Nine million people live in the city of Tokyo. The capital city of Japan, Tokyo is considered one of the great cities of the world. It is to this modern, cosmopolitan city, where less than 0.5 percent of the population consider themselves Christian, that Geert and Eline de Boo came in 2003 to plant a church and spread the gospel.

Born and raised in what Eline describes as "warm Christian families in the Netherlands' Bible belt," the couple met as teenagers when Geert's father became pastor of the Reformed church in Zierikzee, a small town in the province of Zeeland. Although they were members of the youth group and attended the same high school, it took a short-term mission trip with an American youth group from Pennsylvania for the teens to get to know each other better—a trip which according to Eline was a life-changing experience.

"One night during the mission trip," said Eline, "as we were headed to the dorms, a man stopped us and asked 'Where are you going?' A little bit intimidated, we answered him that we were going up to our rooms. He repeated the question and stressed the word 'where.' We again repeated our answer. When he asked us the same question for a third time, we didn't know what to think and asked him, 'What answer are you looking for?' He responded:

"Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)," (John 19:17). There is another more contemporary "place of the Skull" a few miles from Kuyper College. But rather than being a place of death, Golgotha is a place where troubled youths—teenagers who normally would be seen as outcasts by most Christian youth groups—find new life. According to Josh Rockett, Youth Ministry major, class of 2007,

### Class projects with impact

During the past year, under the guidance of Professor Judi Meerman, two groups of Social Work majors undertook the task to develop and implement a strategic awareness and fund development plan for a ministry in the Dominican Republic, as well as a major research project for a Grand Rapids inner city ministry.

**Esperanza**

In Spanish the word esperanza means hope. That is what Jackie's House is to incomprehensible to even think of 44 kids living in a four-room house," said Marcia Gillisse, class of 2007 and marketing director for the project. "But Jackie gives these kids—mostly abandoned children of prostitutes—three things: shelter, food and the love of Jesus Christ."

The Esperanza student group developed and implemented a detailed strategic plan to raise funds and send supplies to Jackie's House. Through PowerPoint and sales presentations, they enlisted the help of students (and their parents) of Oakdale Christian School. In addition, through a benefit concert—D.R. Palooza, held at Sunshine Church—the team raised funds and awareness for the plight of these orphans.

**Dégagé Ministries**

SW Research 340 is a Kuyper College
The excitement of our first school year as Kuyper College continues to build! We enter this summer with great excitement as we see wonderful growth in programs and student body numbers for this fall. The accounts you read in this newsletter regarding alumni, students, the Spring Gala, graduation, May term and other events that closed out the year have provided a springboard for announcements of new faculty and student opportunities. Together, these serve to affirm that people are energized about the mission of the college and that students continue to see the institution as excellent in equipping them "to serve effectively Christ's church and his world." These stories are just a few of the many that we could share with you on how our alumni and students are bringing God's grace into today's culture. And just as our students and stakeholders have been very affirming, so has the community as a whole. As a matter of fact, Kuyper makes news on a regular basis. In the past month alone, our city's largest daily newspaper, the Grand Rapids Press, has written two very favorable feature stories regarding the College.

The support, encouragement, and affirmation we have received from alumni and donors were strong as we began to re-position the College as a Christian leadership training college...and continue to be so. Enhancing the ministry focus of our earlier years in both the quality of programs and the scope of academic offerings is proving to resonate well with a new generation of students. I am confident that the founders of RBI and those who developed us into RBC would celebrate that the College is becoming even more effective in carrying out a mission we've honored since our "founding thoughts": The purpose of this institute is to train men and women for better and more efficient service in God's kingdom and at the same time develop leaders in our churches.*

These are exciting years—years in which the hard work and commitment of our founders and many others over the decades are honored as we faithfully prepare a much-different generation to serve the Lord. I thank you for your involvement in and encouragement toward Kuyper College as you help us carry forward the service and impact of the College to a needy and expectant world. May you be encouraged as you read more about this in the pages that follow.

*Rev. A. Poel, The Banner, June 17, 1937

Dr. Nicholas V. Kroezek
President

New athletic program staff

Dr. Mel Flikkema, Kuyper College provost, recently announced the appointment of Christine Gruppen as athletic director of Kuyper College effective July 1, 2007. He also announced the appointments of Candice Kalman as the new varsity women's basketball coach and Zachary Harris as the new varsity men's basketball coach. Both Kalman and Harris will lead the development of their respective basketball programs including recruitment of players.

As athletic director, Gruppen will be responsible for the administration of all sports at Kuyper. Most recently, Gruppen—a graduate of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan—was athletic director of Crossroads Charter Academy in Big Rapids, Michigan, where she also coached both basketball and soccer.

Kalman previously held positions as head basketball coach at the International Christian School in Seoul, South Korea, and as freshman girls' basketball coach at Unity Christian High School in Hudsonville, Michigan. Most recently she was the girls' assistant varsity basketball coach at Calvary Schools of Holland (Michigan). Kalman played basketball at Hope College, where she led the women's varsity team as captain. Kalman holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Hope College and Western Michigan University.

Prior to his appointment, Zachary Harris held assistant varsity head coach positions at Alma, Aquinas and Grace Bible colleges. In addition, he has been an assistant coach at the professional level for the Grand Rapids Hoops and the Great Lakes Storm, both of the CBA. During his college career Harris played at Finlandia University in Michigan and at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Harris is a graduate of Finlandia University.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Nicholas V. Kroezek
President
**Journalism at work**

Joy Milano is instructor of Writing and Communication Arts

Grammar. Syntax. Spelling. Teaching writing is not always the easiest job. Just mention the word "grammar" and students' eyes roll back in their heads.

Despite that, working in the communications arena can be a wonderful, rewarding job. From the introductory writing class, Composition, to the secondary writing classes of Research Writing, Creative Writing, and Journalism, the years I've spent teaching the methods of written communication to Kuyper College students have been some of the best of my teaching career. It's not always easy work; but, when things "click," it can be magical. Seeing students take their writing from the level of just an assignment to personal growth or exploration of life is a wonderful perk of the job.

I have had just such an experience this year in my CO331 (Journalism) class. The focus of the class is the basic skills used by journalists to communicate their message. We learn news, feature and opinion writing; we talk about public relations and advertising, all with an eye toward how our students will communicate with their communities with their message. Usually I take the students' story assignments and put them together in a publication. But this year, I decided that the class would put together its own publication so they could really see what their words could do once disseminated.

All the students became really invested in their work. We started by planning what we wanted a publication to look like. What would we name it? What content should it include? Which areas of responsibility did each student want to assume? They chose a name, jobs and content and got to work.

In the end, we completed two class publications and they turned out great (if I do say so myself). To my great exultation, I heard three of those words from students that every teacher dreams about: "This was fun!" Especially in a writing class, those words are golden. But for me, the experience was more than just fun. The students experienced hands-on what it is like to develop a plan, execute it and make decisions to create a viable communication tool for their audience. That's what writing is all about—how to say what you want to say to your audience in a way that will be appreciated. The students accomplished that very well.

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

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**Giving Options**

During the past school year Family Scholarships helped 148 students attend Kuyper College. There are presently 67 Family Scholarships endowed by individuals who have invested in the future of our students to help them follow God’s calling into his service. Their investment will continue to yield fruit for generations to come. Through prudent investment management by the College, the Family Scholarship fund has grown to an endowed value of over seven million dollars.

Now, through the Pension Protection Act of 2006 which provides a new tax-free charitable planning opportunity, setting up a Kuyper College Family Scholarship may be an attractive option for some IRA holders. The Pension Protection Act makes tax-free gifts from your IRA a reality. 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. The current Act provides that this option will exist only through the end of 2007. 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 Ken Capisciolto (616.988.3676) in the Kuyper Advancement Office to discuss this or any other 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.

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Class Projects

continued from cover

course number. However, for the students taking this course, the semester's classroom work became a lesson in real life: strategic research... with extraordinary outcomes. Dégagé Ministries needed an evaluation of the efficacy of their newest program, the Open Door Drop-In Center, a shelter for homeless women. The Kuyper students developed research instruments such as surveys for Open Door patrons, surveys for area agencies and focus group discussion programs for various participants. Once the research was completed, a report with final analysis and results of the research was presented to Dégagé, together with recommendations for the improvement of Open Door services.
You are going to heaven, right?" According to Eline, they felt very uncomfortable by this encounter, but the man’s question "got stuck in our minds.

Both Geert and Eline had been raised in the Reformed church with an extensive knowledge of doctrine. "Our church was traditional, but open-minded, not "frozen chosen," but, as some would call it, 'happy orthodox.' It was this understanding of the faith," said Geert, "that made us feel safe and sometimes, maybe even saved—that is, safe in our Christian bubble." When they could no longer dismiss the stranger’s words they discussed the encounter with the youth pastor on their team. "Even though on this mission trip we were the ones supposed to be ministering, we received the gospel like it was the very first time we had heard it," said Eline. "We received assurance of our faith and understood the depth of God’s grace with both our minds and our hearts. From that moment on the Holy Spirit fueled within us a love for God, a desire to serve him with all our hearts and a drive for missions.”

Years later, Geert and Eline married. After receiving their Master’s degrees Eline became a speech writer for the spokesman of foreign affairs of the Christian Democrats in the Dutch Parliament, while Geert began his professional career as an urban designer in Amsterdam. In 1999, God blessed them with their first son, Thomas Jonathan. However, through work and child rearing, the world of missions was never far from their minds. "Life seemed perfect, yet we had this itch—not a sense of discontentment, but the feeling that there was a higher calling," said Geert. So they wrote to the Mission League of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands and received an enthusiastic response. It was then that Geert and Eline learned of OMF International and the need for church planters in Japan. Learning that only 0.3% of the Japanese regularly attend an evangelical church and of the pressure Japanese Christians are facing stirred their hearts. According to Eline, their calling was confirmed when they learned that people at OMF Netherlands had been praying for 30 years that God would raise Dutch missionaries willing to go and serve in Japan.

Looking to receive additional biblical training, the de Boos applied to Kuyper. They were confident that the sale of their house would take care of their bills in the U.S. but, after September 11 the real estate market in Europe collapsed and their house couldn’t be sold. Very discouraged, the de Boos decided to ask the College for advice before canceling their study plans. However, before they even asked, they received an unexpected message from the College advising them that they had been
On Friday, April 27, Kuyper College held its 66th Commencement exercise. Reverend Henry Admiraal, a member of the Board of Trustees and a veteran pastor (ordained for ministry in the CRC in 1973) gave the Commencement address. The H.J. Kuiper Founder's Service Award—named for Rev. H.J. Kuiper, and given every year to an individual or individuals who have consistently shown sensitivity to the spiritual climate and needs of the church—was awarded to Dr. Marshall and Mary Ellens. Dr. Ellens, a dentist, has given hundreds of hours of dental practice on a pro-bono/minimal-expense basis to international students over the past years. Both Dr. and Mrs. Ellens have invested time getting to know the students personally, and have also supported many of them financially in their ministries, following their graduation from the college.

"People in Japan are preoccupied with materialism, conformism, the old indigenous animistic religions and countless cults."
—Geert de Boo

Because of the focus on materialism, conformism, and cults, people in Japan have a unique need for the gospel. Geert and Eline de Boo describe their experience at Kuyper College in the following passage:

"After functioning in the secular workplace for years, being able to study the Bible every single day and breathing what seemed to be Christian oxygen was re-energizing," said Geert. "Everyone at the College made us feel at home, especially when, during a difficult pregnancy Eline suffered a transient ischemic attack that placed her and the baby in jeopardy. Our new brothers and sisters supported us and blessedly, ten weeks later, a healthy Eline delivered a healthy baby boy, Berend Nathanael. Our oldest son Thom now had a little brother."

"We loved being back in the academic environment," said Eline, "and this time on a beautiful campus filled with highly-motivated faculty, staff and students. We especially enjoyed Old Testament and New Testament taught by Professor Dan Kroese, and Doctrine presented by Professor Jessica Maddox. These classes laid an important foundation for times to come in Japan." Just before leaving for Japan, Geert and Eline graduated from the College, "Praising God for guiding us to this special place and blessing us with a priceless education and many precious friends," said Eline.

After two years of language study, Geert and Eline started their ministry in the heart of Tokyo. "People in Japan are preoccupied with materialism, conformism, the old indigenous animistic religions and countless cults," said Geert. It is in this environment that the de Boos minister to young urban professionals. "These young men and women who devote their entire lives—7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day—to the companies they work for have needs that are not understood by many churches," said Eline. The de Boos believe that these young, well-educated millions, and Tokyo—a city where politics, business, media, art, science and many other forces that shape Japanese society come together—are both of great strategic importance for spreading the gospel throughout Japan.

The de Boos continue the hard work of church planters as they see a gospel-centered church taking shape in central Tokyo. They are thankful that after sowing the gospel for almost four years now, they are beginning to see the fruits of their ministry: Japanese lives that are being transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ. As Geert so aptly put it, "We have experienced in these last couple of years what we learned from I Thess. 5:24 (NIV): 'The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.'"
May Term provides unique ministry opportunities

Four teams composed of students and faculty recently returned from different parts of the world after spending time on what Kuyper College calls "May Term."

**Dominican Republic**

Greg Scott, associate professor of Social Work, accompanied 11 Kuyper students to the Dominican Republic for two weeks of ministry, cultural learning, university teaching and practical social work. The group was hosted by CURE International, a non-profit organization that sets up hospitals for crippled and deformed children around the world.

During the program, the students spent a great deal of time helping to provide care to the patients of the hospital. The group also visited orphanages, a leper colony, provided outreach clinics for the hospital and helped with an inner city ministry for youth.

"It is wonderful to see students grow in their understanding of international social work but even more in their relationships with each other and with Christ," said Scott.

**United States & Canada**

Not all May Term teams left North America. The Kuyper College annual Worship Tour team participated in a "Worship Arts and the Contemporary Church" program. The focus of the program was threefold: to study the use of arts in worship, to consider the Emerging Church, and to celebrate the diversity of the Church.

Carol Hochhalter, instructor of Music and Worship, and the team visited churches and schools in Michigan, New York, New Jersey and Ontario, Canada. During the trip, the team interacted with worship committees, praise teams, school chapel committees, pastors, worship leaders, and art directors at churches in Brighton, Michigan, Hamilton, Ontario, and New York City. While some fellowships were well-established and had a rich history, others were still in the planning stages.

"The diversity of the Church was evident, as we were able to lead worship in inner city churches, rural and suburban churches, including multinational gatherings," said one of the students. "It truly was a very valuable learning experience for all of us."

**Russia**

Dan Kroeze, associate professor of Biblical Studies, Evan Heerema, director of Career Development & Field Education, and Sarah Behm, associate registrar, led a team of 14 students to the city of Tambov, Russia. The main focus of their work was a children's ministry—a Christian School with about 40 children that meets at a local church. In addition, while visiting several orphanages in the area the team distributed hundreds of gifts including toys, candy, medicine and personal hygiene products.

Speaking of the trip Kroeze said, "The Kuyper team's ministry in Russia had a great impact. The students were able to share the love of Jesus and plant the seeds of the gospel. It was a privilege and a joy to share our lives and faith with this small but vibrant group of Christians in Tambov."

**Guatemala**

In teaching Ministering Cross-Culturally, Professors Gary Teja, assistant professor of Cross-Cultural Studies, and Teresa Renkema, assistant professor of Intercultural Communication, focus on helping students learn from a culture rather than about a culture. "Even though the specific context of the course this year was Guatemala, we wanted the students to be able to apply the principles they learned and practiced there wherever God directs their futures," said Renkema.

In Guatemala City, nine Kuyper students and Renkema partnered with Liderazgo Juvenil, a youth leadership development organization, to visit with a variety of visionary leaders of cutting edge ministries to discuss their roles in serving the marginalized peoples in Guatemala's most difficult places. After witnessing first-hand the poverty of 50,000 people living in a ravine, the hopelessness of 5,000 homeless youth living on the streets, and the anger of the members of the two largest street gangs in Central America, all of the team members were inspired by the faithful Christian leaders working in each area. As one of the students so aptly put it, "What amazing lives of hope and vision we witnessed in the middle of such poverty and despair!"
Golgotha
continued from cover
Golgotha is a place that welcomes all, but especially the helpless and hopeless. It is a place for kids wearing shirts with embroidered polo players, as well as kids wearing black lipstick, tattoos and sporting pierced navel, tongues, lips and eyebrows—a haven where kids are loved and feel safe.

It all started for Josh in the summer of 2003 when his good friend Jason Pierce and Jason's wife, Amy, invited him to help them lead a "new kind of youth group." At that time Josh was a History and Education major at Grand Valley State University. Jason and Amy were youth leaders at Central Wesleyan Church in Holland, where they noticed that on average four or five kids, out of the dozens who came out to Thursday night youth group, did not participate in the activities. "These were different kids," said Josh. "They did not fit the stereotypical Holland, teenage church crowd." So with the blessing of the church, they started an alternative youth group on Wednesday nights. The original handful of kids soon grew to 20 or 30 each week. That's when Jason called Josh and asked him to come and help. Accepting that invitation led Josh not only to his involvement with Golgotha, but to a change in college and major. "It was then that I switched to Kuyper to pursue a degree in Youth Ministry," said Josh. "I knew I needed a biblical education. I visited the College and I was hooked. Kuyper taught me about practical and relational ministry. Not just what, or how to think, but how to put into practice what I learned in the classroom and saw modeled before me every day by those who taught me."

According to Josh, at first the ministry had no name. "But since a large number of kids came wearing clothes that featured skulls, we took something the kids were into, and used it as a positive influence in their lives. It fit perfectly," he said. "Some of these kids come from bad homes. They struggle with drugs and alcohol. Some feel of those kids come from bad homes. They struggle with drugs and alcohol. Some feel they are just different and are not accepted. At Golgotha they find the unconditional acceptance of Jesus Christ."

Today, Golgotha attracts young people from all over the Holland area. Jason, Amy and Josh have been joined by a group of dedicated volunteers. Golgotha is now a non-profit ministry, operating out of a rented storefront. "Although it is supported by churches and individuals, it struggles to make ends meet," continued Josh. "Presently the ministry can not afford to pay for what it needs most if it is to continue to grow and minister to hundreds of needy kids. It needs the full-time direction of a full time-staff." In spite of this situation there are many folks willing to help, people whom Josh refers to as "big hearts." One such family comes every Wednesday to fix dinner for the 60 to 70 kids that show up for services. Another is the owner of a local roller-rink who lets the Golgotha kids in for free. "The kindness and dedication of folks like this have been overwhelming," said Josh. "It is amazing how much these people give." Besides Wednesday nights, Golgotha is open on Monday nights for girls' Bible study, and on Sunday night for the guys. On Saturdays it is open from 7:00 PM to midnight for open discussion about life or religion, or for any who want to play video games, watch movies or just hang out.

Josh will soon be moving to Chicago. His plans include marriage and taking a position as youth minister in a church. He leaves behind a legacy that was made possible in part by Kuyper College: "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see."

For more information on Golgotha go to www.golgotha.tv

Golgotha, a place where all kids are loved

2000s


Tom (2007) and Kari Anderson celebrated the birth of their son, Lucas Virgil, on January 30th. Lucas weighed 7 lbs., 5 oz. at birth and measured 21 inches long.


Events

A 25 year reunion for the class of 1982 is being planned. It will be held on the Kuyper College campus on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Information on this event will be mailed to all class members. For inquiries contact Ray Dekker: 616.875.7999 or rdekker@utmi.net.

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.).
STUDENTS TO WATCH

Andrew Dusendang
Hometown: Rockford, Michigan
Year: Class of 2009
Major: Social Work

The summer after his first year of college "it all came together" for Andrew Dusendang. As a first-year Criminal Justice major at Grand Rapids Community College, he had been working for the Sheriff’s Department at the Kent County Jail. "I always felt that I wanted to be in a profession that would allow me to help people," said Andrew. "I thought being in law enforcement would give me that opportunity." But Andrew felt he was in a very dark environment during his job at the jail. "I felt myself becoming hardened when confronted with some of the worst traits of humanity." It was then that Andrew began to question his choice of major and to closely examine his faith. "Growing up in a Christian home, I had never questioned anything I had been taught," he said. "My experience working for the Sheriff’s Department prompted me to want to know for myself if I could own my faith." According to Andrew his long process of questioning and evaluation brought him to an understanding that he could "own his faith, and that it was real." He also decided that he needed to pursue a ministry career to help people before they ended up behind bars, not after. He chose Social Work.

The word "involvement" describes Andrew Dusendang. In high school he played football, baseball, was a member of the band and was involved in drama. He was, and still is, a leader for his church’s middle-school youth group—he is taking them to Chicago this summer to work with an inner city church. In addition, he works part-time at Pine Rest (a Christian mental health services organization in Grand Rapids) as a patient care provider.

After transferring to Kuyper, Andrew found a community, which in his words, "is devoted to growth in the Christian faith both personally and as an encouragement to others." He is also challenged by the strong academic curriculum. "Because of the strength of the curriculum, after I graduate I will be able to get my Master’s in a shorter period of time than students who have graduated from other colleges. Yet," he added, "the curriculum is only as good as those who teach it, and at Kuyper the professors are really good. They are passionate, and that inspires me to go deeper not only into the subject but, because they also live it, into my faith."

Kuyper College Invitational

Mark your calendar for the 15th annual Kuyper College International Invitational Golf Scramble to be held on Monday, September 10. As in previous years, golfers will fill the fairways of the Crystal Springs Country Club, in Caledonia, Michigan for a great cause—proceeds from this event help to partly fund the education of many international students who attend the College from all over the world.

For more information on playing or being a sponsor for this event, please contact Kari Sterk at, 616-988-3620 or by email at ksterk@kuyper.edu.