I understand this issue has a good deal of space devoted to the time I have served as president. There is much to celebrate and I am grateful for the good progress that has been made. Over the past several years, I have considered when would be a good time to conclude my tenure and allow the college to transition to a new president. Time will tell if we got this close to right, but I am optimistic about the future.

Several recent successes and new initiatives now in the works can build momentum even during a transition. Last fall, we dedicated the new entry and renovated Northlawn Center for Performing Arts Education, which has proven to be a wonderful transformation to campus and the performing arts area.

We launched the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in the fall of 2015 and will launch the RN to BSN program in January 2017. We are also increasing our number of athletic options by adding men’s golf and a limited track program, along with increasing roster sizes. Along with enhancing our regional presence, we are expanding our international options as well.

Initiatives being developed include expansions in performing arts, aviation and the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas.

In the near future, we anticipate launching a capital campaign to address facility needs in nursing and athletics along with endowment funds for student scholarships.

Within, throughout and over all these initiatives is our continuing commitment to our mission to educate and nurture each student in Christ-centered community. We have included in this issue a brief document that outlines our Philosophy of Faith Formation that serves as an overarching approach.

So I am optimistic about the future. The leadership we have in place, our dedicated Board of Directors, the fine faculty and staff and the “cloud of witnesses” of alumni, donors and supporters allow me to leave with a sense of fulfillment and joy.

Thank you, faculty and staff, Board, pastors, alumni, financial supporters and all who hold this place in your thoughts and prayers. May God continue to do abundantly more than all we can ask or imagine.
ON THE COVER

4 More than a president
President Howard Keim will complete 11 1/2 years of leadership at Hesston College on June 30. See how his legacy as president will be remembered.

FEATURE STORIES

8 Answering the community’s call
Students serve as volunteer first responders

10 For the love of the game
Alumna Katie Sowers ’06 love for football helps shatter gender stereotypes in the professional world

CONTENTS

14 Alumna & student profiles
Catch up with Alicia Hertzler ’07 Hurst and meet sophomore Isaiah Crosby

16 Open letter to the Church
The presidents of the Mennonite Church USA colleges, universities and seminaries address their commitment to Christ-centered education in a letter to the wider church

18 Chatter in the Nest
Students share how Hesston College has helped them “be greater”

21 Philosophy of Faith Formation
Get acquainted with the college’s formal philosophy of practicing faith formation

22 Campus news
Catch up on the latest action around campus

26 Athletic news
Lark sports updates

28 Alumni news updates
Read about the lives and accomplishments of friends and classmates

31 Calendar of events
Coming soon to Hesston College
Perhaps it was foreshadowing when sophomore Howard Keim was appointed Hesston College student body president for the 1971-72 year. Maybe, looking back, it was the start of preparations for another Hesston College presidential appointment more than 30 years later.

The 20-year-old Keim thought his time as president ended with his graduation in 1972. Even as he advanced his career as a pastor and as a faculty member and administrator in higher education, college president was not part of his career plan.

“I enjoyed teaching and working with faculty, but I had trouble seeing myself as a college president,” said Keim.

Then he was shoulder-tapped to consider becoming Hesston’s eighth president. He turned to mentors and colleagues to help process the possibility, and it was through those conversations and words of encouragement that he recognized the call to be president of not just any college, but Hesston College.

And Keim has not been a run-of-the-mill president who sits in his office making decisions and shaking hands. He’s been in the cafeteria eating lunch with students, sharing about Hesston with prospective students and their families, on the road meeting with alumni and donors, in the pulpit at churches across the country, in meetings with faculty and staff to determine how best to improve academics and the overall student experience. He even took opportunities with his love for theatre, performing monologues at campus events and appearing in the narrator role of Stage Manager in the fall 2014 production of Thornton Wilder’s Our Town.

“Whenever I see Howard walking on campus, he always takes the time to say hello,” said Zac Headings ’16 (Hutchinson, Kan.). “Whether it be a quick greeting in passing or a longer conversation about events on campus, he’s always friendly and shows he cares.”

Always, Keim has made the work of the college about the people of the college and its stakeholders, fulfilling the commission set forth by John Paul Lederach ’75 at his October 2005 inauguration to “Be vulnerable, be love and be humble.”

“Hesston students do really good work and I am most proud of them.”
– President Howard Keim –

As the first president to be both a Hesston graduate and former faculty member (Keim was director of the Pastoral Ministries program from 1987-96), it may be that he understands in a unique way the importance of relationships and collaboration within the college community.

“Hesston students do really good work and I am most proud of them,” said Keim. “They are campus leaders. They are strong performers. They support one another. And it’s all a product of our faculty and staff who encourage and nurture their gifts and abilities. Anything I can do to support them – make decisions and raise funds – is valuable to me.”

“I have always viewed myself as a steward, not an owner of the office of president, and it has been my goal to ensure students are well-served and the mission of the college was advanced and strengthened for the future,” Keim said following the announcement of his transition.
plans in October 2015.

When evaluating the college’s progress under his leadership, it is clear that desire has been well-fulfilled through teamwork. Over the last 11 years, thanks to the hard work of dedicated faculty and staff and the encouragement and trust of the administration, Hesston has made strides in many areas that affect the student experience.

In the academic realm, important changes were made to the general education curriculum and course transferability, as well as adding high-demand programs of study and extracurricular activities to meet student needs and workforce demands.

Likewise, the college began measuring, evaluating and improving course standards, academic challenge and faculty instruction as seen in Hesston’s outstanding results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and Individual Development and Education Assessment (IDEA) survey. In 2010, Hesston College was ranked the number 2 two-year college in the country by Washington Monthly magazine based on 2009 CCSSE data and showed markedly improved scores on the survey in 2012. Student satisfaction rates continue to climb as faculty respond to feedback in student learning.

On the business end, the college regained financial stability and increased the endowment. According to Board of Directors Chair Kelvin Friesen ’73, under Keim’s leadership, Hesston has always been in the upper zone on the Financial Responsibility Index as evaluated by the Federal Department of Education – a difficult task for a small college.

There has also been an increase in student diversity emphasized by a formal Inclusion and Diversity Council charged with evaluating the college’s inclusionary practices for students from all backgrounds. Physical changes to campus include the addition of one new building and a new campus entry, as well as renovations to four others to increase efficiency.
and better meet student needs.

It is evident that for Keim, the definition of president expanded to include encourager, supporter, fundraiser, brainstormer, listener, planner, teammate and friend.

“This has been the most intense work I’ve ever done, but it’s also been the most fulfilling,” said Keim. “Hesston College is a worthy place to invest oneself.”

Editor’s note: President Keim continues to finalize his future plans. He will serve as a part-time senior lecturer in business at Bluffton (Ohio) University for the 2016-17 year, teaching leadership-related courses in the MBA and Business Degree Completion programs. He also plans to continue working toward certification as a coach through the Kansas Leadership Center (Wichita).

Page 4: President Howard and Tami (Birky) 72 Keim in the newly renovated Northlawn Center for Performing Arts Education. Howard notes that much of Tami’s work as president’s wife was behind the scenes—hosting guests in their home, attending events, occasionally traveling with Howard and always being his biggest supporter. Tami has been director of Hesston’s Early Childhood Education program since 1987, and will continue in that role.

Top left: Howard speaks during Homecoming 2015.
Bottom left: Howard’s passion for theatre dates back to his own years as a Hesston College student and beyond. He returned to the stage in Fall 2014 in the narrator role of Stage Manager in the production of Thornton Wilder’s Our Town.

Center: Howard could often be found eating lunch with students in the cafeteria. Here he talks with Calvin Plank (Marion, Kan.), Jeremy Dolly (Port-au-Prince, Haiti) and Brandon Yutzy (Hutchinson, Kan.).

Top right: President Keim with his administrative council, Vice President of Advancement Tonya (Hunsberger) 94 Detweiler; Vice President of Student Development Rob Ramseyer; Keim; Vice President of Academics Brent Yoder 98; Vice President of Admissions and Financial Aid Rachel Swartzendruber 00 Miller; and Vice President of Finance and Auxiliary Services Mark Landes.

Bottom left: Keim takes in the awards ceremony for the final Howard Hustle Two-Mile Run/Walk at Thanksgiving 2015, an annual Thanksgiving Weekend tradition.
ANSWERING THE COMMUNITY’S CALL

ABBY MUSSER ’16

For many students, the Hesston College community is one that extends beyond campus borders. That is the case for seven students who work as volunteers with the City of Hesston Fire Department and Emergency Services. Despite unpredictable schedules, with calls coming in at all hours of the day and night, when each student made the decision to join they knew it would be valuable experience for their future careers. They had no idea their service would have such a profound effect on the community.

Then came the unthinkable events of February 25. That afternoon, about 5 p.m., an employee at nearby Excel Industries, went on a shooting rampage. Suddenly, the quiet community of Hesston became another number in a list of tragic mass shootings with four dead and 14 wounded.

First responders from Hesston and surrounding communities, including several of the student volunteers, were quickly at the scene. But why do students choose to volunteer with Fire and EMS Services when, with already busy academic and extracurricular schedules, there are less time-consuming options? The reasons are plentiful.

Some students volunteer because it corresponds with their major. “I wanted to take the EMS class to get a head start for the nursing program,” said Beth Schurz ’17 (Phillipsburg, Kan.), a junior in the four-year BSN program. “But I also love to help people and the medical field.”

Zach Stauffer ’17 (Belleville, Pa.), on the other hand, likes the high-intensity situation. “I wanted to become a firefighter because of the adrenaline rush it gives me and the feeling of satisfaction when a fire is out or a patient is being transported to a hospital quickly and efficiently,” Stauffer said.

The work of a first responder is not for the faint of heart, as the students are reminded with each call that comes in.

At the Excel scene, after law enforcement declared it safe, first responders quickly got to work tending to the victims. “As soon as I got out of the ambulance bystanders were telling me of multiple people who were shot and needing assistance”, said Schurz. “There were people everywhere.”

News reports stated an estimated 200 to 300 people at Excel at the time of the shooting.

For Stauffer, the scene was outside the scope of his fire training, but it didn’t deter him from doing his part. “I thought, ‘What do I do? I don’t have any training for this,’” said Stauffer. “I was instructed to follow someone around with the trauma kit. It was a lot of mass chaos with people running and helping wherever they could.”

“The most rewarding aspect of this service is the satisfaction of knowing someone’s life could be saved.”
— Zach Stauffer ’17 —

The event left the community, county and even state understandably shaken. The student first responders didn’t anticipate the magnitude of that specific call in quiet Hesston. Yet their training and a commitment to serve helped each one do what was needed.

In the wake of the shooting, many in the community are reminded of the sacrifice and dedication of first responders. “The most rewarding aspect of this service is the satisfaction of knowing someone’s life could be saved, even if it means going into a potentially dangerous situation,” said Stauffer. “It’s a risk and reward job.”

Students who serve with Hesston Fire and EMS are Beth Schurz ’17 (Phillipsburg, Kan.), Clay Axness ’17 (Glendale, Ariz.), Jared Widel ’16 (Peabody, Kan.), Lane Schrock ’16 (Parnell, Iowa), Isaiah Crosby ’16 (Ponca City, Okla.), Jonathan Gonzalez ’16 (Gothen, Ind.) and Zach Stauffer ’17 (Belleville, Pa.).
“Oh, wow, you play football?” the young woman asked Katie Sowers ’06, who was waiting to have her photo taken for this story in the locker room also being used by the girl’s high school basketball team that was warming up for upcoming tipoff. “I would love to play football!”

“You can!” Sowers encouraged. “How old are you?”

“15.”

“Three more years,” was Sowers’ reply. “Come try out for the Titans in three years. Maybe I’ll be throwing passes to you!”

More often than not, Sowers said, people look at her skeptically when she tells them she plays professional football. A lot of the time they think she means football as most of the world knows it – soccer – but she does, in fact, mean American tackle football – full pads, helmet, the whole nine yards – or ten, rather.

Sowers is the quarterback for the Kansas City Titans, one of 45 teams in the Women’s Football Alliance (WFA). In 2013 she played defensive back for the United States IFAF Women’s World Championship (WWC) team that brought home gold from Fin-
land. She was also selected for the WWC all-tournament team and was named MVP in the semifinal win over Germany after snagging five interceptions and returning three for touchdowns.

When she’s not suited up, Sowers spends time on the sideline as a coach, including positions with Kansas City-area junior high and youth teams, as offensive coordinator and general manager for her own Titans team and, most recently, as a member of Charlie Weis’ coaching staff at the East-West Shrine Game, the nation’s top college senior bowl for NFL hopefuls.

One demographic that doesn’t bat an eye when they find out what she does, however, is young girls. Many of them get excited that they, like Sowers, could help break down gender stereotypes surrounding the sport and be involved with football someday, too.

Her dedication and commitment to the sport isn’t to prove a point though; it’s just because she loves football.

“Football has been my favorite sport since I was a kid,” Sowers said. “After Grandma’s Sunday dinner, my sister and I would call all the boys we knew to come play football with us.”

Growing up in Hesston, however, she and her twin sister Liz Sowers ’06, like most girls, thought football was a boys’ sport so they stuck to playing basketball in high school and at Hesston College. A gifted natural athlete, Sowers continued playing basketball at Goshen (Ind.) College, as well as participating in track for two years and soccer for one. During the last couple of years of college, the sisters discovered professional women’s football and began playing for the West Michigan Mayhem in Kalamazoo – Liz as wide receiver to Katie’s quarterback, a pairing they continue for the Titans.

For now, all of her football commitments are held in balance to her job as athletic director for the Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation Department. WFA players are volunteers, so most of them also work other jobs.

Sowers notes that too many injuries are taking their toll, so her playing career likely won’t last long enough to throw

“Hesston College is one place where you encounter smiles and friendliness everywhere. The college’s kind, supportive atmosphere has really stuck with me, and it’s something I can bring to wherever I am.”

– Katie Sowers ’06 –
passes to the young lady she met in the locker room. So begins an ascent in the coaching world.

Her East Team coaching appointment in St. Petersburg, Fla., in January came about through a connection with Scott Pioli, former general manager for the Kansas City Chiefs and current assistant general manager for the Atlanta Falcons. The two became acquainted when Sowers coached Pioli’s daughter’s fifth-grade basketball team. Pioli is on the Bill Walsh NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Advisory Council, which gives talented minority coaches opportunities to gain experience and, ultimately, a full-time NFL coaching position.

“Scott asked Charlie Weis if he would be open to having a female assistant coach for the East-West game and he [Weis] was very receptive to it,” said Sowers. “Coaching with so many seasoned coaches and former players was great. I gained valuable insight from my colleagues, and I hope the players and coaches learned something from me, too. I think they did.”

Games like the East-West Shrine Game often foster a negative atmosphere, Sowers noted. Players with professional aspirations compete against one another to stand out for NFL scouts, making tensions run high. Sowers was not interested in the negativity.

“While I was down there, I was on the phone with my mom and I told her I was going to give these people the Hesston College Experience!” said Sowers with a laugh. “Hesston College is one place where you encounter smiles and friendliness everywhere. The college’s kind, supportive atmosphere has really stuck with me, and it’s something I can bring to wherever I am.”

One unexpected and affirming moment came during the game, too. The young Shriner’s Hospital patient who performed the national anthem was asked if she would like to meet any of the coaches or players. She only wanted Sowers’ autograph.

Sowers considers it an honor and great responsibility to be that kind of role model for girls, but she hopes women in professional football also stop becoming newsworthy.

“I hope that someday when a woman is hired to a professional football role that it’s not a headline,” said Sowers. “I want to be a full-time coach or executive in the game, but I want it to be because of my knowledge and qualifications.”
ALUMNA PROFILE

GO EVERYWHERE

ALUMNA

Alicia (Hertzler) ’07 Hurst
Lancaster, Pa.

MAJOR: Disaster Management
CAREER: Volunteer placement coordinator for Mennonite Disaster Service

ONE OF THE FIRST

I was part of the first class to graduate from Hesston College’s Disaster Management Program (DMP), and I was the first woman to graduate from the program. Before choosing Hesston, I didn’t know what I wanted to do after high school. I weighed the idea of taking a year off to do service, but I knew that I wanted to get a college degree at some point. DMP rolls a little bit of both things into one—you are taking classes but you are also spending time doing service. That was a huge relief for me and my decision-making. So there I was at Hesston taking classes on construction and hurricanes and mitigation. I’m not sure how all of that happened, but I know God was involved, and I’m thankful it did happen because it’s shaped who and where I am.

After graduating from Hesston, I went to Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.) for two years to complete a bachelor’s degree in social work. After that, I worked for three years at Everence Financial as a teller in the credit union and also as a financial advisor. During that time, I was asked to be on the Board of Delegates for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), which reconnected me with the agency. In March 2014, I started working at MDS as the volunteer placement coordinator. I work with people who are going out on job sites and getting their hands dirty doing the actual work of helping people after everything has been taken away from them.

BE GREATER THROUGH EMPATHY

Most of the jobs I have worked in the past several years have been very people-focused and through that, I am constantly learning more about what makes people tick. The more we hear one another’s stories, the more we can relate to and understand each other. I hope the more I can put context to people’s words and actions, the more empathetic and sympathetic I can be in relating to others.

From an MDS side of things, weather patterns and how we respond to disasters in the U.S. and Canada are constantly changing. MDS has responded to many more disasters in recent years, which means that we are always looking for people who can help lead the volunteers who come to work on the projects. DMP gives students an incredible background in responding to so many types of natural disasters and they also spend several weeks working on MDS projects, which sets them up to be amazing leaders at these projects! We need young adults to bring new energy and new ideas to our projects and Hesston DMP students are a great source for that.
It has opened me up to perspectives of peace, community and love. I have never been in a culture or community that lives out that peace and love like the community of Hesston does. Before, yeah, I was passionate about love and community, but experiencing it here has changed me because it’s different when you see people who are willing to live it out completely.

For example, when I came back from first responding to the Excel shooting, my friends Micah and Hayden were waiting at my door ready to give me a hug. Kyndell sat up all night long with me to talk about it and Jonathan took me out to Wal-Mart to clear my mind. Why? Because they cared. They saw that I had just experienced something life changing and they wanted me to know that they were there for me. Coming to Hesston has connected me with those kinds of friends, the type of people who embody what a true friend can be, that’s what has stuck with me. The people here show true love.

SERIOUS ABOUT LOVE

I wish people understood how serious I am about the depth of love and authenticity. They are principles that I try to share and show. The world that we live in has the definition of love so backwards that we can’t even begin to process something as complex as authenticity. You first have to know God and know His love in order to even have something be authentic about. Love is a powerful thing, and it’s more than what social media depicts. Love is patient, love is dedication, it’s kindness and the sacrifice to obey God even when we don’t feel like it.
Dear friends and brothers and sisters in Christ,

As presidents of the schools to whom many of you have entrusted the formation of future leaders for our church’s witness in the world we want to say with full hearts, that we hear you:

- We hear your longing for our schools to keep faith with the deepest wisdom of our Scriptural and Anabaptist heritage.
- We hear your heartfelt desire that everything we do and teach be rooted deeply in faith and spring out of love for God and neighbor.
- We hear your urgent calls, amid the escalating anguish, polarization, bigotry, violence, and fear mongering of our current world, for us to form leaders with the professional competence and spiritual maturity needed to be courageous, shining ambassadors of the good news of Jesus Christ for all nations.

We speak from the heart to declare as a group and with no hesitation that our loyalty to the global Christian Anabaptist witness in the world runs deep and true. The disagreement stirred up recently by the actions of several of our schools does not diminish what has been and continues to be our preeminent calling: To form graduates who are rooted and grounded in the love of God, truly Christ-like in character, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, expansively global in their outlook.
We readily paraphrase the words of the Apostle John to his spiritual children: “We have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children [the children you have entrusted to us] are walking in the truth” (3 John 1:4).

Any one of us will gladly show you the overwhelmingly persuasive data that details the transformative work our graduates have done and are doing on behalf of the world-wide church and global Anabaptist witness. Over and over again, church and communities around the world have been renewed by the leadership of idealistic, compassionate, visionary, service-oriented, justice seeking, Jesus-loving young adults who were formed in one of our schools.

Each of us, along with many of you, was cheered by the global assembly of some 8,000 Anabaptists at the Mennonite World Conference this summer in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. That assembly inspired in us an extraordinary hope for the church. Many of those in leadership of the assembly, by the way, were graduates of one or more of our Mennonite Anabaptist colleges, universities or seminaries. We came away from that gathering of Anabaptists grateful for the eloquent, straightforward list of seven Shared Convictions of Global Anabaptists. Those shared convictions simply, yet profoundly affirm what unifies us in the midst of our vast cultural, linguistic, ethnic, theological and denominational diversity. The generous spirit of worship and unity we experienced there was a foretaste of an even greater unity in the Spirit that Christ himself longed for in his final prayers.

It is in that generous spirit of worship and unity around shared convictions that we, as a group of presidents, reaffirm our shared resolve to do all within our power to align our schools with these shared convictions—in unity with the global Anabaptist community.

By the grace of God, we seek to live and proclaim the good news of reconciliation in Jesus Christ. As part of the one body of Christ at all times and places, we hold the following to be central to our belief and practice:

1. **God is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Creator who seeks to restore fallen humanity by calling a people to be faithful in fellowship, worship, service and witness.**

2. **Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, his cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world, and offers eternal life.**

3. **As a church, we are a community of those whom God’s Spirit calls to turn from sin, acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, receive baptism upon confession of faith and follow Christ in life.**

4. **As a faith community, we accept the Bible as our authority for faith and life, interpreting it together under Holy Spirit guidance, in the light of Jesus Christ to discern God’s will for our obedience.**

5. **The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice and share our possessions with those in need.**

6. **We gather regularly to worship, to celebrate the Lord’s Supper and to hear the Word of God in a spirit of mutual accountability.**

7. **As a world-wide community of faith and life we transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender and language. We seek to live in the world without conforming to the powers of evil, witnessing to God’s grace by serving others, caring for creation and inviting all people to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

In these convictions we draw inspiration from Anabaptist forebears of the 16th century, who modeled radical discipleship to Jesus Christ. We seek to walk in his name by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we confidently await Christ’s return and the final fulfillment of God’s kingdom.

As presidents, we humbly confess our imperfections, both personal and institutional. In a world desperate for the good news of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, we recommit to doing what we can to form communities of learning that will be in the vanguard of a spiritual awakening for Mennonite Church USA and beyond.

James E. Brenneman, Goshen College President
James M. Harder, Bluffton University President
Howard Keim, Hesston College President
Sara Wenger Shenk, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary President
Loren Swartzendruber, Eastern Mennonite University President
Perry D. White, Bethel College President
WHAT ARE YOU GREATER THAN?
compiled by EMILY KAUFFMAN ’16

Students reflect on how their Hesston Experience is helping them be greater.

STEREOTYPES
In my time at Hesston College, I have realized that I am greater than a stereotype. Baseball players are often perceived negatively. I have strived to be greater than that view, but also not live with a chip on my shoulder. Being a Lark has taught me to find ways to show every side of myself and to grow as a person.

Bryce Elder ’16 (Ottawa, Kan.)

FAILURE
Most of my childhood and part of my adult life I didn’t take any risks. I was afraid of failure, of being ridiculed and of what others might say about me. Three years ago, sitting at church, I heard the song, “Lord you have come to the seashore, searching neither rich nor wise, desiring only that I should follow, with your eyes set upon me, gently smiling, you have spoken my name.” He wasn’t looking for courageous or un-afraid people, but just those willing to follow. I took the leap of faith and became a college student at the age of 60. It has been unbelievable. Every action I have taken in the last three years has required a risk. Sure I have been scared, but I know He that called my name!

Graciela Tijerina ’16 (Brownsville, Texas)
FEAR
I am greater than having fear stop me from taking on opportunities. At Hesston, I have had the opportunity to be part of the women’s basketball team. Before coming to Hesston, I had not played basketball for four years and I was afraid I wouldn’t be good enough. Being on the team with people who come from a different culture and speak a different language has made me more outgoing and confident in my English abilities.

Yui Soshizaki ’16 (Kanagawa-ken, Japan)

OPINIONS
I am greater than having fear stop me from taking on opportunities. At Hesston, I have had the opportunity to be part of the women’s basketball team. Before coming to Hesston, I had not played basketball for four years and I was afraid I wouldn’t be good enough. Being on the team with people who come from a different culture and speak a different language has made me more outgoing and confident in my English abilities.

Yui Soshizaki ’16 (Kanagawa-ken, Japan)

GRADES
In my time here, I have realized I am greater than my grades. It is very easy for me to put my self-worth into my academics instead of as a child of God. Being at Hesston has helped me realize what it means to have my life dedicated to God and to having eternal worth.

Micah Raber ’16 (Millersburg, Ohio)

OPINIONS
I am greater than having fear stop me from taking on opportunities. At Hesston, I have had the opportunity to be part of the women’s basketball team. Before coming to Hesston, I had not played basketball for four years and I was afraid I wouldn’t be good enough. Being on the team with people who come from a different culture and speak a different language has made me more outgoing and confident in my English abilities.

Alice Maldonado ’16 (Fort Myers, Fla.)
LABELS
While I have been at Hesston College I have realized that I am greater than labeling. Hesston is full of different kinds of people who have different stories. Hesston has given me the opportunity to interact with people and hear their stories. It has opened my eyes to the wonderful people that are around me. I have realized that stories and people at Hesston occur outside of Hesston as well, and this has changed how I see people of the world.

Nick McCoy ’16 (Lee’s Summit, Mo.)

RESISTING CHANGE
Hesston College has made me greater than resisting change. Making the decision to attend Hesston was the biggest change in my life. I was born and raised in Orange County, California, where I was accustomed to large populations, tons of activities and sitting for hours in hectic traffic. Learning to adapt to a small-town was difficult. At first, I thought the only entertainment I would find was going to the gym for hours. Throughout my two years here, I have learned to embrace the change. I can go for a run through town and feel safe or have fun spending time with my roommate even if we’re just hanging out in our room. I appreciate the small-town life much more than I could have ever imagined.

Daisy Correa ’16 (Moreno Valley, Calif.)

GREED
While I have been at Hesston College I have truly realized that I am greater than greed. In my life I have been known to be a person that has been too greedy or too possessive of my belongings, but Hesston has opened my eyes to more than just possessions in life. I have realized that I shouldn’t be too concerned with what I own but more my attitude towards others and how I treat people.

Keegan LeFevre ’16 (Woodland Park, Colo.)
Integrating thought, life and faith for service in the church and the world is part of our mission statement and important to all we do at Hesston College. One of our college outcomes is “Persons who understand Faith through an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective.” There are many activities and practices in this Christ-centered community that contribute to this integration, and particularly to the development of faith. Last fall, we set about developing a philosophy statement that would honestly reflect how we go about encouraging faith formation at Hesston College. This effort was led by the Hesston Experience Team and draft statements were tested and revised with the benefit of faculty and staff, our Bible Department, pastors and alumni. It has been reviewed and is being used by faculty and Student Development personnel. The statement that is offered here is both reflective of what we do and aspirational in what we hope to do more fully. It helps us to explain ourselves as well as hold ourselves to a standard. It will serve as a working document, guiding our efforts in the coming years.

Dr. Howard Keim, President

Students, faculty and staff at Hesston College are in the process of becoming the person God created them to be, a person made and growing in God’s image. We believe a person is most able to grow when they have a sense of belonging.

Hesston College educates and nurtures students in Christ-centered community marked by radical, loving acceptance with an invitation for each member to grow, change and be formed in the image of Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Christ-centered community practices obedience to Jesus, the full revelation of God, in all of life. As Christ works through this obedience, members of the community are transformed in Jesus’ image. A transformed community makes known the Kingdom of God on earth as in heaven. We fulfill this mission in everything we do. We meet students where they are, encourage their curiosity with and growth in Christ and introduce them to the core beliefs of following Jesus through an Anabaptist-Mennonite perspective:

JESUS IS THE CENTER OF OUR FAITH
When empowered by the Holy Spirit, we accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, interpret the Bible from a Christ-centered point of view and follow Jesus in daily life.

COMMUNITY IS THE CENTER OF OUR LIFE
When empowered by the Holy Spirit, we practice encouragement and forgiveness. We learn from each other and interpret scripture together.

RECONCILIATION IS THE CENTER OF OUR WORK
When empowered by the Holy Spirit, we help people make peace with God and each other and serve as God’s ambassadors of reconciliation in the world, making visible God’s Kingdom.

We introduce all students to an Anabaptist-Mennonite way of knowing and following Jesus while we respect all students’ backgrounds and encourage faithfulness to God regardless of the faith tradition from which each comes. We invite each student to experience Christ-centered community, to explore the question “is Jesus Christ who he says he is?” and to consider the role of forgiveness and reconciliation in one’s own life and in the life of one’s family and community.

— Dr. Howard Keim, President
The Hesston College Presidential Search Committee met on campus Jan. 15 and 16, to work through the process of determining the best candidate for the college’s next president. President Howard Keim ’72 announced his resignation in October to be effective June 30, after 11 and a half years of service.

The search committee facilitated listening sessions where students, faculty and staff were able to share their experiences as part of the community and their thoughts on the future of Hesston College. Involving students and hearing about their experience is an effective way for the committee to understand the campus climate and what is important to students both on campus and as they make their decision to start here.

“Students were involved in the past searches, and their voices helped make good decisions,” said Ken G Kabira ’81, Presidential Search Committee chair and Hesston College Board of Directors member. “I believe current students can make a difference for future students by helping this committee.”

Faculty and staff discussed in small groups before sharing their ideas with the larger group. Looking to the future of Hesston College, some common themes that emerged for the next president were an understanding of Hesston College’s unique strengths as a two-year private college and a creative spirit to help the college thrive, passion for the college’s mission and values as well as those of the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith, experience in higher education and an ability to help navigate the current denominational and social climate with compassion and grace.

The committee also met with civic leaders as well as church and Mennonite Church USA conference leaders from the area and solicited views on Hesston College’s priorities as well as advice regarding the search.

The committee met March 18 and 19, in Chicago to continue their work, including assembling a profile of the ideal candidate. More information about the search can be found at hesston.edu/presidential-search.

The 12-person committee is made up of Hesston College Board of Directors members, MEA board members, Hesston College faculty and staff and church and educational leaders.
What does it look like to live out our faith? That was the question explored by more than 300 registrants from 17 states at the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) weekend Feb. 19 to 21.


Claiborne shared stories of his experiences working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, travelling to Iraq with Christian Peacemakers Teams and the restoration of life in his own community in Philadelphia. Claiborne called participants to “digest Jesus into us” and to let his love “ooze through our veins” so that “His love would become our love.”

Participants were invited to be attentive to the ways God is at work already in their hometowns and the ways they can be the hands and feet of Jesus to their neighbors.

Claiborne prayed, “God we do pray that you would give us a fearless love in a fearful world. Help us to love in a way that wears evil down. Give us the holy courage, Jesus, that you had as you faced the cross and as you faced Herod. Also give us your grace, your love and your mercy that sees even in our most bitter opponent, a child of God that is not beyond redemption.”

Separate tracks were offered on Saturday afternoon for congregational life, headlined by Claiborne, and youth ministry, with speaker Nes Espinosa. Espinosa serves as the executive director of Timoteo Football Philadelphia, which supports communities by empowering men to mentor youth through athletics and spiritual formation, and attends Oxford Circle Mennonite Church. He shared both about the brokenness of his home community that has been labeled the “Badlands of Philadelphia,” but also the work that God has done and is doing in his community.

“I appreciated hearing many different questions and points of view presented, but realizing that everyone shared the common goal of bringing Christ’s love, healing and redemption to places and situations where pain and brokenness have occurred,” said conference participant Mary Bender ’15 (Harrisonburg, Va.), a junior at Bluffton (Ohio) University. “Listening to Shane’s stories and message also made me remember how both beautifully simple and involved following Christ is; He invites us into his love, but it requires one’s whole life, every aspect. Seeing this group of people come together to find deeper understanding gave a snapshot of the wider church and hope for healing in the world.”
As part of a sophomore education practicum requiring an on-site experience in a school or organization, a group of Hesston College students are gaining practical experience working with younger students as part of a free tutoring program they established at the Hesston Public Library. Caroline Riggenbach ’16 (Lafayette, Ind.) organized the program and also oversees and assists four other Hesston College students in tutoring elementary and middle school students at the weekly drop-in program.

“I have always had a passion for working with the community, families and students, so doing my practicum at the Hesston Public Library seemed like the perfect fit,” said Riggenbach.

Riggenbach and the other tutors have the opportunity to build relationships with their students’ families, and have learned to view each new day as an opportunity.

“I do a lot of talking with parents to see how things are going and what seems to be working, and what areas need improvement,” she said. “They are teaching me the joys of academic discovery, which encourages me as I get to see their little light bulb moments every day.”

In the future, Riggenbach plans to be an elementary school teacher in an inner-city public school.

“This has been such a fantastic opportunity as it has allowed me to develop skills I will need to utilize as a teacher,” said Riggenbach. “I am learning how to set goals with my students, adapt to very different learning styles, reinforce rigor and high expectations and encourage my students and their families by reminding them of the great progress they are making. I am so blessed to be a part of such a great opportunity, and I am forever blessed by the smart and silly students and their loving families that make after school tutoring possible.”

Caroline Riggenbach tutors a student in the tutoring program she started.
STUDENTS WORK ON-CAMPUS INTERNSHIPS

A group of Hesston College students honed their professional skills as interns with the college’s Marketing and Communications team during the spring semester. The internship is an opportunity for students to expand their skills and creativity and build their professional portfolios as freshmen and sophomores—a step in the process that many students don’t start until their junior and senior years. The interns for the spring 2016 semester, chosen through a competitive application and interview process, are Tori Byler ’17, Belleville, Pa., photography; Christy Kauffman ’17, West Liberty, Ohio, graphic design; Abby Musser ’16, Newport News, Va., news and features writing; Karli Rodriguez ’16, Denver, Colo., graphic design; and Caleb Schrock-Hurst ’16, Harrisonburg, Va., sports information.

SPRING BREAK TRIPS

Hesston College students, faculty and staff dispersed across North America during spring break March 5 to 13. A group of 10 students and four faculty/staff leaders spent the week in Mexico constructing a house through the community development organization 1Mission, which gives people in poverty the opportunity to earn a house by serving their community. Faculty member John Sharp ’73, Tony Brown ’69 and alumni Bruce ’72 and Joy (Lichti) ’72 Rogers led a group of students and friends of the college to the Deep South on a Civil Rights Seminar to learn more about the 1960s civil rights movement. The 23-member Bel Canto Singers performed at 13 stops throughout Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa.

RN TO BSN PROGRAM SET TO LAUNCH JANUARY 2017

Hesston College Nursing will add a RN to BSN program to the list of offerings beginning January 2017. The program will be offered via a hybrid delivery system where one-third of each course will be offered in the classroom and the remaining two-thirds will be online. RN to BSN students will also be given a discounted credit hour price on tuition for the program. Priority selection will be given to applicants with all admission material submitted by Oct. 1. For more information about the RN to BSN program, go to hesston.edu/nursing.
ATHLETICS NEWS UPDATES

GOLF ADDED AS VARSITY SPORT

Hesston College athletics has added men’s golf to the list of varsity sports, with competition to open with the 2016-17 academic year. Chris Frantz was hired as head coach. “We’re very excited about the addition of the golf program,” said Rob Ramseyer, athletic director. “We are confident the program will attract high-quality student-athletes who are a great fit for campus. Frantz, a Tabor College (Hillsboro, Kan.) graduate and four-year collegiate varsity golfer, developed the boys’ golf program at Sunrise Christian Academy (Wichita, Kan.) before coming to Hesston. “I’m excited to be at the forefront of a new athletic program,” Frantz said. “My goal is to help further the mission of Hesston College, and to impact student-athletes both on and off the course.”

ALUMNA ASSUMES VOLLEYBALL COACHING POSITION

DeeDee (Martin) ’02 Landes has been named head coach of the Larks volleyball program. She succeeds Jessica Cleveland ’06 at the helm of a program coming off back-to-back 21-win seasons. Landes, a two-sport athlete in volleyball and basketball during her time at Hesston, was a NJCAA All-American student-athlete. She has served the Larks program for the past three years as an assistant. “I’m so excited to be taking on this new venture,” Landes said. “I love the sport and look forward to building relationships and winning games.”

MEN’S SOCCER WELCOMES NEW COACH

Hesston College and the Larks men’s soccer program welcomed Matt Gerlach as head coach. Gerlach succeeds Michael Armstrong ’05, who served as head coach for the past two seasons and who led the program in the 2015 season to its most season wins in 11 years. “Joining the coaching staff at Hesston College is a really exciting opportunity for me,” said Gerlach. “The college’s mission to ‘educate and nurture each student within Christ-centered community’ really speaks to why I have been coaching over the last nine years and my heart for student-athletes. At Hesston, I will be allowed to invest in the lives of young people who are willing and excited about making a positive change in the world for Christ – we will just happen to be playing soccer, too.”
LARK BASKETBALL WRAPS UP SEASON

The women’s and men’s basketball teams ended their 2015-16 season early in regional play. The women knocked off Fort Scott (Kan.) CC in the first round of regionals after dropping two regular season games to the Greyhounds. They lost in the second round to national top-ranked Johnson County CC (Overland Park, Kan.) and ended the season with a 13-17 record. After several exciting regular season wins and a 6-6 Region VI record, the men lost the regional opener to Brown Mackie College (Salina) and ended the season with an 18-12 record.

SPRING SPORTS UNDERWAY

Spring sports are in full swing with six Lark squads in season. The baseball team, under the guidance of first-year coach Kyle Howell, has a freshman-heavy roster but is relying on sophomore leadership to find success. “I’m really excited about this group,” Howell said. “Offensively, I’ve been impressed with how far we’ve come since our guys arrived in August. We’re deep on the mound, and with the additions of a few mid-year transfers, we are confident in our staff. This group really loves to compete and we can’t wait to watch them fit the field.”

The softball team and coach Andrew Sharp ’99 are optimistic for a rebound after a disappointing 2015 season. “I thought we were better than our record indicated last year,” Sharp said. “I’m confident this group can rebound and play better softball.” Hesston’s 45-game schedule features six games against teams ranked in the preseason top 15 national poll and 35 games with NJCAA opponents. “We’ve put together a challenging schedule and I expect our group to compete well,” Sharp said. “We have good depth at several positions.”

Coming off a program-first trip to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in spring 2015, the men’s tennis team is competing well early in the 2016 campaign. With four returners from last year’s nationals team, the nine-man team, under the leadership of coach Myron Diener ’78, opened the season with a 9-0 win over Central Christian College (McPherson, Kan.).

After a slow start and disappointing season in 2015, the women’s tennis team opened the new season with a 8-1 win over Central Christian College. With only two returners, the team looked to new first-year talent throughout the season.
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**1940-49**

Myrtle (Schweitzer) '41
Miller, La Junta, Colo., was honored at the Colorado Commission on Aging Centennial Celebration at Otero Junior College (La Junta) in summer 2015. Born in Protection, Kansas, in 1915, Myrtle worked as a registered nurse in La Junta until her retirement in June 1983. One of her favorite hobbies is quilting and she has made many baby quilts for the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale.

Albert H. Epp Ac49, '51,

Viola (Diener) Ac49, '52
Stahl, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 30, 2015

Frances (Mumaw) Ac49
Troyer, wife of Weldon Troyer Ac50, '51, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 2, 2015

**1950-59**

DEATHS

Lois (Nitzsche) Ac50

Robert Swartzendruber Ac50

Robert Schrag Ac52,

Wayne Roth Ac53,
husband of Miriam (Shetler) Ac57
Roth, Longmont, Colo., Nov. 28, 2015

John J. Byler '54,
South Bend, Ind., Nov. 3, 2015

Phil Headings '55,
husband of Estella (Yutzy) Ac53,
Headings, South Hutchinson, Kan., Jan. 15, 2016

Wilbur Wallace, husband of Catherine (Friesen) '55

**1960-1969**

Dwight King Ac60, '62,
DeKalb, Ill., passed away in September, after a full life as a distinguished teacher, mentor and researcher in the political science field. King held degrees from Hesston College, Goshen (Ind.) College, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.), Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md.) and the University of Chicago where he received a Ph.D. in political science after three years of field research in Indonesia. He held professorships at Connecticut College (New London) and Northern Illinois University (DeKalb) where he served as Director of Graduate Studies in Political Science and Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. King was internationally known in academic and governmental arenas as a scholar and expert on Indonesia. He taught at prestigious universities in the country and was a strong advocate of studying abroad. When he became ill with Lewy Body disease, the Indonesian Ambassador visited him at his Illinois care home and awarded him with Indonesia's highest honors. King's expertise put him in advisory positions, including senior advisor to former President Jimmy Carter who monitored national elections in Indonesia, advisor to Mennonite Central Committee, Ford Foundation World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Indonesian government.

James Landis '67,
Platte City, Mo., retired from a career in information technology for a major airline and moved from his home in Ephrata, Pa., to a small farm in Missouri.

**DEATHS**

Dwight King Ac60, '62,
Dekalb, Ill., Sept. 10, 2015

Edwin Klenz, husband of Edna
(Troyer) '61
Klenz, Vermilion, Ohio, Nov. 10, 2014

Jim Brenneman '63,
Denver, Colo., Nov. 19, 2015

Lawrence Selzer '69,
Coldwater, Kan., Dec. 9, 2015

**1970-79**

Steve Ramer '72,
Napane, Ind., authored a book entitled *Travels with STAND*, the true story of five college students who embarked on a seven-month journey following their graduation from Hesston College. The book takes readers on a sometimes wild and adventurous journey through South America and the struggles the friends encountered, including trying to keep their van running, navigating almost impassable roads, dealing with sometimes difficult government officials and learning to live together as a community while being completely isolated from friends, family or social support.

Zenebe Abebe '74,
Indianapolis, Ind., announced his retirement as executive director for Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes (Goshen, Ind.) effective July 31, 2016. This will mark five years for Abebe serving in this role.

Ruth Rutschman '74-Holliday,
Andover, Kan., co-owns the bike store Bicycle Pedaler (Wichita, Kan.). For 26 years, during the Christmas holiday season, the store collects unused bikes from the community and repairs them to be distributed through the Toys for Tots program.

Barth Hague '76,
Newton, Kan., assumed the President/CEO position of Mirror, Inc., a not-for-profit private corporation providing substance abuse, correctional and other community health and human services to people in need. He also serves as city commissioner and vice mayor of Newton, positions he was elected to in the April 2015 general elections.

**1940-49**

Myrtle (Schweitzer) '41
Miller, La Junta, Colo., was honored at the Colorado Commission on Aging Centennial Celebration at Otero Junior College (La Junta) in summer 2015. Born in Protection, Kansas, in 1915, Myrtle worked as a registered nurse in La Junta until her retirement in June 1983. One of her favorite hobbies is quilting and she has made many baby quilts for the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Relief Sale.

Albert H. Epp Ac49, '51,

**DEATHS**

Loretta (Garber) Ac41
Hertle, Mountain Lake, Minn., Dec. 6, 2015

Glen Yoder '42,
Columbus, Ohio, March 28, 2015

Wayne Miller Ac45,
Shipshewana, Ind., Oct. 27, 2015

Joyce (Cooprider) Ac46
Cook, Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 8, 2015

Orville Rutschman Ac47, '49,

Shirley (Miller) Ac49, '51
Bohn, Manson, Iowa, March 23, 2015

Doris Regier, wife of
Lawrence Regier Ac49,
Palm City, Fla., Feb. 10, 2015

Viola (Diener) Ac49, '52
Stahl, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 30, 2015

Frances (Mumaw) Ac49
Troyer, wife of Weldon Troyer Ac50, '51, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 2, 2015

**DEATHS**

Lois (Nitzsche) Ac50

Robert Swartzendruber Ac50

Robert Schrag Ac52,

Wayne Roth Ac53,
husband of Miriam (Shetler) Ac57
Roth, Longmont, Colo., Nov. 28, 2015

John J. Byler '54,
South Bend, Ind., Nov. 3, 2015

Phil Headings '55,
husband of Estella (Yutzy) Ac53,
Headings, South Hutchinson, Kan., Jan. 15, 2016

Wilbur Wallace, husband of Catherine (Friesen) '55

**1960-1969**

Dwight King Ac60, '62,
DeKalb, Ill., passed away in September, after a full life as a distinguished teacher, mentor and researcher in the political science field. King held degrees from Hesston College, Goshen (Ind.) College, Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.), Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md.) and the University of Chicago where he received a Ph.D. in political science after three years of field research in Indonesia. He held professorships at Connecticut College (New London) and Northern Illinois University (DeKalb) where he served as Director of Graduate Studies in Political Science and Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. King was internationally known in academic and governmental arenas as a scholar and expert on Indonesia. He taught at prestigious universities in the country and was a strong advocate of studying abroad. When he became ill with Lewy Body disease, the Indonesian Ambassador visited him at his Illinois care home and awarded him with Indonesia’s highest honors. King’s expertise put him in advisory positions, including senior advisor to former President Jimmy Carter who monitored national elections in Indonesia, advisor to Mennonite Central Committee, Ford Foundation World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Indonesian government.

James Landis '67,
Platte City, Mo., retired from a career in information technology for a major airline and moved from his home in Ephrata, Pa., to a small farm in Missouri.

**DEATHS**

Dwight King Ac60, '62,
Dekalb, Ill., Sept. 10, 2015

Edwin Klenz, husband of Edna
(Troyer) '61
Klenz, Vermilion, Ohio, Nov. 10, 2014

Jim Brenneman '63,
Denver, Colo., Nov. 19, 2015

Lawrence Selzer '69,
Coldwater, Kan., Dec. 9, 2015

Steve Ramer '72,
Napane, Ind., authored a book entitled *Travels with STAND*, the true story of five college students who embarked on a seven-month journey following their graduation from Hesston College. The book takes readers on a sometimes wild and adventurous journey through South America and the struggles the friends encountered, including trying to keep their van running, navigating almost impassable roads, dealing with sometimes difficult government officials and learning to live together as a community while being completely isolated from friends, family or social support.

Zenebe Abebe '74,
Indianapolis, Ind., announced his retirement as executive director for Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes (Goshen, Ind.) effective July 31, 2016. This will mark five years for Abebe serving in this role.

Ruth Rutschman '74-Holliday,
Andover, Kan., co-owns the bike store Bicycle Pedaler (Wichita, Kan.). For 26 years, during the Christmas holiday season, the store collects unused bikes from the community and repairs them to be distributed through the Toys for Tots program.

Barth Hague '76,
Newton, Kan., assumed the President/CEO position of Mirror, Inc., a not-for-profit private corporation providing substance abuse, correctional and other community health and human services to people in need. He also serves as city commissioner and vice mayor of Newton, positions he was elected to in the April 2015 general elections.
Carolyn (Peachey) ’79 Rudy, Manheim, Pa., was promoted to Nursing Consultant Coordinator for Friendship Community in Lititz, Pa., a Christian agency providing residential services to adults with intellectual disabilities.

DEATHS
Gladys (Grabler) ’77 Beyler, Goshen, Ind., Oct. 24, 2015

1980-89
Marcia (Brock) ’81 Myers, Fairview, Tenn., is in her 33rd year of professional nursing service.

Risa (Eicher) ’86 DeMasi, Salem, Ore., was named chairman of the American Seed Trade Association in June 2015, and is the first woman to serve in this role in the organization’s 130-year history. Risa is the co-founder, partner and director of marketing for Grassland Seed. Risa and her husband, Isaac Shue ’07, are the founder, partner and director of development and student and family ministries. They have three young children, Juliana, Kai and Aslan.

MARRIAGES

BIRTHS
Anthony ’98 and Ivy (Howland) ’98 Thoman, West Liberty, Ohio: Leah Nicole, March 24, 2015

Christina (Gingerich) ’99 and Phil Castrofilippo, Gloucester, Great Britain: Elsie Jane, Oct. 8, 2015

Lisa (Yoder) ’99 and Mark George, Hesston, Kan.: Lucy Ann, Dec. 6, 2015

DEATHS
Danny Begaye ’94, husband of Lilian Begaye ’95, Chinle, Ariz., Nov. 26, 2015

2000-09
Joel ’00 and Leslie (Giesen) ’06 Gerber, Harper, Kan., started a U-pick berry farm, Sweet Berries & Brambles, in 2014, with more than an acre of strawberries and almost 500 thorn-less blackberry plants. In the summer, they host an art festival, Stawberries and Art, in conjunction with local artist Isaac Shue ’07.

Kris White ’00, former staff, Hesston, Kan., began as Fund Advancement Associate for Kidron Bethel Village (North Newton, Kan.) retirement community. He is responsible for raising funds for the Health Care Benevolent Fund, which provides financial assistance to residents who are unable to cover the cost of their care.

Mona Clark ’01, Newton, Kan., was promoted to Director of Nursing at Prairie View, a mental health center in Newton.

Natasha Diener ’05, Indianapolis, Ind., was named Teacher of the Year at Westlake Elementary School, where she teaches kindergarten.

Micah Loucks ’06, Detroit, Mich., an innovation counselor for Michigan State University (East Lansing), was named the 2015 Innovation Counselor of the Year at the annual Extension Awards Banquet. In 2015, he worked with more than 200 entrepreneurs in start-up and existing businesses.

Rylan Miller ’06, Harper, Kan., Ag Sales Manager at Harper Industries, Inc., was recognized by Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) as one of the 20 under 35 for 2015. The award was established in 2014 to recognize young professionals who exemplify MEDA values of faith, service and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Nathan Gilsleider ’07, Claremore, Okla., is one of 23 athletes on the 2015-16 United States Bobsled National Team roster, and one of six rookies to earn a spot on the men’s team. The team plays an important role in preparation for the next winter Olympics, and as they begin competing for spots to represent the U.S. in 2018 in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Matt Ropp ’07, Harrisonburg, Va., began a role in February as Executive Director at Amigo Centre, a retreat and recreation center for members of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference congregations in Sturgis, Mich.

Regina Wenger ’07, Archbold, Ohio, graduated from Duke Divinity School (Durham, N.C.) in May 2015 with a master of divinity with a concentration in Christian education. In November 2015 she joined the pastoral team at Central Mennonite Church (Archbold), and was licensed and installed as pastor in January.

Peter Wintermote ’09, North Newton, Kan., is a social worker at Bethesda Nursing Home, Goessel, Kan., and his wife Jennie (Warkentine) ’09 is the supply pastor at New Creation Fellowship Church, Newton.

MARRIAGES
Janine Coblentz ’02, former staff and Mike McDowell, Copley, Ohio, Nov. 1, 2015

Jordan Brunk ’06 and Alisha Kreig, Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 10, 2015

Kris Miller ’08 and Jenny Friesen, Wichita, Kan., Nov. 7, 2015

Travis Ebersole ’09 and Sierra Lifsey, Sarasota, Fla., Dec. 19, 2015

BIRTHS
Rose Friesen ’00 and Pedro Sanchez Jarquin, Lazeró Cardenas, Baja California, Mexico: Lyla Isabella Sanchez Friesen, Jan. 5, 2015


Melinda (Martin) ’01 and Brent Eisenberger, Pequea, Pa.: Evan Gareth, Sept. 10, 2015
Aaron ’02 and Janice Yoder, Morton, Ill.: twins, Abram Stephen and Luke Vincent, Jan. 21, 2015
Zac ’03 and Amber Harder, Minneapolis, Minn.: twins, Abram Stephen and Luke Vincent, Jan. 21, 2015
Brian ’03 and Jenna (Kratzer) ’04 Kempf, Apple Creek, Ohio: Madalyn Elise, Dec. 12, 2015
Derek ’03 and Sarah Schweitzer, Kearney, Neb.: Gabriel Royce, Jan. 27, 2016
Sara (Ratzlaff) ’04 and Brian Yost, Moundridge, Kan.: Shawnee Elizabeth, Dec. 7, 2015
Brandon ’05 and Megan (Yoder) ’06 Wengerd, Garden City, Mo.: Caliniece Marie, Oct. 27, 2015
Drew ’06 and Kara (Weaver) ’07 Ebersole, Estero, Fla.: Haverlee Grace, Jan. 27, 2016
Tricia (Montano) ’07 and Dylan ’08 Gingerich, Hesston, Kan.: Caliniec Marie, Oct. 27, 2015
Brittany (King) ’07 and Andrew ’08 Spotts, Archbold, Ohio: Levi James, Oct. 13, 2015
Kelsey (Kauffman) ’07 and Michael Tan, Everett, Wash.: Simon Uriah, Jan. 3, 2016
Leona (Mullett) ’08 and Brice Williams, Medford, Mass.: Grayce Victoria, Oct. 23, 2015
Rhonda (Miller) ’09 and Brett Butler, Newton, Kan.: Nolan Edward, Jan. 29, 2016
Manabu ’09 and Jessica Hisamoto, Osaka, Japan: Eve Bailey, Dec. 22, 2015

2010-15
Alex Steiner ’10, Kidron, Ohio, was named head coach for the boys’ varsity soccer team at Central Christian School (Kidron) in January. He is a middle school math teacher at his alma mater, and assisted the soccer team as assistant coach the last two seasons.
Curtis Denlinger ’11, former faculty, Hesston, Kan., received his Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) license and Embraer (EMB) type rating and has been hired by Republic Airways, an airline holding company that owns Republic Airlines and Shuttle America.
Drew Emmert ’12, Sweet Home, Ore., is in his first year as a high school P.E. and health teacher and varsity boys’ basketball coach at Sweet Home High School.
Sarah Geiser ’13, Apple Creek, Ohio, began a one-year term with Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) in Madison, Wis., in September. She is working as a community builder with Options Madison, which provides community-based supported living services to individuals who have developmental disabilities.
Adam Heisey ’13, ’15, Elizabethtown, Pa., began a new placement with Peace Corps in Benin, Africa, as a Community Economic Development Advisor.
Justin Kyser ’13, Lincoln, Neb., is co-founder and Director of Flight Operations of an unmanned aerial system (drone) company called Digital Sky.
Jason Schroeder ’14, Harper, Kan., competed for St. Gregory’s University (Shawnee, Okla.) at the NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships in Columbus, Ga., in three individual events – 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly.
Matt Lind ’15, Harrisonburg, Va., was the collegiate division winner of the Newton (Kan.) Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra’s 8th annual Young Soloist’s competition. A junior at Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.), Lind performed a saxophone concerto, Tableaux de Provence by Paule Maurice, that he originally performed in his Hesston College Sophomore Recital.

BIRTHS
Alyssa Hostetler ’10 and Bradley Hershberger, Kalona, Iowa, Nov. 1, 2015
Breezie Sims ’10 and Richard Walland, Wichita, Kan., Dec. 12, 2015
Jonathan Burkholder ’12 and Becca Short ’12, Warden, Wash., March 29, 2015
Caleb Kandel ’12 and Alisa Murray ’13, Valparaiso, Ind., Jan. 2, 2016
Alissa Modlin ’13 and Brandon O’Neill, Topeka, Kan., Sept. 19, 2015
Davis Cook ’15 and Alex Hiebert ’15, Buhler, Kan., May 30, 2015

DEATHS

Faculty/Staff
Karla Stauffer, faculty, Newton, Kan., graduated from Wichita (Kan.) State University in December with a master’s of science in nursing degree with an emphasis in leadership and administration.

MARRIAGES
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY
2  Reading day
3 to 5  Final exams
5  Zac Headings, voice, and Elliott Leichty, voice, sophomore recital
     Casey Perez, voice, and Meredith Spicher, voice, sophomore recital
6 to 8  Commencement Weekend
6  Eleya Raim, voice, and Irenea Soetjoadi, piano, sophomore recital
    Lydia Holland, piano, and Shelby Miller, piano, sophomore recital
7  Disaster Management graduate recognition
    Nurses Pinning
    Anna Martin, voice, and Lorren Oesch, voice, sophomore recital
    Aviation graduate recognition
    International Chorale concert, Hesston Mennonite Church
    Caleb Schrock-Hurst, cello and voice, and Andry Stutzman, piano
    and voice, sophomore recital
    Go Everywhere reception
8  Commencement
10 to 31  International Chorale Tour to Germany, Switzerland
          and the Netherlands
13 to 14  Board of Directors meeting
21  Hesston College Gathering with Howard Keim and former president
    Laban Peachey, Lancaster, Pa.

JUNE
20  Nebraska Golf Benefit
20 to 25  Summer Theatre Camp for ages 11 to 14
27 to July 2  Summer Theatre Camp for ages 14 to 18

"You shop, Hesston College students gain!"

Kansas alumni and friends can support Hesston students when you shop at Dillon’s. When you register your rewards card, five percent (5%) of your purchase price will be donated to Hesston College. This also applies to Baker’s grocery stores in Omaha, Neb., and Gerbes grocery stores in and around Columbia, Mo.

To sign up for Dillion’s/Baker’s/Gerbes rewards:
1. Go to dillons.com/account/enrollCommunityRewards
   Now (or, depending upon your location, substitute
   Dillions for Baker’s or Gerbes)
2. Create or sign in to your account
3. Click on “Enroll Now”
4. Enter the five-digit NPO associated with
   Hesston College (75107) and search
5. Select Hesston College and click “Enroll”

Every gift we receive makes a difference in reaching our student aid goal!

There are other ways you can give to Hesston through your online shopping. Watch for emails about this or contact development@hesston.edu for more information.
Homecoming 2016
September 29 to October 2
A Hesston College Homecoming: Home Sweet Hesston
Celebrating Hesston College and the greater Hesston community
Go to hesston.edu for more information