



## Parents' Place Newsletter *December 2003*

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### *Director's Message*

We're pleased to present the first issue of the Parents' Place newsletter!

We hope you find the topics included in this issue to be both interesting and informative. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations is committed to keeping you connected with the latest news and events at Hope College.

Are you interested in hearing about student and faculty accomplishments?

Would you like to know more about the co-curricular opportunities available on campus?

Would you like to hear about off-campus study experiences?

Are you looking for information about what volunteer opportunities are available with the college for parents?

If there are specific topics or issues which you would like to see included in future publications of the newsletter, please call our office at 616.395.7250 or [email](#) us to share your ideas. Additionally, as we continue to develop the parent relations program, we encourage you to [share your thoughts with us](#) regarding what events, activities, and services our office could provide that could support your connection with your student and with the college.

Students will soon be wrapping up the Fall semester with exams scheduled for December 8-12 and many will then be traveling home for Christmas break. For those students living in on-campus residence halls, the halls will close for the break at 5pm on Friday, December 12th. Residence halls will re-open at noon on Sunday, January 4th. We pray for safe travel for all students as they leave

campus for various destinations.

I extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a blessed holiday!

*Stephanie Greenwood*  
*Director of Parent Relations*

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## *Career Services Corner*

Hope students have a world of choices before them in the rich liberal arts environment they experience. The [Office of Career Services](#) is here to help students navigate through these choices, and one particular area is in the selection of a major and career path. The Office of Career Services offers a variety of assessments, from interest inventories to exercises about the interplay between values and career choice. Group workshop experiences and individual career counseling are also available to help students process their thoughts and experiences. Parents can assist by encouraging their student to practice initiative and take advantage of these services.

Clearly the single best way to confirm a career choice is to gain hands-on experience in a student's field of choice through an internship. The Office of Career Services serves as an information clearinghouse, notifying students of available internships and assisting with their application process. Internships are available at all levels of experience, locally and nationally, during the semester or over a summer. While the responsibility for an internship search rests with the student, the Career Services staff is available to help at any stage in the internship search process.

As your son or daughter explores what they may want to pursue professionally or if they are at the stage of pursuing an internship, we have a database of over five hundred Hope College alumni that make up our Career Resource Network. These gracious volunteers offer key insights into their professional work, and sometimes can serve as internship and employment contacts. So whether your son or daughter would find it helpful to talk to an editor, systems manager, financial analyst, commercial banker, museum director, consultant, TV producer, legislative assistant, or other areas, as a first year student or as a senior, they can simply set up an appointment with one of our staff to get the networking process started.

If your son or daughter is finishing this year, and planning to work once graduating, there are several key planning steps that are important to keep in mind. First, they will want to make some decisions about what type(s) of work they will want to pursue. Second, they will want to begin putting together, if they have not already, their support materials (e.g., resume, cover letter, etc.) with which to approach employers. Third, it is important for them to develop a plan on how they are going to find work: when to start, where they are planning to work, what resources and contacts are available and other planning issues. Lastly, they will want to prepare and practice the interview process to ensure an effective presentation during any upcoming interviews.

[Our staff](#) is available at any time to assist your son or daughter with any of these planning issues, and especially to address their questions, concerns or uncertainties that they are sure to have. Your positive encouragement and support can make a significant difference during this time of transition during a period when the economy and employment prospects are certainly not ideal.

[Dale Austin](#)  
*Director of Career Services*

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## *Commencement Weekend Preview*

Baccalaureate and Commencement are scheduled for Sunday May 2, 2004.

If you have a student who will be graduating this coming spring, watch for commencement weekend details to be posted on Parents' Place in January including:

- 2004 graduation deadlines and activities
- convenient on-campus dining options
- information regarding caps, gowns, announcements, and diplomas



In the meantime, remember to make your lodging arrangements early. Although Holland has over 1000 hotel rooms available, commencement coincides with reunion weekend at the college, as well as the first weekend of Tulip Time. These events draw a significant number of visitors to the area so it is essential that you make preliminary lodging reservations as soon as possible. For a listing of area lodging, please visit the [Holland Convention and Visitor's Bureau](#).

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## *Hope College Dining Services*

There is much more to dining services at Hope College than you (and your student) may realize!

Did you know that...?

- Residential dining offers **special dining events** throughout the school year, including Hoops Happening, Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Asian Awareness Month, and Spring Break Send-Off – students have the chance to win prizes at many of these special events
- Arrangements can be made for any student who may have **special dietary needs** due to a medical condition, including food allergies
- **Sack lunches** are available through the [“Just Bag-It” program](#) - - a meal alternative that students may elect if their class schedule or work schedule is in conflict with regular dining hours in Phelps Hall or Cook Servery
- A variety of Hope **gift baskets** are available for purchase through dining services – [click here](#) for additional information - semester exams are a great time to treat your student to a gift basket!
- A **registered dietician** is available for student consultation regarding healthful dining choices – appointments can be scheduled through the [Counseling Center](#)

For additional information relating to any of the above items, please contact Hope College Dining Services at 616-395-7930 or visit their [website](#).

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## Faculty Kudos

Read what students have to say about Hope College faculty!

### [Professor Jack Ridl \(English\):](#)

Taking a poetry class as a biology student is intimidating, but the instant I saw Jack in room B107 I felt at ease. Jack is a mix between your favorite grandparent and Santa Claus. Coming to class each week was a release from the craziness and stress of college. In a word it was therapy. We sat in a circle and became vulnerable. Jack guided us as we opened our hearts and our spirits as we tried to “write poetry.” I can learn what Webster says poetry is, but I know it as words from my fellow poets and the moments we shared together. Jack had inspired us to keep writing about red-headed step children, daisies, long bus rides home, turtles, the man at the grocery store and mom. Thanks Jack!

### [Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger \(Religion\):](#)

I had “B.P” for senior seminar first semester of my senior year. He was the most perfect professor for me in that classroom during that time in my life as he discussed issues and questions that went deeper than any page of a textbook. He wove together songs, religion, language translations and stories to help us sort out where we came from and who we are today. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, your home and your heart. Thanks!

### [Dr. Graham Peaslee \(Chemistry\):](#)

One of the most well-rounded and intelligent men I have ever met would have to be Dr. Peaslee. I had Dr. Peaslee for freshman chemistry and as I sat in that lecture hall, I was truly scared. General chemistry was one of the most challenging courses I have ever taken and I wouldn’t have made it without the help of tutors, friends, and Dr. Peaslee. Though very difficult, Dr. Peaslee made the class enjoyable, interesting, and entertaining. His class was fair, organized and the kind of class where hard work and a will to try were rewarded. Thanks for a good start to a great four years!

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## Financial Aid Reminder

### FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REMINDER FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 2004-05

Remember to file for financial aid for the 2004-05 award year after January 1, 2004. Hope College requires two applications -- the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the college's own Supplemental Application for Financial Aid (SAF). You can access both of these 2004-05 forms after January 1 at <http://www.hope.edu/admissions/finaid/step2.html>.

The priority date for filing your 2004-05 financial aid applications is March 1, 2004.

Questions? Contact the Office of Financial Aid at [finaid@hope.edu](mailto:finaid@hope.edu).

As we develop the parent relations program here at Hope College, one component we plan to focus our attention on is connecting interested parents with opportunities to be engaged with and involved in the life of Hope College.



Alan and Melanie Shoaf of Midland, MI are just one example of parents who have taken advantage of opportunities to be a part of the college community. Alan and Melanie have two daughters currently at Hope -- Layne is completing her senior year and Brynne is a freshman. Alan has been employed by Dow Chemical Company for over 20 years. Melanie has primarily dedicated her time to raising their two daughters and also has a part-time job at a salon. Melanie enjoys singing in the worship band at church and she and Alan may be traveling to Russia for a musical mission trip in March.

We invited Alan and Melanie to share some thoughts about the experiences they and their daughters have had at Hope College.

### **What have your daughters' experiences been like at Hope?**

Layne has loved every minute of her four years at Hope. I sense that she may be dreading graduation. Hope has been such a loving, safe place. Layne has tried many activities- golf, Young Life, mission trips, working in Student Development, Dance Marathon. She has loved it all!

One thing that I know that Layne will miss is the Gathering on Sunday nights. No matter what she came home for, Layne would always be back in time for the Gathering. That was one of the first things that she insisted that we attend. It was so uplifting. Alan and I are thrilled that the college has encouraged and supported this special time for the students to express their praise and worship to God.

Witnessing Layne's great experience helped Brynne know that she wanted to attend Hope. She loved the town of Holland and the friendliness of the campus. All of Layne's friends were so kind to Brynne and encouraged her to consider Hope. It is only the first semester but she calls at least once a week to tell me how much she loves it there. Brynne chose to participate in the Pull this fall. We had never been to it before and were amazed how the students worked together. They really gave it their all. I think that Brynne has made some friendships that she will continue to cherish for life. It made her start at Hope quite memorable. It was something her own!

### **As parents, how have you been involved with the college?**

Alan and I have done a few things at Hope. In the last two years, I have talked to a number of the Hope staff, from the receptionists and nurses at the clinic, to the Student Development staff, and the golf coach. Everyone has been helpful. The staff has been approachable and quick to respond to requests.

We have been involved the most with [Dance Marathon](#). Layne has taken such an interest in this ministry that it is infectious. She loves the children and their families. Each one of them has touched her heart and in turn touched ours. I have handmade some items - a Christmas tree skirt and stockings and miniature quilt - to donate to the auction that is a fund raiser each year. It was good to attend the auction and see the number of Holland residents there. Last year the Dance Marathon theme was a wild west, cowboy theme. Alan, Layne and I built a covered wagon in the basement of the art building. While Layne and Alan built the frame, I sewed the sheets donated by a local hotel together to make the cover. We worked all day, while student volunteers came in and out doing other activities. It was exhausting, but Layne was so excited to have that wagon for the marathon.

This past fall, we also participated in orientation as part of a parents' panel along with two other couples. The parents of the new incoming students could attend the session and ask questions of the panel to get a parents' perspective on everything from activities their students could be involved with, to housing questions, to spiritual life on campus.

### **What helped generate your interest in being involved?**

Definitely our children. It is just a habit I guess to continue to get caught up in the things your children take an interest in. The best part about it, Layne has made some mature choices at Hope and her activities are ones that help others and share her love for the Lord.

### **With one daughter near the end of her college career and one just beginning hers, what advice might you offer other parents who may be seeking ways to remain connected to their student and to the college?**

This is one of the best things about Hope. Parents aren't shut out. If you show an interest in what your child is doing, the college will always welcome you with open arms. We have been helped and encouraged by everyone. Just show up. Don't wait to have a formal invitation. It may be a little father to travel but the results are the same. The relationship with your child will just continue to grow and the privilege of watching them become wonderful adults is one you won't want to miss.

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[Winter Happening](#) is Saturday, January 17, 2004. Please join us here on campus for a morning of interesting seminars, a luncheon with student musical entertainment, and home athletic contests for all of our basketball and swimming teams. Last year's program drew over 500 participants. Winter Happening is rapidly becoming the spring semester counterpart to Homecoming events in the fall!

**Seminars for 2004 will include:**

**\* Why Would a Historian Write Novels?**

Professor Albert Bell

**\* Brain 101: A Tool for Lifelong Learning**

Professors Linda Jordan and Leslie Wessman

**\* Do Dogs Know Calculus?**

Professor Timothy Pennings and Elvis Bogart Wales, canine assistant

**\* The Fascinating World of Waterfowl: From Marsh to Museum**

Professor Emeritus Eldon Greij

**\* Searching for Kenya**

Professor Neal Sobania '68

**\* "This Rough Magic I Here Abjure": Resurrection and Reconciliation in Shakespeare's "The Tempest"**

Professor David Cunningham

Brochures will be available in January. For additional information or to request a brochure, please call the Public Relations Office at (616) 395-7860 or send an e-mail request to [powe@hope.edu](mailto:powe@hope.edu). Our website [www.hope.edu](http://www.hope.edu) will also feature complete details in January.

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## ***Student Activities for Spring Semester***

The Social Activities Committee (SAC) has been busy planning a full schedule of activities for the upcoming Spring semester. SAC is a body of students whose primary function is to plan, organize, and oversee the social activities for the student body of Hope College. Not a week goes by during which there isn't something planned by SAC for students. There's always something for Hope students to do!

Following are some of the events SAC coordinates:

- Something Every Tuesday - learn something new every week, from swing dancing to resume planning to knitting!
- Coffeehouse Entertainment - weekly entertainment from 9-11pm at Cool Beans Coffeehouse in the Kletz
- Movies, Movies, Movies - weekly showings (Friday - Sunday) of popular films, for just \$2!

Additionally, SAC also coordinates special events including:

- Winter Fantasia - formal dance at the [Amway Grand Plaza Hotel](#) in Grand Rapids
- Siblings Weekend - February 27-29, 2004
- Spring Fling Concert and Games - a fun-filled day the Friday before second semester exams begin

The [full calendar of SAC events](#) and related details will be available online very soon.

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## ***'Tis the Season...***

Are you looking for Christmas gift ideas for your Hope student?

With the college located only a short walk from Holland's central business district, many students are regular patrons of the various downtown businesses. Consider filling their stockings this year with gift certificates from their favorite stores or restaurants. It's sure to be a welcome treat when they return to campus for second semester! [Click here](#) for a listing of downtown area merchants.

Also, check out the [Hope-Geneva Bookstore](#) for additional gift ideas for your student. They offer an extensive collection of gift ideas - from clothing to audio recordings of Christmas Vespers and Chapel services. [Shop online](#) or call 1-800-946-4673.

Happy holidays!

## ***E-Newsletter Subscription***

Would you like to subscribe to receive future issues of the Parents' Place newsletter via e-mail? To subscribe, please submit the following information to [parents@hope.edu](mailto:parents@hope.edu):

- First and Last Name
- Mailing Address (Street, City, State, & Zip)
- Complete E-Mail Address (example: yourname@emailservice.com)

*Be assured that your privacy is important to us. We will not sell or distribute your information to any other parties. The information you provide will be added to our parent e-mail distribution list and used only for the purpose of facilitating communication between Hope College and parents.*