The Purpose and Passion of Work

Every year a book is chosen to be the community read for the First-Year Experience (FYE) course, a required fall semester course for all first-year students. Many faculty and staff also choose to read the book in order to find commonality and a way to better relate to students. This year’s book was *Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work* (Penguin, 2017) by Dave Isay.

As theologian and writer Frederick Buechner said about callings, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meets.” *Callings* is all about stories of people doing what they love. Most of our students are still in the infancy of discovering what their passions - their callings - may be, but we are honored to walk with them during this part of their journey.

Every person’s calling looks different. Some may discover their calling earlier in life than others. Some may find their calling in a professional role while for others, a calling is not a career. Yet each person’s story and journey to discovery is beautiful and holy in its own way.

In this issue, you will read stories of alumni who are living out their calling in a variety of ways. I love hearing these kinds of stories, whether it is in these pages or in visiting with alumni around the country. Whether they realized it at the time or not, the Hesston Experience played a part in their calling story. It may take time to see just what that impact was, but it always tends to surface at some point – a tribute to this experience that prepares students in special ways for the many aspects of life.

Just as we encourage our students to do with their peers, faculty and staff on campus, as you encounter people throughout your life, I encourage you to be curious. Take that piece of the Hesston Experience with you wherever you go. Get to know others and discover what they are passionate about. Share your own passions as well. Sharing our differences, similarities, hopes, dreams and passions is one way to find common humanity with all.

Dr. Joseph A. Manickam ’87, President
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As is sometimes the case, Hesston College contained a “boy meets girl” story for Eric ’07 and Lauren (Janzen) ’07 Eberspacher. He was a farm boy from Nebraska; she was used to the amenities and faster pace of Kansas City. But they hit it off and the rest is history.

Ending up in rural Milford, Neb., didn’t come as a surprise to Lauren. She’d known since their first date at Hesston College that Eric dreamed of returning to the family farm. After spending their first five years of married life in Kansas City – her working as an oncology nurse, him as an arborist – they transitioned their blacktop urban life to farm life off the dirt road.

The surprising part of it all was what they found God calling them to do with this new chapter of life, how Lauren's blog, “From Blacktop to Dirt Road,” would become their ministry, and how they have responded to the unexpected call with relentless obedience.

“As we prepared to move from Kansas City to Nebraska, I started blogging as a way to keep people updated on the process, our life and our growing family,” said Lauren. “Then all of a sudden I felt compelled to write about my relationship with the Lord and how he was meeting me in this change. It just kind of organically unfolded from there. The Lord kept putting promptings on my heart for how to encourage other people.”

People across life stages were able to relate to Lauren’s blog posts about life transitions and the joys and challenges of raising young children. The couple and their two daughters – one a newborn – were living in a small machine shed-turned-guest house on Eric’s parent’s farm while Eric, with help from his father, was working to build their dream farmhouse just down the road in between the work that 1,500 acres of farmland demands. Life was busy, and Lauren’s posts were increasingly going viral.

“There was never really a closed door. I think when you have this idea of a calling, it can be viewed as having things to overcome along the way, but for me, it was like it was meant to be. God kept saying, ‘Walk through this door. Be obedient.’”

– Lauren (Janzen) ’07 Eberspacher –

Before long, she was a regular contributor for “Her View from Home,” a faith-based social media community of women sharing their stories of everyday life and struggles. She then started her own “Blacktop to Dirt Road” Facebook community as a way to connect with her followers more directly. Then the Today Show came calling, also wanting to publish her writing to their followers.

“There was never really a closed door,” said Lauren. “I think when you have this idea of a calling, it can be viewed as having things to overcome along the way, but for me, it was like it was meant to be. God kept saying, ‘Walk through this door. Be obedient.’”
way, but for me, it was like it was meant to be. God kept saying, ‘Walk through this door. Be obedient.’”

Then, about two years ago, Lauren's writing and ministry took on new meaning when she shared with her online community that she was struggling with postpartum depression and anxiety following the birth of her third child.

“Sometimes I think we just like to hear how God works in our lives and fixes things and we see redemption and it’s all tied up with a pretty bow,” she said. “But I felt like I needed to be real with my community and share about my struggles. It started being more of writing in the moment; writing the raw, middle of a mess stuff, following it with ‘But God,’ and weaving the gospel into every single thing we do. Because if there’s not a ‘But God’ in our story, we’re not doing the Gospel justice.”

As she shared honestly and vulnerably from some of her messiest and most difficult moments, she saw an even greater uptick in reader response. Sharing the realness of life and the hope that exists in Christ, even in pain and darkness, gathered a community of women, in particular, from the many stages of life who, despite whatever differences might be part of their stories, find solidarity in their similarities and encouraging and support one another through everyday situations both big and small.

“I have found that people really like to see that they aren’t alone in whatever mess they may be in,” said Lauren. “Our messes are relatable and that’s comforting. I am broken – we all are – but again, ‘But God.’ I am not what the world says I am. I am not my depression. I am not my anxiety. I am not all these imperfections. I am justified and sanctified by God. I think if we can come together and be honest about what we have going on and see what God has to say about it, that’s all we need.”

The online community that was forming soon turned into face-to-face meetings when moms groups around the state began inviting Lauren to share her story in person. Eric would accompany her when he was able, and would also speak to the struggles from the perspective of husband and father. Last year, they began incorporating him into the online community, offering a new perspective and expanding the community to a place where men could also feel comfortable.

In her obedience to vulnerability in her struggles, Lauren felt that her message wasn’t just meant for online communities. She started exploring the idea of writing a book to be an encouragement to other moms.

“The idea for a book started because I really wasn’t finding anything that was faith-based for women walking through depression and anxiety,” she said. “There were big, thick books, but not something that a tired, crying, anxious mom could pick up for five or 10 minutes and find encouragement backed by scripture.”

Lauren decided to fill the gap with her own reflections and lessons learned through her journey.

In April, her 31-day devotional, *Midnight Lullabies: Moments of Peace for Moms* (FaithWords), was published.

“It’s sometimes hard to rehash your hardest, most embarrassing moments for all the world to see, but God used it in such a great way,” recalled Lauren of the writing process. “When I didn’t feel like I had the words on something, it just started coming. There’s something really profound that happens when you choose to be obedient to what God has called you to.”

As they navigate each day of parenthood, farming, preparing for their fourth child in March and more, the Eberspachers remain attentive to what God is calling them. Lauren’s work as writer and speaker has turned into a full-job alongside her full-time job caring for her growing family.

Being a fully self-employed family, allows for a balance for both Lauren and Eric to continue to pour
into the callings that inspire them. Lauren regularly shows up for her online community – you can join her for a weekly live “Coffee at the Farmhouse” on her “Blacktop to Dirt Road” Facebook community every Tuesday morning – even with her speaking engagements expanding to include more of the country, and ideas are brewing for more books. Eric attends to the demands of crops, and in slower times on the farm operates his own tree-care service in the community. Yet they also feel God telling them to slow down and refocus, so they’re trusting that call as well and adjusting once again to a new normal.

“Our core call is to be disciples,” said Lauren. “As Christians, that’s all of our calling, but it looks different for different people. Not everyone wants to go on Facebook and do videos, but for us, our calling was to be obedient in this way. God is continuing to use it for good. We’re choosing to walk in that and share the good news that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and we’re just as lost as everyone else.”

Editor’s note: Find the “From Blacktop to Dirt Road” community on Facebook or at fromblacktoptodirtroad.com. Lauren’s book, Midnight Lullabies: Moments of Peace for Moms, can be found wherever books are sold.
Heartland Community School in Henderson, Neb., has a statewide reputation for an outstanding instrumental music program. The high school band – in which 64 of 70 high school students participate – routinely scores near the top at marching competitions, with several first-place finishes to boast.

Much of the credit for the long-standing success can be attributed to Royce Schweitzer ’69 who has been the band director in Henderson for 44 years of his 47-year career and leads his students with discipline, professionalism and, most importantly, genuine care. That philosophy of education is one he says was demonstrated to him as a Hesston College student.

“I owe Hesston a lot of credit for helping me gain confidence in myself,” said Schweitzer. “My teaching philosophy is, ‘No one cares what you know until they know that you care.’ Hesston modeled that for me. The level of care faculty and staff show each student is what I believe makes it such a great experience.”

Inspired by his own high school band director in Shickley (Neb.), Schweitzer recognized a calling to teach instrumental music himself. With support and encouragement from others who also recognized his gifts, Schwetizer diligently pursued his calling despite situations that could have derailed the plan.

“When I went to Hesston, I hadn’t been away from home very often, so after two and a half weeks, I was extremely homesick,” recalled Schweitzer. “I called home and asked my father if I could come work with him on our farm. Without hesitation he said, ‘You have to stick this out.’ I was devastated, but then after about Thanksgiving, I really started loving being at Hesston.”

Several years later following his first concert as a high school band director, Schweitzer’s father mentioned that conversation to him for the first time.

“Dad said, ‘Do you remember the day you called and asked if you could come home and work on the farm?” said Schweitzer. “Saying no was the hardest thing I ever had to tell you, but I knew God had something else in mind for you.”

The fact that Hesston did not have an instrumental program at the time also didn’t detract Schweitzer. The college worked with him to make sure he was getting what he needed, including taking specialized courses like music theory at nearby Bethel College.

“I was in Chamber Singers and the professor, Randall Zercher, would write trumpet parts into the choral pieces so I would have opportunities to play,” said Schweitzer. “He knew that was something I needed and provided that for me. We also started a pep band that played for soccer and basketball games.”

After Hesston, Schweitzer completed a bachelor of music in education degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before doing two years of alternative service at Lutheran Medical Center in Denver, Colo., where his experience as a physical therapy aid prepared him for another calling on his life.

At 16 months old, his daughter Rachelle Schweitzer ’99 contracted meningitis, leaving her with permanent physical limitations. For much of her life, Schweitzer has been her full-time caregiver.

“I didn’t know that I would have Rachelle who would need physical therapy for most of her life,” said Schweitzer. “But God knew and provided me with knowledge to help her between appointments.”

Schweitzer’s passion for and dedication to his areas of calling is reflected in his students’ successes as well as his own. He’s received education-related accolades several times, and as a father of five, received the 2009 Nebraska Father of the Year award from the Christian Heritage of Fatherhood Initiative. In addition to Rachelle, Schweitzer’s sons are also Hesston graduates – Derek ’03 and Bret ’04.

“‘For me, teaching and music are vehicles for relating to people. It’s my love and passion, and I think that’s what give me longevity.’

— Royce Schweitzer ’69 —
LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Coaching basketball is about more than coaching basketball for Kari Heusinkveld ‘10. As head girls basketball coach at Hillcrest Academy in Kalona, Iowa, (formerly Iowa Mennonite School), Heusinkveld knows that her influence goes beyond the court, and it’s that attitude that has helped turn the program from a 1-37 record over two seasons to a .500 team two years later.

“My goal is to provide a positive athletic experience for each of my athletes and I believe that starts with creating a safe, controlled environment that is conducive to learning,” said Heusinkveld. “I believe in the importance of setting standards and holding each member of the program accountable to those standards, emphasizing discipline, responsibility and accountability to both yourself and others. Then we can work on controlling what we can and forgetting about the rest. We can always control our attitude and our work ethic, by which much can be accomplished.”

A two-year starter as both a Hesston Lark and a Goshen (Ind.) College Maple Leaf, Heusinkveld was known for her intensity and passion on the court, exhibiting a never-quit attitude that has followed her into her coaching role.

After graduating from Goshen, Heusinkveld served as assistant coach for the Maple Leafs for one season before becoming an assistant coach for one season at Hillcrest. In 2015 she stepped into the head coach role, persevering through a few difficult seasons with few wins before a 10-11 record in 2018-19 and a turn-around for the Ravens.

“Our program has been through quite a few ups and downs in the four seasons I’ve been there,” said Heusinkveld. “I obviously love the game of basketball and the goal is to help my kids grow in the sport each season, but the bigger goal is to help them grow as people.”

In March 2019, her efforts and successes as coach were recognized more widely when she was one of three statewide recipients of the E. Wayne Cooley “You Can” Award from the Iowa Girls Coaches Association. The award is meant to recognize coaches early in their coaching career who are building up varsity programs.

Heusinkveld’s influence also extends beyond the court to her other jobs in the agricultural world as business manager for Miller Hybrids, Inc., an independent seed company, and general manager for onlineseedsales.com.

“My days are busy, sometimes non-stop, but I enjoy working in an industry geared toward helping others,” Heusinkveld said.

With service and relationships fueling Heusinkveld’s passions for coaching and science, Hesston College’s nature of launching students into roles that feed their interests was a natural start for her journey.

“Hesston challenged me in the classroom and helped me learn balance,” said Heusinkveld. “It opened the door to a passion for science and being a leader, which is what I’m living out in my career today.”

― Kari Heusinkveld ’10 —

Above: Photo courtesy of Hillcrest Academy. Right: Photo by Maya Kehr Yoder.
I always thought it would be interesting to have a job in the medical field, however, the idea of being stuck inside all day either in a hospital or doctor’s office never appealed to me. With many family members who are Hesston College alumni, Hesston was already a strong option for me, but then as I was browsing through the list of majors and saw they offered Emergency Management and it included work experience, I was even more interested. When I visited campus for the first time, I felt the sense of community I had heard so much about both on campus and in the town as well and I decided it was where I wanted my start to be as well.

The Emergency Management major was new when I was exploring my college options – it had only been around for about a year – and I was excited by what it offers. The program operates in cooperation between the college and the City of Hesston Emergency Services Department. Hesston students can apply for part-time work through the city department, gaining real experience while also a full-time student. I had to go through an interview process with Hesston Fire/EMS and after being hired, I enrolled in an EMT class and was given a pager.

Since Hesston is a smaller town, most of the Fire/EMS employees are on call and carry pagers with them, which has its benefits and difficulties. One of the greatest benefits is that I am able to work and gain practical experience as a college student. A challenge of being on call all the time is not being able to schedule when I work. Yet at the same time it means I can attend regular college classes and participate in extracurricular activities, but with the understanding that I might have to dart out at any moment.

I love having the ability to be involved in a wide variety of things on campus. I deeply enjoy the performing arts and am part of Bel Canto Singers and participate in theatre productions. My professors and directors understand that in order to balance these areas of my life, I may sometimes have to miss a class or rehearsal, and they’re willing to work with that.

I love that at Hesston College I am able to participate in so many opportunities and have experiences and fields to grow in. My interests are so different from each other, but my professors and friends are understanding and supportive of this time I have to explore these different areas that excite me. I’ve learned a lot about myself while balancing the different aspects of my life, and that’s a process I continue to work on.

After I graduate in the spring, I plan to take a whole new path, transfer to Goshen College and take a on a new major of film production. I hope to be able to tell stories of real people, create documentaries and maybe even tell a fictional story or two. I also hope to continue growing in my medical knowledge and skills. I am so thankful for the people who have helped me grow and learn about myself in my time here.
Matt Troyer '03 - Miller
Wood River, Neb.

CALLING: Pastor and more

UNKNOWINGLY PREPARED

“Every pastor has a different calling story. I didn’t experience a voice from heaven that told me to ‘Go.’ Instead, stepping through open doors prepared me in many ways for leadership at Wood River Mennonite Church (WRMC), a small, rural congregation in a community of about 1,300 people.

Hesston College was impactful for me in many ways. Bib Lit and Peacemaking and Justice sparked my imagination about the Bible and deepened my faith. I then studied peace, justice and conflict studies and Bible/religion at Goshen (Ind.) College.

After college and a summer traveling Central Plains Mennonite Conference (CPMC) as ‘peace evangelists,’ my wife, Elizabeth, and I moved back to my hometown of Shickley, Neb. I didn’t know what I wanted to do, but I knew where I wanted to do it. My dad died while I was in college, and I wanted to be in Shickley as my youngest sister, Kristin Troyer ’17, grew up. I found a job selling tractor and lawn mower parts, and we got involved at Salem Mennonite Church and in the community. I joined the volunteer fire department where I learned about the desperate need for EMTs in rural communities, and became an EMT.

I had been ‘tapped on the shoulder’ to consider ministry several times. I even filled out the Ministerial Leadership Information (MLI) form and interviewed for pastoral positions before I decided I wasn’t ready to pursue a career in ministry. However, I told God, ‘I don’t know what I’m supposed to be doing right now, but I will be right here. When you’re ready for me, come get me. I’ll go where you want.’ I don’t know that it was a great prayer, but it was an honest one. Sometimes, when you’re not sure what to do, you step through the open doors and see where you end up.”

“GOD CAME AND GOT ME”

“In early 2010, God came and got me. Former CPMC Conference Minister Tim Detweiler ’72 asked if I would fill the pulpit at WRMC. The congregation had just experienced a painful conflict, and my willingness to preach allowed the church elders and conference to find an interim pastor to help the congregation heal. I was a pulpit supply for six months before an interim pastor was appointed. In that time, I learned I was capable of preaching on a weekly basis, and it allowed WRMC and I to get to know each other on a deeper level.

After working with the MLI process and interviewing with the WRMC search committee, I accepted a call to be pastor of the congregation. I was licensed in August 2012 and ordained in July 2015.”

PASTOR PLUS

“One of the most impactful verses for my life has been Jeremiah 29:7, ‘Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you…’ I feel a strong internal drive to serve my community and make it a better place.

I find it very rewarding to pastor a church in rural Nebraska. I get to build relationships with all ages, and I have the freedom to incarnate the gospel in the community by participating in local institutions. I am the chaplain and an EMT for the volunteer fire department, and served on a downtown revitalization committee. During the historic March 2019 flooding, the congregation released me from many of my congregational responsibilities and I was heavily involved in the flood response and cleanup. Through this involvement, I serve on the executive board for the Heartland Disaster Recovery Group, a long-term, tri-county flood recovery committee.

When I went to Hesston I figured I would ‘Start here’ and end up somewhere else. But sometimes you start at Hesston and God sends you home!”

Photo by Bev Stutzman.
CONTINUING THE LEGACY

49 STUDENTS WITH ALUMNI PARENTS FOUND THEIR START AT HESSTON COLLEGE FOR 2019-20.

Tess Anderson ’21, Williamsburg, Va. – Molly (Regier) ’91 and Michael Anderson

Jacob Baker ’20, Andover, Kan. – Mike ’93, faculty and Joanne (Monney) ’94, ’19 Baker

Erin Beachy ’20, Middlebury, Ind. – Sheila (Eash) ’92 and Douglas Beachy

Sabrina Bellar ’20, Conway Springs, Kan. – Chris ’87 and Amy (Koehn) ’88 Bellar

Connor Birky ’21, Gibson City, Ill. – Kurt ’78 and Denise (Stuckey) ’80 Birky

Sam Blosser ’20, Hesston, Kan. – Vernon ’76 and Brenda Blosser

Jenna ’20 and Jacob ’21 Boller, Kalona, Iowa – Jeff ’89 and Carol Boller

Sydney Bontrager ’23, Milford, Neb. – Craig ’90 and Karen (Stutzman) ’90 Bontrager

Jessica Buckwalter ’20, Yona, Guam – Russel ’88 and Cheryl Buckwalter

Simone Burgess ’20, Los Angeles, Calif. – Frank ’90 and Marion (Price) ’90 Burgess

Aubrey Crouse ’09, ’19, Wichita, Kan. – Dawn Crouse ’02

Lora Ferguson ’20, Hesston, Kan. – Scott Ferguson ’91

David Flores Cano ’20, San Pedro Sula, Honduras – Melvin Flores ’89 and Mary Cano

Autumn Gehman ’20, Adams, Tenn. – Brooke ’93 and Dana (Zimmerman) ’92 Gehman

Cristal Guzman ’23, La Vega, Dominican Republic - Margarita Neris ’91

Brett Heitschmidt ’20, Lindsborg, Kan. – Julie (Diller) ’93 and Darren Heitschmidt

Esni Hernandez ’20, Newton, Kan. – Jesse ’96 and Judy Hernandez

Alyssa Hersberger ’20, Wellman, Iowa – Jim ’88 and Audra Hersberger

Elizabeth Holguin ’21, Newton, Kan. – Angie (Aguirre) ’15 Alexander

Marta Jantzi ’21, Salem, Ore. – Scott ’83 and Rhoda Jantzi

Shanti Kauffman ’21, Sheridan, Ore. – Tony ’90 and Brenda Kauffman

Jenna and Jacob ’21 Boller, Kalona, Iowa – Jeff ’89 and Carol Boller

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Marta Jantzi ’21, Salem, Ore. – Scott ’83 and Rhoda Jantzi

Shanti Kauffman ’21, Sheridan, Ore. – Tony ’90 and Brenda Kauffman

Anthony Kaufman ’21, Newton, Kan. – Jesse Kaufman ’03

Kate Kilmer ’20, Goshen, Ind. – Kevin ’91 and Karilyn (Kauffman) ’92 Kilmer

Ethan Klassen ’21, Mountain Lake, Minn. – Brigham ’88 and Lori Klassen

Alex Koehn ’23, Hesston, Kan. – Chris ’96 and Amber Koehn

Natalie Ladd ’21, Hesston, Kan. – Nick ’14, faculty, and Shari Ladd

Jaden Lais ’20, Grantsville, Md. – Lynn ’75 and Janice (Bryant) ’83 Lais

Ellena Lehman ’20, Sarasota, Fla. – Ryan ’90 and Heather Lehman

Grace Litwiller ’21, Hopedale, Ill. – Jeff ’95 and Christina (Wyse) ’95 Litwiller

Jada Mininger ’21, Hesston, Kan. – Sabrina ’06 and Jerry Mininger

Claire Moyer ’21, Thompsons town, Pa. – Mashelle (Mummau) ’98 and Keith Moyer

Jo Anne Mulatre ’23, Hinche, Haiti – Wildy ’92 and Jesula Mulatre

Reese Nebel ’20, Hesston, Kan. – Brian ’83 and Brenda (Hooley) ’83 Nebel

Dara Ness ’21, Goddard, Kan. – Lisa (Schmidt) ’91 and Carl Ness

Caleb Oesch ’21, Caldwell, Idaho – Mike ’91 and Jana (Earnest) ’90 Oesch

Erin Peters ’21, Hesston, Kan. – Doug ’87, former staff and Rita, faculty, Peters

Mason Richer ’21, New Paris, Ind. – Scott ’89, former staff and Michelle Richer

Josh Roth ’21, Hesston, Kan. – Jeff ’91 and Gwen Roth

Jodi Ryan ’14, ’20, Newton, Kan. – Marcy Renollet ’95

Caleb Schrock ’20, Middlebury, Ind. – Gail (Eash) ’89 and Linfred Schrock

Justus Sneary ’20, Harrisonburg, Va. – Shannon (Martens) ’91 (Sneary) Albanza

Abby Spunaugle ’20, Park City, Kan. – Randy ’79 and Vicky (Box) ’79 Siebert

Madison Swartzendruber ’20, Goshen, Ind. – Calvin ’91 and Karen (LeFevre) ’91 Swartzendruber

Jules Toews ’21, Hesston, Kan. – Sandy (Wiggers) ’88 Toews and Randy Toews, former staff

Tanner Unruh ’21, Washington, Ill. – Travis ’93 and Tonya (Litwiller) ’93 Unruh

Mackenzie Weber ’21, Newton, Kan. – Julia Weber ’00, ’01

Kaylee Wedel ’21, Moundridge, Kan. – Julie (Oswald) ’94 and Brian Wedel

Ellie Willinger ’23, Andale, Kan. – Sara Woolf ’90 and Gary Lies

Ellie Yoder ’22, Seattle, Wash. – Wes ’91 and Kate (Miller) ’92 Yoder.
When first-year students Jo Anne Mulatre and Cristal Guzman showed up on the same Hesston College campus, the history between their countries could have created a divide and a relationship that would never be.

But that’s an attitude that would have a difficult time existing on the Hesston College campus.

Rather, Mulatre, from Haiti, and Guzman, from the Dominican Republic, chose not to consider the long, complex history between their countries, which share the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean region. And because they were able to move past that history, they quickly discovered how many similarities they shared and formed a fast friendship.

“The history between our countries doesn’t have anything to do with us,” said Guzman.

Mulatre agreed. “It would be ridiculous for me to say I’m not going to be her friend because of where she’s from.”

The women met during international student orientation week prior to the start of the fall 2019 semester. Mulatre, who had started at Hesston a semester earlier, was serving as an intercultural mentor, helping new international students get acclimated to their new environment and experiences.

“I had the list of new international students and when I saw where Cristal was from, I was like, ‘She’s my neighbor!’” said Mulatre. “I was excited to see someone from close to home.”

As it turned out, the women were more than country neighbors; they were also living in the same mod in the dorms. And that’s not even where the similarities stopped. Both Mulatre and Guzman are studying in the pre-nursing program and taking many of the same classes, so they have become chemistry lab partners. They are also both children of Hesston College alumni who attended Hesston together.

Guzman’s mother, Margarita Neris ’91, and Mulatre’s father, Wildy Mulatre ’92, were students at Hesston through the Peace Scholarship Program sponsored by the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS). The program’s purpose was for students from Central American and Caribbean countries to primarily study electronics, but also to learn English and communication, American life, politics, government, democracy and volunteerism.

Both Mulatre and Guzman grew up hearing stories from their parents about Hesston College, but never believing it would also be their reality.

“My entire life my mom was telling me stories about Hesston,” said Guzman. “She talked about friends she made who lived all over the world and about all the fun they had. She said she can relax knowing I am here, knowing I am safe and supported.”

“I never imagined I would be here,” said Mulatre. “It was like a dream that would never come true. But my dad loves so much that I am here now, and that we have this shared experience in a place that means so much to us.”

Given all of the other adjustments that international students make to study in a different country, the women are appreciative of a friendship that felt familiar from the outset.

“The way she does things is not foreign to me. I can just be myself with her, and I love that.”

– Cristal Guzman –

“A LEGACY OF FRIENDSHIP”
Hesston College depends on alumni and friends to keep the Hesston Experience affordable and thriving.

Individuals and households who commit to supporting the Hesston Experience on an annual basis are our Partners. These funds help Hesston College offer competitive scholarships and opportunities that promote academic, spiritual and social growth.

Partner giving goes toward the annual fund, which we are now calling The Hesston Experience Fund, as that is what the dollars are used for – supporting and sustaining the Hesston Experience.

Partner facts

• Partner giving makes up roughly 88% of Hesston Experience Fund giving. Other sources include Phonathon, golf benefits and church- and denomination-related giving.

• Partner giving in 2018-19 increased by about $50,000. We hope to double this increase by July 2020 by adding 75 new Partners.

• Of about 730 total partners, 275 are located in Kansas, 80 in Indiana, 45 in Ohio, 36 in Pennsylvania and 294 in other U.S. states and Canada.

To find out more about the Partner Program, visit www.hesston.edu/partner or call the Development Office at 620-327-4221.

WHAT IS THE HESSTON EXPERIENCE?

The world needs more opportunities to learn about, listen to and be in a common space with the other. Therefore, Hesston College aims to be a laboratory of the Church. It’s a place for people of all faith backgrounds, cultures and perspectives to engage with one another, build relationships together and create a community from which the world can learn.

Through academic, spiritual and social learning experiences, Hesston College aims to have graduates with cultural competence, a Gospel ethic and career readiness. Students who start here are energized about making a positive difference wherever God leads them.

“My experience here at Hesston College is beyond my dreams, and I am truly thankful for each person who has played a part in making the Hesston Experience a reality for me.”

– Navy Widyani ’20
Jakarta, Indonesia

Photo by Emma Prowell ’20
The Hesston Experience is not just a student experience, a fact to which Ron and Diane Umble (Lancaster, Pa.) can attest. Rather, their connection to the Hesston College community was through Ron’s role as a mathematics instructor from 1975-84.

Ron experienced so much support from administration, colleagues and the campus community that, following his approaching retirement in August 2020, he has chosen to donate back to Hesston College the balance in the retirement fund the college established for him and contributed to during his tenure – an amount totaling about $48,000.

As an added gift to Hesston College, the donation will be used to match funds given by new donors who join the Hesston College Partner Program at a level of $1,000 annually or more during the 2019-20 year.

“Hesston College gave me a tremendous opportunity to begin my teaching career in higher education,” said Umble. “Considering Hesston’s generous contributions to help me launch what would become a 44-year career in college and university teaching and research, it seems reasonable to recognize and honor their investment in this way.”

Umble came to Hesston one year after having completed his master’s degree. After four years at Hesston he was granted a two-year leave to pursue a Ph.D. in algebraic topology from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). During that time, the college continued to pay a portion of his salary based on the years he had served to that point.

“That financial contribution was significant and a great help,” recalled Umble. “I had a university teaching fellowship with tuition waiver and a modest stipend, but we depended on the salary I continued to earn from Hesston to sustain us.”

After completing his Ph.D., Umble taught for three more years at Hesston before assuming a position in the Millersville (Pa.) University Department of Mathematics, where he has served for the last 36 years.

“My career has been so rewarding,” said Umble. “I’ve had opportunities to do research in my areas of interest. I’ve traveled extensively across the U.S. and Europe, lecturing, collaborating in research projects and participating in conferences. At Millersville, I created a geometry course for pre-professional secondary teachers preparing to teach geometry in the Common Core, and published a textbook designed for the course. None of this would have been possible without the generosity and support of Hesston College as I pursued my advanced degree.”

“As faithful stewards of the resources with which we’ve been blessed, we’re called to share those resources with others,” said Umble. “Our gift is one way to say ‘thank you for being there for us.’ Indeed, giving back is consistent with our commitment to higher education in general and the work and mission of Hesston College in particular.”

Left: Ron Umble in his Millersville University office. Right: Diane and Ron Umble. Courtesy photos.
A HESSTON COLLEGE 2019
Hesston College celebrated Homecoming Weekend Sept. 26 to 29 with events centered around the dedications of three new and renovated facilities that were part of the $6.5 million Be Greater capital campaign.

Top row, left: Nursing students join Bonnie (Kauffman) Ac65, ’67 Sowers in the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new nursing building, The Bonnie Sowers Nursing Center, named in honor of the faculty emerita.

Center: Ryan Roth lines up a putt at the Homecoming Golf Benefit in honor of Floyd Sowers ’71 for his years of volunteer service in organizing and managing the benefit on behalf of the college. Watching in the background are Blake Bubrman ’01, Tyon Miller and Steve Martin ’04, Alumni Association President.

Right: The 1996-97 Lark women’s basketball team was honored for its trip to nationals during the Yost Center renovation dedication. Pictured from left are Joel Kauffman ’80, head coach, Janel (Jantz) ’97 Stucky, Lisa (Schmidt) ’97 Graber, Janelle Yutzie ’97 -Blubaugh, Becky Nitzsche ’98, former staff, Green, Shanna (Roth) ’97, former staff, Heinz, Carla (Hatthaway) ’97 Hochstetler, Taisha (Dropps) ’97 Warner, Joy (Smith) ’96 Yoder, faculty, assistant coach, Sarah (Nitzsche) ’96 Simms (played on 1995-96 team), and Sarah (Tabor) ’97 Kirk.

Second row, left: Siblings Makayla Ladwig ’15 and David Ladwig ’18 share about their callings as a nurse (Makayla) and music producer (David) at forum.

Center: President Manickam congratulates a finisher at the annual two-mile run/walk, The Manickam Mosey. Sophomore Jaden Lais (Grantsville, Md.), won the race with a time of 11:08.

Right: Mike Baker ’93, director of aviation (far right), introduces department faculty, staff and student intern flight instructors at an Aviation open house. From left: Travis Pickerill ’99, ’00, chief flight instructor, Fritz Lehman ’14, flight instructor, Austin Troyer ’18, ’21, student intern (Rockingham, Va.), Chris Lichti ’19, ’21, student intern (Shickley, Neb.), Amy (Bachman) ’01 Birdsell, chief flight instructor, Dylan Todd, flight instructor, Gracie Hochstetler ’19, ’21, student intern (Leesburg, Ind.) and Suzanne Burch, office assistant.

Third row, left: Chelsey Smith ’20 (left center) joins Mick Mullet ’76 and Dave Mullet Ac62, ’64 and others in the ribbon cutting for the new on-campus Bess Mullet Softball Field. The five Mullet brothers have long been Hesston College donors and given to special projects, including the field, which is named in honor of their mother.

Right: Students represent Heston College in the community-wide Home Sweet Hesston Homecoming parade. Carrying the banner from left are Romina Xhari ’21 (Lezhe, Albania), Unique Froese ’20 (Ordway, Colo.), Olivia Hernandez ’23 (Hesston) and Sidorella Mjeshri ’21 (Tirana, Albania). Second row carrying flags from left: Brooke Brennenman ’20 (Parnell, Iowa), Josh Wilson ’21 (Canterbury, New Zealand), Kate-Lyn Tivert ’21 (Kigali, Rwanda) and Evelyn Worku ’20 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

Bottom row, left: President Manickam talks with Judy (Dorsing) Ac59, ’61 and Cecil Ac57, ’59 Miller at the Partner Luncheon.

Center: Grant Walker ’15 and Malcom Mann ’15, members of the Lark men’s basketball team that went to the national tournament in 2015, share reflections on the importance of the Yost Center renovations and additions at the dedication ceremony.

Right: Alumni and community children enjoyed inflatables, face painting and more at the Kids’ Festival.
HOMECOMING 2019

Top row: Academy Class of 1954, Academy Class of 1959, Academy Class of 1964, College Class of 1959
Middle row: College Class of 1964, College Class of 1969, College Class of 1979, College Class of 1994
Bottom row: College Class of 1999, College Class of 2004, College Class of 2009, College Class of 2014
CLASS REUNIONS
As Hesston College prepares its new church leadership program – the Center for Anabaptist Leadership and Learning (CALL) – in fall 2020, it is also offering its famous Biblical Literature course to individuals, congregations and other groups across the country in a couple of different formats.

**WEEKEND COLLEGE: THE BIBLE AS STORY**

One of the offerings is called The Bible as Story and takes the course to congregations or other groups in an arrangement called Weekend College.

“Weekend College is a non-credit educational experience for congregations or other groups in their own setting where Hesston College Bible and Ministry faculty teach on a variety of topics,” explained Jessica Schrock ’02-Ringenberg, director of the CALL program.

In its more than 30 years of existence, Bib Lit has become iconic to both the Hesston College student experience and known in the wider church as providing sound foundational context to understanding the Bible as a narrative of God and the people of God instead of a compilation of individual stories.

Hesston’s Bible professors have taken Bib Lit on the road for several years by special request, but Weekend College provides a more formal approach. The course will be taught by Nick Ladd ’14, a Pastoral Ministries graduate who spent about four years as pastor of Salem Mennonite Church in Waldron, Mich., before returning to Hesston on the Bible faculty in 2018.

“The Bible as Story course changed my life and faith, helping me to see God’s same mission from Genesis to Revelation,” said Ladd. “It is my passion and a true blessing to be able to share it with others and watch them come to new realizations about God and their own faith stories.”

Weekend College typically lasts from Friday evening through Sunday morning, but can also be customized to fit a congregation’s needs. The cost is $2,000 plus travel, lodging and meal reimbursement. Churches and communities who cannot afford the full rate may be eligible for a discounted rate.

To learn more about the Weekend College experience, go to hesston.edu/weekend-college or contact Director of Alumni and Church Relations Dallas Stutzman at 620-327-8110 or dallas.stutzman@hesston.edu.
ONLINE BIB LIT
Starting with the spring 2020 semester on January 15, Hesston College will also offer Bib Lit online in a 16-week format, making the course accessible to people outside of Hesston College.

“Online Bib Lit will allow students in the course to get the full Bib Lit curriculum and learning,” said Michele (Schrock) ’81 Hershberger, Bible and Ministry professor. “It’s for people who want the immersive Bib Lit experience and, perhaps, a new way of understanding the biblical narrative and their own faith journey.”

Hershberger, who has nearly 20 years of experience teaching Bib Lit, and who is co-author of the course’s textbook The Bible as Story: An Introduction to Biblical Literature, designed the online course and has taught Bib Lit online in the past. Nick Ladd will teach the online course.

Throughout the course, students will wrestle with three major themes: Bible study that includes the original contexts, biblical interpretation and the biblical narrative as a connected story. Students will explore cultural, historical and literary contexts of the Bible stories as they work together to complete an inductive Bible study. Students in the course who live locally will be welcome to do the in-class inductive on campus, offering a bit of a hybrid learning option, while students at a distance will connect remotely.

“Students will discuss ways to work through the ‘problem’ of the Bible seeming to disagree with itself on key ethical issues,” said Hershberger. “Most of the class will reveal how individual Bible stories connect with each other and how they work together to show God working to heal broken relationships through a Shalom people of God.”

Online Bib Lit can be taken for credit for $1,200 or audited for $240. Financial aid is not available.

Interested participants should register for the course by January 8. Non-degree seeking students can enroll by completing the community application at hesston.edu/communityapp. Degree-seeking students should apply at hesston.edu/apply.
Hesston College welcomed 192 new students to the community for the 2019-20 year, swinging the new student number back in the positive direction following a smaller new student number of 184 a year prior.

Official enrollment numbers for fall 2019 show a total student enrollment of 386 from 32 U.S. states and territories and 25 countries. The domestic student population includes 51 percent from Kansas and 35 percent from other U.S. states and territories. International students comprise 14 percent of the population. Domestic students of color are 25 percent of the population.

“Nationwide, the number of high school graduates has been dropping over the last decade,” said President Joseph A. Manickam. “Because of this reality paired with a lower new student number in 2018, we anticipated a smaller enrollment this fall, and we have planned accordingly. We have exciting and innovative plans in the works now that we anticipate will have a positive impact in the future.”

Hesston’s plan to add key four-year degree programs as it has with the new bachelor’s degree program in aviation this fall and nursing in 2015, offer an area for continued growth. This fall, the nursing program has 102 junior and senior students in the final years of their degree training. The aviation program grew by nine students, to a total of 47, between the spring 2019 and fall 2019 semesters, including 15 first-year students joining the community, and four juniors comprising the first bachelor’s degree class.

Other program additions, like the new Intensive English Language Program, could help with growth as early as the spring semester as the five students enrolled in the first year of the non-credit program have the ability to enroll as full-time students in the spring semester following the completion of their language study.

“Higher education has some difficult realities to face right now, and we’re working hard to ensure we’re responding in a way that is sustainable for the future and offers growth opportunities,” said Manickam.
1930-39

**DEATHS**

Berta (Selzer) '39 Miller, Hesston, Kan., June 29, 2019

1940-49

**DEATHS**

Eldo Miller '40, La Junta, Colo., Sept. 5, 2019
Marcus Bishop '41, Denver, Colo., June 15, 2019
Doris (Yoder) Ac48 Spicher, Glendale, Ariz., Sept. 11, 2019
John Bergey '48, Hesston, Kan., Nov. 27, 2019
Albert Epp Ac49, '51, Giltner, Neb., April 28, 2019
LeRoy Kenne1 '49, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 14, 2019
Don Reber '49, husband of Elizabeth (Glick) Ac47, '49 (Granfield) Reber, Goshen, Ind., Sept. 16, 2019

1950-59

Carol (Kreider) Ac59, '62, Parker, Colo., retired from a credit union job of more than 25 years at the end of December 2018.

**DEATHS**

Ruth (Unternahrer) '50 Kauffman, Lebanon, Ore., June 21, 2019
Lloyd Eicher, husband of Dody (Esch) Ac52 Eicher, Highlands Ranch, Colo., Jan. 30, 2019
George Steckly Ac52, '61, Portland, Ore., Nov. 14, 2019

1960-69

Phil '64 and Bonnie (Yoder) '71 Troyer, Fairview, N.C., are owners of Troyer’s Country Amish Blatz, a deli, bakery and Amish furniture store. They also raise alpacas and chickens.

**DEATHS**

Jon Swartz '62, husband of Jeanie (Davis) '62 Swartz, Bellefontaine, Ohio, June 6, 2019

In late September, six Bergey siblings who all graduated from Hesston Academy or Hesston College gathered in Hesston for a reunions. Pictured front row from left: **Grace (Bergey) '43 Brenneman** (Souderton, Pa.), **John Bergey '48** (Hesston) and **Lois (Bergey) Ac48 Swartzendruber** (Kalona, Iowa). Back row from left: **Eunice (Bergey) '51 Hess** (Lititz, Pa.), **Ted '57 and Shirley Bergey** (Lexington, Mass.) and **Chester '48 and Virginia Bergey** (Redlands, Calif.). A seventh sibling, **Richard Bergey '53**, passed away in 2016.

Living in Pennsylvania, traveling to Kansas for high school or college was an adventure for the Bergey siblings, but the oldest, Grace, led the way and enjoyed her experience so much, she encouraged her brothers and sisters to follow.

As part of their reunion weekend, the siblings enjoyed a tour of campus and seeing the many ways it has transformed over the decades. They also noted Hesston College’s impact on each of their lives, pointing to the friendships they formed and the things they learned about themselves and life as important pieces of their journeys. Some met their spouses at Hesston, and combined, more than 20 of the Bergey siblings’ children and grandchildren are also Hesston alumni.

The reunion ended up being a particularly special time together as one of the siblings, John Bergey, passed away just two months later on November 27.
1970-79

Merv Birky ’70, Colorado Springs, Colo., retired from a congregational pastoral role and is now part-time conference minister for Mountain States Mennonite Conference.

Jay Friesen ’71, Fort Wayne, Ind., retired from 21 years as a medical laser engineer at Sightpath Medical, a leader in providing mobile ophthalmic services for cataract and refractive surgery.

Karen Weldy ’71, Indianapolis, Ind., became a chaplain at St. Vincent’s Hospice in Indianapolis.

Steve Ramer ’72, Nappanee, Ind., retired in May 2019.

Zenebe Abebe ’74, Indianapolis, Ind., published a book Funding a Mission: One Donor and One Penny at a Time (2019). The book highlights the culture of philanthropy and nonprofit organizations’ ability to form partners around the globe to provide support to those in need. It is a resource book with stories of many people and generous donors at countless nonprofit organizations involved in fundraising to change lives. Funding a Mission is available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble in paperback, hardback and digital formats.

Jay Aeschliman ’74, Grand Marais, Mich., is a retired pilot who wrapped up a career with Atlas Air in December 2018.

Phylis (Kauffman) ’74 Hysong, Scottsdale, Ariz., (pictured at right) has completed a marathon in every U.S. state.

Chago Mendez ’74, Hesston, Kan., retired in October from 38 years as a safety officer volunteer with Hesston Fire/EMS. He plans to also retire after the first of the year from reserve officer positions with the Hesston Police Department, Harvey County Sheriff’s Department and a full-time job with AGCO.

Karen (Hunsberger) ’74 Myers, Monticello, Fla., retired from full-time teaching, but continues to work as a part-time teaching assistant.

Marge (Martin) ’74 Weaver, Bloomington, Ill., and her husband, Barry, opened a new bouldering gym (unroped climbing) in March 2019 called The Proving Ground in Normal, Ill.

Clint Miller ’78, Lebanon, Ore., retired from nursing after 39 and a half years, and is now enjoying other kinds of work and hobbies.

Anna (Campbell) ’79 Walker, Topeka, Kan., is a felt and fiber artisan and a felting facilitator, teaching needle felting and wet felting. She holds in-person workshops and teaches at conventions, and this fall launched The FELTit Experience through her website, stabthingsintoexistence.com.

Diane (Ewy) ’79, ’82 Yoder, Phoenix, Ariz., is a real estate agent in the Phoenix area.

DEATHS

Mary Molle ’72, Grand Island, Neb., June 9, 2019

Correction from Summer 2019 issue: Karl Detrich, husband of Jean (Ortman) ’76 Detrich, Chapman, Kan., June 18, 2019

1980-89

Dori Roth ’86, Hesston, Kan., started a new role at Hesston College in July as director of financial aid, succeeding Marcia.
Anthony Swartz '95, Overland Park, Kan., began a new position as Technology Specialist/Consultant at Caterpillar, Inc., in Kansas City, Mo.

Derek Yoder '96, former staff, Hesston, Kan., was named Vice President of Fund Advancement at Bluestem Communities in October. He previously served Bluestem, the retirement community of which Schowalter Villa (Hesston) and Kidron Bethel Village (North Newton, Kan.) are a part, as Fund Advancement Director for five years.


Doug Maury '99, Orange City, Iowa, completed a doctorate in athletic training in June and began as clinical education coordinator for the master’s in athletic training program at Northwestern College (Orange City).

Katelyn (Nussbaum) '09 Goshen, Ind., June 28, 2019.

John Troyer '90, Goshen, Ind., left his role with the Evana Network to serve as lead pastor of a church restart.

Gilberto Pérez Jr. '92, Goshen, Ind., began as vice president for student life at Goshen College in July. He previously served at Goshen as dean of students since 2017. In November, Gilberto was elected to the Goshen City Council and became the first Latino elected to the council.

Matt Schlenegar '92, North Newton, Kan., was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pan American Vocology Association as Central Region Governor.

Greg Sawin '93, Medford, Mass., is vice chair for education and faculty development as Duke University (Durham, N.C.).

DeeDee (Martin) '02, former staff and Mark Landes, former staff, Hesston, Kan., along with their three children, began a year-long service assignment in La Mesa, Colombia in June through Mennonite Mission Network. The Landeses are assisting with English language-learning, sports, youth ministries and other programs at the Mennonite Church and school, Colegio Americano Menno.

Jaylene (Clark) '02 Williamson, Stillwater, Okla., and her husband, Mitchel, served for many years as campus ministers with The Navigators in Texas. In June 2018 they moved to Stillwater to help train Navigators staff in ministry at Oklahoma State University.

Jeron Baker '03, former staff, Harrisonburg, Va., is Assistant Director of Virginia College Advising Corps (VCAC) at the University of Virginia (Charlottesville).

Britt Wegmann '03, former artist in residence, Jacksonville Beach, Fla., began a new job in December as a staff member with the Florida Education Association, a state union for public school employees. As service unit director, she works for leaders and members in six regional unions. Britt taught elementary art for the past seven years.

Jeff Clark '04, Wichita, Kan., earned a master of business administration degree from the University of Virginia (Charlottesville) in May.

Megan Vendrely '06, Goshen, Ind., is a pharmacy technician at Elkhart General Hospital.

Benjamin Rohrer '08, Elkhart, Ind., is a pilot for Netjets, a private business jet charter and aircraft management company.

Katelyn (Nussbaum) '09 Hochstetler, Goshen, Ind., began a new job as a sixth grade teacher at Bethany Christian School.

Rebecca (Friesen) '09 Noble, Beaver, Okla., started a new job as an elementary special education teacher in Turpin, Okla.

Marcus Unruh '09 and Marissa (Hochstetler) '14 Unruh, Wayland, Iowa, recently moved from Hesston to Iowa where Marcus is working on the family turkey farm and Marissa is an administrative assistant at Hillcrest Academy, formerly Iowa Mennonite School.

Ana (Loucks) '10 Diaz Loucks, Goshen, Ind., started a new job as Spanish teacher at Goshen Middle School.

Justin Sommerfeld '01 and Melissa Bryan, Moundridge, Kan., June 1, 2019.


Katelyn Nussbaum '09 and Philip Hochstetler '12, Goshen, Ind., June 28, 2019.
**BIRTHS**

**Krista Winter '01 Galley** and Dan Galley, Philadelphia, Pa.: Theodore Simeon, April 14, 2019

**Kristin (Rusk) '01, former staff** and Tim Rhodes, Shawnee, Kan.: Jonah Tycen, May 23, 2019

**Jeremy '01 and Laura (Schwartz) ‘01 Shue,** Goshen, Ind.: Benjamin J. Arthur, Sept. 4, 2019

**Kendra (Boettger) '01 and Abdullah Yakac,** Bornova, Izmir, Turkey.: James Mirza Aslan, March 12, 2019

**Audrey (Berkshire) ‘02 and Hampton Jackson,** Middletown, Va.: Sarah, May 15, 2019

**Jonathan ‘02 and Kathy Guth,** Mahomet, Ill.: Harper Joy, March 20, 2019

**Heather (Lautt) ’03 and Pete Bastian,** Valley Center, Kan.: Jagger David, Aug. 10, 2019

**Jessica Lusby ’03 and Nick Buckwalter,** Lititz, Pa.: Lily, May 22, 2019

**Zac ’03 and Amber Harder,** Minneapolis, Minn.: August Ephrem, Sept. 17, 2019

**Beauford Aeschliman ’04 and Katrina Toews,** Carbondale, Colo.: Emerson Verena, September 13, 2019

**Jeff ’04 and Sarah Clark,** Wichita, Kan.: Kennedy, Aug. 14, 2019

**Carmen (Schrock) ’04 and Joe Fernau,** Wellman, Iowa.: Micah James, Sept. 12, 2019

**Dustin ’04, staff and Marissa (Vermillion) ’13 Galyon,** Hesston, Kan.: Savannah Grace, Nov. 1, 2019

**Amanda (Diller) ’04 and Thomas Shows,** Peoria, Ariz.: Zoe Iris, Sept. 3, 2019

**Elisa (Eberspacher) ’05 and Patrick Clark,** Colorado Springs, Colo.: Sydney Lynn, May 12, 2019

**Bobby ’05 and Britney Kempf,** Hellertown, Pa.: James, Feb. 26, 2019

**Laura (Shar) ’06 and Nick Enzinna Sharp,** North Newton, Kan.: Brielle Zaida, Aug. 17, 2019

**Alex ’06 and Ashley (Luty) ’06 Graber,** Wichita, Kan.: Cruz Carter, May 7, 2019

**Obi ’06 and Lindsey Mbawuike,** Wichita, Kan.: Owen Chidozie, Feb. 21, 2019

**Brett ’06 and Meredith Reindorf,** Mifflintown, Pa.: Harvey Fremont, Sept. 19, 2019

**Aaron ’07 and Maria Billings,** Rockingham, Va.: Patrick Lee, April 23, 2019

**Abby (Miller) ’07 and Andrew Findley,** Elkhart, Ind.: Calvin Davis, July 7, 2019

**Brittany (Roth) ’07 and Nick Green,** Santa Rosa, Calif.: Tucker Mays, June 12, 2019

**Chelsey (Rempel) ’07 and Andy Hoskins,** Wichita, Kan.: Remi Belle, Nov. 13, 2019

**Ky ’07 and Laura (Kym) ’07, ’12 Krehbiel,** Hesston, Kan.: Camryn Olivia, Nov. 14, 2019

**Kelsee Eckhart ’07 and Casey Wheeler,** Whiting, Kan.: McCoy Maverick, Aug. 20, 2019

**Amy Gerhardt ’07-Sunday** and Donald Sunday, Mayetta, Kan.: Adelyn Mae, July 11, 2019

**Marlon ’08 and Ashley Dominique,** Crescent, Okla.: Quin Toepfer, April 13, 2019

**Jennifer (Cleveland) ’08 and Manuel Garcia,** Wichita, Kan.: Olivia Lauren, Oct. 9, 2019

**Regina (Weaver) ’08 and Andrew Horst,** Newmanstown, Pa.: Emma Sage, May 31, 2019

**Oliver Kropf ’08 and Rachel Gaeddert,** Canby, Ore.: William Daniel, Oct. 13, 2019

**Tessa (Walters) ’09 and Cameron Brandenburg,** Hays, Kan.: August Woodward, Oct. 2, 2019

**Kory (Hiebert) ’09 and John Chai,** Norwalk, Calif.: Noah Jing, Sept. 26, 2019

**Christine (Bishop) ’09 and Rob Dando,** Perkins, Pa.: Robert (Bobby) Lee, Aug. 29, 2019

**Amanda (Hall) ’09 and Josh Stubbendick,** Syracuse, Neb.: Joanna Margaret, Aug. 26, 2019

**Abigail (Roth) ’09 and Kevin Von Seggern,** Grand Island, Neb.: Harris Arend, Jan. 31, 2019

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### 2010-20


**Shawnti Peachey ’11,** Woodburn, Ore., is a first grade teacher.

**Kara Stutzman ’12,** Charlottesville, Va., became co-owner of Amore Events Co. in November, a wedding and events planning company.

**Logan ’13 and Rebecca (Eichelberger) ’14 Orpin,** Sarasota, Fla., moved to Florida in spring 2019 where Logan is an engineer with New England Machinery and Rebecca is a fourth grade English and language arts teacher at Fruitville Elementary School while also working on a master’s degree.

**Michael Oyer ’13,** Anchorage, Alaska, began a term of service in August as a leader for Service Adventure, a program of Mennonite Mission Network.

**Josh Booth ’14,** North Newton, Kan., is the sports information director at Bethel College (North Newton), and was named the 2018-19 KCAC Sports Information Director of the Year. He was also promoted to assistant athletic director starting with the 2019-20 year.

**David ’13 and Kayla (Kaufman) ’14 Rudy,** Overland Park, Kan., recently began new jobs – David as a pilot flying corporate jets out of the downtown Kansas City airport and Kayla as an RN in the Skilled Rehab Eastside Terrace at Lakeview Village in Lenexa, Kan.

**Mason Davis ’14,** Mustang, Okla., will graduate from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry (Oklahoma City) in May 2020. He will begin working as a doctor of dentistry at Family Dentistry in Mustang in June 2020.

**Cameron Ponce ’14,** Elkhart, Ind., will voice the character of Tiny Tim in Elkhart Civic Theatre’s Christmas production of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol for both radio and live performance.

**Whitney Werth ’14,** Inman, Kan., started at Hesston College in September as interim head athletic trainer.

**Simon Zehr ’14,** Tiskilwa, Ill., works on the family farm and is a volunteer with the Tiskilwa Fire Department.

**Megan Baumgartner ’15,** former staff, Hesston, Kan., is in a one-year assignment with Mennonite Central Committee’s SALT program in Kenya.

**Cody Miller ’15,** Knoxville, Tenn., is a pilot with PSA Airlines.

**Jordan Tanner ’15,** Des Moines, Iowa, began a job in digital advertising with Meredith Corporation, a publicly held media and marketing services company.
THE NEUF 9K/2-MILE RUN/WALK

The race honors Russ Neufeld ’97 and former director of Information Technology who passed away in January 2017 from aggressive lymphoma. Proceeds benefit The Russ Neufeld Memorial Scholarship at Hesston College, as well as other organizations important to the Neufeld family during Russ’ fight.

Register at runtheneuf.neuf.ca and follow The Neuf Facebook page.

Russ Neufeld and Kendra (Duerksen) ’97 Neufeld Engel at their Hesston College graduation in 1997.
Do you know a high school student who should know more about the Hesston Experience? Send us his or her name and contact information so we can be in touch soon!

Student name ___________________________
Address _______________________________
City, State, ZIP __________________________
Phone ___________________________________
Current year in school ___________________

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

JANUARY
11 - 3rd annual Run the Neuf!
15 - Spring term begins
19 - Tony Brown presents I Go on Singing: Paul Robeson’s Life in Word and Song at Hesston Mennonite Church
20 - MLK Day events on campus led by Glen Guyton - Prospective student open house
31 - Ted & Co. present Boots, Buckets and Barrows fundraiser for Disaster Management and Mennonite Disaster Service

FEBRUARY
7 to 8 - International Preview weekend
8 to 9 - Bel Canto Singers mini-tour
16 to 17 - Prospective student visit days
21 to 23 - AVDS: "Living More with More"
22 - Prospective student open house
23 - Bel Canto Singers and Bethel Concert Choir joint concert

MARCH
4 to 8 - Spring Musical: Tuck Everlasting
6 - Grandparent Day - Performing Arts Scholarship Auditions
13 to 22 - Bel Canto Singers spring tour to Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois
16 to 20 - Spring break
24 - Bel Canto Singers home concert

APRIL
3 to 4 - Prospective student visit days
4 - Sophomore & Junior Day
23 to 26 - Spring children’s play: Charlotte’s Web
30 - New Alumni Dinner

MAY
14 - Spring term ends
15 - International Chorale Bon Voyage Concert - Theatre Showcase
15 to 17 - Commencement Weekend
17 - Commencement
18 - Summer term begins
19 to June 9 - International Chorale tour to Europe

SEE THE FULL CAMPUS CALENDAR AND MORE DETAILS AT HESSTON.EDU/CALENDAR

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