MUSINGS ON “STARTING HERE”

Since 2005, I have had the opportunity to interact with thousands of Hesston College alumni. This is perhaps the biggest perk of the presidency, and I am grateful for the chance to be with people who got their start at Hesston College.

In some ways, START HERE is a misnomer. Our students actually start in families, churches and schools in places like Addis Ababa, Oklahoma City, Kalona and Little River. But it is also true that for most of our alumni, Hesston represents some kind of start, whether it is the first significant time away from family or the beginning of a new career. As I listen to these “start” stories, several themes are repeated over and over.

The main story line usually contains the theme of gaining a strong foundation for whatever comes next – service, career, marriage or further education. “I gained confidence at Hesston” is likely the most repeated line I hear. Then there comes some elaboration on that theme.

For many, it is confidence in their ability to succeed in an academic area or profession. They earn good grades, transfer and become respected airline pilots, engineers, farmers, manufacturers and health care workers. There is something about the Hesston Experience that gives people a kind of “Yes, I can do that” spirit. It is not arrogance, but an assurance that one is capable of doing what is needed.

For many others, the dominant theme is confidence in relationships. These stories usually revolve around becoming friends with people from other parts of the world or being put in situations that called out their leadership gifts. The intensity of relationships on a residential college campus is seldom matched in other settings.

Included in all of these stories is a sense of spiritual growth – of being gently challenged or questioned in ways that help solidify spiritual identity.

There is no short list or secret ingredient, but there is something in this culture of caring that accepts students as they are and with the stories they bring that helps them gain the foundation they need for the next step in life.

Dr. Howard Keim ’71, President
When it came time to choose a college and a major, Megan Cernek ’14 (Elton, La.) surprised her friends and family when she announced she was interested in aviation.

Hailing from a family of mechanics and farmers in her small Coushatta Tribe community, aviation was not the typical path of choice, but it was the one that sparked interest for the reserved young woman to pursue.

“My interest in aviation started when I was 14 or 15, but I didn’t tell anyone,” said Megan. “I would watch the small Cessnas flying over our house looking for pipeline leaks, and I thought it would be a lot of fun to do.”

Once she shared her intentions, choosing the college was easy. Her father, John Cernek ’80, was a Hesston alumnus, so Megan had heard of Hesston, but she discovered the aviation program when an issue of the Hesston College Today arrived featuring the program.

“I realized my copy of the alumni magazine had disappeared, and about a month later Megan came out of her room carrying it,” John said. “When she finally announced that she wanted to study aviation at Hesston, I was surprised, but the more I thought about it, it made sense. Megan has always been inquisitive and asked mechanical questions about the cars and tractors I was working on.”

“Hesston was the only college I visited,” Megan said. “I never wanted to go to a mega university where students are just a number. I liked Hesston’s small environment and the personal interaction with faculty.”
Having grown up on a farm in Wisconsin, John discovered Hesston College after seeing an ad in the Campus Life magazine. He was attracted to the thriving agriculture department and the Christian community. He earned his associate degree in agribusiness before transferring to Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) where he pursued a calling to ministry, earning a B.A. in international studies and an M.A. in pastoral counseling. He now raises livestock and serves as a pastor and school principal at Indian Bible Academy, an agricultural charter school he founded in 2005. He also completed a doctorate of education in December 2013.

“My time at Hesston was a new experience for me and stretched me in many ways,” said John. “I got an education in agriculture that was as good as anything I would have gotten at a big university. I also got to know more about Anabaptist history – a branch of Christianity I had not been exposed to.”

John’s penchant for entertaining several interests and professions trickled down to Megan, who says her family thought she would go to culinary school or pursue photography – both hobbies she still enjoys. When considering plans of study, aside from aviation, she also entertained thoughts of majoring in Bible or agribusiness like her father. Since being at Hesston, her artistic side has also been nurtured and she has grown to enjoy ceramics as well.

At present Megan does not intend to pursue a long-term career in aviation, yet she is grateful for the strong foundation she has gained as a result of what began as an experiment. Aviation students arrive for the school year a week before other students to get a jump start on classes – a start that would prove to have unique challenges for Megan.

“Fly Larks Week was like drinking through a fire hose,” she said. “I knew nothing about aviation and I was the only woman in the first year of the program so I was overwhelmed, nervous and worried. I finally decided to stop worrying, changed my attitude and began getting excited for what I would learn.”

Despite the rough start, Megan soon became comfortable with her choice. She earned her private pilot license in February and will also finish her instrument rating at Hesston before deciding what her next steps will be.

“I just take opportunities as they come,” said Megan. “All the doors opened for me to come to Hesston, and I believe this is where God wants me.”

In an unexpected turn of events, John did the same thing – for a second time.

Inspired by his daughter’s unexpected choice in aviation, John enrolled in private pilot lessons through Hesston for about a month in the summer of 2013.

“My roommate at Hesston was an aviation major, so I would go with him to the airport from time to time, which sparked an interest for me,” said John. “I began pursuing aviation at Moody, but with the call to ministry and getting married, I thought God had closed the door on it. When I got the opportunity to go back and pursue the dream I had given up on, I grabbed it.”

In a whirlwind three and a half weeks, John took as many aviation lessons as he could and made his first solo flight after 10 days. He finished his private pilot training at a flight training school in Louisiana in February 2014 and hopes to return to Hesston for instrument training this summer.

“I am excited about using aviation on the mission field in whatever way God calls me,” he said.

Megan’s plans for the future may not be finalized, but she is confident that with time everything will continue to fall into place. Both she and her father are grateful for the guidance and opportunities her Hesston College start provided her.

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Students aren’t the only ones who have a myriad of options when choosing a college. Faculty have choices, too. Hesston College is blessed with an overwhelmingly intelligent, talented, creative and energetic faculty who choose to help make students’ starts incredible. Tony Brown ’69 could be doing a lot of different things – and he is. On top of his teaching responsibilities in Hesston’s social work program, Brown travels the country singing and performing shows personally and as a representative of the college. He is also the founder of the Peacing It Together Foundation, an organization that serves the global community as a resource for peace and social justice.

Brown could travel the world and perform full time, yet he chooses to make Hesston College a priority. “I feel an attachment to Hesston,” he said. “When I was considering coming to Hesston as a faculty member, I saw something here I remembered from my time as a student – at Hesston, people are people, not just a number. Faculty and staff impact students’ lives. We are expected to get to know our students and vice versa. I feel honored to be able to influence and impact students. It is affirming and life giving.”

Brown returned to Hesston as an instructor and artist in residence in 2000 in what was to be a one-year arrangement. He had been assistant director of therapy and psychotherapy at the University of Washington (Seattle) for 17 years prior. He was also singing on the side, taking vacation days from the university in order to perform, when Hesston approached him with interest in both his teaching and performance.

That one-year deal has become 13-plus years as he continues to pursue all the things he loves. One of his passions is creating community with his students. “Tony is such a personable instructor,” said Sierra Wyse ’14 (Mount Pleasant, Iowa). “He asks questions that are challenging and thought provoking. He is really inspirational.”

“Faculty and staff impact students’ lives. We are expected to get to know our students and vice versa. I feel honored to be able to influence and impact students. It is affirming and life giving.”
— Tony Brown ’69 —

Young people want to feel like they belong and be around people who will be real with them,” Brown said. “When they feel valued and cared for, it gives them a heightened sense of confidence. Hesston College allows and encourages that kind of relationship between instructor and student. It’s that value-added element that makes Hesston so special.”

Hesston College sponsors Brown’s one-man show I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson’s Life in His Words and Songs, a historical biography, live concert tribute to the popular African-American performer and activist of the 1930s and 40s. His personal travels across the globe have helped make him a world-renowned baritone and allowed him to see music transform and heal. The Anthony Brown Baritone Comprehensive School in Pader, Uganda, which is run by the Ugandan organization Friends of Orphans and provides free education for formerly abducted child soldiers, orphans and other vulnerable children in the war-torn country, is named in his honor.

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Purchase How Can I Keep From Singing and Each Other’s Light through the Hesston College Bookstore at books.hesston.edu
Choosing a college sight unseen is bold for anyone, but especially when you do it from halfway around the world.

That’s exactly what Kelvin Ferbianto ’14 did when he left his home of Jakarta, Indonesia, for Hesston College after plans to attend a university in Singapore fell through. He knew of Hesston through a cousin who had attended previously, but he wasn’t sure what to expect when he arrived.

He did not expect such a friendly campus, to connect with so many interesting people from different places or to be a resident assistant as a sophomore. Yet that is exactly what happened.

Relationships have become the cornerstone of Ferbianto’s Hesston Experience. One relationship in particular stands out among the many friends, classmates, faculty and staff who went out of their way to make sure he felt welcomed in his new community. Jason Oyer ’14 (Hubbard, Ore.), became more than a roommate Kelvin’s freshman year. Oyer proved to be a kindred spirit with whom Ferbianto formed a friendship based on shared interests, mutual learning and strikingly similar backgrounds.

“I just try to not be shy, start conversations and get involved in different things,” said Ferbianto. “He made an effort to connect with me and include me in things.”

Oyer says the learning from one another was mutual and balanced and has far more benefits than just homework help.

“One of the first things I noticed about Kelvin was how willing he was to help with anything,” said Oyer. “The more I got to know Kelvin, the more I realized we had similar childhoods. My parents always taught me to put others before myself. He was taught the same, encouraging a very unselfish lifestyle and a polite and willing man.”

That early encouragement and acceptance gave Ferbianto the courage he needed to pursue other friendships.

“I just try to not be shy, start conversations and get involved in different things,” he said. “I was worried that there would be a language barrier, but people really don’t care about my limited English.”

Spending informal time with mod mates and working as tutor for several math and science courses helped Ferbianto connect with a wide variety of his fellow students and helped him improve his English skills.

“Kelvin genuinely loves people, and that is one of the things that draws others to him and that they respect him for,” said his former resident director, Mitch Stutzman ’09.

Student Life staff also noticed the ways Ferbianto connected with different types of people, and late in his freshman year he was hired as a resident assistant for mod 1B1 in Kaufman Court for his sophomore year – a job that comes with its challenges, but even greater rewards as he continues to build relationships all across campus.

Although he doesn’t yet know what awaits him after leaving Hesston, Ferbianto knows that the friendships and confidence he has gained will go with him.
Josh Horning '97
Hopedale, Ill.

FOLLOWING A CALL
In 2007 my wife, Lori (Birkey) '97, and I felt God calling us to her hometown of Hopedale, Pennsylvania, where I had been teaching for about seven years and doing part-time administration at Hinkle-town Mennonite School (Ephrata). Shortly after arriving in Hopedale, we heard rumblings of plans for an empty school building, as consolidation had happened in the local public schools. That fall, I went to a meeting of local people who were looking for someone with background in education who would have interest in leading the opening of a new school. I became part of starting Christian Life Academy, a pre-K through eighth grade school. We decided in late 2007 to start the school, formed a non-profit corporation in February 2008 and opened in August 2008 with 27 students and four staff members. Today we serve about 90 students and have nine staff members.

PREPARED TO START
I chose to start at Hesston because I knew it was small enough that I could get involved with a lot of opportunities. I took my first education courses with Luke Hartman '89. I was a member of the baseball team and had leadership opportunities as team captain my sophomore year. I was an RA, helped restart the Hesston College Hesston newspaper, wrote for the yearbook, worked as a math tutor and participated with a committee that helped plan a revival service. I like to start and try new things and that has followed me throughout my entire career and life. Hesston was one of the building blocks that gave me opportunities to be a leader, to learn what it means to work with other people and to step out in faith.

WORDS TO LIVE BY
I often reflect on Revelation 3:7-8 that talks about God opening and closing doors. What He wants open will be open and what He wants shut will be shut; we just have to follow in faith. A door was shut for education in Hopedale when the grade school was closed. We felt that when that door closed, it opened the door to God blessing the option for Christian education.

REFLECTIONS
Looking back, I know now that I wouldn’t have had the skills to do a lot of the things I have done had it not been for Hesston, but God directs our path and a lot of great things come out of following His lead for your life. Taking the step to go to Hesston although it was far away from home (Pennsylvania), broadened my view of the entire world, focused my life and got me to the place I am now.

START HERE STUDENT profile
Karli Mast '15
Hubbard, Ore.

PARENTS: Gerald '81 and Sheryl (Roth) '82 Mast

MAJOR: Deciding

CHOOSING THE RIGHT START
I visited Hesston during my junior year of high school. I really enjoyed my visit, but I was convinced it wasn’t the place for me. During my senior year I visited three other colleges but none of the visits compared to my Hesston visit. I just felt a sense of home here more than I did anywhere else, yet I decided to attend George Fox University (Newberg, Ore.). Later, Bradley Kauffman emailed me asking me to audition for Bel Canto Singers. One day my mom suggested that I audition just to see what would happen. I took her advice and auditioned over Skype. To my great surprise, I got in. After praying a lot about my decision, I woke up one morning and I knew Hesston was where I was supposed to be.

EXPLORATION AND CHANGE
I started here as a business major. I wasn’t completely sure what I wanted to do with it, but I know that business is in everything. Plus, I have a dream of opening a coffee shop someday and doing ministry through that. The first week of the spring semester, I realized business wasn’t really for me. I talked to my advisor, David LeVan, and we decided to do some exploring to figure out what I like. I decided to take the Writing for Media class, and I have really enjoyed it. I also enjoy Spanish classes.

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME
I really appreciate the people here. Living so far from home can be difficult sometimes, but there are so many people here that have been there for me like a parent. The staff and faculty care so much about each person, and that is something that you can’t find everywhere. It is such a unique experience to be able to open up to your instructors and peers like you can at Hesston.

WHAT HER INSTRUCTORS SAY
"Karli is good at a lot of things, her interests are diverse and she wants to learn as much as she can before she narrows her focus. She brings a special brand of wide-eyed curiosity, an open mind and enthusiasm to everything she does. She would succeed at about anything, but she’s actively invested in figuring out the absolute best fit, and that means giving every class her best.” — Kendra Burkey ’00, communication instructor

A GOOD DECISION
I am glad I chose to start at Hesston because of the chance to sing with a talented group of singers, and because it has given me a chance to figure out who I am as a person and who I am in Christ.

MAJOR: math education
CAREER: principal and administrator at Christian Life Academy (Hopedale)
This was not the path Dustin King ’14 (Wichita, Kan.) envisioned following high school graduation. Having enrolled at a four-year Kansas private school, the ambitious right-handed pitcher envisioned immediate success as a student athlete. In the spring of his freshman year, however, King was surprised and disappointed to learn that he would be redshirted. Having hoped to compete for immediate innings, he found himself lacking for motivation and second-guessing his decision. The significant financial cost of attendance weighed heavily, too.

At a crossroads, King contacted his former pitching mentor Brian Holman, a former major league pitcher, for advice.

“When Dustin called me during a disappointing freshman year, I thought Hesston College might be a good fit,” said Holman, who started working with King when he was 12.

That conversation helped set Dustin on a life-altering path that has allowed him to be an impact player on a competitive collegiate team while gaining leadership and academic opportunities that are allowing him to pursue his dream of becoming an optometrist.

Familiar with Holman and his shared interest in developing the whole person as a student athlete, Hesston College coach Rob Ramseyer was immediately interested in having King join his squad.

“When Brian told me about Dustin, I was confident we were talking about a quality person,” Ramseyer said. “When we recruit a pitcher, we look for guys who can command multiple pitches for strikes, are great competitors and are going to love and care about their teammates. Dustin has done all three.”

With Ramseyer in pursuit, King was initially leery of the cost to attend another private college. He says his campus visit shed light not only on a great opportunity to immediately compete for innings, but to do so affordably. Within weeks of the visit, he was in.

Since signing with the Larks, King has been challenged both on and off the mound.

“The coaches have helped me become a better person,” King said. “As players, we’re pushed to do well in the classroom, and I’ve had opportunities to take on leadership roles within the team that have spilled over to the campus.”

A key part of last year’s pitching staff that led the Larks to a school record-tying 26 wins, King led the team in wins and innings pitched. With another big year, King may position himself at the top of several career pitching records at Hesston.

King’s growth has not been limited to the baseball diamond. Late in his freshman year, he was selected as a resident assistant and student ambassador. A peek at his academic workload reveals a true student athlete. This year alone, his course load includes Microbiology, Religions of the World, Physics I and II, Macroeconomics and Organic Chemistry.

In his final semester, King is job shadowing at Mid Kansas Eyecare in Hesston to get a glimpse into his future career.

“Dustin has certainly made the most of his opportunity at Hesston,” Holman said. “His hard work and good attitude are reflected in his accomplishments there. Despite some adversity and disappointment throughout his career, he refused to give up on himself or his dream.”

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**THE (RE)START THAT FITS**

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**ANDREW SHARP ’99**

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Communications and graphic design majors at Hesston College are getting an extra leg up on their peers. Whereas most students don’t start building their professional portfolios until their junior or senior years, seven Hesston students are digging in and building their portfolios as freshmen and sophomores.

The students earned competitive internships working with the college’s Marketing and Communications team. The partnership between the Communications program and the Marketing and Communications office is the brainchild of communications faculty Kendra Burkey ’00 and director of Marketing and Communications Marathana Prothro. The two have a shared vision for identifying students with particular talent in the field, providing them with a strong education and nurturing their skills and mentoring them as young professionals.

The interns – Stephen Cabe ’14 (Niles, Mich.), JD Hershberger ’14 (Hesston, Kan.), Marissa Hochstetler ’14 (Strang, Neb.), Carley Wyse ’14 (Archbold, Ohio), Quinn Kathrineberg ’15 (Salina, Kan.), Alex Leff ’15 (Andover, Kan.) and Laken Richer ’15 (New Paris, Ind.) – are writers, photographers, graphic designers and digital media specialists putting their creativity and talent to work in tangible ways.

“This is a smart, responsible, hard-working and creative bunch,” Burkey said. “To see those qualities in full effect as these students collaborate with professionals is incredibly rewarding.”

The students meet weekly with the Marketing and Communication staff to plan various forms of communication for the college and then work separately or in groups to bring the visions to life.

“I am incredibly impressed with these students’ innate communications and marketing sense,” Prothro said. “It’s exciting to see them developing their skills and making our team stronger.”

Take Marissa Hochstetler, for example. She came to Hesston still deciding on a major and after exploring several options, chose graphic design late in her freshman year through inspiration from Vickie Andres’ Desktop Publishing course, Deb Roth’s Career Development course and the encouragement of her parents.

Hochstetler’s first assignment for her internship was to create shareable social media content that alumni and students would want to share in their newsfeeds. Her finished project – a comedic meme of Bible instructor Marion Bontrager ’57 – became social media gold for the college as its most shared post ever and was so popular the Bible and Ministry program had T-shirts of her project made.

“Through my first project’s success and the positive responses I have received about my other ideas, I have grown more confident in my creativity, skill and ability to work in the graphic design field,” Hochstetler said.

The interns are learning, through challenges and successes, that creating and writing for a public audience is very different than creating for academic or personal purposes. The early experience is paying off.

“The internship has taught me a lot about the collaborative nature of journalism,” said Hershberger, who has aspirations of being a sports broadcaster or journalist. “The stories any newspaper, website or college produce have to flow together. I can’t simply stick to sports and disregard the other work being done.”

“With the internship, I not only get to create something, I get professional input on how to make my work better and take it to a whole other level I couldn’t have reached on my own,” Wyse said.
Chemical engineering is not for the faint of heart. And if there’s any word to describe Sarah Hostetler’s ‘15 pursuit of her dream, it’s not “faint.”

She chose this plan of study fully aware she would face an intense course workload. She expected to encounter cold, unapproachable and dull instructors. Hostetler also knew that she was among a generation of young women finding their way into a profession dominated by men. Yet she wasn’t deterred from pursuing a career in chemical engineering.

When the Milford, Neb., native discovered Hesston College and connected with faculty who were not only knowledgeable instructors but also warm and invested in her success, Hostetler knew she had found the perfect place to start her career.

“An important aspect that drew me to Hesston was the one-on-one attention that students receive,” said Hostetler. “I am in a tough field of study and was looking for a college that has a good student-to-teacher ratio. Classes here are fun because instructors are enthusiastic in the classroom and obviously love what they do.”

Although Hostetler came to Hesston well prepared and from a strong high school background where she excelled academically, college presented new challenges.

“The most challenging part of college work has been the increase of time I need to spend on each class and finding a balance for all my classes,” she said. “My time management skills have really been put to the test.”

Being a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field also brings stereotypes to overcome. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy reports in a June 2013 Women and Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) report that the percentage of scientists and engineers who are women was a mere 24 percent in 2009.

Difficulties and adjustments have not slowed Hostetler down, though. Her first semester, she maneuvered classes like calculus and chemistry and earned a spot on the Dean’s List.

Her academic advisor, math instructor Jeff Baumgartner, says he routinely sees Hostetler go above and beyond what is required of her for class — exploring course content and researching alternative methods of operation — in order to ensure she fully comprehends the material. She is comfortable asking and answering questions in class and willing to help other students understand.

“Sarah is organized and goal oriented,” said Jeff. “She knows what she wants and takes responsibility to reach her goals.”

Hostetler also finds a way to balance her school work to have time for a campus job and to connect with friends and roommates, something she says is a very important part of her Hesston Experience.

“My academic experiences here have made me more passionate about my major,” she said. “I have found a wonderful support system in friends and instructors, and have been pushed and encouraged to pursue my goals.”
Hesston College was a great place for us to start our education. Hesston shaped much of who we are today in career choices, educational choices and helped form our faith values.

Karla was a business major with uncertainties as to what type of business career to pursue. It was at Hesston that a business instructor encouraged his accounting skills. Following that advice paved the way for Karla to work as an accountant upon graduating from Goshen (Ind.) College and eventually start Candler & Company, LLC, which provides financial consulting services to public sector entities.

Wilma graduated from Hesston with a business degree with an emphasis on medical sales. After working for various medical entities, she became involved in administrative work with the Mennonite Medical Association as well as the Institute of Mennonite Studies, both housed at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). After a hiatus from employment to raise their two children, Emily and Eric, Wilma made her way back to AMBS to study Christian formation. Now a spiritual director, Wilma plans to graduate this year with a master’s in Christian Formation.

What drew Karla and Wilma to Hesston College? “It was a place that was a bit different from what we were used to at the time,” Eric explains. “We were looking for a place that would draw us, and the fact that there were other Mennonites was appealing.”

Wilma adds, “It was attractive because it’s a smaller institution. I really enjoyed the community life, academically, spiritually and socially. Hesston was a great place for us to start.”

Many years later, Hesston has maintained a high quality level of education interwoven with faith formation and a close-knit college community. It is for these reasons that we continue to give to Hesston College so that others may learn in this close community environment. Hesston College is a great place to start.
Marion Bontrager ’57 explains a portion of the Heilsgeschichte timeline during the college’s annual Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference Feb. 21 to 23 with the theme “Reading the Bible in an Instagram World.” Using a condensed version of the well-known Biblical Literature curriculum, the 190 participants explored the Bible’s relevance in social media-heavy contemporary life. Weekend presenters were Bible and ministry faculty members Bontrager and Michele (Schrock) ’81 Hershberger. Music and worship was led by Jeremy Kempf ’00 (Glendale, Ariz.), and learning was enhanced by dramatic performances from Ted Swartz of Ted & Company TheatreWorks (Harrisonburg, Va.).

International students provided a glimpse into their cultures during the annual Cultures Fair Feb. 20. Students prepared and served food and performed music from their countries while interacting and sharing about their cultures with their peers, faculty and staff. More than 60 international students are part of the Hesston College community during the 2013-14 year, making up 14 percent of the total enrollment, 19 percent of dorming students and helping to expand students’ world views through interaction. Pictured are Sho Ishihara ’15 (Gunma-ken, Japan), Ayaka Senoo ’14 (Kanagawa-ken, Japan), Narumi Hayano ’14 (Kiyosu-shi, Japan), Danika Saucedo Salas ’14 (Santa Cruz, Bolivia), Misaki Hirayama ’15 (Chiba, Japan) and Kento Ueda ’15 (Miyahi-ken, Japan).

A member of the Terrel Verner Trio (Wichita, Kan.) performs at a coffee house in the Larks Nest Jan. 24 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The college observed the holiday with a week of events Jan. 20 to 24. The theme for the week was “A Voice of Conscience: Echoing the Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” and featured special chapel presentations with history instructor John Sharp ’74 and local college educators and community leaders Evies and Sharon, former faculty Cranford (Wichita). The coffee house also featured an open mic time for students to share music, readings and other art forms.

Mitch Stutzman ’09 joined the Advancement team as a Development Officer for the eastern United States and parts of Kansas in January. He replaces Scott Sundberg, who served the territory for two years.

Mitch earned a B.A. in liberal arts with a special education licensure from Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.). He served as a resident director at Hesston from July 2012 to December 2013 and accompanied Development Officers on donor visits.

“Mitch’s ability to link Hesston College’s message and mission with alumni and friends will serve us and him well in his new role,” said Yvonne Sieber, vice president of Advancement.
The men's soccer program gained a new head coach following the 2013 season. Michael Armstrong '05, a former Larks soccer player, succeeds Kurt Hostetler '93, who led the team for seven years. Armstrong served as an assistant coach for the Larks during the 2013 season and as an admissions counselor for the college since July 2012. He will continue in his admissions role. Prior to working at Hesston, Armstrong was head boys' soccer coach at Huntingdon (Pa.) Area High School where he had been an assistant for five years prior to taking the head coaching position. Michael and his wife Becky (Friesen) '05 Armstrong have four children: Landen (7), Bailey (4), Allycia (2) and Jase (3 months).

The Larks men's basketball team returned from winter break to a much brighter second half following a rough start to the season during the fall semester. The men quickly tripled their win record by winning four of the first six games of the semester, including a double overtime buzzer beater win over a tough Fort Scott (Kan.) CC team. They also recorded an impressive win against Region VI rival Brown Mackie College (Salina, Kan.). They ended the season with a 10-20 record overall and 5-5 in Region VI.

The women's basketball team pulled together a balanced season with several players stepping up to lead the team from game to game. The women enjoyed second semester wins over NJCAA Region VI competitors Brown Mackie College (Salina, Kan.) and Fort Scott (Kan.) CC. They advanced to post-season play, defeating Brown Mackie by one in the first round and losing to Johnson County CC in the second round, ending the season with a 14-18 record.
An unexpected family discovery led former Hesston College faculty members Sharon Cranford (Wichita, Kan.) and Dwight Roth (Hesston) to co-author a historical fiction book – Kinship Concealed: Amish Mennonite/African-American Family Connections (Legacy Book Publishing, 2013) – that documents the historical multi-racial lineage of 18th century Amish brothers John and Jacob Mast.

Cranford, an African-American Baptist, and Roth, a white Mennonite-Episcopalian, were both teaching in Hesston’s social science program in 2004 when they discovered a shared branch on their family trees. They realized their ancestors were brothers who immigrated from Switzerland to Pennsylvania in the 1750s. Roth’s ancestor, Jacob Mast, was the first Amish bishop ordained in the United States, and his brother, John, from whom Cranford descends, moved to the south where his family became slave owners in North Carolina and his grandson Reuben fathered a child with an enslaved girl.

Both Cranford and Roth say writing their ancestors’ stories was a personal experience full of growth and understanding. Kinship Concealed can be purchased through the Hesston College Bookstore at books.hesston.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

1940-49
DEATHS
Crystal (Hough) ’43 Rhodes, Colorado Springs, March 23, 2013
Royce Buckwalter Ac47, ’49, Wellman, Iowa, Nov. 17, 2013
Joseph Kirkpatrick, husband of Lulu (Fink) Ac49 Kirkpatrick, Barboursville, Ky., May 29, 2013
Leahell (Troyer) Ac49, ’51, former staff, Miller, wife of Wayne Miller ’45, former staff, Shipshewana, Ind., Jan. 15, 2014

1950-59
Boots (Esch) ’51 and Merrill ‘52 Raber, Newton, Kan., compiled and edited A 40-Year History of Kansas-Paraguay Partners: Making a Difference Through Volunteerism 1968-2008, which was published in October 2013. The Rabers became involved with the Kansas-Paraguay partnership in 1973 when Merrill did consulting in the mental health field in Paraguay.

DEATHS
Irene (Hostetler) Ac50 Koehn, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 15, 2013
John Schantz, husband of Marjorie (Wirtz) ’52 Schantz, Albany, Ore., Aug. 19, 2013
Eldon Andres ’54, Peabody, Kan., Oct. 29, 2013

1960-69
Jim Mininger ’61, former faculty, is teaching “Globalization: Politics, Economics and Civil Society” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, an enrichment program for people over 50 through the University of Kansas (Lawrence), during the spring 2014 semester.

Dan Harrison ’79, faculty, Wichita, Kan., is co-teaching “What Do Happy People Know?” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute during the spring 2014 semester.

1970-79
John Sharp ’73, faculty, Hesston, Kan., is teaching “The Story of the Orphan Trains and the Quest for New Homes” and “Millennial Visions: A Little-known Mennonite Migration to Central Asia” courses through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, an enrichment program for people over 50 through the University of Kansas (Lawrence), during the spring 2014 semester.

Larry Miller ’69, Goshen, Ind., will retire as president and CEO of Everence Financial Advisors in September 2014 after more than 20 years with the organization (formerly Mennonite Mutual Aid).

MARRIAGE
Belle (Detweiler) Ac 62, ’64 Duerksen and Lew Naylor, Goshen, Ind., June 22, 2013

DEATHS
Melva (Weaver) ‘63 Martin, Goshen, Ind., Aug. 5, 2013

REFER A STUDENT

Do you know a high school student who should know more about the Hesston Experience? Send us his or her name and contact information so we can be in touch soon!

Send to Admissions Office
Hesston College
Box 3000
Hesston, KS 67062
or email admissions@hesston.edu

Name
Address
City, State, ZIP
Phone
Current year in school

DENNIS ULRICH, husband of Shirley (Lauber) ’66 Ulrich, Hesston, Kan., Jan. 27, 2014
Alan Leimbach ’67, North Webster, Ind., July 21, 2013
Glen Greiter, husband of Karen (Stockly) ’68 Greier, Hamilton, Ind., July 23, 2013
James Kulp, husband of Joan (Osvald) ’68 Kulp, Middletown, Va., Aug. 5, 2013
LOST AND FOUND

It’s sad but true – sometimes Hesston College alumni are like car keys, cell phones or the TV remote control. Due to moves or life transitions, they get lost, and no matter how hard we look, we just can’t find them.

When they finally resurface, they often have a great story to tell. Take Melissa (Worden) ’04 Wood for example.

She came to Hesston College as a local commuter student studying aviation. When she left two years later, she continued her education online for business management, eventually earning a master of business administration in global management. She got married, moved halfway across the country, had two daughters – married, moved halfway across the country, had two daughters – and is now working on a doctor of education degree in educational leadership with a specialization of education degree in educational leadership with a specialization in curriculum development through the University of Phoenix.

Melissa’s life has been busy and successful – and we here at Hesston College knew about it!

We want to know what is happening in YOUR life and so do your classmates!

We can reestablish touch through the Contact Information Update link to send us updated contact information so we can reconnect with our missing friends. You can also update your own information at the same link.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH
1 - Tony Brown’s I Go On Singing at the Aurora (Colo.) Fox Arts Center
1 to 2 - Spring play: Tartuffe
8 to 9 - Tony Brown’s I Go On Singing at the Aurora (Colo.) Fox Arts Center
8 to 16 - Spring break
21 to 22 - Prospective student visit days with Performing Arts Scholarship auditions - Aviation as Mission
27 to 28 - Grandparents Days
28 - Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts: Soweto Gospel Choir
29 to 30 - Chorale spring tour to northeast Kansas
29 - Campus Entry/Northlawn campaign event (Lancaster, Pa.)

APRIL
2 to 4 - Melva Kauffman Lecture Series with Dr. Kathy G. Short
12 - National Golf Benefit at Raven at Verrado Golf Club (Buckeye, Ariz.)
13 - Campus Entry/Northlawn campaign event (Glendale, Ariz.)
25 - On-campus Entry/Northlawn campaign event
25 to 26 - Prospective student visit days
26 - Prospective student campus open house

MAY
8 - Spring term ends
9 to 10 - Theatre showcase
9 to 11 - Commencement Weekend
10 - International Chorale concert
13 to June 3 - International Chorale Tour to Europe

JUNE
8 - Summer prospective student visit day
14 - Explore! Kansas trip for alumni and friends

WE WANT YOUR STUDENT to experience firsthand how a start at Hesston College can help them go everywhere! Plan your visit today. Parents are always welcome to come, too! Choose which visit fits your family best:

CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE
April 26, 2014
• Great for sophomores, juniors and seniors
• One-day visit (Saturday)
• Features: campus tour, brunch, student and faculty panels and information from Admissions, Financial Aid and Student Life.

VISIT WEEKEND
• Great for juniors and seniors
• Students hosted in dorms by student ambassadors
• One-on-one meetings with faculty, coaches, Student Life, Financial aid and others.
• Features: auditions, tryouts, campus tour, weekend campus activities and sitting in on a class
• Opportunities to connect with future classmates
• Dates include:
  › March 21 to 22, 2014
  › April 25 to 26, 2014
  › Or any date that works for you!

REGISTER ONLINE AT hesston.edu/visit
OR EMAIL admissions@hesston.edu.
Each Other’s Light: A Multicultural Celebration
Relive your Hesston College start during A Hesston College Homecoming, Sept. 25 to 28, 2014 and help celebrate the rich multicultural history of Hesston alumni from around the U.S. and the world. Academy and college alumni with class years ending in 4 and 9 will be honored with class reunions. Detailed reunion information will be sent in May.

Events during the weekend include:
• Student Scholarship Golf Benefit sponsored by Excel Industries honoring Dave and Sena Osborne and Dave’s work as Director of International Admissions
• Family festival with food and entertainment celebrating our diverse cultures
• Larks soccer games and volleyball matches
• Multicultural theme for reunions, shows, storytelling, alumni banquet and worship
• A special multicultural and international alumni gathering

Come for this weekend of celebration and memories. Bring your high school-age children (and their friends!) for a special legacy student campus visit coordinated by Admissions.

A schedule of events, registration and a list of multicultural alumni presenters will be included in the Summer 2014 Hesston College Today magazine and will be posted online.

Call the Alumni Office for more information at 866-437-7866.