To set the context for the following story we refer to the words of Marshall Frady, a well-known journalist and chronicler of inner-city America. He wrote "...many obvious distress signals seen in today’s American urban schools include the increasingly overloaded and under-funded schools, confusion over actual goals and purposes, and a tendency toward a separation into two unequal class divisions within the public school system. Underlying these signals are the growing population of indifferent students, the emergence of students from single parent families, poorer and more culturally impoverished students, fewer teachers to cope with these students,

New Reality
continued on page 4

Staff mentoring at floor-level

"I am there to help them realize God’s plan, gifts and direction; perhaps even challenge them at times."

— Brian Telzerow, assistant professor of youth ministry

Mentoring program is available to any RA who wishes to participate.

The program has no formal structure, leaving it up to the mentor and RA to set the schedule based on need. Some mentors meet with RAs every week, while others meet every other week. Some meet only with the RAs, while others participate in activities such as Bible studies with students. Others invite RAs and students to their homes for a home-cooked meal and a time of relaxation and relationship building.

According to Brian Telzerow, assistant professor of youth ministry, he sees his mentoring role as walking alongside those he mentors. "I am there to help them realize God’s plan, gifts and direction; perhaps even challenge them at times."

Paulette Cancler, admissions

Symposium
continued on page 4

Lisa Bouma Garvelink, a professor of English at Kuyper College, was recently invited to speak at an international academic conference on "Violence and Grace." Grand Valley State University sponsored the conference titled, "Flannery O’Connor in the Age of Terrorism."

An important voice in American literature, O’Connor wrote novels and short stories. She was a Southern writer in the vein of William Faulkner, often writing in a Southern Gothic style. Her writings, although violent and at times even bizarre, are deeply informed by the sacramental, and by the notion that the created world is charged with God.

The three-day conference featured academicians from the United States and overseas—representing over 50 colleges and universities. Professors from schools such as Duquesne, Notre Dame, Dartmouth, Baylor, Michigan State, Texas Tech, Valparaiso, St. Bonaventure, and many others made presentations on their views. Professor Garvelink was one of only six presenters from Christian colleges and universities.

"My varied opportunities to teach literature over the past 25 years have given me a lasting appreciation for its power to incarnate truths about our world that are
A key event occurred in the life of one of our colleagues this past autumn: Dr. Mel Flikkema, Provost, retired from the Army Reserves after 21 years of service as a chaplain. His duties extended from routine "weekend warrior" events to weeks-long summer war game simulations to active duty in Iraq during the invasion. His involvement truly exemplified the sense of serving "God and country." It is great, at Kuyper College, to have Mel’s example in front of our students as they explore their sense of call into ministry and service.

Mel’s call to serve our country reflects his commitment to preserve and promote freedom for people around the world. Dwight Eisenhower reminded us that, "Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free." This "faith in freedom" comes from our nation’s belief that only a liberated people can fully develop their potential as they receive the respect they should have to make their own choices in life.

When Christ addressed this concept in John 8:36 ("So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"), he underscored the difference between the outer appearance of freedom and the deeper, spiritual meaning of the word. We really don’t have freedom until we are liberated from personal entanglement with sin. It is very encouraging to know that this message is as much to the point in the military, as Mel’s presence showed, as is the actual physical preservation of freedom.

Christmas is a wonderful time to reflect on our freedom, our calling and our Lord. This newsletter reflects people, events and the results of your work and support of the College as we carry forward the Good News.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.
~ Isaiah 61:1 ~

Dr. Nicholas V. Kroeze
President

Kuyper College hosts ethnic ministry & cross-cultural connection conference

According to Gary Teja, professor of cross-cultural studies and dean of distance education at Kuyper College, people from "every nation and every tribe" are arriving daily in West Michigan. "And it is not only happening in West Michigan, but in many other places throughout the country," added Teja.

"We have to ask ourselves several questions," continued Teja, "Is the church prepared? How do we reach these new arrivals? How can local churches maximize their fruitfulness in reaching out to a diverse world that begins right at their doorstep? That is why we came up with the idea of a conference on how to develop and implement an effective ethnic outreach program."

The conference took place at Kuyper College during the last weekend in October. Workshops were led by Dr. Lynn Haines, associate director of Networking for SIM’s Ethnic Focus Ministry. Both Dr. Teja and Dr. Haines serve on the national committee of the Ethnic America Network in partnership with the Billy Graham Center which annually brings hundreds of U.S. ethnic leaders together for a 4-day summit.

The workshop included sessions on understanding immigrants and ethnic ministry in context, as well as integration of program development, recruitment, and training of a ministry core group within each church.

"Judging by the many comments we received, we met our objective," concluded Teja. "Participants from various churches and organizations were equipped with the knowledge and tools that will help them implement effective ethnic ministry programs."
Perhaps you would like to make a larger than usual gift to the annual fund this year. Maybe you’ve been thinking about starting or adding to a family scholarship. Or, maybe you have something else in mind. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 provides a new tax-free charitable planning opportunity. Under PPA 2006, an IRA owner age 70-or older may make a direct transfer from a regular or Roth IRA to charity. The transfer may be up to $100,000 in one year and the Act provides that this option will exist for year 2006 and year 2007. The Pension Protection Act now makes tax-free gifts from your IRA a reality. This new tax law provision may provide the means to help you accomplish your giving goal.

There are certain conditions and you should consult your tax advisor. Yet this new provision for IRA Rollover gifts is an exciting opportunity for many people to make a substantial gift and lower their taxable income.

Please contact Todd Sytsma 616.988.3653 or Ken Capisciolto 616.988.3676 in the Kuyper College Advancement Office to discuss potential options for giving.

Kuyper College is unable to provide tax advice regarding your contributions. We recommend you contact your tax consultant with any questions regarding your specific situation.

GIVING OPTIONS

Give a tax-free gift from your IRA—Pension Protection Act of 2006 creates new charitable giving opportunities

He’s looking for something to answer his anxiety... he wants to learn something from the chaplain about God.

These encounters at the well, these meetings in the night – this is the stuff of chaplains’ work. They happen in a training area or in a hospital room when the darkness outside turns the windows into mirrors.

While being hunted by King Saul, David said to his friend Jonathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, and as surely as you live, there is only a step between me and death.” Soldiers in war often feel like David, that death is only a step away. In Kuwait, I sat with many soldiers who would soon be on the front lines, and suddenly it was my task to be a Jonathan. I needed to be a friend who through word and deed made the grace of God real to them.

The ministry in the Army Reserves has not been easy. Often times I’ve found myself in situations where the gospel, at best, seems only a strange paradox. How does one speak of God’s goodness and the resurrection among the battlefield dead? Nevertheless, we minister, if for no other reason than this: if the gospel makes no sense in the tough places, it makes no sense anywhere.

“In My Words” is a feature of The Kuyper College News highlighting first-person stories by Kuyper College faculty.

Mentoring

assistant, sees herself as a bridge builder. "Being an individual of color, I want to develop relationships with students, so I invite them to my home and cook for them. We discuss issues of race or anything else that is on their minds," she said.

Chris Braley, assistant professor of psychology, believes that being a psychologist helps in his mentoring work. "We discuss personal issues, sometimes things that happened in the past. In addition," he continued, "because I am only one of a few staff members who are single, I can identify with the perspective of many students who are also single."

Lisa Bouma Garvelink, assistant professor of English and Sarah Behm, associate registrar, are also part of the mentoring program.
and the increasing apathy of the more affluent public members." The world Frady refers to, fraught with almost insurmountable obstacles and foreign to most of us, is home for two recent graduates of the College.


Born and raised in Christian homes in West Michigan—Tara in Hudsonville and Esther in Jenison—neither had much interaction with people different than themselves while growing up. They both attended Christian schools and churches in the area where, according to Esther, "...most everyone was tall, blond and blue-eyed." It wasn't until they both began venturing out of their known circles—Esther through her volunteering at Clancy Street Ministries in downtown Grand Rapids and Tara through her one-on-one mentoring of special-needs campers at the Christian Reformed Conference Grounds in Grand Haven—that they were introduced to a new reality.

"I've been put to the test every day to live an authentic faith before my students."
—Tara Bouma

"I've been put to the test every day to live an authentic faith before my students." —Tara Bouma

Esther Gazan teaches a classroom full of first graders at Niños Héroes
They often ask about my faith—about "I've been put to the test every day to live working? "Yes, it's working," she answers. feeling in a non-confrontational way." Is how to show and express emotions and return. So I respect them and teach them them respect and who demand respect in said. "My kids need role models to show styles. "My role in the classroom is not have already fallen into bad habits and life-challenge. At this age some of her students and Latino class is made up of thirteen- and fourteen-year-olds. This adds to her and fourteen-year-olds. This adds to her said. "but very much worth it." she responded, "Yes," but quickly followed question, "Has the adjustment been difficult?" those who pointed me to Christ." To the a Christian school, my church and all of the love and nurture of a Christian home, need what I've received my whole life— "a place where I could pass on to those in need what I've received my whole life— the love and nurture of a Christian home, a Christian school, my church and all of those who pointed me to Christ." To the question, "Has the adjustment been difficult?" she responded, "Yes," but quickly followed up with, "but very much worth it."

Tara's predominately African-American and Latino class is made up of thirteen- and fourteen-year-olds. This adds to her challenge. At this age some of her students have already fallen into bad habits and lifestyles. "My role in the classroom is not only as a teacher but also as a mentor," she said. "My kids need role models to show them respect and who demand respect in return. So I respect them and teach them how to show and express emotions and feelings in a non-confrontational way." Is it working? "Yes, it's working," she answers. "I've been put to the test every day to live an authentic faith before my students. They often ask about my faith—about Christ. Contrary to what most people believe, as long as I respond to their specific questions I am within my rights as a teacher in the public school system to answer their questions regarding the Christian faith, Christ and my walk with him. As a matter of fact," she continues, "there have been days when I have not been able to complete my lesson plan because of so many questions about what the Bible says."

Esther and Tara agree that what they received at the College deserves a major portion of the credit for their ability to minister in their respective classrooms. "RBC was my life," said Tara. "There, I learned to think in a different way. I learned that there is never a stopping point in knowing who I am in Christ, that the Bible is living and breathing and from it I can learn new truths every day. I met professors and staff who loved me, who nurtured and prayed for me and who not only taught great subjects but also taught me how to live. In many different ways they challenged me every day with the same question, 'Are you learning everything God is teaching you and are you living those truths in such a way that they will impact others for the Kingdom?' All of that I received from the College, as well as a great education."

Esther echoes the words of Tara when speaking of the College. "My faith sustains me daily. That is why the spiritual foundation that I received at RBC is so important. Without it I would have failed. Without it I would be lost." She credits her professors and the College staff for her success. "My professors and the staff made sure that I was not only prepared to succeed academically but also, and in some ways more importantly, spiritually." According to Esther, from her first day at the College the faculty and staff walked the talk. The way Christianity was modeled for me in the classroom, in the hallways, dorms and throughout the campus made my time at RBC the best four years of my life."

Today Tara and Esther are putting into practice the Lord's command in Matthew 28. They have gone into an unfamiliar world to be witnesses to God's truth, bringing his grace into a culture that for most of their lives was foreign to them. As Esther puts it, "I make it every day by God's grace. It is so evident to me that in my weakness he can be magnified."
The Year in Review – a snapshot of 2006

2006 has been an exciting year for the College! We are deeply humbled by the blessings we’ve seen from the Lord and the support we’ve received from our friends over the past year. As you know, this has been a significant year of transition for the College. Not only retaining, but enhancing the vision for and allegiance to the College have been paramount in our prayers, discussions and actions. We reflect—humbly—how people have come alongside us with affirmation, prayers and encouragement in a way that we never anticipated. For this, we give thanks to the Lord.

This year has also been an affirmation of strong, heart-felt love and loyalty to the mission of the College. This mission—to equip students with a biblical, Reformed worldview to serve effectively Christ’s church and his world—is one we are thrilled to see happening before us. There is not enough room here to share every story of progress or success. But, as these highlights reflect, your partnership is making a world of difference in enabling us to move into new and promising territory.

Highlights of 2006

• The Jack Van Laar Chair of Music & Worship is established through a generous gift from Rich and Helen DeVos.
• The Reformed Bible College Heritage Pre-Seminary Scholarship was established through a generous gift by Dan Vos to assist those students in the pre-seminary program who will be doing their graduate work at Calvin Theological Seminary.
• The College’s Choir and Worship Tour performed in churches in several Midwestern states.
• In April the College celebrated commencement with its second largest graduating class.
• On April 20 the College officially changed its name from Reformed Bible College to Kuyper College as part of the College repositioning plan.
• A new website www.kuyper.edu and newsletter, The Kuyper College News, were created.
• The Spring Celebration Gala was held at DeVos Place, where the College hosted 700 alumni, donors, and friends in celebration of the College’s accomplishments and vision for the future.
• The Board of Trustees approved a new intercollegiate sports program to begin in the fall of 2007.
• The College established the Kuyper Achievement Scholarship Awards as a way to reward those incoming students who have high academic standings. These awards range from $1000 to $5000.
• All student services (Counseling Services, Academic Support, Field Education, and Student Life) were relocated to one physical location to provide better access and communication for students and staff.
• The College established its distance learning program offering "Leading the Smaller Congregation" as the first online class. This class was a cooperative effort of the College and CRC Home Missions. Sixteen pastors across the United States and Canada enrolled in our first online course. Forty students from Kuyper are also involved in blended online courses.
• Student and Faculty portals were added to the website in order to increase and facilitate internal communication.
• Wireless coverage was expanded to cover the Student Center as well as all other student areas in the buildings.

Snapshot continued on next page

How each dollar is used at Kuyper College

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
H28819673B
WASHINGTON D.C.

Student-Related - 68c
- Instruction
- Student Aid
- Student Services
- Housing & Food Service
- Library Services

Physical Plant - 9c
- Classrooms/Dorms
- Library/Offices
- Stewardship - 9c
- Institutional Marketing

General Administration - 8c
- General Institution
- Insurance/Supplies
- Student Recruitment
Snapshot continued from page 6

- After a six month development and implementation period, the College has updated its database system. The database was converted from Cams for Windows to Cams Enterprise, enabling staff and faculty to gather more and better quality data in order to offer more services to our student body.
- Dr. Paul Bremer, Professor of Biblical Studies and Greek Language, retired after teaching for over 30 years at the College.
- The College received reaccreditation from both the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and from the Association of Biblical Higher Education.
- As a result of new academic programs Kuyper students now have 19 majors available to them.
- Five new Collaborative Programs with Cornerstone University in the field of Communication and Media Studies were added to the Kuyper College educational offerings. These new programs—specially designed to help students make a difference for Christ in a media-dominated culture—are: journalism, communication studies, theatre, media studies, and public relations.
- Results of national standardized tests administered to Kuyper College students show:
  -- A higher percentage of the College’s seniors (79%) participate in classroom-driven service learning than their peers at other Coalition of Christian College and University (CCC&U) institutions (68%).
  -- Astonishingly, almost all students surveyed—97% of freshmen and 98% of seniors—evaluated their educational experience at the College as good or excellent.
  -- The great majority of our seniors (91%) said that they would attend the same institution if they had to do it all over again. The comparison group in other colleges was ten points less—only 81%.
- New student enrollment saw an increase of 21% over last year.
- 23% of our student body is comprised of multi-cultural students.
- 30% of students come from a non-Reformed background.
- About half (51%) of our students are studying in the Social Work, Youth Ministry, and Pre-Seminary programs.
- On the strength and reputation of the Zondervan Library, the Council of Independent Colleges and the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education, invited Kuyper College to a national library conference focusing on the technological issues facing college libraries across the country.
- The second annual alumni reunion was hosted in Sioux Center, Iowa on June 10. Many alumni and their spouses enjoyed the fellowship, the reminiscing and the reconnection with former classmates.
- A new event for alumni and new graduates was held this past April on graduation eve. Area alumni and the graduating class of 2006 came together for a night of celebration hosted by the Alumni Association.

CLASSNOTES

2000s

Torey VanArkel (2003) was married August 19, 2006 to Dan Kittleson. She is a staff member for Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) in the Disaster Response Services area.

1990s

Randy (1998) and Lori (TeBos) Riksen (1996) welcomed son Ryan Lee on June 25. Ryan weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz.; he joins sisters Alexys, 9, and Natalie, 3, as well as brothers Kadin, 7, and Gavin, 2.

Luke and Jessica (Edwards) Maddox (1998) celebrated the birth of Rebecca Deborah Maddox on October 5, 2006. Rebecca weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz., and measured 21 inches long. She has already enjoyed her first campus visit to Kuyper College!

1980s

Al (1989) and Alice (Dykstra) Korvemaker (1987) have been blessed with three children, Aaron, 15, Rachel, 13, and Deanne, 5. Al is pastor of the Bethel United Reformed Church of Aylmer, Ontario, Canada.

Paul Burmeister (1984), a career Navy Reserve Chaplain, deployed on October 23, 2006 with the US Navy in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He will serve as a Chaplain to the wounded at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for the next year. He was also just promoted to the rank of Captain. When not in active duty, Paul serves as the Senior Pastor of Lighthouse Community Church in Allendale, MI.

Thanks to all who have sent information to let your classmates know about the exciting happenings in your lives. Please continue to keep us updated so your friends can celebrate with you. When you e-mail Jill at jheyboer@kuyper.edu, don’t forget to include your contact information (address, phone, etc.).

Spring Celebration Gala Update

You are cordially invited to join us on Thursday, April 19, 2007 at DeVos Place for the Annual Spring Celebration Gala. Reverend Kevin Harney, author of Seismic Shifts, will be our Keynote speaker for the evening, sharing how small changes in our everyday lives improve our relationships with others and God. We look forward to celebrating the rich blessing that God will provide during this wonderful evening.
STUDENTS TO WATCH

Luke Morgan
Hometown: Worcester, Massachusetts
Year: Class of 2010
Major: Pre-Seminary

Luke Morgan was raised in a single-parent Christian home, the second oldest of five children. His mother home-schooled Luke and his siblings and introduced them to the Gospel early in life. However, it was not until Luke was 13 that he decided to take ownership of his faith rather than ride on his mother’s "faith-coattails." According to Luke, the pain he felt when his father left the family made him take a good look at what was real and what was not. "It became very apparent to me that Christ was real," said Luke. "I wanted and needed his reality in my life."

Luke had never heard of Reformed theology until the family began attending a Reformed Church. There his understanding of God began to take shape.

Two years out of high school, Luke began searching for a Christian college that would help him learn more about Reformed theology. He smiles when he tells how he "Googled" three words—Reformed, Bible and college. "A couple of days later I was speaking with an admissions counselor. Shortly after that I was here," said Luke. "I sold my truck to help pay for my first semester. I also received scholarship help from the College, plus I have a job."

Asked if it is all worth it, he says, "From the first day I walked in here I saw people truly caring for and loving each other. The professors are willing to go an extra mile to help me learn. They are not only passionate about the topics they teach, but are passionate about showing us how to live. They are an All-Star cast!"

When questioned about the future, without hesitation Luke answers, "I want to preach!"

KUYPER COLLEGE EVENTS

Scholarship Dinner Celebration
Few events at the College are as important as the annual Scholarship Dinner. Held this past October at Kuyper College, the event provided an opportunity for scholarship providers to hear first-hand accounts of the impact their investments are making in the lives of scholarship recipients. One hundred and forty-eight scholarship donors and students were present for the occasion. During the evening, students and donors enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together, share their stories and build relationships based on a common goal—Kingdom building.

The scholarship fund has experienced dramatic growth over the past few years. In 1998 there were a total of forty-seven scholarships available. That number has grown to sixty-seven in 2006—a forty-two percent increase in just eight years. This year, scholarships totaling $328,000 have been awarded to over 140 students. As one student put it, "I am thankful for the generosity of those who have given to make it possible for me to take the first steps in fulfilling God’s plans for my life."