Friends,

Last fall, Hesston College received an enthusiastic go-ahead from the Higher Learning Commission to launch its fourth baccalaureate degree program. The School of Engineering will welcome its first cohort of students in fall 2022 at its new home in Friesen Center in the heart of Hesston College’s beautiful campus.

That location is fitting. Hesston graduates have made significant contributions to the world of engineering. Even as we launch our baccalaureate engineering program, Hesston College alumni are already making major advancements in engineering for agriculture, aviation and beyond. To house this new and exciting program at the center of campus illustrates our commitment to teaching the next generation of great engineers.

Hesston has had a long and proud history of associate level engineering instruction led by visionaries like Nelson Kilmer. Without their invaluable contributions, the Hesston College School of Engineering with its focus on mechatronics would not be possible today.

Hesston College has come a long way from our first discussions regarding its potential future as a bachelor’s degree-granting institution to where we are today, with the fourth baccalaureate program of Vision 2025 underway. We could not have gotten here without the long lineage of excellent Anabaptist instruction like a wind at our back, or without the continued support and encouragement of alumni and friends like you.

Hesston College has a heart for engineering, and now it has engineering at its heart. It’s a proud day for us, one that will only be surpassed on the day we confer the first Bachelor of Science degree in engineering to a graduating student. Until that day in the not-too-distant future, we wait and watch as the next generation of Hesston engineers enters the classroom ready to change the world.

Peace to you,

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam ’87
President
ON THE COVER

4 Making Hard Jobs Easier
At Harper Industries, innovation is led by listening.

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Have a passion for working with students? Are you self-motivated? Does working in a Christ-centered, diverse community sound energizing to you?

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hesston.edu/employment
At the intersection of Highway 2 and East 14th in Harper, Kan., it might be easy to miss the global giant down the street. But for 54 years, just east of town, there has been a small office growing big dreams into solutions. Harper Industries has been guided by the hands of many Hesston graduates and its future continues to shine with the Lark spirit.

In 1968, Hesston alum Dewey Hostetler Ac46 opened the doors at DewEze. The first product available was the Hay MoBale, a machine that would meet the company’s goal: move hay better. As the ever-changing needs of agriculture brought new challenges, Hostetler kept up through adaptation and innovation.

The Bale Bed, Harper’s pinnacle product, was invented in partnership with Spike Hostetler Ac54 ’56, Dewey’s cousin. As hay bales became round and much larger, the Hostetlers created a hydraulic powered hoist that made moving hay a one person job. The Bale Bed has remained Harper’s most successful product and has kept in step with the changing needs of agriculture with key improvements over time.

In 1980, another Hesston alum took the reins at DewEze. During Howard Hershberger’s Ac46 ’48 time, DewEze made agriculture a little easier with inventions like the Bale Van and a self-leveling mower. Over the following years, expansion and a broad vision led to the diversified manufacturing firm of today: Harper Industries. While the company’s roots remain in agriculture, their goal aims to create solutions wherever the call leads.

This rich history of meeting the needs of those they serve comes from a core value: listening. This approach also keeps Harper closely attuned to where the future is headed. “Product management is saying, ‘What do you need?’” Tim Penner, president of Harper and Hesston College board member, says. “How can we provide a way to make hard jobs easier?”

Today, from the offices to the production floor, Hesston alumni remain a strong part of the Harper Industries team. Co-owner Faith (Hershberger) ’74 Penner is not only a Hesston alum and married to Tim Penner, but watched her dad—Howard Hershberger—build the company in the 1980s. Faith is now a member of the leadership team.
The Hesston College imprint is strong throughout the office. Other Hesston alumni have arrived through a close relationship built through an internship program. “We’ve had probably close to 15 interns since starting back in 1998. We haven’t had one every year, but nearly every year,” says Tim Penner.

Drew Gerber ’04, vice president of product and marketing and a Harper native, calls Harper Industries home. After attending Hesston for agricultural business and later earning his bachelor’s degree at Kansas State, Gerber found his way back. “Harper is my home. It’s where I was born,” Gerber said. When given the opportunity to join the ranks at Harper, he jumped at the chance.

What keeps Hesston grads coming back to this hidden gem in small town Kansas? For starters, shared values. Like Harper, Hesston College prioritizes relationships and celebrates the strength that comes from a collaborative approach. This fall, Hesston College’s new School of Engineering will welcome in their first cohort into it’s bachelor’s degree program. “What a Hesston College experience is going to help you realize is, ‘How do you partner with someone?’” says Johann Reimer, director of engineering education.

Engineering solutions to agricultural problems takes the entire team. Each team member brings their own lens. More than that, the integration of these modalities is key to achieving true success. “It’s extremely important that the engineers come out and spend some time in the field,” Gerber says. “I can’t communicate well enough to replicate what they see firsthand.”

For Harper engineers, it is not just about drafting out a few specs for the next big thing. Delivering the best solution for a client involves a holistic view. The question that Joe Biggerstaff, vice president of engineering, asks himself when working with a client is, “What keeps them up at night? What costs them money and what influences whether they get their next bid?”

As technology advances, the needs of industry expand. When engineering faculty at Hesston College began to talk about how to best serve that future through a bachelor’s degree-granting program, Biggerstaff was at the table as a member of the program’s advisory board. The message from Biggerstaff and others was clear: mechatronics was the path ahead.

Mechatronics is a combination of mechanical, electrical and computer engineering. Graduates from Hesston’s baccalaureate
program will receive the kind of dynamic education that businesses like Harper are looking for. “You never know where you will end up,” Biggerstaff says. “And you never know how the world is going to evolve. So you need that basic skillset that will equip you to go and do all of these jobs.”

As the world heads toward vehicle electrification, there is a call to find answers in agriculture and turf management as well. The solution is not as simple as switching a gasoline engine for an electric motor. The solution is not captured in one move. It is a collaboration of multiple disciplines. “Customers are needing solutions and we can’t use traditional means. So how will we get this done?” Biggerstaff says.

Who best to weave together these modalities? Graduates equipped with the skills of adaptation.

Hesston College student Tobie Plett ’20, ’23 was an intern with Harper Industries for 15 months. During his time at Harper he was given the opportunity to be a part of innovative projects and more importantly develop a strong aptitude for adaptation. At Harper Industries, Tobie learned “not to quit, to not be afraid and to be sure I had a complete explanation for every conclusion I reached.” Plett added, “It was one of the best lessons I learned and it was in the very first task I was given.”

Future graduates like Plett will surely help meet the needs in years to come. Yet, as the nation heads into further shortages of skilled workers and the continuous need for evolving technical skills, adapting educational options is paramount. “I want a person who’s well-rounded,” Penner said, “I’m not necessarily just interested in a purely mechanical person or a purely mathematical person. I want them to understand the totality of what’s going on.”

In order to create a world that continues to drive innovation and thrive in the face of challenge, the need for collaboration between education and industry has never been more important. The relationships that exist between Harper and Hesston have been present since Dewey Hostetler first broke ground just outside that small Kansas town. Today, the partnership continues to serve eager minds and provide a vision for the path forward.
Hesston College has a long tradition of graduating high-achieving engineers. Now those alumni have a place to call home: the Hesston College School of Engineering.

The School of Engineering is overseen by Johann Reimer, director of engineering education, and Dr. Joel Krehbiel, professor of physics and engineering. The School of Engineering is a core component of Vision 2025. Reimer joined Hesston College as a faculty member in 2020 and has spearheaded the effort to gain approval for the bachelor's degree track by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Hesston's primary accrediting body. HLC granted approval in fall of 2021.

With approval in hand, the college got to work. Renovations are underway at Friesen Center, the future home of the School of Engineering which will focus on mechatronics. Classrooms have been given a fresh coat of paint and expanded, and soon the space that currently houses potting wheels and work tables for ceramics will become a robotics lab.

But for now, it's the eastmost classrooms in Charles Hall that are crowded with tables and shelves of mechanical parts and wire. Atop a counter behind the podium, a 3D printer hums.

Even as new technology finds its way into Hesston College classrooms, Reimer and Krehbiel express gratitude for the engineering classes of the past.

“For a long time, Hesston College has supported engineering and pre-engineering,” Krehbiel said. “[Emeritus professor] Nelson Kilmer taught Statics, which is a basic engineering class. There was an electronics track in the 1990s that worked around building up students’ circuits knowledge. Playing around with volt meters, function generators, that sort of thing.”

The ground prepared by decades of pre-engineering instruction is rich. Though the School of Engineering and its accompanying bachelor's degree is new to Hesston College, it’s already growing. “Every single semester has been very, very different,” said Reimer. “I’m going from being an individual contributor to having two direct reports.”

As for the future, Reimer and Krehbiel share a vision of a robust learning community built on a foundation of opportunity.

“I'm envisioning we’ll have a significant junior and senior class in a few years, and those juniors and seniors will start motivating the freshmen and sophomores to complete interesting projects or to join Robotics Club,” said Krehbiel. “Those are the fun things I see: We've got partnerships built up with industry partners; we're offering internships locally and across the country. Those types of opportunities get students excited about the program.”

“Three years from now the plan is to have the right people in the right roles with the equipment they need to be successful,” Reimer added. “If we can do that, our belief in our competence is such that if we get a student in the classroom—be they a first-time freshman, a transfer student, maybe even a visiting prospective student—they will be able to see the vision we have for the program.”

Reimer and Krehbiel know that alumni support is key to the success of the School of Engineering. “If you’re a friend or alum working in the industry, we would love to find ways to connect you with our current students,” said Reimer. “You could help them get an internship. You could help think through where to apply for a job. You could also just speak with them periodically so they can see what being an engineer is like.”

“And of course, donations and other kinds of financial support are always helpful.”

“One thing I’d say as a blanket statement for all our alumni,” Krehbiel added. “If you know a junior or senior in high school that might be interested in engineering, encourage them to consider Hesston College.”
Hesston College graduate Ryan Sprunger ’11 was awarded the Medal of Valor on Monday, May 16, 2022, by President Joe Biden. Sprunger, along with 14 other recipients from the 2019-20 class, received this honor for “extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty.”

In the East Room of the White House, President Biden honored fifteen individuals with the Medal of Valor, the highest honor a President can bestow on a public safety officer. This award is given to those who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect others from harm.

On December 22, 2019, in Kidron, Ohio, Assistant Chief Sprunger was leaving church and was headed home when he heard a call from his station that two boys had fallen through the ice into a pond. He was closer than the fire station and time was crucial to save the children. When Sprunger arrived, he found a grandfather and one child in the pond struggling to stay afloat. With a short rope and a small life vest in hand, he made it to the edge of the ice shelf just in time to see them go under the water. He jumped in church clothes and all and was able to pull them out to the surface. The second child was recovered by a crew arriving at the scene. Sprunger attended to the victims until medical personnel took over.

“I was very humbled to be in the company of the others who were also receiving the award, to hear their heroic stories,” Sprunger said about the ceremony at the White House. “It was humbling to be alongside them receiving the same award.”

Sprunger also received the Ohio State Valor award in November of 2020. His actions continued with the launch of a life-saving project. Named in memory for the child lost during the rescue, Jenson Rescue Ropes are now installed at ponds and bodies of water throughout the East Wayne area.

Present for the White House ceremony was Sprunger’s wife, Colleen. Sprunger is a third-generation firefighter and a second-generation Hesston College graduate and holds an associate degree in aviation from Hesston and a bachelor of science in ministry from Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kan.

COMMUNITY HEALING CIRCLE

Hesston College faculty, staff and students will gather this fall to dedicate the Community Healing Circle, constructed to the south of Alliman Administration Center.

The Community Healing Circle is an outgrowth from the work by the Task Force for Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Safety, which assessed Hesston’s campus climate, investigated the college’s commitment to safety and its mechanisms for addressing sexual misconduct. The task force completed its work in 2017, at which point the college initiated new processes, policies and training to build a safer campus.

In its final report, the task force recommended the creation of a physical memorial to acknowledge past shortcomings/errors in campus safety, and to mark the time when the college chose to do better as a community. The purpose of that memorial would be to create a physical acknowledgement of broken relationships and missteps in Hesston College’s history and create a space for our community to interact in thoughtful ways, as individuals or small groups.

The conceptualization of the Community Healing Circle was led by Hanna Eastin, art professor; Corey Regehr ’06, Campus Facilities; and Isaac Shue ’07. Eastin built the memorial, utilizing tiles created by Shue.

The Community Healing Circle represents one step in the college’s continued commitment to evaluate and improve campus safety for students, faculty and staff. Hesston College invites individuals to report any past or recent incidents of misconduct that occurred to local law enforcement or a local advocacy support organization (Safehope for the region surrounding Hesston College). We also encourage past campus-related incidents be reported through our online reporting form on the college’s campus safety pages.
Vision 2025
Review and Update

Fall 2015
Hesston College welcomes first junior class in Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Spring 2019
Vision 2025, a growth plan for the college community, is created and unveiled. This bold new vision calls for the integration of bachelor's degrees while bolstering the associate degree experience at Hesston.

Summer 2019
Vision 2025 is presented to our constituents as the feature story in Hesston College Today magazine.

Fall 2019
Hesston College aviation welcomes the first junior class pursuing a bachelor's degree in aviation.

Fall 2015
Hesston College welcomes first junior class in Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Spring 2021
Hesston College conducted a comprehensive strategic planning process utilizing voices across campus.

Fall 2020
Hesston College secures Higher Learning Commission approval for a new bachelor's degree in business management.

Summer 2021
Hesston College conducts a campus facilities audit in order to create a new campus master facilities plan for the future.

September 2019
Hesston College Homecoming features nursing.

September 2021
Hesston College Homecoming features nursing.

November 2021
Hesston College secures Higher Learning Commission approval for new bachelor's degree in engineering, focused on mechatronics.

September 2021
Hesston College Homecoming features aviation.

Fall 2021
Hesston College welcomes first junior cohort in the business management bachelor's degree program. Students enrolled in the unique program enjoy the extensive travel component which took them to Colorado and Thailand.

Fall 2021
With a new strategic plan and campus master facilities plan in hand, Hesston College begins designing the next capital campaign in an effort to fully realize Vision 2025.

December 2021
Hesston College receives a significant anonymous donation to support additional student scholarships for engineering and business management students. This allowed Hesston College to cover the cost of room and board for the first 20 students to enroll in the inaugural junior class of the School of Engineering and cover travel costs for the first 20 junior students to enroll in the School of Management.

Fall 2022
Hesston College will welcome the School of Engineering's inaugural junior class.

September 2022
Hesston College Homecoming will feature business management and engineering.
Thank you to our many alumni and friends who support the Hesston College Experience Fund, which delivers the unrestricted income needed to maintain competitive student scholarships, the many educational programs we offer and the facilities in which they operate. Gifts to the Hesston Experience Fund go to work immediately and are essential to the college’s mission of educating and nurturing each student in Christ-centered community for service in the church and the world. Hesston College changes lives through healthcare, aviation, business management, engineering and by providing transformative experiences in the early college years. Thank you!

Please visit hesston.edu/2021honorrolldonors to view a list of the alumni and friends who gave generously to the college in the 2020-21 academic year. In that fiscal year our alumni and friends answered the call when we needed it most, allowing the college to hit the highest amount ever raised for the Hesston Experience Fund, which totaled more than $1.44M. We could not have achieved this amazing outcome, or successfully navigated the pandemic without this amazing support!

Initial reports for the 2021-22 academic year, which ended on June 30, are showing a similar positive trend. If you are interested in including Hesston College in your philanthropic priorities, below you will find some options to consider.

**BECOME A PARTNER**
Partners are our alumni and friends who commit to giving $1,000 or more anually which supports scholarships and many elements of the Hesston Experience.

**G.E.M.**
This program offers young alumni or those on a tight budget to give at whatever level works for them. Whether it is $1 or $50 a month, we welcome all Larks to consider giving every month (G.E.M.) via electronic donations.

**PHONATHON**
Each year our Lark Calling Crew reaches out to alumni and friends in order to reach our $100K goal to support student scholarships. If your phone rings this October and November be sure to pick it up and speak to one of our wonderful students on the other end of the line.

**GIVING MADE EASIER**
If you are interested in getting involved in helping Hesston College continue to change lives, visit hesston.edu/give. PayPal, Apple Pay and Venmo options are also available on our giving page.
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF THE PARTNER PROGRAM

In 1976, under the leadership of President Laban Peachey, 36 families made a commitment that would shape Hesston College for many years to come. The idea was simple: sustain the college for the future. Some 45 years later, many of these charter families are still part of the Partner Program.

Gerry Ac63, '65 and Jean Selzer were settling into Hesston with their young son when they were approached with an idea. Sitting together with Peachey in their living room, Gerry recalled, “He made the comment that when you invest in students your gift is multiplied, because they then in turn, go out and serve the needs of the world.”

The Selzers believed in Hesston College and the transformative student experience offered, so much that investing their limited resources at the time was an easy decision. “As I recall, it depleted most of our savings that we had at the time. We’ve never missed it,” Gerry said.

Howard Ac58, '61 and Sharon (King) Ac57, '59 Brenneman began giving back to Hesston College some years before the Partner Program started. Howard served on the Hesston College board when the idea was hatched by him, Lyle Yost and other board members and staff.

Sharon believed in the power of committing to the college. “It gave the college a sum of money that they knew would be coming in,” she said. This committed funding has provided the sustainability they had hoped for. Today, the Partner Program accounts for 15% of the college’s annual budget.

The initial goal was modest and aimed to grow the number of families committed. “As I remember, we talked about 250 at that time,” Howard said. That goal has been surpassed, with more than 720 families participating in the Partner program as of today.

For the Brennemans, after 45 years the program continues to match their goals. “Number one, we believe in Christian education. Number two, we believe in supporting the local community. Number three, it just seems natural that we would continue to honor what we received here,” Howard said. “And we not only received an education, but we have received a good foundation in what life’s all about, including giving back and being good stewards of our money.”

The Partner Program gives supporters the opportunity to invest in what is important to them. Every dollar invested is vital to sustainably offering students competitive scholarships and a unique experience grounded in a Christ-centered community. Partners commit to support the college on an annual basis at $1,000 or more.

As more alumni and friends join the cause, the Partner Program will continue to move Hesston College forward for years to come. Partner giving has shaped the lives of students and the communities they live in around the world. Hesston College is blessed to have such an incredible family of supporters.

Our Charter Partners will be recognized during Homecoming at the Partner Lunch on September 24, 2022.
Charter Partners of 1976, as recognized at the 25th anniversary:
Milo Albrecht, Howard and Anna Ruth Beck, Kenneth and Lilly Berkey, Bertha Bontrager Rhodes and Jay Rhodes, Howard and Sharon Brenneman, Ron and Nancy Brenneman, Arnold and Phyllis Burkey, Bill and Edith Chupp, Harold and Evie Dyck, Milburn and Doris Gerig, Frank and Treva Graber, Howard and Martha Hershberger, Mel and JoAnn Jantz, Milo and Clara Kauffman, Nyle and Lauralee Kauffman, Leroy and Lois King, Lorne and Hazel Kremer, Vira and Eugene Lemons, Bill and Ruth Mason, Arnie and Carol Miller, Orvin and Peggy Miller, Roy and Bess Mullet, Vernon and Lennea Nikkel, Paul and Dorothy Oswald, Laban and Helen Peachey, George and Mary Schiedel, Etta and Peter Schmitt, Gerry and Jean Selzer, Roy and Esther Selzer, Bob and Doris Showalter, Stan and Jan Sommerfeld, Ethel and Lewis Strite, Howard and Carolyn Stutzman, Elton and Fern Ulrich, Don and Barbara Weaver, Lyle and Erma Yost.
START HERE
During my first year at Hesston, I began to think about doing something different my second year. I made the big decision to not play basketball and spend the fall semester of my second year in the YES (Youth Evangelism Service) program in Jamaica. Looking back on this, I realize how fortunate I was that Hesston granted academic credit for this experience. This was a truly transformational experience for me. Our group worked with peanut farmers and at a deaf school in a rural part of Jamaica. When I returned to Hesston, I was a different person and thought about the world in new ways.

Two classes were particularly transformational for me at Hesston. I took World Religions my first semester and Foundies IV my last semester. In many ways, those courses served as bookends for me in helping me understand how big and diverse the world is and who I want to be in that world. I can remember lying awake at night thinking about the big questions that Jim Mininger was asking us to think about in Foundies IV.

GO EVERYWHERE
I wanted to spend some time doing voluntary service after college and was fortunate that Mennonite Central Committee asked me to take an assignment directing a mediation and conflict resolution program in New Orleans, Louisiana. I ended up staying with MCC in New Orleans for six years.

Here I was particularly exposed to a lot of the realities of systemic racism and the privileges that I had throughout my life. I thought about my experiences with some key professors and classes at Hesston and knew that I wanted to become a sociologist and teach in college to try to have that same impact on students.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY
Hesston College has such a nice “niche” in higher education in offering a welcoming academic community to a variety of students. The sense of community on campus is so important to retain. I always think of Hesston as being particularly strong in helping students to take those first steps from their home and to begin to figure out their path in life. Hesston is the kind of place that creates wonderful memories. I always want to be at universities that create that same kind of memories for our students.

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UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS
It’s been kind of amazing to me that this farm boy from Iowa has found such a home in Catholic higher education. I’ve always said that working at Catholic schools has helped me become a better Mennonite because I have found such a nice synergy between the Catholic social and intellectual traditions and Anabaptist traditions. I’m incredibly excited about joining the Franciscans at St. Bonaventure and have never felt such a strong sense of calling to a new position. The fit between my personal mission and the St. Bonaventure mission has been striking to me.

Dr. Jeff Gingerich ’88
Major: Liberal Arts
Go Everywhere: President, St. Bonaventure University

courtesy photo
ON ENGINEERING

Engineering has become a very popular major for students since it has such great applications and career prospects. It is especially fitting for faith-based universities whose mission involves creating a better world around them. **Engineering programs produce the future leaders who develop the physical infrastructure for a better and more sustainable world.** I’m thrilled to hear that Hesston is engaging engineering education in new ways.

“Engineering programs produce the future leaders who develop the physical infrastructure for a better and more sustainable world.”

I AM SUPPORTED

Since I started at Hesston College online from back home, I was not very sure of what to expect from American education. I was struggling to adapt to the sudden and drastic changes, so I finally decided to reach out to some of my professors and asked for help. Each time I go to my professors’ office hours to get help, they are very respectful of my efforts and they help me to solve the problems that I have. Professors here are also very observant of the students’ progress and always give meaningful feedback that promotes students’ development, both in personal and academic aspects.

When I was in my country, I always sealed myself off when I was with people that I didn’t really know well. Here, I find myself engaging and enjoying daily conversation with friends and I have become more open to the world. I am so thankful for my friends and the people of Hesston College. I am very grateful that I always have someone to talk to no matter how intense my circumstances are.

MY HESSTON FAMILY

The cultural differences that we have formed me into the person who I am right now. I have now grown to know more people and form a group of close friends with different cultures, races, colors and backgrounds, which I now call my Hesston family. We cherish and respect each other’s cultures and differences as individuals who act like their true selves, without worrying about other people’s judgments.

I have learned it is possible to open myself to others when I have people that are very supportive and encouraging; people that you can consider as your own family. They make my life a lot easier as they give me strength, hope and help me to carry both my academic and non-academic pursuits.

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

People at Hesston College are really open to my culture and they try to respect every difference as best as possible. They even want to know and learn about the different cultural traditions that we have. Not only that, the college asked me to share the culture and kinds of celebrations that we have back home in forums a few times. **I feel like I am seen.**

Someone asked me if my people eat with our hands when one of my friends from Myanmar shared his culture of eating with bare hands back in his home. I answered hesitantly that yes, I also eat this way. I was kind of afraid of my answer. But now, together we have taught at least five people how to eat with their bare hands, including the person who questioned me!

Jessica Raharjo ’23

Major: Engineering - Mechatronics
Hometown: Semarang, Indonesia
Activities: Robotics Club, Big Toe Bunch
A New Generation of Engineers

Over its long history, Hesston College has graduated individuals with hearts and minds bent to engineering. Many of those alumni are well-established or have retired, but just as many are in the thick of their careers. Still others are taking their first steps on their career paths.

Here, four HC alumni talk about what engineering means to them.

HARUNE SUZUKI ’18

Harune Suzuki loves planes.

“Just looking at the sky amazes me, she said. Seeing a piece of giant metal flying through it.”

Her passion for flight first led her to consider a career in air traffic control, before deciding that she wanted a degree with more career options. Suzuki soon arrived at Hesston College with an increasing interest in aerospace.

“I’m more of a science and math person, rather than literature,” she said. “So that kind of made my decision.”

In her small-sized classes — she was one of only two students in her statics class — at Hesston College, Suzuki says her professor, Joel Krebbiel, provided an atmosphere for learning that has since influenced her career success.

“Those [classes] built my foundation for becoming an engineer, she said.”

“After I transferred to WSU, I took a lot of aerospace classes, but what I have been using [in my work] are the classes I took at Hesston: statics and physics,” she said. “It’s kind of funny that I went through all the fancy classes, but now I’m using the [skills from the] basic physics classes.”

Suzuki graduated from Wichita State University (WSU) this spring and was offered to turn her internship at Airbus, a European aerospace corporation, into a full-time job, where she will soon have opportunities to travel to other Airbus locations in Alabama and England.

“I’m a stress engineer, so I’m on the verification side, making sure that a design is going to work,” Suzuki said. “Is it strong enough? Does it meet the requirements? [It’s] a lot of Excel and a lot of math.”

Though Suzuki transferred from Hesston College to find she was one of only several female aerospace engineering majors at WSU, she sees both qualifiers as benefits to her career.

“At Hesston, just getting to know the professor and then learning in a smaller environment was very helpful and helped me understand the subject better,” she said.

Suzuki is currently working on an Airbus project aimed at turning an existing aircraft into a cargo plane that will launch in 2025. As she explains her role in the project, which can sound quite unfamiliar to a non-engineer, she is sure to emphasize that she’s “still learning.”
Like many Hesston College graduates, Suzuki came to Hesston from Japan as an international student. She is currently waiting to hear about her application approval for a six-year work visa, but returning to Japan is not out of the question. “I want to return at some point in my life,” she said. “If I get a job that doesn’t require me to be on-site, I’ll be more than happy to return.”

In addition to his engineering role, Martin supports his wife, Kristi Martin, HC nursing prof, in her role as co-founder of Anistemi, which means “to raise up.” The Martins, together with board members, work to provide opportunities through education, skill building, microlending and relationships that may allow the people in the communities they serve to raise themselves up and out of poverty. Drawing on trusted relationships with elders in Africa, the founders of Anistemi began making a difference in the lives of those living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the slums of Nairobi, Kenya.

Martin notes that he, like many Hesston College alumni, has been asked if he enjoyed transferring after graduating from Hesston College. He acknowledges that, now, engineering students won’t have to.

**- STEVE MARTIN ’04**

Steve Martin thought he was going to be a doctor.

“Engineering wasn’t really something I had considered prior to my education at Hesston College, Martin said.

“I really enjoyed chemistry at HC, and learned a lot from Jim Yoder ’62 who was instrumental in my pursuit of a degree in chemical engineering.”

It was Martin’s love for science and the influence of beloved teachers at Hesston College — Jim Yoder, Jeff Baumgartner — that led Martin to commit to chemical engineering during his sophomore year. He even remembers a guest presentation about agricultural engineering in chemistry class that further solidified his path forward.

But Martin’s education at Hesston College was more than preparation for a transfer to Colorado School of Mines or for his engineering career and current role as the operations superintendent at CHS McPherson Refinery, America’s largest cooperative refiner that works to maximize diesel production.

“At Hesston College, I knew I would get a well-balanced education outside of just science and math, and that was important to me,” Martin said. “Classes like Bib Lit [Biblical Literature] and similar courses helped to give me a well-rounded approach to my education and early career selection and development.”

Martin has carried this desire for balance into his career and onward. He oversees the day-to-day unit operations, personnel, project prioritization and long-term planning in his current role. Previously, he managed the environmental department that was responsible for maintaining regulatory compliance for the refinery.

“Both positions rely on my engineering background and I have benefitted from a well-rounded academic approach to earning my degree,” he said. “I really enjoy my job, and feel like I maintain a good work/life balance while having new challenges daily.”
Given the chance again, I would absolutely attend Hesston College 100% of the time,” Martin said. “The exposure to different areas of academics outside of engineering, the amazing friendships and having a faith-based focus on my education was well worth it.

-GAITAN LLESHI ’18

For Gaitan Lleshi, becoming an engineer was always the goal, but so was attending Hesston College.

Lleshi attended Lezhe Academic Center in Albania during high school and remembers other classmates who enrolled at Hesston College and traveled to Kansas before him.

“That’s kind of how I heard about Hesston,” said Lleshi, who had always wanted to move to the United States. “And they [Hesston] made it happen for me.”

Though the career field was clear, partly inspired by Lleshi’s sister who studied civil engineering in Albania, Lleshi remembers being unsure of which aspect of engineering he wanted to focus on when he started at Hesston College.

“I was 100% sure I was going to do engineering, but I hadn’t decided between civil engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical [engineering],” he said. “Growing up, I was really drawn to hands-on activities, like trying to take things apart and put them back together.”

In addition to his calculus, physics and STEM classes, Lleshi also started working for the information technology (IT) department at Hesston College and even served as a resident assistant during his sophomore year.

“I was really curious to know how things worked,” Lleshi said. “And I got a good grasp of the material because of the kind of relationships I had with other students and with professors.”

After graduating from Hesston College, Lleshi transferred into Wichita State University’s (WSU) mechanical engineering program.

“I think I was prepared very well at Hesston,” he said. “As far as classes, I felt like I was very well prepared; I had no issue whatsoever.”

Lleshi is, however, eager for the engineering program to launch at Hesston College, as he noted the biggest barrier to immediate success at WSU was the lack of engineering experience and internships.

After many applications and one internship, Lleshi was hired at Bunting Magnetics Company in Newton, Kansas, where he works as a design engineer and “really loves” his role in the process.

“I have to design everything [on a project] that they ask for,” he said. “And once they approve my plan, then I kind of go ahead and complete the design for the model that they need. And we build it right there [in Newton] for them.”

Lleshi plans to continue in this role and to stay in Kansas for the foreseeable future, or as long as his visa allows him to do so.

“I had a great time [at Hesston College], because I just started doing math,” Lleshi said. “And I guess the way that the professors were teaching that kind of class and everything just fell into place.”
PHILIP HOCHSTETLER ’12

When Philip Hochstetler ’12 graduated high school, he knew where he wanted to go next: Hesston College.

“Pretty much everyone I’m related to has gone to Hesston College – my parents did and so did many of my cousins,” he said. “We lived just a few hours away in Nebraska.”

What Hochstetler didn’t know though was what he would study. He knew he liked math, so he enrolled in Calculus II and a career development class.

“As the career development class, I looked into it [engineering] more,” Hochstetler said. “I didn’t know what else I wanted to do, so engineering seemed like a decent option.”

As part of the career development class, Hochstetler shadowed an engineer at the nearby Excel Industries, a leading manufacturer of premium commercial and residential turf equipment located in Hesston.

“The hands-on application more than the actual classes is what really interested me,” he said.

Hochstetler quickly committed to engineering, enrolling in math and physics classes while at Hesston before transferring to the University of Nebraska to pursue agricultural engineering, which he notes is much like mechanical engineering.

“Agricultural engineering just had more practical application,” he said.

During his summers between semesters at University of Nebraska, Hochstetler would travel back to Hesston, where he interned at Excel Industries through connections made via Hesston alumni.

“Knowing people from Hesston College, you find someone who also went there and you make big connections,” he said. “And I felt like I had a much better experience at Hesston College in a small classroom compared to the huge classes at a university.”

Hochstetler returned to work at Excel Industries on the deck design group for four years after graduating in Nebraska. Since then, he’s dabbled in engineering for Veada Industries Inc., a company that makes tire recycling equipment, and now works for Viewrail as a product development engineer, designing custom stairs and railing.

“...The skills you learn and even the company organization can carry through to from one position to the next. “

Hochstetler often sees a project through from start to finish, designing a product to the best of his ability using 3D CAD (computer-aided design) software. For now it’s a good fit, but Hochstetler is open to other possibilities.

“I guess we’ll see what happens. Even when I was deciding what to do for a career, I knew engineering could open a lot of doors,” he said. “With an engineering degree, you can do a lot more than engineering.”

If you are interested in engaging with the School of Engineering, contact Johann Reimer at johann.reimer@hesston.edu.
SOFTBALL GOES DEEP IN DIVISION 2 TOURNAMENT

Under the leadership of interim head coach Andrew Sharp ’99, the Hesston Larks softball team made a run deep into the KJCCC Division 2 Tournament in Topeka, Kan., May 14 to 16.

The Larks faced elimination from the tournament after losing to top-seeded Highland Community College in the opening round on Saturday, May 14. The Larks stared down nationally ranked Johnson County Community College, winning 3-2 in a closely contested 10-inning game. Starting pitcher Hannah Williams went the distance on the mound for the Larks. This was a season high for Williams in innings pitched and her best overall performance in the most pivotal situation for this team all year. Hesston and JCCC got on the scoreboard early with two runs each in the first inning. Both pitchers settled down after that, and gave nothing up for the next seven straight frames.

Sophomore infielder Candace Durney came up to bat in the 10th with one out and nobody on, and hit a first pitch walk-off home run over the center field fence to send Hesston College into the next round of the tournament.

Play resumed on Monday, May 16 as Hesston faced a rematch with #1 seed Highland Community College. The Larks offense came to life through the bats of freshman shortstop Madison Michalek-Rosales and freshman catcher Madyson McCage. Rosales had five runs batted in off a single and home run in the 2nd inning, and McCage was able to add an additional run off a double in the 5th. Larks pitching shut down the Scotties from the 5th inning on and ended up winning 6-4.

The Larks lost in the championship game of the tournament, falling to Kansas City Kansas Community College 7-0. The Larks finished the season with a record of 22-30, with 13 wins in conference play.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL PLAYERS MAKE HISTORY

Bontrager set the all-time career rebounds record at Hesston college with 559 in her first two seasons with the Larks.

Miller connected on 50 three point shots during the 2021-22 basketball season, putting her third all time in Hesston College history for three point baskets made in a single season.

SYDNEY BONTRAGER | FORWARD | MILFORD, NEB.

LORIBETH MILLER | GUARD | CHOUTEAU, OKLA.
COACHING UPDATES AT HESSTON COLLEGE

SOFTBALL

Abby Young has been named the new softball head coach at Hesston College. Young comes from Iowa Western Community College where she has been an assistant coach since 2021. She started her collegiate career at Black Hawk College, earning NJCAA Academic All-American and Arrowhead Academic All-Conference honors and completed an associate of science degree. Young then played at William Penn University where she earned multiple honors, including NFCA All-American Scholar Athlete, HAAC All-Conference Athlete and two-time HAAC player of the week while completing her bachelor’s degree in exercise science. Young continued at WPU, earning her master’s degree in sports management while acting as graduate assistant and JV head coach for the Statesmen softball team.

“We are excited to welcome Abby Young to the Hesston College athletic staff,” said Bryan Kerr, Hesston College athletic director. “She has excelled as a student, as a player and as an assistant coach. We look forward to the leadership she will bring to the Larks softball program.”

The Lark softball team anticipates returning at least nine athletes and will look to build on the progress made this season.

MEN’S & WOMEN’S SOCCER

Thomas Gaskell was named interim head coach for men’s soccer in May of 2022, and will coach both the men’s and women’s teams this fall. He looks to improve on the men’s team he inherited, which went 6-9-2 during the 2021 season.

VOLLEYBALL

Kassidy Pflughoft had the interim tag removed from her title in November of 2021 and will go into the 2022-23 season as the head coach for the Hesston Larks volleyball team. When asked about the 2022-23 season, Pflughoft said, “We came in last year with not as many girls as we needed and suffered several injury setbacks. This next year is looking up. We’ve already signed nine players for the upcoming season. I don’t see any reason why we won’t be competing this next season. It’s exciting to have a bigger team and to see what these players are capable of bringing to Hesston’s volleyball program.”

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE LARKS

Watch: “Hesston College Media Services” on YouTube
Donate: Hesston.edu/give
Follow: @goLarks

@goLarks
2022-23 PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

September 11 – Sunflower Performing Arts: Sunflower Soirée
September 23 – Songs by African American Composers: Dr. Carren Moham with Bel Canto Singers
September 29 to October 2 – Fall production
October 14 to 16 – Bel Canto fall tour to Colorado
October 18 – Bel Canto fall concert
October 25 – Sunflower Performing Arts: ensemble 4.1
November 19 – Masterworks concert
December 3 – Christmas performance
December 6 – Sunflower Performing Arts: Calmus: Christmas A Cappella
January 25 – Treble Choral Festival
January 28 – Keyboard Festival
February 6 – Sunflower Performing Arts: Our Song, Our Story: The New Generation of Black Voices
March 1 to 5 – Spring musical
April 2 – Sunflower Performing Arts: pax duo
April 26 to 30 – Theatre for Young Audiences
May 12 – Bel Canto Singers concert
May 12 to 13 – Student recitals
May 14 to 25 – Bel Canto Singers tour

International Recipe

Gado-Gado

Vegetables - try some of these:
- Long beans
- Spinach
- Carrots
- Tomatoes
- Kang Kong (water spinach)
- Chayote
- Lettuce
- Cucumber

Then add:
- Tofu or tempeh
- Potatoes (your choice, prepared)
- Hard boiled eggs (half or quarter sliced)

Peanut Sauce:
In a saucepan, add:
- ½ cup natural peanut butter
- ½ cup coconut milk
- ½ cup water
- 3 cloves of garlic (finely chopped)
- 3-4 lime leaves or 1 tbsp of lime juice
- 3 tsp of Kecap Manis (sweet soy sauce)
- 1 tsp of brown sugar
- 1 chili pepper or 1 tsp of chili paste (optional)

Simmer gently for 5 minutes

The key to Gado-Gado is the peanut sauce, the star of the show. It brings together the versatileness of the ingredients and melds them together in this robust medley of vegetables, tempeh and hard-boiled eggs. Resulting from the blending of Dutch, Chinese and Betawi cultures, this dish combines your favorites with an opportunity for new flavors. Gado-gado, translating to “mix-mix,” can be a salad of your choosing.
**Hesston College’s 112th Commencement**
**HELD IN-PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS**

On May 14, this year’s graduation activities were held fully in person for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Hesston College’s 112th commencement featured an address titled “It Takes All of Us,” delivered by Rev. Sue Park-Hur, denominational minister for transformative peacemaking at Mennonite Church USA. President Manickam and Vice President of Academics Dr. Carren Moham also briefly addressed the class of 2022.

The prayer of invocation was delivered by Shawn ’96, ’09 and Suzanne Nolt, Dalton, Ohio, parents of graduate Alyssa Nolt. The prayer of dedication was delivered by Paul and Julie Miranda, Turlock, Calif., parents of nursing graduate Jessie Miranda. Two students, David Beachy, San Nicolas, Philippines, and Sara Bianchi Muschio, Trento, Italy, were nominated by faculty and staff and voted by their classmates as the graduate speakers to reflect on the Hesston Experience.

President Joseph A. Manickam, Ph.D., conferred 38 bachelor of science in nursing degrees, one bachelor of science degree to a student majoring in Aviation–Professional Pilot and 74 associate degrees. The graduating class of 2022 includes members from 16 different countries, U.S. territories and sovereign nations.

The 38 nursing program graduates were honored at a Nursing Pinning ceremony in the sanctuary of Hesston Mennonite Church on the morning of May 14. Graduates received their nursing pins as well as the traditional blessing of hands from Hesston College nursing faculty.

Other commencement weekend events included several music recitals and a theatre showcase. Also included was a sendoff concert by the International Chorale to kick off a European choir schedule that included concerts in Germany, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands.

Watch a video of the full commencement exercise and other livestream events from the weekend at hesston.edu/commencement.

**Hesston College School of Engineering RECEIVES HLC APPROVAL**

Hesston College’s Bachelor of Science in engineering, introduced as part of the college’s Vision 2025 four-year program expansion plan, was approved on Nov. 19. This approval is crucial to the program’s anticipated launch of its first junior class in August 2022.

In October, a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Change Panel reviewed the program application, which will allow Hesston College to offer a Bachelor of Science in engineering with a mechatronics track, totaling 126 credit hours.

Success of the approval is credited to a strong, pre-existing associate degree program in pre-engineering. The demand for an engineering program alongside increasing student inquiries pushed faculty to craft robust and varied associate-level pre-engineering tracks.

In the 2023-24 academic year, Hesston College will launch nine additional courses for senior engineering students. Updated facilities will support the new program, as Friesen Center becomes the new home for engineering. The 7,500 square foot space will house three labs and faculty offices.
The School of Nursing Receives 10-year Accreditation

Hesston College’s School of Nursing received a 10-year accreditation for the baccalaureate degree from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). This accreditation extends until June 30, 2032. CCNE’s accreditation was granted without recommendations for improvement or identified deficiencies. Accreditation is granted after a rigorous process including both self-reports and external reviews by the accreditation agency. Hesston College’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is also approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing.

With no improvements needed, the program can focus on the future. According to Gregg Schroeder, director of nursing education, “The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has developed new Essentials for nursing programs so we will begin integrating these new competency standards into our curriculum plan.”

André Swartley becomes Director of Intercultural Programs

André Swartley, professor of English and ESL was given a promotion in January 2022 to Director of Intercultural Programs. This position was created as part of the overall Diversity, Equity, Inclusion initiatives on campus.

Hesston College has a long history of celebrating our international students and the multiculturalism they bring to campus. This role was developed to help organize the intercultural programs, as well as expand intercultural academic partnerships in the U.S. and abroad.

“One of my hopes for this role and for Hesston College in general is not simply to be more diverse, but to develop a campus-wide culture of active curiosity about cultures different from our own, regardless of where we come from,” Swartley said.

Johann Reimer is Rookie of the Year

Johann Reimer, director of engineering education, was granted the Rookie of the Year Award. This award is granted to a new faculty member who shows promise as an exceptional educator by meeting the needs of the students. Reimer is directing the new School of Engineering.

Marelby Mosquera Jensen receives Award for Teaching Excellence

Marelby Mosquera Jensen, professor of biology and chemistry, was granted the Award for Teaching Excellence this year. This award is an opportunity to publicly recognize educators that inspire us with their incredible talent, passion and commitment.
1940-49

DEATHS

Bonita (Landis) Ac42 '44 Driver, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 24, 2020

John Driver Ac42 ’44, Goshen, Ind., March 17, 2022

Paul Friesen Ac42 ’44, former employee, Hesston, Kan., May 30, 2022

Mary (Lehman) ’42 Handrich, Valparaiso, Ind., Aug. 11, 2021

Florence (Zehr) Ac43 ’50 Hershberger, Elkhart, Ind., Nov. 3, 2021

Shirley Swartzendruber, spouse of Leo Swartzendruber Ac43, Grand Junction, Colo., June 10, 2021

Anne (Slagel) Ac43 Walker, Coleman, Mich., April 13, 2022

Dwight Yoder Ac43, Canby, Ore., May 12, 2022

Wilda (Stauffer) ’43 Schrag, Moundridge, Kan., Aug. 2, 2021

Mary (Miller) Ac44 Culp, Hesston, Kan., Sept. 4, 2021

Anna (Suderman) Ac45 ’47 Butterfield, Summerville, S.C., Aug. 27, 2020

Hilda (Miller) Ac45 ’47 Schrock, Kokomo, Ind., Oct. 16, 2020

Frieda Erb, spouse of Delbert Erb Ac47 ’49, Rio Negro, Argentina, Nov. 14, 2021

Mary (Troyer) Ac47 Erb Armfield, Hesston, Kan., Jan. 8, 2022

Ella (Klassen) ’47 Deines, Wichita, Kan., Jan. 30, 2020

Dewey Brenneman Ac48 ’50, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 12, 2021

Agnes (Classen) Ac48 Schertz, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 6, 2020

Linford Bontrager Ac49, Hutchinson, Kan., Jan. 30, 2022

1950-59

The Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart, Ind., has selected 36 works by Abner Hershberger Ac53, Goshen, Ind., for the museum’s permanent collection.

DEATHS

Irene (Springer) ’50 Bechler, spouse of LeRoy Bechler Ac46 ’48, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 27, 2022

Cliff Lind, spouse of Hope (Kauffman) Ac53 ’55 Lind, Harrisonburg, Va., March 20, 2022

Maxine Roth Ac53 ’55, Milford, Neb., March 3, 2021

Floyd Lapp Ac53, spouse of Claudia (Kropf) Ac53 Lapp, Canby, Ore., April 19, 2022

1940-49

DEATHS

Byron Bender Ac46, Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 4, 2020

Norma (Zimmerman) Ac46 Conrad, Goshen, Ind., March 29, 2022

Clayton Gingerich Ac46, former employee, Kalona, Iowa, Jan. 19, 2020

Miriam (Kuhns) Ac46 Liechty, Berne, Ind., Jan. 3, 2021

Gertrude (Emmert) Ac46 Reeser, Yuma, Ariz., Sept. 30, 2021

Vernon Schrock Ac46, Kokomo, Ind., April 15, 2022

Carolyn (Rodgers) Ac46 Yoder, Wellman, Iowa, Feb. 5, 2022

Alma (Miller) Ac47 ’49 Kuhns ’82, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Feb. 5, 2022

Floyd Lapp Ac47, spousal employee, Canby, Ore., April 19, 2022

Maxine Roth Ac53 ’55, Milford, Neb., March 3, 2021

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Floyd Lapp Ac53, spouse of Claudia (Kropf) Ac53 Lapp, Canby, Ore., April 19, 2022
DEATHS

Martha (Hochstedler) Ac61 Smith, Newton, Kan., Feb. 10, 2022

Ellen Eberly ‘61, Rittman, Ohio, Aug. 5, 2020

James Alderfer Ac62, Orrville, Ohio, Aug. 31, 2020

Bill Chupp Jr., ’63, Chouteau, Okla., Sept. 10, 2021

Gene Troyer ’64, Apple Valley, Minn., May 5, 2022

Naomi Gingerich ’66, Lancaster, Pa., July 27, 2021

Elaine (Gerig) ’66 Schrock, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 23, 2021

Ruth Moyer ’67, Souderton, Pa., Dec. 12, 2020

Roger Erteld ’68, former employee, spouse of Kathleen (Yoder) ’68 Erteld, former employee, Bühler, Kan., March 2, 2022

Jon Stauffer, spouse of Karen (Beck) ’68 Stauffer, Milford, Neb., Feb. 27, 2022

Fred Yoder ’68, spouse of Judy (Egli) ’68 Yoder, Kalona, Iowa, Oct. 21, 2021

1970–79

After 18 years in educational marketing and product development of MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) technology for the Roland Corporation, Larry Harms ’71, former employee, Houston, Texas, sells high-end pianos from the Steinway, Mason & Hamlin, Roland and other lines, studies voice with a Broadway/opera coach and teaches piano to aspiring pre-Juilliard students.

Lavonne (Roth) ’71 Ledell, Chicago, Ill., retired in September 2021 after 30 years with Ziegler Capital Markets.

Vonnie (Yoder) ’71, former employee, Sieber, Hesston, Kan., retired from her role as chief philanthropy officer at Bluestem Communities in October 2021.

LaMar Bender ’73, ’97, Hesston, Kan., retired from Schowalter Villa after 26 years of employment as a registered nurse. He volunteers with Hesston Fire/EMS as an EMT/chaplain.

Tim Goering ’76, former employee, Moundridge, Kan., Marlo Duerksen ’77, former employee, Canton, Kan., and Brenda (Steckly) ’79 Wenger, former employee, Hesston, Kan., retired this spring and summer after each serving Hesston College for 43 years. Tim and Marlo were mainstays in the Campus Facilities department and Brenda served in Student Services then Student Life.

DEATHS

Lee Nafziger ’71, New Paris, Ind., Nov. 26, 2021

Dan Troyer ’71, Milford, Neb., April 25, 2022

Larry Bentch ’72, Versailles, Mo., Nov. 12, 2021

Kent Jantz, spouse of Rosie (Beachey) ’72 Jantz, former employee, Walton, Kan., Jan. 12, 2022

Rhonda (Yousey) ’73 Shank, spouse of Dave Shank ’73, Peoria, Ariz., Sept. 26, 2021

Raymond Stoltzfus ’75, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 18, 2021

Daryl Alwine ’76, Johnstown, Pa., June 4, 2021

Douglas Brewer, spouse of Margaret (Steffy) ’76 Brewer, Newton, Kan., Nov. 20, 2021

Kathleen (Bitikofer) ’76 Neff, North Newton, Kan., May 11, 2022

Mary (Utting) ’76, ’91 Utting Booker, Branson, Mo., Dec. 22, 2021

Julie (Spicher) ’79 Hedine, Tampa, Fla., March 23, 2022

1980–89

Krista (Miller) ’81 Murray, former employee, Hesston, Kan., works remotely for Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.) as recruitment database manager.

 Desiree (Thompson) ’84 Martens, North Newton, Kan., received the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award in Nov. 2021.

Dr. Jeff Gingerich ’88, Scranton, Pa., was named president of St. Bonaventure (N.Y.) University. Gingerich most recently
served as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Scranton (Pa.) University. (See alumni profile, p. 14.)

Cindy (Carman) ’89 Lapp, employee, Hesston, Kan., earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Regis College (Weston, Mass.). Her scholarly practice project was titled “Avoiding Academic Life Support: The Interplay of Admission Criteria, Student Motivation and Innovative Measures of Assessment on Program Success for At-Risk Baccalaureate Nursing Students.”

DEATHS

Maynard Yoder ’80, Freeman, S.D., March 9, 2022

Leonard Searl, spouse of Judith Searl ’83, Sedgwick, Kan., Jan. 1, 2022

Dennis Witmer ’88, spouse of Lori (Leatherman) ’88 Witmer, Newville, Pa., Sept. 19, 2021

1990-99

Michelle (Troyer) ’91 and Larry Burns, Colorado Springs, work with BEE World – Biblical Education by Extension, a mission organization that trains pastors and church leaders in closed and restricted access countries. Michelle works in the curriculum department, editing, rewriting and checking translations.

Gilberto Perez ’92, former employee, Goshen, Ind., serves as chair of the board of directors for Mennonite Central Committee.

Cousins Chris Roth ’95, Zach Roth ’03 and Matt Roth bought Miracle Signs, a company with a 75-year history in Wichita, Kan., in Dec. Miracle Signs specializes in LED and custom-fabricated signs and has manufactured neon signs and marquees for several landmark buildings in the area.

Nici Jo (Beachy) ’99 Bontrager, Kalona, Iowa, started as an advancement assistant at the University of Iowa Center for Advancement in Iowa City in September, 2021.

Doug Maury ’99, Andale, Kan., started as director of health initiatives and program development at Wichita State University Tech in September 2021.

DEATHS

Frank Moreland, spouse of Sheryl (Hostetler) ’90 Moreland, Kalona, Iowa, Nov. 10, 2021

Bart Regier, spouse of Maeanna (Finley) ’90 Regier, Burtrton, Kan., March 2, 2022

Cathy (Stucky) ’96, ’01 Fiedler, Moundridge, Kan., Dec. 29, 2021

2000-09

Amy (Bachman) ’01 Birdsell, former employee, Hesston, Kan., started teaching the Caravan G1000 at FlightSafety in Wichita.

Sarah (Page) ’01 Schmidt, Hesston, Kan., was promoted to administrative specialist for Hesston Fire/EMS. She continues to respond to EMS calls with the department she has served for more than 14 years.

Ryan Schrock ’01, Lancaster, Pa., is a victim advocate for the Lancaster County District Attorney’s Office.

Martin Gunawan ’02, Goshen, Ind., is senior executive of operations for Mennonite Mission Network. His responsibilities include finance, human resources and information technology.

Stephanie (Jackson) ’02 Yoder, Hesston, Kan., joined NMC Health Family Medicine Clinic in Hesston as an APRN.

Jill (Swiers) ’03 Baker, Scio, Ore., and Shanda Hochstetler ’01, lead the youth suicide prevention, intervention and postvention efforts for the state of Oregon. They work for the Oregon Health Authority managing state contracts and writing and advising on legislation.

An exhibit of works by Joseph Shetler ’04, Hyattsville, Md., titled “In Pursuit of Nothing” ran at Culture House in Washington, D.C., this winter and was reviewed by the Washington Post. “The artist is the product of a Mennonite upbringing. That austere brand of Christianity molded Shetler’s elemental compositions and stark aesthetic, which in another context might be called Zen. The artist tightly arrays cross-hatched or pinstriped lines atop fields that are painted basic black or white. The repetitively patterned results suggest both patchwork quilts and Sol LeWitt’s gridded wall drawings.”

Hannah Bonham ’05 Blackwell, Chicago, Ill., is lead creative and co-founder of Southside Blooms, a farm-to-vase florist on the Southside of Chicago with a mission of using sustainability to alleviate poverty. Southside Blooms creates jobs for at-risk youth, converts vacant lots into safe and productive community assets and actively contributes to the health and resilience of the environment through regenerative farming practices.

Emily Stutzman ’05, Portland, Ore., co-owner of Happy Lucky, a strategic brand design agency, was promoted to chief executive officer.

Joel Lederman ’06, Goshen, Ind., has started Elevation Park Model Company, a recreational vehicle company in Elkhart, Ind. Lederman’s brother, Kenyon ’09, serves as plant manager at the company’s new production facility.

Katie Sowers ’06, Overland Park, Kan., is director of athletic strategic initiatives at Ottawa (Kan.) University where she also serves as defensive coordinator and director of operations for the university’s women’s flag football team.

Chad ’06 and Kelly Unrein, Kealakekua, Hawaii, own Mockingbird Tiny Homes which designs, builds and sells tiny homes.

Patrick Harrison ’07 joined the women’s basketball coaching staff at New Mexico State University (Las Cruces) as an assistant coach in April after three years on the women’s basketball coaching staff at University of Missouri Kansas City.

Naomi Tice ’08, Bammental, Germany, is a volunteer administrative assistant at Christliche Dienste, e.V. office.

LaMont Russell ’08, Louisville, Ky., is video coordinator and graphic designer for the University of Louisville Cardinals women’s basketball team and has been part of the coaching staff since 2017. In his years with the team they have advanced to the Final Four twice – 2018 and 2022.
Mitchell Stutzman '09, Hesston, Kan., earned a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership from Eastern Mennonite Seminary (Harrisonburg, Va.) and a Certified Gift Planning Associate designation.

Jennie (Warkentine) Wintermote '09, North Newton, Kan., graduated from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, Ind.) with a graduate certificate in theological studies. She continues in her role as director of the resource library for Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

**BIRTHS**

Mark '01, former employee, and Victoria Trout, Minot, N.D.: Wyatt Michael Trout, March 6, 2022

Erin (Eberspacher) '03 and Wade Stevens, New Albany, Ohio: Weston Reed Stevens, Nov. 22, 2021

Daniel '04 and Allison Jantz, Derby, Kan.: Shiloh Isaac Jantz, July 23, 2021

Keri (Boshart) '07 and Drew Hochstetler, Wellman, Iowa: Renly Belle Hochstetler, Aug. 8, 2021

Jocelyn (Forshee) '07, '08 and Martin Lawrence, Bellevue, Wash.: Keifer Joseph Lawrence, Nov. 1, 2021

Danae (Gigstadt) '07 and Justin Lillie, Lincoln, Neb.: Collins Grace Lillie, March 11, 2022

Luke '08 and Oriann (Stauffer) '08 Aeschliman, Castle Rock, Colo.: Henry James Aeschliman, Sept. 17, 2021

Jennifer (Cleveland) '08 and Marcus Garcia, Wichita, Kan.: Gianna Cru Garcia, Feb. 24, 2022

Kris '08 and Jenny Miller, Bel Aire, Kan.: Andrew Mark Miller, Feb. 14, 2021

Todd '08 and Jessica Stutzman, Gunnison, Colo.: Havyn Grace Stutzman, April 21, 2022

Rhonda (Miller) '09 and Brett Butler, Sedgwick, Kan.: Reagan Marie Butler, Dec. 10, 2021

Marcus '09 and Marissa (Hochstetler) '14, former employee, Unruh, Wayland, Iowa: Emery Jean Unruh, Oct. 16, 2021

Jason '09 and Anna (Yoder) '11, '12 Unruh, Peabody, Kan.: Ruth Ann Unruh, Nov. 30, 2021

Kendall '09 and Emily Wenger, Rockingham, Va.: Toby Christian Wenger, Nov. 3, 2021

**DEATHS**

Joan Boyer '00, Hesston, Kan., Dec. 6, 2021

Jean Butts '07, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Jan. 15, 2022

2010-19

Ashley (Hager) '12 Woolever, West Liberty, Ohio, along with her sister, owns and operates Sweetie Pie’s Baked Goods and Café.

 Emmali (Lapp) '13 Buller works for St. Francis Ministries in Salina, Kan., as a clinical psychologist doing foster care evaluations. Karl Buller '13 teaches biology at Halstead (Kan.) High School.

 Mariah Martin '13, Goshen, Ind., is pastor of Bonneyville Mennonite Church (Bristol, Ind.). In March she started a podcast, “Called to be Bad,” that delves into the intersections of good and bad, holy and ordinary.

 Nik kita (Lester) '14 Kalgren, Converse, Texas, earned a master of science in cybersecurity studies from American Military University.

 Becca (Hopping) '14 Schneider, Denton, Texas, is a TMS technician/care coordinator at Anew Era TMS and Psychiatry in Dallas.

 Adrienne Derstine '16 and Adam Butler are serving in Burundi with Mennonite Central Committee through PMER (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting) and the support of local projects/organizations. Their term began in August 2021

**Jacque Anderson ’16, Newton, Kan.**

Jacque is an officer with the Wichita Police Department, working on the Domestic Intervention and Violence Reduction Team (DIVRT). Officer Anderson received the 2021 Wichita Police Department Officer of the Year award.

After serving several summers as a camp counselor, Anna Martin '16, Plymouth, Va., is program director at Bethany Birches Camp.

Clay Axness '17, Hesston, Kan., is a fire lieutenant for Hesston Fire/EMS.

Joel Brejda '17, Bookings, S.D., works as a chemist for 3M.

Kortney Cunningham '17, Batesville, Ark., is the head coach of the Lyon College (Batesville, Ark.) volleyball team. After Hesston Kortney earned a Bachelor of Arts in exercise science from Kansas Wesleyan University (Salina) and a Master of Education in adult education management and administration from Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva).

Zach Galyon '17, Lyons, Kan., graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in May 2022.

Kaitlyn Shaw, '17, '19 Newton, Kan., completed a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Spring Arbor (Mich.) University in February, 2022.

John Ebaugh '18, Manheim, Pa., is a telecommunicator for Lancaster County PA 911.

After a year as an HC resident director, Elizabeth Miller '18, Tiskilwa, Ill., works with sustainable farming practices at Hungry World Farm.

Brielle Baucom '19, Lees Summit, Mo., completed her degree in chemical engineering from University of Missouri (Columbia) in May and has accepted a position as a process and reliability engineer at Baxter International.

Darren Cornejo '19, Junction City, Kan., is an account executive in the business development department of CivicPlus, a company that provides online solutions for local governments.

Will Gaby '19, Mishawaka, Ind., is a project engineer for Nuway Construction and recently graduated from the Goshen Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy. The eight-month Leadership Academy course explored emotional intelligence and using tools for self mastery to improve leadership ability.
Sam Jackson ’19, Hesston, Kan., is Aviation Operations Coordinator for Hesston College.

MARRIAGES

Keller Broadfoot ’14 and Madi Jacobs, Hesston, Kan., Aug. 7, 2021

Nikkita Lester ’14 and Kevin Kalgren, Converse, Texas, March 1, 2020

Becca Hopping ’14 and John Schneider, Denton, Texas, Sept. 24, 2021

Angie Aguirre ’15 and Dave Lambert, Wichita, Kan., Oct. 16, 2021

Michael Kilmer ’16 and Natalie Clements, Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 19, 2021

Lorae Weaver ’16 and Nick Smith, Wakarusa, Ind., Dec. 11, 2021

Linda Miller ’16, ’20 and Michael Walker, Hutchinson, Kan., March 26, 2022

Tori Byler ’17 and Tyler Miller, Belleville, Pa., Oct. 23, 2021

Laura Blosser ’17 and Kyle Morgan, Brawley, Calif., May 23, 2021

Jayro Rivera Ballester ’17 and Alicia Ramirez ’18, Round City, Texas, Oct. 1, 2021

Janelle Schmucker ’17 and Adam Knott, Goshen, Ind., Oct. 10, 2021

Andrew Huckaby ’18 and Emily McMichael ’19, Marshallfield, Miss., Oct. 9, 2021

Joy Driver ’18 and Lamar Kiser, Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 8, 2022

Brenna Peters ’18 and Joshua Kliewer, Hesston, Kan., March 5, 2022

Sierra Broce ’18 and Austin Pohl, Goddard, Kan., Jan. 22, 2022

Emily Hague ’19 and Robert Griffin, Marion, Kan., Oct. 30, 2021

BIRTHS

Danielle (Minder) ’10 and Jerad Carmichael, Sedgwick, Kan.: Lila Lorraine Carmichael, Oct. 30, 2021

Brett ’10, former employee, and Deb (Yoder) ’11 Coblentz, Juneau, Alaska: Henry Levi Coblentz, Sept. 9, 2021

Ana (Loucks) ’10 Diaz Loucks and Juan Diaz Quesada, Goshen, Ind.: Leanor Luisa Diaz Loucks, Jan. 18, 2022

Emily (Hornung) ’10 and Clint Janzen, Inman, Kan.: Benjamin Ryan Janzen, Oct. 12, 2021

Matt (Lehman) ’10 and Ruth Lehman Wiens, McPherson, Kan.: Arthur Oban Lehman Wiens, Nov. 15, 2021

Chris ’10 and Catherine Moyer, Goessel, Kan.: Raymond Allen Moyer, Aug. 3, 2021

Meg (Leatherman) ’11, former employee, and Cole Inghram, Hesston, Kan.: Caleb Hosea Inghram, Jan. 19, 2022

Alex ’11 and Sarah (Lederman) ’11 Roth, Middlebury, Ind.: Kollyns Renee Roth, May 7, 2022

Anna (Beels) ’11 and Samuel Thapa, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Luca Samuel Thapa, Oct. 12, 2021

Colton ’11 and Kirsti (Graffenberger) ’11 Troyer, Albany, Ore.: Valerie Jayne Troyer, Nov. 4, 2021

Kenzie (Jones) ’11 and Logan Truong, Nibley, Utah: Navy Anh Truong, May 3, 2022

Jonathan ’12 and Becca (Short) ’12 Burkholder, Warden, Wash.: Jeptha Burkholder, July 12, 2021

Lyn (Ungang) ’12, former employee, and Jordan Hett, Hillsboro, Kan.: Aspyn Jo Hett, Feb. 28, 2022

Philip ’12 and Katelyn (Nussbaum) ’09 Hochstetler, Goshen, Ind.: Harper Kate Hochstetler, Sept. 20, 2021

Jonathan ’12 and Melissa King, Norman, Okla.: Micah Paul King, Dec. 2, 2021

Alyssa (Horst) ’12 and Zach Masters, Orrville, Ohio: Jude Samuel Masters, Jan. 27, 2022

Sarah (Unruh) ’12 and Logan Ryff, Hope, Kan.: Charlee Louise Ryff, March 16, 2022

Erin (Banman) ’12 and Drew Thornton, Lawrence, Kan.: Brockton Stephen Thornton, Oct. 19, 2021


Seth ’13 and Theresa (Shideler) ’14 Davenport, Wichita, Kan.: Hayden James Davenport, Dec. 10, 2021

Ron ’13 and Addie Wenger, Claremore, Okla.: Ron (RJ) Harley Howard Wenger, Oct. 17, 2021

Mischa De Jesus ’14 and Alvin Michael, Richmond, Va.: Safari Averie Michael, Feb. 26, 2022

Kendrik ’14, former employee, and Sarah (Beachy) ’15 Mast, Rockingham, Va.: Mya James Mast, Dec. 27, 2021

Eyan ’14 and Hannah (Weaver) ’14 Roth, Wichita, Kan.: Lucy Paige Roth, Jan. 15, 2022

Davis ’15 and Alex (Hiebert) ’15 Cook, Manhattan, Kan.: Lennon Avery Cook, May 20, 2022

Abbie (DeWild) ’16 and Dylan Delgado, Coralville, Iowa: Julie Grace Delgado, Jan. 10, 2022

Cody Halvorson ’16 and Kellie Rangel, Temple, Texas: Ryan Rose Halvorson, Nov. 9, 2021

Jayro Rivera Ballester ’17 and Alicia Ramirez ’18, Round City, Texas: Alaina Rivera, Oct. 11, 2021

Kate (Unruh) ’17 and Josh Weve, Pretty Prairie, Kan.: Bella Irene Weve, Sept 26, 2021

Terin (Hiebert) ’18 and Kayl Warne, Derby, Kan.: Kayson Alexander Warne, March 8, 2022

DEATHS

Evette (Yoder) ’12 Yoder Kurtz, Indianapolis, Ind., March 13, 2022
**Dec. 27, 2021**

Wichita, Kan.: Rhett Justice McGarrah, Reesa '20 '21

Moundridge, Kan., May 28, 2022

Kaylee Wedel '21

Colo., Jan. 6, 2022

Lexi Boone '21

Wichita, Kan., Oct. 2, 2020

Lauren Clark '20

**MARRIAGES**

Center in Wichita.

Robert J. Dole VA Medical ICU nurse at Robert J. Dole VA Medical

Daisy Pham '21

Francis in Wichita.

Hospitals.

medical/oncology nurse at Salem Health

Jenna Boller '20

In summer 2021.

LaGrange, Ind., took up coding as a

vehicle production,

manager for Angels Care Hospice in

Kristi Hill '20

Halstead, Kan., is a case

manager for Angels Care Hospice in

Wichita.

After a couple of jobs in recreational

vehicle production, Michael Mullet '20,

LaGrange, Ind., took up coding as a

hobby, taking an online computer science

class from Massachusetts Institute of

Technology and earning certifications for

coding and web design before taking a

class from Massachusetts Institute of

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During an interview in 1998, Hesston College art professor Paul Friesen said, “For me, the key to stewardship is to what extent I love, to that extent I am willing to give myself.” Paul and Wilma’s life was one of kindness, creativity and above all, stewardship. He established the art department at Hesston College in 1956 and nurtured it through its years in the potato cellar of Green Gables, through the basement of Erb Hall and into its own building named in his honor. His love of creating art was interwoven into his faith. Paul’s son Jon shared, “Dad was a pastor first, who could not separate his artistic gifts from his ministry.” His childhood was spent in India with his parents as they served as missionaries. His experiences there blessed him with appreciation and perspective that touched the rest of his life. His work with the college also led him to build relationships with churches nationwide. Along his travels he would often speak of the parable of the potter from the book of Jeremiah and gift his listeners with his own artwork: clay pots. The father of six children and the loving husband of his wife, Wilma, Paul served in life to all that surrounded him. Generations of Hesston College art students, community members and beyond will feel the loving imprint left by him for years to come. When asked, Paul shared many years ago, “I’d like to be remembered as a friend.”

Interested in making a legacy gift to Hesston College within your estate plan?

Everence can help.

Other financial planning services available. Visit everence.com or contact Hesston College at 620-327-8147 for a connection.

September is right around the corner and it’s that treasured time of year again: Hesston College Homecoming. This year’s focus brings both anticipation and appreciation. As we honor the bonds that keep us together, we celebrate the unfolding of our future.

Schedule Highlights

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
11 a.m. - Formation (formerly chapel) Featured speakers: Howard Keim ’72 and Talashia Keim ’02 Yoder
Noon - Golden Gables Lunch and Program: Campus Facilities through the Years, Tim Goering ’76
2 p.m. - Alumni Panel: History of Business Education
  Featured speakers: Annette (Steider) '83 Brown, Duane Horst ’79, Clark Roth ’82 and Emily Wagner-Davis ’12
3:30 p.m. - Alumni Panel: History of Engineering Education
  Featured speakers: Zach Baumgartner ’12, Brian Nebel ’83, Makenzie (Jones) ’11 Truong and Ejona Zogu ’20
7 p.m. - Songs by African American Composers:
  Dr. Carren Moham with Bel Canto Singers
8:45 p.m. - Alumni Softball Game

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
9 a.m. - Realizing Vision 2025: Business & Engineering
10 a.m. - Affinity reunions for Nursing, Performing Arts and Athletics
11 a.m. - Manickam Mosey Fun Run
Noon - Partner Program 45th Anniversary Celebration & Lunch
2 to 5 p.m. - Class reunions
3 p.m. - Volleyball
4 p.m. - Disc golf tournament
5 to 9 p.m. - Homecoming Family Festival
5 p.m. - Women’s Soccer & 7:30 p.m. Men’s Soccer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
10:30 a.m. - Homecoming Worship Service with President Joseph A. Manickam and Bel Canto Singers

Visit for full list of events.
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

(If you are a parent receiving your child’s mail, please forward his or her current address to alumni@hesston.edu)

Box 3000
Hesston, KS 67062

Homecoming 2022
September 23 to 25

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

• In-depth look at HC Business and Engineering programs
• Alumni panels
• International dinner
• Musical performances
• Class reunions
• Affinity reunions
• Sporting events
• Manickam Mosey
• Disc golf tournament
• Family Festival
• Food truck

CLASS REUNION YEARS

Have a 5 year reunion this year?

5-year reunions will be held virtually the first Saturday in February. College classes ‘67, ’77, ’87, ’97, ’07, ’17 please save the date for February 4, 2023. The shift is designed to help include everyone in class reunions whether you can travel to campus or not. We hope you will enjoy catching up with classmates near and far virtually. If your class would like to host a 5-year reunion in person during this year’s Homecoming weekend, please reach out to the alumni office at alumni@hesston.edu or 620-327-8147.