

**BOERIGTER CENTER
FOR CALLING AND CAREER**

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2025-2026



Hope COLLEGE

BOERIGTER CENTER FOR
CALLING AND CAREER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Greetings from the Boerigter Center for Calling and Career!

I love writing this report and reflecting on the past year. How did things play out? What did we accomplish? Was there a common thread that tied it all together? Looking back at 2025-2026, there was a two-stranded thread: one that focused inward and one that focused outward.

Looking at the inward thread, we focused on building stronger relationships with faculty and other offices on campus. We assisted professors with new tools for advising and supported corporate research partnerships. In addition, we collaborated with other offices on student programs. The feedback we received was stellar.

Outwardly, we continued our regular good work of lining up jobs, internships and student projects at external companies. In what may be a first for Hope College, we also developed a non-academic training program for community leaders that has become a new source of revenue for the college.

These two strands have given us much to celebrate! But there was also a third strand in our thread this year — a thread of sadness as we mourned the loss of our friend and benefactor, George Boerigter. He was an incredible blessing to Hope College and our office. We miss him dearly.

Thank you for being a supporter of the Boerigter Center! I am deeply grateful for your gifts, your prayers and your kind words. We couldn't do it without you!



SHONN COLBRUNN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOERIGTER CENTER FOR CALLING AND CAREER

STUDENT IMPACT STORIES

CLASS OF 2026



LAUREN ADAMSKI

Doctor of Physical Therapy Student - Grand Valley State University

"The Boerigter Center was essential to my success in the physical therapy application process. Emily Baker and Terri Clegg co-led a course that helped me prepare my application materials. Additionally, the staff at the Boerigter Center met with me to review my essays and hold mock interviews. I am grateful for their support and encouragement throughout the application process!"

KYLE SYTSEMA

Private Banking Analyst - JP Morgan Private Bank

"From freshman to senior year, the Boerigter Center has helped me immensely in my career search. From discussions about discernment to resume and LinkedIn workshops — to the team going out of their way to hold mock interviews at inconvenient times — I am so grateful for all the support I have received over the past four years."



GRACE COLBURN

Human Resources Shared Services Analyst - Gordon Food Service

"The Boerigter Center and its incredible staff have had an immense impact on me during my time at Hope. All of the staff are committed to building relationships with students, providing support with career discernment and preparing us for life beyond Hope."

VAMSEE VEMANA

Vehicle Architecture Engineer - Ford Motor Company

"The Boerigter Center was very instrumental in helping me navigate my career journey. Mr. Colbrunn walked with me through my first internship interviews sophomore year to my final job interviews senior year. Without his guidance in interviewing, resume prep and how to network with alumni, I would not have the blessing to be able to work for my dream company post graduation."



STUDENT IMPACT STORIES

CLASS OF 2026



HUDSON FEHSENFELD

Account Manager - CDW

"Serving as a student lead through the Center for Leadership was one of the most impactful experiences I had at Hope. Leading multiple consulting teams taught me lessons about leadership that I could never have learned in a classroom. It was invaluable to learn to navigate team dynamics — knowing when to step in and provide direction and when to trust others to take ownership. I'm incredibly grateful for those opportunities because they helped shape my confidence as a leader and prepared me well for what's next."

MATIAS O'HARA

Software Developer, Sales & Marketing Manager Omnitech Electronics, Inc.

"The Boerigter Center has been immensely helpful for me in terms of my career development. I had the opportunity to work alongside Shonn Colbrunn, who provided me with the opportunity to attend various networking events around West Michigan. He also connected me with Hope's various partners through the career fairs that are hosted once per semester. Outside of networking, Shonn also assisted me with my career development through the various mock interviews for some of the companies I was interested in, which ultimately led me to land job offers with four different companies in various fields that I was interested in."



LYDIA ERWIN

Doctorate in Occupational Therapy Student Cleveland State University

"The Boerigter Center was extremely helpful during the process of applying to graduate school this past fall. Emily and Terri's class for pre-health students equipped me to write an effective personal statement and various activity essays, and they encouraged me to do a mock interview. They were patient and encouraging, offering practical advice when I was deciding between schools. The Boerigter Center, Emily Baker and Terri Cregg have been wonderful resources to me as I transitioned out of Hope into graduate school."

TRIBUTE TO

George Boerigter

1939 - 2026



I was inspired by George Boerigter even before I met him. In 2018, when the college posted the new role for the executive director of the Boerigter Center, the website included a quote that caught my attention. George and Sibilla had a vision for the center to be the nation's leader for career development among Christian liberal arts colleges. That vision was one of the main reasons I applied for the role. George had a passion for excellence, and I wanted to be a part of it.

As I got to know George over the years, I also saw his passion for helping young people find their purpose in life. He wanted Hope College students to get good jobs. But even more, he wanted our students to know their strengths, discern their calling and recognize how they can be a part of building God's kingdom. I think the name of our office, the Boerigter Center for Calling and Career, captures his ideals perfectly.

As a result of the vision and generosity of George, Sibilla and SoundOff Signal, we have been able to make a significant difference on Hope College's campus since we cut the ribbon to open the Boerigter Center in 2018. Our staff has grown and we've increased our capacity to have life-changing, one-on-one advising conversations with students. We relocated and expanded our office to a central location in the heart of the campus. We established more connections with Hope College faculty and increased our presence in classrooms — now 100% of students hear from our staff about what we offer. We've developed more external connections, job fairs, short-term projects and networking activities to help our students engage with alumni and future employers. In addition, we have expanded Hope's Center for Leadership to teach students and community members how to live lives of leadership and service.

I will miss George. He was a mentor to me, always combining wise advice with his light-hearted sense of humor. He brought joy to those who knew him, and his extraordinary generosity to Hope College has positively impacted thousands of students who didn't have the honor of knowing him.

I don't know if we have yet fully achieved George's vision to be the national leader. We have won three national awards, and we will keep striving. But as I'm sure George would remind us, we aren't here just to store up awards. Matthew 6:19-21 reminds us that our real treasure is in heaven, when we can look back at the lives that were changed. George is undoubtedly seeing that real treasure right now.

Shonn Colbrunn
Executive Director, Boerigter Center for Calling & Career

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

LEAD WITH HOPE: AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP RETREAT

In October, we launched our inaugural **Lead With Hope: Authentic Leadership Retreat**, sharing our expertise with external businesses and nonprofit organizations. This 2½ day workshop was not for students — it was an opportunity for experienced community members to refresh, recharge and rediscover their calling as leaders in our beautiful campus setting. Dr. Ryan White designed and facilitated the program, which also included President Matthew Scogin, professor and coach Becky Schmidt, Marcus Fila, Ph.D., and Lauren Hearit, Ph.D. Due to its great success, we held our second leadership retreat last May.

The results have been tremendous. The leaders who attended found their experience to be transformative. One attendee called it “magical!” Others shared similar reactions:

“I encourage all leaders, whether new to their role or deeply experienced, to take the opportunity to discover their authentic selves in order to take their leadership skills — and subsequently those they lead — to the next level. The experience was outstanding.”

“I have attended many leadership conferences in the past, but the Lead With Hope retreat is the one that truly pushes you to be the best you can be.”

“The authentic leadership retreat was inspiring, challenging, fun and beneficial. It provided resources I can begin implementing immediately. Ryan was a wonderful facilitator, and I loved my cohort. I feel blessed to access these tools to further my calling. Thank you! I recommend this to anyone looking to grow and willing to look inward toward transformation.”

In addition to the positive community connections, this program also generated additional revenue for Hope College. We are looking forward to running the next retreat this fall, and we will be looking for opportunities to grow in the future!



SKILLS ARTICULATION

This year we collaborated with faculty on an important part of the learning process: **skills articulation**. Are students able to talk about what they are learning in class? When they do, it does three things:

- Reinforces and solidifies their learning
- Builds intrinsic appreciation for Hope College and their academic experience
- Provides practice for a real-life job interview

In partnership with the academic deans and the Center for Teaching and Learning, we piloted a tool called “R.A.T.E.” This tool guided students to reflect, articulate, translate and evaluate the competencies they learned in class. In addition, we expanded another activity for skills articulation: mock interviews. By the end of the year, **499** students completed some form of skills articulation activity as an assignment in a class. We look forward to expanding this further next year.

UPGRADING ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Boerigter Center oversees academic advising for Hope College. While each student has a professor as their official advisor, we provide support and guidance to those faculty members. We manage administrative processes and advise students not only on what classes to take, but also help them to discern how those classes prepare them for their future careers.



This year we launched **Hope Advise**, a new software platform for faculty advising. The software is connected to a larger underlying system that the full college is implementing for student success, admissions work and alumni data. While software implementation was not a skill we expected to develop, Krista Carter, director of advising, and others became well-versed in testing and rolling out this platform to the college.

The launch of this software also provided us with an opportunity to deliver training to faculty on best practices in advising. We look forward to continuing this work and doing more in the years ahead.

CORPORATE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

During the past couple of years, federal research grants have become less available for professors across the country. While pondering alternative sources of funding, Hope's Office of Sponsored Research approached the Boerigter Center to see if we would partner with them to make connections with businesses that might be interested in supporting research.

That conversation led to a new program that we jointly launched in January — the **Cohort for Corporate Research Partnerships**. All Hope faculty were invited to participate, and nine were selected based on their research interests and applicability to industrial needs.

We are currently halfway through the program. So far, our faculty has participated in educational workshops, focused consultation sessions, advising sessions with experts, and exploratory meetings with potential corporate partners. Others from the Hope community have leaned in to help — from professors who shared their relevant expertise to the Board of Trustees who have generously offered their advice. We expect some official contracts to be in place soon!

INCREASING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Amidst everything we do, we never forget that the core of our work is serving students. We do this by going to where they are (classroom presentations) and by inviting them to come to us. They can come for a one-on-one appointment; they can come to our events; or they can follow and read the content that we offer to them.

This year, we continued to have a high number of appointments — **over 2,200**. In addition, we had a record number of students attend our Fall Career Fair: **432**, beating our previous record of 415 in 2023. The average open rate for our monthly student email newsletters was **73%**, a slight increase from last year (72%). And we reached a new high for followers on our Instagram account: **1,746** (up from 1,416 last year).

 **OVER 2,200**
STUDENT APPOINTMENTS

1,746 
FOLLOWERS

 **73%**
EMAIL OPEN RATE

432 **STUDENT ATTENDEES**



GROWTH IN THE LEADERSHIP MINOR

Under the excellent leadership of Marcus Fila, Ph.D., Hope's leadership minor has continued to grow its presence and reputation across our campus and further afield. The program finished the 2025–2026 academic year with **123** declared minors, an increase from 105 last year. As the "minor for all," students who declared a leadership minor continue to come from a diverse range of majors, including business, communication, psychology, political science, Spanish, engineering, classics and global health. Additionally, many others continue to explore leadership as part of their wider studies, with **387** seats filled in leadership courses throughout the academic year.

Students continually emphasize how the leadership minor contributes to the quality and rigor of their personal and professional development. Here is a sample of feedback we received:

"The leadership minor has helped me realize that leadership starts with understanding yourself. The classes have pushed me to reflect on my own strengths, weaknesses and behaviors, allowing me to become a more self-aware leader and person who can adapt to different situations and bring emotional intelligence into every interaction."

"What the leadership minor has done for me over the past year has shown me how to step up and become a leader but not only in a traditional way. The minor has taught me I can be my own true authentic self and lead in a way that others may not — and that is okay to do! I am excited to continue to grow with this minor and learn even more."

BENCHMARKING

Every year we find ourselves in conversations with representatives from other colleges who want to know how we do things. Sometimes it's a Zoom call, other times they invite us to consult, and sometimes they come visit us.

This year was no exception. Some of the colleges are highly ranked liberal arts colleges — Lawrence University, Colby College and Bucknell University. Others benchmarking us include the University of Detroit Mercy, Concordia College in Wisconsin, John Carroll University and Rollins College. We must be doing something right!

FACILITATING DONOR GIFTS FOR DIRECT IMPACT

We are extremely grateful for donors who have provided gifts that help us do our work at the Boerigter Center! Do you know who else is grateful? Our students. Many receive stipends to compensate for working an unpaid internship. Each year a senior receives the McKay Health Sciences scholarship to offset costs as they plan to pursue a doctoral degree in the medical field. And a handful of students receive the gift of professional clothing that they otherwise couldn't afford. One of those students, Marco, shared his gratitude this way:

"Because of significant financial barriers, I could not have been able to afford proper professional clothing; yet donors stepped in to help me reach for the stars and land among them. I dressed up for my University of Chicago interview, appearing in my dress shoes, khakis and a polo shirt — an experience I could never have imagined myself undertaking, let alone picturing myself in that situation dressed as a budding professional. Thank you for helping me through difficulties to the stars: per aspera ad astra!"

EMPLOYER TABLING

This was a record-setting year for employer tabling! Tabling is a form of student engagement that has grown in popularity with employers. Organizations come to campus and set up a table in our student center during peak hours so students can stop by. Because of our recent work streamlining the process, employer interest has increased. We hosted **54** individual events (30 last year), representing 38 unique organizations. These ranged from nonprofit and for-profit organizations, gap year opportunities and the military. Repeat organizations included Camp Geneva, Horizon Bank, CranHill Ministries, SpringHill Camps, Wildwood Ranch and Phantom Ranch. Multiple groups shared that their experience with Hope is the best they've had—both logistically and in student interactions.

RETIREMENTS

This year we said farewell to two valuable members of the team.

- Terri Cregg served as a health professions advisor for three years. She was highly regarded as a trusted guide for students navigating the graduate program application process, and she contributed to our amazingly high acceptance rates.
- Doug Ruch served as the director of the Center for Leadership for 10 years. He was instrumental in growing the consulting program to 31 projects per year and launching new opportunities for students to learn about servant leadership.

We miss both of them greatly and wish them many years of happy retirement.



FEATURED EVENTS

VIP Employer Spirit Box Pickup

Resident Assistant Training Fair

Advisor Training

Current Labor Market Outlook for Hope Grads

Orientation Resource Room Table

Hope College Connection LIVE: Healthcare in Grand Rapids

Peer Advisor Training



Center for Leadership: Athletics Fall Leadership Retreat

Leadership Forum

Professor-Peer Advisor Workshop

Professional Attire Pop-Up Shop

Networking Basics — Art Department Open House

Hope College Connection LIVE: Grad School Game Plan, Strategies for Students

Lead With Hope: Authentic Leadership Retreat



Fall Career Fair

Marketing Your Off-Campus Study Experience

Hope College Connection LIVE: Global Studies

First-Year Seminar Orientation Advising

Marketing Leadership in Job Interviews and Resumes

Elizabeth de Moraes — Transforming Skill and Values Into a Global Brand

Boerigter Center and Center for Leadership: Update to the Family Council



Hope College Connection LIVE: Healthcare in GR

Career Panel: Entry-Level Sales



FEATURED EVENTS

Biology Alumni Panel

Veterans Day and Field of Flags

Articulating Your Athletic Journey in an Interview

Marketing Your Off-Campus Experience

Center for Leadership: Athletics Spring Leadership Retreat

Center for Leadership: New Consultants and Senior Celebration



Personal Finance Workshop

Cottage Cleaning Community Service

Center for Leadership: All Students Leadership Retreat

Personal Finance Workshop

Academic Success Center Resume Session

Hope College Connection LIVE: Communications for the Common Good



Spring Career Fair

Pop-Up Advising

Your Health Lecture Series

Off-Campus Study Resume Session

Be SHARP: Interviewing 101

Be SHARP: Building Your Brand Through Your Resume/CV and LinkedIn



A. Paul & Carol C. Schaap Celebration of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity

Be SHARP: Should I Go to Grad School?



STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dale Austin

Selected as an advisor for the **Council of Independent Colleges' Alliance for Strategic Innovation**, addressing the development of a National Career Center.

Emily Baker and Terri Cregg

Selected by Hope College faculty and staff to receive the **2026 Provost's Excellence in Academic Advising Award** (January 2026)



Michael Brown

Recognized as a **Culture Champion** by Hope College colleagues and students (May 2026)

Shonn Colbrunn

Discussed the current state of the labor market on talk radio **WHTC's "Hearing Voices"** (January 2026)



Nic Pangborn

Presented at the Michigan Career Development Association: **Prompted for Success: Practical AI Prompts Every Career Advisor Can Use Today** (March 2026)

Shannon Schans

Completed her doctoral studies and earned a **Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership** from **Western Michigan University** (May 2026)

Ryan White

- Selected as one of approximately 15 **NetVUE Consultants** nationwide, providing guidance to member institutions on vocational exploration initiatives (September 2025)
- Co-presented at the NetVUE National Conference: **The Prospects and Perils of Vocation in First-Year Programming** (March 2026)



NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Mary Battle Stump

Mary serves as the director of the Center for Leadership (CFL). She had previously served as a project coach for multiple CFL consulting projects. For more than 23 years, Mary has led her own consulting practice, MBS Consulting, Inc. This prior experience has allowed her to win many new projects, optimize processes and mentor Hope students. She is also the proud mom of a 2026 Hope grad. Mary has become an integral part of the team, and we appreciate her leadership.



Michael Brown

Michael joined the team as a full-time career advisor. Previously, he worked at Hope College as the program coordinator of the Phelps Scholars Program. A major part of his role with Phelps Scholars involved helping first-year students adjust to college. So, he was able to seamlessly apply those skills in the context of career preparation. In addition, he is instrumental in building partnerships with other offices on campus and leading presentations in multiple settings. We are grateful for the talents Michael brings to our team!



WHAT'S COMING

SUPPORTING HOPE'S STRATEGIC PLAN

In the college's **Dare to Hope** five-year strategic plan, one initiative is to build new collaborations with community organizations, global partners and industry to expand real-world student opportunities. The Boerigter Center team will be taking the lead on this initiative, with the support of other colleagues on campus.

We are well positioned to lead this work because of our deep experience with employer relations. We will approach companies of all sizes with a consolidated list of services we can offer from departments across Hope. From student projects to conference room rentals to leadership classes, we are excited to reintroduce Hope to the community as a collaborative partner.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP SIMULATION

Part of Hope's mission statement includes "educate students for lives of leadership and service." While hundreds of students learn about servant leadership each year through the Center for Leadership, we are eager to reach more.

We will be developing a fun, interactive, simulation-based learning activity to teach students about servant leadership. We hope this activity will engage students and be easy to facilitate in a classroom or with student groups. Our CFL weekend retreats have a long legacy of active learning, and we are excited to bring this new activity to more students in the year ahead.

SPOTLIGHT ON CALLING

We have noticed that many students are reaching a level of exhaustion with technology. They've grown up with devices in their hands, and now they are living in the age of AI. They are longing for things in life that are real, deep and meaningful.

While we've talked about the idea of "finding your calling" for many years, we plan to make it a major focus in the year ahead. We'll refresh the training we provide to all first-year students, and we'll do more to help upperclassmen share their stories. Stay tuned for an update in next year's report!

WHAT WE HEARD



ALUMNI

- I'm reaching out to follow up on my Guinness World Records Internship Application that you assisted me with. I got offered the position!! Thank you so much for all your help in preparing me for the interview process! I really appreciate it, and I'm grateful for your expertise and thoughtful, in-depth interview preparation. I'm so excited to begin the role this August!
- Thank you so much for your willingness to support me in my job search by helping me reframe my search approach and highlight key organizations, resources and leaders. You reviewed my resume, too. Your dedicated time and guidance has helped me find the beginning of my next chapter, and for this I cannot thank you enough.
- I wanted to tell you that the employers at OnPoint reached back out to me to let me know they opened up the Wraparound role again, the role I interviewed for in May. I submitted my application and they called me today to offer me the position!! I am so excited, and I want to thank you again for preparing me so well!
- Thank you so much for the opportunity to practice with a mock interview. I scheduled my meeting with you shortly after I found out I had an interview placement, and this was the only appointment available before my interview. I went into my interview with more confidence and preparation than I would have otherwise. Your advice to print out my follow-up questions made quite a positive impression on the recruiters. I also found out about another interview after my previous one, and was much better prepared and confident in that setting. It means a lot to me that the Boerigter Center is willing to assist Hope Alumni. I appreciate all of your help in the mock interview and in reviewing my resume and cover letter.
- I wanted to let you know that I have been offered the marketing assistant role at Tiara Yachts, and I want to thank you for preparing me so well for my interview. I appreciate the time you spent with me and the advice you gave me to help me succeed.
- I just wanted to reach back out and let you know that the interview went extremely well, so well that they offered me the position yesterday. And I have decided to take it.





ALUMNI

- I wanted to reach out to share some exciting news — I recently finished my temporary position with Wedgwood and started a new role as an onboarding and administrative specialist with OtterBase Inc.! I also wanted to thank you again for all the guidance and support you gave me during my career search at Hope — it made a real difference, and I'm so grateful.
- Thank you for meeting with me on Monday! I have already gotten the next steps planned and my schedule laid out for the remainder of the week. It feels good to have a specific direction and plan laid out ahead of me, outside of simply studying for an exam. I really appreciate you taking the time to offer your advice and give me guidance, especially so long after I've graduated. I'll keep you updated if I encounter any major roadblocks in the future. Thanks again!
- Just an update for you: My interviews went well. Thank you for your help in my preparation. Your example of the question about faith was asked. It was so helpful to feel prepared. I will keep you posted! I truly appreciate your time and prayers. Thank you again for everything.
- Great news on the job front! I received offers from NIQ and Tiara Yachts back in March, and took the offer for the market and customer insight analyst at Tiara. This is the end of my third week here, and it's honestly been such a blessing. Thank you for all your help and prayers. God has been so good to me and my family!
- Thank you again for meeting last Friday at Hope and for your advice on career calling. You had some great advice and resources that I am beginning to look into this week and will certainly let you know of any developments on my end. Thank you again for your help.
- You advised me on preparing for pharmacy school interviews, and I just wanted to let you know that I was accepted into the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy! Thank you so much for helping me prepare.
- You had helped me a few months ago with my PhD application purpose statement. I wanted to let you know that I did get accepted into my program at the University of Alabama and I started last week! I really appreciate your kindness, support and the constructive feedback that you provided. I hope you have a great summer and thank you again!





PROFESSORS & COLLEAGUES

- Thanks so much for last Wednesday! It was great. I'll readily admit that when I learned there was going to be a new program, my immediate reaction was, 'No, no, no! Not another!' BUT... I think the new program is ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC! It's so very user-friendly and efficient! Well done! Your team has done a wonderful job, and I'm really grateful!
- We want to thank you for all your support during orientation and for sharing important information with our team of the ADs and OAs! All of you helped our team feel prepared to share information about your resources and create a smooth transition for the new students and their families. So, thank you!
- Thank you so much for coming and presenting! I heard from several people that it was really helpful and enlightening. Thanks so much for all of the work you do and for your partnership!
- Thank you for allowing the First-Gen Student Union to utilize the professional clothing funds to provide our first-generation students with the opportunity to access professional attire. Sara and I both hosted one of the shopping trips. It's always a joy to watch these students have the chance to discover their professional fits and then see them step into the career fair with confidence. We're deeply grateful for your investment in the growth and success of our first-generation students.
- Thank you for the Veterans Day events invitation email. I appreciate what you (and Hope College) commit to doing to celebrate and bless our nation's veterans.
- Thank you for coming to my class today. It was great to hear the content for the first time. It was such a helpful session. I asked my students afterward, and they all felt it was something really useful. They also shared how great you are at presenting. I appreciate you sharing all of your wisdom with my students and taking the time to do this session.
- Enormous thanks for your planning, insights, delivery and attendance (for those who could make it!) at today's Lunch and Learn! Please know your efforts do not go unseen, and really do make a difference for our chairs and program directors. I am personally grateful to each of you and to the invaluable contributions you bring to the Hope community each day.





PROFESSORS & COLLEAGUES

- *In my final FYS class today, my students were reflecting on their semester, what they learned, and the people they met. One student mentioned how wonderful you were when she met with you for her resume appointment. I think a good majority of my students met with you, and they all chimed in with how great and helpful you were. The discussion about you went on for several minutes, and they all sang your praises. I always appreciate when people pass along any positive feedback they hear from students about me, so I figured you would enjoy hearing the same. I know you're in a new role, and it sounds like you're doing a great job and are so well loved by the students. Thanks for supporting my students this semester!*
- *I wanted to let you know that we really appreciated your visits to my first-year seminar class! I popped a thank-you card in the campus mail for you yesterday.*
- *Just letting you know your efforts are appreciated by the whole math department. All of us were unsure how to handle these questions and this response is so incredibly thorough and helpful! Thank you for taking the time to dig out all this info. and put it together in such a digestible form!*

STUDENTS

- *I was accepted into the Baker Scholars Program! Thank you for your time and advice with both sessions we had. I learned a lot and my interviews were successful. I hope to see you around this semester!*
- *I did not expect to be able to follow up and give you an update so soon after my interview on Friday, but here I am. The interview went very well and was a little bit different than what we practiced. It went so well that just last night I received a call to congratulate me on being selected for their class of 2028! So thank you so much for your help, guidance and advice through that mock interview. I found it very helpful, and clearly, we did something right.*
- *I told you I would keep you updated on my application and interview with The Heritage Foundation, so I just wanted to let you know that I had an interview with Heritage today. I think it went well! They told me I would hear back from them on Monday with their decision. I can't thank you enough for everything you did over the past day — I truly appreciate it!*





STUDENTS

- *I have great news! Gentex has already sent me an email offering me to apply for their summer internship program! I suppose I nailed the whole elevator pitch thing!! I've already applied (did it last night out of excitement) and I hope that knowing your teaching already brought results makes you incredibly proud of yourself! Thank you so much for your guidance.*
- *I very much appreciate not only you taking the time to meet with me in person, but also to do this additional research! This will be an enormous help as I begin diving into what I will do following my graduation. The steps we took last week will also be a great help going forward. I feel much better about starting this process! Thank you so much!*
- *I just wanted to thank you for your help with my mock interview this past week. The interview yesterday went really well. They called me an hour later to let me know I got the position! I couldn't have done it without your guidance and support over the past few years. I really appreciate all the time you've invested in me.*
- *I just wanted to say thank you for all of your help yesterday. I'm feeling a lot better about things after the advising session. I really felt better once I took a step back and realized that I'm still undecided. So, I definitely don't need to think about everything a PA school is looking for right now. Just talking through some options and hearing someone tell me that I'm not behind, and that I only need to focus on what's in front of me, really helped.*
- *I loved the talk today on leadership! It was super impactful!*
- *I wanted to thank you very much for taking the time out of your super busy schedule to meet with me!! It was incredibly helpful, and I feel much more confident going into registration for next semester!*
- *I have an update about my optometry school decision :) I am extremely proud and happy to announce my commitment to attending The Ohio State College of Optometry in the Fall of 2026! This program was my TOP choice, and I am so grateful to have had your guidance along the way. Your mock interviews, feedback and advice not only helped with my answers and preparation, but most importantly, my confidence! I have recommended (and will continue to recommend) your mock interviews to everyone that I know who will be going through the grad school interview process.*





STUDENTS

- *I wanted to update you on my current status within my medical school journey. Last Friday, I received a notice from MSU CHM that I have been accepted into their program. Thank you for all of your help over the past few months, guiding me through the process. There's no doubt it had a major impact on my experience and ability to communicate during my interviews. I completed six interviews, receiving five acceptances and one waitlist throughout my process thus far. (I have now started cancelling interviews.)*
- *Just wanted to let you know I got an offer for the position at General Motors. Thanks for all of your help!*
- *When we last spoke, I was frantically preparing for my UMich interview. Well, I have some exciting news! I was accepted to the University of Michigan Medical School! I'm thrilled to say the process has been a success — and I truly have you both to thank for it. While I wasn't the most polished interviewee to begin with, you two really helped me fine tune my skills. It seems it worked. Because of you two, I was able to carry myself well and in a way that must have been acceptable. Sorry, bad joke. But truly, thank you so much!*
- *I wanted to share some exciting news and thank you again for your support. Ford just got back to me within a day, and I've officially accepted the offer. Ford's always been my dream company. As I learned more about vehicle architecture, it became clear that it was really a passion of mine, best of both worlds. Thank you for all the help from resume help to mock interviews — last year and this year. I appreciate it a ton.*
- *I think the interview with Baylor went well! I am just waiting to hear back from them either this week or the first week of January. Thanks for your help!*
- *Truly, it brings me so much joy to work at the Boerigter Center. It is one of the highlights of my day.*
- *Thanks again for meeting with me yesterday to prepare for my interview today. The conversation during the interview was great, and our appointment yesterday helped me feel prepared and confident going in. I am happy to share that Compeer is looking to schedule an in-person interview with me in the near future.*





STUDENTS

- *I just declared for Communications and will do the minor in leadership, too. I wanted to reach out and thank you for picking me up freshman year when I had no idea what I was doing without an advisor. Thank you very much, and have a great rest of the year!*
- *I just wanted to send you an email letting you know that I found a job at Stenger & Stenger. I ended up reaching back out to them, and they offered me a position as a legal assistant. The process moved very quickly the last 24 hours, but I wanted to keep you updated and let you know that I will have this position until I head to law school. Thank you for your help and time.*
- *I GOT INTO WMED!! I'm sorry about all the caps. I think it just really shows my emotions over email! Thank you for everything the past six months. You have prepared me so well for interview season, and I am so thankful to have had you through this journey!*
- *I just wanted to give you an update on the internship interviews you helped me prepare for. I was offered a position at Lakewood last week and I am going in a second interview at the company closer to my hometown! Thank you so much for all your help in preparing me. It really helped me to feel more confident going in.*
- *I promised you an update on the interview! I am very happy about the way it went and I should hear back in about a week or so. I felt incredibly prepared for it and I truly appreciate the help you've given me! It made a night-and-day difference in my confidence and interview skills. Fingers crossed for a good result!*
- *I wanted to let you know that my interview with Vanderbilt medical physics went very well yesterday. I had five rounds of 20-minute interviews with two faculty members at a time. It was a long day, but I walked away feeling that I had done what I set out to accomplish. Thank you for your guidance in preparing me for this interview!*
- *Update following up my phone interview — it went well! Thank you for your help and advice. I am glad we practiced doing that phone interview. It felt much better, and walking around was really helpful. The interviewer mentioned that my examples were excellent, and she would be in touch soon. It felt very good and positive overall. Thanks again!*





STUDENTS

- *For Hope Forward, at the end of the year we have an event called the Positive Impact Banquet. We are to invite someone who has made an impact on our freshman year. The first person I thought of was you! I'm so grateful for all of your help and such an amazing FYS class.*
- *I have an update that I think you may be interested in. My interview with United went fine, I think, because I got a conditional offer! Of course, I still have to go through all the training and pass all my tests, but they liked me! It turns out that I was one of the relatively few who made it out of more than 25,000 applications in January! I am forever grateful for your help; I would never have made the time to practice thoroughly without the motivation and guidance that I got from you! Thank you a hundred times over.*
- *I am writing today to update you with good news. I have been offered a position at the Van Andel Institute for admission in Fall of 2026! Thank you again for all of your help in preparation for my interview.*
- *I wanted to let you know I got accepted into the JET Program! Thank you so much for your help and guidance.*
- *We met last semester for a mock interview. This semester I have gone through a couple of rounds of interviews, virtually and in-person. They went great! I was able to implement so many of the suggestions that you gave me to make it a success. I just wanted to send a thank you. Your work makes a difference!*
- *I wanted to reach out because I've been thinking about your class from last semester and how much I enjoyed it. It was incredibly helpful for me, and I truly miss being in it. I also wanted to share that I've officially decided to pursue becoming a school psychologist. I used many of the techniques we learned in your class to help guide me to this decision. I'm really grateful for that. Thank you so much for the impact you had on me!*
- *I wanted to share a quick update and thank you for your support during my time at Hope. I've decided to attend MSU COM for medical school! I really appreciate your guidance throughout the process, especially through the application class, which took a ton of stress out of my application cycle. Having you available for support and perspective made a real difference as I navigated everything. Thank you again for your time and encouragement. I really appreciate it!*





STUDENTS

- *I just wanted to update you on the offers. I ended up getting offers for both Uniform Color and Tiara, and I accepted Tiara Yachts this morning. I am so excited about this opportunity. I want to thank you for your help and your time meeting with me over the last two weeks! I could not have prepared without you.*
- *I just wanted to make sure I thanked you again for meeting with me yesterday! I really appreciate you taking the time. It was super helpful, and I'm excited to start applying what we talked about. I'll definitely keep you updated on how things go. Thanks again!*
- *Thank you so much! You've been such a huge help to me this semester. I definitely would not have been able to get an opportunity like this without your guidance.*
- *I just wanted to say thank you for all the help looking over my resume, mock interviews, and alumni connections like Skyler and Todd. I genuinely feel like every internship, interview and job I was able to get was due to your help. So thank you for that.*
- *Thank you so much for the time and energy you dedicated to us as our CFL coach this semester. I really valued being part of your team. Your investment in us as students made a huge difference in what I took away from the project. I also wanted to extend a sincere thank you for your continued support with my internship search. Having your guidance means a lot to me.*
- *I've got some exciting news. I received an offer letter from Mike on Friday and I've been working through the details over the weekend. I just want to thank you again for the connection. I'm excited to start my career!*
- *I cannot express my gratitude enough for your mentorship throughout the year. Your guidance has been instrumental in transforming my perspective on writing. To be honest, I did not enjoy writing before the year began. However, the new ideas and techniques you've taught me during both semesters have changed my opinion. I feel more equipped and confident to approach and write any papers in the future!*
- *I just wanted to say thank you for a great spring semester! I have loved your class so much and always enjoyed coming. I appreciated your kindness, warmth and compassion for all of us! Thank you, and I hope you have a great summer!*



ABOUT THE BOERIGTER CENTER

Hope College's Boerigter Center for Calling and Career, opened in fall 2018, is a college-wide initiative that inspires students to engage in lifelong career development by emphasizing discernment, preparation, and pursuit. Programming for the Boerigter Center is designed to help all Hope students, beginning in their first semester, understand their strengths, engage in experiences that directly connect to career preparation, discern vocational and life goals, and identify clear next steps toward their future. The Boerigter Center was made possible by a major gift from SoundOff Signal in honor of founder and Chairman George Boerigter '61 and his wife, Sibilla.



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