

# today

magazine

HESSTON COLLEGE ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
SPRING 2017



YOU CAN  
CALL ME JOE  
*page 4*

A SEASON OF  
TRANSITION

SHARING A  
TIMELY MESSAGE  
*page 8*

# today magazine

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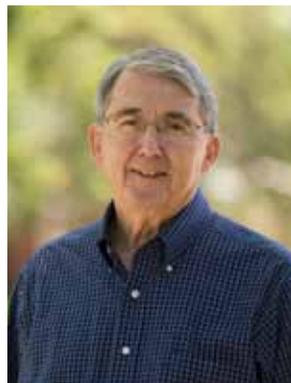
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**HESSTON  
COLLEGE**   
START HERE, GO EVERYWHERE



## MUSINGS OF AN INTERIM PRESIDENT

An oasis is a sweet place, whether traveling geographically or intellectually. Rarely is a college referred to as an oasis. Yet, Hesston College is just that. Since August 1, Sue and I have experienced Hesston College in this way. Based on our experiences at many higher education

institutions, we have found our time at Hesston pleasant. We often say, "We're happy as a Lark."

Hesston College is a lush oasis in the midst of the Kansas prairie. The hundreds of trees, unnumbered species of plants, blooming flowers, perpetual lawns, wide walks and benches for rest are not only a physical oasis but also a symbol of the Hesston Experience. Hesston is a place of study, contemplation, renewal, redirection and provisioning for countless past and present students. As the trees protect and shade, the college protects students as their beliefs are challenged and reinforced by new learnings, they assimilate new truths, are pushed to new levels and relate to others unlike themselves.

Given the right environment and nurture, students, like blooming flowers, radiate. As they graduate and go on, they travel the paths of life just as they transverse the wide sidewalks of campus. Whether a late teen, early twenty, mature student or a couple in their late seventies serving as interim president, Hesston College is a community of learned teachers and nurturing staff dedicated to accepting student travelers as they arrive and preparing them for the next portion of life's journey.

Yes, Hesston is an academic community where students are pushed to achieve higher levels of performance. However, in comparison to others, Hesston College allocates more resources to student care, monitoring progress and community health and cohesion than most. Just as the beauty of our campus shows care and commitment, so too is there an equal commitment to making the Hesston Experience the difference in students' lives that will serve them for a lifetime.

Just as we have been welcomed warmly, we too share warmly and care for all students, faculty, staff and those living in the community. We hope our time here has contributed in a small way to this academic oasis continuing for years to come. As our time at Hesston approaches an end, we express our gratitude to all who have invited, served and allowed us to contribute in a small way. 

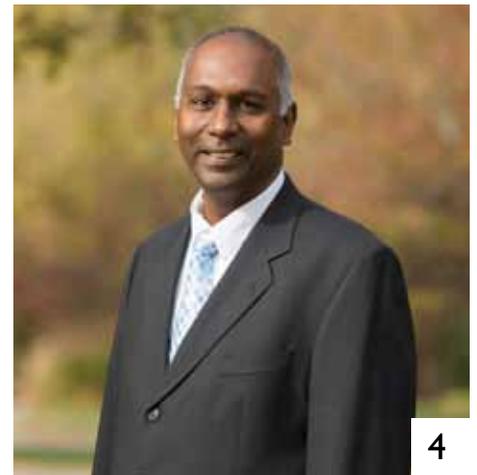
Benjamin Sprunger, Interim President

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A look into the life and philosophies of incoming president, Dr. Joseph Manickam '87.  
  
On the cover – Dr. Joseph Manickam '87 will assume office as Hesston College's ninth president on July 1.

### CORRECTION

The fall 2016 issue incorrectly identified incoming president Joe Manickam's wife as Wendy (Miller) '88 Manickam. Joe's wife is Wanda (Miller) '88 Manickam.



# YOU CAN CALL ME

BY RACHEL MCMASTER

An excited murmur erupted from the Hesston College faculty and staff the moment the Presidential Search Committee announced the name of its candidate of choice for the college's ninth president.

Many in the crowd were familiar with Dr. Joseph Manickam '87 from his days as a student or his five years as associate director of Admissions.

The excited buzz continued through the college's constituency as the news spread via social media, and words of affirmation arrived from those who know him.

That was October 28, 2016, and the excitement hasn't dissipated.



JOE

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**D**uring a meeting with faculty and staff as part of his campus visit just a couple of weeks after the announcement of his candidacy, Dr. Manickam remarked candidly, “You can call me Joe.” A simple statement that encompasses the community atmosphere and personality.

Although he won’t assume office until July 1, Dr. Manickam’s....Joe’s reputation precedes him, and the Hesston College community is looking forward to his leadership and his presence.

Likewise, Joe is anticipating the new endeavor that awaits him.

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*“There’s a hunger for a different perspective on Christianity and a school like this guides students toward that direction – toward being global citizens who can envision a world that is different from what we often find on our television sets.”*

*– Dr. Joe Manickam ’87 –*

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“There are a few factors that drew me to the role of Hesston College President,” said Manickam. “Number one, the strength of the college as it stands today – strong academics, the strength of the faculty and staff and the strength of the administrative team that I get to work with. The second part is it’s a two-year Anabaptist-Mennonite educational institution. I strongly believe that such institutions are needed in our world today outside the Mennonite church. There’s a hunger for a different perspective on Christianity, and a school like this guides students toward that direction – toward being global citizens who can envision a world that is different from what we often find on our television sets.”

Manickam’s global perspective is extensive and well-refined as his work and life have taken him across the world and into different cultures and traditions. That perspective will be a strong guide for his service to Hesston College.

Born in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to Indian missionaries sent by the Church of South India, Manickam grew up in a family deeply committed to seeing God’s love translated into the local context, crossing social barriers of many forms. His high school years began at a boarding school in South India, and he completed high school at Hoover High School in North Canton, Ohio, earning a certificate in the automobile mechanics program.

As a Hesston College student majoring in automotive tech-



nology, higher education administrator wasn’t exactly on Manickam’s radar. But that’s the beauty of a community that helps students realize their strengths, passions and interests.

Manickam says even more than a degree in automotive tech, what was most valuable in his Hesston Experience was a spiritual growth.

“What I found at Hesston was the Anabaptist heritage, the story, the theology – it was perplexing oftentimes, but I came to embrace it,” said Manickam. “At first I didn’t fully understand what it meant, but as I moved beyond Hesston and experienced the world in different ways, it made a lot more sense, and today it makes complete sense.”

After Hesston, Manickam worked in the automotive field for a year. In that time he realized that even though he enjoyed the field and working on cars – and he still does and considers



himself a “grease monkey” – it wasn’t what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

“Going into the shop for eight to 10 hours a day, working on cars, turning wrenches, not engaging with people, I found was sapping my energy,” said Manickam.

That realization led him back to school to complete a bachelor’s degree in radio and television communication from Goshen (Ind.) College in 1991. He completed his degree shortly after the end of the first Iraq war, in which many media outlets had invested heavily in covering only to have it last three months. Because many companies had not recouped their investments, the industry was fraught with layoffs and hiring freezes.

Struggling to find work in his field, Manickam returned to Hesston College to serve as an admissions counselor.

“Coming back to work at Hesston was kind of a continuation

of my time as a student in that then, my instructor Phil Zehr ’76 told me, ‘Joe, you need to go on for further education,’” said Manickam. “When I was working here, [former president] Howard Keim ’72, who was at that point on faculty, said, ‘Joe, you need to go on and get further education and pursue some of these things that interest you.’”

Those words of encouragement and the foundation of peace work that had been laid at Hesston led Manickam to graduate studies and then a Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, Calif.).

“I wanted to work at the construct of race and try to bring some new perspectives to the church in that area,” said Manickam.

During that same time, from 1996 to 2005, he worked as associate director for the Center for Anabaptist Leadership, which exposed him to urban ministries with his work centering on community organizing with local congregations and peace education for church leaders.

In 2005, before completing his doctorate in 2007, Manickam moved into international development and peace work when he went to work for Mennonite Central Committee’s (MCC) International Program where he served as director of the Asia Program and director of the Central-Southern and Northeast Asia Program with MCC-Canada. In 2015 he left MCC and joined Payap University (Chiang Mai, Thailand) as director of the Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace and faculty for peace studies.

“Coming back to Hesston now, I think in a certain way it’s full circle, but yet I think it’s not a full circle yet, in that I’m merely here now to talk about the success and to exemplify the success of what Hesston does,” said Manickam. “I think it’s very difficult to realize the power of what it is we’re doing here until it’s tested in the world. Obviously, for me personally, there has been an excitement in doing that testing. My hope is that we can find ways to guide our students AND our faculty and staff to more aggressively test it instead of just kind of keeping it among ourselves. Now more than ever the world is longing for a non-coercive Christian witness, and we Mennonites/Anabaptists must not remain silent to this call.” HCT

*On previous pages: Dr. Joe Manickam and his wife, Wanda (Wyse) ’88 Manickam, on their first visit to Hesston College as candidate of choice for president.*

*This page: Joe talks with international admissions counselors Dave Osborne Ac64, ’66 and Mari Sailors during a March visit to campus.*

# SHARING A TIMELY MESSAGE

BY KRISTIN TROYER '17

Aila and Maryam, two young Iraqi girls, are best friends but separated when Aila's father decides to take his family to America. This situation, all too real today, is the background of the book *Messages from Maryam* by Lauren Pichon, and illustrated by Kendra (Litwiller) '12 Yoder.

Yoder, originally from Hopedale, Ill., studied art education at Hesston, but graduated from Eastern Mennonite University with a degree in English. She lives in Harrisonburg, Va., with her husband Tyler Yoder '12 and is taking classes in art education at James Madison University.

"After graduating from EMU, I felt God calling me to go back to school to study art education," Yoder said. "Even though I loved the things I studied at EMU, making art is an essential part of who I am, and through volunteering with Kids Club through Eastside Church (Harrisonburg), I learned that I thrive working with children."

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*"The book can show refugee children that their experiences matter, and it can help other children understand what their refugee friends experience."*  
 — Kendra (Litwiller) '12 Yoder —

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This realization helped Yoder find her first illustrating job with *Messages from Maryam*. The author of the book, Lauren Pichon, attends church with Yoder. Pichon, an English Language Learners teacher for many refugee students, was inspired by her students' stories and wanted to share them.

"I was all in, not only by the chance to illustrate, but by the chance to help convey an important situation to children," Yoder said about being asked to illustrate Pichon's book. "Lauren and I were both excited about sharing the book across a spectrum from refugee children to children who don't know what a refugee is."

Yoder understood how important sharing this story with children would be. As the character Aila details what it's like to leave her home and friends, live in a refugee camp with uncertainty of what will happen next and eventually make her way to a new home in a new country, Maryam speaks to the fears of staying behind in Mosul, Iraq, sharing the hardships and missing her friend. Yoder shared that she thinks it's important to include children in conversations.

"The book can show refugee children that their experiences matter, and it can help other children understand what their refugee friends experience," Yoder said. "They are the people who are growing now and will impact our world's future."

It's obvious that understanding other people is something that's close to Yoder's heart. The community she experienced at Hesston College helped her learn about and understand the people she interacted with while a student. She shared how the many roles she had on campus, notably soccer player, chorale member and RA, helped her learn how to welcome people.

"My freshman year, we had an exceptional mod who meshed well together," she said. "I cherish the things we did together, from contra dancing to eating cheese puff balls in our RA's room. Some of the women in my mod became friends that I still keep in touch with and wouldn't be the same without."

Yoder spent considerable time working on art and writing during her time at Hesston.

"Many of the classes I took at Hesston challenged my understanding of the world, helped me to think big picture, and started shaping my adult life."

The art skills she learned helped illustrate a happy ending for Aila and Maryam. They are reunited at school, just like the one Pichon teaches at. 

*Get your copy of *Messages from Maryam* at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).*





*Get your ea*

*Jon Styer, Eastern Mennonite University*

# START HERE STUDENT *profile*

## Jeremy Deckinger '18

Wichita, Kan.

PARENTS: Lance and Lynn Deckinger

MAJOR: Aviation



### CHOOSING HESSTON

In the fall of my senior year of high school, my summer team played Hesston's baseball team in an exhibition game and that is where I met the baseball coaches. Meeting them was a big step in me deciding to come here. I chose Hesston because it had everything I wanted—aviation and baseball and it is a Christian atmosphere. Those three things were a big part of my decision, and it was so close to home that it was a no-brainer.

### LOVE OF THE GAME

I have played baseball for as long as I can remember. I have always had a bat in my hand. My favorite part about baseball at Hesston is the coaches, Kyle Howell and Courtney Spitz. They are really inspiring. They are the best coaches I've ever had.

### PASSION FOR FLIGHT

My grandpa and uncle were both pilots. Flying with them is on my to-do list. When I was little we would go to Exploration Place in Wichita and there would be an area just for aviation. I would only stay in that little area; I wouldn't go to the rest of the museum. When I got my private license, through a company in Augusta, Kan., I realized this is really what I want to do. It's hard to describe. When you fly with a big airliner you are sitting in a bubble looking out a little window and not doing much. When you are in control in a little cockpit, in this little (Cessna) 172, it's a feeling like no other. You are in control. You can go where you want. It's awesome.

### ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

The job opportunities in aviation are what excite me the most about flying. I can go anywhere. I really enjoy being up in the air and the challenge of it. I got to fly to Arkansas by myself already. During the cross-country stage in commercial flying, you get the chance to go to every state and I've already been to nine of them. Ultimately I want to fly for an airline. That is what my grandpa and uncle did.

### A BALANCING ACT

It definitely takes dedication and commitment to play baseball and study aviation. There will be Friday nights when I think I can go hang out with my friends, but I'll realize I need to work on a report or study. It takes commitment to your studies, staying on them and always trying to get ahead. My mom and dad instilled in me hard work and dedication. Knowing what they have done and gone through has really driven me to be successful.

### WHAT HIS COACH SAYS

"Jeremy is an extremely driven individual. He is someone who does not want to let any area of his life slack, even if they are overwhelming areas. He makes sure he plans his time out so he can devote 100 percent attention to the task at hand." – Kyle Howell, head baseball coach 

# GO EVERYWHERE ALUMNUS *profile*

## Chris Johnson '00

Kansas City, Mo.

MAJOR: Illustration

CAREER: Senior Multimedia Designer

### STARTING HERE

I grew up outside Bridgewater, S.D. and went to high school at Freeman (S.D.) Academy. I led a pretty typical, small-town life. Art and music always came pretty naturally to me, but I'd never considered either of them as a possible career.

Coming out of high school, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do or prepare for, career-wise. Hesston seemed like a great place to try a range of studies in an effort to figure that out, and I really liked the facilities and small town environment.

### DISCOVERING A PATH

I took a variety of classes thinking of going into computer programming or pre-med; I discovered I didn't have a passion for either of those areas. I'd always enjoyed art, so I started taking some art and design classes and found that passion I'd been missing. Just before graduating I found out about the Kansas City Art Institute and, with a lot of help from my art instructor, Lois Misegadis, put together a portfolio and application barely in time for the submission deadline. I graduated from there in 2004 with a B.F.A in illustration.

### DOING WHAT HE LOVES

In 2005 I started working at Hallmark Cards headquarters on-call as a Creative Assistant, making mock-ups. I was subsequently hired on and held various positions including Technical Artist and

Production Designer in the 3D Marketing Design Studio, designing product.

In 2010 I started working in the newly formed Hallmark Sound Studio as a music composer, sound designer and audio engineer. Currently I'm a Senior Multimedia Designer, creating original music and sound design for videos, sound cards, ornaments and other products. It's an interesting and fun job – I've gotten to write music for TV commercials and for clients like Disney, have direct recording sessions where I listen to the voice of Bugs Bunny over the phone and even be in a Hallmark web series called "Ear Buds," which is in no way silly or embarrassing...

I've also done freelance work for AMC Theaters. I created a cinematic music score for a pre-show animation that I got to hear while at a movie, which was pretty cool, though I'm sure confusing to the other people in the theater as to why some guy was so overly excited about AMC's loyalty program.

Considering that I can trace the course of my career, which I love, back to the decision to take those art classes at Hesston – I can't even say how grateful I am that those seeds were planted. **HCT**

*See "Ear Buds" clips on YouTube by searching Hallmark ear buds.*



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

BY JASMINE PANKRATZ '18

Our mother's can be our biggest fans, our motivator, our teacher, our greatest blessing.

They countlessly put themselves before us and go out of their way to help us.

But sometimes our mother's make us do things we do not want to do.

The latter was the case for Nadeem Jaber '18, a freshman from Israel. Jaber came to Hesston College in the spring of 2017 to be a tennis player, thanks to his mother pushing him to play tennis, and now he plays at the number one spot for the Larks.

"One day I was going from school to my grandparents' house and my mom was there and she told me that she signed me up for tennis," said Jaber. "I said okay. I didn't know what that was."

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*"The best experience so far has been the people. They don't care if I'm international or American. This is how it should be."*  
 — Nadeem Jaber '18 —

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As a child, tennis wasn't even an option for Jaber. Soccer was his sole focus.

"I didn't know what tennis was, I always liked soccer very much," Jaber said. "My dad was a professional soccer player; I wanted to be like him. I always watched him playing and I saw him enjoy his time, so I always told myself 'I'm going to be like him. I want to play soccer and, I want to prove I can.'"

But, in order to prevent injuries, Jaber's parents wouldn't let him play soccer. So tennis it was.

"The next day I found myself on a tennis court with a tennis coach and I had a tennis racket in my hand that was bigger than my head," said Jaber. "I didn't know what to do; I just started hitting the balls. From that day on, I just enjoyed it. But I still love soccer, too."

Although his adjustment to Hesston has been difficult — he credits the weather specifically — Jaber chose it despite other offers for a specific reason.

"I chose Hesston because I felt comfortable with their offer and their scholarship was very good for me," said Jaber.

And since he's been here, he hasn't regretted it.

"The best experience so far has been the people," he said "Everybody is so friendly here and very nice; everyone is willing to help you no matter what. I like that very much. They don't care if I'm international or American. This is how it should be."

Tennis is still the highlight for him here. For his first season at Hesston, Jaber has high expectations for his team.

"Wins. A lot of wins. I don't know any other colleges here. They always talk about different colleges' [tennis teams], this college is good, or this college is good. I don't care. I just wanna win. I want to improve."

According to his coach, Chance Joost, Jaber's enthusiasm to win isn't something he just keeps to himself.

"On the court, Nadeem's been a great asset because he's been able to push some of our other guys down the line up which makes our team stronger," said Joost.

But this enthusiasm isn't something that's just now starting to show.

"Nadeem had a really good first impression," said Joost. "One thing that really stood out was he sent a text every night to the team, talking about getting better and having a positive attitude and lifted some guys up that were down. Definitely left a good impression on me that someone would come in from halfway across the world and be a team leader from the get go."

"On and off the court Nadeem's been exceptional and everything I could possibly of asked for as my first international recruit." HCT

*Nadeem Jaber '18 competes in a spring tennis match for the Larks.*





# ATHLETICS NEWS UPDATES



## CROSS COUNTRY RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

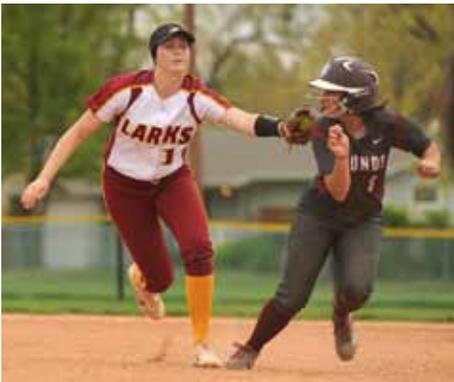
The Hesston College cross country team was recognized for earning a team academic award for the seventh straight year. The fall 2016 men's cross country team is ranked first nationally in academic team standings with a 3.911 GPA, and the women's team is ranked eighth with a 3.755 GPA. Rankings are based upon teams that nominate at least five members for Academic All-American honors. Not only does the accomplishment mean a lot to head coach Gerry Sieber '64 and the team, but also to the Hesston College community. "Our athletic department and Hesston College community are proud of this accomplishment by the cross country team and Coach Sieber," said Athletic Director, Rob Ramseyer. "They exemplify what we hope for and expect of our athletic teams through their positive impact in their sport and in our community." [HCT](#)



## WINTER SPORTS RECAP

Under the leadership of coach Dustin Galyon '04, the men's basketball team finished the 2016-17 season with a record of 10-19. Battling in a tough Region VI, the Larks knocked off region opponent Fort Scott and played tight games with other region teams. The Larks will bid farewell to seven sophomores and plan to return six freshman to next year's roster.

After returning one sophomore to the 2016-17 roster, first-year women's basketball coach Jeff Jacobs finished his first season as a Lark with a 8-20 record. The young team will return several sophomores with plenty of playing time under their belts as well as add a full recruiting class as they look to improve on their record. [HCT](#)



## SPRING SPORTS UNDERWAY

Prior to the start of the 2017 campaign, Lark baseball standout, sophomore Jonathan Law '17 (El Paso, Texas) was named one of the top 150 MLB Junior College prospects in the U.S. by *Perfect Game USA*. Law, ranked at 146, an outfielder and right-hand pitcher, is a transfer to Hesston's program.

The newest sport to Hesston athletics, the men's golf team debuted with a seven-event schedule in early February. Prior to the season, coach Chris Frantz commented, "The potential is there. We have a lot of talent." Several different golfers have led the team from meet to meet, leading to a well balanced team that is competing well.

Under the leadership of eighth-year coach Andrew Sharp '99, the softball team has been competing well and maintains a winning record as of this writing. "I'm very excited about this group," said Sharp. "We have good depth and talent all around the field." The Larks' schedule features eight games against teams ranked in the preseason top 15 NJCAA poll. The team also competed in California during spring break, bringing home a 3-1 record.

After two consecutive appearances in the national tournament, Lark Tennis, under the leadership of first-year coach Chance Joost, carries a spirited mood and has set the bar high as they attempt a third year at nationals. "The expectation is for us to continue to grow and develop into a nationally prominent program," said Joost. The Larks carry eight on this season's roster – six freshmen and two sophomores. [HCT](#)

## CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS



*Dr. Kate Wiebe interviews Adam Miller (Hesston), a survivor of the shooting at Excel, during the opening AVDS session.*

### AVDS EQUIPS PARTICIPANTS WITH TOOLS AND RESPONSES FOR TRAUMA AND RECOVERY

Centered around the theme “When the Unthinkable Happens,” the annual Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference took place Feb. 17 to 19, just one week before the one-year anniversary of the mass shooting at Excel Industries. About 200 registrants including church leaders and a variety of other professions from eight states, and including Hesston College students from different fields of study, participated in the weekend activities with more attending free sessions and extra events. With the shooting at Excel still fresh and close to home, the idea of trauma goes far beyond one shooting. As a conference description said, “It can happen anywhere, including your community. It could be a tornado, domestic or sexual abuse, a mass shooting or something else. As Christ’s followers, we need to be ready and respond well.” Keynote speakers were Dr. Donna Minter, founder and executive director of the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute (Minneapolis), and Dr. Kate Wiebe, founder and director of the Institute for Congregational Leadership (Santa Barbara, Calif.). Recognizing that the topic of trauma is not easily answered, the Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series will look to take on part two of this next year during the 2018 conference. [HCT](#)



### FIRST RN TO BSN CLASS MARKS A NEW START FOR COLLEGE

Aside from the start of spring semester classes for all students, Wednesday, January 11, 2017, marked a historic day at Hesston College as 27 students gathered in Lemons Center 1 as the first group of nurses in the college’s new RN to BSN program. None of the students are new to Hesston College – all 27 previously graduated from Hesston’s associate degree nursing program and returned to take the next step in their education and professional development. “Today truly feels like a family reunion – with new opportunities to reconnect with our amazing nursing alumni,” said Bonnie (Kauffman) Ac65, ’67 Sowers, director of nursing education. “We are grateful for God’s continual leading and presence within our nursing program.” Hesston’s RN to BSN program is a hybrid that meets both online and on campus. Students who are enrolled full time meet on campus for a full day twice a month, and part-time students meet one full day on campus each month. Full-time students are on a one year completion track, while part time students will complete the program in two years. [HCT](#)



### FIRE AND EMS ADDED TO PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Starting with the fall 2017 semester, Hesston College will launch a Fire/EMS program in cooperation with the City of Hesston Fire/EMS Department. The program provides students with opportunities to earn Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and/or Firefighter certification while also employed part-time with Hesston Fire/EMS. Earn an associate of arts degree from Hesston College with emergency management certification(s) for transfer to bachelor’s degree programs or work in the career field. [HCT](#)

*Three students have been volunteering with Hesston Fire/EMS during their time at Hesston. Pictured from left are Zach Stauffer ’17 (Belleville, Pa.), Beth Schurz ’17 (Phillipsburg, Kan.) and John Ebaugh ’18 (Holtwood, Pa.).*



## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF NURSING

BY MACKENZIE MILLER '18

The Hesston College nursing program has reached a milestone, and it is no small feat.

On May 13, the 50th graduating class of the associate degree nursing (ADN) program will conduct its pinning ceremony and head out into the medical field.

The 2017 graduating class consists of 53 nursing students--36 are ADN students and 17 are bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) students.

The 17 BSN students are the first class of baccalaureate nurses to graduate from Hesston College. Also a new Hesston College milestone.

However, as these 53 students graduate in May, it is not without acknowledging the changes Hesston College has seen throughout these fifty classes.

Beginning in 1945 and continuing into 2017, the nursing training at Hesston College has constantly been evolving. In creating the program, administrators saw the nursing profession as an "excellent opportunity for service" and each year provides another chance to improve on what has already begun.

In fact, the nursing program was a priority before it was even possible on the Hesston College campus. The curriculum was built alongside two Mennonite hospitals and nursing hospitals--Mennonite Hospital and School of Nursing, La Junta, Colo., and Bethel Deaconess Hospital and School of Nursing in Newton.

Later on, when operating a nursing program extension out of the state of Kansas became too problematic, students were sent to Kansas City, Mo., to complete their degree while Hesston continued to work towards a degree program for the campus.

It was not until 1964 that the state of Kansas approved an associate of arts nursing program, and the first class was launched with 21 students in the fall of 1966. Since then, class sizes have amassed to a capacity of 56.

In 2015, Hesston introduced the BSN program and has continued to grow the bachelor's degree program since that time, adding the RN to BSN program in spring 2017, and getting ready to launch the LPN to BSN component in fall 2017.

Through it all, numbers continue to grow and the demands of the health care/nursing industry are more present than ever.

Yet, Brooke Hershberger '18 (Goshen, Ind.), a junior in the nursing program and among the first students who will spend four undergraduate years at Hesston, notes Hesston College's constant attention to each student.

"They (instructors) know us by name," says Hershberger. "They make it a point to get to know us, not just teach us and get us out of there."

One woman who has witnessed many of Hesston College's nursing program transformations is Bonnie (Kauffman) Ac65, '67 Sowers. After spending one year at Hesston, Sowers earned



her BSN from Goshen (Ind.) College, then returned to Hesston to teach nursing in 1970. Since 1980 she has held the role of Nursing Education Director, and recently announced that she will step down on June 30.

The buildings have changed and the degrees have adapted to the times, but Sowers says, “This quality and culture has been consistent, even as faculty/staff change and students change.”

And what causes this strong foundation?

Sowers added that the “close relationships, emphasis on holistic care for the individual student and for the patients’ body, mind, and spirit makes the program unique.”

One student who will graduate with this milestone class is Alma Luevano ’17 (Wichita, Kan.). After hearing about the Hesston College nursing program from two former graduates, Luevano chose Hesston to “Start Here.” And she could not feel better about her decision.

“I feel very blessed; my experience has been a very positive one,” Luevano says. “I’m following my dreams of becoming a nurse all while making lifelong friendships.”

But Luevano, as well as many other graduating students, will not stop here. In the spirit of Hesston College’s tagline: “Start Here, Go Everywhere,” Luevano hopes to work in a pediatric hospital, or labor and delivery unit.

After her graduation in 2018, Hershberger hopes to go on to begin master’s and eventual doctoral studies.

“It is incredible how much they (Hesston College) have given us,” says Hershberger. “The learning has made me want to get an

advanced degree and continue my learning.”

And, according to Sowers, the need for nursing will not go away.

“The future of nursing looks bright, and nursing professionals will certainly remain central to the ongoing delivery of high quality, person-centered healthcare,” she says.

And so, with all this hard work and passion of the past and present Hesston College nursing department, Hesston College has much to celebrate with the historic milestone this spring.

Here’s to the 50th graduating class of the Hesston College Nursing program. [HCT](#)

*Previous page: The first Hesston College graduating nursing class in 1968. The class started at Hesston in fall 1966. Back: Joyce (Steiner) Bontrager, Verna (Miller) Jantz, Mary (King) Wenger, Becky (Duerksen) Oswald (dec.), Susan (Glick) Miller, Loraine (Beckler) Clapp; Middle: Judy (Egli) Yoder, Grace (Schrock) Stutzman, Esther (Wiens) King, Ruthie (Bontrager) Miller, Joyce (Ulrich) Klockenga, Rita (Enns) Fitch; Front: Martha Overmyer, nursing faculty, Mary (McCarthy) Eichelberger, Sena (Miller) Osborne, Elaine (Fisher) Krehbiel, Darlene (Stahly) Weaver, Linda (Sauder) Kandel.*

*Above: Sarah Whitten ’16, ’17, receives her ADN nursing pin from Ruby (Chupp) ’73 Graber in May 2016. Whitten will graduate from the RN to BSN program in December 2017.*

# CONTINUING THE LEGACY

72 STUDENTS FROM ALUMNI LEGACY FAMILIES FOUND THEIR START AT HESSTON COLLEGE IN 2016-17

- Kaedi (Lefevre) '13, Baer '18 – **Dennis '83** and **Jen (Friesen) '84 LeFevre**, Hesston, Kan.
- Landon Baer '18 – **Gareth '83** and **Karla Baer**, North Lima, Ohio
- Scott Baldwin '17 – **Ruby (Mast) '80** and **Tom Baldwin**, Clarence Center, N.Y.
- Laura Blosser '17 – **Vernon '76** and **Brenda Blosser**, Hesston, Kan.
- Jenna Boller '20 – **Jeff '89** and **Carol Boller**, Kalona, Iowa
- Savannah Bontrager '18 – **Craig '90** and **Karen (Stutzman) '90 Bontrager**, Milford, Neb.
- Micah Boyer '17 – **Daniel '86** and **Vanessa Boyer**, East Earl, Pa.
- Joel Brejda '17 – **Janet Friesen '85**, Lincoln, Neb.
- Andrew Brunner '16, '18 – **Cheryl (Schmidt) '79** and **L.H. Brunner**, Newton, Kan.
- Renee Buckwalter '17 – **Tom '80** and **Paula Buckwalter**, Wellman, Iowa
- Chris Buerge '17 – **Greg '86** and **Amy (Martin) '86 Buerge**, Garden City, Mo.
- Crystal Burgess '18 – **Frank '90** and **Marion (Price) '90 Burgess**, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Abby Byler '17 – **Kevin '89** and **Sandra Byler**, Harrisonburg, Va.
- Tori Byler '17 – **Matthew '93** and **Michelle (Moyer) '93 Byler**, Belleville, Pa.
- Aubrey Crouse '14, '19 – **Dawn Crouse '02**, Wichita, Kan.
- Tanner Daniel '17 – **Anita (Kauffman) '87** and **Wendell Daniel**, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
- Ashley Doggett '18 – **Becky (Kenagy) '84** and **Greg Doggett**, Carlsbad, N.M.
- Silas Driver '17 – **Melody (Bixler) '86** and **Rodney Driver**, Harrisonburg, Va.
- Joy Driver '18 – **Woody '86** and **Regina (Stopher) '86 Driver**, Rockingham, Va.
- Allison Ebersole '17 – **Ken '71, former faculty** and **Meredith Ebersole**, Lafayette, Colo.
- Nick Eichelberger '17 and Elizabeth Eichelberger '18 – **Jenny (Saltzman) '88** and **Scott Eichelberger**, Geneva, Neb.
- Fred Flores Cano '17 – **Melvin Flores '89**, San Pedro Sula, Honduras
- Autumn Gehman '20 – **Brooke '93** and **Dana (Zimmerman) '92 Gehman**, Adams, Tenn.
- Weston Giesbrecht '17 – **Cris (Alves) '94** and **Clarence Giesbrecht**, Hillsboro, Kan.
- Alyssa Graber '18 – **Ronald '85** and **Lori Graber**, Wolford, North Dakota
- Emily Griffioen '17 – **Kristine (Bitikofer) '82 '86** and **Joe Griffioen**, Belmond, Iowa
- Kevin Hawkins '18 – **Cindy (Bontrager) '84** and **Dave Hawkins**, Middlebury, Ind.
- Jaci (Garver) Herring '18 – **Jill (Krehbiel) '87** and **Troy Garver**, Newton, Kan.
- Brooke Hershberger '18 – **Jeff '85** and **Juanita Hershberger**, Goshen, Ind.
- Leslie Hunsberger '17 – **Dan '88** and **Mariela Hunsberger**, Hollsopple, Pa.
- Jared Hurst '17 – **Valerie (Hurst) '88 Hurst-Tamura**, Sharon, Pa.
- Joe Kabira '18 – **Ken Kabira '81**, Naperville, Ill.
- Jeff Kauffman '18 and Kayla (Kauffman) '14 Rudy '19 – **Dan '83** and **Shelley (Martin) '82 Kauffman**, Hutchinson, Kan.
- Christy Kauffman '17 – **Jerry '87** and **Roxanne Kauffman**, West Liberty, Ohio
- Kate Kilmer '20 – **Kevin '91** and **Karilyn (Kauffman) '92 Kilmer**, Goshen, Ind.
- Cierra King '17 – **Nolan '91** and **Nori (Bontrager) '90 King**, Cochranville, Pa.
- Brianna Lamb '15, '19 – **Jamie '11** and **Shawn Lamb**, North Newton, Kan.
- Christian Martin '17 – **Troy '88** and **Paula Martin**, Milford, Neb.
- Brady McDermed '19 – **Tammy (Becker) '95** (deceased) and **Ron McDermed**, Wichita, Kan.
- Liz Miller '18 – **Eric '90** and **Marla (Gascho) '90 Miller**, Archbold, Ohio
- Mackenzie Miller '18 – **Heather (Loewer) '89** and **Brian Miller**, Lancaster, Pa.
- Sarah Miller '18 – **Craig '84** and **Jenelle (Weaver) '85 Miller**, Freeman, S.D.
- Sophia Miller '19 – **Forrest '85, staff** and **Nora, former staff, Miller**, Newton, Kan.
- Meghana Murray '19 – **John C. '81** and **Krista (Miller) '82, staff, Murray**, Hesston, Kan.
- Jessanna Nebel '17 – **Brian '83** and **Brenda (Hooley) '83 Nebel**, Hesston, Kan.
- Gretchen Nisly '18 – **Lucy (Miller) '89** and **Philip Nisly**, Hutchinson, Kan.
- Curtis Oesch '18 – **Michael '91** and **Jana (Earnest) '90 Oesch**, Caldwell, Idaho
- Trevor Oyer '17 – **Stanley '78** and **Vonita Oyer**, Hubbard, Ore.
- Andrea Peters '18 – **Doug '87** and **Rita, faculty, Peters**, Hesston, Kan.
- Brenna Peters '18 – **Gordon '84** and **Janice (Roth) '84**, Hesston, Kan.
- Grace Roth '18 – **Tyler '90** and **Sarah Roth**, Goshen, Ind.
- Wyatt Roth '17 – **Jerry '90** and **Wendy (Troyer) '90 Roth**, Canby, Ore.
- Garrett Roth '18 – **Clark '82** and **Deb (Swartzendruber) '83 Roth**, Hesston, Kan.
- Shalee Rowley '18 – **Karla (Eberly) '90 Wilder-Rowley**, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Janelle Schmucker '17 – **Rodney '82** and **Norma Schmucker**, Los Fresnos, Texas
- Emma Schrock '17 – **Bradley '83** and **Katrina (Esch) '86 Schrock**, Lakewood, Colo.
- Weston Schroeder '17 – **Kerry '87** and **Donica Schroeder**, Harper, Kan.
- Jonah Short-Miller '17 – **Eric '85** and **Melody (Short) '85 Short-Miller**, Bellingham, Wash.
- Robin (Morris) '15 Slabach '19 – **Pam '80** and **Loren, former staff, Morris**, Hesston, Kan.
- Vanessa Steckly '17 – **Blane '81** and **Nancy (Stuckey) '81 Steckly**, Milford, Neb.
- Ally Steiner '17 – **Brent '86** and **Stephanie Steiner**, Peoria, Ariz.
- Logan Swartzendruber '17 – **Calvin '91** and **Karen (LeFevre) '91 Swartzendruber**, Goshen, Ind.
- Emily Taylor '14, '19 – **Angie Dunn '05**, Hutchinson, Kan.
- Kristin Troyer '17 – **Dennis Troyer '70** (deceased) and **Mary Troyer Garman**, Shickley, Neb.
- Ashley Weaver '17 – **Bruce '86** and **Lori (Eichelberger) '87 Weaver**, Hesston, Kan.
- Madi Wedel '18 – **Tom Wedel '15**, Hesston, Kan.
- Jared Wedel '16 – **Jay Wedel '89** and **Sharon (Ross) '90, faculty, Woodward**, Hesston, Kan.
- Sadie Winter '18 – **Juli (Meadows) '85, staff** and **Perry Winter**, Newton, Kan.
- Noah Yoder '18 – **Jackie (Stephenson) '86** and **Steve Yoder**, Harrisonburg, Va.
- Hannah Yoder '19 – **Maynard '88** and **Barb Yoder**, Freeman, S.D. 



COMPILED BY  
MACKENZIE MILLER '18

## WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE HESSTON COLLEGE MEMORY FROM THIS YEAR?



**Fred Flores '17, San Pedro Sula, Honduras**

“Sophomore night for soccer, because it was the last time I played soccer with my teammates.”



**Chloe McNiel '18, Valley Center, Kan.**

“Right off the get go, the coolest memory was going on the Colorado hiking trip. It came at a pivotal time at the beginning of the school year. It helped me feel like I belong.”



**Marelby Mosquera '04, faculty**

“My environmental science class went to the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge a couple of weeks ago. It was great to turn around and see the faces of my students when they encountered the bison. It never gets old – the smiles, the countless pictures, the wonder of connecting in real time with these huge mammals. The beauty of enjoying time outside with the natural world is priceless.”

## WHAT HESSTON COLLEGE TRANSITION ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?



**Noah Yoder '18, Harrisonburg, Va.**

“I am definitely looking forward to becoming a ministry assistant. I have looked forward to that opportunity ever since I heard about the position and am excited to step into that role.”



**Cristina Rapisardi '17, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

“I am looking forward to the new students and the new president. Getting to know them will be exciting.”



**Lucas Comfort '18, Salina, Kan.**

“I am looking forward to being more established in the community.”



**Shalee Rowley '18, Colorado Springs, Colo.**

“I am excited for my new leadership positions like resident assistant and writing fellow.”

# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1930-39

### DEATH

David Diener Ac38, '41, Souderton, Pa., Oct. 16, 2016

## 1940-49

### DEATHS

Miriam (Kauffman) Ac47, former faculty, Byler, wife of Lowell Byler, former faculty, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 12, 2017

Mary (Slagell) '47 Lederach, Lansdale, Pa., Dec. 17, 2016

Lois (Eichelberger) Ac49 Regier, North Newton, Kan., March 4, 2017

Robert "Bob" Razook '49, Wichita, Kan., Nov. 16, 2016

Wilma (Pletcher) '49 Srof, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 23, 2017

## 1960-69

Sondra (Bandy) Ac66 Koontz, Newton, Kan., and her husband, Phil, live in their dream home – a historic 1903 home – which they have renovated to its original style as a Prairie Four Square.

## 1970-79

Abe Brubaker '71, Jones Mich., while working as a registered pharmacist in 2013, was invited to return to his professional roots as a chemist and work at a small contract laboratory in Indianapolis developing bioanalytical

methods for pharmaceutical clients in support of their submission for new drug approval to the FDA. He was hired as a key senior scientist bringing in new expertise to support new business growth. As a result of his work, he was awarded the title of Science Fellow, which was a first for the company. Brubaker noted that "Two Hesston instructors who had a very positive influence on me and my love for science were Jim Yoder '62 and Nelson Kilmer. I was fortunate to have been in their classes when they were recent graduates and their youthful exuberance made science much more appealing to me."

Kurt Horst '73 and Dean Leatherman '80, both Hesston, Kan., traveled to Brownsville, Texas, in January with five other men from Whitestone Mennonite Church (Hesston) and Journey@Yoder (Kan.) Church to lay block for the beginning of a church building for Rey de Gloria Mennonite Church. They were joined by five men from the Rey de Gloria congregation. Horst is pastor of Whitestone, and Leatherman is owner of Preferred Builders, Inc., a general construction company in Hesston.

Ilona (Schmidt) '74, '92 Abrahams, Newton, Kan., published a book entitled *Five Mennonites and a Greek*, which was inspired by a group of six women who originate from an assortment of backgrounds and interests. *Five Mennonites*

and a Greek is a collection of personal stories, devotional reflections and beautiful pictures. Included are delicious recipes such as Melomakarona, a cookie made with a variety of spices served at Christmas in Greece.

### DEATH

Dennis Martin, husband of Harriet (Schrock) '71 Martin, Goshen, Ind., June 15, 2016

## 1980-89

### DEATH

Judy Martin '87, McPherson, Kan., Jan. 22, 2017

## 1990-99

Matthew Schloneger '92, faculty, Newton, Kan., was selected as one of two winners nationally for the Van L. Lawrence Fellowship, recognizing a combined commitment to excellence in teaching and voice science. The Fellowship and \$2,000 award are intended to provide opportunities for the Fellow to become more thoroughly acquainted with practices, techniques, technology and people involved in laryngology and voice science. Schloneger is a voice instructor at Hesston College.

J.D. Mininger '95, Kaunas, Lithuania, entered into the role of Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty at LCC International University in January. His relationship to LCC reaches as far back as 1995, when his parents, James Ac61, former staff, and Virginia Mininger, former faculty, began their first of 13 years of service at LCC. Dr. J.D. Mininger began teaching literature and philosophy at LCC in 2007.

In addition to his teaching, he served as Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2013-16. He has also been professor of philosophy at Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas) and recurrent visiting professor at the University of Bologna-Forli campus (Italy).

Theresa (Litwiller) '97 Blossom, Wellman, Iowa, joined Iowa Mennonite School's (Kalona) administrative team as director of finance.

Ryan Umble '99, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, is regional representative for Southeast Asia with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM). He and his wife, Bethany (Freed) '98 Umble, and their three children serve in leadership development and university student ministries. The Umbles have served with EMM since 2008.

### MARRIAGE

Susie Lambright '91 and James Cassel, Flower Mound, Texas, April 2, 2016

### BIRTH

Sharla (Saltzman) '94 and Anthony Marriott, Olathe, Kan.: Taylor Kay, born Feb. 4, 2016, adopted May 11, 2016

### DEATH

Russ Neufeld '97, husband of Kendra (Duerksen) '97 Neufeld, Newton, Kan., Jan. 24, 2017

## 2000-09

Chris '01, former staff, and Rebecca (Amstutz) '01 Strong, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, started Bolivia Motorcycle Tours, providing multi-day tours of the country.

**Wesley Ngwenya '01**, Winkler, Manitoba, Canada, published a book, *Nightlife*, that includes interviews with more than 40 women who work as prostitutes in Lusaka, Zambia. The project was born when Ngwenya returned to his home country of Zambia and was met with reverse culture shock. He saw immense poverty and unemployment, particularly among young people, as well as scores of prostitutes, and he became curious as to what drove them to that lifestyle. *Nightlife* is available on Kindle at amazon.com. Ngwenya will graduate in May from the Collaborative MBA program, a project of Goshen (Ind.) College, Canadian Mennonite University (Winnipeg, Manitoba), Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Va.) and Bluffton (Ohio) University.

**Lowell Wyse '01**, former staff, Lima, Peru, is teaching freshman and sophomore writing and literature classes at the Center for Global Education at Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola (Lima).

**Angie Lederach '04**, El Carmen de Bolivar, Colombia; South Bend, Ind., a Ph.D. student in peace studies and anthropology at the University of Notre Dame's (Ind.) Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, was awarded a Fulbright grant for her research in Colombia.

**Isaac Shue '07**, Harper, Kan., and his wife, Carina, provide leadership for a group that hosts an English as a Second Language event weekly at Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church (Harper). About 20 people attend.

**Jon Huber '08**, Wichita, Kan., recently joined KMWU, a National Public Radio member station, as a morning host/

anchor for *Morning Edition*, and will produce a bi-weekly feature.

**Ryan Stauffer '08**, Lincoln, Neb., is part of the Levrack team that is developing efficient storage systems for farm shops. With 73 percent of the popular vote, Levrack won the People's Choice award and an additional \$10,000 in start-up funds at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in January.

**Dawn Unruh '08**, Meade, Kan., earned her master's of science in nursing (MSN) with an emphasis on nursing education from Aspen University (Denver, Colo.). She is a nursing faculty member at Seward County Community College (Liberal, Kan.), where she teaches courses in maternal child, maternity and mental health nursing.

**Shae Miller '09**, Amboy, Ind., opened NONA Jewelry in northern Indiana, with 10 percent of profits benefitting nonprofit programs.

## MARRIAGES

**Cody Batchelor '08** and **Jennifer Tolliver**, Durango, Colo., July 8, 2016

**Amanda Koch '08** and **Matthew Foley**, Green Mountain Falls, Colo., Jan. 1, 2017

## BIRTHS

**Heather (Kyburz) '00**, faculty, and **Nate Hosford**, Hesston, Kan.: Iris Joy, March 10, 2017

**Jeremy '00** and **Erin (Nebel) '00 Kempf**, Glendale, Ariz.: Liam Zane, Dec. 2, 2016

**Shanda Hochstetler '01** and **Peter Epp**, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: Ruthie Jean Hochstetler Epp, Nov. 29, 2016

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY MOURNS RUSS NEUFELD



The Hesston College community joined a far-flung network of friends and family of Russ Neufeld '97 in celebrating his life and mourning his death. Russ served as director of Information Technology and was well loved on campus. He died January 21, after a long battle with cancer.

"We join Russ's extensive community of friends and family in mourning," commented Vice President of Finance and Auxiliary Services Mark Landes, Neufeld's supervisor, following his death. "We also celebrate a tremendous person and a life well lived. It doesn't feel like a stretch to say Russ was one of the most well-liked people working at Hesston College. People were drawn to his engaging personality and broad worldview. Russ joined the college's IT department in June 2010 and was promoted to IT director in April 2014. He will be remembered among the Hesston College community for his caring and calm demeanor, his out-of-the-box thinking and his extensive knowledge. He knew a lot about a lot. Russ had a significant and positive impact during his short time here, and will leave a wonderful legacy behind. We will miss him greatly."

Neufeld's memorial service was Jan. 27, at Hesston Mennonite Church on the Hesston College campus.

A Facebook post Neufeld made on Jan. 11, in preparation for his Jan. 16 birthday, exemplifies Russ's positive attitude and big heart:

"So thanks very much for your support in the myriad ways you've shown it. For my birthday, I'd like to steal and idea from a friend and ask you to take all this love you have and share it. It only multiplies and there are so many who could use it. Whether it's just a random act of kindness, or helping at your local homeless kitchen/shelter, or repairing broken relationships, just spread the love folks – it's the only thing in this world that endures. We've received more than we could have imagined – let's continue to spread that a little wider."

Surviving Russ are his wife, Kendra (Duerksen) '97, and children, Ethan and Natalie. **HCT**

Joe '02 and Lori Friesen, Harrisonburg, Va.: Ruth Salome, Nov. 29, 2016

Lance Friesen '02 and Lacey Graber '03, Hanoi, Vietnam: Elias Peter, Feb. 9, 2017

Jill (Widmer) '02 and Josh Lundberg, Kalona, Iowa: Elena Belle, Feb. 9, 2017

Dustin '04, staff, and Marissa (Vermillion) '13 Galyon, Hesston, Kan.: Jackson James, Nov. 29, 2016

Alli (Faulkner) '05, and Ralph Miller, Goshen, Ind.: Jaxon Adam, Jan. 18, 2017

Laura (Sharp) '06 and Nick Enzinna Sharp, North Newton, Kan.: Jesse, Feb. 22, 2017

Kevin '07 and Kara Eby, Harrisonburg, Va.: Isaac Bradley, Sept. 9, 2016

Keri (Boshart) '07 and Drew Hochstetler, Wellman, Iowa: Emry Ann, Jan. 4, 2017

Luke '07 and Lindsey, staff, Mason, Goshen, Ind.: Haddie Ann, Feb. 23, 2017

Regina (Weaver) '08 and Andrew Horst, Newmanstown, Pa.: Oliver Ray, Feb. 2, 2017

Janell (Maust) '09 and Ethan Mast '10, Goshen, Ind.: Ryan Conrad, Dec. 20, 2016

Zac '09 and Jessica (Coffman) '10 Schlegel, Shickley, Neb.: Addison Rey, April 11, 2017

## 2010-16

Sarah Blosser '14, Hesston, Kan., was promoted to nurse manager at Newton Medical Center.

Maggie Lasater '14, Tulsa, Okla., earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from St. Gregory University (Shawnee, Okla.) in 2016 and works for Enterprise in Tulsa as a manager trainee.

Jason Schroeder '15, Harper, Kan., a senior at St. Gregory's University (Shawnee, Okla.) where he is a standout on the swim team, placed sixth in the nation for the 100 fly in the NAIA. Schroeder plans to swim in the U.S. Open in August, and compete in the trials for the 2020 Olympic games.

Grace Tijerina '16, Corpus Christi, Texas, relocated from

Hesston to Corpus Christi in September 2016 to begin planting a South Central Mennonite Conference church. She has been gathering a small group for Bible study in her home. She is employed half-time for the church planting and also works as a receptionist at a local Christian radio station.

## MARRIAGES

Julisa Jeske '11 and Dustin Ellis, Blanchard, Idaho, Dec. 17, 2016

Danielle Stauffer '11 and Timothy Werner, Burlington, Iowa, Dec. 19, 2016

Derek Swartzendruber '13 and Miranda Schlabach, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 30, 2016

## BIRTHS

Conrad '10, and Kalen (Boshart) '10 Yutzy, Kalona, Iowa: Oliver James, Feb. 10, 2017

Jonathan '12, and Becca (Short) '12 Burkholder, Warden, Wash.: Micah, Feb. 15, 2017

## DEATHS

Julian Morgan '12, Colorado Springs, Colo., April 10, 2017

Jason Stubby '13, husband of LouEllen (Regier) '06 Stubby, Newton, Kan., Feb. 23, 2017

## Faculty/Staff

Loren Reusser, former faculty, North Newton, Kan., and his wife, Peggy, both retired from a trucking business in 2016. They drove 18-wheeler big rigs on long-haul trucking trips for many years until Loren reached age 84. They now reside in a Kidron-Bethel Bluestem, Inc., living unit.

## BIRTH

Kyle, staff, and Kassie Howell, Valley Center, Kan.: Kannon Beau, March 20, 2017

# TASK FORCE CALL FOR COMMENTS

The Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Safety Task Force, which is working to improve Hesston College's policies and practices to make Hesston a safer campus for all, is extending an invitation to alumni who wish to talk with the task force about their thoughts or concerns on sexual misconduct at Hesston College.

Respondents may contact the task force at [HesstonCollegeTaskForce@gmail.com](mailto:HesstonCollegeTaskForce@gmail.com), or safehope, an outside entity, at 316-283-0350. Safehope is an advocacy and assistant organization based out of Newton, Kan., for sexual assault victims to seek help and support.

Group facilitator, Dr. Jeanette Harder, will also be at the Mennonite Church USA convention in Orlando in July, and can schedule appointments to meet with people during that time. Contact the task force email to schedule an appointment.

The task force's responsibilities as outlined in the group's purposes statement is to "conduct an independent objective assessment upon which to make recommendations to Hesston College's Administrative Council and Board of Directors for policies and procedures that, when implemented, will create a healthy culture of interpersonal safety at Hesston College." The group is led by facilitator Dr. Harder, a social work professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, a researcher, author and trainer in violence prevention, and co-founder and board president for Dove's Nest, a faith-based organization whose mission is to keep children and youth safe in faith communities. Other members include three members at arms' length from Hesston College and three Hesston College faculty or staff members.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY

- 5 Joel Brejda, organ, sophomore recital
- 6 Billy Bass, voice, sophomore recital
- 8 Reading Day  
Kaho Yanagidaira, clarinet and piano, sophomore recital
- 9 to 11 Final Exams
- 11 Sarah Booth, voice, and Kathryn Leichy, voice,  
sophomore recital
- 12 to 14 Commencement Weekend
- 12 Chamber Orchestra concert  
Olivia Copsey, voice, and Emily Griffioen, flute,  
sophomore recital
- 13 Nursing Pinning  
Adele Hofer, voice, sophomore recital  
Disaster Management recognition  
Morgan Leavy, music cabaret, sophomore recital  
Aviation graduate reception  
Bel Canto Singers concert  
Theatre Showcase  
Go Everywhere Reception
- 14 Commencement
- 14 to 24 Bel Canto Singers tour to Nebraska, South Dakota,  
Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kansas
- 18 to 20 Board of Directors meeting

## JUNE

- 3 Lark Open Golf Benefit
- 23 Nebraska Golf Benefit
- 19 to 24 Summer Theatre Camp for ages 14 to 18
- 26 to July 1 Summer Theatre Camp for ages 11 to 14

## JULY

- 4 to 8 Hesston College at Mennonite Church USA  
Convention in Orlando
- 5 Alumni reception with new president, Dr. Joe  
Manickam '87 at MC USA Convention, Orlando, Fla.

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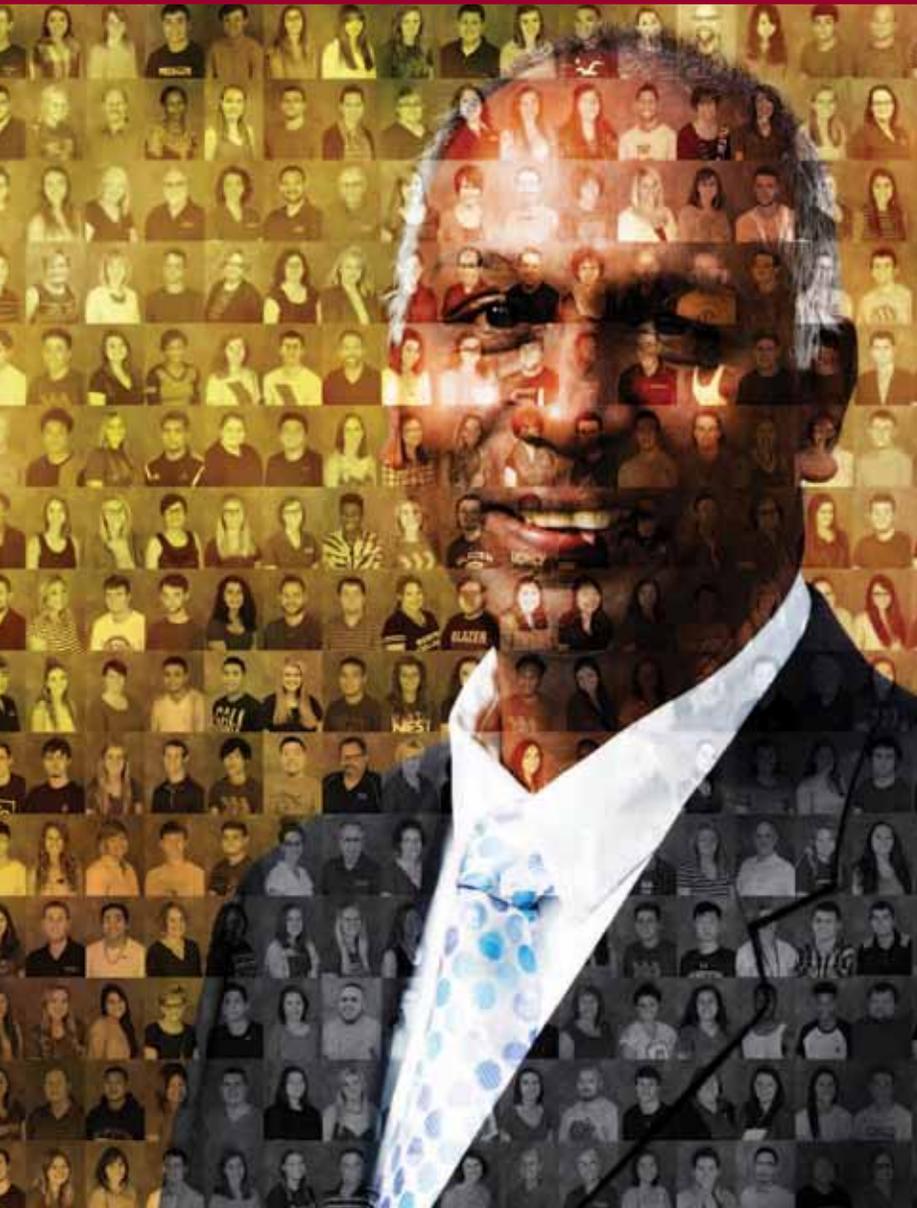
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SEPTEMBER 21 TO 24, 2017