Sisters and Brothers,

Since the last time I wrote this piece of welcome for you, the world as we knew it shifted dramatically. Perhaps “shift” doesn’t adequately describe the change. Life as we know it – for us on campus and for you, wherever you are – has been flipped on its head. Since March, we have each been trying to adjust our routines, understanding and expectations. We focus on finding a new normal only to find that the only guarantee of normal is a constant shift and resetting of what we knew before.

Coronavirus and the renewed energy given to issues of racial inequities in our society have brought a new reality to Hesston College and to the world. Yet we’re all learning to live in this reality together – not just as the Hesston College campus community, but as a global community. It’s rarely easy, and it’s rarely comfortable, but this kind of hard, uncomfortable work is what has the power to change us and help us grow.

At Hesston College particularly, over the last four months groups of faculty, staff and administrators have been having regular conversations and planning sessions as we work toward reassembling our community safely and responsibly while maintaining the important aspects of community and relationship that define the Hesston Experience.

In these pages, you can get a glimpse of how the last quarter of the 2019-20 year progressed, how we plan to welcome the campus community back for a new year and how some of our alumni were affected by and responded to the global crisis.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a truth that has helped to keep me focused and motivated is that we are united in our learning through this time. Likewise, with all the troubles and unknowns we are facing, God is among us. God is with us and present with us in everything we do.

That promise of God’s care and provision is also reflected in the theme verse we chose for the upcoming academic year. The passage of Exodus 16:4-6 comes from the story of God raining down manna (bread) from heaven. I believe these verses offer us a perspective into our faith that will be critical for carrying us through the coming year of both growth and unknowns.

We each have an incredible opportunity in front of us for change. COVID-19 has placed on us a new framework for home, work and church life. As our old normal breaks apart, might we take the time, energy and resources to go the extra mile and make changes in our lives, in our institution and in our churches to address our areas of weakness and find opportunities for transformation.

As we each reflect on where these unprecedented times might be opening doors to make an impact, I pray that you take care of yourself; take care of each other; be safe; be smart; be kind.

Peace,
Dr. Joseph A. Manickam ’87, President
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COMMUNITY AND RELATIONSHIPS DESPITE COVID-19 DISTANCING

A day in the life of a Hesston College student during the second half of the spring 2020 semester looked much different than it did during the first half.

For a campus community focused on interpersonal relationships and hands-on learning, the coronavirus pandemic morphed the student experience into something completely unexpected. But that doesn’t mean it eradicated the Hesston Experience.

“It’s not just the place that makes up Hesston College,” said Rachel Miller ’20 (Freeman, S.D.). “It’s also the students, faculty and staff. Having moved off campus, I missed the feeling of being in a tight knit group and always having someone there for me when I need them, but we still found ways to connect and I appreciated that.”

Thursday, March 12 – two days before spring break – was the day life changed for the Hesston College community. Early in the afternoon, administrators called meetings for both students and employees to inform them of a COVID-19 action plan that would be implemented immediately.

Colleges and universities across the country had been temporarily suspending in-person classes for several days already and Hesston College decided that was the right decision for its community as well.

College-sponsored spring break trips were canceled and students with other planned spring break travel were also encouraged to reconsider. Instead of closing the dorms as is typically done for the week of spring break, they remained open for students who wanted to stay on campus. Faculty and staff also canceled spring break plans in order to prepare courses to be held online when classes resumed on March 23. The online learning period would last for at least three weeks until April 13.

As the pandemic continued to snowball, so too did Hesston’s plan. By March 18, the decision was made to move classes online for the remainder of the academic year. The dorms would remain open for students who had legitimate reasons to stay – international students who couldn’t go home, aviation students who needed to continue flight training, and others who might not have access to essential learning resources.

“Staying on campus was my best option for academic reasons,” said first-year student Kaytlen Keough (Albany, Ore.). “It’s a lot easier for me to continue learning in the place I’ve been used to learning all year. I chose Hesston College because I knew it would be a
As additional expenses are incurred through proactive and intentional measures to protect our Lark community from COVID-19, you can help provide these health and safety measures by supporting the Protect the Larks COVID-19 relief fund.

Give at hesston.edu/give, and choose Protect the Larks Fund as your designation.

“Protect the Larks” COVID-19 Relief Initiative

As additional expenses are incurred through proactive and intentional measures to protect our Lark community from COVID-19, you can help provide these health and safety measures by supporting the Protect the Larks COVID-19 relief fund.

Give at hesston.edu/give, and choose Protect the Larks Fund as your designation.

“The college did the best job, in my eyes, to take care of my needs as a student as well as my personal needs.”
— Kaytlen Keough ’21 —

The college did the best job, in my eyes, to take care of my needs as a student as well as my personal needs. Everyone had to give up something to either help ourselves or others around us. I feel the Hesston faculty and staff went above and beyond.

Even for the students who returned home, the community aspect and relationships were not lost.

“I connected with my professors through Google Meet, which was better than only having email all the time,” said Ian Lecki ’20 (Overland Park, Kan.). “As for staying in contact with my friends, we talked every day and tried to have time once a week to have a colossal Facetime call with 15 to 20 people.”

Editor's note: You can read about the college’s re-opening plan for 2020-21 on pages 8-9.

Keough was one of about 50 students who finished out the year on campus – about 18 percent of the year’s full dorm count.

On-campus students were relocated to one dorm facility for conservation purposes. In order to comply with social distancing standards, all dorm rooms became single occupancy. Like their off-campus classmates, they still did their learning online. Dining Services continued to prepare and serve meals, though not with the traditional buffet format, and the Campus Activities Board (CAB) continued to organize on-campus student activities for a little entertainment.

“The college did the best job, in my eyes, to take care of my needs as a student as well as my personal needs,” said Keough. “Everyone had to give up something to either help ourselves or others around us. I feel the Hesston faculty and staff went above and beyond.”

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Editor’s note: You can read about the college’s re-opening plan for 2020-21 on pages 8-9.
As coronavirus forced many students off-campus for the last eight weeks of the spring 2020 semester, many wondered how hands-on learning and experiences would be affected. With creativity and patience, workable solutions were found to continue delivering high-quality education.

AVIATION

Junior aviation student Chris Lichti ’21 (Shickley, Neb.) was pleased with the accommodations that were made to be able for students to continue flying. Aviation students were among the students allowed to remain on campus during the shut down so they would have access to aircraft for flight training.

“If there was a silver lining to the situation, it was the increased flexibility of my schedule to get more flight hours,” Lichti said. “We got to continue flight training, just with some added steps to avoid spreading illness to one another. Planes were sanitized after every flight, and we tried to stagger scheduling times to avoid having too many people in the hangar at one time.”

NURSING

As early as late February, Hesston College partnering nursing clinical agencies began limiting student experiences in some areas as a way to conserve personal protective equipment and remove extra contact with particularly vulnerable patients. When the college moved classes online, nursing faculty jumped into high gear, spending their own spring break week exploring virtual clinical options and preparing for online teaching and learning. The efforts put forth, though quick and unexpected, were positive for both students and faculty overall and continued to equip the soon-to-graduate students with the skills and knowledge they need to join the nursing profession.

Virtual clinicals consisted of scenarios and interactive case studies meant to help students develop clinical judgment and decision-making skills. In addition, clinical and simulation faculty continued to have pre-conference and post-conference with their clinical groups.

“I never felt as though I was alone in this process,” said Jenna Boller ’20 (Kalo- na, Iowa). “Even without a pandemic there is so much to appreciate about Hesston College Nursing. One of the things anyone can see is how much the nursing faculty care about each student. They work countless hours to prepare material and schedule clinical rotations. They take interest in each one of us and are always available to talk or help guide us along. I have always felt supported by all of the faculty and appreciate the dedication they have to the program and educating and training future nurses.”

Nursing faculty share a virtual Blessing of the Hands with graduating seniors. The blessing is usually part of the Nursing Pinning Ceremony.
Hesston College announced in June that it will welcome students back to campus and hold in-person classes for the 2020-21 academic year. The year will start with the first day of classes on August 17, which was the start date on the originally planned academic calendar.

Planning for the year will come with extra health and safety measures to protect against the transmission of coronavirus. The academic calendar will shift to eliminate semester breaks like fall break. On November 25, just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, in-person fall semester classes will end and move to asynchronous online learning which may be completed on or off campus for the final week and a half of the fall semester.

“We have been closely monitoring the impact of coronavirus in our community and in the region, as well as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and we are confident that by taking extra precautions, we can welcome students back to campus for the new academic year,” said President Joseph Manickam ’87.

A 12-person Reopening Work Group made up of faculty and staff representatives from key campus departments meet regularly to plan the logistics for a safe reopening, as well as policies that will ensure continued health and safety for the campus community moving forward.

“Welcoming our campus community back for the academic year will look different than we are used to,” said Deb (Swartzendruber) ’83 Roth, vice president of Student Life. “We will have to make changes to many of the community practices that are part of Hesston College, but we recognize that this is for the safety of all, and we will find new, creative ways to prioritize community, which is foundational for our student experience.”

Since the start of coronavirus disruptions in March, the college has leveraged its smaller size to remain nimble and quickly make adjustments for the benefit of the community. One area of particular benefit for the returning campus community is the college’s ability to assign dorming students to single rooms at no additional cost for those living in the college’s primary dorms,
Erb Hall and Kauffman Court.

To accommodate single occupancy dorm rooms, the college will open and use every available mod. Hesston College also worked with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to construct an extra room in the lounge area of each of the Kauffman Court mods, adding an additional 13 dorm rooms to campus.

To manage the need for some students coming from other countries and states on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment list that require quarantine, the college has added a part-time quarantine coordinator. The staff member will be available should quarantine become necessary during the year as well.

Physical distancing practices will also be implemented as much as possible in classrooms, the dining hall and during chapel times. A new face mask policy will require mandatory face masks for all students, employees, contractors and guests on campus where physical distancing practices are difficult to maintain.

In the dining hall, table configurations will allow for six feet of space between diners. Buffet-style service will be eliminated and will switch to cafeteria-style serving. More to-go meal options will also be offered for those who prefer to not eat meals in the traditional dining hall setting.

Chapels have traditionally been held with the entire campus community gathering in person two times per week for 30 minutes. The format for the 2020-21 year will separate students into “chapel houses” with a maximum of 30 individuals, including two faculty and/or staff leaders. One day per week, chapel will be a discussion-based time in chapel house groups, and the other chapel for the week will be an online presentation format.

“We are fortunate that we were able to test some of these physical distancing practices on a small scale during the spring 2020 semester with the students who remained on campus,” said President Manickam. “Those weeks spent with just a fraction of our students on campus allowed us to see what methods worked best and were safest for our campus community.”

While the majority of students during the spring 2020 semester returned to their homes for the last quarter of the year, about 50 students with legitimate reasons to stay remained on campus to the end of the academic year. During that time, practices such as single rooms and dining hall staff service were implemented.

Roth reported that the remaining on-campus students reported that they felt safe on campus during the spring coronavirus outbreak with the practices the college had in place to ensure health.

“The college did the best job, in my eyes, to take care of my needs as a student as well as my personal needs,” said first-year student Kaytlen Keough, who remained on campus for the duration of the 2019-20 year. “Hesston College went above and beyond to make sure campus was safe and healthy for us.”

Hesston College is located in Harvey County, which was fortunate to see a comparatively small number of coronavirus cases during the spring outbreak. According to the Harvey County Health Department, as of July 15, 95 cases had been confirmed in the county since March, with 51 of the cases considered recovered, two deaths and 41 active cases.

“To date, we are fortunate to be located in an area that has not been heavily impacted by coronavirus, and we pray that this continues,” said President Manickam. “Even so, we take seriously and will comply with the guidelines put in place by federal, state and local governments and public health professionals.”
A COMMITMENT TO CARE

The Hesston College Nursing motto – “A tradition of service, a commitment to care” – is more than just a feel-good statement proclaimed on the wall in Bonnie Sowers Nursing Center. It’s the philosophy that drives the education of aspiring nurses and is infused into the holistic, person-centered care Hesston Nursing graduates take with them.

As the coronavirus pandemic began to tighten its grip on the U.S., calls went out from some of the hotspot areas like New York City. Hospitals were overwhelmed with infected patients who needed extreme treatment intervention, and hospital staff couldn’t keep up with the demand. They needed health care workers from less affected areas of the country to come help.

Jasmin (Yoder) ’15 Long and Sarah Smallwood ’16 are two of several Hesston College Nursing alumni who answered the call.

Both Long and Smallwood found themselves in the thick of the pandemic in New York City, anxious at what they would encounter, but excited to serve where they were needed.

“I felt the call and need to be there,” said Smallwood, who lives in North Carolina. “I wanted to do something that could make a difference, and I was optimistic that I would be able to bring some kind of skill or help. I was nervous about what I would see and of being overwhelmed, but at the same time, that was why I decided to go.”

Smallwood had previously done travel nursing, but was currently working in a nursing home while pursuing a nurse practitioner certification. She was used to the travel nursing process. What she wasn’t used to – what no nurse was used to – was the intensity of the care that would be needed from her.

Smallwood was assigned to New York Presbyterian Hospital in Queens, which was one of the hardest hit hospitals in the city. Her 10-week assignment had her floating to all COVID units in the hospital. On the day she arrived in New York in mid-April, the city was just beginning its decline from its peak of COVID-19 deaths, but daily deaths were still in excess of 500, according to the New York City Health Department.

“Hospitals weren’t just full, they were overfull,” Smallwood said. “At my hospital, they had turned the cafeteria into a COVID unit, and almost 100 percent of patients in the hospital were COVID patients. I was taking care of 10 or 11 patients on each shift – many of them on ventilators. It felt like what I imagine war-time nursing was like. We were legitimately triaging
patients and having to make decisions on where to turn our attention.”

For Long, who lives in Oklahoma, the experience of being equally overwhelmed and called was similar. She works as a travel nurse as her husband is in the military. While he is deployed, she takes nursing assignments in her home state of Oregon. She had just finished an assignment when she felt called to go where the need was.

She joined a FEMA relief team that was deploying nurses to the city for an assignment of 21 straight days of 12-hour shifts at a large hospital in the Bronx. When she arrived in New York in early April, the city was on the upward trajectory of the bell curve for COVID-19 deaths, and would hit its highest peak just a couple of days later.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but I knew it would be like nothing I have ever encountered in my life as a nurse,” said Long. “But I wasn’t scared. God called me to do this and it’s why I became a nurse – to make a difference and to serve.”

Over her 21-day assignment, Long was floated to different units based on need.

“It was chaos everywhere; definitely a crisis,” Long said. “There was a constant overflow of patients.”

Long said upon arrival in New York nurses received a briefing to begin preparation. “They said, ‘Think of the worst day you’ve ever had as nurse,’” she said. “Then they said, ‘Now times that by 10 and do it for 21 days. That’s what this is going to be like.’ Now having lived it, I can say that statement was 100 percent true.”

Fortunately, over the course of her assignment, cases and deaths were on the decline.

“Over the final days of my assignments, things got better every day,” Long said. “We were seeing a decline in new cases and were witnessing more and more survivors. There was a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Even for all of the moments of being overwhelmed and overworked, Long was grateful for the experience that helped her grow professionally and personally.

“I know I wouldn’t have been able to do it without the strength of God,” Long said. “I have never done anything that far out of my comfort zone, but for me it was a huge step in my faith, and it changed my life.”

“God called me to do this and it’s why I became a nurse - to make a difference and to serve.”

– Jasmin (Yoder) Long ’15 –


That’s the new reality faced by PSA airline pilot Ashenafi Tadese ’16, an essential worker during a global pandemic. Despite COVID-19, Tadese aids thousands in travel across the U.S. every day, exposing himself to the danger of the virus.

But his work for the American Airlines subsidiary looks quite a bit different than it did before.

“My everyday life lately has changed quite drastically with work,” said Tadese. “I walk into the cockpit, wipe down everything with sanitation wipes and get to work, hoping the person sitting two feet to my right – my first officer – doesn’t get me sick.”

In the midst of a global pandemic, Tadese’s work comes at a price.

“Usually when I get home from flying a route, I check in on my parents at their home but that cannot happen,” said Tadese. “I fear I may very well have had exposure and don’t want to pass it to them, so it’s just phone calls.”

This reality leaves Tadese, along with millions of Americans, wondering when it will all end. In April, airline travel in the U.S. had slowed down 96 percent, according to CNN. Gone are the joyful passengers and happy couples.

“There are no more children wanting to come up front to take pictures and wanting to press all the cool buttons,” said Tadese. “I miss the faces.”

“I talk with my first officer and the conversations these days are about the same – how much longer we will have our jobs as we see other companies reducing staff or closing down for good,” Tadese added.

But against all the odds, Tadese is optimistic.

“The industry will bounce back as it always does,” said Tadese. “Reach out to others; you’ll be surprised by the number of resources and encouragement you’ll receive.”

Soon enough, those little kids will be able to visit Tadese in the cockpit, and he’ll be inspiring the next generation of aviation students again. The silence and gloom of the airports will turn into the laughter and smiles of a brand new adventure all over again.

After all, turbulence is just a part of the job.

by Luis Caraccioli ’21
This article was written for an assignment in the spring 2020 Writing for Media class.

ESSENTIALLY ESSENTIAL
The community of Hesston College gathered virtually May 23 to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of the class of 2020. The video ceremony featured music by Bel Canto Singers, graduate speeches by Ian Lecki (Overland Park, Kan.) and Macey Murray (Denver, Colo.), a commencement address by President Joe Manickam and photos from the last two years and well wishes from faculty and staff.

Lecki reflected on the joys and challenges of his friendships and interactions with students, faculty and staff - “Hesston taught me that no matter what, someone always had my back,” and invited his classmates to “remember these things. Find someone to help you through life. Respect everyone. Life is not always fair. You have to move forward. Don’t be afraid to fail often. Be curious. Take risks. Step up when times are tough and never ever give up.”

Murray remembered nervously arriving on campus on a humid summer day and, in the opening weeks, wanting to return home but soon learning to love a lot about Hesston. “These memories can never attest to the amount of joy I had at Hesston. I’ve learned to love a lot…. I’ve fallen in love with memories I never thought I would even consider missing. I fell in love with people I would have never known. I’m sure the class of 2020 already knows the amount of love that we received here at Hesston. Congratulations to the class of 2020. Hesston, you will be missed.”

President Manickam addressed graduates incorporating the parable of the mustard seed in the Gospel of Mark, Hesston’s 2019-20 theme verse, and offering words of hope.

“It is my hope that when you were here on campus, as you interacted with other sisters and brothers from around the world and across this country, you would have experienced what the kingdom of God is like,” Manickam said. “Because…on this campus, there was something that took place that reflected the kingdom of God and it was this: people who are not supposed to get along with each other, people who are not supposed to eat with each other, people who are not supposed to walk into each other’s neighborhood did that right here on this campus.

“That’s what the kingdom of God is about, sisters and brothers,” Manickam continued, “and that’s the hope that I pray was planted in your heart and in your being. My challenge for you, sisters and brothers, is that you take that seed of hope with you and plant it elsewhere because this world needs it, sisters and brothers. This world needs hope.”

The 122 members of the class of 2020 include 44 with bachelor of science in nursing degrees and 78 associate degree graduates. Students came from 17 U.S. states and territories and Albania, the Bahamas, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Honduras and Japan. Eighteen class members earned places on the Dean’s List with grade point averages of 3.9 or higher.

Watch the commencement service at www.hesston.edu/commencement2020 and LarkFest, the college’s annual academic awards program, at www.hesston.edu/larkfest2020.
STARTING THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE

Hesston College found me through soccer, and that’s what opened doors for me to come here. When my coach at home told me Hesston College had seen me play and was interested in me, I started doing research about the college and Kansas. I liked the college’s values and that it was a place I could feel at home.

When I arrived on campus, I was very glad to see that the things I had read about online matched up to my experience. The people here are just so nice and help you with anything you need. I instantly felt welcomed. I also really appreciate the diversity found on campus through the international student population. It’s interesting to learn about and experience different cultures through the people that you get to see every day.

THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE: CORONAVIRUS EDITION

I was grateful that Hesston College allowed international students and some other students to stay on campus throughout the coronavirus period of the spring semester. Not only that, but they continued to provide meals and offer on-campus CAB activities from time to time for a change of pace. I know that kind of care wasn’t the case at many other colleges and universities, and I was grateful that I didn’t have to figure out things like housing and meals on my own.

Having so few students around was definitely a different experience, but we found ways to continue to have fun, and I got to know people I previously didn’t know that well.

I had planned to go home to El Salvador this summer to see my family, but because of the pandemic, my country closed its borders. Hesston College offered me an amazing opportunity to instead stay in Hesston for the summer. The college gave me a place to stay in a campus house with some aviation students and offered me a job helping in the Admissions Office.

Staying here this summer has grown my community. I have enjoyed getting to know my aviation roommates better and learning from them. I have also gotten to know people from the Hesston community, as well as faculty and staff that I see at work. I learn new things every day, and I’m grateful for this opportunity I have been given.

THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE MOVING FORWARD

Even though staying in Hesston this summer wasn’t part of my original plan, it has been good, because now I know I will have no problems returning for the fall semester. With travel restrictions and visa roadblocks, coming to the U.S. for college this year will be difficult for many international students who are coming straight from their home countries.

I am really looking forward to the new school year even though it will still look different from last year. I am just excited to see my teammates again and get back to practicing with the soccer team. I am looking forward to meeting the incoming freshman and doing my part to help them feel part of this big Hesston College family.

MAJOR: Business
Activities: Soccer
Faith Manickam ’19
Major: Pre-med

by Marta Jantzi ’21
This article was written for an assignment in the spring 2020 Writing for Media class.

SERVICE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC
Homemade hazmat suits made from garbage bags and tape are strung up to dry, waiting to be used. Surgeons cover themselves up the best they can, ready to start treating in the triage center. Hospital staff sew masks out of whatever is available. Locals come to get rations to sustain their families. Meanwhile, Faith Manickam ’19 works diligently alongside a dedicated hospital staff, helping to care for patients.

Manickam, a pre-med major, lives and works on the campus of Madhepura Christian Hospital in Bihar, India. The hospital serves a variety of needs, prioritizing emergencies, but their role has had to change.

“The lockdown has brought incredible hardship to the poorest here who live off their daily wages and have no other way to care for their families,” Manickam said. “The hospital has begun distributing food and other basic supplies to families from the surrounding villages where the usual mobile clinics that are run have been stopped.

Manickam chose India for two reasons: to get experience in hospitals and to serve needy communities.

“The poor and marginalized are not only discriminated against by society but don’t even have the privilege of staying at home under quarantine,” said Manickam.

With their makeshift triage center, Manickam and the other workers are still able to treat emergencies with less of a chance of being exposed to COVID-19. The hospital has been split up into two units so that if one is exposed to the virus the other will still be able to treat patients. With this system, the workers will work for three days and get three off.

Lack of testing in this developing country during a pandemic adds to the hardship. Because the small local hospital does not have the equipment or provisions to care for COVID-19 cases, anyone with symptoms similar to those of the virus has to be turned away.

“For this reason we have to refer all suspected patients,” said Manickam, “but some are too poor to be able to afford to go anywhere else. This has been very difficult for us all to accept.”

Eighty percent of India’s population of 1.3 billion are migrant workers or are daily wage laborers. Many of these workers take home less than $5 a day, which is not enough to sustain their families. Because workers have been denied the ability to work due to the lockdown, hospitals have begun distributing food and basic necessities.

“At the hospital they tell us that before coronavirus kills them, they will die of hunger,” said Manickam. “While the government has set aside some money for aid, very little of it reaches those who need it most.”

As it is at Hesston College, community has always been very important to her. Before the pandemic, Manickam and the on-campus workers could be found every evening singing, playing games, or cooking together. Now that social distancing is in place they can no longer do those things. But Manickam is still finding joy in other ways.

“I find myself hearing the songs of birds so clearly, and seeing the beauty of nature that we often are too busy to stop and notice,” said Manickam.
Norm ’67 and Linda (Fortner) ’68 Yoder, Henderson, Neb., are loyal and committed Partners in the Hesston College Partner program. They fulfill an annual commitment, and also are Legacy Partners, which means that have included Hesston College in their planned giving for the future. Hear why planned giving is an important part of their philanthropy.

“For us, planned giving is an important way in which we can use wisely what God has entrusted to us. In cooperation with the Hesston College Development Office, we developed a living trust that allows us to include Hesston in our future giving as well as being current Partners. We feel fortunate that we have the resources to share what God has given to us with others, especially Hesston College, as it is where we met more than 50 years ago and is a special place to us.

Hesston has also been a formative and meaningful part of our children’s’ lives, and we feel fortunate that our daughter, Jennifer (Yoder) ’94, her husband Dickson Sommers ’90, and our son Derek ’96 and his wife Joy (Smith) ’96 received the growth, education and relationships that are part of the Hesston Experience. We hope that some of our grandchildren will also choose to attend Hesston in the future.

We believe in the Hesston College mission statement that “Hesston College educates and nurtures each student within Christ-centered community, integrating thought, life and faith for service to others in the church and the world,” and we feel privileged to be able to join with other Partners who support that mission in helping to provide educational opportunities for today’s students. Being a Hesston College Partner and a Legacy Partner provides us the opportunity to continue to support the college for many years to come and give back to a small portion of what we gained as students many years ago.”

Hesston College works with Everence to create planned giving plans rooted in your faith and values.
MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

In 2019-20, the Development team had goals of raising $1.25 million for the Hesston Experience Fund and getting 110 new or upgraded Partners. In late June, before the fiscal year had ended, both goals were met! THANK YOU to Partners, Phonathon supporters and other alumni and friends who gave financial gifts this year for helping us reach our goal!

Sincerely,
The Hesston College Development Team

Hesston College depends on alumni and friends to keep the Hesston Experience affordable and thriving.

Partners are individuals and households who commit to supporting the Hesston Experience on an annual basis. Partner giving goes to the Hesston Experience Fund, which supports and sustains the Hesston Experience by offering competitive scholarships and opportunities that promote academic, spiritual and social growth.

Partner Giving Levels

annual amounts

President’s Partner
$15,000 and more
(starts at $1,250 per month)

Transforming Partner
$10,000 to $14,999
(starts at $834 per month)

Visioning Partner
$7,000 to $9,000
(starts at $584 per month)

Leading Partner
$4,000 to $6,999
(starts at $334 per month)

Sustaining Partner
$2,000 to $3,999
(starts at $167 per month)

Founding Partner
$1,000 to $1,999
(starts at $84 per month)

Legacy Partner
Partners who have designated Hesston College as a recipient of an estate gift.

Lifetime Partner
Classification for individuals who have given $250,000 or more over their lifetime.
In January 2020, Hesston College signed an articulation agreement with another Kansas college, Sterling College, that guarantees admission and seamless transition for qualified Sterling students into Hesston’s bachelor of science in nursing program.

“We are excited to partner with Hesston College, and specifically its nursing program, to provide our Sterling students with another path to a rewarding profession where they can demonstrate servant leadership. We look forward to Sterling students utilizing this new opportunity to pursue careers in nursing,” said Ken Brown, Sterling College vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college.

The agreement demonstrates Sterling’s commitment to training students for in-demand careers and areas of societal impact, and is a reflection on the confidence Sterling places in the high reputation of Hesston College and its nursing program to serve Sterling transfers well.

Hesston College Director of Nursing Education Becky Bartell looks forward to welcoming the first Sterling College students to the program.

“A transfer student’s path to a B.S.N. degree is streamlined by relationships like this,” said Bartell. “We are excited to develop students who had an excellent start at Sterling College into skilled, knowledgeable and caring nurses.”

“I am excited about this agreement with Hesston because it provides a clear and Christian-focused avenue for our students interested in the nursing field to pursue their calling,” said Randi Wise, Sterling College assistant professor of chemistry. “Hesston College has a long tradition of excellence in nursing and preparing students to enter this demanding field with a strong foundation, both academically and spiritually.”

**AVIATION PROGRAM GRANTED APPROVAL FOR SATELLITE PILOT SCHOOL**

Aspiring pilots in northern Indiana will have a new way to jumpstart their flight training beginning in August 2020.

Hesston College Aviation was granted FAA approval to establish a satellite pilot school at the Goshen Municipal Airport. The satellite location will be operated in a direct partnership venture with New Horizons Aviation, which is co-owned by a Hesston College Aviation alumnus and American Airlines captain, Roger Yoder ’79.

“This initiative will authorize New Horizons Aviation to teach Hesston College Aviation’s FAA-approved Private Pilot certificate course to individuals interested in completing their FAA Private Pilot certificate before beginning Hesston’s associate or bachelor’s degree program on campus,” said Mike Baker ’93, director of Hesston College Aviation.

Hesston College’s aviation program has been a popular destination for student pilots from the Goshen and Elkhart areas for all of the program’s 49 years of existence, and many in more recent years started their early flight training with Yoder at New Horizons. The new partnership maximizes student benefits for what was already a strong connection between Hesston and New Horizons.

“As an alumnus who got my start at Hesston College and launched my now 40-year-career with Hesston College Aviation, I can attest to the high quality of the college and the aviation program,” said Yoder. “Hesston College graduates are well prepared for the challenges of life and careers because of the atten-
tion to growth of the whole person they receive at Hesston. You just don’t find that level of individual care at larger schools.”

Students enrolled in Hesston College Aviation’s private pilot course with New Horizons will have the option of receiving up to seven hours of equivalent college credit or transfer credit for Hesston College's Introduction to Aviation, Private Pilot I and Private Pilot II courses.

Hesston College offers both a two-year associate degree in aviation-professional pilot and a four-year bachelor of science degree with a major in aviation-professional pilot. The program also operates a two-year associate degree for air traffic control. Hesston College Aviation is one of only two FAA-approved flight schools in the state of Kansas, and the only FAA-approved Collegiate Training Initiative programs for air traffic control in the state.

“All students participating in this venture will receive the identical ground and flight training as if they were attending the same course here in Hesston,” said Baker.

Said Yoder: “I’m excited about the opportunity to teach the Hesston curriculum so students will not only get their private license but will be able to transition smoothly to Hesston’s courses already familiar with procedures, checklist usage and more.”

**BUSINESS PROGRAM UPDATE**

Research and development of a four-year bachelor’s degree program was underway during the 2019-20 year. In October 2019, the college hired Debbie McAlister as director of business education to guide the program development. McAlister had previously served as director of and professor for the M.B.A. program at Southwestern College (Winfield, Kan.), and has experience in higher education and business sectors with a variety of organizations.

To date, the college hopes to launch the four-year program in fall 2021. Curriculum has been approved by faculty as well as the Board of Directors, and Hesston College now awaits program accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Another development housed within the business program is the planned August 2020 launch of a collegiate DECA chapter known as the Hesston College Emerging Leadership Team with the well-known leadership organization. The DECA team will be an extracurricular option for students.

DECA is a global organization focused on preparing high school- and college-age leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management, as well as equipping them to lead throughout any career path.

“The DECA Emerging Leadership Team is a great opportunity for any entrepreneurial-minded student who wants to improve their leadership skills through experiential learning opportunities, including business-related competitive events,” said McAlister. “We’re excited to be able to offer another avenue for students pursuing all majors to build up their marketable skills in this way.”

DECA is well-known for its competitions that allow students to test their experience, skill and knowledge in simulated real-life situations. In addition to the competition team, Hesston students participating in DECA will have a variety of other resume-building benefits and be eligible for the Hesston College Emerging Leaders Scholarship that can cover from 45 to 65 percent of tuition.

“The DECA organization is committed to providing students at its member institutions with academic preparation, the importance of service to the community, professional responsibility and leadership skills,” said McAlister. “These same values are paramount to the Hesston College community and will be enhanced through DECA events.”
Dallas Stutzman ‘76 has often said that he was destined for Hesston College. When he was born, his parents, who were not Hesston alumni, received a letter from the college congratulating them on his birth and hoping that in 18 years he would choose to start here.

He did just that, saying, “It was the only place I considered for a lot of reasons,” and later dedicating most of his career to advancing the work and mission of Hesston College.

Stutzman retired on June 1 from a 33-year career in service to Hesston College that included roles in admissions, teaching economics, assistant basketball coach and, for most of his career, Director of Alumni and Church Relations. No matter what the role, Stutzman excelled at highlighting the special way relationships grow in the Hesston College environment before flourishing for a lifetime.

“My work at Hesston allowed me to integrate my work career as a ministry and a call,” said Stutzman. “I was able to live out my faith in my occupation, and I always thought that was really special.”

As so many alumni also attest, the Hesston student experience was transformational for Stutzman. After finishing a business degree at the University of Northern Colorado (Greeley) in 1978, Bill Mason recruited him to return to Hesston College to work in Admissions.

“My two years here as a student were such a good thing; why wouldn’t I want to work here,” Stutzman reflected. “Even though I didn’t necessarily have the experience coming in, I felt so empowered to do my work here. Bill was so good at extending opportunities to employees to use their gifts and skills in much the same way Hesston students have opportunities to experience and grow.”

After four years of working in Admissions, Stutzman took a
hiatus from Hesston College to pursue a career in business, doing financial planning and selling investments and insurance. In 1991, he felt a call back to Hesston, and he pursued that call as a kind of ministry.

“At that point, it felt like this is what I’m called to do in terms of my life’s work,” he said.

Stutzman approached his work with a vivacity that earned him a reputation of excellence among career peers and as the unofficial “face of Hesston College” for the many alumni and pastors with whom he connected regularly. Each year was filled with special alumni events around the country, visits to churches, connecting students with alumni and friends, and the hallmark of each year, Homecoming Weekend.

“I was part of 22 Homecoming Weekends, and helped with planning for the 23rd [planned for September 24 to 26, 2020],” said Stutzman. “People come back to homecoming for all kinds of reasons, but one of the most significant reasons, and one I saw happen every year, is it’s a chance for people to heal and to sometimes move on from what may have been holding them back.

“Whether it was a hurt that happened here or an experience from somewhere else, Hesston College is such a safe, secure place that, even after their Hesston Experience is over, people still view it as a place they can be vulnerable and share honestly about who they are with people who knew them from a past context. Knowing we can be the vessel to help healing and growth happen at many life stages is very significant and fulfilling.”

With a career that has spanned five of the college’s presidents and four interim presidents, Stutzman has seen a lot of change. But what hasn’t changed, he said, is the way Hesston impacts lives.

“Relationships and community and those life-changing elements of spirituality and transformation – that’s what the Hesston Experience is,” he said. “I experienced it as a student and it’s still that way today. It has transcended time.”

Retirement from a fulfilling career will bring many changes for Hesston College and for Stutzman. But change – specifically losing his wife, Jan (Unruh) ’72, former staff, Stutzman to ALS in December 2018 – is what brought him to taking the step into retirement.

“I’ve had a lot of change in the last couple of years,” he said. “It’s time to reassess and see what the future could be. It’s retirement, yeah, but I don’t want to look at it like that. It’s just a whole new thing with voluntary service and spending time with my kids (Todd Stutzman ’08 and Kara Stutzman ’14) and traveling. I want to take what Hesston represents into new settings – to experience the shared values and purpose with people from across the spectrum of diversity and cultures and backgrounds. It’s start here, go everywhere in a new way.”
DEATHS

1940-49

Geneva (Steckley) Ac41 Gentry, Tualatin, Ore., Nov. 19, 2019
Mabel (Guengerich) Ac42, ‘44 Schmidt, Greensburg, Kan., May 14, 2020
Mary (Miller) ‘42 Kochsmeier, Bethlehem, Pa., May 10, 2019
David Lehman Ac44, Goshen, Ind., June 2, 2020
Naomi (Larrew) Ac44, Cloverdale, Ore., Feb. 19, 2015
Gene Yoder Ac44, Hesston, Kan., Feb. 6, 2020
Doris (Gautche) Ac47 Ebersole, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 13, 2018
Betty (Hartzler) Ac47 Linscheid, Hesston, Kan., Feb. 3, 2020
Viola (Evers) Ac46, ‘48, Newberg, Ore., Nov. 3, 2017

1950-59

Mary Conrad, wife of James Conrad Ac54, Telford, Pa., Aug. 3, 2019
Lonnie Kauffman Ac54, husband of Rose (Headrick) Ac55 Kauffman, May 18, 2020
Doris (Metzler) Ac54 Smeltzer, Peoria, Ill., Sept. 4, 2019
James Kratz ‘54, husband of Dorothy (Schock) Ac48, ‘50 Kratz, Goshen, Ind., May 2, 2019
John Stoltzfus Ac55, Apple Creek, Ohio, Jan. 28, 2019
Doug Stutzman Ac57, Denver, Colo., Feb. 17, 2020
Paul Horst ‘57, husband of Joanne (Hershberger) ‘57 Horst, Goshen, Ind., April 4, 2020

1960-69

Ron Shetler Ac61, New York, N.Y., closed his rehearsal and performance space business in early May after 30 years in business. Shetler Studios had long been a fixture in New York City’s theatre district as a creative and community hub for artists across various disciplines.
Gerry ‘62 and Treva (Bontrager) ‘62 Lichti, Bel Aire, Kan., were honored in August 2019 by Inter-Faith Ministries of Wichita, Kan., at their 68th Annual Humanitarian Awards Gala with the Peace by Piece Award. This award recognized the Lichtis’ decades of volunteer work as advocates for NAMI Wichita – the National Alliance on Mental Illness – involving their local and state work to reduce the stigma of mental illness through providing community education and awareness of the critical need for access to improved treatment of brain diseases.

DEATHS

Noman Stauffer, husband of Marilyn (Begly) ‘60 Stauffer, Dalton, Ohio, Oct. 26, 2019
Jack Moore, husband of Cecilia Mascarenas ‘62, Denver, Colo., April 13, 2020
Willis Yoder ‘64, South Amherst, Ohio, May 17, 2019
Jay Kauffman ‘67, Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 10, 2019
Steve Hostetler ‘68, Muscatine, Iowa, Feb. 9, 2020
Karl King ‘68, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 19, 2019

1970-79

David Kauffman ‘72, Winona Lake, Ind., retired from construction manager for Habitat for Humanity of Kosciusko County where he had served since 2014.
Jane Miller ‘72, Goshen, Ind., worked as an interim pastor in her home congregation, Walnut Hill Mennonite Church, during a recent pastoral transition and search.
Luther Gautsche ‘73, Archbold, Ohio, retired from Sauder Manufacturing in January 2019, but continues to farm.
Christine (Hershey) ’74 Doughty, Leola, Pa., retired from a 35-year career of teaching in Christian and public schools in California and Pennsylvania. She says, “The Children’s Literature class taught by Melva Kauffman lit a fire in my heart!”
Carol Duerksen ‘74, Hillsboro, Kan., is a founding member of Springs Forth! Faith Formation, Inc., a new non-profit organization that creates innovative online faith formation material for all ages.
Stan Oyer ‘74, Middlebury, Ind., retired in October 2019 from a career as an airframe and power plant mechanic.
Shari (Leidig) ‘79 Holland, McKeesport, Pa., was promoted to director of behavioral science at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program where she has been on faculty for 12 years.
Herm ‘79 and Cindy (Ruhl) ‘79 Weaver, Nederland, Colo., offer retreats, Dream Valley Retreats and Consulting, in the Colorado mountains for participants navigating loss, grief and life challenges. Their journey of grief and healing began with the death of their daughter Chloe Weaver ‘10 in October 2010. Their retreats can be found at dreamvalleymoves.com.

DEATHS

Bob Gehring, husband of Sharon (Nafziger) ‘70 Gehring, Moundridge, Kan., Feb. 13, 2020
Floyd Sowers ‘71, husband of Bonnie (Kauffman) Ac65, ‘67 Sowers, former faculty, Overland Park, Kan., June 19, 2020
Udensi Okpara ‘73, Abia State, Nigeria, Africa, Oct. 3, 2019
Anthony Stehman ‘76, Bemidji, Minn., Feb. 18, 2020
1980-89

Lana (Yoder) ’81 Dale, Castle Rock, Colo., was appointed advocate leader representing Colorado for the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance Policy and Advocacy Team. She works closely with the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance to provide education to medical students and communities and supporting gynecological oncology research.

Luanne (Yoder) ’81 Southern, Austin, Texas, is executive director of Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium at the University of Texas System.

Sheila (Yoder) ’84 Baer, Villa Ridge, Mo., was elected to serve a two-year term (2020-22) as the vice president for elementary music for Missouri Music Educators Association, an affiliate of the National Association for Music Education.

Deb Hook ’87, Newton, Kan., is working on a bachelor’s degree in computer science through Southern New Hampshire University. Her anticipated graduation date is January 2021.

Jeff Smith ’87, Key West, Fla., began as director of financial aid at The College of the Florida Keys in January 2020. The previous four years, he worked in the financial aid department as the veteran’s affairs specialist.

Robina (David) ’87 Sommers, Goshen, Ind., began teaching high school English after 26 years of teaching elementary school, and she loves it.

1990-99

Gilberto Perez Jr. ’92, Goshen, Ind., was awarded the Beaudoin Online Learner Scholarship from the University of New England. His scholarship application focused on transformational leadership and support for emerging Hispanic-serving institutions. Gilberto is vice president for Student Life and dean of students at Goshen College.

Stephanie (Harvey) ’96 Danker, former faculty, Oxford, Ohio, assistant professor of art in the College of Creative Arts at Miami (Ohio) University, earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor of art in February.

Bobbi (Griffin) ’98 Schrag, Moundridge, Kan., is a nurse practitioner at Hospice and Homecare of Reno County.

MARRIAGE

Doug Maury ’99, former staff and Ashley Madorin, Orange City, Iowa, March 24, 2020

BIRTH

Lori (Swartzendruber) ’98, ’05 and Donovan O’Donnell, Canistota, S.D.: Gracelyn James, Dec. 6, 2019

DEATH

Kerry Janzen ’89, Denver, Colo., Dec. 15, 2019

2000-09

Kendra Burkey ’00, former faculty, North Newton, Kan., and Jason Schmidt ’01, both small business owners, teamed up during the stay at home period of the COVID-19 pandemic to offer Harvey County Dairy Dispatch, a doorstep delivery service of their products. Burkey is owner of Salted Creamery ice cream, and Schmidt owns and operates Grazing Plains Farms, which makes a variety of homemade cheeses.

Rachel Swartzendruber ’00 Miller, staff, Hesston, Kan., was a keynote speaker at the 2020 Mennonite Educator’s Conference: “Unleashing Curiosity, Igniting Hope.”

Vanessa (Unruh) ’00 Mininger, Atwater, Calif., published a book, Armed and Dangerous: From Wounded to Warrior, that guides readers to face physical, mental and spiritual battles through turning to God’s word for victorious wisdom.

Jason Ramer ’01, Goshen, Ind., began as lead pastor of Olive Mennonite Church (Elkhart, Ind.) on May 1, after 12 years as youth pastor at Yellow Creek Mennonite Church (Goshen).

Joy (Cagle) ’03 Truax, Boise, Idaho, has worked as a NICU nurse for 15 years with a sabbatical in 2016 during which she and her husband and three children served as missionaries in Mango, Togo. Joy worked at the missionary hospital while her husband served as a pastor.

Angie Lederach ’04, South Bend, Ind., will begin in a new role for the 2020-21 academic year as Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Creighton University (Omaha, Neb.).

Rachel (Schlegel) ’05 McMaster, former staff, Hesston, Kan., wrapped up a 13-year career at Hesston College that included three years as admissions counselor and 10 as a part of the Marketing and Communications team, including the last four years as director. She began a new role as director of communication for Bluestem Communities in July.

Geoffrey Obia ’05, DNP, FNP-BC, Rockville, Md., earned the doctor of nursing practice from the Uniformed Services University in April and is working as the aerospace medicine family nurse practitioner in beneficiaries health at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia.

Jordan Brunk ’06, Kansas City, Mo., is the chief marketing officer at Warehouse Quote in Kansas City.

Katie Sowers ’06, San Francisco, Calif., made history in 2020 as the first woman to coach in a Super Bowl. Katie is an offensive assistant with the San Francisco 49ers.

Liz Sowers ’06, Overland Park, Kan., has been hired as the head coach of the new women’s flag football program at Ottawa (Kan.) University. Liz is known as one of the nation’s top women’s flag and tackle football players. She plays quarterback for the Kansas City Glory in the Women’s National Football Conference, and played for Team USA’s Women’s Flag Football Team in 2016 and the Women’s Tackle Football Team in 2013 and 2017.

Megan Schrock ’07, ’09, Tucson, Ariz., is a groundskeeper for the University of Arizona.

Naomi Tice ’08, Potters Bar, England, serves with Mennonite Mission Network, ministering to children and youth in the churches, schools and community.

Annali (Murray) ’09, former staff, Topf, Los Angeles, Calif., is a chaplain resident at UCLA Health in Westwood.

MARRIAGES

Nathan Liwiller ’04 and Julie Miller, Hopedale, Ill., April 28, 2018

Ashley (Kaufman) ’04 Moore and Garrett Labus, Wichita, Kan., Nov. 9, 2019
Leona (Mullet) ’08 and Brice Williams, Jamaica Plain, Mass.: Apollo Chandler, Sept. 9, 2019
Codi Braun ’09, Mahomet, Ill.: Kyah Mae Shoot, Oct. 16, 2019
Rick ’09 and Renee Eigsti, Iowa City, Iowa: Caleb Owen, Jan. 17, 2020
Laura (Goering) ’09 and Derrick Law, McPherson, Kan.: Arwen Wilder, March 26, 2020
Zac ’09 and Jessica (Coffman) ’11 Schlegel, Shickley, Neb.: Isaiah John, Jan. 23, 2020

DEATHS

Laura (Sommers) ’00, ’01 Steenerson, Terre Haute, Ind., June 6, 2020

2010-21

Matthew Lehman ’10 Wiens, McPherson, Kan., began a new role as Director of Development at Bethesda Homes in Goessel.
Ryan (Wenger) ’11 Gomez-Wenger, Goshen, Ind., completed a master’s degree in 2018, and is a behavior consultant with ADEC, a charitable organization that advocates for and serves people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Dani Klotz ’12, Goshen, Ind., has been named executive director of Anabaptist World, Inc., the new independent journalistic ministry formed by the merger of Mennonite World Review and The Mennonite, Inc. She will begin her new role on September 1. She has served with Mennonite Mission Network for six years, including most recently director of marketing and communication.
Kate (Steury) ’12 Leaman, Elkhart, Ind., owner of Shirley’s Popcorn in Goshen, Ind., was awarded the Maple City Small Business of 2019 award from the Goshen Chamber of Commerce.
Mahlon Jones ’12, Oklahoma City, Okla., is playing professional basketball for KK Bihac in Bosnia and Herzegovinia.
George Felix ’14, Maple Grove, Minn., began as a pilot for Life Link III in April, a medical flights and emergency medical services company.
Ryan Miller ’14, Arthur, Ill., is an auto underwriter at State Farm Insurance.
Sydni Carter ’15, Muskogee, Okla., graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Troy (Alabama) University in December 2019.
Jordan Tanner ’15, Des Moines, Iowa, is a revenue operations analyst at Meredith Corporation in Des Moines.
Karli Rodriguez ’16 graduated from Siena College (Loudonville, N.Y.) in 2018 with a bachelor of arts in sociology and is the new varsity volleyball coach at Sage Ridge High School, Reno, Nev.
Alicen Meysing ’18, Canton, Kan., received a University of Kansas (Lawrence) Undergraduate Research Award in psychological research for the spring 2020. Her honor’s thesis is entitled “The Interaction of Time and Sleep Quality Following a Traumatic Experience.”
Garrett Roth ’18, Heotton, Kan., graduated from Kansas State University (Manhattan) in May with a degree in secondary education – business/technology and accepted his first teaching position as a business teacher at Heotton High School.
Haley Unruh ’18, Wilmore, Kan., graduated from Kansas State University in May with a degree in elementary education, and accepted her first teaching position as a fifth
grade teacher at Cimarron (Kan.) Elementary School.

MARRIAGES
Malerie Hertzler ’10 and Stuart Manche, Nov. 9, 2019
Clayton Bontrager ’11 and Tessa Black, Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 2, 2019
Curtis Denlinger ’11 and Betsy Dennis, Telford, Pa., April 20, 2020
David Hochstetler ’11 and Cindy Campion, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 22, 2019
Natalie Whitley ’11 and Joe Aniello, Wichita, Kan., Nov. 16, 2019
Joel Dick ’13 and Indica Crane, Wichita, Kan., March 28, 2020
Jeffrey Smoker ’14 and Jillian Wilson, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 19, 2019
Jason Schroeder ’15 and Olivia Melton, Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 15, 2020
Bethany Snow ’15 and Ayden Atherton, Wichita, Kan., Nov. 9, 2019
Jake Hansen ’16 and Madison McDowell, Effingham, Kan., Dec. 7, 2019
Lauren Vertika ’16 and Jared Chandler, Wichita, Kan., Dec. 28, 2019
Luccas Schmucker ’18 and Addie Swartzendruber ’19, July 12, 2019
Peter Harris ’19 and Katie Gray, Lancaster, Pa., March 28, 2020
Destyni Myers ’21 and Kalaeb Bratton, Severy, Kan., June 6, 2020

BIRTHS
Jessica (Herschberger) ’10 and Craig Blough, Goshen, Ind.: Theodore Birch, Sept. 18, 2019
Johnny Friesen ’10 and Judy Banman, El Paso, Texas: Axel Adrian, March 11, 2020
Sarah (Reynolds) ’10 and Landon Grimes, Frankston, Texas: Briggs Cooper, March 3, 2020
Emily (Hornung) ’10 and Clint Janzen, Inman, Kan.: Abbigail Rose, Jan. 30, 2020
Tyler ’10 and Sarah Krehbiel, Middlebury, Ind.:Aug. 27, 2019
Liz (Miller) ’10 and Michael Linscheid, Hesston, Kan.: Alexandria Hope, born Nov. 6, 2017, received for adoption Oct. 17, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT sunflowerarts.org
Leah (Mueller) '12 and Johnson Kawanguzi, Newton, Kan.: Malachi James, born Nov. 22, 2016, received for adoption Nov. 4, 2019

Nik '12 and Cindy Krahn, North Mankato, Minn.: Emmett Alexander, Dec. 22, 2019

Marcus '12 and Khrystian (Glover) '13 Ruiz, Mankato, Minn.: Emelia Kay, Dec. 24, 2019

Sarah (Unruh) '12 and Logan Ryff, Hope, Kan.: Oakley Ann, Feb. 26, 2020

Emma (Payne) '13, '14 and Jared Redding, Pulaski, Iowa: Micah Daniel, March 25, 2020

Jonathan '13 and Angela (Brunner) '14 Steele, Lehigh Acres, Fla.: Evelyn Grace, March 5, 2020

Denver '14 and Elaina Coblenz, Tucson, Ariz.: Teagan Grace, Sept. 13, 2019

Amy Repp '14, Wichita, Kan.: Lydia Athena Murrow, Dec. 13, 2019

Chris '15 and Angelina (Moore Miller) '17 Miller, Linville, Va.: Cadence Eve, Nov. 29, 2019

Timothy '15 and Kaitlyn Regier, Amarillo, Texas: Henry James, Oct. 21, 2019

Miranda Dolsman '19, Falcon, Colo.: Everhett Ryker, Feb. 29, 2020

**DEATHS**

Sam Foxvog '13, Tiskilwa, Ill., Dec. 24, 2019

Stephen Gonzalez '19, Rockport, Texas, April 22, 2020

**Faculty/Staff**

Scottie Friesen, former staff, Waco, Texas, graduated from McLennan Community College Fire Academy as salutatorian of his class.

Rob Ramseyer, former staff, Wichita, Kan., was named the 2019-20 Athletic Director of the Year by the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. He has served as athletic director at Friends University (Wichita) since July 2018. At Hesston, he served as head baseball coach for four years, one year as interim dean of students and three years as vice president of student life and athletic director.
As coronavirus continues to spread across the country, and as we undertake extra health and safety measures to protect the campus community from transmission of the virus, we have decided to postpone in-person Homecoming Weekend 2020 activities until next year in 2021. Our top priority is protecting our Larks – both current and former.

There will still be ways you can connect virtually to what would have been Homecoming Weekend 2020, September 25 to 26.

Watch our social media pages (Facebook - facebook.com/ hesston; Instagram - @HesstonCollege) and hesston.edu/ homecoming for virtual activity options, including class reunion meeting times.

We hope we can invite you back to campus next fall for and extra special Homecoming 2021 celebration.
Due to the threat of COVID-19 and the importance of safety for the campus and wider communities, many Hesston College events will not be held during the 2020-21 year. Check hesston.edu/calendar for the most up-to-date event and calendar information.

AUGUST
14 to 16 - Opening Weekend
17 - First day of fall 2020 semester

SEPTEMBER
6 to 7 - Prospective student visit days
7 - Prospective student half-day open house
25 to 26 - Virtual Homecoming Weekend
26 - Aviation prospective student half-day open house

OCTOBER
23 to 24 - Prospective student visit days
23 - Performing Arts scholarship auditions
24 - Prospective student half-day open house

NOVEMBER
7 - Nursing prospective student half-day open house
13 to 14 - Prospective student visit days
14 - Lark Leaders Day
20 - Performing Arts scholarship auditions
25 - Dorms close for fall semester
25 to 30 - Thanksgiving break

DECEMBER
1 - Asynchronous online distance learning begins
8 to 10 - Fall semester final exams
10 - Fall semester ends