Kuyper’s International Golf Tournament

The 2013 Kuyper International Golf Tournament broke all records with the highest attendance and most money raised in the history of the event. Over 130 golfers teed off in support of the Ambassador Scholarship—the fund that provides ministry-focused international students the much needed resources to be equipped to serve Christ in their home country. The event sponsors, golfers and dinner guests helped raise more than $90,000 for the scholarship fund.

A Hidden World Revealed

“The Fourth World,” an internationally acclaimed and award winning documentary which exposes the hidden world of slums, made its West Michigan premiere this past fall. The documentary was produced and directed by Kuyper alumnus Mark Volkers, who heads the digital media production and media studies program at Dordt College. Volkers traveled to major slums in Guatemala, Kenya and the Philippines in order to bring to light in a personal and empathetic manner the shocking truth of the plight of people who actually live in the squalor of slums—approximately one sixth of the earth’s population.

Gary de León, class of 2010, was born in Guatemala. Rachel Goulart, class of 2009, was born in Brazil. Through the miracle of God’s grace, both of them came to Kuyper as students. They met...

Dr. Richard Mouw, president emeritus and professor of faith and public life at Fuller Theological Seminary, will be the keynote speaker at Kuyper's Spring Celebration Gala. A philosopher, scholar, and author, prior to his two decades as president of Fuller, he served as provost, and as professor of Christian philosophy and ethics. Before serving at Fuller he served for 17 years as professor of philosophy at Calvin College.

The Gala will take place at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park on Wednesday, April 16th. For questions or more information, please contact Teresa at events@kuyper.edu or 1-877-229-0940. Watch your mailbox for an invitation to arrive this spring.

75th Anniversary Spring Celebration Gala

God’s grace, both of them came to Kuyper as students. They met, through the miracle of...
When a person has been part of something special that not only has touched her heart and mind but has reached down into her very soul, we note in her character and speech a certain “depth of experience.” It comes out in an intimate, almost sacred way as she expresses wisdom and wonder over an awareness that came through God’s Word, an encounter with others, or a revelation of insight that “just made sense” out of a multiplicity of things she had been thinking about. The “depth” in that experience is both emotional and liberating, a nigh-unto spine-tingling peek into a world where Truth actually becomes tangible in her spirit. This is the wonder of a close encounter coming from being in tune with the Spirit of God and the vision He opens before a person.

I felt this way about the “witnesses” whose stories you will read about in this issue of The Kuyper News. Theirs is a witness to a depth of experience that came from their seeking God’s will and being open to the leading of His Spirit. What their stories witness to me is that God is ever-active in a person’s life, though we don’t often recognize it until a series of events lead us to discover the perfect timing and provision God had prepared for us. A person going through an experience like this is often left incredibly humbled and much more sensitized to the reality of the spiritual realm that pervades our lives, drawing all things together “for the good of those who love Him.” When things like this happen to you, they can indeed be nigh-unto spine-tingling!

I know many of you readers of The Kuyper News personally, and I know your stories—which likewise reflect a depth of experience that gives evidence to your incredible walk with God. You are kindred spirits with the students and alumni of Kuyper, with its trustees and employees. You have gained a wisdom that uniquely developed out of the intimate, almost sacred way you have discovered and embraced the Truth of God dwelling in you richly. I hope that you will continue to share these stories with us—stories that inspire, encourage and bring expectation into the lives of those who are still seeking, still yearning, still learning to experience God’s guiding presence as you have. Also, let this be a reminder to you to revisit those times when God spoke so clearly to you so that you may be encouraged in your life and witness.

Dr. Nicholas V. Kroeze
President

My objective as athletic director

By Christine Moran

With the goal of encouraging students in their spiritual walk and helping them excel in sports for God’s glory, the Kuyper College intercollegiate athletics program is an integral part of the school. The program began in 2006 when Kuyper fielded men’s and women’s basketball teams and became a member of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). Since that time, the program has grown to include men’s soccer, women’s volleyball, and men’s and women’s cross country. From the very start, Kuyper has been represented at the NCCAA National Tournaments, had several athletes recognized as All-American players, as well as recipients of All-American Scholar Awards, plus one of our coaches received the NCCAA Midwest Coach of the Year Award in 2012.

Intercollegiate athletics at Kuyper provide a Christian educational experience within the framework of competitive sports. By focusing on a holistic learning practice, we provide players with avenues for spiritual, physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth. In addition, coaches and Kuyper’s athletic chaplain offer counsel and encouragement helping athletes honor Christ through the pursuit of excellence in academics and sports.

During a recent conversation with Taylor Way, a Kuyper student athlete, she said to me: “I decided to come to Kuyper College because of the volleyball program and knowing that I would be able to continue playing the sport I love. Since being here I have learned the value of this community and have gained the skills I needed to be a leader within the athletic program as well as being spiritually involved off the court.” And, speaking on the relationship between athletics and faith, freshman Derek DeRuiter said that the work he has put into soccer reminds him how he ought also to approach his faith. “I need to treat every day as if it is the Champions League Final,” he said.

Aside from blessing students who are directly involved in a sport, Kuyper athletics have also helped to foster a spirit of unity and pride shared by students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as the extended Kuyper community of friends and supporters of the College.

Go Cougars!
Though Kuyper College costs are 30% less than comparable Christian colleges, most of our students still need additional financial assistance. Many are preparing for ministry-related fields (read the cover story in this issue) which could be hindered if they become encumbered with excess educational debt. At Kuyper, student scholarships help to offset the cost of tuition and enable students to be propelled into ministry quickly after graduation.

Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarships can be established for as little as $10,000 and are often able to be awarded within the first year of funding. The donor chooses a name for the fund and may specify criteria such as grade point average and area of study that will determine eligibility of students to receive the scholarship. Only the interest portion of the endowed fund is used for student awards in accordance with guidelines from Kuyper’s Scholarship Committee, allowing for the scholarship to benefit students continually into the future. The donor has the option to add to the scholarship at any time, which will enable the balance to grow and more students to benefit in the future.

Annually Funded Scholarships

Non-endowed, or annually funded, scholarships can also benefit students, though they do not have the longevity of an endowed fund. The donor specifies a dollar amount ($1,000 minimum) to be awarded each year to students meeting specified criteria. The scholarship is only available as long as it is funded by the donor.

If you would like information on how to become a scholarship donor, please contact Teresa Janzen at 616.988.3653, or e-mail her at tjanzen@kuyper.edu.

In My Words: A retrospective

Dr. Paul Bremer—Professor—1975-2006

As I reflect on my years at the College, I have many memories. My parents attended evening classes in the Holland-Zeeland area taught by Rev. Dick Walters in the early years of Reformed Bible Institute. They had a friendship with him and respected him highly. They often mentioned him with appreciation as I was growing up. I remember going with them to Grand Rapids on one occasion and visiting Rev. Walters at the 1869 Robinson Road campus. He gave us a tour of the building; I was impressed by his cordiality and kindness. Little did I realize that I would return there years later as a faculty member! I think it was that memory that prompted me to respond to a faculty opening that was posted in the Banner in 1975.

As I look over the 75 years of history of the school, I have been impressed by the devotion that board members, faculty members, staff members and loyal supporters of the school displayed. They trusted God—and worked very hard.

They gave leadership to an institution that had no history and no permanent home; they, however, perceived a need and developed a vision of what had to be done to meet it. Although some people did not share their vision for such an institution, they worked hard to establish it and trusted that God would bless it.

I could highlight many people who played a significant role in the history of the school. I choose one. I am amazed at the impact Dick Walters had. He taught courses on campus and in other locations and traveled to many areas to represent the school. At one board meeting he mentioned that he visited 41 schools in a number of different states spreading the news about the Institute! While he served as president, some churches extended a call to him to leave the Institute and become the pastor of the church, but he declined the invitations and continued his work at the school for the rest of his life.

In the 1960s he developed health problems and reluctantly had to resign as president but continued to teach at the school. He died on his 60th birthday as he was preparing to go to the school and carry on his work.

I give thanks for him and many others like him who helped the Reformed Bible Institute they formed become the College we know today. It is a story of their hard work and passion and God’s blessing on the institution.

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

There are many special events that take place at Kuyper College. There is also an e-Newsletter. If you would like to receive event information and the e-Newsletter online please send your e-mail address to: advancement@kuyper.edu.
married, and now minister together in Guatemala City. This is their story.

**Gary de León**’s story

Gary de León was born in Guatemala City. His father worked in accounting and his mother, as he describes it, “has always been a teacher.” In 1982, when he was 9 months old, Gary’s father disappeared. “The 1980s were the most violent period of the Guatemalan Civil War which raged for 36 years,” said Gary. “During this time thousands of individuals who opposed the government vanished. My father was one of them; he was somehow involved with the revolutionary rebel army which was fighting against the government—to this day we do not know what happened to him. My mother spent two years searching for him. She finally gave up and went back to teaching full time so she could take care of me.”

While Gary attended a Catholic primary school, that was not the case for his secondary education. “I attended a non-religious high school,” he said. “During this time I decided not to be involved in any religious activity and even questioned God in view of the problems I had in my life and the problems throughout the world.” Gary said that these were the most difficult years of his life. “Yet, I realize now that it was also a time of God in view of the problems I had in my life and the problems throughout the world.” Gary added that whenever he was ready to accept Christ as his savior, he should pray to God and confess my sin and ask for forgiveness. I got out of the bus, went home, and did just that.”

Gary joined the church and began to work with the youth group. He also began to work for a Guatemalan ministry—Liderazgo Juvenil (Youth Leadership). “This ministry called and said they needed someone to produce videos, so I worked full time for two years making videos throughout Central America,” he said. Gary also worked as a coordinator helping short-term mission groups from U.S. churches. “I enjoyed working in ministry back then, but I was not sure it was what God wanted me to do with my life,” he said. But according to him, God was sure, and started to orchestrate a series of sequential events in his life that have brought him to where he is today. He explained: “A friend and mentor connected me with Compass College of Cinematic Arts in downtown Grand Rapids which offered me a three-month scholarship. A pastor from Christian Reformed World Missions paid for my plane ticket to Michigan, and a family from Fourth Reformed Church, in the middle of the city, hosted me for the three months I was at Compass. It was a little overwhelming to see how God was putting all this together.”

After he finished his classes at Compass, Gary felt led to pursue higher education in the U.S. Friends recommended Kuyper. “It seemed a perfect fit for me because it offered a collaborative film program with Cornerstone University. So I applied and went back to Guatemala and waited,” he said. A year passed and Gary began to wonder if God truly was calling him to ministry. “Then I was contacted by Kuyper and they said they were offering me a 95% scholarship,” he said. “No longer was there any doubt in my mind. This was confirmation that God wanted me in ministry.”

Gary said that Kuyper became not only the instrument that God used to put his heart and mind back into ministry, but also the place he learned how to do kingdom work. He explained: “I will always be grateful for professors who were patient and not only taught me how to write English correctly, but who helped me understand, use and apply Scripture. As a foreign student I felt supported by the Kuyper community who offered their friendship and invested time in me. I would like them to know that they have been a great blessing in my life and that I’m thankful for them. Yet, the biggest blessing from Kuyper was meeting Rachel, my wife, who shares the same vision for ministry and is my best friend in ministry.”

**Rachel Goulart**’s story

Rachel Goulart, class of 2009, grew up in a Christian family in central Brazil. She was the youngest of four siblings. When she was 2 years old, her parents moved...
“I hope that many more can have the same opportunity Kuyper gave both Gary and me, and that they will use it for God’s glory.”

—Rachel de León, Class of 2009

to West Africa to serve as missionaries. “It was a life changing experience,” said Rachel. “I grew up among the nationals, ate the food, played with the kids, shopped at the local market, learned to speak French and English, and absorbed everything about the culture. That was where my passion for at-risk children began. After seeing many children living in horrible conditions, I knew one day I would be able to help them.”

After 9/11, just at the time Rachel was entering high school, her family left their home in West Africa and moved back to Brazil over security concerns. “It was a tough transition, but my parents helped us settle back into the Brazilian lifestyle,” she said. “Right after finishing high school and knowing deep in my heart that I wanted to help at-risk children, I began looking into college scholarship opportunities, specifically in the U.S. I still was uncertain of what career I wanted to follow, but I knew God would lead me to what He had planned for me.” Rachel remembers sitting at her computer at home and looking at a map of the U.S. “I saw these beautiful lakes and knew that I wanted to study at this place called Michigan,” she said. She remembers typing on Google: “social work, Bible college, TESOL,” and the first option that popped up was Reformed Bible College. “I had no idea who they were, but I went ahead and contacted Professor Teresa Renkema and applied for an international scholarship. I’ll never forget the day I received an e-mail from her informing me that I was approved for a full-ride scholarship! It was a wonderful feeling knowing that someone who knew little about me was giving me a once in a lifetime opportunity and investing in my life,” said Rachel.

“What a gift! Kuyper was actually the only place I applied, and it was exactly what I was looking for—a small Christian college that would offer a dual theology and social work degree with a TESOL certificate. And that’s exactly what I earned at Kuyper. God is amazing! I’m very blessed and am forever grateful for having the opportunity to be part of the Kuyper family.” Rachel said the time she spent at Kuyper helped her discover more of who she was in God and what she wanted to do with her life. “The great education and support I received at Kuyper helped me become who I am today,” she said. “The social work professors allowed me to do my internship overseas, which was something I wanted so much since my focus was international social work. Even the work experiences at Kuyper helped me quickly mature and become a leader, and working alongside great staff that guided me helped me achieve more. My best friends to this day are friends I made at Kuyper.”

After Kuyper, Rachel enrolled in graduate school and received a Master in Social Work degree (MSW). Shortly thereafter, she moved to Guatemala. She explained: “My then fiancé Gary de León was working with At Risk No More, a ministry to street youth. I moved in with his mom and grandmother and began working alongside him.”

She said it was easy for her to fit into the Guatemalan culture, learn the language, and get to know better the youth at-risk. “Serving in that ministry was like seeing my life come full circle: as a child seeing the need to help at-risk kids living in the streets, pursuing a degree in that area, and now being on the field serving God and helping at-risk youth in Guatemala be restored,” she said.

Gary and Rachel de León’s story

In 2012 At Risk No More became part of AMG (Advancing the Ministry of the Gospel). Gary de León is the network & alliances coordinator nurturing like-minded organizations and churches in Guatemala to work together. He also serves in the communications department using media to transmit to others the reality of life for children and teens at-risk in Guatemala. Rachel serves as the church-based foster care coordinator connecting the local Guatemalan churches with the government’s foster care program to care for at-risk children in need of a loving family. “As I look back,” said Rachel, “I can now see God’s purpose for each stage of my life. Childhood in Africa—opening my eyes to see the need; teen years in Brazil—searching for my calling; adulthood in the United States—being equipped and matured for my calling; and now in Guatemala—

God’s Grace continued on page 11
Ronald Bouwkamp  
Class of 1964

There is still a special letter included with our important papers. It is the letter of acceptance from RBI. My start at RBI is now history, but the story goes on. My favorite memories of RBI are those which broadened my knowledge, relationships, and God’s purpose for my life. My understanding of the Scripture grew through Bible doctrine classes and the memorization of God’s Word. It was also broadening to have Mr. David Villa open our class with prayer in Spanish, his native language. Miss Katie Gunnink shaped an appreciation for the gifts God has given to women. Mr. Van Laar formed an appreciation for music. This was not only a time of formal education, but also a time of inter-generational friendships that have lasted for years. I also have very fond memories of many classmates from different backgrounds, including some from Navajo and Zuni tribes. Canadians added their richness to my life. (After graduation, we served a mission church in Alberta, Canada.) There were also students from India, Africa and Japan who so enriched me and gave me much more of a world perspective of God’s work. There are many memories, but the best came in my last year at RBI—my first date with Marlene Compagner (class of ’62) on Thanksgiving Day. After that night I knew she would be my wife. I didn’t know at that time about our almost 50 years of marriage, the four children, and the sixteen grandchildren. That story would unfold throughout the years of mission work, further study for ordination, and ministry. What a blessing to “fish in a good pond!”

Gerry Koning  
Class of 1980

RBC was THE place to meet some interesting students and faculty. While at RBC I met a student from Thessaloniki, Greece. His name was Phedon Kaloterakis, and we were in Greek class together. I learned a lot about contemporary Greek culture from him, and I would occasionally stop by his apartment and have a glass of Greek Retsina wine with him. We enjoyed talking about politics. Phedon was a member of the Communist Party back in Greece. He did not have a sterling view of the U.S. He often reminded me of the “defeat” of the U.S. in Vietnam, the Watergate Scandal, and the Iranian Hostage Crisis, which was a present reality in 1979. Partially because of his influence, I enrolled in a summer course with Dr. William Shell on communism. Dr. Shell had significant experience living in communist countries, and I thought this would be an interesting and helpful course. It indeed was—with his multicolored outlines, Dr. Shell gave us plenty of helpful information. I was so interested that I wanted to read more and would often buy the Socialist Workers Weekly, available at the Grand Rapids Public Library. In the paper there was the opportunity to order books on communism. I ordered and read “The Paris Commune” by Karl Marx. A month later a package from the J. Edgar Hoover Foundation arrived at my Minnesota home. It contained two anti-communist books. I guess Big Brother was looking out for me! Phedon got a real laugh about it. RBC might have been a small school, but it had broad horizons and introduced me to a bigger world.

Rob Wondergem  
Class of 1995

My favorite memory while attending Reformed Bible College, as ordinary as this may sound, would simply have to be the time I spent in the classrooms. I had struggled all my life with academics and barely graduated from high school. So I was shocked in the summer of 1991 to receive my acceptance letter from RBC. I was not shocked, however, to read that because of my poor grades, I would be put on academic probation. Classes at RBC were so different than anything I had experienced before. The classrooms were small, and the teachers knew me. Furthermore, they were opening God’s Word to me. I was an open book and eager to learn. From Dr. Bierma’s amazing lectures on doctrine, Dr. Shelley’s teaching on spiritual formation, Dr. Hertel’s captivating lessons, Mrs. Tigchelaar’s love of good books, and Dr. Kroese’s command of the Scriptures, I was blessed to be under their and others’ tutelage, and I began to excel academically. When I think back on all these amazing classes led by faithful, loving professors, it really is not very ordinary at all. Indeed, this was an extraordinary time for me. When I entered RBC, I had spent the prior two years as a builder. I became a builder because I thought it was the best real job I would ever get—I certainly was not cut out for higher education. I have now been an ordained minister in the Reformed Church of America for fourteen years after having earned a Master of Divinity degree. If it were not for my experiences at RBC, I do not believe any of that would have been possible.
News

• Professor of English Dr. Lisa Garvelink’s article, “The Nature of the Life of the Artist in Willa Cather’s The Song of the Lark,” was selected to be published in the November issue of The Critic.

• Dr. John Rottshafer, adjunct professor of psychology, was a contributor to the new book compiled by Georgia Shaffer entitled “Coaching The Coach—Life Coaching Stories and Tips for Transforming Lives.”

• Dr. Richelle White, associate professor of youth ministry, recently made a presentation—“Black Music, Black Youth and Christian Education in the Black Church”—at the Black Doctoral Network Conference in Philadelphia.

• Greg Scott, social work program director and professor of social work, made a presentation—“Dual Relationships, Sexual Misconduct and Boundary Crossing”—at the NACSW conference in Atlanta, Georgia. He also led a CEU workshop—“Ethics in Social Work Practice: Management of Dual Relationships, Sexual Misconduct and Boundary Bending”—at the Michigan Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Educators Meeting at Michigan State University’s School of Social Work.

• Dr. Branson Parler, associate professor of theological studies, made a presentation—“The Polemics of the Coexist Bumper Sticker: The Myth of Religious Violence”—at the Kaufman Interfaith Conference.

• Dr. Kai Ton Chau, associate professor of worship studies and Jack VanLaar endowed chair of music & worship, recently contributed the chapter entitled “Computers and Music Pedagogy” to the book Digital Da Vinci: Computers in Music. The book is to be published in February 2014. In addition, in late February, he will be making a presentation—“The Church Choir Reimagined”—at the Central Divisional Conference of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Events

Christian Perspectives on End of Life: Holding On and Letting Go
Tuesday, February 11, 3:00 p.m. in the Vos Chapel. For more information, visit www.kuyper.edu/christianperspectivesonendoflife.

Blood Drive
Wednesday, February 12, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Boonstra Fitness Center.

Singing the Whole Story Hymnfest
Sunday, February 23, 3:00 p.m. in the Vos Chapel. If you would like to participate or need more information, visit www.kuyper.edu/hymnfest.

Spring Break
Monday, March 3 – Friday, March 7.

Honors Convocation
Friday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Vos Chapel.

Student Scholar Day
Friday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Vos Chapel.

Spring Choir and Ensemble Concert
Friday, April 11, at 3:00 p.m. in the Vos Chapel.

75th Anniversary Spring Celebration Gala
Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. at Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. For details or to register online, visit www.kuyper.edu/gala2014.

Join Us for Chapel
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:10 a.m. in the Vos Chapel.

Sports Schedules

- Women’s basketball schedule can be found at www.kuyper.edu/womens_basketball
- Men’s basketball schedule can be found at www.kuyper.edu/mens_basketball

Class Notes

Marriages:
Kyle Kotrch (2013) and Courtney Hoekzema (2013) were married on September 13, 2013.
Kyle Wellendorf (2010) and Sandra Fox were married on September 21, 2013.

Births:
Marcus (2012) and Jodie (Gazan) DeBoer (2009) were blessed by the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Ruth, on October 6, 2013.
Melvin and Amber (DeVries) Eledge (2009), along with big brother Tripp, announced the birth of a baby boy, Abbott Clarence, on November 22, 2013.
Michael and Emily (Goedegebure) De Leeuw (2008), together with big brother Adam, were blessed by the birth of baby girl Haidyn Sandra on December 4, 2013.
David and Laura (Quist) Geldersma (2011) announced the birth of a baby boy, Ezekiel David, on December 4, 2013.

Professional Developments:
John Blom (2013) recently accepted a position as direct care provider at David’s House Ministries in Grand Rapids, MI.
Kuyper athletes

To say that Kuyper students are engaged is a quintessential understatement—attending classes, completing assignments, fulfilling internships, studying, ministering, serving, working and participating in Bible studies and other campus activities are just a few of what being part of the Kuyper community is about. However, for some students there is another dynamic that, if not managed properly, can be all-consuming—athletics!

Alumnus and former basketball player Justin Christensen explained that not only do athletes spend four years working hard and building themselves mentally and intellectually as they go through the academic process, they also give a large portion of their most valuable resource—time—as they spend untold hours at practice and games. “To succeed, student athletes must learn effective time management,” he said. “They must balance school, ministry, a social life, and often a job along with sports.” But according to Christensen, who is now a youth director leading a team of 20 adults, the lessons he learned playing ball at Kuyper made it all worthwhile. “If I didn’t learn how to be a teammate, then I wouldn’t be a good leader today,” he said. “And through those games where we needed to keep playing when the score was not at all in our favor, Kuyper athletics taught me how to persevere in life.”

Cross country runner Breanne Bishop said that “Being a student athlete at Kuyper is like being an athlete anywhere; however, the difference is that at Kuyper, athletes have a rock solid support system. My teammates are encouragers, and my coach was by far the best coach I have ever had!” According to her, faculty and staff would ask her about her races and “some even came to watch. It is so encouraging to know that our professors care about each aspect of our lives.”

Alumnus and basketball player Amanda Morgan said that sports teach much about life. Morgan broke her neck in a car accident at the age of 16 and will never be completely pain free. However, “With God’s help and strength, I was able to play at a higher level at Kuyper,” she said. “I learned how to overcome adversity, the joy of working together toward a common goal, how to be unselfish, the value of hard work and discipline, the correct way to handle disappointment and loss, as well as how to win graciously.” Morgan said that being an athlete at Kuyper gave her confidence. She explained: “I succeeded and failed in front of audiences on a weekly basis playing against opponents who outmatched me in every way, so I’m not intimidated easily. I learned mental toughness and perseverance, traits that benefit me now at my job and I know will help for the rest of my life.”

Derek DeRuiter, a member of the soccer team, spoke of the seriousness of being a Kuyper athlete and ultimately whom they represent when he said: “When I take the field, I’m always aware that I am held to a higher standard because I represent not only my team, but also Kuyper, Christianity and God Himself.”

Sports Chaplain

Mike Wozniak has been appointed as Kuyper’s sports chaplain. Wozniak has been at the forefront of sports ministry for over 15 years. He currently serves as executive director of Community Sports Group, a nonprofit organization which provides biblical resources to build character, leadership, and transform lives through sports. Community Sports Group is the home for KidsGames, a youth sports program which has held events in over 150 countries.

Wozniak is a board member of the International Sports Coalition, a network that seeks to advance sports ministry around the world and which trains and appoints the chaplains for the Olympics, World Cup of Soccer and World Cup of Cricket. Prior to joining Community Sports Group, Wozniak spent 10 years with the National Basketball Association, opening the NBA office in Japan and managing their business operations of TV, sponsorship, licensing and events.

As chaplain, Wozniak is serving athletes, coaches and sports administrators. He is available to provide a word of encouragement, motivation, and counsel on life disciplines. He is presently leading a Discovery Bible Study. Through his on-campus presence and the Bible study, Wozniak has begun to build relationships, gauge spiritual needs, and determine the best way to serve those needs during 2014.
Fall sports recap

Soccer, volleyball and cross country delivered another exciting year of fall sports! In both a rebuilding year as well as one plagued with injuries, the Kuyper College men’s soccer team finished their season with a record of six wins, 10 losses, and one tie. Yet, one of the biggest highlights of the season was defeating cross-town rival Grace Bible College in a 1-0 shutout. For three senior players, Zach Ellens, Matt Peterson and Ty DeJong, who have been a part of the team for the last four years, this was their last season. In terms of team awards, Luke Carrig was voted Most Valuable Player, Andrew Johnson received the award for Most Improved Player, and Andrew Zokoe was recognized with the Kuyper Christian Athlete Award. According to Coach Matt Smith, these men represent the spirit of the team through excellence, diligence, leadership and Christian heart.

With a top 20 national ranking, the Kuyper volleyball team had a very successful season. “The Lady Cougars volleyball team was excellent,” said Coach Michael Wiggers. “Everywhere we went I was often approached by someone who had something good to say about the girls, and the team’s performance this year was nothing short of extraordinary.” The team ended the year by being ranked 17th nationally among NCCAA teams. The team was honored this year to have two players—Abby Proctor and Taylor Way—recognized nationally.

A very successful inaugural season for the men’s and women’s cross country teams saw two Kuyper runners—Breanne Bishop and Joe Kilmer—compete at the NCCAA Division II National Championship at Cedarville University in Ohio. Both runners had respectable finishes with Bishop finishing 22nd out of 47 competitors and Kilmer 35th out of 58. The two also received the Kuyper award for Most Valuable Runner for the women and men respectively, while Collin VandenBosch received Kuyper’s Christian Athlete Award. The Most Improved Runner Award went to Alan Chupp, who knocked eight minutes off his time from his first to last race of the season.

With a commitment to disciplined training during the offseason, the team’s goal is to qualify the entire team for next year’s national championship.

Students continued from page 12

who made it possible for him to come to Kuyper. He explained: “God has been so good in allowing me to come here to be equipped and even providing me the opportunity to minister to the youth at African Community Fellowship CRC in Grand Rapids. While I’m looking forward to returning to Kenya to serve young people and teach young pastors, I will never forget that I will be able to do so because of the training and the love I received here.”
Gary Schipper conducting a Timothy Leadership seminar

Gary Schipper graduated from Kuyper College in 1976. Today he serves as Timothy Leadership Training Institute’s (TLTI) director for Latin America. TLTI took root in Africa in the 1990s and has since developed rapidly throughout the world. Their mission is to train pastors, evangelists and lay leaders, enabling them to build viable and healthy congregations and communities in the spirit of 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” Schipper said that, in very simple terms, that is what he does. He explained: “We train people who train others who train others. Our methodology works because it uses the biblical multiplier effect.”

According to him, because of the rapid growth of the church in Latin America, the education of pastors and lay leaders has been poorly managed. “Not that the traditional seminary model doesn’t work; that’s still active. But it’s not nearly dynamic enough, fast enough, flexible enough, and it’s way too costly,” he said. “While today, through the Internet, you can get a good theological and biblical education; our methodology is different.”

Schipper pointed to Caring for God’s People (pastoral care) as one of the seven different skills. He explained: “We will teach all the basic functionality of pastoral care in a very intense two-day seminar. We’ve taken the five or six seminary courses on how to do pastoral care and we’ve distilled them down to 14 basic lessons which are taught to pastors with the intention that they will put them into practice and will reteach them to leaders of their congregation.”

According to Schipper, none of this works without accountability, which he describes as one of the most critical components of the TLTI program. “During our first course, everyone develops an action plan,” he said. “Not to just put it in a file plan, but a This is what I’m going to do over the next six months—my activities and the results that I anticipate God is going to do through these activities’ type of plan. We spend a significant amount of time developing specific, realistic, measurable, appropriate, and time-bound individual action plans. After teaching our first course, we will return to the same field six times over a three-year period.” During each visit Schipper will review the progress made over the previous six months and will provide training on a new skill set. “And so, after having trained a group of 25 or 30 pastors, we come back in six months and ask them to report on what each of them did,” he said. “Invariably, they tell us, ‘Look what God did’! And then we have a time of wonderful celebration. So we teach a new skill set, we develop a new action plan, we come back and hold everyone accountable by the reporting system, and then we teach the next session, and so on it goes. We do a little bit and the Lord takes it, multiples it and blesses it.” During 2013 TLTI trained over 10,000 pastors in more than 60 countries. “When we look at these figures is when we know it is God doing it because it makes no human sense,” he said.

Schipper also gives Kuyper lots of credit for helping to “orient” him. “The professors there helped me to clearly see what was important in God’s kingdom and that the Lord had a plan for my life,” he said. “Even after seminary, I kept coming back to what I’d learned at Kuyper. To this day I still do. It is about caring for others and bringing biblical truth everywhere—whether to a street corner in Grand Rapids or to Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.”

Schipper is also grateful that at the school he met and later married Rosa Maria Elena Dias Cruz Franco—class of 1976, whom he humorously describes as having more names than a telephone book. “Her story of coming to faith is riveting and a miracle of God’s grace,” said Schipper. Rosa was born in Mexico, and at 4 crossed the border into the States. After her mother was killed in a car accident, she became a ward of the state of California—years of foster homes and orphanage living followed, culminating in a stay at a Christian foster home. Coming to know the Lord at the age of 17 and having a full-ride scholarship to a public university, Rosa turned it down, saying, “I am going to go to a place where I can learn about this Savior of mine.” Schipper said that both he and Rosa are blessed to have chosen the road less traveled. “It has made all the difference,” he added.
Paul Bremer taught at Kuyper College for 31 years prior to retiring in 2006. He is presently working with Kuyper graduate Anne (Bronkema) Bauman, social media manager at RBC Ministries, to develop a commemorative book in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the College. “This has been a challenging and exciting experience,” said Bremer. “We were aware of much of our history, but on a number of occasions, Anne and I have discovered stories and incidents that we were not aware of until we dug into the history of the institution.”

While working on this project, Bremer said that he and Bauman have been inspired. He explained: “It is an amazing story of God’s grace and the diligent effort of the people who founded the institution when it did not have a permanent location and no assurance of regular income. They shaped it, gave leadership to it, developed a base of financial support, and helped it become what it is today. It is a moving story!”

The First Part of Abraham Kuyper’s “Common Grace” is Now Available in English

The first in a series of English translations of Abraham Kuyper’s most famous work, “Common Grace,” is now available from Christian’s Library Press. This new translation is for modern Christians who want to know more about their proper role in public life and the vastness of the gospel message. This work is a result of a collaborative project between the Acton Institute and Kuyper College.

Kuyper Billboards & Radio Commercials

Kuyper 75th anniversary edition billboards began appearing on West Michigan highways in mid-November. They were a companion set to the anniversary tagged radio commercials which starting airing on November 18. Both billboards and commercials will appear through spring.

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effectively responding to God’s call and accomplishing my dreams through my career and ministry together with my husband, Gary.”

Rachel added that the knowledge and training behind her social work degree is being applied every day: “As I go and visit the most vulnerable families in slum communities, hear their stories, meet local church leaders, connect them to the at-risk families, sit down with Guatemalan government leaders and discuss child protection rights and policies, sign foster care agreements, and initiate awareness campaigns throughout the nation, I have the confidence that with all the training, experience and support I have received in the past, I am able, through God’s leading, to serve with confidence. I hope that many more can have the same opportunity Kuyper gave both Gary and me, and that they will use it for God’s glory.”

“Rachel and I are very thankful to God because he has expanded our territory tremendously in a little bit over two years of ministry together,” said Gary. “We are very excited by what is coming. There is a lot to be done in the areas where AMG works. Right now they are doing a terrific job with education and health care for children at-risk. However, only six schools out of the 29 schools we work with have social workers, psychologists, and a team to work with families at high risk. We also want to come alongside Guatemalan churches, motivating them to take care of orphans and widows in their communities. That is Rachel’s and my dream. It is also God’s desire for all of us as He reminds us in James 1:27: ‘Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.’”
Students to Watch

Bryzon Masiboh
Eldoret, Kenya
Class of 2014
Major: Youth Ministry

It was a sunny day, Sunday, the 22nd of August, 2010, the day Bryzon Masiboh left Kenya. His family and friends accompanied him to the bus for the trip from Eldoret to Nairobi, Kenya’s capital, the beginning of a trip that ultimately would take him to the United States. He said that his heart was pounding so hard that he could feel it beating inside his chest and that his eyes were teary and his hands were sweating. He was leaving behind his wife, Jael, and son, Churchill, as well as his extended family. He said that he recalled thinking about the call of Abraham which made him go to a place God had told him to go in faith. Yet leaving was still a very painful experience!

Bryzon was born in western Kenya and was raised in a strict Christian family. After Kenya achieved independence in 1963, his father (now retired) was among the first pastors of the Reformed Church of East Africa. “However, despite being born into a Christian home, I did not heed the Word of God,” he said. “Rather, I lived a sinful life and attended church on Sundays solely to please my parents.” After graduating from high school, he attended a Christian open air prayer gathering where Peter Pretorius, a preacher from South Africa, was speaking. “His words challenged me, and I cried to God to save me from my sinful ways,” he said. “Through His grace, I was saved, and my life was transformed by the blood of Jesus.” It was then that Bryzon joined the Reformed Church of East Africa, “Now,” as he said, “not as a pastor’s son, but as a child of God.” He added: “I became a prayerful person and soon was involved in different youth activities—choir, rallies and camps.” According to Bryzon, through many people who encouraged him to go into ministry, God began to speak to him about serving. He said he also heard the voice of God through the words of Isaiah 6:8: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I! Send me!” This calling was confirmed when the elders of his church approved him to attend seminary. “I left my job and entered St. Paul’s Theological College. In 2005 I was ordained as a parish minister of the Reformed Church of East Africa and served as a counselor to people living with HIV/AIDS,” he said. These counseling activities led him to co-author a book, “Our Church Has AIDS,” which, according to him, has become an important tool in the daily life of teenagers in Kenya. However, during this time he was also feeling God’s call to be further trained for additional youth ministry. Knowing several very effective Kenyan pastors who are Kuyper alumni, Bryzon was convinced that Kuyper was the place that would be able to equip him best.

“By faith that God would provide funds for my schooling, I completed my application in 2006, but there were no scholarships available at that time,” he said. He did not give up, and every semester, he kept reminding Kuyper’s international student coordinator to review his file. However, after waiting four years, he and his wife decided to go to what he calls “their prayer mountain.” After two weeks of prayer and fasting during which all they had for sustenance was water and honey, Bryzon received a call from their Synod moderator informing him that Kuyper College had accepted him. “It was like a dream,” he said, “so I asked him to repeat what he had said. God had opened a way where there seemed to be no way!”

Bryzon said that at Kuyper he has found a community that embodies the universal love of Christ. “The professors have open hearts and are both understanding and willing to help students learn with every lesson having spiritual implications,” he said. “In addition, apart from teaching, I see the College nurturing its students to live according to God’s standards.” He added that he is very thankful for those students continued on page 9