

STARTING THE YEAR

Hesston College kicked off the 2017-18 year during Opening Weekend, Aug. 18 to 20, and the first day of classes Aug. 21. New academic and athletic programs added to the college's offerings over the last several years resulted in an enrollment boost for fall 2017. Total student headcount reached 442, a 10 percent boost from 401 a year prior, and the highest reported enrollment for the college since 2013. The college continues to build on its global community as 56 international students – 13 percent as compared to 10 percent the previous year – represent 18 countries. Domestic students represent 29 states.



HOMECOMING & PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Hesston College celebrated homecoming and the inauguration of the ninth president, Dr. Joseph A. Manickam, Sept. 22 to 24 with the theme “Grounded in community, globally engaged.” The weekend featured events reflecting and celebrating the college's values, experiences and global connections. Highlights from the weekend's programming included a Global Voices music showcase that featured Hesston College ensembles performing works from international students' home countries. During that program, Dave Osborne was honored for directing the international students program since 1986. Alumni, students and guests made up an Interfaith Relationships panel to share reflections on how interfaith relationships on- and off-campus have challenged and enriched their lives. An evening of international culture allowed attendees to sample dishes from around the world, and follow it up with performances by groups performing some of the world's music from a variety of genres.



2017 COMMUNITY READ

For the sixth year, the community of Hesston, led by Hesston College and Hesston Public Library, invited individuals and groups to take part in a community ready during the fall semester. The 2017 book selection was *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis* by Cynthia Barnett. The book examines a variety of perspectives and makes an argument for a “water ethic” with a call to action that reconnects individuals to their water. Barnett presented about her work in Hesston on Nov. 2



Read these full stories and more at hesston.edu. For more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations, toll free at 866-437-7866.



AVDS: “BEFORE THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS”

Hesston College’s 2018 Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) conference will offer a hands-on process where issues of oppression that can lead to trauma-related incidents are addressed and begin to be dismantled. With the theme “Before the Unthinkable Happens: Confronting our role in injustice,” the conference will take place on the Hesston College campus Feb. 23 to 25. The weekend will be resourced by the Kansas Leadership Center to help develop skills to clarify purpose, being outcome plans and impact the future. Dr. Drew G.I. Hart from Messiah College will strengthen the biblical theology of justice in order to create faithful disciples and ethical believers. See more information at hesston.edu/avds.



STRONG SEASON FOR WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Both the men’s and women’s cross country teams competed well during the 2017 season with the women’s team, in particular, enjoying much success. The team finished eighth of 16 teams in the Region VI competition and placed 22nd out of 42 teams at Nationals in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on Nov. 11, improving on their 29th place finish from 2016. Despite battling several injuries, three of the seven runners ran personal best time at the national meet. The National meet was the finish to coach Gerry Sieber’s 30 years at Hesston College, as he retired following the close of the season.

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

You will soon receive information from Hesston College about referring students in your congregation for a leadership scholarship. This is a great way for you to encourage young people in your congregation to consider Mennonite higher education while also helping them financially and nurturing their leadership potential. By simply referring three students to Hesston College, those students will receive a Leadership Scholarship should they decide to start at Hesston. If you have questions about referring students for this opportunity, please contact Hesston Admissions at 800-995-2757.

2017-18 Theme Verse

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have *love*, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have *love*, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have *love*, I gain nothing.

- I Corinthians

13:1-3 (NIV)

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