children, Mitchell (Karen), Shelly (Carol Sarosik), Bill (Margy Kaye) and Cindy (Jim Redmond); and one grandson.

**Verladyne Saunders ’45 DeLoof** of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020. She was 96. Survivors include her children, Tim (Sandy) DeLoof, Marilyn (Steve) Ward, Don DeLoof, Steven (Mary) DeLoof; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

**Jane Smies ’45 De Witt** of Joliet, Illinois, died on Friday, Aug. 2, 2020. She was 96. Survivors include her children, Daniel, Mary, Nancy and Susan; children-in-law, Patricia, Martin, Joe and Brad; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Karl “KP” Wildermuth ’46** of St. Petersburg, Florida, died on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019. He was 95. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Beverly Wildermuth; children, Terri (Yan Lin), Kirk (Holly), Lisa (Dayton) and Mark (Laura); five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Thelma Oonk ’47 Brower** of Urbandale, Iowa, died on Sunday, June 21, 2020. She was 95. Survivors include her children, Mary Jo Bosteels, DeAnne Petts and Stephen (Jane) Brower; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-

grandchildren; and sister, Connie Davis.

Word has been received of the death of **Edith Herlein ’47 Maassen** of Zeeland, Michigan. She was 96. Survivors include her children, Ruth, Peter ’77 and Lois ’78; their partners Tom Tamlyn, Kay Gouwens ’77 and Chris Wiers ’81; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Marion Maurer ’48 Bostian** of Cincinnati, Ohio, died on Monday, March 23, 2020.

**Joseph Palmer Jr. ’48** of Midland, Michigan, died on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020. He was 96. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Palmer; children, John (Naomi), Jane (Steve) and Pam Palmer ’91; five grandchildren; and sister, Mary Bergstrom.

**George Zuidema ’49** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, July 6, 2020. He was 92. He received an honorary degree from Hope in 1969, and was a past member of the college’s Board of Trustees. Survivors include his children, Karen (Bill) Voter, David (Sue) Zuidema, Nancy (Rich) Radcliffe and Sarah Kohl; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

## 50s

**Abraham deVries ’50** of Canton, Michigan, died on Monday, April 20, 2020. He was 93. Survivors include his son, James (Janel) deVries; three grandsons; four great-grandchildren; sister, Grace Van Beveran; and brother, William deVries.

**Kenneth Ruys ’50** of Madison, Tennessee, died on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020. He was 93. Survivors include his children, Brick, Tony and Lin; and one grandchild.

**Mabel Eleanor Robinson ’51 Zoellner** of Scottsdale, Arizona, died on Tuesday, Aug.

25, 2020. She was 93. Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Jack Zoellner; daughter, Susan (Timothy) Phillips; three grandchildren; and sister, Carolyn Robinson ’52 Ward.

**Richard “Dick” Kruizenga ’52** of Holland, Michigan, died on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2020. He was 89. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Hope in 1984 and served on the Board of Trustees from 1983-1996. He and his wife, Margaret Feldman ’52 Kruizenga established a scholarship to support art majors. They also funded the Kruizenga Art Museum which opened in 2015. Survivors include his children, Derek (Sylvia) Kruizenga and Meg Froelich; and five grandchildren.

**Thomas Ritter ’52** of Alpena, Michigan, died on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020. He was 90. Survivors include his son, Jeffrey (Vicki) Ritter; two grandsons; sister Susie (James) Osborne; and brother, John Smith.

**Gordon Thomas ’53** of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died on Friday, June 12, 2020. He was 89. Survivors include his children, Lynn Thomas ’77, Sharon Thomas ’78 (Fred ’78) Schlemmer, Gretchen Thomas ’81, John (Christina) Thomas ’83 and William (Jennifer Davis ’86) Thomas ’86; seven grandchildren; brother, Gayle (Jean) Thomas ’53; and sister, Shirley Thomas ’55 (Cornelius) Hegewald.

**Marjorie Dykema ’53 Visscher** of Holland, Michigan, died on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020. She was 89. She and her husband, Robert Visscher ’51 who survives her, received Distinguished Alumni Awards in 2002. In addition to her husband, survivors include her children, Steven (Cathleen) Visscher ’80, Beth Visscher ’79 (Rick) Nielsen and Linn Visscher ’82; five grandchildren; and brother, Alan (Mary Jane) Dykema ’55.



**H. Wayne Berens '54** of Ewing, New Jersey, died on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020. He was 87. Survivors include his wife, Harriet; daughters, Krista Smart, Mari Berens and Loren (Matthew) Ciccone; two grandchildren; and sister, Evelyn Berens '56 Losee.

Word has been received of the death of **Kathryn Phillips '54 Cook** of Zephyrhills, Florida. She was 89. Survivors include her husband, James Cook.

**Donald VanderToll '55** of Prospect, Kentucky, died on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. He was 86. Survivors include his wife, Jan Hansen '60 VanderToll; sons John (Lani) VanderToll '83 and Jim (Shana) VanderToll '85; three grandsons; and brother, Jay (Joan) VanderToll.

**Alyce Weener '57 Osborn** of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died on Saturday, July 11, 2020. She was 84. Survivors include her daughter, Sherry Osborn; and sister, Henrietta Weener '50 Bruggers.

**Donald Schreur '58** of Holland, Michigan, died on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. He was 90. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Lois Schreur; children, Barbara (Lauren) and Robert (Laura); and three grandchildren.

**Emelyn Curlee '58 Winter** of Portage, Michigan, died on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020. She was 84. Survivors include her children, Charles (Julia) Winter '82 and Ellen Winter '83; two grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

## 60s

**Larry Dykstra '60** of Holland, Michigan, died on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020. He was 82. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Patricia Dykstra; siblings, Marilyn (Gordon) Grevengoed and Calvin (Linda) Dykstra '64; brother-in-law, Gilbert (Fran Lannin) Vanden Berg; children, Denise Dykstra and Tom (Sheryl) Dykstra '85; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Lois Griffes '60 Korterling** of Tarpon Springs, Florida, died on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. She was 85. Survivors include her children, Kathie Korterling, Karyn Korterling '86 Verge and David (Katherine) Korterling '88; five grandchildren; one great grandchild; brother, Richard Griffes; and half-sister, Lynn Moody.

**Ivan "Ike" VanderKolk '60** of Hudsonville, Michigan, died on Friday, Aug. 14, 2020.

He was 81. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Mary VanderKolk; children, Wayne (Shelley) VanderKolk '88 and Sandy (Chris) LaGrand; daughter-in-law, Jamie VanderKolk; six grandchildren; stepbrother, Jack (Mary) Ligtenberg; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Gene (Lilarae) Bush and Carl (Ruth) Bush.

**Thomas Bos '61** of Holland, Michigan, died on Monday, July 27, 2020. He was 81. Survivors include his wife, Jane Dykhuizen '71 Bos; brother, Philip (Barbara) Bos '73; sister-in-law, Johanna Bos; sons, Thomas (Laurie) Bos and John (Janna) Bos; step-children, Matthew (Shahna) Schroeder and Joanna (Ivan Stoikovich) Schroeder; and 10 grandchildren.

**Sally Lou Houtman '61 Shimp** of Holland, Michigan, died on Thursday, July 30, 2020. She was 81. Survivors include her children, Kevin (Susan) Shimp, Cynthia Shimp '83 (George) Farner, Scott (Rose) Shimp and Erik (Lisa) Shimp; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Mary Houtman '52 vanTamelan and Ken (Diane) Houtman.

**Elmer Veldheer '61** of Holland, Michigan, died on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. He was 90. Survivors include his daughter, Kris (Jennifer Carlson) Veldheer '84; one grandson; siblings, Vern Veldheer, Larry (Wilma) Veldheer, Glenn (Marsha) Veldheer, Ruth Marlink, Esther Veldheer, June '62 (Jack '61) Veldheer-Millard and Kay VanderKooi; and sister-in-law, Lil Veldheer.

**Peter Hsu '62** of Wilmington, Delaware, died on Thursday, July 30, 2020. He was 81. Survivors include Betty Hsu; son, Christopher Hsu; daughter-in-law, Julie; and one granddaughter.

**Jeffrey Jones '62** of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. He was 79. Survivors include his wife, Susan Frazier-Jones; former wife, Patricia Jones; son, Michael (Debra) Jones; daughter, Monica (Marcos) de Borges; one grandson; sister, Nicole (Mike) Sefton; step-daughters, Crystal (Adam) Fulford and Beth Winstead-Vachon; two step-grandchildren; and former sister-in-law, Rosemary Jaramillo.

**Karen Coster '62 Marter** of Santa Ynez, California, died in August 2020. Survivors include her husband, Howard Marter; brother, John Coster; sister, Margaret Banks; and stepchildren, Chris and Michael Marter.

**James Staple '64** of Holland, Michigan, died on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2020. He was 78. Survivors include his wife, Louise Garter '64 Staple; children, Rebecca (Matthew) McFarland, Elizabeth Staple '94 McKenzie and David (Marta) Staple; former son-in-law, Robert McKenzie; five grandchildren; and sisters, Jeanne (Frank) Klobucher, Joanne (Mike) Prince and Cheryl (Dale) Merz.

**Thompson "Bill" "Smitty" Smith '65** of Belfast, Maine, died on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020. He was 77. Survivors include his brother, Don Smith.

**Karen Ward '66 Jechoutek** of Austria died on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. She was 76. Survivors include her husband, Karl Jechoutek; daughters, Christina and Maria; one grandson; and brothers, Joe (Kay) and James.

**Sandy Timmer '66 Plakke** of Whitmore Lake, Michigan, died on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020. She was 77. Survivors include her son, Jeff Plakke; daughter-in-law, Lara Rusch; two grandsons; and brother-in-law, Bob Aardema '69.

**Melvin Smith '68** of Granger, Indiana, died on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020. He was 73. Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Jane Smith; daughter, Jody (Shawn) Conner; son, Roger (Kimberly) Smith; four grandchildren; and sister, Marilyn (John) Schaub.

Word has been received of the death of **Richard "Doug" Dixon '69** of North Beach, Maryland. He was 74. Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Susan Blanton; son, David (Eve Carr) Dixon; daughter, Allison Dixon; one grandson; and sisters, Sandra Harrison and Nancy Kritzmire.

**Loren "Jack" Ligtenberg '69** of Portage, Michigan, died on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020. He was 73. Survivors include his wife, Mary Kooiman '69 Ligtenberg; children, Heidi (Judd) Emery, Mark (Laura) Ligtenberg and Lenee Ligtenberg '04 (Matthew) Hall; eight grandchildren; step-sister, Dorie Meendering; and sister-in-law, Mary Vanderkolk.

## 70s

**Stephen Van Pelt '71** of San Francisco, California, died on Thursday, June 11, 2020. He was 71. Survivors include his wife, Susan Gearey Van Pelt; sister, Susan Van Pelt; mother-in-law, Jeanne Gearey; and brother-in-law, Bruce (Robin) Gearey.

# IN MEMORIAM

**William Hill-Alto '72** of Roswell, Georgia, died on Thursday, June, 25, 2020. He was 70. Survivors include his partner of 20 years, Greg Voorheis; daughter, Joanna Hill-Alto; son, Jonathan (Lauren) Hill; three grandchildren; and sister, Joan (Bruce) Howe.

**Lawrence Smith '74** of West Olive, Michigan, died on Thursday, July 9, 2020. He was 68. Survivors include his wife of 33 years, Marcia Smith; daughters, Wendi Folkert, Amanda (Mark) Jones, Alison (Chris Fiore) Smith, Meredith (Rob) Ravinsky, Samantha (Jason) Grimes and Sarah Smith; sister, Susan Kranstuber; parents-in-law, Ed (Donna) Wolters; and brother- and sisters-in-law, Scott (Sandy) Wolters, Kathi (Kurt) Haveman and Mary (Jeff) Faber.

**August "Gus" Lukow Jr '76** of New Market, Maryland, died on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020. He was 66. Survivors include his wife, Janet Lupkes '76 Lukow; daughter, Robyn (Michael) Monaco; one grandson; brother, Robert (Noreen) Lukow; and in-laws, Gladys Buurma '56 Lupkes, Randall (Debra Lupkes '78) Eisenbeisz, Richard (Lisa) Lupkes '81 and Sandra Lupkes '89 (Todd '88) LaBaugh.

**Charity Priest '77 Johnson** of Grant, Michigan, formerly of Elkhart and Goshen, Indiana, died on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020. She was 65. Survivors include her son, Chris (Jessica) Johnson; daughter, Mindy (Devon) Conley; two grandsons; three granddaughters; father, Peter Priest II; mother, Janice Phillips; brother, Peter (Lena) Priest III; and two sisters, Cathy (Bruce) Eberly and Cynthia Priest.

## 80s

**Joseph Welch '80** of Traverse City, Michigan, died on Friday, Sept. 18, 2020. He was 63. Survivors include his siblings, Patrick (Ivonne Navarro) Welch, Ruth Ann Petres, Michael (Grace Dovell) Welch and John (Tracey) Welch.

**Jay Lindell '81** of Holland, Michigan, died on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. He was 60. He served as a part-time professor of youth ministry at Hope College from 1993 to 2018. Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Jeanne Brink '83 Lindell.; children Zack (Allie) Lindell '14, Katie Lindell, and Jacob Lindell '21; siblings, Jeana Lindell, Tom Lindell, Dawn (David) Prochaska; and sisters- and brother-in-law, Anne Brink '85, Mary Brink '89 and Robert (Karine) Brink '88.

## 90s

**Rhonda Mullins '91 Brewer** of Montague, Michigan, died on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020. She was 51. Survivors include her son, Austin Robrahn; daughter, Sophia Brewer; father, Ronald (Beverly) Mullins; mother, Kay Mullins; and brother, Bradley (Sarah) Mullins.

**Michelle "Shelly" Kramer '91 Cornelius** of Holmen, Wisconsin, died on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020. She was 51. Survivors include her husband David Cornelius; children, Carly and Cody Cornelius; mother, Marsha (Terry) Rutherford; father, Richard (Lucy) Kramer, Sr.; and brother, Richard (Pamela) Kramer, Jr.

**Kristen Kingma '92 DeWitt** of Holland, Michigan, died on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. She was 49. Survivors include her husband of 28 years, Kelly DeWitt '91; children, Katelyn, Ryan and Nathan; mother, Joyce Kingma; siblings, Craig (Beth Snyder '86) Kingma '87, Dave (Lisa Naber '93) Kingma '89, Lynn Kingma '90 (Kevin '88) Cole and Susan Kingma '99 (Keith) Stoneman; mother-in-law, Mary DeWitt; father-in-law, Bill DeWitt; and sisters-in-law, Dawn DeWitt '84 (Kurt '83) Brinks, Sandy DeWitt '87 (Jeff '86) Kayes and Kerri-Sue DeWitt '94 (James) Smits '96.

**Mary Ann Pilon '95 Dutmers** of Greenville, Michigan, died on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. She was 48. Survivors include her husband of 24 years, David Dutmers; daughters, Anna and Julia Dutmers; parents, James (Ann) Pilon; grandparents, Richard Pilon Sr. and Marjorie Stevenson; father- and mother-in-law, Robert (Valerie) Dutmers Jr.; and brother-in-law, Joseph Dutmers.

**Jason Currie '96** of Aledo, Texas, died on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020. He was 46. Survivors include his children, Tucker and Charlie; father, William Currie '69; brothers, Mike (Melissa) Currie and Ryan Currie; sister, Courtney (Alex) Bianchi; and fiancé, Kacie Hamric.

## 00s

**Matthew Handzo '00** of Savannah, Georgia, died on Friday, July 17, 2020. He was 42. Survivors include his father, Richard Handzo; daughter, Isabelle; and brother, Derek (Erin) Handzo.

**Brent Zandler '08** of Salt Lake City, Utah, died on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020. He was 34. Survivors include his father, Robert Zandler '79; mother, Missy; step-mother, Katie; brothers, Nick and Andy; sisters-in-law, Kristin and Jess; step-brothers, Jack and Peter; and grandparents, Gramma Sal and Papa and Grammy June.

## Sympathy to

The family of **William Cohen** of Holland, Michigan, who died on Monday, Sept. 7, 2020. He was 84. He was a professor emeritus of history who retired in 2001 after teaching at Hope since 1971. He taught generations of Hope history students in the History Seminar, a rigorous capstone experience which he designed and taught for many years. He also mentored Hope students who applied for Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. In 2001, he received the college's Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching (now called the Janet L. Andersen Excellence in Teaching Award). Survivors include three children, Alan (Juhong Lee) Cohen, Elizabeth (John Spieser) Cohen and Mia (Neil) Franklin; three grandchildren; brother-in-law, Lewis (Joyce) Proctor; and his "adopted" son-in-law, Gary (Nikki Boer) Snapper.

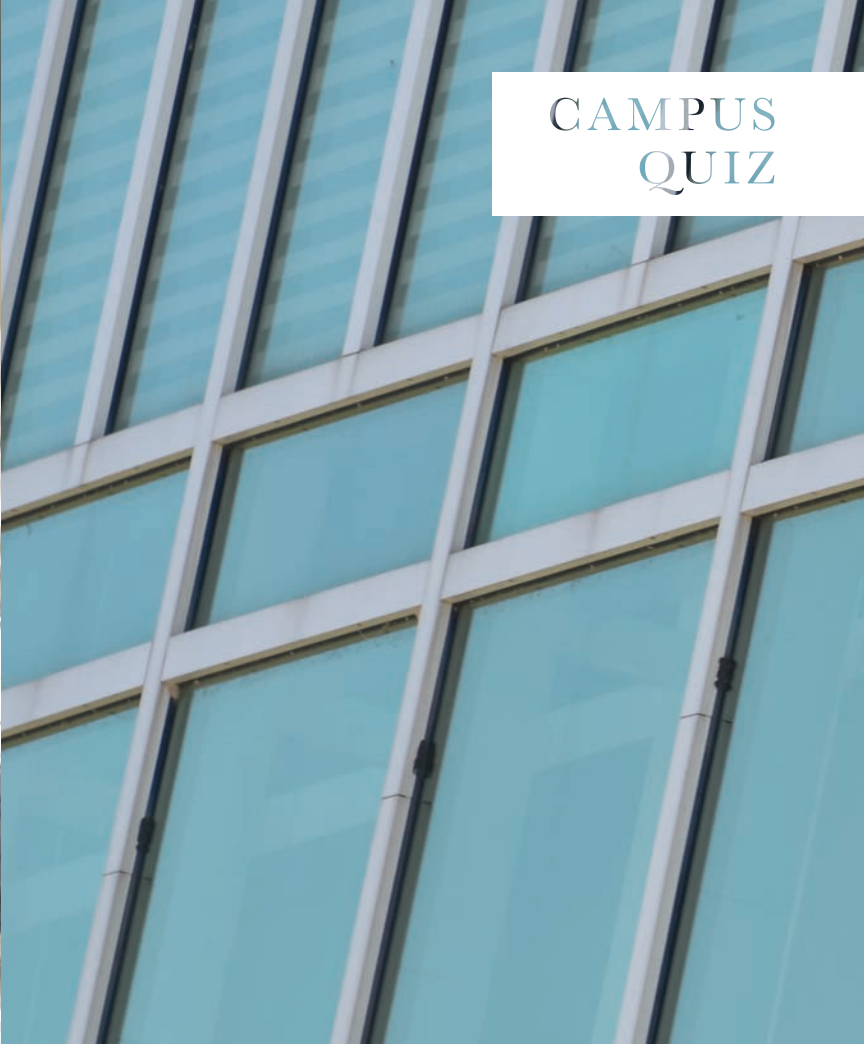
The family of **Dianna Machiela** of Hamilton, Michigan, who died on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020. She was 57. She was the payroll coordinator for Hope College for more than 20 years. Survivors include her husband, Brian Machiela; children, Bradley (Jori Niemann '11) Machiela '11 and Stephanie Machiela '09 (Darrin) Meiste; two grandchildren; mother, Janet (Melvin) Revor; siblings, Cyndi (Tom) Button, Wayne (Sandi) Savage, Jim (Carmen) Damber, Tony Damber, Andy Damber and Greg Damber; and in-laws, Glenn (Karen) Machiela, Dale (Sharon) Schrottenboer, Nancy Kennedy, Pat Ponstein, Jeff Machiela and Melissa (Steve) Dinkel.

The family of **Donna Van Hoven** of Holland, Michigan, died on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. She was 87. She was the administration secretary for the Department of Economics and Business at Hope from 1990-1994. Survivors include her children, David (Maureen) Van Hoven '80, Tim (Kim) Van Hoven and David (Karen) Hooker; and 10 grandchildren.

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