In this issue, we celebrate the achievements of some of our younger alumni. Over the past 50 years or so, Americans have taken to giving names to groups born in certain time periods: Baby Boomers (that’s me), Generation X, Generation Y, Millennials and Digital Teens. Generational differences aside, the alumni featured here are examples of how big dreams can be accomplished through hard work and using the gifts and talents often discovered or developed upon starting at Hesston, as we seek to “educate and nurture each student within Christ-centered community.”

Many students change their direction at least once, and many gain a great deal of confidence during their time at Hesston. As alumni, they work in businesses, nonprofits, churches, education and healthcare organizations. They are artists, engineers, teachers, nurses and entrepreneurs. They are working to make the world a better place.

Student success at Hesston is no accident. We have worked to improve our individual courses, the level of student engagement and overall student satisfaction. According to data gathered through our work, we are an “exceptional” teaching college. Some of our scores on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement are the highest in the nation. Our overall student satisfaction is 20 percentage points higher than the average of private four-year colleges. This spring, 93.1 percent of the students eligible to return for the spring semester chose to do so. This is the highest retention percentage for Hesston in many years and well above community colleges.

We have worked hard, and we are proud of the results. But success is beyond the numbers. We care about the student as a person. As we live with our theme verse from John 14, “abide in me, abide in my love,” we seek to bring the presence of Jesus to every interaction. Success may be the President’s Scholar who becomes an engineer. But it is also the academically challenged student who works hard to earn a degree and gains the confidence to enter a vocation.

Thank you for investing part of your life in this place and supporting our quest to help all students gain the confidence and skills to realize their full potential.

Dr. Howard Keim ’72, President
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CREATING SOLUTIONS

Photo by Jodi Gehman, Gehman Photography
Roby Miller ’07 is a curious problem solver, so in 2009 when two small, rural Iowa pharmacies owned by his family closed due to an inability to support and sustain themselves, Miller started looking for a solution.

“I never wanted to be in the pharmacy industry because I saw that the business model was not working,” said the business-minded Miller. “But when there is a problem, there is always a solution.”

Despite his initial hesitation, Miller is now fully immersed in the pharmacy industry – just not in the traditional sense.

As the founder and CEO of TelePharm, a cloud-based software that enables pharmacists to remotely verify prescriptions and counsel patients from any location, the young entrepreneur is helping change the outlook of small-town pharmacies and clinics nationwide.

TelePharm, launched in 2012 and based in Iowa City, allows pharmacy services to exist in underserved areas where the traditional model is not economically viable. TelePharm’s remote capabilities allow pharmacies to operate without a pharmacist on site and share pharmacist payroll costs between stores. This model empowers businesses to operate at lower costs while continuing to provide professional services.

“There was no business model for small-town pharmacies,” said Miller. “I recognized the market and product opportunities and just went for it. I built the first application myself and realized this was something that was going to work.”

At the time, Miller was working for Pearson, an international media company in Iowa City, but when he realized his product’s potential, he quit his job to focus on his new venture.

The idea not only took off, it exploded. In 2014, Iowa entrepreneurship icon John Pappajohn and state Board of Regents President Bruce Rastetter invested a total of $2.5 million in TelePharm. The company has also received several state grants and was recognized by Iowa governor Terry Branstad for its innovative answer to the problems facing rural pharmacies and clinics.

The investors’ confidence in his company has allowed Miller to expand to a staff of 16 employees covering several states. Miller himself works with product direction and larger sales (as well as janitor

“Hesston was a good influence to help me choose my path. I was interested in business, but the excitement and experiences Bill [Mason] shared with me were what committed me to business.”
– Roby Miller ’07 –
and anything else lacking resources, he joked). Within the next year, Miller hopes to develop two or three products focusing on workflow and expand his reach to 15 to 20 states. A patent is pending for the TelePharm service model.

His innovation and success has also earned him several awards and recognitions, including Corridor Business Journal’s 2013 Forty Under 40 award, for which he is among the youngest honorees in the history of the award.

Miller’s successes are a tribute to the hard work and dedication he pours into work—an attitude influenced by a mentor nearly ten years ago as an exploring college student.

Miller stumbled into the business world at Hesston College. When he graduated from Iowa Mennonite School (Kalona) and arrived at Hesston he was, like many young college students, uncertain about his career. He thought he might pursue a major in the medical field. After taking a business class and getting to know long-time Hesston faculty member Bill Mason, Miller’s path turned to new pursuits.

Mason and Miller met one semester for an independent study where they read and discussed business books. The importance of continually learning and discovering is a lesson that has stuck with Miller, and he continues to read a business book about every two weeks.

“Hesston was a good influence to help me choose my path,” said Miller. “I was interested in business, but the excitement and experiences Bill shared with me were what committed me to business.”

After Hesston, Miller earned a bachelor’s degree in entrepreneurship from the University of Iowa Henry B. Tippie College of Business (Iowa City) and a certificate in advanced product management from Stanford (Calif.) University.

Miller’s entrepreneurial success has led him to take an interest in other young entrepreneurs. He, along with two colleagues, is co-founder and managing director of Built by Iowa, an early stage fund created to help fledgling technology start-ups primarily in Iowa but also nationally.

Having established a solid foundation and experienced the real-life challenges of launching an idea and company, Miller remains committed to hard work.

“In order to be a successful entrepreneur, you have to be the hardest working person you know, and if you’re not, you’re losing to the competition,” said Miller. “You don’t really know what you’re capable of until you try.”

Roby Miller ’07 discusses strategic planning with Courtney Henecke, TelePharm operations manager.
A LESSON IN PERSISTANCE

Most new nurses understand the journey to gaining roles of greater responsibility and begin with working in entry level positions.

For Kara (Ropp) ’12 Yoder, determination, confidence in her abilities and a never-give-up attitude expedited her climb up the leadership ladder.

The 23-year-old nurse is two and a half years into her career. Yoder almost gave up on her dream of becoming a nurse after her first semester in Hesston College’s Nursing program. Now she’s one of the youngest assistant nurse managers in the history of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (Iowa City) – a 711-bed public teaching hospital and level one trauma center.

“I wasn’t expecting to be in this position this early on, but the reason I am goes back to Hesston – it was a great foundation for me and gave me a confidence boost.”

– Kara (Ropp) ’12 Yoder –

In June 2012, with a freshly minted registered nurse license, Yoder began her career like every other new nurse – working in a typical RN position in an orthopedic unit. Two months later, while continuing to work, she entered Kaplan University’s RN-to-BSN online program, graduating in February 2014. In the meantime, she switched jobs and moved to internal medicine at the University Hospital. In September 2014, she began an online leadership in management master’s program through Walden University (Minneapolis, Minn.) The next month, she landed her current role, where her responsibilities include managing about 120 nurses and dealing in staffing, scheduling, orientation, budgeting, leadership rounding and day-to-day unit activities.

“I wasn’t expecting to be in this position this early on, but the reason I am goes back to Hesston – it was a great foundation for me and gave me a confidence boost,” said Yoder.

Yoder is proud of the work she has done to reach such a prominent role at such a young age, but says none of it has been without its challenges.

Her first semester at Hesston was a struggle as she tried to adjust to the demanding course work and standards.

“It was a snowball effect,” Yoder said. “I was overwhelmed with classes and started second guessing everything. I planned to quit the program at the end of the semester and go to business school.”

Intervention from her instructors changed everything.

“I give a lot of credit to my instructors for helping me make it this far,” Yoder said. “When they heard I wanted to quit, Becky Bartell sat down with me and made a list of all possible routes I could go in the nursing field. Bonnie [(Kauffman) Ac65, ’67 Sowers] also let me know that she thought I had great potential as a nurse. Having that kind of encouragement, feedback and mentorship was what saved me.”

As she stepped into her new leadership role, the confidence she gained at Hesston helped Yoder navigate the sometimes rocky waters.

“My transition into the assistant nurse manager role wasn’t easy, and I work through new challenges every day,” she said. “I became the person to have difficult conversations with patients and staff and hold people accountable for their actions. For some nurses, it was hard to take orders from someone so much younger.”

Yoder has faced plenty of ups and downs, but compliments on a well-run unit and positive feedback from staff affirm her sense that she is where she needs to be.

“I want new nurses to know to stick with it even when it’s hard,” said Yoder. “Look where it got me. I look forward to the future – there is so much potential.”

Photo by Jodi Gehman, Gehman Photography
NAVIGATING THE BUSINESS WORLD

A “Welcome to Kansas!” ice storm didn’t deter Obi Mbawuike ’06 from embracing his new home upon his arrival from Nigeria and 85-degree temperatures in January 2005.

Mbawuike enjoys a challenge. It’s why he took between 18 and 21 hours each semester at Hesston so he could finish in three semesters. At the same time, he worked a couple of campus jobs and tutored for several classes – not to mention the adjustment to the language, culture and new environment as an international student. It’s also why he enjoys the challenge of working as a sales consultant at Mel Hambelton Ford in Wichita.

“To be successful in any business, you must have a great attitude and work ethic and be willing to take care of people,” said Mbawuike.

Mbawuike says he was nurtured through his transition to college life by Hesston College faculty and staff who cared and were willing to help in whatever ways he needed. He notes relationships with college employees – especially with inspiring faculty like Hugo Boschmann and Bruce Bradshaw, his work study supervisors Sue Stuckey in Food Service and Naomi Unruh in Campus Facilities and his mod parents Clark ’82 and Deb (Swartzendruber) ’83 Roth – as influential in his early college career.

Admittedly, rural Kansas was not Mbawuike’s ideal choice of a new place to start. He was more drawn to big cities, but family ties and recommendations to Hesston gave him a start here.

After a whirlwind year and a half, Mbawuike traveled down the road to Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.) where he earned a B.A. in business. He then continued a little further south, securing a master’s degree in public administration with an emphasis in public finance from Wichita State University.

Before securing his M.P.A, Mbawuike landed a job working in the finance office for the City of Bel Aire (Kan.). A short time later, he was offered a job selling cars with Eddy’s Toyota of Wichita and later with Mel Hambelton, where he achieved Level 3 – the highest possible level – in Ford Motor Company’s 2012 Employee Excellence Program, placing him among the nation’s best in sales and customer satisfaction.

Within five years, Mbawuike’s career has spanned two very different segments of the business world from government to sales. Fortunately, Mbawuike was able to navigate the cultural landscape of doing business in the U.S. while working toward his degrees, and he says he’s grateful for the varied experience.

“To be successful in any business, you must have a great attitude and work ethic and be willing to take care of people.”

– Obi Mbawuike ’06 –

“Working as a car salesman is a lot of fun for me,” Mbawuike said. “The hours are flexible, and it’s a laid-back atmosphere. My coworkers tell me I’m relentless, but it also requires a balance of reading the customer and knowing just how far I can push.”

As his career continues to play out, Mbawuike is open to whatever professional opportunities may come his way, including a return to finance or the chance to someday launch his own business.

“One thing I’ve learned is the good Lord is going to lead me wherever He chooses,” said Mbawuike. “With all of my experiences combined, I know I have the education, skills, information and training to do whatever that may be.”

NAVIGATING THE BUSINESS WORLD

FEATURE

“Welcome to Kansas!” ice storm didn’t deter Obi Mbawuike ’06 from embracing his new home upon his arrival from Nigeria and 85-degree temperatures in January 2005.

To be successful in any business, you must have a great attitude and work ethic and be willing to take care of people.

– Obi Mbawuike ’06 –
CHOOSING HESSTON
I found Hesston because I was recruited for basketball and offered a scholarship. When I visited, I had the chance to meet the team and scrimmage with them. It was really fun getting to know them, and I knew I would enjoy being a part of the team. I’m glad I chose to start here because it is a good opportunity to meet people in a friendly environment. There isn’t a lot of negativity here. Instructors are here to help as needed and sincerely care when students are struggling.

GROWTH
My time as a First-year Experience (FYE) Scholar this year has helped me become a better public speaker and learn things about myself that I would not have otherwise known.

I am a very reserved person. Other than my speech class and leading team devotions before basketball games, I hadn’t had many opportunities to speak in front of people. Since being at Hesston and an FYE Scholar, I have found myself feeling a lot more comfortable talking to people. It’s pushed me beyond speaking only to small, safe audiences. At the beginning of the year, I did a welcome speech, “We Are,” for the entire incoming freshman class. I also had the opportunity to introduce Blaine Harden, author of this year’s common read *Escape from Camp 14* when he spoke on campus.

THE STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER
On public speaking: Take it slow. Look at a spot instead of at a particular person. I’ve found it’s easier and less nerve-racking to speak in front of people when others go before me. Now, after receiving compliments on my speaking, I’ve gradually become more comfortable with it.

PLANNING THE FUTURE
I am interested in being an art therapist. I took Deb (Swartzendruber) ’83 Roth’s Career Development class, and it showed me that I am drawn to art. I’ve always liked drawing, but now I realize I can make a career in it. The StrengthsQuest test indicated that empathy is also one of my strengths. Art therapy is the perfect way to combine empathy and art.

WHAT HER INSTRUCTORS SAY
“As an FYE Scholar, J’liyah has really pushed herself to speak in front of large groups and lead campus-wide events. With every added responsibility, she skillfully manages her full course load, athletic schedule and campus leadership. Through it all, she’s calm and collected. J’liyah may be quiet when you first meet her but she has added so much to this campus.” –Marissa King ’05, Education and English faculty

PARENTS: Joseph and Sherilyn Tillman
MAJOR: Psychology

J’liyah Tillman ’15
Muskogee, Okla.
Makenzie Jones ’11
Ogden, Utah

MAJOR: Mechanical engineering
CAREER: Sustaining engineer for Fresenius Medical Group

LAYING THE FOUNDATION
Leaving home to travel almost 1,000 miles from Utah to Hesston College was a big deal, but Hesston was a great fit for me and prepared me for a career I love. I am a sustaining engineer for Fresenius Medical Group, one of the world’s leading producers of dialysis equipment. I am a project manager, coordinating efforts between manufacturing, research and development, regulatory, purchasing, quality systems and outside suppliers and vendors. I work with cost savings and product/process improvement projects.

I felt a very personal connection to many of the faculty and staff with whom I interacted. Physics class with Nelson Kilmer was my first exposure working with solar energy technology, which has always been an interest of mine. Biblical Literature and Peacemaking and Justice courses with Marion Bontrager ’57 taught me so much about myself, my personal beliefs and the beliefs of others.

CLIMBING THE LADDER
After Hesston, I continued my education at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) where I earned my bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. I was fully prepared for my experience at NYIT. Nearly all my credits transferred and I had equivalent or better preparation for my upper level classes when compared to students who started at NYIT or transferred from other schools.

As a member of the softball team as well as a resident assistant, Hesston offered me the opportunity to work with many diverse personalities, backgrounds and experiences. I use those experiences on a daily basis as I work with people from different departments within my plant and those around the country and the world.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS
The Hesston Experience means a lot of things to me. It was meeting people from around the country and world. It was learning how to live in the dorms and share a community. It was learning to stay up until all hours of the night – sometimes to foster a social life and other times for homework. My Hesston Experience was professors who knew me by name, served me Thanksgiving dinner and came to watch my softball games. It was an experience that shaped my life and future.

Right now, I am gaining valuable experience in the manufacturing and business worlds, but I plan to return to graduate school for a master’s degree in engineering. I would eventually like to start or be part of a startup company dealing with alternative energy research and implementation.
If anyone on the Hesston College women’s basketball team knows what it means to overcome adversity, it’s freshman Jermani Thompson.

Her journey has carried her through devastating storms, both physical and emotional. Her all-in, in-it-to-win-it energy on the court is a stark contrast to the reserved way in which she openly shares her story, a story that few on campus know.

Thompson, a coastal Louisiana native, vividly recalls the horrifying night in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck. Her mother was required to stay at work at a veteran’s home so Thompson stayed, too.

“Everyone was saying, ‘A hurricane is coming, a hurricane is coming!’” said Thompson. “But...no one took it seriously.”

The water had risen to Thompson’s neck by the time decisions had to be made. The veteran’s home staff evacuated residents who were well enough, while others in poor health were left behind. Once they escaped, a rescue team arrived bearing crushing news.

“The guys who came to save us told us that five minutes later we would have been dead,” said Thompson.

Thompson and her mother lost everything. The three days following Katrina, they slept outside until they were moved to Louisiana State University’s (Baton Rouge) gymnasium where beds covered the hardwood.

After things settled, Thompson went to live with her grandpa for a while, and her family bought a new house in Laplace, La. Thompson was shooting hoops in the sunshine again, and everything seemed normal. This illusion of stability would soon vanish.

In 2012, Thompson and her family were struck again with disaster when their house was lost to Hurricane Isaac. Isaac also demolished Thompson’s school. Basketball became her means for coping.

“I’ve really loved playing basketball since I was small,” said Thompson. “All my brothers played; my dad played... When the hurricane hit, it was motivation and determination to do something with my life.”

The hardships of the hurricanes were not Thompson’s only motivation for working hard.

“A lot of people in New Orleans don’t make it out,” said Thompson. “Then, the summer of my senior year, my dad left my life, so that was extra motivation to be successful. I want to set examples for my younger family members and show them it’s possible to finish school, that you don’t have to turn to the streets to get money.”

So why travel 871 miles to Hesston College?

“I picked Hesston because I knew it would keep me out of trouble and help me stay focused,” said Thompson. “The people are really nice here. Plus, basketball is a nice opportunity for me to further my education, meet new people and expand my view of the world since Hesston College is so diverse.”

Hesston’s nursing program was an added bonus to playing basketball. Losing three grandparents to cancer within three months in 2009 inspired Thompson to pursue healthcare as a career.

“I decided to go into healthcare because I like helping people,” said Thompson.

No stranger to persevering through challenges, Thompson is doing well as a student athlete.

“It’s hard going from a big city to this small place,” said Thompson. “My friends at Hesston are very supportive, and community people I don’t even know, I feel like they support me, too.”

“Jermani is so different and vibrant that people just gravitate towards her,” said teammate Taelor Drew ’15 (Wiley, Texas). “She has a lot of self esteem. She won’t let anyone stop her.”

Thompson has found her own way to contribute to the community and embraces the ways the community is nurturing her.

“Right now, I’m like a sponge,” said Thompson. “My goal is to soak up as much knowledge as possible while I’m here and to apply it to my life after Hesston.”

Jermani Thompson ’16 (Laplace, La.) goes for a layup against Brown Mackie earlier this season.
 Shortly after starting my position as a Hesston College admissions counselor, I was approached by a development officer to talk about joining the Partner Program. I was hesitant at first, and told them that I’d need some time to think about it before committing to anything.

As a 20-something who is still paying on my student loans from my time as a student at Hesston, my first thought was, “Am I not already giving enough to HC?” However, I soon caught on to the selfless giving that is a part of the work culture here. Faculty and staff generously give their time, attention, energy, even numerous nights and weekends, to the students. When I learned that 42 percent of faculty and staff give financially to the college, on top of everything else that they give, I wanted to be a part of that impressive statistic!

As I have continued my work in Admissions, I have been able to see first-hand how donor dollars are at work. Without money from the college, many of our students would not be able to attend Hesston College. My time as a student at Hesston laid a strong foundation for who I am today, and most of my closest relationships stem from those wonderful years. I want the Hesston Experience to be accessible to all students, and I am humbled that my monthly contribution can help make that possible.
CONTINUING THE LEGACY

76 STUDENTS FROM ALUMNI LEGACY FAMILIES FOUND THEIR START AT HESSTON COLLEGE IN 2014-15

Rachelle Adrian ’15 – Jonathan ’85 and Brenda Adrian, Mountain Lake, Minn.
Brittany Beisel ’15 – Timothy Beisel ’96 and Valerie (Deyle) ’96 Guerrero, Newton, Kan.
Dillon Bender ’15 – Ken ’82 and Brenda (Berggren) ’82 Bender, Wellman, Iowa
Brady Biderback ’16 – Kathy (Ebersole) ’83 and Scott Bildbacker, Boise, Idaho
Laura Blosser ’16 – Vernon ’76 and Brenda Blosser, Hesston, Kan.
Andrew Brunner ’15 – Cheryl (Schmidt) ’79 and Lester Brunner, Newton, Kan.
Johanna Burkholder ’16 – Glenn ’79 and Mary Burkholder, Warden, Wash.
Austin Byler ’16 – Steve ’90 and Juanita Byler, Belleville, Pa.
Eric Cender ’15 – Karl ’80 and Wilma (Ressler) ’81 Cender, Valparaiso, Ind.
Nicole de Jesus-Roetlin ’16 – JT ’84 and Tess Roetlin, Kalona, Iowa
Oliver Denlinger ’15 – Mike ’88 and Corinne Denlinger, Denver, Pa.
Abbie DeWild ’16 – Jodi (Gingerich) ’93 and Mike DeWild, Kalona, Iowa
Dusti Diener ’15 – Myron ’78, staff and Donna, staff, Diener, Harrisonville, Mo.
Parker Eberly ’16 – Nancy (Zook) ’77 and Jim Eberly, Narvon, Pa.
Colton Eby ’16 – Duane ’86 and Jayne Oyer ’86 Eby, Fisher, Ill.
Maria Enz ’15 – Charis (Wiebe) ’81 and Charles Enz, Whitewater, Kan.
Rachel Esch ’16 – Becky (Derstine) ’81, former staff and Don Esch, Newton, Kan.
Hannah Fenton ’15 – Joe ’83 and Annette (Wyse) ’88 Fenton, Hesston, Kan.
Jaecy Friesen ’16 – Marcia (LeFevre) ’84 Friesen, North Newton, Kan.
Nate Gingerich ’15 – Marge (Springer) ’85 and David Gingerich, Goshen, Ind.
Haley Goevert ’15 – Denise (Troyer) ’86 and Chris Goevert, Hesston, Kan.
Alyssa Graber ’16 – Ronald ’85 and Lori Graber, Wolford, N.D.
Zac Headings ’16 – Jeff ’82 (deceased) and Cindy Headings, Hutchinson, Kan.
Ben Helmuth ’16 – Jon Helmuth ’91, Goshen, Ind.
Brooke Hershberger ’16 – Jeff ’85 and Juanita Hershberger, Goshen, Ind.
Christina Hershey ’15 – Ron ’88 and Rhoda (Lehman) ’87 Hershey, Mechanicsburg, Pa.
Alex Hiebert ’15 – Lucinda ’91 and Mike Hiebert, Buhler, Kan.
Hannah Hostetter ’16 – Loren Hostetter ’81, former staff and Glenda Siegrist, Harrisonburg, Va.
Jared Hurst ’16 – Valerie (Hurst) ’85 Hurst-Tamura, Sharon, Pa.
Rachel Jantz ’15 – David ’82 and Lori (Miller) ’82 Jantz, Hendersonville, N.C.
Caroline Kaufman ’15 – Kenton Kaufman ’81 and Susan (Martin) ’82 Kaufman, Sarasota, Fla.
Catie Kaufman ’16 – Jamie Kaufman ’82, Goshen, Ind.
Michael Kimler ’16 – Ron ’85 and Jodi (Duerksen) ’86 Kilmer, Glendale, Ariz.
Keegan LeFevre ’16 – Dennis ’83 and Jen (Friesen) ’84, former faculty, LeFevre, Woodland Park, Colo.
Ben Litwiller ’16 – Kevin ’88 and Lisa (Johnson) ’88 Litwiller, Hope Valley, Ill.
Jay Marston ’15 – Jon ’84 and Jan Marston, Murphyboro, Ill.
Anna Martin ’16 – Bill ’03 and Sharon Martin, Harleysville, Pa.
Karli Mast ’15 – Gerald ’81 and Sheryl (Roth) ’82 Mast, Hubbard, Ore.
Oliver Miller ’16 – LeAnne (Derstine) ’79 and Clint Miller, Souderton, Pa.
Spencer Miller ’15 – David ’07 and Tammy Miller, Milford, Neb.
Shelby Miller ’16 – Eric ’90 and Marla (Gascho) ’90 Miller, Archbold, Ohio
Robin Morris ’15 – Pamela (Meadows) ’80 and Loren, former staff, Morris, Hutchinson, Kan.
Lincoln Moffett ’15 – Ron ’12 and Sue Moyer, North Newton, Kan.
Bryce Nitzsche ’16 – Dave ’90 and Sheri (Gascho) ’91 Nitzsche, Lincoln, Neb.
 Lorren Oesch ’16 – Mike ’91 and Jana (Earnest) ’90 Oesch, Caldwell, Idaho
Holly Peters ’15 – Gordon ’84 and Janice (Roth) ’84 Peters, Hesston, Kan.
Laken Richer ’15 – Scott ’89, former staff and Michelle Richer, New Paris, Ind.
Caroline Riggenbach ’16 – Rita (Yoder) ’77 and Kevin Riggenbach, Lafayette, Ind.
Emma Roth ’16 – Tyler ’90 and Sarah Roth, Goshen, Ind.
Lance Schrock ’16 – Leon ’89 and Robin Schrock, Parnell, Iowa
Quinten Sezler ’16 – Jeff ’92 and Dana (Jackson) ’92 Selzer, Thomas, Okla.
Rachel Short-Miller ’15 – Eric ’85 and Melody (Short) ’85 Short-Miller, Bellingham, Wash.
Jeshurrn Shuman – Kathleen (Hess) ’87 and James Shuman, Middletown, Pa.
Bethany Snow ’15 – David ’83 (deceased) and Karen Snow, Park City, Kan.
Caron Stephen ’15 – Cheryl (Martin) ’88 and Hubert Stephen, Lititz, Pa.
Andry Stutzman ’16 – Curt ’84 and Jeanne (Alger) ’84 Stutzman, Harrisonburg, Va.
Jesse Stutzman ’16 – Todd ’89 and Kari Stutzman, Canby, Ore.
Christy Swartzendruber ’16 – Marge (Kempf) ’80, former staff and Will Swartzendruber, Shickley, Neb.
Peyton Thompson ’16 – Sherry (Schweitzer) ’80 and Todd Thompson, Kalona, Iowa
Kristen Unzicker ’15 – Tony Unzicker ’87 and Carol (Snyder) ’87 Snyder Unzicker, Goshen, Ind.
Dillon Weaver ’16 – Herr ’79 and Cindy (Ruhl) ’79 Weaver, Nederland, Colo.
Lorae Weaver ’16 – Lisa (Nunemaker) ’88 and Lonnie Weaver, Goshen, Ind.
Jared Wedel ’16 – Jay Wedel ’89 and Sharon (Ross) ’90, faculty, Wedel, Hesston, Kan.
Courtney Wengert ’15 – Dave ’81 and Sherry (Wells) ’80 Wengert, Goshen, Ind.
Oliver Wiseman ’16 – Darrel ’82 and Janette Wiseman, Primrose, Ore.
Garrett Woelk ’15 – Rick ’84 and Denise (Schroeder) ’83 Woelk, Goessel, Kan.
Nathan Yoder ’15 – Barb (Oesch) ’84 and Scott Yoder, Striker, Ohio
Jasmin Yoder ’15 – Dean ’83 and Lola Yoder, Sweet Home, Ore.
Noah Yoder ’15 – Maynard ’80 and Barb Yoder, Freeman, S.D.
Steven Yoder ’15 – Diane (Bratton) ’78 and Lyle Yoder, McVeytown, Pa.
Taylor Zehr ’15 – Mike ’78 and Rebecca Zehr, Key West, Fla.
Mikaela Zook ’16 – Teresa (Troyer) ’89 and Doug Zook, Millersburg, Ind.
Andrew Froese ’05
La Junta, Colo.

EDUCATION AFTER HESSTON Goshen (Ind.) College – bachelor’s degree in accounting

CURRENT JOB Certified Public Accountant at Hancock Froese & Company LLC

NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES I previously worked in the audit department at Crowe Horwath, a top ten accounting firm. I am now member/owner of an accounting company specializing in audits and other attestation engagements.

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS the chance to work with entities to help clean up their books so they can make informed, educated business decisions.

AT HESSTON I had the opportunity to visit numerous businesses of all sizes to see how they operate. I had smaller class sizes which allowed for deeper and more meaningful discussions. I also met other students with the same interests who not only became my friends, but have become valuable business resources.

My instructors were very influential in the career path I chose. I knew I wanted to do something in business and accounting, and instructors like Bill Mason and Vickie Andres helped me see that was a good decision for me. They provided hands-on experiences and the tools necessary to become business-minded.
EDUCATION AFTER HESSTON Goshen College – bachelor’s degree in business; working on a master’s in business from Wayne State University (Detroit)

CURRENT JOB Innovation counselor for Michigan State University Product Center (East Lansing) working with small local food entrepreneurs to help further their businesses and passions

NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES I served with Brethren Voluntary Service in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where I started and developed a social enterprise called Root Soup that provided collaborative culinary job training for people transitioning out of homelessness and people with special needs. In my current job, I have consulted with more than 200 businesses, resulting in the creation of more than 35 jobs, $500,000 in additional revenue and $600,000 in additional funding in Metro Detroit. My current job allows me to assist small local food entrepreneurs pursue their dreams and improve the local economy.

IN CLASSES AT HESSTON I learned more than just facts, but was encouraged to develop critical thinking skills that allow me to listen to another person, ascertain needs and find solutions, which helps me as a consultant for small businesses that need these skills. Often, people are unable to see the problem that is preventing growth in their business, but by listening to their story, I am able to identify areas of weakness and help develop a plan to overcome these areas.

CURRENT JOB Author of Christian fiction

I LOVE TO WRITE so writing stories is always enjoyable, but what I enjoy most about my job is watching the Lord use fiction to touch readers’ hearts in a real way. The first time I got an email from a reader saying they accepted Christ while reading one of my books is one of my favorite career moments. Knowing the Lord has used my books to help readers heal from emotional devastation is more than enough motivation to keep me writing. When you can do something you love, and it’s making a difference in the world – that’s when you know you have a great career!

AT HESSTON, when I needed an extra credit hour one semester, I signed up for Kendra Burkey’s ’00 journalism class where I discovered my love of journalism, started writing for the local paper and was offered a full-time job. Less than a year later, I received a Kansas Press Association award for column writing among other awards.

ATTENDING HESSTON ended up being a key “right place at the right time” moment that gave me a great foundation for my professional experiences. Before I started writing Christian fiction, I was the editor of the Hesston Record and Moundridge Ledger newspapers, which really kick-started my career. I found a church where I was introduced to Jesus in a new way that helped my spiritual walk. That, and a good foundation in the Word through Bib Lit, was life-changing.

Ashley writes under the pen name Ann Goering. She is the author of seven Christian novels, including The Glendale Series, the Mothers of Glendale Series and her newest release, Up From the Ash Heap (2014, Covered Porch Publishing).
EDUCATION AFTER HESSTON  Working on bachelor of nursing degree

CURRENT JOB  Labor and delivery nurse at Denver Health Medical Center, one of Colorado's premiere healthcare institutions

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS  supporting laboring mothers, hearing a newborn's first cry and watching moms and dads welcome their sweet baby with tears of joy. What I feel most honored to do is to help the parents who have to greet their babies with tears of sorrow. Most people think of labor and delivery as a wonderfully joyful place, and most of the time it is, but it's the times when it is a sorrowful place that I am humbled to be a quiet, supportive part of the family's experience.

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE in my professional pursuits is Joyce Huber. She was always there cheering for me and my nursing peers. My favorite thing was to get the words “Cheers to you!” written on my assignments. Joyce was so good about supporting all of us and never missed the little things that make her an amazing nursing instructor.

TO ME, THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE was priceless. I often dream of going back in time and reliving it all over again. I met some of my best friends in the world. Hesston shaped me as a person and helped prepare me for all that adult life has to offer. There isn’t a good word or way to describe what the Hesston Experience means. It's a feeling you just have to experience for yourself. I've talked to other Hesston alumni about this conundrum. You can't put a word to it – you just have to nod and agree with a twinkle in your eye that the two years you spent at Hesston were some of the best of your life.

Haruka Sano ’10
Niiza City, Saitama, Japan

CURRENT JOB  Human relations staff for KYB Corporation, a global company specializing in hydraulics used in the aeronautical, automotive, construction and railway industries

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS being in charge of graduate recruitment for the company, which means I present to university students about the company and how their particular techniques and knowledge would be valued within the company.

I AM SO GLAD I STARTED AT HESSTON because there were so many nice people around me who were willing to help. I didn't speak much English when I arrived at Hesston, but my instructors and friends were patient with me and helped me through. I think if I had gone to a big university, I would have been homesick and returned to Japan.

ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE in my education was Dave Osborne Ac64, ’66, who introduced me to Hesston and was a great resource for international students needing help or advice. I also want to be able to help university students who need guidance.

TO ME, THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE MEANS new life, new culture, new friends from all over the world – they are all my treasure. Hesston helped me grow up, broadened my horizons and prepared me for the real world.
Heidi Wiebe ’10
Kidron, Ohio

EDUCATION AFTER HESSTON Bluffton (Ohio) University – bachelor’s degree in art education

CURRENT JOB High school art teacher, librarian and tutor at Central Christian School

NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE Third grade teacher and middle school writing teacher at Hopi Mission School on the Hopi Native American Reservation in Kykotsmovi, Ariz.

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS that it combines my three favorite things – serving God, relationships and art. It is such a blessing to work for an organization whose goal is to spread the good news of Jesus.

I AM SO GLAD I STARTED AT HESSTON because Hesston’s small community provided opportunities to grow as a student, in my spiritual walk and build deep and meaningful relationships, all of which have played a role in my career. Art instructors helped me develop my own style and education courses provided opportunities for dialogue and a place for answers to my questions about being a teacher. Because of relationships I formed, I was able to travel to Haiti for my first cross cultural experience with support from the campus and broader community to raise the necessary funds. The experience helped broaden my worldview as well as prepare me for the plans God had for me to teach on the Hopi Reservation. Hesston also provided an atmosphere rooted in Anabaptist biblical views. It was a safe place for me to learn and grow, which has helped form my own personal mission in my career, and to have that same impact on my students.

Nathan Snyder ’10
Greeley, Colo.

EDUCATION AFTER HESSTON Bethel College (North Newton, Kan.) – bachelor’s degree in music, University of Northern Colorado (Greeley) – master’s in music (May 2015)

CURRENT JOB Apprentice artist at Opera Fort Collins (Colo.) and graduate assistant at UNC Opera Theatre

NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES I have had the opportunity to perform many major operatic roles with various companies. I spent the summer of 2014 in Germany performing with Opera Classica Europa.

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS the “sitz probe,” which is the first time the singers and the orchestra perform together. The different colors of the orchestral instruments creates a breathtaking experience for the performers and brings to light many important musical nuances that increase the drama of the opera.

AT HESSTON I, like many students, was not sure what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew that I wanted to do something with music. Hesston gave me a solid foundation to continue my musical pursuits, not only academically, but also emotionally. Through affirming instructors and supportive friends, Hesston gave me the confidence to pursue music as a career.
Emily Wagner-Davis ’12
Little Rock, Ark.

EDUCATION AFTER HESSTON  
Stephens College (Columbia, Mo.) – bachelor’s degree in fashion marketing and management

CURRENT JOB  
Assistant buyer for branded sleepwear at Dillard’s

NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES  
Participating in a market trip to observe industry procedures; winning an award for best business plan; volunteering at a fair trade boutique to gain industry experience; getting a job in my industry right out of college.

WHAT I ENJOY MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS  
learning from the people around me. Most of the time, our projects have multiple steps so more than one person is involved. It is so important to communicate well and work together in order to get projects done.

I AM SO GLAD I STARTED AT HESSTON  
because it gave me a great foundation for continuing my education. I learned time management skills, responsibility for myself and my work and how to care for others. Each day is not just about ourselves or what we accomplish, but it is about coming together and working for the greater good.

TO ME, THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE MEANS  
learning how to live and interact with people who are different from you. This means more than just personalities, but cultures, traditions and backgrounds as well. Hesston brings different people and ideas together, and each person is able to learn from the other.
CAMpus News Briefs

SPRING BREAK TRIPS

Hesston College students, faculty and staff dispersed around the globe during spring break March 7 to 15. One group, led by Gregg Schroeder ’86 and his wife Cindy, traveled to Russia (March 4 to 17) to learn about the culture, history and their fields of study in a different cultural context. A disaster management team traveled to Pilger, Neb., to help the Mennonite Disaster Service unit stationed there rebuild homes destroyed in a spring 2014 tornado. Faculty members Tony Brown ’69, John Sharp ’73 and alumnus Bruce Rogers ’72 led a group comprised of students, faculty, staff and friends of the college to the Deep South to learn more about the 1960s civil rights movement and retrace the Selma to Montgomery, Ala., march in remembrance of the 50th anniversary. The softball team and coach Andrew Sharp ’99 played three games in Phoenix during the break.

KNOW JESUS

About 200 middle school students from 16 South Central and Western District Mennonite Church USA conference congregations in Kansas descended on campus for the Know Jesus event Jan. 31 to Feb. 1. Participants learned about their Anabaptist faith heritage from Hesston history instructor John Sharp ’73, psychology and youth ministry instructor Kevin Wilder and pastoral ministries alumnus Ron Moyo ’12, Saturday night worship pastor at Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston). A weekend highlight was the Anabaptist Game, hosted by Michele (Schrock) ’81 Hershberger and the Bible and Ministry Department.

AVDS

More than 180 participants in the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series Feb. 13 to 15 explored questions of pursuing nonviolence and the way of Christ in a violence-filled world. The conference, “Overcoming Evil: Ordinary People Making a Difference,” featured Father John Dear, a peace activist and 2008 and 2015 Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Dear emphasized nonviolence as the “vision of the heart that sees every human being as your brother and sister.” Breakout session presenters shared about peace in different contexts and from a variety of backgrounds and faith traditions. Ted Swartz and Tim Ruebke ’88 of Ted & Company TheaterWorks presented the satirical drama I’d Like To Buy an Enemy.
Beginning in August, Hesston College will be the only college or university in Kansas where students may choose to pursue either an associate (ADN) or bachelor's degree (BSN) in nursing.

“The healthcare industry is changing, and the college is adding the BSN so its students and alumni will be highly prepared and employable,” said Bonnie (Kauffman) Ac65, ’67 Sowers, nursing program director.

A bachelor's degree program is new territory for the college, but one that is a logical step for nursing. The impetus behind the change stems from a 2010 report from the Institute of Medicine that set a national goal of 80 percent of the nursing workforce having a bachelor's degree by 2020. Likewise, according to the American Association of Colleges in Nursing, Hesston alumni and other two-year graduates nationwide are pursuing bachelor's degrees in increasing numbers.

With the industry shift, both ADN and BSN options are needed to meet employer demands and industry standards, said Sowers.

“Placement options for clinical training are being limited for some associate degree programs at a number of major medical centers,” said Sowers. “The BSN program will allow Hesston College to continue providing nursing students with exceptional clinical learning opportunities.”

Discussion toward a BSN offering began in the summer of 2013. Nursing faculty diligently researched necessary additions for creating a four-year degree curriculum as well as steps to gain approval and accreditation. The college's Board of Directors granted approval to pursue accreditation and state approval following the September 2014 meeting. Following a two-day site visit, the college received approval from the Higher Learning Commission in early February. The Kansas State Board of Nursing authorized the final approval necessary to start the program March 25.

The BSN program will launch in August 2015 for students who will begin their first of four years at Hesston, as well as those who will have completed the 60 hours of required college course work and are ready to begin their junior year of nursing. The college anticipates launching an RN-to-BSN program in the fall of 2016 or 2017 for students who have their ADN and are looking to earn a bachelor's degree.

Adding juniors and seniors to the student population does hold implications for many aspects of campus life. The college's leadership is well underway with discussions for making adjustments while maintaining the essence of the Hesston Experience.

“The nursing program has been one of our strengths for decades, in terms of both the number of students served and quality of instruction,” said Brent Yoder ’98, vice president of Academics. “Hesston will still be a place that focuses on the first two years of a college education, but we are excited to meet the needs of students who want to broaden their understanding of the nursing profession and obtain advanced credentials.”

Much more can, and will, be said about Hesston's new BSN offering. Watch for the Summer 2015 issue of the Hesston College Today for more information about this exciting addition and what it means for Hesston College.
ALUMNI DONATE CIVIL RIGHTS RESOURCES TO MARY MILLER LIBRARY

EMILY KAUFFMAN ’16

Because of their great esteem for Hesston College, Bruce ’72 and Joy (Lichti) ’72 Rogers (Goshen, Ind.) donated 65 books on civil rights and African-American history to the college’s Mary Miller Library. Bruce said of all his educational experiences, including graduate school, Hesston had the most profound effect on him; therefore he wanted to give back.

“The gift to the Mary Miller Library of civil rights books and videos from Bruce and Joy Rogers will be an asset to the library collection,” said Margaret Wiebe, library director. “They will be a great resource to those who are studying the topic in classes as well as to those who have a personal interest in studying civil rights.”

Bruce has a passion for the civil rights movement, which he describes as the best example of democracy at work. He earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Goshen College and a master’s degree in school administration from Indiana University (Bloomington). In his 36 years as an educator in Elkhart County, Ind., he served as a school principal, teacher, coach, adjunct professor at Indiana University and a consultant for the Indiana Department of Education. He retired in June 2014.

Rogers’ interest in civil rights is fueled by his work as an educator and many years of teaching the history to students.

During the summer of 2003, Rogers retraced the 1965 Selma to Montgomery, Ala., march on foot, visiting historical sites and visiting with people along the way, in order to better teach the civil rights lessons in his curriculum as a sixth-grade teacher at Eastwood Elementary School in Elkhart, Ind.

Rogers also helped lead a Hesston College civil rights seminar with Hesston faculty members John Sharp and Tony Brown during spring break March 7 to 14.

The donated books are available for check out in Hesston College’s Mary Miller Library, located in Smith Center.

Pictured from left are history instructor John Sharp ’73, librarian Margaret Wiebe, library assistant Donna Diener, social sciences instructor Tony Brown ’69 and Bruce ’72 and Joy (Lichti) ’72 Rogers.
MEN’S BASKETBALL ENJOYS POST-SEASON SUCCESS

The men's basketball team had an exciting 2014-15 season, including Hesston College's first men's basketball national tournament showing in 25 years. Under the leadership of coach Dustin Galyon ’04, the Larks qualified for the national tournament in Danville, Ill., March 17 to 21. The team shared the regular season championship with Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC). After knocking off Highland (Kan.) Community College 71-51 in the NJCAA Region VI, Division II Tournament semifinals at Yost Center, the Larks advanced to the championship game at Wichita (Kan.) State University's Koch Arena, where they secured the tournament championship with a 77-69 win over KCKCC. The Larks dropped two games at Nationals to be eliminated from the tournament. They finished the season with a record of 22-12.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL EARN POST-SEASON BID

The women's basketball team and Coach Dan Harrison ’79 found themselves in post-season play with a close 51-45 home win over Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College in the final regular season game. Their season came to an end a few days later in the first round of the NJCAA Region VI, Division II Tournament with a road loss to Highland (Kan.) Community College Feb. 28. The Larks finished the season 14-17.

SPRING SPORTS LAUNCH NEW SEASON

Despite weather adversity, baseball, softball and men’s and women’s tennis are underway. After a record-setting 2014 season, baseball coach Rob Ramseyer fields a young and talented roster ready for another exciting season lineup. Softball coach Andrew Sharp ’99 is excited for his deep pitching staff and competitive lineup for the 2015 season. The team traveled to Arizona for three games during spring break March 9 to 13. With dedicated players making up his teams, men's and women's tennis coach Myron Diener ’78 is optimistic that both teams will see improvements from a year ago.
1930-39

DEATHS
John O. Schrag Ac32, North Newton, Kan., Oct. 15, 2014
Paul Gingerich Ac36, '39, husband of Vesta (Troyer) Ac37, '39 Gingerich, Kalona, Iowa, Nov. 2, 2014

1940-49

DEATHS
Vernon Beachy Ac40, South Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 27, 2014
Evelyn (Whipstock) Ac44 Durski, Goshen, Ind., Aug. 8, 2014
James Greiner Ac44, Hubbard, Ore., April 14, 2014
Eldon Hostetler, husband of Eileen (Ehrman) Ac44, '46, Milford, Neb., Oct. 12, 2014
Marvin Miller Ac45, former faculty, Parnell, Iowa, July 12, 2014
Emma (Sommers) Ac45 Richards, Goshen, Ind., Sept. 6, 2014
Evelyn (Lais) Ac47 Birky, Kalispell, Mont., Sept. 15, 2014
Roger Hochsteter Ac48, Arvada, Colo., Oct. 22, 2014
Dorothy (Miller) Ac48 Yoder, wife of Gene Yoder Ac44, Hesston, Kan., Dec. 7, 2014
Melvin Headrick '49, La Junta, Colo., Nov. 15, 2014

ALUMNI NEWS

1950-59

Myrna Kinsinger '55 Farraj, Iowa City, published her memoir My Heart is Singing (2014), which tells how she defied expectations of becoming a school teacher in the Midwest to teach at an all-girls school in Amman, Jordan through Mennonite Voluntary Service.

Wilbur ‘59 and Fanni (Marner) ‘60 Birky, Goshen, Ind., are co-directors of The Life Long Learning Institute for Elkhart County. The institute provides stimulating and affordable short courses in many fields for active seniors.

1960-69

DEATH
Elmer Eigsti ’61, Crystal River, Fla., Dec. 14, 2014

1970-79

Tami (Birky) ’72 Keim, faculty, Hesston, Kan., manages a blog, “Building Faith,” through Mennonite Early Childhood Network, that provides a simple, usable resource for parents of young children who want active and effective ways to help their children build faith. Keim’s daughter and son-in-law, Talasha (Keim) ’02 and Daniel ’02 Keim Yoder, Goshen, Ind., write for the blog. Tami has served as director of Hesston College’s Early Childhood Education program for 28 years. Talasha and Daniel are pastors for faith formation at College Mennonite Church in Goshen. The blog can be found at buildingfaithmecn.weebly.com.

Don Clymer ’73, former faculty, Harrisonburg, Va., co-authored The Spacious Heart: Room for Spiritual Awakening (Herald Press, 2014) with his sister, Sharon Clymer Landis. Through stories and texts grounded in scripture, the book explores spiritual awakening and a connection with God that goes beyond the pat answers of church and religion.

DEATH
Ron Voth ’72, Halstead, Kan., Sept. 22, 2014

1980-89

Heidi (Stoll) ’85 Zielke, Hesston, Kan., earned CNOR certification, a formal process validating a nurse’s knowledge, skills and abilities in the perioperative field of nursing. Heidi works at Newton (Kan.) Medical Center.

Bruce Weaver ‘86, Hesston, Kan., Chief Financial Officer of Bradbury Company (Moundridge), which manufactures metal processing equipment for customers around the world, was selected as a Wichita (Kan.) Business Journal 2015 CFO Honoree. Weaver has been CFO at Bradbury for 22 years where he has seen tremendous growth and been a part of several expansions, including the addition of international partnerships and locations.

DEATHS
Dean Hershberger ‘80, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 7, 2014
Keith Nebel ‘81, Wayland, Iowa, Oct. 3, 2014

MARRIAGES
Conrad Lehman ’85 and Jill (Buscher) ’90 Kennel, Goshen, Ind., July 12, 2014
Jeffrey Gingerich ’88 and Betsy Stiles, Radnor, Pa., June 21, 2014

1990-99

Teri (Mullet) ’92, ’94 Banman, Lenexa, Kan., was honored with the 2014 Leadership in Quality Award in October for development and coordination of the nurse navigator program at The University of Kansas Cancer Center. She is the Cancer Center’s first nurse navigator and has helped develop the role, which she has held since August 2011.

Matt Schloneger ’92, faculty, North Newton, Kan., earned his Ph.D. in vocal pedagogy through the University of Kansas (Lawrence) in December.

Wendell Nofziger ’94 and his family are in Honduras for two years where he teaches English.

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Wendell Nofziger ’94 and his family are in Honduras for two years where he teaches English.
Juli (Dick) ’96 Fast, Mountain Lake, Minn., regional navigator for the Southwest Crisis Center (Worthington, Minn.), works to raise awareness about and develop outreach material for sexually exploited youth. As a navigator, she is the main point of contact for youth and concerned agencies throughout Minnesota and connects youth with services.

Brent Yoder ’98, faculty, Hesston, Kan., co-presented on direct assessment at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Network for Academic Renewal Conference in Kansas City, Mo., in February. Yoder is vice president of Academics and academic dean at Hesston.

André Swartley ’99, faculty, Hesston, Kan., presented at the After JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) conference in Chiba, Japan, in February. JET is a one-and-a-half-year teaching fellowship through the Japanese government where native speakers of other languages, especially English, teach in Japanese public schools. Swartley was an assistant language teacher in the program from 2012 to 2014, preceding his appointment as English as a Second Language program director at Hesston College. He is also the author of three fiction novels, with a fourth to be released in October.

BIRTHS
Julian Gingerich ’97 and Julia Vincent, Hubbard, Ore.: Isabel Jeannette, Sept. 7, 2014
Janelle (Yutzie) ’99 Yutzie-Blubaugh and Jason Blubaugh, Newberg, Ore.: Colson Glenn, Dec. 20, 2014

DEATH
Thomas Tessendorf, husband of Diane Tessendorf ’98, Newton, Kan., Nov. 8, 2014

2000-09
Heather (Kyburz) ’00 Hosford, faculty, Hesston, Kan., earned a master of science in nursing from Fort Hays (Kan.) University in December. She joined the Hesston College nursing faculty in August.

Stephanie (Jackson) ’02 Yoder, Alumni Advisory Council Vice President, Weatherford, Okla., graduated from Fort Hays (Kan.) State University in May 2014 with an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) degree. She and her husband, Justin Yoder ’03, and their two children relocated to Weatherford in December 2014 where she works for a family practice doctor.

Debra Hassman ’03, Riley, Kan., is a registered nurse at Geary County Health Department in Junction City, Kan.


Marissa King ’05, faculty, Newton, Kan., co-presented on direct assessment at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Network for Academic Renewal Conference in Kansas City, Mo., in February. King also co-published an article on team teaching in Magna Publications:

WE CALLED, YOU ANSWERED
An energetic and passionate group of Student Development Officers assembled for this year’s Phonathon effort. These students understand the importance of our alumni and friends support base as critical to their and fellow students’ Hesston Experience. Their hard work coupled with generous support from you has helped generate more than $70,000 for student scholarships so far – 70 percent of the way to our $100,000 goal. Thank you for supporting students in this way! Even though Phonathon calling is over, there’s still time to give. Go to hesston.edu/give for more information.
“Team Teaching: Active Learning Practice for Teachers” focuses on ways team teaching improves instructor skill. King serves on the faculty in the English and Education programs and serves as Hesston College General Education Committee chair for 2014-15 year.

Nathan Ramer ’05, Wellman, Iowa, was ordained for ministry at Wellman Mennonite Church in January, where he has served as pastor since 2011.

Hannah Miller ’07, Corvallis Ore., does development work for a local nonprofit organization that works with runaway and homeless youth.

Jeremy Patterson ’08, Kidron, Ohio, is self-employed, working to find loads for long-distance truck drivers.

MARRIAGES
Joe Friesen ’02 and Lori Doll ’02, Harrisonburg, Va., Dec. 20, 2014
Vaughn Miller ’04 and Caroline Titus, Manama, Bahrain, Dec. 20, 2014
Sarah Kauffman ’05 and Cody Shew, Wichita, Kan., Oct. 4, 2014
Obi Mbaowuie ’06 and Lyndsey Stafford, Wichita, Kan., Sept. 27, 2014

BIRTHS
Jina (Knepp) ’00 and Wally Almquist, Des Moines, Iowa: Harper Renae, June 1, 2014
Kendra (King) ’01 and Mark ’07 Horst, Yoder, Kan.: Evan Oliver, born Aug. 30, 2013, received for adoption Nov. 17, 2014
Chris ’01 and Marena (Leichty) ’01 Nachtigal, Orange City, Iowa: Ayla Gabrielle, Dec. 29, 2014
Lonnie ’02 and Roxanne (Yeackley) ’03 Miller, Baltic, Ohio: Leighton Renee, Oct. 7, 2014
Jessica (Sweigart) ’03 and Ben ’05 Hershberger, Hesston, Kan.: Jonah Timothy, Oct. 18, 2014
Brian ’03 and Andrea King, Goshen, Ind.: Finley Sophia, Feb. 2, 2015
Katie (Simmering) ’03 and Phil Walters, McPherson, Kan.: Samuel John, Nov. 3, 2014
Stephanie (Roth) ’03 and Mike Zucconi, Harrisonburg, Va.: Natalie Dawn, Feb. 21, 2015
Camille (Birky) ’05 and Russell Adrian, Minneapolis, Minn.: Micah Russell, June 13, 2014
Lindsay (Fosnight) ’05 and Joshua Garrett, Wichita, Kan.: Riley Wayne, Feb. 12, 2015
Lance ’05 and Nikki Miller, Middlebury, Ind.: Lee Bruce, Jan. 8, 2015
DEATH

Jill Thiessen '00, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 7, 2014

2010-15

Kari Heusinkveld '10, Kalona, Iowa, was inducted into the Elkhart County (Ind.) Sports Hall of Fame in November.

Lynn Mai '10, Goessel, Kan., earned CNOR certification, a formal process validating a nurse’s knowledge, skills and abilities in perioperative nursing. She works at Newton (Kan.) Medical Center.

David Hochstetler '11, Strang, Neb., volunteers with Mennonite Central Committee’s mobile meat canner, traveling across Canada and the U.S. and working with local volunteer groups to prepare hundreds of thousands of cans of turkey, beef, chicken and pork that are sent to countries around the world to provide emergency nutrition in situations of conflict and disaster.

Mandy (Canagy) '11 Pulliman, Timberville, Va., and her husband Scott are in a missions training school, having spent two months in South Africa and a month in Mozambique. They hope to go into long-term missions.

Hayden Goerzen '12, Newton, Kan., joined Everence as a financial representative in central Kansas. He is experienced in public accounting, working mainly with individuals and nonprofit organizations.

Grace (Yoder) '12 Huxman, Moundridge, Kan., is a certified public accountant with Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball.

Josh Lightsey '13, Hutchinson, Kan., known as J Wheelz Muzic, records contemporary Christian music under the Meaningful Music label. He produced his first album in fall 2014 and is working on a second. He had the honor of being an opening concert act to rapper MGK at the Cotillion venue in Wichita, Kan. Lightsey shared his music and testimony at a Hesston College chapel in January, and plans to make a music video focused on the individual needs shared by students.

Rachel Miller '14, Hutchinson, Kan., started working as an RN in the Inpatient Care Unit at Newton Medical Center in January.

MARRIAGES


Tyler Kreibiel '10 and Sara Atkins, Howe, Idaho, Oct. 4, 2014

Christopher Moyer '10 and Catherine Betts, Broken Arrow, Okla., May 17, 2014

Nicholas Wesman '10 and Clara Sears, Louisville, Ky., Oct. 18, 2014

Becky Goedde '11 and John Troutt, Springfield, Mo., Nov. 8, 2014

Mandy Kanagy '11 and Scott Pulliman, Timberville, Va., Jan. 24, 2014

Hannah Nicodemus '11 and Tanner Scott, Wichita, Kan., Sept. 20, 2014

Jonathan Burkholder '12 and Becca Short '12, Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 1, 2015

Sarah Mast '12 and David Jantzi, Harrisonburg, Va., May 31, 2014

Kirsten Myers '12 and Derek Ergenbright, Bartlesville, Okla., Oct. 11, 2014

Mishaun Pfannenstiel '12 and Jason Benisch, Inman, Kan., Dec. 6, 2014

Louisa Martin '13 and Ryan Seapy, Webster, Texas, Dec. 30, 2014

Jonathon Steele '13 and Angela Brunner '14, Fort Myers, Fla., July 26, 2014

Rebecca Rhodes '14 and Steven Hopkins, Sherman Oaks, Calif., Aug. 9, 2014


BIRTHS

Nathaniel '10 and Brooke (Gugel) '10 Martin, Telford, Pa.: William Louis, Aug. 28, 2014

Kristen (Horst) '10 and Caleb Weinhardt, Wooster, Ohio: Nadija Rose, Feb. 16, 2015

Luci (Eash) '11 and Matthew Miller, Hutchinson, Kan.: Whitney Rose, Sept. 23, 2014

Courtney '13 and Steve Johnson, Walton, Kan.: Riley Paige, Oct. 28, 2014

Faculty/Staff

David LeVan, faculty, Newton, Kan., co-presented on direct assessment at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Network for Academic Renewal Conference in Kansas City, Mo., in February. LeVan is on the business faculty.


BIRTHS

Jessica, staff, and Richie Alexander, Newton, Kan.: Lee, Feb. 26, 2015

Rob, staff, and Charlie Ramseyer, Newton, Kan.: Molly Morrow, Jan. 23, 2015

Kyle, staff, and Kassie Howell, Valley Center, Kan.: Kelsea Rae, Jan. 26, 2015

NEWS / NOTES
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

APRIL

12  Chorale at Tabernacle Bible Church, Wichita, Kan.
12  Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts: Trio Voronezh
14  Chorale concert
16  Larkfest awards ceremony and student presentations
19  Bel Canto Singers at Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church, Harper, Kan.
23  New Alumni Dinner for Class of 2015
24 to 25  HesstonFIT Young Alumni events in Goshen/Elkhart, Ind.
26  Chamber Orchestra concert

MAY

2  Explore! Kansas trip for alumni and friends to The Kansas Sampler Festival
and Footloose at the Columbian Theatre, Wamego, Kan.
4 to 8  Final exams
8 to 10  Commencement Weekend
10  Commencement
11 to 20  Bel Canto Singers tour to Northwest U.S.
22  Bel Canto recital and reception, Parkview Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va.

JUNE

1 to 6  Summer Theatre Camp: Greek Myths (The Untold Stories) for ages 11 to 13
30 to July 4  Mennonite Church USA National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The Hesston College Civil Rights Seminar group gathers outside the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., where Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in 1968. Pictured left to right are: Wil Bartel, Sam Bartel, Micah Raber ’16 (Millersburg, Ohio), Joy (Lichti) ’72 Rogers, librarian Margaret Wiebe, Bruce Rogers ’72, Bible and ministry instructor Michele (Schrock) ’81 Hershberger, social science instructor Tony Brown ’69, Cynnandra Luttrell ’15 (Tiskilwa, Ill.), Alumni and Church Relations administrative assistant Carlota Ponds, Irena Xhari ’16 (Lezhë, Albania) and history instructor John Sharp ’73. Not pictured are photographer Larry Bartel, Marion Bontrager ’57 and Nancy Peachey Bontrager.
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
(If you are a parent receiving your child’s mail, please forward his or her current address to Hesston College Today)

SAVE THE DATE

A HESSTON COLLEGE HOMECOMING

A View from Everywhere

September 25 to 27, 2015