We are blessed to have a wonderful variety of students on our campus each year. They come from different states and countries, different faith and cultural backgrounds, and are at different stages of life. Rather than place these students into groups (Mennonite, Baptist, Midwest, non-traditional) we try to understand and honor each person’s unique story. The individual student matters here, because our mission is to “educate and nurture each student in Christ-centered community...” This commitment takes time and attention, especially for those most intensely involved in the student’s experience, and also from every employee.

Paying attention to the individual story means that we invest a lot of time in listening, making room for testing gifts, calling for the best possible effort while being patient with mistakes. Just as students come with unique stories, they form unique paths during their time here and in their future education and vocational ventures. In part, our role is to help each student make sense of his or her story while making wise choices for the future. For us, this also means inviting each student to strengthen and grow in their faith pilgrimage, so that they are ready “for service to others in the church and the world.”

As I noted in an earlier column, one of the common themes I hear from Hesston alumni is that they gained confidence during their Hesston years – confidence in their knowledge, relationships, personhood and faith. I would add that nearly every story or testimonial from alumni includes a faculty or staff member who played a special role in this “education and nurture.” This person is often a coach, faculty member or resident director, but the story often includes a campus job supervisor, mod parent or Hesston community person.

This issue highlights the stories of some who represent parts of the Hesston Experience. Their stories began before they came here and continue long after. But for two years at least, we had the privilege of walking with them. Their stories are now part of us.

Dr. Howard Keim ’71, President
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ON THE COVER

Nelson Kilmer faithfully served Hesston College as a faculty member, administrator and leader for 46 years. Kilmer retired in May in a year marked by retirements of several beloved faculty and staff who have left an undeniable impression on the campus and many who started here.

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nelson Kilmer’s quiet demeanor and wisdom, Hugo Boschmann’s infamous “quizzies” and Lorna Harder’s passion for birds – regardless of whether Hesston College alumni had classes with these legendary science and math instructors, their idiosyncrasies, reputations and stories are familiar to more than two generations of alumni.

The end of the 2013-14 academic year marked the end of an era and a major transition within the department with the retirement of these beloved instructors who gave much of their lives in service to Hesston College and thousands of students who started here.

NELSON KILMER – 46 YEARS

Nelson Kilmer is known among the Hesston College community for his gentle and passionate approach to teaching. Students and alumni know of his passion for solar energy, and many have worked on solar power projects under his tutelage and expertise. But Kilmer’s vast knowledge encompasses much more than the physics and calculus classes he taught for decades. He leaves his mark on 46 years of Hesston College history from faculty and administrative roles.

“I have worked in enough different areas at Hesston College that my work has never been boring, and it’s made for an interesting career,” said Kilmer.

Kilmer accepted a science and math teaching position at Hesston Academy in 1963, fresh on the heels of receiving a bachelor’s degree in education with a physics major and math minor from Goshen (Ind.) College. He taught high school science and math courses until 1965 when the Academy was phased out, then left Hesston to pursue a master’s and Ph.D. in physics from Kansas State University (Manhattan). In 1970, he was invited to return to Hesston College to again teach science and math. In 1973, dean Clayton Beyler invited him to make a move to the position of associate academic dean.

Though he continued to teach physics throughout his tenure with the college, Kilmer served for seven years as associate academic dean, then for 19 years as director of Finance and chief financial officer where he managed the college’s budget and finances, was instrumental in the startup of the Aviation program, supervised the departments within auxiliary services and helped plan and oversee 16 major building projects. In the early 2000s, he returned full time to the classroom, serving as chair of the science department and chair of the natural science division at various times. He has also been a leader in academic assessment and analysis where his efforts, partnered with others’, have led to significant improvements in students’ academic and overall Hesston Experience.

“Not only has Nelson fulfilled many roles at Hesston, but he led with vision, thoughtfulness, wisdom, creativity and humility, with no need to impress others,” said colleague and nursing director Bonnie (Kauffman) Ac65, ’67 Sowers.

Beginning in 1970, Kilmer spent five summer breaks conducting post-doctoral research at the University of Alberta (Canada), but he always returned to Hesston College.

“I had fun and enjoyed my work in Alberta, but I didn’t feel there the goal that I did working with students at Hesston,” Kilmer said. “I have always identified with the mission of Hesston College – to educate and nurture students within Christ-centered community – and that felt good to me.”

Teaching physics classes has been one of Kilmer’s most enjoyable roles – especially the annual hands-on research projects classes conducted.

“I have enjoyed the interactions with students, seeing them come back and hearing about where they have gone,” said Kilmer.

Kilmer and his wife, JoAnne, look forward to traveling and visiting family in their retirement, though he notes he will always make time for continued learning and hobbies.

“I have appreciated the relationships that are so easily formed here and the stimulation for creating new ideas that come from students, colleagues and the campus community,” said Kilmer.
HUGO BOSCHMANN – 36 YEARS

When Hugo Boschmann interviewed for the biology instructor role at Hesston during Thanksgiving 1977, he told administrators he was looking for long-term employment. For 36 years, he has fulfilled that declaration, and leaves a reputation for challenging courses and pushing students to their fullest potential.

“Students will perform at the level you expect of them,” said Boschmann. “If you expect great things, they will perform, and it’s so rewarding to see them achieve that.”

“One thing I really appreciate about Hugo’s teaching style is that he shows students what they are capable of if they set their minds to it and work hard.”

– Eyan Roth ’14 –

It was only 12 years before his Hesston College interview that Boschmann arrived in the United States from Paraguay, speaking only German and Spanish, to study at Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.). He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Bethel, and a year later, a master of arts in teaching with an emphasis in biology from the University of Chicago (Ill.). He later completed a doctor of education degree in biology with a minor in higher education administration from Ball State University (Muncie, Ind.).

Boschmann’s accomplishments could have landed him a job anywhere – and he spent 21 years splitting his teaching time between Hesston and as an adjunct instructor at Wichita (Kan.) State University and Bethel College – yet Hesston always remained his home base.

“Teaching in Mennonite higher education was important to me because of the values instilled in me as a student at Bethel,” said Boschmann. “I appreciate the freedom and trust Hesston administration showed me in developing a good program, which gives the department and colleagues across departments opportunities to exercise ideas.”

His own academic experiences and the influence of instructors have always driven Boschmann’s high-achieving classroom approach, and though they had to spend enormous amounts of time studying and preparing, his students appreciated the standards he set.

“One thing I really appreciate about Hugo’s teaching style is that he shows students what they are capable of if they set their minds to it and work hard,” said Eyan Roth ’14 (Hesston, Kan.).

Boschmann’s retirement plans with his wife, Mary Ann, are to travel, volunteer, visit friends and family and spend more time enjoying his hobbies of working with stained glass and violin – a skill he began six years ago.
Lorna Harder’s love for the environment began at a young age, fostered by her mother’s fascination with nature and its systems. Even at age two, Harder could be found lying on her belly watching ants. Through 25 years of service at Hesston College, she has continued to pass along the wonderment of nature and care of the environment to hundreds of students.

Harder’s Hesston College start did not begin in the classroom, but as an academic assistant in the science department. With a bachelor’s degree in biology from Bethel College, Boschmann told Harder she would be bored in the role. She later served as a loan officer in the Business Office and began graduate work at Wichita State University. She also assisted with Boschmann’s labs.

In about 2001, the college added environmental science offerings, and environmental biology was introduced to the curriculum with Harder as instructor. Her courses were taught with an obvious passion. The bird-of-the-day, bird watching and an annual field trip to the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge (Canton, Kan.) to observe the bison were course highlights.

Though she has also taught web authoring and statistics courses, Harder says environmental biology is hands-down her favorite class and she enjoyed watching students’ interest in the environment develop.

“The passion Lorna brings to the classroom changes people,” said Stefon Duffman-Griddine ’14 (Grandview, Mo.). “She changed the way that I study and look at school. I’ll carry that throughout my life.”

“It is thrilling and inspiring to watch students enter the moment when the lights go on,” said Harder. “Hesston College students have continually proven to be agents of change, hope and service, and I think the world needs more of them.”

Retirement for Harder is just a shift in the work and learning she already participates in daily. She plans to continue work in prairie restoration and increasing biodiversity on her farm with her husband, Bob, who continues to teach computer science and aviation courses at the college. She also plans to volunteer with several organizations at the state level.

“My time at Hesston College has been such a good run,” said Harder. “It’s been a place where colleagues and students alike share in common themes, goals, values and care about the same big picture.”
M arion Bontrager ’57 is more drawn to cities than rural areas, and he enjoys a variety of experiences and interactions. Though Hesston, Kan., is not an urban setting, Hesston College offered the right balance of variety and continuity for a 40-year career that marked its end in May.

Bontrager’s influence on the way Hesston College students study the Bible and view their faith has influenced thousands of lives.

“I have always said that to teach you need to love people, ideas and enjoy seeing people grow,” said Bontrager. “I have had the privilege to work with young people at the stage where they are doing a great deal of growing and thinking. Seeing the results of that has been very rewarding.”

After earning an A.A. at Hesston, Bontrager finished a bachelor of arts from Goshen (Ind.) College and a master of divinity from Goshen Biblical Seminary. He was teaching Bible and social studies at Central Christian School (Kidron, Ohio) in 1972 when he was invited to return to Hesston College as a faculty member. After giving Central Christian one more year, he moved back west to start a new journey.

With his arrival on campus, Bontrager comprised the one-person Bible department for the first few years, serving in a campus pastor capacity. Bible-specific curriculum was offered through the Foundation Studies courses, and in his second year, Bontrager began increasing the number of Bible classes offered by adding Peacemaking and Justice to the curriculum. Peacemaking and Justice became his favorite class to teach.

That same year, he began Campus Worship as a way for students to worship together. He later began youth ministry courses, and in 1986 he taught the first Biblical Literature course, which he conceptualized and formed as a way to ensure students would receive biblical teaching from an Anabaptist perspective.

As a piece of the college’s core curriculum and a requirement for graduation, Bib Lit has influenced more than 5,000 students who have taken with them an expanded worldview, a new way of reading the Bible and a broader understanding of their own faith.

Although many courses have long been a part of Bontrager’s responsibilities, he’s never taught a class the same way twice as he adapted to changing times and students, and has allowed for the variety he desires in life.

One thing that did not change in 40 years, however, is his passion for students and teaching biblical truths.

“I have had the privilege to work with young people at the stage where they are doing a great deal of growing and thinking. Seeing the results of that has been very rewarding.”
– Marion Bontrager ’57 –

“Marion never seemed too far above us – he was always down-to-earth and personal,” said Nick Ladd ’14 (Waldron, Mich.). “He connects with people. He loves the Bible and he loves teaching, and it was evident every day.”

“Marion is a wonderful shoulder-tapper,” said Michele (Schrock) ’81 Hershberger, Bontrager’s colleague in the Bible and Ministry program and former student. “He can see past the hard shell that students sometimes put up to protect themselves to see and name gifts that others don’t see. He saw it in me as a student, and it changed my life.”

Though he has said goodbye to the college classroom and the students whom he loves, Bontrager’s teaching career is far from over. He says retirement will allow him opportunities to continue building the church through writing and speaking across the church as well as serving South Central Mennonite Conference.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to have taught at Hesston,” Bontrager said. “I have seen students blossom, find their voice and learn beyond what they thought they could do.”
CAMPUSS TRANSITIONS

HERE’S TO YOU

Two staff members retired following the 2013-14 year. Sena (Miller) ’68 Osborne served at Hesston College for 29 years – from 1982 to 1987 in Food Service and led the postal services department from 1990 to 2014. Sue Stuckey served in Food Service in a number of roles from cook to manager for 27 years. Thank you Sena and Sue for your years of faithful service to Hesston College and the mark you have left on this community and the students who choose to start here.

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Tonya (Hunsberger) ’94 Detweiler began as interim vice president of Advancement July 1, stepping into the role held by Yvonne (Yoder) ’71 Sieber since 2007. Detweiler has served as development officer for Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Florida since November 2008. She will fulfill her duties working from her home in Goshen, Ind.

Scotty Friesen has been named men’s resident director. He has a B.A. in youth ministry with a minor in Biblical studies from LeTourneau University (Longview, Texas).

Joel Kauffman ’80 began as interim vice president for Student Life May 1, stepping into the role held by Lamar Roth since 2003. Kauffman has served at Hesston College for 27 years as former women’s basketball and softball coach, instructor and vice president of Admissions from 2007 to 2011. He began as athletic director in 2011 and will continue in that role during the interim period.

Russ Neufeld ’97 began as director of Information Technology July 1. He has served in Hesston’s IT Department as Network Manager and Database Administrator since 2010.

Rob Ramseyer began as interim dean of students May 1 filling the role held by Lamar Roth since 2003. Ramseyer has served as head baseball coach at Hesston College since 2011 and will continue in that role during the interim period. He also served in Student Life as co-director of campus activities from 2011 to 2012.

Dori Roth ’87 began as associate director of Financial Aid June 1. She has a bachelor’s degree in business education from Goshen (Ind.) College.

LaMont Russell ’08 began as graphic designer June 9. He studied liberal arts with minors in art and graphic design at Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau).

Andrea (Pankratz) ’11 Schrag began as Admissions communications coordinator in December 2013. She earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational communication and integrated marketing from Tabor College (Hillsboro, Kan.).

Andre Swartley ’99 will teach English as a Second Language courses and coordinate the ESL program. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Goshen (Ind.) College and a master’s degree in English and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) from the University of Bowling Green (Ky.).

Stephanie Swartzendruber ’11 has been named women’s resident director. She earned a B.A. in English and TESOL from Goshen College.

Dr. Donovan Tann will serve as English instructor. He earned a B.A. in English from Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.) and a Ph.D. in English from Temple University (Philadelphia, Pa.).

Melissa (Rumsey) ’90 Unruh will begin as director of institutional data and compliance in fall 2014. She has served as Food Service director since 2004 and has also worked with the Title III grant in implementing a new enterprise resource planning system since 2010.

Dr. Brent Yoder ’98, registrar, began as interim vice president of Academics and academic dean July 1. Yoder has served as registrar since 2011.

Heidi Zehr ’11 has been named women’s resident director. She earned a B.A. in psychology from Goshen College.
In May 2006, after one year in Hesston College’s brand new Disaster Management Program and nine months after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Brett Troyer ’06 (Lancaster, Pa.) spent 10 weeks fulfilling the program’s field experience requirement where he served with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) in Bayou La Batre, Ala., helping with recovery and rebuilding from the devastating storm.

In 2012, after about a year serving as project logistics coordinator for MDS, Troyer helped wrap up the organization’s final Katrina project site – a full-circle moment in his fledgling disaster relief career.

Troyer was one of the first students enrolled in Hesston’s Disaster Management Program, which was started in 2005 in partnership with MDS. Because he was entering his sophomore year at Hesston when the program was launched, he only completed one year, but it was enough to spark his passion for disaster response.

“I hadn’t declared a major going into my sophomore year, so my adviser encouraged me to try disaster management classes,” said Troyer. “It sounded different, interesting and hands on, so I decided to try it. Nowhere else in Mennonite education can you get a trade education and learn hands-on trade skills.”

Not only is Hesston the only Mennonite Church USA institution to offer a disaster management program, it is one of only two institutions in Kansas and one of 42 nationwide to offer a two- or four-year undergraduate program, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Nine years ago, Hesston College was a trailblazer in disaster response programs. Now, the program’s graduates are fully engaged in careers serving disaster survivors and building relationships across the country and world with the skills and passion that started and developed at Hesston.

The program opens graduates up to limitless career directions from building contractors to managers and social workers. Whether they choose short-term assignments or long-term career positions, it is clear that disaster management alumni have a heart for service and people.

For Jackie (Shaw) ’08 O’Brien (Lowville, N.Y.), the program equipped her with skills to lead and volunteer with short-term recovery and service projects.

After graduating from Hesston and completing her final field experience internship requirement with MDS in Diamond, La.,
O’Brien stayed an extra five weeks as a volunteer. She has since traveled to Nicaragua with a church group to help build and maintain an orphanage, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity’s Global Village program where she helped underprivileged people build adequate housing in Romania and Guatemala and she now works as a cook for a non-profit organization and volunteers her physical labor as she is able. She is also planning a church trip to serve with Habitat for Humanity in Africa.

O’Brien is inspired by the words in Philippians 2:3 – “...in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest, but each of you to the interests of others.” She finds her motivation in building connections with others.

“I enjoy all the connections I have made in all of my work,” said O’Brien. “I have built relationships not only with the other volunteers I work with from week to week, but also with the people we are serving.”

Other graduates, like Troyer, find their passion lies in long-term recovery efforts.

In his role with MDS, where he is based from the bi-national office in Lititz, Pa., Troyer assists in setting up and closing down project sites and manages the organization’s tangible items to equip volunteers at project sites across the U.S. and Canada. He spends much of his time at the MDS warehouse in Columbus, Miss., making repairs, reorganizing and restocking supplies.

“Hesston prepared me for a career in disaster response on so many levels. Because of the small community, leadership opportunities were plentiful and I learned the value of taking initiative.”

– Darin Bontrager ’11 –

“No matter how prepared a community is for a major disaster, it gets to a point where they can't manage the disaster's consequences on their own,” said Troyer. “That's where disaster response comes in – sharing that burden. The world of disaster relief is not like any other business of which you can be a part. It’s a big community, and we are here to help each other, regardless of the situation.”

Disaster response organizations require employees from all skill sets from construction to management to social work and more. Hesston’s program offers starts in all of those areas, opening students to a variety of career options.

Troyer earned a degree in building construction technology from South Central Community College (Milford, Neb.) after graduating from Hesston, but now puts more than just his technical abilities to work in his role.

“I like the relationships that are built through disaster response,” Troyer said. “In my position, I don’t get out to projects where I am physically helping people recover, but I know I am enabling others to do just that. It’s rewarding to see volunteers be rewarded for their service.”

For Darin Bontrager ’11 (Vicksburg, Miss.), the problem-solving challenges of disaster response draw him to the field.
“I love the challenge of finding creative solutions when communication is limited, resources are limited and there are a lot of obstacles,” said Bontrager, who has worked as a support team leader with FEMA Corps National Civilian Community Corps since July 2013.

After gaining hands-on rebuilding experience in his field experience internships with MDS, Bontrager was excited to experience disaster response from the administrative side, supporting teams in the field from a central location.

“I like my job because I get to help people on a daily basis,” said Bontrager. “I work in a fast-paced environment, and I do something new every day.”

In his role, Bontrager has led construction tool training for 280 peers, designed and built a long-term disaster recovery supply center, distributed uniforms for about 600 people, transported inventory and equipment cross-country between disaster sites. He leads corps-wide events and meetings during transition periods when teams return to Vicksburg for additional training.

After graduating from Hesston, Bontrager attended Goshen (Ind.) College, earning a B.A. in business with a minor in conflict transformation. His academic experiences provided a well-rounded understanding of disaster response.

“Hesston prepared me for a career in disaster response on so many levels,” said Bontrager. “Because of the small community, leadership opportunities were plentiful and I learned the value of taking initiative. My classes taught me the value of critical thinking and having conversations with people who have different value systems, cultures and ideas... Living in community taught me that I can work a fun job, travel the world or make good money, but it doesn’t matter if I don’t surround myself with incredible people. Relationships are what matter.”

Clockwise from top: O’Brien helps out with a wide variety jobs, including using a skidsteer; using a router; and installing flooring; Troyer handles behind-the-scenes logistics from his desk and gets hands-on as he works on a ceiling.
Relationships and connections are an important part of how Katie Boyts ’02 (Baltimore, Md.) approaches her day-to-day life. Boyts’ unique creativity and curiosity in people and in food have opened doors for her to pursue a career as a full-time pastry chef and sometimes blogger.

Boyts’ passion for creating is evident in the eloquent ways she tells stories of food and those who prepare it, and also in her culinary creations like the whimsical Fruity Pebble Oatmeal cookie – her claim to fame.

Her interest in people’s lives began to blossom while she was a student at Hesston College, where she says she learned how to effectively interact with people and how to have meaningful relationships. After Hesston, she earned degrees in peace, justice and conflict studies and women’s studies from Goshen (Ind.) College. Following college, she began a career in domestic violence advocacy work in Portland, Ore.

“I began to get burnt out working in social work,” she said. “I could see it was not a sustainable career path for me. I started spending more time cooking and baking and found myself wondering how my grandmothers made the traditional Mennonite food.”

Having grown up with the influence of strong Mennonite women cooks like her grandmother Belle (Stoltzfus) Ac51, ’53 Boyts, and with questions burning in her mind, Boyts started The Shoofly Project, a blog exploring and telling the food stories of Mennonite women.

“Spending my time cooking, baking and blogging was a refreshing thing to come back to,” Boyts said. “I felt engaged and encouraged by connecting with a lot of different people, and I got to use food as an access point.”

As she spent more and more time in the kitchen, Boyts decided to make her passion a career and enrolled in the Robert Reynolds Chef’s Studio in Portland, where she developed a strong interest in pastry baking.

Her baking career began as an apprentice to bread bakers at Cloud Cliff Bakery in Santa Fe, N.M., and Brown’s Court Bakery in Charleston, S.C., before landing a job as a pastry chef at Two Boroughs Larder (Charleston) where she first created the Fruity Pebble Oatmeal cookie, which was discovered and reviewed by Bon Appétit magazine in January 2013. In July 2013, she helped open Dooby’s, a café-restaurant in Baltimore where she also works as head pastry chef, mentoring others with her creativity and passion.

Boyts has quickly transitioned from student to teacher while building and maintaining relationships that she found to be such a connection point through The Shoofly Project. Approaching those relationships with respect and understanding servant leadership allow her to be an effective and encouraging mentor.

“Hesston gave me the ability to work with people and approach relationships confidently and with a core understanding that the relationship and person matters,” Boyts said. “I began to build that framework at Hesston, and the ability to maintain a positive relationship has always led me to something valuable.”

Read The Shoofly Project blog at theshooflyproject.blogspot.com, find the review of Katie’s Fruity Pebble Oatmeal cookies and the recipe by searching “Fruity Pebble Oatmeal cookie” at bonappetit.com. Photos by Dana Chang
Tsegamihret “Tsega” Gebru ’14
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A PLACE FOR DISCOVERY
Hesston College and the influence of my instructors helped me discover who I am and what my dreams are. I have always enjoyed helping people, so studying social work at Hesston was an easy choice. As a social worker, I will be able to influence others to improve their lives.

FUELING A DREAM
I have a dream to impact the world in a big way. I want to have my own school with a curriculum that teaches students how to think instead of what to think. So much of what is taught in school systems requires students to memorize facts and cuts out opportunities for real-life application. Schools should not generate followers, but thinkers who are creative enough to solve the problems that exist. What people do and study should be driven by curiosity, not by being told exactly what to do.

Much of my dream’s inspiration comes from Hesston’s faculty who care about students’ opinions and try to get us involved. That model of teaching and caring is something I will take with me. At Hesston, I have been taught a lot about people and personalities, which has helped me love and understand people more.

MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCES
In Ethiopia I attended a French school that focused on applying everything we learned to our own life and society. I decided I wanted to go to another country to finish my schooling and my parents agreed to it, so I attended Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite High School for my last two years of high school. It was there that I first learned about Hesston College when an admissions representative visited the school. He did a great job of explaining what Hesston had to offer. I had a feeling this was where I was supposed to be.

A VALUABLE COMMUNITY
Hesston has given me many opportunities to be involved on campus. I was a resident assistant, a member of the Peace and Service Club, a student ambassador and a First Year Experience scholar. Hesston’s faculty and staff have a special way of showing students they value us and our minds. They give us leadership responsibilities that show us they trust us. Having that kind of support tells students that the faculty and staff see us as adults and individuals. Their trust helps us begin the journey into adulthood in a supportive community.

READY FOR A CHALLENGE
“When Tsega was hired as an FYE scholar, she immediately identified goals that would push her to develop skills she will need for career pursuits. It impressed me how she chose skills that were difficult instead of just things she was already good at. I can’t wait to see the way she’ll harness her newly developed skills to make a difference beyond Hesston College.” – Marissa King ’05, education instructor and First Year Experience coordinator.

GO EVERYWHERE
Next year I plan to attend The King’s College (New York, N.Y.) and major in politics, philosophy and economics. From there I will see what my next steps need to be in order to fulfill my dream.
GO EVERYWHERE
ALUMNI profile

Don Cressman ’78
Las Vegas, Nev., and everywhere

MAJOR: Aviation
CAREER: International bush pilot

LITERALLY “EVERYWHERE”
A week after graduating from Hesston, I married Julie (Miller) ’79 and we moved to Canada. My first flying job was as an instructor at a small flight school. I then worked as a charter pilot in northern Canada flying Native American trappers and their families between remote communities. My job was interesting, and I learned skills to call myself a bush pilot. After eight years we began to feel that there must be a way to use acquired skills in a different environment. It was then we learned about Air Serv International, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization that provides air transportation in support of humanitarian programs and disaster relief operations worldwide. For 17 years we held positions in various capacities in Mozambique, Kenya and Sierra Leone. We then accepted positions at the home office in Redlands, Calif., and later Warrenton, Va. We also had the privilege to work short term assignments in Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Indonesia as well as at least six other African countries. I am now a contract pilot for Zimex Aviation, a Swiss company that contracts me to a government-owned Angolan company responsible for all the resource development of the offshore oil in Angola. I work out of Luanda, Angola, flying a 40-year-old DHC-6 Twin Otter Canadian bush plane.

LIFE AS A BUSH PILOT
While most of my Hesston aviation classmates had airline dreams, that particular bug never bit me. I wanted to be a bush pilot. I was inspired by the book Jungle Pilot, knew at least one Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot and was mentored by a flying pastor. Many different schools and organizations came in to speak with us fledgling aviators, so I was exposed to a number of options. The skills I learned at Hesston are skills I still use today.

I have had numerous unique experiences in my career. Perhaps most memorable is flying food provided by donors worldwide and distributed to communities in Mozambique cut off by war for as long as seven years. Seeing the crowds meet the airplane, observing the children picking up every single kernel of corn fallen on the ground – I felt humbled to be a part of saving lives. In Afghanistan the realities of war were only too vivid. I made several flights to pick up body bags of fallen comrades who were victims of Taliban roadside IEDs. In Indonesia we surveyed the damage done by the earthquake and resultant tsunami and provided medical transport and assistance to survivors cut off from all services, food and hospitals.

REMEMBERING THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE
Late-night trips to Druber’s, cramming for innumerable aviation exams, the stress of check rides and the joys of licenses received were all part of the Hesston Experience for me. I appreciate Hesston’s quality of instructors, the personal interest given and the encouragement to “stay the course” when things seemed bleak. As all pilots, my first solo flight was memorable, but I felt that I was behind most of my peers as they had soloed earlier than me. I figured I was way behind and perhaps I wasn’t going to make it. More than 15,000 flight hours later, I guess I was ok.

Courtesy photo
Baseball player Nick Yoder ’14 and women’s basketball player Makayla Ladwig ’15 were named the 2014 male and female Hesston College Student Athletes of the Year at the annual Athletics Banquet April 22.

Yoder (Millersburg, Ohio) a leader among the winningest class in Hesston baseball history, battled injuries during his sophomore campaign but still contributed from the shortstop position with award-winning defense and a leadoff position in the batting order. A youth ministry major, Yoder was busy off the field as well, taking the responsibilities of both ministry assistant and resident assistant his sophomore year.

“I was surprised,” Yoder said of the honor. “I’ve put in a lot of work so it’s nice to be recognized. Baseball takes up a lot of my time, but coach Rob’s values and Hesston’s values have really impacted me. I came here to play baseball, and I’ve really enjoyed my time.”

Ladwig (Wichita, Kan.) was a stalwart for the women’s basketball team, both for what shows in the stat sheet and what doesn’t. A forward finished 15th on Hesston’s all-time scoring list and played a leadership role as a team captain. Ladwig, who completed her second year of a three-year nursing degree, was also a resident assistant and was instrumental in the inauguration of the newly-formed Hesston College Gospel Choir.

“I feel very honored,” Ladwig said. “I’m glad I can represent this college well. I definitely think the basketball team has made me a better leader. Being in a sport here became an equal component of my Hesston College experience, and it was much better than I could have ever hoped for.”

“It was such a pleasure to coach Makayla,” said Hesston women’s basketball coach Dan Harrison ’79. “She worked hard and was a true servant leader to her teammates.”

Coaches for each of Hesston’s 11 varsity sports nominate a player from their team for Student Athlete of the Year honors. Candidates are to exemplify excellence on the field, in the classroom, in the dorms and campus community. Candidates are then voted on by coaches. This is the award’s third year.

The other major honor of the night was the highest team GPA, which the women’s soccer team won with a 3.32 in the same year as the program’s first trip to the playoffs in its seven-year history.

“They’re a wonderful group,” said Hesston women’s soccer coach Bryan Kehr. “They worked hard and improved on the field, but their character is what I’m most proud of.”
ATHLETICS NEWS UPDATES

STUDENT ATHLETES RECOGNIZED AS ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

Fourteen sophomore student athletes were recognized as Academic All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association for the 2013-14 year. Earning the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence with a GPA of 4.0 were (pictured from left, top to bottom) Nathan Peters (North Liberty, Iowa), men’s soccer; and Eyan Roth (Hesston, Kan.), men’s basketball. Earning the Award for Superior Academic Achievement with a GPA of 3.8 to 3.99 were Mitch Denlinger (Denver, Pa.), men’s soccer; Josh Landis (Sterling, Ill.), men’s cross country; Mitchell Martin (Milford, Neb.), men’s cross country; Kendrik Mast (Harrisonburg, Va.), men’s tennis; Tyler Roth (Canby, Ore.), men’s soccer and tennis; Hannah Weaver (Inola, Okla.), women’s cross country; and Sierra Wyse (Mt. Pleasant, Iowa), women’s cross country and tennis. Earning the Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement with a GPA of 3.6 to 3.79 were Garrett Byler (Belleville, Pa.), men’s soccer; Stephen Cabe (Niles, Mich.), baseball; Cory Kerbs (Nevada, Mo.), baseball; Morgan Martin (New Holland, Pa.), women’s tennis; and Carley Wyse (Archbold, Ohio), women’s soccer.

BASEBALL MARKS SEASON WITH A NEW WIN RECORD AND TRIP TO DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

The baseball team, under the leadership of third-year coach Rob Ramseyer, marked a new high for season wins, finishing the 2014 season with a 28-22 overall mark. The Larks ended the season with a 1-0, 12-inning loss to Northern Oklahoma College – Enid on May 17 at the district tournament.

“I was pleased with how hard our guys competed,” said Ramseyer. “Overall it was a strong showing for our players and our program.”

On May 16, Hesston defeated Longview CC (Lee’s Summit, Mo.), 7-6 in the opening game of the tournament before falling to NOC – Enid 7-3. The Larks needed a pair of wins over Enid to advance to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II World Series.

LARKS SOFTBALL GET A NEW LOOK WITH 2014 SEASON

Coach Andrew Sharp’s ’99 young softball team put up a lot of fight to finish with a 14-21 record for the 2014 season. With only one returning sophomore to lead the Larks in their 2014 campaign, plenty of new, young talent had a chance to polish their skills and leadership. The Larks defeated Sterling (Kan.) College in the last regular season game before losing to Cowley College (Arkansas City, Kan.) in the first round of the Region VI playoffs.
In arrow, from top left Graduates Nebiyu Bachore '14 (Kansas City, Mo.) and Nathan Peters '14 (North Liberty, Iowa) take time for a photo following commencement.

Yoshie Ueno '14 (Tokyo, Japan) celebrates her Hesston College graduation with her mother, Kayo.

Simon Zehr '14 (Tiskilwa, Ill.) receives his diploma from President Howard Keim – something he didn’t always think would be possible. Zehr has Williams Syndrome, a genetic condition characterized by learning disabilities and developmental delays among other challenges. The support of Hesston College faculty, staff and students helped him overcome his would-be roadblocks, balance his social and academic life and achieve success. This summer, Zehr is completing an eight-week disaster management field experience requirement working with Mennonite Disaster Service in High River, Alberta, Canada. At the annual LarkFest Awards May 2, he was one of three students honored with the Service Leader Award for more than 60 service hours logged during the academic year.

Middle row, from left Irene Mine '14 (Oshu-shi, Japan), Masayo Satoh '14 (Niigata-ken, Japan), Crisentia Gregor '14 (Banyuwangi, Indonesia), Ayaka Senoo '14 (Sagamihara, Japan), Danika Saucedo Salas '14 (Santa Cruz, Bolivia) and Makayla Ladwig '15 (Wichita, Kan.) celebrate following the commencement service.

Aviation graduate Redfa Titihalawa '13, '14 (Jakarta, Indonesia) is congratulated by flight instructor David Rudy '13. Aviation graduates for both the professional pilot – eight students - and air traffic control programs – seven students – were honored at a reception May 10.

Bottom row, from left Kristal Potter '14 (Haven, Kan.) receives her nursing pin from nursing faculty member Gregg Schroeder ’86. Potter was one of 52 nursing graduates honored at nursing pinning May 10.

Disaster Management graduates Philip Kauffman ’05, ’14 (Hesston, Kan.), Kendrik Mast ’14 (Harrisonburg, Va.), Jonathan Shetler ’14 (Goshen, Ind.), Jeffrey Smoker ’14 (Harrisonburg, Va.) and Simon Zehr ’14 (Tiskilwa, Ill.) were honored at a ceremony May 10.

Three generations of descendants of Hesston College President Milo Kauffman Ac22, ’26 hold his diploma. Pictured from left are Milo’s daughter Gloria (Kauffman) Ac61, ’63 Yoder (Lovington, Ill.), great-granddaughter Rebecca Rhodes ’14 (Arthur, Ill.) and granddaugh- ter Rhonda (Yoder) ’88 Rhodes (Arthur, Ill.).

Jason Schroeder ’15 (Anthony, Kan.) sings a solo at the International Chorale concert May 10. The bi-annual International Chorale tour to Europe took 30 students, led by music faculty members Bradley Kauffman, Ken Rodgers ’85 and Holly Swartzendruber, on a three-week tour through the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and the Czech Republic May 17 to June 3.

Pastoral Ministries graduates Nick Ladd ’14 (Waldron, Mich.) and Philip Kauffman’ 05 ’14 (Hesston, Kan.) were commissioned for ministry during a May 10 service. From left: Bible and ministry faculty member Marion Bontrager ’57, Shari Ladd, Jennie (Warkentine) ’09 Wintemote, Nick Ladd, Peter Wintemote ’09, Philip Kauffman, Aimee (Stutzman) ’05 Kauffman, Michele (Schrock) ’81 Herbberger, Courtney Becker and Jocinda Baker.
Many members of the Hesston College Class of 2014 shared their future plans at the New Alumni Dinner hosted April 24 by the Advancement Division, which includes offices of Development, Alumni and Church Relations and Marketing and Communications. Congratulations Class of 2014 and best wishes as you go everywhere! This list includes the plans shared during the New Alumni Dinner and does not represent the entirety of the exciting places the class of 2014 will go.

Samantha Aeschliman, Lindsborg, Kan. – Emporia (Kan.) State University
Nadia Asprila, Purwodadi, Indonesia – Texas Tech University (Lubbock)
Bethany Badger, Kirwin, Kan. – RN job
So Hui “Christine” Bak, Gunpo, South Korea – San Jacinto College (Pasadena, Texas)
Laura Baker, Protection, Kan. – still deciding
Alyssa Becker, North Newton, Kan. – Wichita (Kan.) State University
Angela Behanna, Marquette, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at Tabor College (Hillsboro, Kan.)
Gina Benton, Ingalls, Kan. – RN job
Josh Booth, Goessel, Kan. – Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.)
Austin Brinkman, Bloomington, Ill. – Greenville (Ill.) College
Sierra Brodin, McPherson, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N.
Angela Brunner, Elbing, Kan. – work
Garrett Byler, Belleville, Pa. – Pennsylvania State University (State College)
Stephen Cabe, Niles, Mich. – still deciding
Megan Cernek, Elton, La. – voluntary service
Emma Cloud, Chandler, Ariz. – University of Kansas School of Pharmacy (Lawrence)
Denver Coblentz, Hartville, Ohio – Air National Guard
Morgan Cockrum, Falcon, Colo. – Colorado State University – Pueblo
Amber Davis, Crawfordsville, Iowa – still deciding
Charisse Dawson, Sedgwick, Kan. – RN job
Mischka De Jesus, Kalona, Iowa – Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) (Harrisonburg, Va.)
Mitch Denlinger, Denver, Pa. – still deciding
Jessica Donnelly, Woodville, Ore. – still deciding
Steffon Huffman-Griddine, Grandview, Mo. – Harris-Stowe State University (St. Louis, Mo.)
Rebecca Eichelberger, Geneva, Neb. – Tabor College
Kelvin Ferbianto, Jakarta, Indonesia – still deciding
Ippei Fujimoto, Miyazaki, Japan – Kent (Ohio) State University
Tsegamihret Gibrhu, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – King’s College (New York, N.Y.)
Megan Goodrich, Buchanan, Mich. – still deciding
Jessica Graybill, Gap, Pa. – RN job
Shelley Griffin, Sumter, S.C. – RN job, pursue B.S.N.
Hailey Grimm, Hiawatha, Kan. – RN job
Victoria Gunawan, Semarang, Indonesia – EMU
Rachelle Haarer, Goshen, Ind. – Grace College (Winona Lake, Ind.)
Narumi Hayano, Kiyosu, Japan – work
JD Hersberger, Hesston, Kan. – work at DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) Denver
Matt Hiebert, Peabody, Kan.
Brandi Hite, Wichita, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N.
Abbi Hochstetler, Arthur, N.D. – EMU
Marissa Hochstetler, Strang, Neb. – Goshen (Ind.) College
Savanah Hofstetter, Dalton, Ohio – Bluffton (Ohio) University
Jennifer Holdeman, Goddard, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at Mid-America Nazarene University (Olathe, Kan.)
Drew Hostetler, Goshen, Ind. – Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne
Ryota Kanamori, Chiba, Japan – still deciding
Kayla Kauffman, Hutchinson, Kan. – RN job
Philip Kauffman, Hesston, Kan. – work
Cory Kerbs, Nevada, Mo. – Missouri Southern State University (Joplin)
Myu Kobayashi, Yokosuka, Japan – still deciding
Melissa Kresky, Beloit, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at Wichita State University
Nick Ladd, Waldron, Mich. – pastor at Salem Mennonite Church (Waldron)
Josh Landis, Sterling, Ill. – Cornell University (Ithaca, N.Y.)
Crystal Leinbach, Hesston, Kan. – still deciding
Nikki Lester, Colorado Springs, Colo. – University of Texas at San Antonio
Joseph Loop, Wichita, Kan. – work
Cris Lopez Maldonado, Quito, Ecuador – Kansas State University (Manhattan)
Dominique Lowry, Colorado Springs, Colo. – University of Texas at San Antonio
Junau Louis Jean, Haiti – work
Da’Vasha Manier, Dayton, Ohio – Bowling Green (Ohio) State University
Mitch Martin, Milford, Neb. – University of
Nebraska – Lincoln
Morgan Martin, New Holland, Pa. – pursue work in Early Childhood Education
Kendrik Mast, Harrisonburg, Va. – work
Trevon Mast, Weatherford, Okla. – work
Mason McMillan, Ozawkie, Kan. – Kansas State University – Salina
Carlie Miller, Middlebury, Ind. – RN job
Chris Miller, Linville, Va. – work
Elsa Miller, Millersburg, Ohio – EMU
Olivia Miller, Newton, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at the University of Kansas (Lawrence)
Rachel Miller, Hutchinson, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at the University of Kansas
Ryan Miller, Arthur, Ill. – still deciding
Irene Mine, Oshu-shi, Japan – Union University (Jackson, Tenn.)
Savannah Mitchell, Peoria, Ill. – EMU
Dominic Murray, Denver, Colo. – still deciding
Trevor Natalini, Oronogo, Mo. – work
Amy Nussbaum, Union, Mich. – EMU
Jason Oyer, Hubbard, Ore. – Portland (Or.) State University
Beau Palmer, Oklahoma City, Okla. – Mid-America Christian University (Oklahoma City)
David Penner, Moundridge, Kan. – EMU
Nathan Peters, North Liberty, Iowa – still deciding
Cameron Ponce, Elkhart, Ind. – Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.)
Jared Regehr, Hesston, Kan. – RN job
Jodi Renollet, Newton, Kan. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at University of Kansas
Amy Repp, Valley Center, Kan. – internship with Parkinson's Association of the Plains (Wichita)
Nathanael Ressler, Mount Vernon, Ill. – EMU
Jake Rhine, Indianapolis, Ind. – EMU
Rebecca Rhodes, Arthur, Ill. – still deciding
Eyan Roth, Hesston, Kan. – EMU
Tyler Roth, Canby, Ore. – George Fox University (Newberg, Ore.)
Masayo Satoh, Japan – Hesston College
Danika Saucedo Salas, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia – EMU
Ryan Schilling, Fort Worth, Texas – still deciding
Heidi Schmidt, Versailles, Mo. – RN job
Amy Seibel, Lawrence, Miss. – EMU
Ayaka Senoo, Sagamihara, Japan – University of Missouri (Columbia)
Jerek Shoemaker, Newton, Kan. – Wichita State University
Becca Slabaugh, Goshen, Ind. – Goshen College
Carla Smith, Enid, Okla. – RN job, pursue B.S.N. at Tabor College
Jeffrey Smoker, Harrisonburg, Va. – EMU
Eun Ha Song, Daegu, South Korea – RN job
Jessica Stalling, McPherson, Kan. – RN job
Christian Stevens, South Bend, Ind. – Goshen College
Brianne Stutzman, Hesston, Kan. – RN job at Newton (Kan.) Medical Center, pursue master’s degree
Emily Taylor, Inman, Kan. – RN job
Josh Thomas, Johnstown, Pa. – internship at Kaufman Mennonite Church (Conemaugh, Pa.)
Chris Thuma, Archbold, Ohio – Bowling Green State University
Redfa Titihalawa, Jakarta, Indonesia
Austin Tompkinson, Attica, Kan. – Emporia State University
Yoshie Ueno, Nerima-ku, Japan – still deciding
Adam Unruh, Marion, S.D. – still deciding
Hannah Weaver, Inola, Okla. – EMU
Alicia Wenger, Hesston, Kan. – RN job
Whitney Werth, Inman, Kan. – Sterling (Kan.) College
Wesley Wilder, Hesston, Kan. – EMU
Taylor Wright, Salem, Ore. – Western Oregon University (Monmouth)
William Wyatt, Rose Hill, Kan. – still deciding
Carley Wyse, Archbold, Ohio – Goshen College
Sierra Wyse, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa – William Peace University (Raleigh, N.C.)
Jesse Yoder, Sarasota, Fla. – still deciding
Nick Yoder, Millersburg, Ohio – Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion)
Monica Yosin, Kudus, Indonesia – RN job, pursue B.S.N.
Simon Zehr, Tiskilwa, Ill. – work at Hesston College Campus Facilities
Matt Lind ’15 (Harrisonburg, Va.) probably spends more time in the Northlawn music building than any other place on campus.

Lind, a double major of mathematics and music, chose Hesston because he could study all of his music activities at once – Concert Band where he plays saxophone and clarinet, voice as a member of Bel Canto Singers, piano and composition.

Lind came to Hesston with previous composition experiences, having won a composition contest in high school, and discovered that he enjoyed that aspect of music. This spring, he participated in an independent composition study with Bradley Kauffman, where his skills developed even more.

“There’s no better feeling than hearing your own ideas produced,” Lind said. “You’ve created a whole being that hadn’t existed before.”

Lind premiered two of his pieces during the year. The first was inspired by his Biblical Literature inductive Bible study about the death of Absalom and King David’s grief. The Bel Canto Singers premiered “When David Heard” as a part of their spring semester repertoire. A violin-piano duet became his next composition, and he is working on a piece inspired by the serial number of the college’s new nine-foot Steinway grand piano.

“I find inspiration from my life events or changes – something that affects my thinking,” Lind said.

Music and math came together when he was composing the violin-piano duet entitled “Andromeda,” named after the galaxy in the constellation Orion. The piece was inspired by the mathematical equation of a spiral. Using numbers that represent notes, he generated the piano harmony by substituting note “numbers” in the spiral equation that would yield a new number or note. A series of slow, five-note arpeggios became the base for the violin melody that Lind wrote to fit over the piano part.

“Since I used a mathematical basis, I was forced to think creatively to work with something else out of my imagination,” said Lind.

Kauffman says working with Lind has been rewarding for him because Lind goes beyond what is required for the course. Because music is so deeply engrained in who he is, Lind is always bringing new ideas and thoughts to his studies.

“It’s been exciting to work with Matt,” Kauffman said. “He has a mature set of musical skills and curiosities of many styles.”

Though Lind favors different composers and genres of music on different days, he consistently enjoys 20th century style music, some of his favorite composers being Copland, Gershwin, Mahler and Stravinsky. He also appreciates Impressionist composers such as Debussy and Saint-Seans, as well as jazz and classical, which he frequently performs on clarinet and saxophone.

For Lind, practicing piano became a method of relaxation in his musical and academic-packed schedule. Because he already had years of study with the clarinet, saxophone and voice when he arrived at Hesston, he says there were certain
expectations to meet. But with the piano, everything is new. The freedom to learn and be able to make mistakes drives Lind’s love for the instrument and motivates him to practice and improve.

“It became one of my favorite things,” Lind said. “Playing piano is like playing a whole orchestra at once. You are able to hear the full piece with just yourself.”

Lind diligently studied his new instrument by taking lessons and devoting practice time each day. Even as a beginner, he appreciates how his instructors took him seriously, and he was quickly introduced to professional repertoire.

“At Hesston, I’ve been able to completely immerse myself with individual attention and emphasis in many different areas,” Lind said. “I have gotten to choose where I want to grow rather than having to focus on something of which I’m not sure.”

While Lind loves to practice his music, sometimes it is difficult to balance everything at once. He tries to practice each instrument an hour a day, participate in music ensembles, take 17 credit hours and have a social life. He will also be a ministry assistant and writing fellow for his sophomore year and will lead a student pep band. Although a full schedule may be overwhelming for some, Lind says that being busy makes him productive.
Hesston College is a great starting place for students because it helps them learn their core values in life. Students may not always recognize or appreciate opportunities and experiences for what they are during their time at Hesston, but in later years they will realize and cherish those opportunities as transformational. This is just one reason that we choose to support Hesston College as Partners.

Many people before us donated to get the college started, sustain it through lean years and support its mission, goals and students. With the help of financial donors to the college, JT was able to enjoy his own Hesston Experience. We believe it is now our turn to give to continue the legacy not only for our children, but also to make the Hesston Experience a possibility for other other students as well.

Mischa (De Jesus) ’14, for whom we are legal guardians, had a memorable Hesston Experience over the last two years. We would like to thank all the staff and faculty for guiding her in everything from academics to spiritual life.

Hesston College is a special place, and we hope by supporting it in this way, it can become the starting place for many future students.
STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Students were recognized for their academic and extracurricular achievements during the 2013-14 year at the annual LarkFest awards ceremony May 2. Awards were given to 25 students in 12 departmental categories. Two students, Rebecca Eichelberger ’14 (Geneva, Neb.) and Hannah Weaver ’14 (Inola, Okla.), received the Lark of the Year Award for demonstrating excellence in academics, leadership and service. Lark of the Year nominees were selected through grade point average and involvement in leadership and service opportunities. Faculty chose the winners. Weaver and Eichelberger are shown at right with their Lark of the Year awards, original pieces of art by art faculty member Hanna Eastin.

NEW PROGRAMS OF STUDY INTRODUCED TO CURRICULUM

The college will introduce two new programs of study – exercise science and environmental science – to the course offerings beginning with the 2014-15 academic year. Exercise science is one of the fastest growing career fields, and opens students to a broad range of career paths.

Environmental science programs have also seen an upswing nationwide due to increased interest in sustainability and green initiatives. Students will have opportunities to incorporate classroom and lab work with career field experiences.

STUDENTS CONTINUE LEARNING THROUGH THE SUMMER

Some students extended their learning experiences even after on campus classes ended in May. Faculty sponsors Bradley Kauffman, Ken Rodgers ’85 and adjunct instructor Holly Swartzendruber led the International Chorale on a three-week tour in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. The group of 30 students performed concerts and studied country, cultural and Anabaptist history. Disaster Management students are completing an eight-week field experience requirement working with Mennonite Disaster Service in High River, Alberta, Canada. The 11 students are working with cleanup and rebuilding from damage sustained during 2013 flooding.

2014-15 CAMPUS THEME AND COMMON READ EXPLORE OPPRESSION

The First Year Experience seminar will again lead campus with a theme and common read for the 2014-15 year. The theme for the year will be “Power of Choice: Changing Cultures of Oppression” and will be led by the common read Escape from Camp 14 (Penguin Books, reprint 2013) by Blaine Harden. The book tells about one man’s experience in and escape from a North Korean prison camp, offering an opportunity to explore and challenge the collective images, stories and memories that harm and victimize, as well as those that offer freedom. The common read will serve as a catalyst for a series of student projects, campus forums, community discussions and service activities throughout the year. Harden will visit campus Oct. 16 to present about his work as a writer and human rights advocate. Alumni and friends are invited to experience the theme along with the campus community by reading the book and participating in events as able.
1920-29
DEATH
Helen (Ebersole) Ac28 Mann, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 25, 2014

1930-39
DEATHS
Bertha (Swartz) '38 Whitcher, Premont, Texas, March 20, 2014

1940-49
Wilma (Davis) Ac45, '47, Gundy Arvada, Colo., published a second book, a memoir, Tales from Old Soddy: My Depression-era Childhood (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013), which contains short accounts of her childhood as one of nine children living on the arid eastern Colorado plains in the 1930s and 40s. Wilma has a master’s degree in English literature and another in guidance and counseling from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After retiring from 35 years in education, she began writing short stories, articles and poetry. Her first book is titled My Life Without a Stage Manager (Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, 2013). Both books are available online.

Don Ac47, ‘49 and Natalie (Zink) ’53 Zook, Wichita, Kan., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June. During their working years, Don served as a United Methodist pastor for 38 years in central and western Kansas congregations, and Natalie was a public school teacher and counselor. They both retired in 1993 and have been involved with numerous volunteer projects around the world since.

1960-69
DEATHS
George Wismer, husband of Lois (Moore) ’63 Wismer, Perkasie, Pa., Jan. 5, 2014
Richard Voran Ac64, Palmer, Alaska, Jan. 19, 2014
Allen Troyer ’69, Elkhart, Ind., Nov. 13, 2013

1970-79
Yvonne (Yoder) ’71 Sieber, former staff, Hesston, began as chief philanthropy officer of Bluestem Communities July 1. Bluestem Communities includes the retirement and nursing home facilities of Schowalter Villa (Hesston) and Kidron Bethel Village (North Newton, Kan.). She served as vice president of Advancement at Hesston College from 2007 to 2014.

Beverly (Stauffer) ’72 Stauffer Augsberger, Harrisonburg, Va., is an international public health consultant. She spent early 2014 leading a mid-term review of a large USAID-funded program in Ethiopia and doing rapid assessments and new project designs in typhoon-affected areas of the Philippines.

John Sharp ’73, faculty, Hesston, was the featured guest speaker at Tabor College’s (Hillsboro, Kan.) Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies annual spring dinner in May with the presentation “Buggies, Bonnets and Boundaries: The Amish in a Modern World.”

Janeen Campbell ’78, Manifee, Calif., works in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Riverside County Regional Medical Center ( Moreno Valley, Calif.).

Shari (Leidig) ’79 Holland (right), McKeesport, Pa., was awarded the Healthcare Leader award at the 2013 Mon River Fleet Women of Achievement banquet and ceremony, which honors women for having an impact on the communities where they live and work in the greater Pittsburgh area. Shari is a Behavioral Science faculty member with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-McKeesport Family Medicine Residency Program, working with resident physicians who serve patients with psycho-social issues. The Mon Valley region was hard hit by the close of the steel mill industry in the 1980s and much of the area has never rebounded and suffers from poverty and violence. She is also a licensed, nationally certified professional counselor, having managed outpatient programs and worked as a child, adolescent and family therapist for more than 20 years. Shari says: “I continue to be thankful for the values and experiences I was raised with and then were reinforced at Hesston – to work for peace and justice where we live. As a new college freshman at Hesston, I was afforded the opportunity to jump in and get involved with peace concerns – it made an impact on how I choose to live my life.”

Mike Hostetler ’79, Harper, Kan., was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 2006. Over the past eight years, he has found ways to adapt to his new life changes through faith...
and the support of family and church family. He created and designed the PARKINtheSON logo (left), printing it on T-shirts and selling them as a way to encourage those living with PD. Proceeds are donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research. Mike had deep brain stimulation surgery in April 2014 to implant a “brain pacemaker,” making his brain seem as though it is producing more dopamine and improve his quality of life. Mike and his wife Betty have two children, including son Jordan Hostetler ’06 and four grandchildren.

DEATHS

Glen Moyer, husband of Nancy (Derstine) ’71 Moyer, Telford, Pa., Nov. 26, 2013

Doug Unruh ’74, husband of Patsy (King) ’75 Unruh, Perryton, Texas, March 27, 2014

Byron Cox, husband of Elsie (Bartel) ’76 Cox, Weatherford, Okla., Jan. 4, 2014

1980-89

Sondra (Wedel) ’80 Leatherman, former faculty, Hesston, joined the clinic management staff at Newton (Kan.) Medical Center in April. Sondra completed a master’s degree in healthcare leadership from Friends University (Wichita, Kan.) in May. She served as a nursing instructor at Hesston College for 14 years prior to accepting her new role.

Joanna (Osborne) ’80 Masingila, Syracuse, N.Y., began serving as interim dean of the School of Education at Syracuse (N.Y.) University Feb. 1.

Ed Zuercher ’85, Phoenix, was named city manager of Phoenix after serving as acting city manager for four months. He was one of four finalists narrowed down from a field of eight interviewees. Ed has served the city for more than two decades, starting as an intern and working his way through various city departments. In his new position, he is responsible for overseeing daily operations, managing 14,500 employees and implementing the council’s $3.5 billion budget.

DEATH

Annette (Balzer) ’85 Green, Salina, Kan., Jan. 3, 2014

BIRTHS

Leon ’89 and Robin Schrock, Parnell, Iowa: Landry Michael, Dec. 3, 2013

1990-99

Janelle Hahn ’95, Hesston, is spending the year as a volunteer English and arts and crafts teacher with the Fabretto Children’s Foundation in Nicaragua.

Denise (Kauffman) ’97 Diller, Albany, Ore., completed a master of science in nursing with emphasis in Public Health from Grand Canyon University (Phoenix) in February. She is a nurse for the Corvallis (Ore.) School District.

Ryan Lepp ’97, Eldridge, Iowa, is employed by Case/New Holland and works as a combine engineer.

DEATHS

Joseph Potts, husband of Christine Gallo ’91, Orlando, Fla., Jan. 28, 2014

Melinda Vogel ’94, North Newton, Kan., Jan. 6, 2014

MARRIAGE

Ryan Lepp ’97 and Jodi Holland, Eldridge, Iowa, Feb. 1, 2014

SUMMER FILM TO FEATURE ALUMNUS’ WORK

This summer, as movie-goers flock to one of the summer’s most talked about films, New York Times best-selling author Dinesh D’Souza’s America: Imagine the World Without Her, they will hear music from a man who started at Hesston College.

Brian “Bryan” Miller ’86 (Valley Village, Calif.), is the founder of Sensory Overload Music, the company providing the original score to America, a follow-up to the movie 2016: Obama’s America (2012).

As a Hesston student studying music and composition, Miller’s goal was to compose a unique piece of music that pushed the assignment’s boundaries.

“I intentionally tried to make my compositions sound different and stand out,” said Miller.

Those unique compositions led him to more experiences, including Azusa (Calif.) Pacific University, the Grove School of Music (Los Angeles) and University of California, Los Angeles.

“Hesston was an essential first step,” Miller said. “I got to where I am from one humble job to the next. It’s really about serving and becoming valuable – basic biblical principles put into action.”

Today, Miller’s clientele list spans some of the industry’s largest companies, and his work has been featured in projects including American Idol, The Big Bang Theory, Dancing with the Stars and commercials for Nike, Taco Bell, Ford, the NFL and more. He also has a personal passion for working with charities and humanitarian organizations.

For America, Miller composed about 85 minutes of music ranging from orchestral, American, Mexican, Irish, Native American, high tech electronic and patriotic and uplifting themes, and worked with world-class musicians and vocalists.

“Film and television are powerful media that can be used positively or negatively to great effect,” said Miller. “I’m working to be very intentional about the projects I’m involved with. It’s a wonderful feeling when you have the opportunity to be part of a winning team that wants to bring positive change to the world.

“I like Hesston’s tagline, ‘Start Here, Go Everywhere’,” said Miller. “When you are starting out, you have hopes, dreams and ambitions, but it takes real skills, determination, perseverance and hard work to accomplish goals.”
BIRTHS

Brad Eichelberger '94 and April Garton, Mount Pleasant, Iowa: Ava Lynn, Feb. 11, 2013

Allison (Miller) '99 and Kyle Troyer, Kalona, Iowa: Annie Hope, April 5, 2014

2000-2009

Brian Veeder '00, Le Roy, Ill., is a charitable services representative and church relations representative for Everence Financial Advisors in Fisher, Ill.

Talasha Keim '02 Yoder, Goshen, Ind., was ordained as pastor of young adults at College Mennonite Church (Goshen) in February.

Avery Kirk '07, Morris, Minn., is a corporate pilot at Superior Industries (Morris).

Jennifer Handrich '08, Fairview, Mich., left her job as a nurse in July 2013 for the Republic of Congo and joined Mercy Ships for a 10-month field service.

Katelin (Landes) '09 Hamlin, Muscatine, Iowa, began working as a certified medical paramedic and firefighter in Augusta County, Va., in May. Marcus served as assistant athletic trainer at Hesston College for two years and head athletic trainer for one before accepting his new role.

DEATH

Joel Widmer '09, Williamsburg, Iowa, Feb. 7, 2014

MARRIAGES

Brian Veeder '00 and Kayla Clark, Champaign, Ill., Aug. 3, 2013

Judith Miller '01 and Ruskin Clay, Macon, Miss., Sept. 28, 2013

Jeff Clark '04 and Sarah Pritchard, Wichita, Kan., Aug. 3, 2013

Brenda Imhoff '06 and Matthew Selay, Carrollton, Texas, March 15, 2014

Josh Andres '07 and Kristy Luty, Peabody, Kan., June 1, 2013

James Day '07 and Allison Wools, Topeka, Kan., March 15, 2014

Garrett Yoder '07 and Kourtney Johnson, Kalona, Iowa, May 18, 2013

Josh Boese '08 and Bethany Yoder, Goshen, Ind., Nov. 23, 2013

Laura Goering '09 and Derrick Law, Moundridge, Kan., March 1, 2014

Katelin Landes '09 and Eric Hamlin, Muscatine, Iowa, Oct. 19, 2013

2010-2013

Travis '00, staff and Christy (Berkey) '03 Pickerill, Moundridge, Kan.: Adiel Paula, Jan. 12, 2014

Karl '01 and Sonia (Slater) '02 Hofstetter, Hesston: Landree Ann, May 12, 2014

Jason '01 and Carol Longenecker Schmidt, Newton, Kan.: Greta Longenecker Schmidt, Sept. 21, 2013

Kristin (Walker) '02 and Adam Jones, Chicago, Ill.: Neil Walker, Sept. 28, 2013

Eve (Aeschliman) '02 and Rodney Knepp, Hinton, Va.: Jayden Zane, June 23, 2013

DeeDee (Martin) '02 and Mark, staff Landes, Hesston: Kellen Daniel, Dec. 9, 2013

Mark '02 and Ashley (Sauder) '02 Miller, Harrisonburg, Va.: Taitum Bellamy, May 8, 2013

Mark '03 and Debbie Horst, Harrisonburg, Va.: Violet Evangeline, Aug. 7, 2013

Joel '04 and Laura (Waters) '04 Garber, Goodwell, Okla.: Ethan Preston, March 8, 2014

Andrew '04 and Heidi (Bender) '04 Willems, San Antonio: Eden Naomi, May 17, 2013

Marcos '04 and Beth (Wright) '05 Wright-Kuhns, Portland, Ore.: twins Gabriel Victor and James Miles, April 9, 2014

Nicki (Swain) '05 and Chris Goering, Pretty Prairie, Kan.: Selah Grace, Aug. 28, 2013

Rachel (Schlegel) '05, staff and Andy '16 McMaster, Moundridge, Kan.: Natalie Claire, June 11, 2014.

Philip '05 and Sarahanne Unruh, Hesston: Bosten Eyn, Nov. 12, 2013

Morgan (Sayles) '06 and Patrick Einspahr, Siebert, Colo.: Ainsley Sue, April 21, 2014

Erin (Stauffer) '06 and Garrett Pennington, Manhattan, Kan.: Everett Lee, March 24, 2014

MARRIAGE

Kush Lengacher '12, '13, former faculty and Rachelle Wenger '13, Hesston, April 19, 2013

BIRTH

Melanie (Catron) '10 and Dan Weeks, Olathe, Kan.: William Cole

Faculty/Staff

Lamar Roth, former staff, Hesston, began as director of Human Resources at Excel Industries, Inc., (Hesston) May 1. He served as vice president of Student Life and dean of students at Hesston College from 2003 to 2014.

Dr. Sandra Zerger, former staff, Newton, Kan., ended her role as vice president of Academics and academic dean at Hesston College following the 2013-14 year. She served in this role since 2007.
AUGUST

2
Hesston High School seniors Celebration Event in Hesston, Kan.

15 to 17
Opening Weekend

18
Start of fall semester

28
Lee Wheeler campus presentation on North Korean situation as part of First Year Experience seminar

SEPTEMBER

5
All-campus forum with professional baritone, artist-in-residence and faculty member Tony Brown – Stories and Songs of Peace, Hope and Justice

25
International Student Scholarship Golf Benefit honoring Dave Ac64, ’66 and Sena (Miller) ’68 Osborne

25 to 28
A Hesston College Homecoming: A View From Everywhere, Each Other’s Light: A Multicultural Celebration

OCTOBER

1
Kansas Guidance Counselors Professional Development Event with speaker Larry Thompson

2
Hesston College participates in the local Hesston community’s Coming Home 2014

9 to 12
Fall Break & Bel Canto Singers Fall Break Kansas Tour

16
Escape from Camp 14 author presentation by Blaine Harden

18
Hesston College co-sponsors I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson’s Life in His Words & Songs at Lancaster (Pa.) Mennonite School

30 to Nov. 2
Fall Drama: Our Town
Join us for a Homecoming celebration that will feature:

- Eglia Birmingham, former faculty
- Tony Brown ’69
- Luke Hartman ’89
- Daniel Moya ’08 and La Republica Latino Band (tentative)
- Ning So ’93
- Gilberto Perez Jr. ’92
- Jean Polynice ’93
- Evie (Kauffman) Ac ’59 ’61 Shellenberger
- Herm Weaver ’79
- Aaron “AY” Young ’12
- Hesston College Gospel Choir
- AND MORE!

TAKE A LOOK: IS IT YOUR REUNION YEAR?
Academy classes of ’54, ’59, ’64

HOMECOMING REGISTRATION INSIDE!