

# Arts & Humanities Newsletter

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## **Dance Department: StrikeTime Performs**

March 2009  
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StrikeTime (a company made up of Hope College Dance students) Performs "Mr. Miagi's Waltzing Adventures" at elementary schools from Holland, Zeeland, and Owosso to as far away as Manistee and Indianapolis, introducing K-6 children of diverse backgrounds to the elements of dance: Time, Energy, and Space.

**Story line:** Tillie wants to audition for her School Talent Show, but she doesn't know how to "put it all together."

She goes to the library, where a strange book falls at her feet. Mr. Miagi comes out of the pages to help her ~ he needs help too.

Their adventure begins as they look for Mr. Miagi's missing special treasure key

and with his help and the help of his friends, Tillie learns about the elements of dance.



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### Inside this issue:

Dance Department	1-2
Music Department	2
English Department	2
Theatre Department	3
History Department	3
Philosophy Department	3
Religion Department	4

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## **Hope College's Dance Department Spring Semester Guest Artists Bring Diverse Dance Experience to All Hope Dancers**

**Anne-René Petrarca** is on the faculty at Dance New Amsterdam and the assistant faculty at The Juilliard School. Anne-René continues her work with the Next Stage Project as guest choreographer and continues to choreograph

and performs her own work in NYC. Anne-René has taught at Tisch School for the Arts, Hunter College, Joffrey Ballet School, Barnard College, The Neighborhood Playhouse, and Performing Arts School of Hudson Valley, New

Dance Group, Dancewave and Long Island University-Brooklyn.

**(continued on next page)**

**Richard Rivera** hails from concrete buildings and asphalt pavement in The Bronx, New York. He has experience performing, teaching and choreographing in the United States and internationally. His primary dance training is from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center with additional classical training from Peridance Center and David Howard Ballet Studios

In 2002, Richard founded PHYSUAL, a dance company that uses movement as a catalyst for developing ideas and performance

work. Currently Richard is collaborating with musician/composer Julio Montero on the development of a Spanish Rock Opera titled "Cancion del Inmigrante."

**Matthew Thornton** has traveled the world with the renowned modern dance company, Pilobolus Dance Theatre since 2003. He is a teacher of the Pilobolus Technique, and most recently taught at M.S. 118 in the Bronx, in Pilobolus' first in school, year-round program in New York City. He performed with Pilobolus in the 79<sup>th</sup> Academy

Awards Ceremony. Matthew's movement training includes the study of the Brazilian martial arts *Capoeira*, mixed martial arts, modern dance, Chi-Gung, Yoga, Pilates, Contact Improvisation, Corporeal Mime, and the study of Movement Theater.



## Music Department Recognitions

The Music Department was well represented at the annual Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

The Department sponsored its annual reunion dinner at the Amway Hotel. This year there were 26 alumni, students and faculty present.

Graduate Alisa White ('04) successfully passed her doctoral comps, becoming ABD in Musicology (Jazz Emphasis) at Indiana University.

Graduate Derek Brown ('05) accepted the position of Director of Jazz Studies at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

## English Department Accomplishments

Seven Hope poets will have a place in a new anthology, *25 Under 25*, edited by Naomi Shihab Nye. The seven students and recent graduates are Gray Emerson, Matt Baker, Jonah Ogles, Emily Wegemer Hendren, Lauren Stacks, Brianne Carpenter, and Lauren Eriks. This is a huge tribute to our creative writing program, to the achievements of our students, and to the quality of Hope poet-teacher-mentors.

Jennifer Young has been awarded a Summer Research Fellowship from the Indiana University African Studies Institute. She will do research on narratives about Liberia in William Lloyd Garrison's *Liberator*. Jennifer has also been appointed an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the Huntington Memorial Library in San Marino, CA. Her one-month residency can occur any time between June 2009 and June 2010. These are VERY competitive fellowships, and it is a huge credit to Jennifer's many accomplishments in Phillis Wheatley studies that she has received this award. Those of you who have been to the Huntington

know the pleasures that await her--the gardens, the art collection, the amazing library. What a great fellowship to land!

You can visit the Huntington here:

<http://www.huntington.org/default.aspx>



## Theatre Faculty, Students, Staff Travel to Chicago

On Sunday, March 1, forty Hope College students, faculty, and staff traveled to Chicago to have dinner with twenty alumni at the Adobo Grill in Old Town. Following the dinner the group headed to the Chopin Theatre to watch a performance of The House Theatre of Chicago's new adaptation of *Rose and the Rime*.

*Rose and the Rime* was originally devised by Hope College students and faculty with guest artist Nathan Allen. Allen, artistic director of The House Theatre of Chicago,

directed the Hope production which was selected to perform at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and went on to the highest honor of performing at the national festival at the Kennedy Center in April of 2008. Alumnus Brandon Ruitter ('07) of Grand Rapids auditioned for The House Theatre and was selected to play Jimmy Sutherland, the role he originated in the Hope College production of *Rose and the Rime*.

Hope College students and faculty who were involved in the original production participated in the talk-back at the end of the performance and were given the opportunity to compare and contrast the two renditions of the production. This trip also gave current theatre students a chance to learn about the projects alumni are working on and to network with them.

## History Department



The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Jeanne Petit a \$6,000 Summer Stipend to support her research on Catholic Women in Modern America: Gender, Race, Religion and the National Council on Catholic Women 1918-1929. Jeanne's investigation has been singled out as an NEH "We the People" project and is being supported by funds the agency has designated for this special initiative intended to encourage and enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and democratic principles.

## Jack Mulder and Andrew Dell'Olio Achievements

### Philosophy Department

Jack Mulder has been accepted as a participant in the 2009 Calvin Seminar in Christian Scholarship on "Philosophical Reflections on Liturgy." The Directors of this seminar are Nicholas Wolterstorff, the Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology, Yale University, and Terence Cuneo, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Vermont.

(For more information, see <http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2009/Wolterstorff%20Cuneo/>).

Andrew Dell'Olio's book, *Foundations of Moral Selfhood: Aquinas on Divine Goodness and the Connection of the Virtues* (Peter Lang: New York/Bern, 2003) has just been published in a Chinese edition by the China Social

Sciences Press (Beijing) in the series, *Translations of Studies on World Religions*, edited by Zhuo Xinping of the Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The translator is Liu Wei, a doctoral candidate in philosophy at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Liu Wei was among the first exchange students in the Hope-China Exchange Program, coordinated by Professor Dell'Olio, in 2004-05.



**Jack Mulder**



**Andrew Dell'Olio**

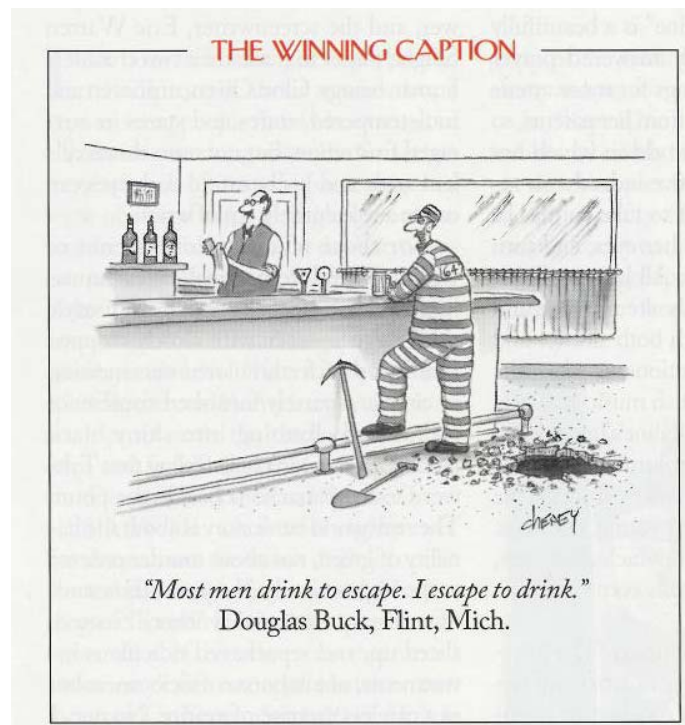
## Religion: Lyra Pitstick Receives Award

Dr. Alyssa (Lyra) Pitstick of the Hope College Department of Religion is one of 12 young scholars worldwide to receive a 2009 "John Templeton Award for Theological Promise." The recipients are recognized on the basis of their doctoral dissertations related to the topic of God and spirituality, and chosen by an international and inter-religious panel of 25 judges.

The award program is a cooperative effort of the Research Center of International and Interdisciplinary Theology of the University of Heidelberg in Germany and the John Templeton Foundation of Pennsylvania. The winners will be honored during an awards ceremony and also participate in a colloquium at the university in May.



**The New Yorker, March 2, 2009 Issue**



**Douglas Buck, English Major**  
**Hope College Graduate Class of 1981**