

## COMMENCEMENT 2018



Hesston College graduates were sent on to their next chapter challenged to love with the radical love of Jesus at commencement exercises on May 13. Michele Armster, M.Div., executive director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Central States (North Newton, Kan.) delivered the commencement address, “What’s love got to do with it?” based on the 2017-18 Hesston College theme verse of I Corinthians 13:1-3, encouraging graduates to choose love in whatever they do with their lives. The class of 2018 consisted

of graduates earning 47 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees and 84 associates degrees. A pinning ceremony for nursing graduates was held on May 12, as well as recognition ceremonies for students completing the program and aviation graduates in both the professional pilot and air traffic control tracks of study.

## CLOSING A 50-YEAR CAREER

Longtime chemistry professor, Dr. Jim Yoder, retired at the end of the 2017-18 year, marking 50 years of educating Hesston College students. Teaching chemistry eventually grew into also launching an astronomy course because of his interest in the universe and cosmos. In the classroom, a commitment to science alongside faith was always an important topic to Yoder. “Studying creation is a worship experience, and that’s what we do in chemistry and astronomy and everything else” he said. “For a Christian, we believe in creation. And what is science? The study of creation.”



## HOMECOMING 2018: A CELEBRATION OF ATHLETICS



Hesston College’s 2018 homecoming celebration, Sept. 27 to 30, will be a weekend for alumni to reconnect with one another through anniversary class reunions and a variety of other events. The weekend will also be a celebration of Lark Athletics and distinguished alumni athletes and coaches. Premier events include the Manickam Mosey Two-Mile Run/Walk, the annual

Homecoming Golf Benefit, dedication of a new campus disc golf course, alumni athlete and coach seminars and event presenters, and headlining entertainment by The Steel Wheels, an increasingly recognized name in Americana folk music and hailing from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Pastors, congregants and prospective students are invited to campus to participate in all the weekend activities. **See more details at [hesston.edu/homecoming](http://hesston.edu/homecoming).**

## ANABAPTIST VISION & DISCIPLESHIP SERIES 2019

The annual Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) is being planned for February 2019. A recent survey about the event gave churches and past participants the opportunity to suggest topics they would be interested in for the conference, and the planning committee will announce the 2019 theme soon. Plan now to come to campus in February for AVDS 2019!

# CHURCH RELATIONS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018

Read these full stories and more at [hesston.edu](http://hesston.edu). For more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations, toll free at 866-437-7866.

## ON-CAMPUS DISC GOLF COURSE



Open to both the Hesston College community and the wider community, a newly installed disc golf course on the Hesston College campus honors the memory of alumnus Doug Unruh '74, his lighthearted personality and his appreciation for his alma mater. Unruh's family used memorial funds to establish the nine-hole course as a tribute to their husband, father and grandfather who passed away March 27, 2014. As the family

discussed plans for memorial funds following his death, they settled on three places they thought would please him, including Hesston College. A love for the game of disc golf grew from years of competitive tournaments at summer family reunions, so the ideas meshed to bring disc golf to the Hesston campus.

## DIRECTOR OF AVIATION

Mike Baker, a 1993 Hesston College graduate, will start as the new director of Hesston's aviation program on July 9. He assumes the new role as the college is working toward expanding the program to a four-year bachelor's degree program by fall 2019. Baker comes to Hesston from the U.S. Department of Transportation/ Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - Wichita Flight Standards District Office where he has served as front line manager in the General Aviation Operations Unit and Flight Safety International Certificate Management Unit since 2014. "Mike has extensive experience as a pilot, instructor and inspector within the aviation industry, and his experience and connections will serve the department well as we prepare to launch a bachelor's degree in aviation," said Dr. Brent Yoder, vice president of Academics. Baker succeeds Dan Miller who served as director of aviation from 1999 until his unexpected death in April 2017.



## BE GREATER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Hesston College has been working to raise \$6 million for a capital campaign project that will address facility needs in the nursing and athletic programs. The project focuses on the renovation of existing facilities plus building expansion with new spaces to better serve a significant portion of the student population, including

an updated nursing facility to be named the Bonnie Sowers Nursing Center in honor of the longtime director, and updated athletic facilities for the college's 14 intercollegiate teams. In January 2018, the college received a \$750,000 challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation in Tulsa, Okla., with the terms of completing fundraising by December 2019. To date, the college has about \$500,000 of the goal left to raise. The facilities will be completed in August 2019 in time for the start of the fall semester.

## CONGREGATIONAL STUDENT AID

Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by students' churches. During the 2017-18 year, 52 churches contributed \$95,172 in student scholarships to 76 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of \$67,761. The average church aid per student was \$1,830 while the average church-and-college aid per student was \$2,144. If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

**20 to 21** – College representative at South Central Mennonite Conference Assembly

**27 to 29** – College representative at Western District Mennonite Conference Assembly

### AUGUST

**17 to 19** – Opening Weekend

### SEPTEMBER

**14 to 15** – Prospective student visit weekend

**27 to 30** – A Hesston College Homecoming