

The “real world” is just around the corner, and it comes at you fast. As one of the DEMA biography showcase writers, I had the opportunity to hear the stories of recent Hope alumni. What I assumed would be a routine job turned into a personal learning and growing experience. The adventures of recent graduates seemed daunting at first but they were all imbedded with a glimmer of “hope.”

**The alumni I interviewed shared stories of how Hope changed them, taught them to be better people, and told them to pursue their dreams and passions.** The alumni shared gratitude for the liberal arts education and the DEMA program. They praised the professors for their commitment to the students. They remembered the countless activities, opportunities, and experiences that Hope provided for them to learn and grow. Their stories were encouraging and hopeful when it came to sharing how the Christian faith positively impacts the business world.

Now, taking their stories into consideration, I’ve started to understand how my time here relates to my future in more ways than simply a degree. I’ve have opportunities to explore new interests in and outside of class. I’ve developed valuable relationships with professors who are invested in seeing me succeed. I’ve seen how my education applies to my life. In summary, Hope has helped me learn about myself: who I am, what I enjoy, and what I want to do with my life. Interviewing the alumni helped me see how Hope prepares me for my next stage in life. I now have a new perspective on my college years and a renewed excitement for life after graduation.

I will be graduating in the spring on 2007, with a Communication major, Management minor and Studio Art minor. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with three different departments and see my talents drawn out, strengthened, and directed. Although I have yet to map out my life, I am confident that Hope has provided me with the tools for success in both my career and life. Upon graduation, the real world may come at me fast, but I know that my glimmer of “hope” was made brighter by Hope.